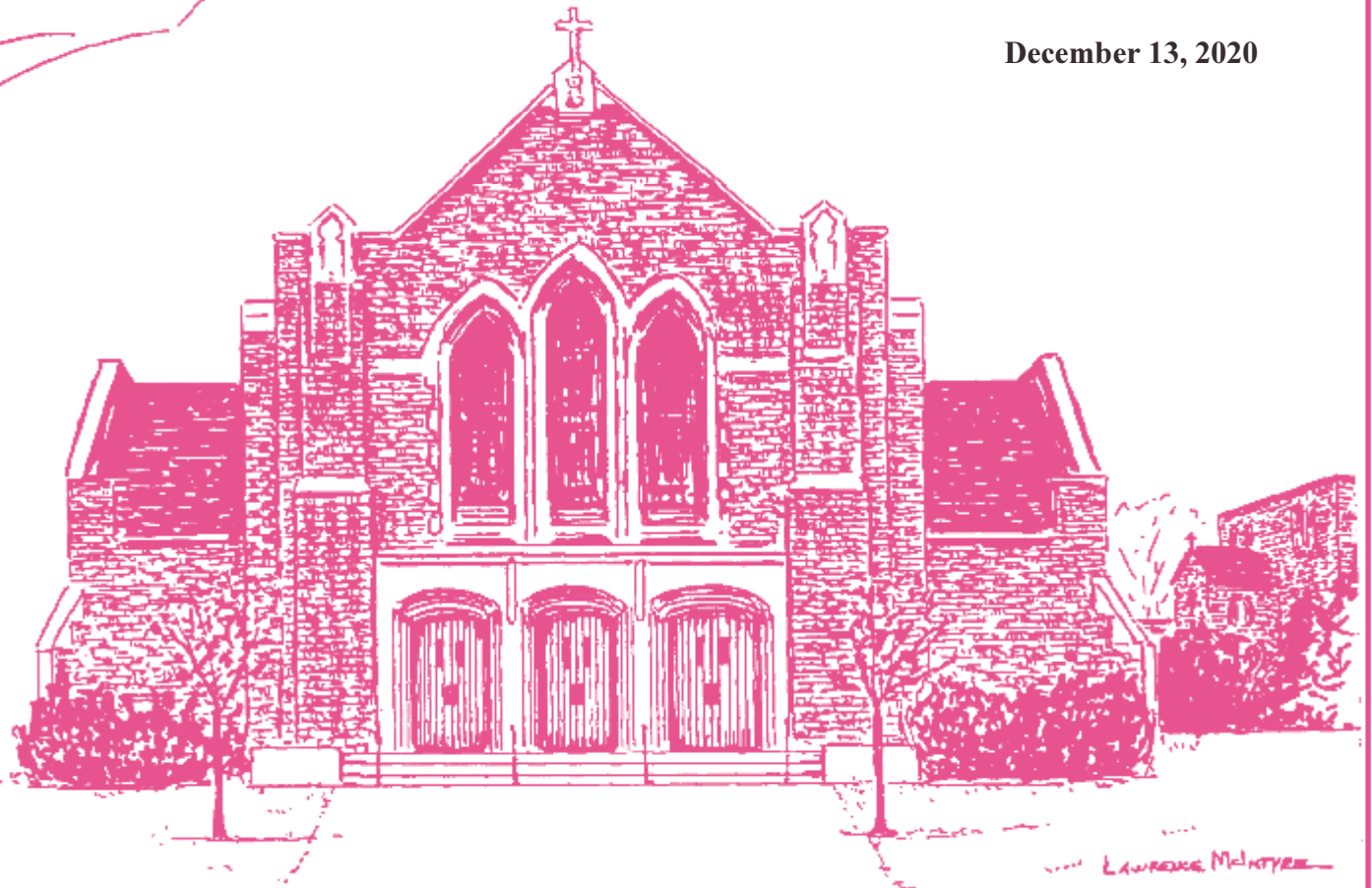


December 13, 2020



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 - (7:00 am at Holy Spirit) 8:15 and 9:30
am at St. Margaret (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: 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 parishioners 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, December 14, 2020

8:00 AM Mrs. Magdolna Kovari req. by the Sisters of Social Service

THURSDAY, December 17, 2020

8:00 AM Frederick Waligorski - Birthday Remembrance req. by Daughter, Diane

SUNDAY, December 20, 2020

8:15 AM Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Scalisi & Marie Starck req. by Family
James Cassata req. by Randy & Lynn Carpenter & Family

9:30 AM Santina Dentico req. by Gian & Lina Aiello
Santo Aiello req. by Angela & Cosima Piraino



This week the **Blessed Mother Light** will glow as a Thank You for Answered Prayers req. by Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Alessi

Kid Quips. One Sunday I gave my 4-year-old son money to put in the offering plate at church. When we left, he looked at me and asked, "When do I get my money back?" Regina Trout, Lancaster, PA in *Country Woman Magazine*

Today's **second collection** is taken up for the Retirement Fund for Religious, whom will remember you in their prayers.

FAITH IN STEWARDSHIP

December 6, 2020

Offertory..... \$2,475.31
Christmas Flowers..... \$ 702.00
Electronic Giving \$ 515.00

November 29, 2020

Offertory..... \$1,543.15
St. Vincent de Paul..... \$ 520.00

November 22, 2020

Offertory \$1,395.38
Human Development ... \$ 235.00
Electronic Giving..... \$ 20.00

Assisting on the Altar December 20, 2020

Lector: **8:15** Dan Szyklinski
9:30 Rosemary O'Connell

Eucharistic Ministers:
8:15 Mary Lou Cappellini, Cheri Frank
9:30 Rick Cronin, Sr. Karen Marie



Parish Outreach Ministry. Our 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 will be no Religious Education classes until further notice.

Giving Tree. Today is the deadline for submitting your Giving Tree gift cards. Since our appeal began on November 15th, we have once again been amazed by your generosity, and we know the clients of St. Gianna's Outreach and the V.A. Hospital will be very grateful and truly appreciative of our gifts.



This week we will open the envelopes, sort the cards, and on Friday, December 18, deliver to each agency the cards purchased on their behalf. In a future bulletin we will inform you of exactly how many cards we have received as well as the dollar value. If you have been unable to get your gift to church by the published December 13th deadline, but would still like to participate in this year's program, we have extended the deadline to Thursday, December 17th. We appreciate your consideration and remain truly grateful for your holiday generosity.

We wish you all a safe, healthy and Merry Christmas!

Blessed Advent! Remember last week where we read about this crazy man John "crying out in the desert"? Well, this week we read about what the people of his time wondered about him. They all asked him "What should we do?"

The crowds were asking, the tax collectors were asking, the soldiers were asking. And he answers each of them according to the temptation of their particular state in life. To the crowds he says, share of your abundance. To the tax collectors he says, stop taking more money for yourselves. Only collect from the people what is proscribed. To the soldiers he says, stop extorting money.

And so, what must we do to prepare? I ask myself if I am sharing from even the little that I think I have. Do I charge more than a fair price for my work? If I lend money to anyone, do I expect too much more in return?

I challenge myself this week, and I challenge you, to take some time and think about how we are preparing for the coming birth of Christ, in history, in today's world, and in the future when he will come to bring all of creation back to the Father. LPI

A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR PASTOR

It has been a long time – 55 years, to be precise – since I was in kindergarten. But beginning with that fateful new phase of life, I remember being tested on a fairly regularly basis for any number of reasons. There were, of course, the quizzes and exams that each of our academic journeys included. However, there were other standards against which we were also measured. For example, I seem to remember each student being sent to the nurse's office for various tests to gauge hearing and eyesight. Regarding the latter, "20/20" was always the ideal for vision, as I recall. In light of this year, 2020, which ensnared the world with the coronavirus pandemic, I don't suppose many of us have been referring to "20/20" with much accent on perfect vision anymore. Yet, today's Scripture readings for this Third Sunday of Advent may suggest that this year 2020, with its confusion, fear and uncertainty, may indeed be very much about testing the clarity and precision of our vision, after all.

First, shortly subsequent to the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, Jesus began his public ministry (as recorded in the Gospel according to St. Luke) when he stood up to do the reading in the synagogue of the town where he had grown up, Nazareth. Of all the Scripture passages he could have chosen, which did he choose? Jesus found the Scripture passage from Isaiah which is the first reading for our Mass today,

"The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord..."

Then, when people had begun to wonder if John the Baptist was himself the Messiah, we hear in the Gospel at Mass today,

"A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light."

Scripture provides us with "20/20" vision: John the Baptist was the humble Servant of the Lord as he simply pointed the way to Jesus the Messiah, the light. And Jesus, in defining his mission of bringing light to illuminate the darkness of our lives, made plain he had come into our world – God's world – to bring glad tidings, healing and liberty. In the midst of such troubling times that the year 2020 has come to signify, Jesus more clearly than ever calls us back to "20/20" vision. John the Baptist had the grace, the humility, to know that he himself was not the light, but that Jesus was, and is. The darkness, uncertainty and fear that 2020 has brought can open our eyes anew to the only One who clarifies our vision: Jesus, the Christmas gift perfectly suited to our present needs.

Some have asked if Confession is still available. Others have asked about the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. In both cases, the answer is, yes, of course. All you need to do is to see me after Mass or call me to make arrangements. Likewise, the Mass book is now ready at each parish office for you to schedule Masses for your loved ones in 2021, a year which we hope will bring healing from the pandemic, without sacrificing a clarity of vision – a "20/20" – that emerged from a time of such fear and anxiety. After all, John "was not the light, but came to testify to the light." Who could ask for a better role model this Advent?

Sincerely in Christ,
Father Joe



A MAN NAMED JOHN WAS SENT FROM GOD. HE CAME FOR TESTIMONY, TO TESTIFY TO THE LIGHT, SO THAT ALL MIGHT BELIEVE THROUGH HIM.
— JN 1:6-7



A VOCATION VIEW. John the Baptist urged his followers to turn away from sin and renounce anything that was keeping them from doing God's will. What can you turn away from in order to hear God's call more clearly and answer more readily? If God is calling you to a Church vocation, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 847-5535 or visit buffalovocations.org.



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.

An Act of Spiritual Communion by St. Alphonsus Liguori. My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul members would like to wish our fellow parishioners a very Merry Christmas and a safe holiday season. Please remember our neighbors in need as you celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus. Thank you for your continued support.



Readings for the week of December 13, 2020

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54

[Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

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Local soldier meets Padre Pio!



Tailwinds, a new book by local author Martin J. Haumesser, tells the story of his father's World War II experiences including several encounters with Padre Pio - St. Pio of Pietrelcina.

• Now available on Amazon.
Search "Tailwinds" in Books.

• More details at
facebook.com/martinhaumesser

Contact mjhaumesser@verizon.net for more information.

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