

March 22, 2020



st. margaret's parish news

1395 HERTEL AVENUE BUFFALO, NEW YORK

REV. JOSEPH D. WOLF, Pastor
www.stmargaret-parish.com

Rectory 876-5318

Fax 875-9068

Sr. Karen Marie, GNSH, Pastoral Associate (Phone 331-8846).

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday - 8:00 am (Communion Service)
(Vigil Mass: 4:00 pm at Holy Spirit)
Sunday - 8:00 and 9:30 am at St. Margaret's
(11:00 am at Holy Spirit)

HOLY DAY MASSES:

Please see Mass schedule in Bulletin

DAILY MASSES: Mon. & Thurs. 8:00 am
Wed. 6:15 pm Holy Spirit
Fri. 8:00 am Holy Spirit

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 8:30 am - 12:30 pm;
Wed. 2:00 - 6:00 pm

NOVENA: Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Saturday - after 8:00 am Communion Service.



CONFESSIONS: Saturday 3:15 pm at Holy Spirit.
Sunday following 8:00 am Mass at St. Margaret's.
Please call the rectory for individual appointments
or for Pastoral counseling appointments.

BAPTISMS: By prior appointment. Preparation
course required.
MARRIAGES: Make arrangements well in
advance of date by contacting your parish priest
at St. Margaret's.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Grades 1-10 at Holy
Spirit, Sunday 9:30 - 10:45 am.
Miss Karen Adamski (Phone: 876-5318).

ST. MARGARET'S CREDIT UNION: All parish-
ioners and their families can join the Crossroads
Community Credit Union located at 971 Kenmore
Ave. Buffalo, NY 14217 (874-7284).

Mass Intentions for the Week

MONDAY, March 23, 2020

8:00 AM All Souls

THURSDAY, March 26, 2020

8:00 AM Quinto Cappellini req. by Daughter, Mary Lou

SUNDAY, March 29, 2020

8:00 AM Richard Brown req. by Sr. Karen Marie Voltz, GNSH

9:30 AM Giuseppina Puma, Birthday Remembrance req. by Family

Michael LoCurto req. by Family



The **Fish Fry** scheduled for March 27 has been **cancelled**. Please bring your tickets to the rectory office during regular business hours for a refund. If you are unable to come to the rectory or need any further information, please call Diane at 876-5318.

Dash's Store Receipts. We are still accepting Dash's store receipts as a fundraiser for our parish. Donation boxes are located at the parking lot and Hertel Ave. entrances to the Church. Thank you for your support!



St. Margaret's Travel Club. Travel with St. Margaret's Seniors to beautiful New England, Sept. 17-21. From Boston and Faneuil Marketplace, JFK Library, Old Ironsides, Cheers, to Salem and the Witchcraft trials. Cape Ann, Gloucester, and Rockport, vintage scenic New England coastal towns. Lexington and Concord, birthplace of the American Revolution. \$619 includes bus, hotel, eight meals, entertainment and guided tours. Call 830-0848 for reservations.

FAITH IN STEWARDSHIP March 15, 2020

Offertory.....	\$2,937.95
Easter Flowers.....	\$ 629.00
Electronic Giving.....	\$ 55.00

Parish Outreach Ministry. Our **Community** personal care donation ministry is ongoing and we continue to be thankful for the generosity of St. Margaret parishioners. As a reminder, items that are requested are all new, unopened, personal care items (personal hygiene for adults, children and infants); baby diapers and wipes are always appreciated. If you are aware of any agencies that could benefit by the generous donations of our parishioners, please let us know by calling the rectory office (876-5318). Once again, thank you for your continued generosity!



Religious Education News. There are no Religious Education classes or events until further notice.

Our Confirmation Class is starting their service project **"CASES FOR KIDS"** Their goal is to prepare sixteen suitcases/small duffle bags for kids going into foster care with such items as: socks, blankets, books, coloring books, journals/pens, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorants, brush/comb, shampoo, soap, etc. If you can help with providing suitcases or small duffle bags or any of the items used to fill the cases, please place items on or near the table in the church breezeway. Thank you for your support!

Start a ripple. Each dollar raised during the annual Appeal leverages an additional \$3-\$4 of government support and contracts – meaning your gift goes three to four times as far. Every dollar counts because more funding means more services for those in need in our communities. When considering your gift to the **2020 Appeal**, those we serve remind you to "think of me." You can bring comfort, protection, peace, healing and so much more through your contribution. Secure donations can be made online at www.ccwny.org/donation or by calling Catholic Charities at 218-1400. **Think of Me.**

"What weights us down is not our baggage but the decision to keep carrying it." David Rawlings in The Baggage Handler



Heavenly Pennies & More...Our Religious Education Program continues to collect pennies, nickels, quarters, etc. during Lent for Catholic Charities. Your wonderful support and the students' great enthusiasm has helped us reach or surpass our goal every year! Penny canisters are at the doors of the Church. Thank you!

A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR PASTOR

The company that publishes our church bulletins has asked that we continue to submit our parishes' information, even though Mass will not be celebrated publicly for the foreseeable future, as our diocese, nation and world continues to struggle with the novel coronavirus and its life-disrupting consequences for all of us. And so, I find myself in the rather unusual situation of writing an article which may or may not ever be read by anyone other than myself.

By now, all of us are quite aware that the situation in which we find ourselves is changing not only daily, but even hourly at times. Last weekend I celebrated Mass with you, fully expecting that we would be together for Eucharist again this weekend. Then, late last Sunday night, as I was checking my email, I saw that the diocese had sent out an email message that all Masses were no longer to be publicly celebrated. The exact words of the message from the diocese were,

"Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger announces that **there will be no regularly scheduled public Masses in the Diocese of Buffalo until further notice** due to an abundance of caution and growing concerns about the spread of the novel coronavirus...The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention today updated its guidelines with the instruction to cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more for the next 8 weeks. On Friday, Bishop Scharfenberger announced that all Catholic faithful are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligations...In addition, all other parish events and large gatherings are to be postponed, including Confirmations. Funerals will continue to be conducted, though with only immediate family present until further notice. All Catholic schools will remain closed until April 20, 2020."

"As the faith community of Western New York, we have an important part to play in protecting those most vulnerable and those with underlying medical issues during this period of extreme concern over the spread of the coronavirus," said Bishop Scharfenberger. "I realize how deeply disappointing it is during our season of Lent to refrain from gathering at public Masses and participating together in our liturgical life, but we must avoid the risk of wider infection. I encourage the faithful to pray fervently during this time when we must be apart and to continue their Lenten journey within families and in the quiet of their own prayerful reflection, knowing that Christ abides with us always and in every place."

Bishop Scharfenberger has asked all priests to continue to celebrate Mass privately for the intentions you have requested, especially during this sacred season of Lent. Only once in my lifetime have I celebrated Mass privately, and that was on a winter day when the weather was so severe that no one could safely travel to church from their homes. Now, until the coronavirus threat passes, I will be celebrating Mass privately on a daily basis, but I feel I will have you and your families present in mind and heart more than ever, due both to your absence from the Mass and our shared necessity of God's grace during these unprecedented times. Undoubtedly, we are all learning something about our world and ourselves as we navigate these uncharted waters. Next weekend I would like to invite your reflection upon the insights we may experience during this time of pandemic. In the meantime, our church offices are open to serve you. Also, our churches will be open for all who would like to come for a visit to pray privately, while all are asked to maintain a prudent distance from one another. So, **St. Margaret Church** will be open for visits on Sundays from 9:00am – 10:00am, Mondays from 9:00am – 10:00am, Thursdays from 9:00am – 10:00am, and Saturdays from 9:00am – 10:00am. **Holy Spirit Church** will be open on Sundays from 9:00am – 10:00am, Tuesdays from 9:00am – 10:00am, Wednesdays from 6:00pm – 7:00pm, and Fridays from 9:00am – 10:00am. I hope this will be helpful for you, and will supplement the prayer that each of us must – especially during this time of fear and panic – offer as people of faith.

Sincerely in Christ,
Father Joe



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" - Jn 9:35

A Vocation View. Has shame and fear caused you to hide from God, thinking that if you listen to Him you would only hear harsh reprimands? Remember that God is merciful. Turn back to him, and listen to him speak to your heart. If God is calling you to a Church vocation, call Fr. Andrew Lauricella at 847-5535.

Keeping Lent. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be collecting cans of food for our Dining Room on Main St. to help with meals for our guests. We are looking for the restaurant-size cans of fruits, vegetables, coffee or powdered drinks. Mustard, ketchup and 6-inch paper plates are especially needed. There are collection boxes at the parking lot entrance to the church. Our Dining Room serves over 100,000 people a year. Your generosity is always appreciated.



Eucharist for Homebound Parishioners. If you or someone you know from the parish is in a nursing home (or is a shut-in in their own home) and would like Communion brought to them, please call Fr. Joe (876-5318) or Sister Karen Marie (331-8846) and we will be happy to bring Communion to you. Please leave a name and contact phone number.

Readings for the week of March 22, 2020

Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46: 2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 [8a and 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23 [19a]/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/ Jn 7:40-53

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