

March 29, 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 30, 2020

8:00 AM Pro Popolo

THURSDAY, April 2, 2020

8:00 AM Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Scalisi & Marie Starck req. by Family

SUNDAY, April 5, 2020

8:00 AM John & Josephine Dolce req. by Family
Lisa & Antonio Spinuzza req. by Rosetta & Cosima Piraino

9:30 AM Lilla, Salvatore, Rosetta & Salvina req. by Tina Farrauto

Deceased Members of the Joseph Guerra Family req. by Family

While public Masses are suspended, 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, Fridays from 9:00am – 10:00am and Saturdays from 4:00pm – 5:00pm. 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.



Ticket returns for our cancelled Fish Fry. 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.

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!



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.

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 still collecting items for 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. Items can also be turned in after the coronavirus restrictions have been lifted. Thank you for your support!

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS. I remember Jim Valvano, Jimmy V to many, saying the iconic words, "Don't give up; you can never give up." The former coach of the NC State men's basketball team was dying of cancer, yet he refused to throw in the towel and give in to his disease. His words exemplified the best of the human spirit we all share. Sometimes, living out those words seems much more difficult than saying them.

These words are also important for our faith life. The life Jesus calls us to is not easy. When working toward a life of greater generosity and surrender of all to God, we are prone to fall flat on our face many times. We are not called to this life only when we are strong. It is how we respond when times are the most difficult that truly defines us as disciples and stewards. The world may think we are down for the count, but rising again gives testimony that in Christ we are stronger.

Commitment takes a willingness to do the things needed to get stronger and build our spiritual muscles. We cannot expect to find success in the spiritual life unless we continue to work on our resolve and grow in our knowledge of the faith. A marathon runner would never be able to make it to the finish line unless they have trained and prepared in advance. We must work hard to stay the course and prepare for the race at hand. No matter what this life may have in store for us, we are called to not give up. God will never give up on us. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Thank You! **The St. Margaret's Society of St. Vincent de Paul** is grateful for the outpouring of financial support from our fellow parishioners. We have received over \$1,500 from the Lenten collection. Thank you!

A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR PASTOR

As I write this – on Monday March 23rd at 11:45pm – it has been just a week since the public celebration of Masses has been temporarily suspended throughout the diocese, as directed by Bishop Scharfenberger in an attempt to help slow the spread of the novel coronavirus. But, at least for me, it seems much longer than just one week.

So much has changed in our daily lives. Nearly overnight, much of our daily routine was upended. Schools ended classroom instruction. Stores began to close or operate with reduced hours, while shelves were emptied of household items that had never been in short supply before. Walking into a bank or store or nursing home or hospital or church was no longer such a simple matter. Many are without work, or are working from home. Many forms of recreation are not currently available as theatres, restaurants, gyms, sporting and cultural events, etc. have been cancelled and banned. Most of us have never remembered a time such as this, since the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918 was long before any of us were born.

Priests throughout the diocese – and throughout the nation – continue to celebrate Mass, but now only privately, since gatherings of people are prohibited by federal, state and local governments. For me, it is the first period of time when I have been expected to celebrate Mass privately. It is foreign to me to celebrate Mass in an empty church; yet that is the only option that is presently permitted and expected. I am now much more aware of how much I miss aspects of normal daily living such as gathering together to celebrate with family and friends, praying together, and extending such basic signs of humanity as a handshake. At least to me, it seems that so much was taken away from all of us so quickly, and yet for our own good.

But not everything was taken away. Our churches are still open for private prayer each day. And – just as in ancient Rome of the first centuries after the Death and Resurrection of Jesus – our homes are still meant to be what was then called the “Domus Ecclesiae,” the “House Church.” I hope that the faith, hope and love which we have celebrated together at Mass all the years of our lives continue to form and to inform our way of living during these extraordinary times. When the church has been opened for the daily hour of private prayer it has been both encouraging and inspiring to see how many have come to spend time with the Lord in prayer, finding strength in the warmth of a familiar place and in the presence of fellow parishioners, even though spaced appropriately at a distance during this time of pandemic.

For those with access to a computer, www.parishesonline.com provides an easy way to access the current parish bulletin. And www.buffalodiocese.org provides many links, including Masses being celebrated online. But more than anything, I am grateful for the many expressions of support and concern that I experience through your phone calls, church visits, and offers of help for your fellow parishioners. The day will come when – as this pandemic passes – we will profoundly appreciate the words of Jesus in this weekend's Gospel, “Lazarus, come out!” But until that time comes, continue to support one another through prayer, phone calls, and small acts of kindness.



Sincerely in Christ,
Father Joe



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT
Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live.”
- Jn 11:25

A Vocation View. Often we are tempted to focus a great deal on other things and other people, and we fail to take account of what is going on deep within ourselves. Deep within our hearts is where we come to know God's plan for us. Take a look! If God is calling you to a Church vocation, call Fr. Andrew Lauricella at 847-5535.



Food Drive **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.

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.

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!



"All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen." Ralph Waldo Emerson

Readings for the week of March 29, 2020

Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/
Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45
Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/
Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [4ab]/Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55,
56/Jn 8:31-42
Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Jn 8:51-59
Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/
Jn 10:31-42
Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/
Jn 11:45-56

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