

OUR MISSION

St. John de LaSalle is a welcoming Roman Catholic community that seeks to live the Gospel message of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We embrace our faith and support our members through: prayer, worship, evangelization, loving service and fellowship, life-long education and responsible stewardship. We are grounded in the Sacraments and we place the worship of Christ in the Eucharist at the center of our parish life. In gratitude for our many gifts, talents and blessings, we respond with compassion to the spiritual and corporal needs of all.

BAPTISMS

Parents should call the Pastoral Care Office soon after the birth of the child to arrange to attend the baptism preparation class, held on the last Wednesday of each month. Baptisms are scheduled for the first and third weekend of the month after the 11:15 or 4:30 Mass, or they can be done during the 11:15 or 4:30 Mass.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Please call the PCO during regular office hours to determine if you are eligible to receive a letter of recommendation. Letters of recommendation (to act as a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation) may be issued to currently registered parishioners who attend Mass, are confirmed and married in the Church.

MARRIAGES

Couples should begin planning with the parish at least six months prior to the wedding date. A marriage program is an essential part of the planning process.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

Please contact the Pastoral Care Office to arrange for pastoral visits for hospitalized or homebound parishioners.

**Together in Faith
Since 1907
February 14, 2021**

**Sixth Sunday In
Ordinary Time**



**PASTORAL CARE OFFICE
716-283-2238 EXT. 302/301**

Monday through Friday:
9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Pastor..... Ext. 308
Emergency Only 579-4949
OfficeExt. 302/301
Faith Formation 283-5140
Ext. 304
Community Care / Food Pantry -
Mrs. Lynn Siegfried622-5880

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil:..... 4:30 p.m.
Sunday Mass:..... 8:45am, 11:15am
Weekdays:..... 8:00 am (*Monday thru Friday*)
Tuesday:.....6:30 pm St. Jude Novena
Followed By Mass at 7:00 pm. Anointing Of The Sick On The First Tuesday Of Each Month.
Eucharistic Adoration:Thursday 8:45 -
Midnight!

Non Gluten Eucharist Available On Request

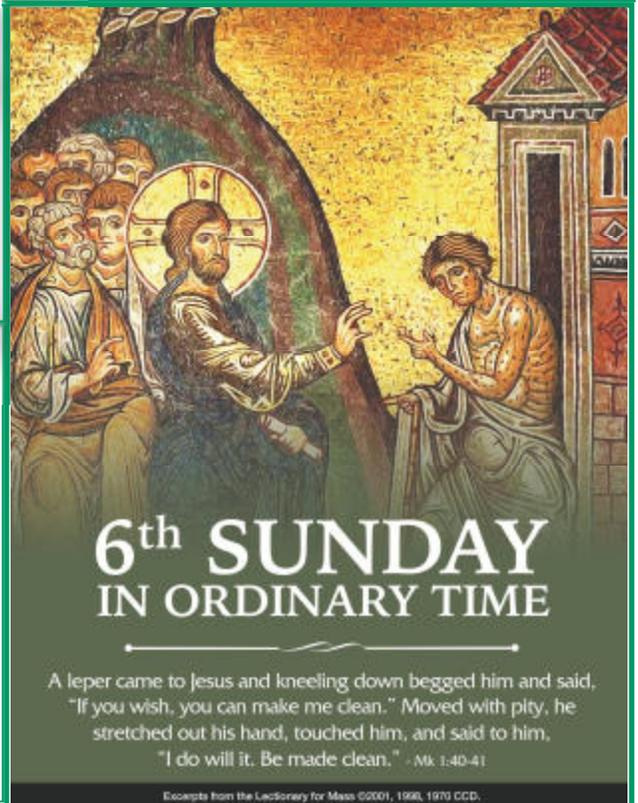
*Restroom w/changing table located near daily chapel;
there is another restroom in the west foyer.*

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 3:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor: Rev. Slawomir Siok, SAC
Office Administrator: Mrs. Mary Newman
Office Assistant: Mrs. Cynthia Tripoli
Faith Formation: Mrs. Marybeth Simoneit
Music Leaders: Mrs. Christy Murty
Mr. Jeff Paterson
Trustees: Miss Janet Furlong
Mr. Michael Casale
Parish Council: Mr. Andrew Touma



Parish Center: 716-283-7916 • Fax: 716-283-7973

Email: stjohndelasalle@juno.com • Website: www.stjohndelasalle.org

8477 Buffalo Avenue • Niagara Falls, New York 14304

February 14, 2021
Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time
Liturgy of the Hours—Seasonal Proper

Saturday, February 13, Weekday

8:00 am All Souls

3:45 pm—4:15 pm Confessions In The Chapel

4:30 pm Deceased Members Of Rosary Altar Society

Sunday, February 14, Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

8:45 am Suanne Fieramusca Schmolke by Carl & Karen LaRock & Family

11:15 am Joseph Schiller by Family

Monday, February 15, Weekday

8:00 am Anthony Gara by Maureen Raidy

Tuesday, February 16, Weekday

8:00 am Louis Fahs by Chuck & Lynn Siegfried

6:30 pm St. Jude Novena

7:00 pm People Of The Parish

Wednesday, February 17, Ash Wednesday

6:30 am Swiantek, Kling & Pasieka, LLP, For Blessings Of The Workers by Father Slawomir Siok, S.A.C.

8:00 am Mary Lou Korzak by Maureen Raidy

12:10 pm Liturgy Of The Word

7:00 pm All Souls

Thursday, February 18, Thursday After Ash Wednesday

8:00 am Edward Miodonski by Estate

8:45 am—Midnight Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, February 19, Friday After Ash Wednesday

8:00 am Barbara Joseph

12:10 pm Patrick Driscoll by Father Slawomir Siok

7:00 pm Stations Of The Cross

Saturday, February 20, Saturday After Ash Wednesday

8:00 am All Souls

3:45 pm—4:15 pm Confessions In The Chapel

4:30 pm Harry Hansen, Sr. by Children

Sunday, February 21, First Sunday Of Lent

8:45 am Frances Yanulevich by Family

11:15 am Arnold Littlewood by Andy & Maribeth Calderon

Please pray for our ill and hospitalized: Helga, Maureen, Cotter, Sue Dokey, Philip Buffone, Pat Hahn, Lynette & Family, Tim Coughlin, Anne-Marie S., Lora Pfohl, Chris Nelson, Ron, Michele Promowicz Newman, Gail Jakubowski, Cathy D'Angelo, Ryan Welsh, Will, Amelia Morganti, Bob & Christine Belkota, Kevin White, J. White, Little J., MCL, Doug, Matthew Smith, Dave DeLuke, Suzanne DeLuke, John C., Emilia Kobus, Brad Ludwig, Gabrielle Wittkop, Rosemary, Vikki H, Hank Buchalski, Barb Anthony, Inez, John Butler, Joanne I. Philbrick, Violet Iadicicco, Joel Rivera, Alex, Jim & Denise Clapps, Kristy, Lynn Kowalski, Ken Shebelle, Monica Pietras, Richard, Carol Buchalski, Anastasia Rafter, Carrie Wheeler, Baby Sammy, Rose Muto, Olivia P., Kim Z., Jude Holka, Kelly Metzinger, Joe Ceretto, Linda Marino, Tricia Papke; Shirley Kostoff, Chester Bradley, Kellianne Laughing, Jean DeMarco, Norma Genovese, Paul Hogan, Sharon Costanzo, Joel Rivera, Jessica McDowel, Todd Littlewood, Andrew Mrzygut

The Sanctuary Light Burns With Unceasing Prayer In Front Of The Blessed Sacrament For The Month Of February For The Pyra Family By Josephine Pyra!

PROFOUND HEALING

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean."

Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand,

touched, and said to him,

"I do will it. Be made clean."

—Mark 1:40-41

On the Sundays of Ordinary Time, the first reading and the Gospel proclaimed at Mass form a unit of readings, with one serving to enrich our understanding of the other. Sometimes, the connection isn't especially obvious. On other Sundays, such as the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, we can see a much clearer conversation between these texts. Not only is the connection fairly obvious, the first reading from Leviticus provides the cultural and religious context that are essential in understanding the story we hear from Mark's Gospel.

The Book of Leviticus can be understood as a collection of laws touching on nearly every aspect of life that is grounded in an effort to maintain Jewish cultural and religious values. As biblical scholar J. Edward Owens, O.Ss.T., observes, Leviticus helped do this through "its preservation of liturgical, social, and other prescriptions that acknowledge God's holiness and seek to inculcate such holiness in the people." (from Leviticus, volume 4 of the New Collegeville Bible Commentary). Part of the way Leviticus does this is by setting the boundaries of what it means to be "clean" and "unclean." This is important because what is at stake here is not just what it means to be holy and righteous before God, but it also speaks about the quality of our relationships with our families and communities.

Chapter 13 of Leviticus (where our first reading is found) is completely devoted to diseases of the skin, none of which can be associated directly with leprosy (Hansen's disease). According to Leviticus, skin diseases, as well as scars and burns, render persons unclean. What is at stake here is the question of contagion and the health of the community. We should notice that there is no association between having a skin disease and being a sinner. Because of their condition, however, the sick person was ostracized from the community. As Owens observes, "On the one hand, no one wanted to contract the disease by proximity or touching. On the other hand, drawing the afflicted person back into the community was a value. Probably victims of skin disease were more pitied than judged." As a result of all this, lepers, and those with other diseases of the skin became outsiders, surviving at the furthest margins of the community.

As we turn to the Gospel and the story of Jesus healing a leper, this sense of being marginalized should help guide our reading of this passage. For the sick man to approach Jesus was a courageous act. Remember, by law he was expected to maintain a specified distance from those who were judged to be clean or healthy. There is more at stake here than physical health. This Gospel passage certainly speaks to Jesus' power to heal, but the deeper meaning that Mark is trying to communicate is that Jesus has the power to restore relationships as he invites everyone — the rich and poor, the healthy and the sick, the sinner and the saint — into the Kingdom.

When he hears the sick man's request, "If you wish, you can make me clean," Jesus has a deep emotional response. The verb used here is *splanchnizomai*, which literally means to be moved in "the intestines." To say it another way, Jesus has a "gut reaction" to the man's appeal. Instead of turning away from the man, Jesus reaches out to him, touches him, and heals him: "I do will it. Be made clean."

Through his encounter with Jesus, the man is not only restored to health, but he is, in a sense, brought back to life by being able to return to the life of the community and to the practice of his ancestral faith. The end of our passage tells that the man publicly professed what God had done for him through Jesus. This is certainly an invitation for us to reflect on how we express our gratitude for the healing and forgiveness we have experienced in our own lives.

Bro. Silas Henderson, SDS

Prayer

Watch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight, and give Your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend Your sick ones, loving Lord. Rest Your weary ones. Bless Your dying ones. Soothe Your suffering ones. Pity Your afflicted ones. Shield Your joyous ones. Give strength and vigilant awareness for all Your care givers through Christ our Lord. Amen.

-Adapted from a prayer by Sr. Mary Christa Korening, OSB

Every Week We Need \$5500.00 To Cover Our Weekly Expenses!

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all who have kept our Church running during this pandemic.

Regular Collection For February 7, 2021: \$5233.00 (95%) **Monthly Collection:** \$245.00, **Utilities:** \$286.00, **Children's Collection:** \$2.00, **Community Care:** \$187.00, **Debt Reduction:** \$729.00, **Central & Eastern Europe:** \$313.00, **Catholic Relief Services:** \$15.00, **Solemnity Of Mary:** \$30.00, **Mail:** \$1704.00.

Online Giving: 02/01/2021—02/07/2021

Regular Collection: \$344.00, **Community Care:** \$30.00, **Utilities:** \$5.00, **Reduce Debt:** \$105.00, **Monthly:** \$100.00, **Donation:** \$253.00.

The Second Collection This Week (02/14/21) is Our Monthly Collection.

The Second Collection Next Week (02/21/21) is for Utilities.

2021 APPEAL

When you are lonely, we are hope. What we do with the 24 hours in a day can effect countless hours and days ahead. Our volunteers at Catholic Charities know this to be true. Through our programs, volunteers have the opportunity to serve the community through our multiple food pantries, lend a friendly ear through Friendly Phones and the Telephone Assurance Program, and much more. Help continue to move hands and hearts through Catholic Charities and the Fund for the Faith by giving to **Appeal 2021**. Call our Helpline at 716-218-1419 if you need assistance or want to donate, or visit ccwny.org/donation today. Catholic Charities of Buffalo is **HOPE for All Seasons**.

St. John's Community Care

We are once again giving Easter food baskets to those in need. This will be on March 27, 2021 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. However, our food supplies are critically short, and we need your help. We are also looking for drivers to deliver to the elderly, homebound and disabled.

We need your donations!

Food and/or funds (approx. cost \$25)

The food items we need to fill these baskets include the Following:

1 box instant potatoes	1 large can sweet potatoes
1 box stuffing	2 cans of vegetables
2 cans of fruit	1 can of cranberry sauce
1 box of dessert	2 cans of soup

And of Course

Turkeys!

(Turkeys, turkey breasts, hams or ham steaks)

ANY of the above items you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Please be generous and help your neighbors in need, Thank You for your support!!!

From Your Community Care Group!

The Mobile Food Pantry Will Be Starting Up Again, It Will Be In St. John's Parking lot Every Second Friday Of The Month!! The next date will be **March 12, 2021 at 1:00 PM!**

The 2021 Breaking Bread Missalettes' are now available at all the masses. To defray the cost of shipping I am asking each person who wishes to receive a book to pay \$5.00. Thank You!!

FISH FRIES ARE COMING!!

I would like to gently remind the "Fish Fry Crew" That Lent is coming soon. Our First Fish Fry will be held on Friday, February 19th from 4:00—7:00 PM. All dinners will be \$13.00. Preparation will take place for the first fish fry Thursday, February 18th from 6:00—8:00 PM. If you would like to become a part of our crew stop in during prep time and let us know!!! The more volunteers the better!

Due to COVID, this year all dinners will be TAKE-OUT ONLY! We will take orders by calling 716 283-7916, from 3:00—6:30 PM. You will then pick-up your orders at the door of the center. We will have someone there to take payment and distribute the dinners. There will not be any desserts available, due to the fact that we cannot have any "home baked" items this year. Please remember to tell your family and friends and I thank you for your continued support of our parish, St. John de LaSalle.

Congratulations to the following 12th grade students of Canisius High School and parishioners of St. John de LaSalle, for achieving the honor roll for the second marking period:

**Andrew Buchman
Stephen Dobrasz**

**Michael Dobrasz
Michael Zafuto**

What Is Lent?

Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ. Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. Contemplate the meaning and origins of the Lenten fasting tradition in this reflection. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not our, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446). In Lent, the baptized are called to renew their baptismal commitment as others prepare to be baptized through the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, a period of learning and discernment for individuals who have declared their desire to become Catholics.

LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE

Fasting: Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Ages 18-59

Abstinence: Every Friday during Lent, Ages 14+

How do we fast?

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

Am I excused from fasting and abstinence?

Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the **physically or mentally ill** including individuals suffering **from chronic illnesses** such as diabetes. Also excluded **are pregnant or nursing women**.

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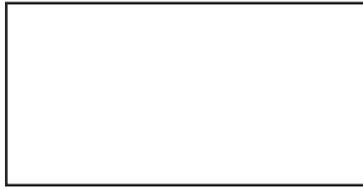
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