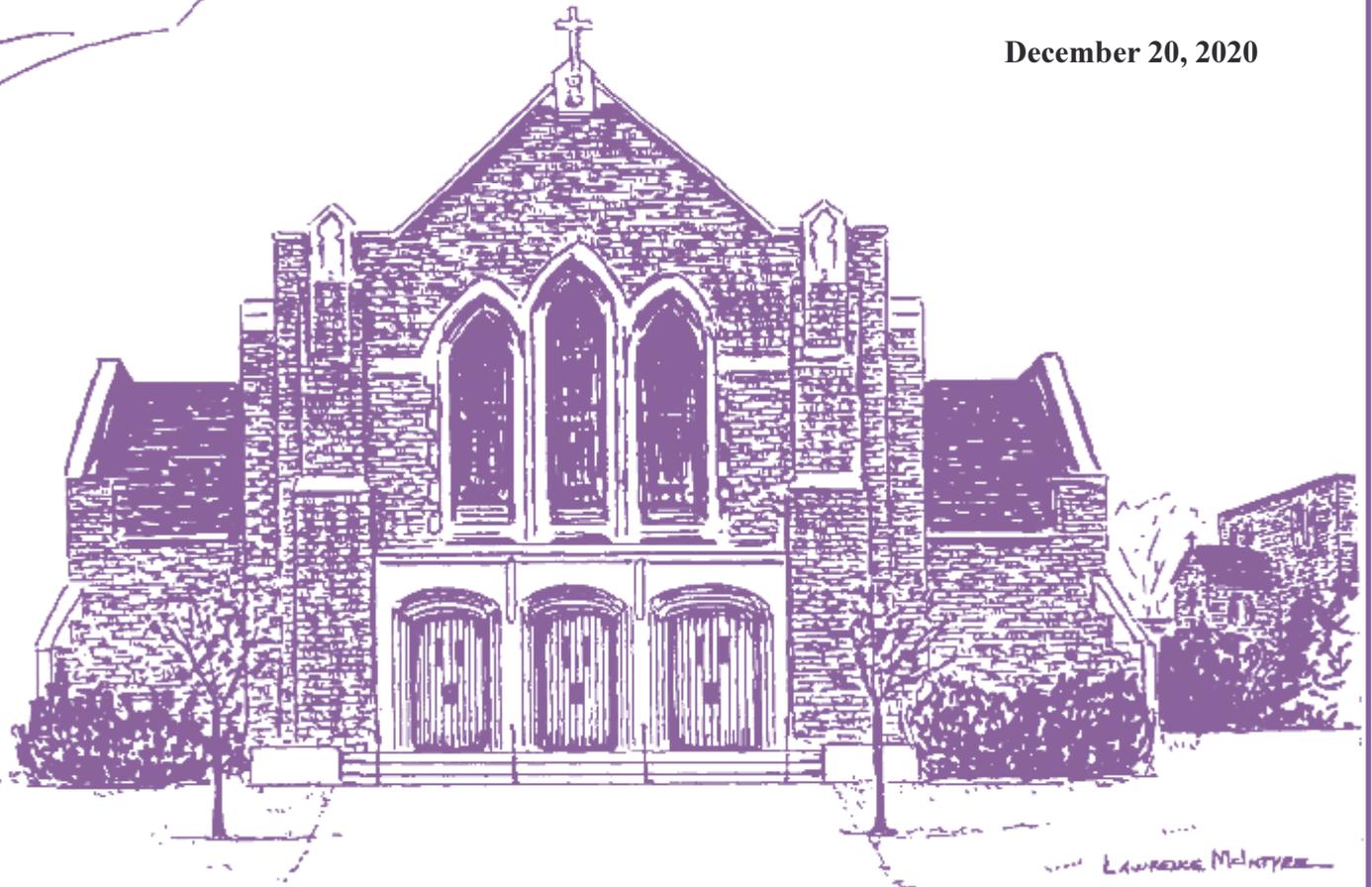


December 20, 2020



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 21 2020

8:00 AM Joseph & Grace Campieri & Nancy Savarino
req. by Family
Sr. Alejandra Esteva Driggs, S.S.S. req. by
Sisters of Social Service

THURSDAY, December 24, 2020 - Christmas Eve

5:30 PM Salvatore & Matilda De Luca req. by Gian &
Lina Aiello
Deceased Members of the Joseph Guerra
Family req. by Family

FRIDAY, December 25, 2020 - Christmas

9:00 AM Vincent S. Ricci req. by Family
Giovanni & Grazia Sciortino req. by Gian &
Lina Aiello

SUNDAY, December 27, 2020

8:15 AM Quinto & Mary Cappellini and Rose, Sal, Evie
& Evan req. by Mary Lou Cappellini
Michael Kirwan req. by Mary & Mili Picone
9:30 AM Vincenzo, Gaetano and Angelo Piraino req. by
Cosima & Angela Piraino
Mary & Anthony Cercone req. by Cercone
Family



The **Church Bells** will ring this week
for Grandson, Sam Alessi
req. by Meme & Pa Pa



The Rectory will be closed on Christmas Day. We wish you the most blessed, peaceful celebration of the birth of our Lord!

FAITH IN STEWARDSHIP

Figures for December 13 will be reported in the December 27 bulletin.

Assisting on the Altar Christmas Eve at 5:30 PM

Lector: Anne Simon

Eucharistic Ministers:

Joanne Cavalieri, Rick Cronin

Assisting on the Altar Christmas Day at 9:00 AM

Lector: Sr Karen Marie

Eucharistic Ministers:

Cheri Frank, Kate Mazzarini

Assisting on the Altar December 27, 2020

Lector: 8:15 Kate Mazzarini

9:30 Rick Cronin

Eucharistic Ministers:

8:15 Mary Lou Cappellini, Bob Esposito

9:30 Pam Cercone, 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.

Christmas Gift Suggestions:

To your enemy, forgiveness.

To an opponent, tolerance.

To a friend, your heart.

To a customer, service.

To all, charity.

To every child, a good example.

To yourself, respect.

- Oren Arnold



30th Annual Festival of Lights at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, 1023 Swann Rd., Youngstown from November 21 through January 3, 2021 with a modified schedule due to Covid 19. Lights will be on from 5-9 pm: November 21-29, December 4-6, December 11-13 and December 18-January 3. See 15 acres of spectacular Christmas lights, including a 9-foot tall outdoor illuminated Nativity scene and a life-size Fontanini Nativity scene in the Basilica. Climb to the top of the Basilica and get an angel's eye view of the Avenue of Saints and the Spirit of Christmas. New this year is an exhibit of over 300 International Nativity Sets on display in Fatima Hall when the lights are on. Admission and parking are free. Groups welcome; reservations appreciated. For scheduled hours of the Office, Gift Shop and Cafeteria, call 716-754-7489 or email office@fatimashrine.com.

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.



A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR PASTOR

In the Gospel reading for today, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we hear from St. Luke, "The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin...Mary. And coming to her, he said, 'Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.'" Then, in the Gospel reading at each of the Christmas Masses this Thursday and Friday, we will also hear from St. Luke, "While they were there (that is, Bethlehem), the time came for her to have her child...and (she) laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn." In other words, both the announcement (thus, the Annunciation) and the birth (thus, the Nativity) of Jesus, the Word Made Flesh, came unexpectedly. Prior to Gabriel's mission to Nazareth that day, Mary would have had no idea what was going to be asked of her, that she would bear God into the world, literally. And prior to that first Christmas, Mary and Joseph could not have known that the birth of this Child was to be on that precise day. For that matter, few of our own parents knew in advance the exact day on which each of us would be born. As I recall, I was born two weeks later than had been expected, for example.

That moment of the Annunciation and the subsequent Nativity of our Lord came in God's perfect time, not necessarily ours. There are reasons beyond our imagining that make the humble poverty of a manger the absolutely best and most beautiful place for the Son of God to be born in His Father's creation. And that unexpected moment of the Annunciation found Mary ready, just as the unexpected moment of Christ's Birth found both Mary and Joseph prepared as best they could be. So it is that Christmas this coming week, in the midst of such a unique time of worldwide pandemic lasting already for nearly a year, may seem to be arriving at such an unexpected time, and still find us ready – as best we can be – to pause in wonder at the birth among us of this Child who is one of us in appearance, while at the same time being One with God in essence. Because the pandemic has taken away from us so much that seemed perfectly normal, it may be possible that this particular Christmas can lead us to find new and renewed meaning in what has not changed, that is, in this Child who is uniquely both Son of God and therefore our Lord, and son of Mary and therefore our brother.

Our schedule of Christmas Masses is as follows: on Thursday, Christmas Eve, Masses are at 4:00pm (Holy Spirit), 5:30pm (St. Margaret) and 11:00pm (Holy Spirit). On Friday, Christmas Day, Masses are at 9:00am (St. Margaret) and at 11:00am (Holy Spirit). All Masses are subject to facial coverings and social distancing, as well as a 33% capacity limit. The 11:00pm Christmas Eve Mass at Holy Spirit will once again feature the "Living Nativity" with donkey, sheep and a Holy Family, and if you are planning to attend the 11:00pm Mass, I ask you to call Holy Spirit rectory to reserve your spot, so we do not exceed the capacity limit.

In light of the pandemic-caused 33% capacity limit imposed on churches in New York State, there is a new development that I would like to share with you. Given the design of Holy Spirit Church, with the former Holy Spirit School cafeteria/gym (now called the Church Hall) directly below, a brand-new sound and video connection has been created and installed which will allow the live-streaming of the Mass upstairs in Holy Spirit Church to be broadcast downstairs in the Church Hall simultaneously, and then I and/or Eucharistic Ministers will come and distribute Communion to all who are gathered for Mass in the Church Hall at Communion time. This will effectively allow approximately double the amount of people to safely gather for Mass: 33% upstairs in the Church, and another 33% downstairs in the Church

Hall. And this is being done without any brick-and-mortar construction costs! This is thanks to the architectural design of Holy Spirit, which provides two large, open spaces at once. While I would like to do the same at St. Margaret, it is not possible, due to the different architecture. Ironically, it would have been possible in the original St. Margaret Church (now The Cornelius), but the present St. Margaret Church has a very small basement under only the sacristies, and no basement under the church itself. I do not know why it was built without a basement, as it would have been helpful in these days of capacity limits. Nevertheless, we must make use of what we have. And I do believe that the 5 Masses between the two parishes, especially with the double capacity of Holy Spirit now (that is, upstairs plus downstairs) will be sufficient to accommodate all who desire to welcome the Christ Child in a prayerful, safe and healthy environment.

A Blessed and Merry Christmas to You and Yours,
Father Joe

Christmas. Today marks the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season. We have lighted four candles these past four weeks and asked God to help us be present to our neighbors and friends. Now in the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh to our world.

Let us pray... *God, you became human through the obedience of a simple young woman named Mary. Mary is our model of faith. May we be faithful to your word as Mary was. Give us the courage to face each day with the yes that Mary gave to you. We ask this through the incarnate God, who comes to us again during this Christmas season. Amen.* LPI



Readings for the week of December 20, 2020

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/ Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Thursday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/ Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/ Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25. **Night:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/ Lk 2:1-14. **Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/ Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20. **Day:** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

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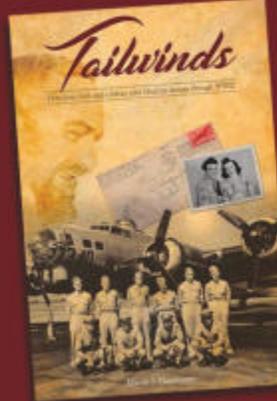
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Local soldier meets Padre Pio!



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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