

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

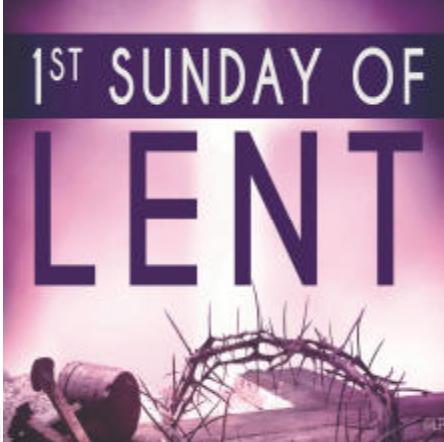
Couples should begin planning with the parish at least six months prior to the wedding date. A marriage program is an essential part of the planning process.

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 21, 2021

First Sunday Of Lent



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
Office Ext. 302/301
Faith Formation 283-5140
Ext. 304
Community Care / Food Pantry -
Mrs. Lynn Siegfried 622-5880

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

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.

CONFESIONS

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

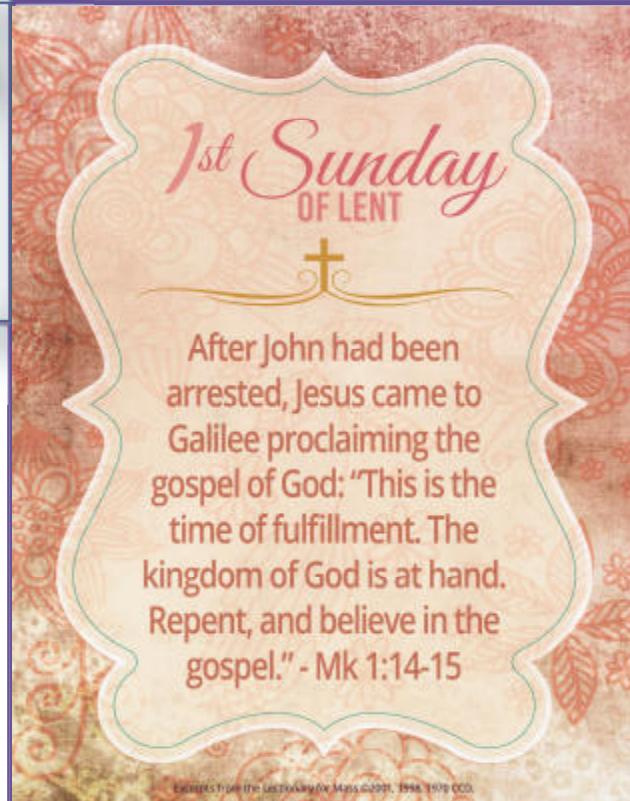
Music Leaders: Mrs. Christy Murty

Mr. Jeff Paterson

Trustees: Miss Janet Furlong

Mr. Michael Casale

Parish Council: Mr. Andrew Touma



**February 21, 2021
First Sunday Of Lent
Liturgy of the Hours—Seasonal Proper**

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

Monday, February 22, The Chair Of Saint Peter The Apostle

8:00 am Edward Miodonski by Estate
12:10 pm Father's Day Intentions

Tuesday, February 23, Saint Polycarp, Bishop And Martyr

8:00 am People Of The Parish
12:10 pm Mother's Day Intentions
6:30 pm St. Jude Novena
7:00 pm Mary Lou Korzak by St. John de LaSalle Rosary Altar Society

Wednesday, February 24, Lenten Weekday

8:00 am Frances Ross by Family
12:10 pm Father's Day Intentions

Thursday, February 25, Lenten Weekday

8:00 am Edward Miodonski by Estate
8:45 am—Midnight Eucharistic Adoration In The Chapel

12:10 pm Mother's Day Intentions

Friday, February 26, Lenten Weekday

8:00 am Dorothy Shenk by Michael Slish
12:10 pm Patrick Driscoll by Sharon Benavidez

Saturday, February 27, Lenten Weekday

8:00 am All Souls
3:45 pm—4:15 pm Confessions In The Chapel
4:30 pm Vincent Furlong (Birth) by Mary & Janet Furlong

Sunday, February 28, Second Sunday Of Lent

8:45 am Anna Walek by Family
11:15 am Chester Laskowski by Bob & Marie Trainor

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 McDowell, 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!

ADJUST TO SCARCITY

Antoine de Saint-Exupery wrote, "I have always loved the desert. One sits down on a desert sand dune, sees nothing, hears nothing. Yet through the silence something throbs, and gleams..." Deserts are difficult places in which to survive. The conditions found in a desert are quite unlike what most of us know as normal. But the desert has always been seen as a place of spiritual enlightenment, where human beings have profound awakenings and encounters with the Divine. Rich wisdom from the experiences of our desert fathers and mothers are at the foundation of our Christian spiritual tradition. Wonderful surprises and soul learning can be found in the desert silence, which isn't really silent at all. It's simply an environment free of distraction and excessive stimulation where one can begin to listen more deeply and keenly to what is going on.

Lent invites us into the desert. As the Spirit drove Jesus into the desert, so that same Spirit drives us into that same place of peace filled scarcity. We live a simpler, more reflective life for forty days hoping to confront some of the demons that bind us to our weakness and imperfections. They weigh us down with their burdens and make life much heavier than it really needs to be. Freely choosing to limit our distractions, obsessions, illusions, dependencies, securities, and familiarities for forty days opens the door to greater self-awareness and freedom. Preparing a suitable desert place requires some brutal honesty with ourselves and a willingness and desire to grow and change.

It's easy to give up the chocolate, coffee, or wine for a time, but without some real soul searching, reflection, prayer, and perseverance what really changes at the end of these forty days? We learn little if we simply resume business as usual. The success of our Lenten desert journey will come to light when we acknowledge that God is making good on his promises without reservation. If we do not believe that God is real and actively involved with us on a personal level, then Lent will have little value. God's covenant has to mean something to us.

Whether we realize it, we struggle with two gods. One is real and the other is not. Our world and the life we create for ourselves can easily become our "god," requiring our daily allegiance. We can find that we get tired worshipping this god we have created and literally "sell our soul" as it demands. We even willingly sacrifice principles and morals. We run after this god as if on an endless treadmill, never quite catching up or getting where we think we need to be. Exhausted from all of the effort, we have little energy left to do much else.

The real God, however, is the God who created and fashioned us out of love and made a timeless covenant with us. He will be our God and we will be his people. It is this God whom we find in the desert and the very presence that "throbs and gleams" in the silence. It is when we are able to peel away all of the superficialities and unnecessary business of life that we learn to live with more scarcity and discover what is really needed for happiness.

The desert brings us to courage and strength. It is easy to become apathetic amid the world's uncertainties and struggles. The flame of God's presence can lead us from the land of "why bother" to the land of hope and surprises. The desert teaches us what really matters, lessons like those we have learned during this time of pandemic. We begin to rely more on the inner strength that comes from God rather than the minimal and passing comfort provided by created things. Transformed by the desert winds and challenges, we can become more credible witnesses not of what the world can do for us, but what God can do and is doing!

Continued On Page 4—Second Column

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 14, 2021: \$3524.00
(64%) Monthly Collection: \$595.00, **Utilities:** \$10.00,
Community Care: \$506.00, **Debt Reduction:** \$52.00,
Votive: \$44.00, **Mail:** \$1362.00.

Online Giving: 02/08/2021—02/14/2021

Regular Collection: \$390.00, **Community Care:** \$200.00.

The Second Collection This Week (2/21/21) is for Utilities.

2021 APPEAL

When you are troubled, we are hope. Are you struggling with hybrid learning, trying to work remotely, having a hard time with the seemingly endless grey that is WNY in winter? If you are experiencing mental health, familial or marital problems we can help. Catholic Charities offers several different types of support including: marriage counseling, individual psychotherapy, family and group therapy, substance abuse treatment, Diocesan counseling for church ministers, children's clinics, and individual, children and family counseling. To find out more, visit ccwny.org and click the "Counseling & Mental Health" tab under Services on the right-hand side. To begin the referral process, call 716-895-1033. If you are located outside of Erie County, call your local Catholic Charities office for counseling or go to ccwny.org/counseling for information and contact number. **HOPE for All Seasons.**

February 27th and 28th we welcome Mike Casale, as our speaker for Catholic Charities.

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.

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!**

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl

Lent looks a little different this year. Catholic Relief Services has resources to keep your family engaged, including reflections, meatless recipes and stories from around the world. Participate in CRS Rice Bowl and learn more at <https://www.crisricebowl.org/families>.

Getting to this point requires that we deal with an extremely important question. Are we willing to repent of any behaviors, attitudes, ideologies, agendas, or short-sighted opinions that directly oppose God's Will? Jean-Pierre de Caussade in "The Joy of Full Surrender," says that, "Nothing is essential, real, or of any value unless it is ordained by God, who adapts all things and makes them suitable to the soul. Aside from God's will, everything is hollow, empty, and vacant: there is nothing but falsehood, vanity, nothingness, shallowness, the letter of the law, death. The will of God is the salvation, health, and life of both body and soul, no matter what may be its ways of reaching us ... It is the will of God, given in and through these things, that effectively works to renew the image of Jesus Christ deep within our hearts ... God's will is everything that is good and true in all things."

Repenting of the falsehoods and empty pursuits will produce within us the fruit of a holy Lent. The god of the world comes with many falsehoods, distractions, hollow promises, distorted ideologies, and things that compromise humanity. We need to separate from all of that and discover the truth. Jesus came out of the desert proclaiming the Gospel of God. How will we come out of our desert experience? What may change? What is known for certain is that God has not abandoned us or given up on all that he made. It is quite the contrary. God always starts new and fresh and desires nothing more than for us to love him. There is no better way to show that love than to choose the real God over the false one. God is paving the way for a new plan for humanity. Making that vision real will require that we become less of an image of ourselves and more of an image of Jesus Christ. Having met God in the desert, his presence will throb within us and our presence will reflect the glorious light of Christ!

Let us pray for a holy Lent. Our world is depending upon it and so is God.

Fr. Mark Suslenko

PRAYER

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and that I think I am following your will does not mean I am actually doing so. But I believe the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all I am doing. I hope I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

The First Sunday Of Lent

On the First Sunday of Lent, begin your journey with self-reflection and allow yourself to experience the mercy of the Lord. How will you renew your commitment to prayer, fasting and almsgiving this season?

Throughout Lent, we will meditate on the Passion of Our Lord **at Stations of the Cross, each Friday at 7:00 pm.** Also during Lent we will celebrate **Mass every Monday thru Saturday, at 8:00 am, and Monday thru Friday at 12:10 pm.**

We all should go to confession at least once a year to ready ourselves for the Solemnity of Easter. We will have a **Penance Service, Monday, March 22nd at 7:00 pm.** There will be several priests available to help you make a good confession.

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!

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