

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
March 7, 2021**

**Third Sunday Of
Lent**

THIRD SUNDAY OF



**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. 306
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

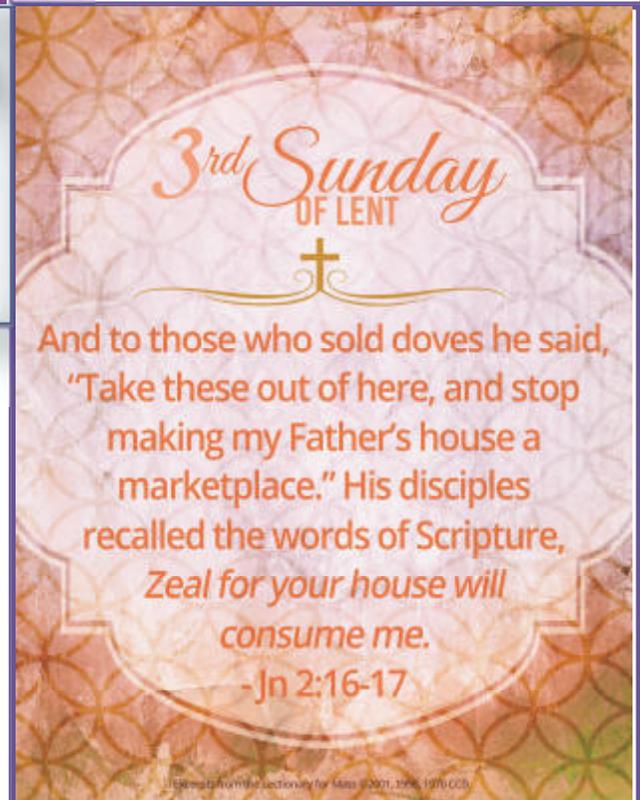
*Restroom w/changing table located near daily chapel;
there is another restroom in the west foyer.*

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

March 7, 2021

Third Sunday Of Lent

Liturgy of the Hours—Seasonal Proper

First Saturday, March 6, Lenten Weekday

8:00 am Raymond Dolzani by Ann C. Nolfe

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

4:30 pm Arnold Littlewood by Bob & Marie Trainor

Sunday, March 7, Third Sunday Of Lent

8:45 am Gino Violante (Anniversary) by Family

11:15 am Brian Kindzia by Family

Monday, March 8, Saint John Of God, Religious

8:00 am Mr. & Mrs. T. Henry & Helen Murphy

12:10 pm Mary Mc Donough by Michael & Mary Maloney

Tuesday, March 9, Saint Frances Of Rome, Religious

8:00 am People Of The Parish

12:10 pm Mother's Day Intentions

6:30 pm St. Jude Novena

7:00 pm Josephine Metro by Mr. & Mrs. John Clark & Family

Wednesday, March 10, Lenten Weekday

8:00 am Amin & Monsoura Touma

12:10 pm Patrick Driscoll by Maureen Raidy

Thursday, March 11, Lenten Weekday

8:00 am Barbara Joseph

8:45 am—Midnight Eucharistic Adoration

12:10 pm Father's Day Intentions

Friday, March 12, Lenten Weekday

8:00 am Edward Miodonski by Estate

12:10 pm The Pyra Family

7:00 pm Stations Of The Cross

Saturday, March 13, Lenten Weekday

8:00 am All Souls

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

4:30 pm Charles Matar by Family

Sunday, March 14, Fourth Sunday Of Lent

8:45 am James Raidy by Maureen Raidy

11:15 am Charlene Toarmino by Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Fama

Please pray for our ill and hospitalized: Z, Ann N., 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 March For Charlene Toarmino by Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Fama!

FREEDOM IN GOD'S COMMANDS

I was recently talking with my kids about why we choose as a family to eat mostly health foods and avoid more unhealthy junk foods when possible. It was a basic talk on cause and effect. When we eat junk food, we start to feel bad because our bodies need veggies and protein to grow big and strong. Something that came up was the concept of free will and human beings' ability to choose freely for themselves which path they will take. This led the conversation to the reality that while everyone is free to choose, one cannot choose the consequences of those choices. I am free to choose to run on ice, but the nature of ice and the laws of gravity will eventually catch up to me. I am free to touch a fire, but I am not free to choose whether it burns or not.

This concept seems fairly straightforward, yet in today's culture there is a skewed sense of freedom. We forget we are a redeemed people, rescued from the grips of death by a God who has literally chased us down to bring us back to him. This skewed sense of freedom leads to so many misunderstandings about the Ten Commandments. Are they just arbitrary rules from ancient times meant to make us feel bad? Are they still applicable today? Couldn't we bend them to speak to modern man? But in the readings today, if we read closely, we see a different message. A message of a Father who is madly in love with his children. By following God's commands, we experience the true freedom of children being cared for by their Father.

The first reading begins not with an admonition, but with a reminder of love: "I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery." Before the Commandments are given, God reminds His people that He is a God that is on their side. They were once living in oppression as slaves, but it was God who brought them freedom. It's important to read the following verses in this context. God doesn't set out a long list of rules to control or harm His people, rather after bringing them freedom He shows them the way to stay within the boundaries of that freedom. The Ten Commandments are a love story of a God who wants to do everything possible to bring His people back to Him. He knows the weakness of humanity, and He guides us as a loving Father to the ways that will make us more human, the ways to live a morally upright life.

St. Paul describes this in the second reading when he says that "the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom." It doesn't make sense to our minds to accept boundaries as the road to freedom. Modern man seeks to fill the expanses of his heart by exposing himself to as much in this world as possible without realizing the things that lead him to sin shrink and narrow the heart. But even using a car to reach a far-off destination requires boundaries like the proper fuel and taking paved roads. Our hearts are made to image God. Freedom is only free if it makes us more like Christ.

In the Gospel Jesus teaches us the path to this freedom: through authentic worship at the new temple, his Body. As Fr. Jacques Philippe says in his book *Fire and Light*, "the Eucharist makes clear the degree of intimacy which God wants to draw us. In the Eucharist, the mad dream of all lovers is realized." Jesus stops the money changers not because he is losing control, but because the boundaries of his love free our hearts. Authentic worship and prayer are what will free us, not using our churches as places for commerce.

In this culture of faux freedoms, God is calling us back to Himself. We are free to choose to follow Him or not, but we are not free to choose the consequence of that choice. Only in choosing to follow Christ do our hearts find the answer to our deepest longings. As St. Augustine so famously said in his *Confessions*, "our hearts are restless until they rest in You."

Angie Windnagle

PRAYER

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my thoughts may all be holy.

Act in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my work, too, may be holy.

Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
That I love but what is holy.

Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,
To defend all that is holy.

Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,
That I always may be holy.

Amen.

-St. Augustine

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 28, 2021: \$3191.00 (58%)

Monthly Collection: \$180.00, **Utilities:** \$106.00, **Children's Collection:** \$4.00, **Religious Retirement:** \$25.00, **Easter Flowers:** \$30.00, **Community Care:** \$440.00, **Debt Reduction:** \$55.00, **Votive:** \$65.00, **Christmas Offering:** \$20.00, **Donations:** \$60.00, **Mail:** \$1228.00.

Online Giving: 02/22/2021—02/28/2021

Regular Collection: \$473.00.

The second collection this week—March 7th, is Debt Reduction.

Also, there is an envelope for March for Easter Flowers. It will be greatly appreciated if you could donate towards the Easter Flowers for our Altar!!

The second collection next week—March 14th, is Our Monthly Sacrifice!

Message from Diocese of Buffalo

Beginning in 2015, The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, NY, Inc. ("Foundation") began soliciting donations to its "Upon this Rock" ("UTR") capital and endowment campaign. The UTR campaign raised funds for many purposes, including soliciting funds for making essential upgrades to classroom facilities and technology of Christ the King Seminary ("CKS"), expanding CKS's role as a center of retreat and religious celebration, and establishing an endowment fund for CKS. Unfortunately, in early 2020, CKS's Board of Trustees determined that CKS would close at the end of the 2020-2021 academic year. CKS's closure will make it impossible for the Foundation to use the UTR funds raised for CKS for their original intended purposes. However, under New York law, when the original purposes for which funds are donated become impossible to achieve, those purposes can be modified in a manner consistent with original intent by the New York State courts. For many years, CKS provided education and formation for ordained and lay ecclesial ministers in the Diocese of Buffalo and beyond. Accordingly, the Foundation has asked the New York State Supreme Court for the County of Erie to approve a modification of the purposes of UTR funds raised for CKS so that those funds can be used to support the education and formation for ordained and lay ecclesial ministry in the Diocese of Buffalo, as determined in the discretion of the Foundation's Board.

If you have donated to UTR and would like to be heard regarding this requested modification, you may send a letter to: The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y., Inc., attention Executive Director, 795 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14203 or an email to donor.info@frcdb.org. Copies of letters or email received by the Foundation will be provided to the Court. You may also make a formal filing in the legal proceeding entitled *Matter of the Modification of Endowment Funds of The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, NY, Inc., Erie County Index No. 814747/2020*. In order for your submission to be available for the Court's consideration, please be sure to send any letter or email, or make any filing, no later than Friday, April 9, 2021.

Rosary Altar Society Meeting!

There will be a Rosary Altar Meeting on Thursday, March 11th at 7:00 pm. We always welcome new members, so if any women of the parish would like to join us please come to our meeting!!!

The Mobile Food Pantry!

The Mobile Food Pantry will be in St. John de LaSalle Parking Lot on Friday, March 12, 2021 at 1:00 pm. Look for the Mobile Food Pantry at this location on the second Friday of every Month!! Mark your calendars for the next Mobile Food Pantry, April 9th, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

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. Please mark your calendars!!

2021 APPEAL

When you are hungry, we are hope. Catholic Charities maintains nine food pantry and outreach centers in Western New York. Seven sites are in Erie County (Central, East and South Buffalo, Getzville and Lackawanna) and one each, in Allegany County in Wellsville, and in Cattaraugus County in Franklinville. Each location has emergency food pantry service and offers information and referrals to other needed services to those who are food insecure, free of charge. Show your support of our food pantries by donating to **Appeal 2021.** Call 716-218-1419 or visit ccwny.org/donation. For more information on our pantries, go to ccwny.org/food. With your support, we can continue to be **HOPE for All Seasons.**

The Catholic Charities Appeal has begun in the Diocese of Buffalo. We encourage our young families to remember to share what they have with those who cannot afford the necessities of life, as Jesus stated in the Gospel. So far, we as a parish collected a total of \$8,477.42 from 18 donors. We have been asked by Catholic Charities to strive for a total of \$38,079.00 we need to raise an additional \$29601.58 to reach our goal.

How can we receive a Holy Communion and where we should consume a Holy Communion?

In the United States, the body of Bishops determined that Communion should be received standing, and that a bow is the act of reverence made by those receiving. Those who receive Communion may receive either in the hand or on the tongue, and the decision should be that of the individual receiving, not of the person distributing Communion. If Communion is received in the hand, the hands should first of all be clean. If one is right handed the left hand should rest upon the right. The host will then be laid in the palm of the left hand and then taken by the right hand to the mouth. If one is left-handed this is reversed. It is not appropriate to reach out with the fingers and take the host from the person distributing. Holy Communion we should consumed at the Altar or at the first step of Communion next to the priest. We should not walk with Holy Communion to the pew and keep in our hands.

Holy Name Men's Club will be meeting on Thursday, March 11th, at 6:30 pm, in the School Basement. New members are always welcome! We will be assisting Community Care on March 27th, with the distribution of Easter Food Baskets. Our Role is to be of assistance to our Parish. Please join us!

Are any of our young parishioners looking to earn extra money this summer? If so please call Edward Walek at 716-283-4070 (home) or 716-417-3479 (cell). Edward is looking for someone to cut grass, trim hedges and edge along the sidewalk during the summer as needed. This is in the LaSalle area and lawn mower and any other tools needed will be provided.

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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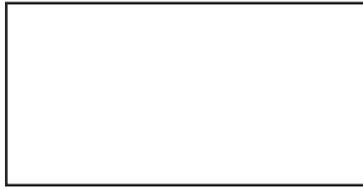
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