

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 21, 2021**

**Fifth 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
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

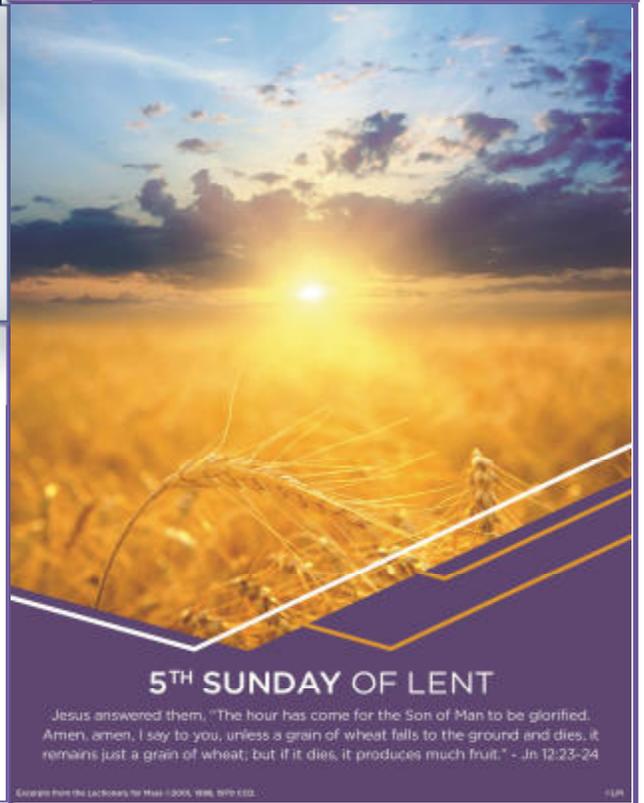
*Restroom w/changing table located near daily chapel;
there is another restroom in the west foyer.*

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 21, 2021
Fifth Sunday Of Lent
Liturgy of the Hours—Seasonal Proper

Saturday, March 20, Lenten Weekday

8:00 am All Souls

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

4:30 pm Mary Lou Korzak by Margaret Touma & Family

Sunday, March 21, Fifth Sunday Of Lent

8:45 am Maurice Cooper, Sr. by Ginny & Family

11:15 am Stanley Walek by Family

Monday, March 22, Lenten Weekday

8:00 am Edward Miodonski by Estate

12:10 pm Father's Day Intentions

7:00 pm Penance Service

Tuesday, March 23, Saint Turibius Of Mogrovejo, Bishop

8:00 am People Of The Parish

12:10 pm Mother's Day Intentions

6:30 pm St. Jude Novena

7:00 pm Marjean Leissle by Toni Pace

Wednesday, March 24, Lenten Weekday

8:00 am Joseph Archie by Janet Furlong

12:10 pm Father's Day Intentions

7:00 pm First Reconciliation

Thursday, March 25, THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

8:00 am Barbara Joseph

8:45 am—Midnight Eucharistic Adoration

12:10 pm Mother's Day Intentions

Friday, March 26, Lenten Weekday

8:00 am Gerry Gapcomb by Anthony & Lori Casilio & Family

12:10 pm Stanley Walek by Nancy & Ed Walek

7:00 pm Stations Of The Cross

Saturday, March 27, Lenten Weekday

8:00 am All Souls

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

4:30 pm Virginia Condino by Tim & Kathy Touchette

Sunday, March 28, PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

8:45 am Deceased Members Of Rosary Altar Society

11:15 am Stan & Phyllis Brzezinski by Family

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

SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS

Many people say they are "spiritual but not religious." Generally, they mean that they believe in a "higher power" without belonging to a church or adhering to dogmas. They claim to have respect for all religions, picking from each the teachings that suit the "god of their understanding." For them, religion is not a communal reality, but a personal, interior experience.

There is some truth in what self-described spiritual people believe. Religion is a matter of the heart and spirit. We all carry within us the ability to hear God's voice speaking to us through our consciences. Our hearts were made to love God above all things. When we look within, we already find a basic understanding of God and His plan for our lives. God created us to be spiritual.

In this Sunday's first reading, God announces that He is about to establish a new covenant. Unlike the old covenant written on stone, this covenant will be written on the heart. As Jeremiah describes it, no one will need to be taught the ways of the Lord because God will reveal Himself to the heart of each believer. This is what we commonly mean by the word "spiritual" — to have an interior relationship with God.

However, God is talking about something more than a natural desire or ability to know Him. Rather, this personal relationship with Him is a gift. It is not ours through birth, but through baptism. God's Spirit who writes this new covenant in our heart, who speaks to our spirit about the ways of truth and love, is given to us through baptism and faith. The Holy Spirit is not something we can receive just through personal reflection or meditation. We receive the Holy Spirit when we become members of a community of faith. We receive the Holy Spirit by practicing religion.

Jesus gives us more insight into what it means to be genuinely spiritual in this Sunday's gospel. The "hour" of Jesus' death is near, so he takes the opportunity to instruct his disciples about what it means to be his follower. Jesus says, "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." Just so, the spiritual person is willing to follow Jesus when it's inconvenient, painful, and costly. The truly spiritual person will follow Jesus even to the cross. The person with genuine insight into spiritual matters realizes that Jesus cannot be separated from his cross nor can eternal life be separated from death to self.

The words of Jesus are very different from what we typically hear from people who describe themselves as "spiritual but not religious." For them, being spiritual is not about dying to self but of enriching oneself. It is not about knowing God as He has revealed Himself in Scripture and in Church teaching so that we can humbly serve others, but about having secret knowledge that gives one a sense of superiority over others. This so-called "New Age" spirituality is really something very old — trying to achieve the glory of heaven without the shame of the cross.

Jesus invites us to be both spiritual *and* religious. He wants us to worship him in a community of believers. He wants us to gain wisdom by drawing on the words of Scripture, the teaching of the Church, and the insights of the believers who have gone before us. Most of all, he wants to encounter us in the Eucharist. This abundance of spiritual riches is ours through baptism and faith. It is a taste of heaven given to those who have decided to pick up their crosses and follow Jesus.

Doug Sousa

PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

Sustain us on our Lenten journey

Give us the courage to follow you

To pick up our cross and die to self

So we can encounter you in the suffering of others.

Open our eyes to the treasures that are ours

Through the Church you founded

So that we may draw on the wisdom of the ages

On our way to the heavenly inheritance

You have in store for those who believe in you.

Amen.

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!

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 March 14, 2021: \$5084.00 (92%)
Monthly Collection: \$909.00, **Utilities:** \$35.00, **Children's Collection:** \$10.00, **Easter Flowers:** \$379.00, **Community Care:** \$30.00, **Debt Reduction:** \$70.00, **Votive:** \$30.00, **Holy Thursday:** \$20.00, **Good Friday:** \$20.00, **Easter Sunday:** \$45.00, **Mail:** \$1902.00.
Online Giving: 03/08/2021—03/14/2021
Regular Collection: \$348.00.

The Second Collection This Week—March 21st, Is For Utilities.

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!!

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!!

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 In St. John de LaSalle Parking Lot on April 9th, 2021 at 1:00 PM!

Are any of our young parishioners looking to earn extra money this summer? If so please call Edward Walek at 7616-283-4070 (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!!

**Solemnity of Saint Joseph
Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

In celebration of the Year of St. Joseph, we pray today for all fathers, that through the example of St. Joseph, they may fully embrace their vocation and accept the privilege and responsibility of caring for their children as St. Joseph cared for Jesus.

2021 APPEAL

When you are troubled, we are hope. If you have a child ages 12 to 17 who is displaying chronic behaviors such as: non-compliance, verbal and/or physical aggression, school failure, curfew violations, running away, illegal substance abuse and/or criminal activity in two or more environments (home, school and/or community), consider Catholic Charities' **Multisystemic Therapy Program** in Erie, Niagara, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties. MST is an intensive, family-focused intervention provided in the natural environment of the youth. Interventions are research-based and the program offers 24/7 availability. For more information about MST, call 716-204-0555, ext. 330 or visit ccwny.org/mst. In other WNY counties, office-based counseling is always available to families at ccwny.org/counseling.

Update on our Catholic Charities Appeal—So far we have raised \$13,907 from 65 donors, or 35.4% of our \$38,178 goal. To date, we have 9 new donors toward our goal of 20 new donors in 2021. Won't you please consider becoming a new Catholic Charities donor? Stop by our new donor registration table in front of the church. You won't need cash or your checkbook. Just fill out a new donor registration card, and spread your donation out over four payments. Thank you and God Bless You!

Are you keeping your Lenten resolution to increase your prayer time and to do penance? Are you getting ready to celebrate the Holy Week and to renew your commitment to Jesus, when, at Easter, we will have the renewal of our Baptismal Promises? Let us not get discouraged when we fail to keep our Lenten promises made to Jesus: after all, we are sinners! Let us start anew to renew our commitment to Jesus, or offer another sacrifice. The past is past, what we have is the present; let us live it fully with Jesus, in joyful penance for all our sins.

Holy Week is fast approaching, and I hope that you will consider participating in the "sacred Tridium". There are no morning Masses during the "Sacred Tridium" (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday). But on Holy Thursday in the morning we will have at 8:00 AM a Morning Prayer. Please join us.

Palms Sunday -The distribution of palms this year will be done prior to Mass by ushers or other ministers of hospitality who don masks and perhaps gloves (hands should be sanitized of time). Palms will not be available on tables in church vestibules, given the likelihood that they would be handled by many individuals coming and going.

Mount St. Mary Academy Principal Katherine Spillman announces the following parishioners of St. John de LaSalle Church who have been named to the second quarter honor roll:

**Katherine Kaminska
Jenna Stranges**

**Congratulations Ladies!!
We Will Keep You In Our Prayers!!**

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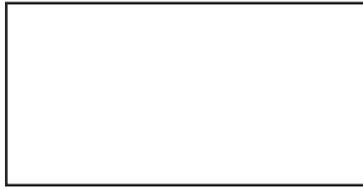
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