

## 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 December 12, 2021

## Third Sunday Of Advent



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

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

Pastor. .... Ext. 308  
Emergency Only ..... 579-4949  
Office .....Ext. 302/301  
Faith Formation ..... 283-5140  
Ext. 306  
Community Care / Food Pantry -  
Mrs. Lynn Siegfried .....622-5880

## 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*

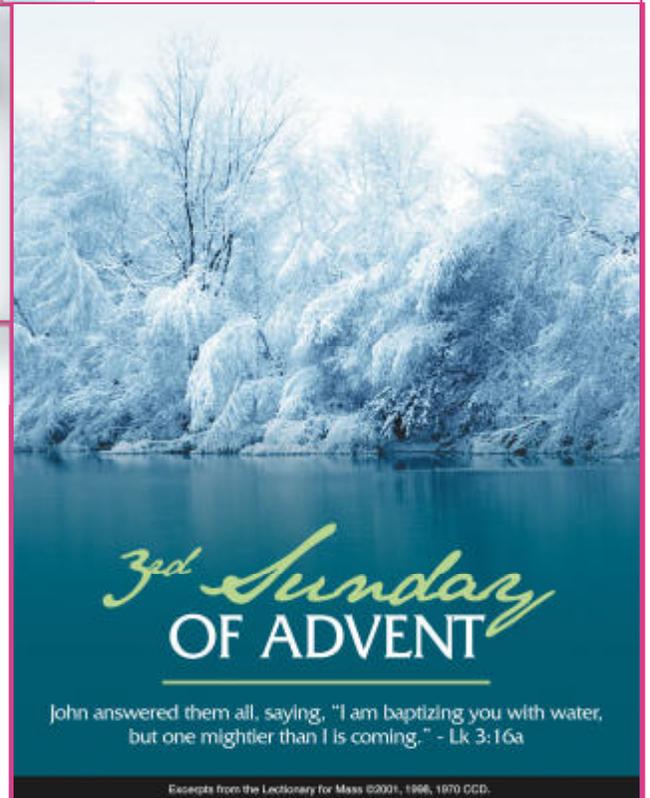
*Restroom w/changing table located near daily chapel;  
there is another restroom in the west foyer.*

## CONFESSIONS

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

## PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor: Rev. Slawomir Siok, SAC  
Office Mrs. Cynthia Tripoli  
Mrs. Debbie Burns  
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



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1996, 1970 OGD.

**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**

**December 12, 2021**  
**Third Sunday Of Advent**  
**Liturgy of the Hours—Seasonal Proper**

**Saturday, December 11, Saint Damasus I, Pope**

8:00 am All Souls

3:45 pm—4:15 am Confessions

4:30 pm Richard Touma (2 year anniversary) by Margaret Touma & Family

**Sunday, December 12, THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:45 am Estelle Rosso by Stan & Rosemary Klejdys

11:15 am Marjean Leissile by Family

**Monday, December 13, Saint Lucy, Virgin And Martyr**

8:00 am Vincent Olskamp by The O'Laughlin Family

7:00 pm Penance Service & Confessions

**Tuesday, December 14, Saint John Of The Cross, Priest And Doctor Of The Church**

8:00 am People Of The Parish

6:30 pm St. Jude Novena

7:00 pm Carol Donato by Family

**Wednesday, December 15, Advent Weekday**

8:00 am Edward Miodonski by Estate

**Thursday, December 16, Advent Weekday**

8:00 am Nancy Martinez by The O'Laughlin Family

8:45 am—Midnight Eucharistic Adoration

**Friday, December 17, Late Advent Weekday**

8:00 am Patrick O'Laughlin by Family

**Saturday, December 18, Late Advent Weekday**

8:00 am All Souls

3:45 pm—4:15 pm Confessions

4:30 pm Stella & Elmer Maurer by Daughter Patricia

**Sunday, December 19, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:45 am John Wayda by Family

11:15 am Stephen Pochatko by Wife & Sons

**Please pray for our ill and hospitalized:** Richard, Dot Swift, Jill Dombrowski, Stacey, Matthew II, Mary Ann Bergquest, Baby Jack, Sharon, Baby Gregory, Shannon, Uncle Gary, JoAnn Spears, Michelle Foster, Deirdre Raduns, Donna Cutwa, Preston Montroy, Alfreda Gautreau, Kaia Foster, Z, Helga, Philip Buffone, Pat Hahn, Lynette & Family, Daniel P., Anne-Marie S., Chris Nelson, Ron, Michele Promowicz Newman, Gail Jakubowski, Cathy D'Angelo, Ryan Welsh, 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, 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 December For The Hansen & Burden Families By Sharon!**

**REJOICE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD!**

"Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel!" "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!" These words from the Prophet Zephaniah and the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians frame the festive call of Gaudete Sunday. Pausing to rejoice may seem a bit of a challenge to some. We all grapple with life at times. These struggles can be so overwhelming and intense that they rob us of joy and a sense of peaceful wellbeing. Personal, corporate, familial, ecclesial, and social conflicts are all too plentiful. We are constantly bumping elbows with our weaknesses and sinfulness as well as those of the world. Our sad, painful cries reveal our incompleteness.

But, if we listen carefully, we can hear within our discomfort God's call to peace, to move beyond and heal the sadness and journey to a better place. We yearn for this but are not always clear as to how it can be achieved. God is constantly beckoning us to grow and change. Is this not the message of Christ? In Christ, God reveals incredible things about who He is and who we are. Life's eternal destiny is made known. He is with us and brightens the often dark recesses of human hearts. We have to see ourselves in Christ. The source of hope, life, love, faith, and meaning has been revealed.

However, accepting God's invitation stretches us a bit. We have to leave old and static ways behind and search for something new. We can even experience discomfort and anxiety as we move and change. Growing pains are more than physical. We do not need to look far for pain and heartache. Our mirrors reveal a good measure of it. Our world cries as inflation soars, food banks struggle to feed the hungry, the devastating effects of climate change continue, the pandemic lingers, political corruption abounds, racial injustice persists, and our borders remain unwelcome places of conflict. This partial list outlines what is ailing humankind. Add anger, growing resentment, frustration, exhaustion, and impatience, and the situation is potentially volatile. Our Church, living in the modern world, also feels the effects of the tides of conflict, disillusionment, division, and change.

Where is God's invitation being revealed in all that is happening within and without? Pope Benedict XVI gives us a hint in his encyclical, *Saved in Hope*. He writes that it is "only the great certitude of hope that my own life and history in general, despite all failures, are held firm by the indestructible power of Love, and that this gives them meaning and importance, only this kind of hope can then give the courage to act and to persevere." In short, a deep life of faith assures us that no matter what or where life brings us, God is still working. We will not fall apart or fall into despair! Human nature leads us to believe that any experience of joy is deferrable to some future time when sadness, stress, disharmony, and discontent are no more. Believing this to be true, we find ourselves waiting for the day when the lion can actually peacefully lay down with the lamb. Until then, we cling to our misery and apathy. We convince ourselves that we are victims and hence, powerless. Today, however, we are reminded to rejoice in the Lord "always!" We have to open a path to it now, amid unsettling and disturbing situations, and not defer it to the future.

We are not finished but are all works in progress. Our faith reminds us that creation groans and is in agony. We are all on the path to fulfillment and redemption, an assurance revealed to us in the Birth of Christ. Even though life moves us to stumble over our weaknesses and sinfulness, we can as Pope Benedict reminds us, "open ourselves to truth, to love, to what is good. We can free our life and the world from the poisons and contaminations that could destroy the present and the future. This makes sense even if outwardly we achieve nothing or seem powerless in the face of overwhelming hostile forces." Discord and suffering are a part of life and often cannot be controlled. But we fail to see that what we ultimately seek is something we already have! Do we not want the faith that brings the assurance that God has things in His care? Do we not wish to have a love that allows us to see the beauty and goodness that abounds, even amid heartache and despair? Do we not desire to possess the hope that God will bring us to the oneness of His Kingdom where all is fulfilled in the blessed presence of Christ? This is why we rejoice today. What we seek has already been given to us in Christ. God has profoundly and intimately touched all humanity and all creation. When we journey with our friends of faith, hope, and love, then even in the midst of darkness and uncertainty, we will experience joy! We will know, beyond doubt, that Divine Surprises will come and that lasting peace is our inheritance. This is not something we can earn. It is a pure and unconditional gift. God's perfect gift was revealed to us in the birth of Christ. That same gift can be born again in each of us. This is the miracle of Christmas.

Our celebration today makes perfect sense. Look above and beyond whatever is unsettling, disturbing, or hurtful. Leave the fear, uncertainty, and anxiety aside, and see God's truth and the truth of who you are. Rejoice! Forget about what happens tomorrow and beyond. Deal only with today. The future brings its challenges as it unfolds into the present. Control what you can and depart from what you cannot. God's friends, blessed faith, hope, and love, are within you. They are His gift. There are no requirements to earn them. Accept them as God's tender, intimate, and loving blessing. Rejoice that Someone as beautiful and magnificent as God thinks so highly of you! This is what gives life its importance.

Fr. Mark Suslenko

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

**Regular Collection For December 5, 2021:** \$3757.00  
**Monthly Collection:** \$10.00, **Utilities:** \$10.00, **Mail:** \$371.00, **Debt Reduction:** \$3228.00, **Community Care:** \$207.00, **Christmas Flowers:** \$144.00, **Retirement For The Religious:** \$699.00, **Children's:** \$10.00, **Immaculate Conception:** \$95.00, **Christmas Offering:** \$25.00.  
**Online Giving: 11/29/2021—12/05/2021: Total:** \$666.00.

**The Second Collection This Week, December 12th, is for Our Monthly Sacrifice!**  
**The Second Collection December 19th, is for Utilities!**

**Also Please Remember To Use Your Debt Reduction Envelopment For December So We May Reach Our \$40,000 Goal By December 26th!**  
**To date we have collected, \$37,982.00, leaving a balance of \$2,018.00 left to raise!**  
**Thank You For Supporting Our Parish!!!**

**A Penance Service** will take place on Monday, December 13th at 7:00 pm. Several priests will be available to hear your confession. Please mark your calendar. You are welcome and encouraged to stop every Thursday into the Adoration Chapel to spend a moment with Christ in the Eucharist.

**Schedule For Christmas Masses**

*Friday, Christmas Vigil—4:00 pm*

*Midnight Mass—Musical Program—11:30 pm  
 Mass—12:00 am*

*Saturday, Christmas Day—8:45 am & 11:15 am*

*There will be no Vigil Mass for Sunday, December 26th.*

**Please bring your family and visiting friends and relatives to celebrate The Birth Of Christ!!**

**Midnight Mass musical Program**

*The musical program before Midnight Mass will be a little different this Christmas. Instead of having a musical program sung by a choir, we'll be having a singalong of familiar carols. Everyone in attendance will be invited to join in the fun. Please join us at 11:30 pm on Christmas Eve for a spirited singalong!*

**Our Bingo Updates:**

We now hold our **St. John de LaSalle BINGO** in our Parish Center on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm. Please let your family and friends know of our new location. Bingo is one of our highest fundraisers, donating our profits to the Church! We are in need of floor workers for the first and fourth Tuesday's of each month. Can you give us 3 hours of your time (6:00 pm—9:00 pm) on these Tuesday's. If so, please call Terry at 716-400-4125.

**Thank You For All Your Support!**

**Decorating of the Church for Christmas** will take place on Wednesday, December 22nd at 1:30 pm. Please come to help! Any questions please call Penny. Thank You!

**Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers**

please stop in the sacristy and sign up for your preference to serve at the Christmas Liturgy. Also if you have not yet picked up your workbook and prayer books, they are in the sacristy for pick-up.

**PRAYER**

*Open your heart to receive the gift of joy!  
 God has something wonderful,  
 Inspiring and exciting for you to do.*

*Pray with St. Francis:*

*"Most high and glorious God,  
 Lighten the darkness of my heart  
 And give me sound faith, firm hope  
 And perfect love.*

*Let me, Lord, have right feelings  
 And knowledge,  
 So that I can carry out the task  
 That you have given me in truth."*

*Christ is born within you.  
 You are forever changed.  
 Rejoice!  
 Amen.*

**Retirement Fund For Religious!**

**Religious give thanks.** A sister writes, "Our prayers belong most of all to the generous benefactors whose donations have made this financial assistance possible." Thank you for supporting last week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection. **Visit [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org) to learn how your gift supports elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.**

**Sharing the Oplatky!**

*The sharing of "Oplatky (ohplah-tee)" is a wonderful Eastern custom, which is celebrated on Christmas Eve during the meal following the Vigil Mass. Sharing the Oplatky there is a forgiveness of all wrongs among the participants and a promise to never return to them. "Oplatky", the Christmas Bread, has been blessed and is available to you in church today.*

**St. John de LaSalle Volunteer Appreciation Dinner!!**

*On Sunday, January 9, 2022, at 12:30 pm, we will be having a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Koban's Restaurant, 3045 Niagara Street, Niagara Falls. If you are interested in attending please call the PCO—716-283-2238 ext. 302, no later than December 30, 2021!*

*Meat Choices Are;  
 Chicken Parmigiana  
 Or*

*Boneless Breaded or Charbroiled Pork Chops  
 Included Also;*

*Garlic Toast, Salad, Potato, Vegetable, Dessert & Coffee*

**As you know, parishes are very dependent on a very generous Christmas and Easter collection,** (and these collections usually are). We at St. John de LaSalle live from hand to mouth. If you will be away, please use your Christmas envelope or online giving either before you go, or after you return. If you do not normally use an envelope, or are a visitor here at Christmas, please use the envelopes in the pews. Make checks payable to St. John de LaSalle Church. Thanks, a zillion! Jesus, and I, will appreciate it!

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