



ALL ARE WELCOME!

# ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

26 Erie Avenue • Gowanda, NY 14070

JANUARY 9, 2022 • THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

## Calendar of Events

### Saturday, January 8

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

### Sunday, January 9

9:30 am.....Youth Mass

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

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

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

### Monday, January 10

Father Innocent's Birthday

### Tuesday, January 11

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

### Wednesday, January 12

9:00 am....Bible Study, school—last one until April.

### Saturday, January 15

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

### Sunday, January 16

10:30 am to 12 Noon....Generations of Faith, Church basement

### Monday, January 17

Rectory Closed

### Tuesday, January 18

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

### Saturday, January 22

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

### Sunday, January 23

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

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

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

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

Email: [rectory@stjoesgowanda.com](mailto:rectory@stjoesgowanda.com) • Website: [www.sjcgowanda.org](http://www.sjcgowanda.org)

Faith Formation: Wilma Parry 532-2520, [reled@stjoesgowanda.com](mailto:reled@stjoesgowanda.com)

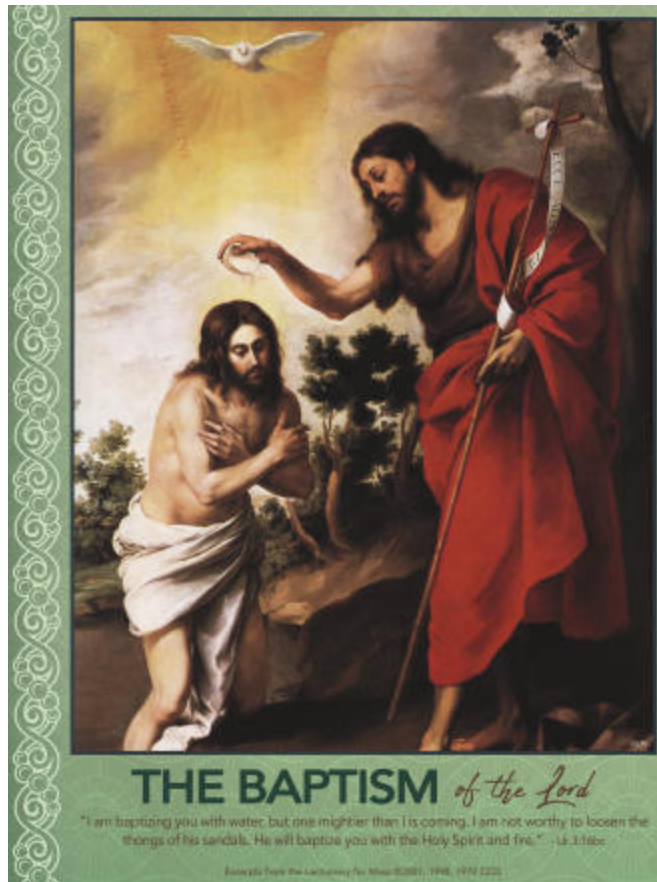
Rev. Innocent Diala, *Pastor*

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.



## THE BAPTISM of the Lord

"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16c

Reproduced from the Lectionary for Mass (2002), 1998, 1979 (222)

**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.



“I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” - Lk 3:16bc Excerpts from

the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



The Sanctuary Candle burns this week for *Peace and Strength of Recovering Addicts.*

**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: **Karen Swinson, 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...

**MY SINCERE APPRECIATION**

Beloved Parishioners,  
I want to thank you from my heart for your gifts to me at Christmas—the cards, the baked goods, the food & the cash. You spoil me. Thank you for putting huge smiles on the faces of my Nigerian dependents—those who may die if I do not send something. May the Good Lord meet you at your own points of need! Amen! Thank you so very much. Father Innocent

**2021 STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

Please contact the rectory at 716-532-5100 or email [rectory@stjoesgowanda.com](mailto:rectory@stjoesgowanda.com) if you would like your 2021 statement of financial contributions.

**ST. JOSEPH DIRECTORY  
RECTORY**

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

**FAITH FORMATION**

Wilma Parry .....532-2520  
 Email.....reled@stjoesgowanda.com

**DIOCESE OF BUFFALO**

Website: [www.buffalodiocese.org](http://www.buffalodiocese.org)  
 Social Media: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, You Tube

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

**December 24th and 25th - Christmas**

Offertory Envelopes.....	2806.00
Loose Money.....	\$946.00
Flowers.....	\$90.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$3842.00</b>

**Sunday, December 26**

Offertory Envelopes.....	\$3116.00
Loose Money.....	\$156.00
Maintenance and Repair Fund.....	\$25.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$35.00
Flowers.....	\$55.00
Thanksgiving.....	\$25.00
Christmas.....	\$190.00
Seminarian and Diaconate Formation.....	\$5.00
Religious Retirement Fund.....	\$20.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$3627.00</b>

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP**

**I Hope I Am Like Him**

“Who is this Christ? Is he like you?”

Perhaps you’ve heard this story, often attributed to the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A sick man asked her this question, as he marveled at her tireless service to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ.

“He is nothing like me,” the saint is said to have answered. “But I hope I am like him.”

Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: all the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it.

Consider the figure of John the Baptist — a magnificent, towering character even purely from a literary or historical perspective. A martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke truth to power — a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah.

But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ — and this is exactly as he wanted it. “One worthier than I is coming,” he insists. And because of that humility and that total embrace of God’s will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament — he baptizes the Son of God.

Let’s examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God’s plan? — *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi*

**SANCTUARY CANDLE**

The Sanctuary Candle is kept lit to remind us of the presence of Christ in the tabernacle. If you would like to reserve the candle for a special intention or to remember a loved one departed, please call the rectory at 716-532-5100. The requested donation is **\$10.00/week**.

## 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 gathering: 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.

## REQUESTING A MASS

There are infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefit the souls of our loved ones living and departed. Many times Masses are requested for the dead, but you may request a Mass to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, sacrament or for someone's special intentions. A Mass may also be requested for someone who is sick or suffering. Please call the rectory at 532-5100 if you would like to schedule a Mass. There is a stipend of \$15.00 requested for each Mass.

## RURAL TRANSIT SERVICE

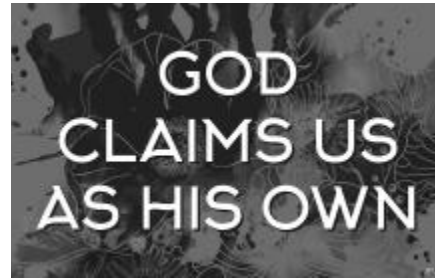
Rural Transit Service, a not-for-profit transportation service, is looking for volunteers to service the seniors, disabled and low-income residents in rural Southern Erie County. Volunteer drivers need no special license to drive the RTS van and transport clients to medical appointments, grocery stores, senior centers and more! Dispatchers answer a one-line phone while scheduling appointments. RTS is open Monday—Friday, dispatch hours are 9am-1 pm and van hours are 8am—4 pm. Volunteers can choose a 4-hour shift, one day per week, or join as seasonal or back-up help. If you are an eligible resident who resides in the towns of Aurora, Brant, Boston, Colden, Collins, Concord, Eden, Elma, Evans, Gowanda, Holland, Marilla, Orchard Park, North Collins, Sardinia, Wales and would like free transportation, please call us today! Call. 716-472-6065 to volunteer or to register for service.

## BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Christ gives us the gift of Baptism, through which we each have a vocation in the Church. Pray for those who are discerning a call to live their Baptismal commitment as religious brothers, sisters, priests or deacons. If God is calling you to this, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit [buffalovocations.org](http://buffalovocations.org).



## GOSPEL MEDITATIONS



### **The Baptism of the Lord**

*"We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ."*

— Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear. ©LPi

## 3500 CLUB

There is one ticket available for the next 3500 Club party. Please call the rectory if you are interested at 716-532-5100. If you have not sent in your payment for your 2022 Spring Party ticket/s, please drop it off at the rectory as soon as possible. Thank you!



# Mass Intentions for the Week

**Saturday, January 8**

4:30 p.m. John and Lillian Sharkey † by Estate

**Sunday, January 9—Baptism of the Lord**

8:00 a.m. For God's Continued Blessing of the Gernatt Families and Company by St. Joseph Parish

9:30 a.m. Shirley Minnick † by Carol Leonard

11:15 a.m. St. Mary's—Cattaraugus

**Monday, January 10**

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

**Tuesday, January 11**

8:30 a.m. For the Parishioners

**Wednesday, January 12**

8:30 a.m. For the Special Intentions of Father Dan Ulmer on his birthday by Mom

**Thursday, January 13**

8:30 a.m. Bill and Karen Loehr † by John, Debi and Family

**Friday, January 14**

8:30 a.m. All Souls

**Saturday, January 15**

4:30 p.m. Joseph S. Gugino † by the Gugino Family

**Sunday, January 16**

8:00 a.m. John, Virginia, and Mark Regan † by Family

9:30 a.m. Dale Koch † by the Purdy Family

11:15 a.m. St. Mary's—Cattaraugus

**Please remember that all Masses are subject to change.**

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE**  
**January 15/16**

**4:30 PM**

Altar Server: Any Available Server

Lector: Pat Volk

Eucharistic Minister: Clergy

**8:00 AM**

Altar Server: Any Available Server

Lector: Kevin Regan

Eucharistic Minister: Clergy

**9:30 AM**

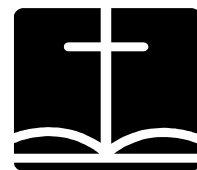
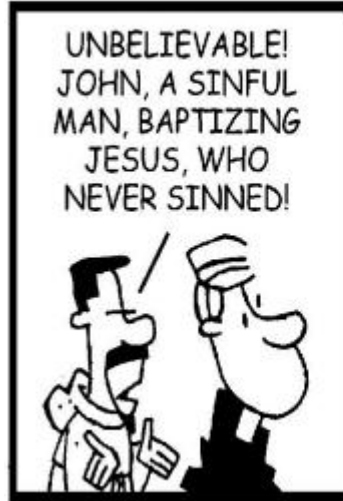
Altar Server: Daniel Stang

Lector: Lisa Rebmann

Eucharistic Minister: Clergy

**Please call a substitute if you are unable to serve**

BAPTISM OF THE LORD



- New Registration
- Change of Address
- Want Envelopes
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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**We've Missed You!**  
 Welcome Back to Mass

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 Welcome Back to Mass

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