



ALL ARE WELCOME!

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

26 Erie Avenue • Gowanda, NY 14070

DECEMBER 5, 2021 • SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Calendar of Events

Saturday, December 4

8:00 pm.....AA Meeting, Church basement

Sunday, December 5—Second Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 6

1:00 pm.....Grief Support, school

Tuesday, December 7

1:00 pm.....Prayer Group, school

5:00 pm..... Vigil Mass at St. Mary's for The Immaculate Conception

6:30 pm.....Al-Anon Meeting, school

Wednesday, December 8—The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 am.....Mass at St. Joseph

9:00 am.....Bible Study, school

7:00 pm.....Mass at St. Joseph

Saturday, December 11

8:00 pm.....AA Meeting, Church basement

Sunday, December 12—Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 am.....Youth Mass

10:30 am to 11:30 am....Adult Faith Formation, school

10:30 am to 11:30 am....All Faith Formation Classes, school

10:30 am to 11:30 am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Class, school

Tuesday, December 14

6:30 pm.....Al-Anon Meeting, school

Wednesday, December 15

9am.....Bible Study, school

Thursday, December 16

7:00 pm.....Penance Service, St. Joseph

Saturday, December 18

8:00 pm.....AA Meeting, Church basement

Sunday, December 19—Fourth Sunday of Advent

Rectory: 26 Erie Ave. • 532-5100 • Fax: 532-4096 • Hours: M-F 9 am to 2 pm

Email: rectory@stjoesgowanda.com • **Website:** www.sjcgowanda.org

Faith Formation: Wilma Parry 532-2520, reled@stjoesgowanda.com

Rev. Innocent Diala, Pastor

Deacon Wally Samick

MASS SCHEDULE

St. Joseph Church: Saturday 4:30 p.m. • Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

Weekdays: 8:30 a.m.



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.
The winding roads shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."
- Lk 3:5-6

Reprinted from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970-1982

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SICK CALLS: Anytime. Call the rectory as soon as possible.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday at 3:45 p.m. or by appointment.

RCIA: Please contact the rectory.

BAPTISMS: Upon request; pre-baptismal instruction is required. Please contact the rectory.


PRE-CANA: Classes can be scheduled by calling the rectory.

MARRIAGES: Arrangements should be made at least 6 months in advance at the rectory.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please register at the rectory as soon as possible after you have moved into the Parish. Registration as a member of the parish requires the completion of an application available at the rectory.



“Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” - Lk 3:5-6 Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



The Sanctuary Candle burns this week for *All Parishioners*.

PRAYER REQUESTS

For all those serving in our **Armed Forces** here and around the world. For those who are suffering from pain and illness, especially: **Patricia Leonard, Mary Stelley, Carol Regan, Joan Cain, Leo Gassman, Colt William Matz, Mark Smith, Mike Gernatt, Kiley Denea, Melissa Moulton Peglowski, Peter Johnson, Justin Regan, Beatrice and Donald Swanson, Sister Lucina Stang, Mary Vanderbosch, and Mike Wesley.** For those who have died...*Shirley Minnick.*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Paul wrote, “the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it,” and these same words are spoken to new priests at their ordination. Have no fear — God will complete what He has begun in you. If you're ready for a new beginning in ministry, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit buffalovocations.org.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception teaches that Mary, the mother of Christ, was conceived without sin and her conception was thus *immaculate*. Mary's sinless conception is the reason why Catholics refer to Mary as "full of grace". The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is celebrated by Catholics on **December 8th** each year. ©BBC

ST. JOSEPH DIRECTORY RECTORY

Office, Connie/Sandy/Jenny532-5100
 Parish Email.....rectory@stjoesgowanda.com
 Parish Fax532-4096
 Pastor Fr. Innocent Diala532-5100
 Email.....frdiala@stjoesgowanda.com
 Deacon Wally Samick.....532-5100
 Email.....deaconwally2020@gmail.com

FAITH FORMATION

Wilma Parry532-2520
 Email.....reled@stjoesgowanda.com

DIocese OF BUFFALO
 Website: www.buffalodiocese.org

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Sunday, November 21, 2021

Offertory Envelopes.....	\$4125.00
Loose Money.....	\$348.00
Maintenance and Repair Fund.....	\$35.00
Energy Needs.....	\$150.00
Thanksgiving.....	\$130.00
Campaign for Human Development.....	\$259.00
Religious Retirement Fund.....	\$130.00
Total.....	\$5177.00

Thursday, November 25, 2021

Thanksgiving.....	\$566.00
Total.....	\$566.00

Sunday, November 28, 2021

Offertory Envelopes.....	\$3337.00
Loose Money.....	\$530.00
Maintenance and Repair Fund.....	\$10.00
Campaign for Human Development.....	\$240.00
Catholic University.....	\$20.00
Total.....	\$4137.00

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

God's Personal Assistants

If you have ever planned a large-scale event, whether it's a musical performance or a religious conference, you may have dealt with someone's personal assistant. Possibly this person would be a representative of the keynote speaker or the master of ceremonies for the local bishop; perhaps it's even the staffer of a local politician or the lackey of a well-known musical act.

Personal assistants are masters of stewardship — overseeing things in their boss' absence. They prepare the way. This person's job is to get everything ready for the person in charge, so that when he or she shows up — whoever he or she is — it's smooth sailing for them to do whatever it is they need to do: sing, speak, pray, mingle, what-have-you. It's usually a big job full of little things, a gig where attention to detail is key.

God is the guest of honor in our life, the keynote speaker, the main event. And what He wants — what He needs — to do is to change our hearts. Constantly, over, and over, and over again.

We are all His personal assistants in this endeavor. We need to prepare the way of the Lord, to make straight His paths. We need to make everything ready so that when He shows up — however He shows up, whether it's in the form of a neighbor in need or a burning bush right in front of us — everything is ready for Him to do His job.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Please wish Tony Hoppa a Happy 92nd Birthday by sending him a card. His address is 520 Pineridge Rd. Griffin, GA 30224.

PENANCE SERVICE

There will be an Advent Penance Service on Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 7 pm at St Joseph Church. Please join us for the Sacrament of Reconciliation as we prepare for Christmas.

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE**Christmas Mass Schedule**

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24th:

4:30 p.m. St. Mary's—Cattaraugus

7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church

10:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25th:

9:30 a.m. St. Joseph Church

Note: There will not be a 4:30 p.m. Mass.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Schedule:

New Year's Eve, Friday, December 31st:

8:30 a. m. Mass at St. Joseph Church

5:00 p.m. St. Mary's—Cattaraugus

New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1st:

9:30 a.m. St. Joseph Church

4:30 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church

MEN'S MINISTRY

The "Men of the Challenge", a ministry of men from St. Aloysius, Epiphany & St. Joseph Gowanda parishes, invites the men of our parish to gather on the 2nd Saturday of each month to EAT, to LEARN more about our faith, & to be CHALLENGED to live as men of God each day. Join them for their upcoming gatherings: Saturday Dec. 11th, Jan. 8th, and Feb. 12th from 8 am to 9:15 am at Epiphany of Our Lord Parish Hall—10893 Route 75 Langford. Please call or text your RSVP to Deacon Jeff at 716-432-8717.

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Thank you for your generous support for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! As a parish, we raised \$259.00 to support those on the margins who live in poverty in the United States. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections and click "how to Give" under "Resources."

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Give in gratitude. A donor to the Retirement Fund for Religious writes, "I still remember the lessons the sisters gave us and how they instilled in us the love of our faith." Show your thanks for the prayerful service of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Your gift to next week's second collection helps provide care, medicine, and more. Please be generous.

GOSPEL MEDITATIONS**2nd Sunday of Advent**

St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. "You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when his hair

is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, he chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, his head is covered with dew, with drops, when his body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, he is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, he will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for his coming, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him." When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort.

We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self-focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for his visit, we can hear God's gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Sometimes our darkness is so dark that it may seem unsurmountable. Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God's promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts' doors open. Sometimes, the only light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present.

We have to trust that God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and that humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome. God is not done. When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God's simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent season. God is knocking. Answer the door. You will see and understand life in ways you never thought possible before. ©LPi



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 4

4:30 p.m. For the Special Intentions of Rev. Daniel Ulmer
by the Gugino Family

Sunday, December 5—Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. John and Anne Hunchar † by Mary Sladich

9:30 a.m. Esther Dittenhofer † by Pat Rebmann and
Family

11:15 a.m. St. Mary's—Cattaraugus

Monday, December 6

8:30 a.m. Dorothy Selan † by the Sisti Family

Tuesday, December 7—Saint Ambrose

8:30 a.m. All Souls

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass at St. Mary's—Cattaraugus

Wednesday, December 8—The Immaculate Conception

8:30 a.m. Michael Filipiak † by Mother

7:00 p.m. John and Lillian Sharkey † by Estate

Thursday, December 9

8:30 a.m. For the Parishioners

Friday, December 10

8:30 a.m. John and Lillian Sharkey † by Estate

Saturday, December 11

4:30 p.m. Deceased Members of the Bourgoine and Washy
Families † by Family

Sunday, December 12—Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Clara Masley † by Sarah and Family

9:30 a.m. Roy Steffen † by Sarah and Family

11:15 a.m. St. Mary's—Cattaraugus

MINISTRY SCHEDULE
DECEMBER 8

8:30 AM

Altar Server: Any Available Server

Lector: Don Maziar

Eucharistic Minister: Clergy

7:00 PM

Altar Server: Any Available Server

Lector: Dr. Greco

Eucharistic Minister: Clergy

DECEMBER 11/12

4:30 PM

Altar Server: Any Available Server

Lector: Don Maziar

Eucharistic Minister: Carol Paczos

8:00 AM

Altar Server: Any Available Server

Lector: Kevin Regan

Eucharistic Minister: Ed Christopher

9:30 AM

Altar Server: Chase Bolen

Lector: Youth Mass

Eucharistic Minister: Clergy

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



- New Registration
- Change of Address
- Want Envelopes
- Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

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 Fine Wine & Spirits
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 Welcome Back to Mass

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