

BLESSED SACRAMENT

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

263 CLAREMONT AVENUE
TOWN OF TONAWANDA, NY 14223

Phone: 716-834-4282 • Fax: 716-834-9573

Website: bsacramentchurch.com

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December 26, 2021



MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass: Monday - Saturday 8:00 am

Vigil Mass: Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday Mass: 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Wednesday Mass: 6:30 pm

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 3:00-3:30pm, Wednesdays at 5:45pm and by appointment

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday 8:30 am - Thursday 9:00 pm

PARISH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Martin F. Gallagher	Ext. 415
Pastor Emeritus	Msgr. Robert K. Golombek	
In Residence (Retired)	Rev. Msgr. Leo F. McCarthy	Ext. 404
Pastoral Associate	Sr. Lucette Kinecki, CSSF	Ext. 403
Administrative Assistant	Kathryn Luppi	Ext. 401
Business Manager	DebraAnn Costanzo	Ext. 402
Trustees	Celine S. Kingsley & John Rozak	
Music Director	Kenneth Fick, Jr.	
Food Pantry Director	Judy Carter	
Faith Formation		
Youth Ministry K-11 CRE	Carolyn Prefontaine	
RCIA Coordinator	Marguerite Mullins	

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM: Celebrated upon appointment through the parish office. A baptismal class is required before an infant's baptism is scheduled. Call the parish office.

MARRIAGE: Engaged couples need to meet with a priest before a Wedding date is set.

ANOINTING: Communal anointing offered twice a year, any time by appointment.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK: By appointment with a priest. Frequent Spiritual Communion is strongly encouraged.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

To be a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation, individuals must fulfill the responsibilities and obligations that Church Canon Law requires:

- 1) Have received the Sacraments of Initiation:
Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- 2) If married, marriage must be recognized by the Catholic Church.
- 3) Attend Mass and receive communion regularly.
- 4) Be an active parishioner for at least the past three months.

NOTE: An active parishioner is one who is enrolled on the parish census files and supports the Sunday offertory.



THE HOLY FAMILY

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

Escapes from the Laboratory by Marc Chagall, 1999, 1990 CCO

64.85

PARISH OFFICE HOURS in Father Cotter Hall

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9:00am - 12:00pm & 12:30 pm - 3:00pm

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am - 1:00pm

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION Office 834 - 4282

ST. FAUSTINA'S GATE - FOOD PANTRY

Open - Tues. & Thur. 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. 837-2544

NON - PARISH GROUPS:

Blessed Sacrament Athletic Club (BSAC): 871-0595

Kids' Kampus Child Care Center: 831- 9900

Ponderings & Pontifications of the Pastor

These are the words of the **Christmas Proclamation** from the *Roman Martyrology*...

The Twenty-fifth Day of December, when ages beyond number had run their course from the creation of the world, when God in the beginning created heaven and earth, and formed man in His own likeness;

When century upon century had passed since the Almighty set His bow in the clouds after the Great Flood, as a sign of covenant and peace;

In the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith, came out of Ur of the Chaldees;

In the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses in the Exodus from Egypt;

Around the thousandth year since David was anointed King;
In the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel;
In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
In the year seven hundred and fifty-two since the foundation of the City of Rome;

In the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus, the whole world being at peace...

JESUS CHRIST, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to consecrate the world by His most loving presence, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and when nine months had passed since His conception, was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah, and was made man:

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

This proclamation, which can be prayed as part of the Liturgy of the Hours before the Christmas Vigil Masses, reminds us of an essential truth. Our Lord Jesus Christ was truly and really born of the Virgin Mary, and began His holy and blessed life upon this earth.

He walked upon the same soil that you and I walk, felt that same warmth of the sun and cold of the night that you and I feel, and went about teaching the Good News to all the world. That Good News, that most holy gospel, is the reason we gather in this church of the Blessed

Sacrament tonight and this morning. May this holy day of Christmas, which begins the joy of **Christmas season**, be for you and your families a new beginning; a beginning where we appreciate the presence of Christ throughout our whole year, and especially in the new year of 2022!

Let us truly KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS!

~Fr. Martin Gallagher

I wish to say to all you, parishioners, friends, and neighbors, thank you for all your beautiful Christmas cards and various gifts! Your generosity and kindness, with cards, food, snacks, gift cards, and other items, has truly touched my heart, and I am so thankful that so many of you remembered me during this holy season. THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH, and may the Lord bless and reward you for your kindness!
~Fr. Martin

Masks are Required!

Daily Mass is at 8:00 am. Eucharistic Adoration begins on Wednesday at 8:30 am through Thursday at 9:00 pm

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 25 The Nativity of the Lord

10:00am All Souls Day Intentions

Sunday, December 26 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

9:00am Terry Sundy (Birthday Remembrance) by Daughter, Barb

11:00am Jennifer Hovekamp by Heather Johnston

Monday, December 27 Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

8:00am Robert Krieger by Marilyn Tulipane

Tuesday, December 28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

8:00am The Unborn by Blessed Sacrament Pro-Life

Wednesday, December 29

8:00am Trudi Chrymko (Birthday Remembrance) by Family

6:30pm For the People of the Parish

Thursday, December 30

8:00am Anthony Polizzi by Father Chris

Friday, December 31

8:00am Onofrio Incardona by Daughter, Mary Lou

Saturday, January 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

8:00am Christopher Siegel (Birthday) by Diane Scirri

4:00pm Carmella Gullotta by Nieces & Nephews

Sunday, January 2 Epiphany of the Lord

9:00am Wagner & Scordato Families by Eileen Petersen

11:00am Ronald Matthewson, Sr. by Ray & Marcy Kaminski

**The Sanctuary Candle will be lit from December 26–January 1
In Memory of Frederick & Kathleen Rembold
by Peggy (Daughter) & Joe Rumschik**

Please pray for the sick: Lisa Abbott, Joseph Agnello, Jeanne Barrett, Hannah Becker, Joan Boone, Joseph Brancato, Lisa Brancato, Theodora Brown, Caren Busch, Carol Carroll, John Carroll, Ray Clapp, Catherine Derrick, Renee Dzierzak, Magdalen Dukarm, Paul Dukarm, Elizabeth Easton, Joseph Fennell, Thomas Fischer, Mary Frank, Harold Gagnon, Pauline Gagnon, Joan Goetz, Joyce Goodell, Dawn Hanavan, Mary E. Hayes, Margaret Haywood, Pat Hedges, Jamie Herman, Becky Hinds, Mary Huffnagle, Marcy Kaminski, Virginia Kaprel, Keith Kolodziejczyk, Sue Mason, Msgr. Leo McCarthy, Joanne Menchetti, Betty Moran, Bridget O'Brien, Darlene O'Keeffe, Debra Pollina, Lorraine Pfohl, Darlene Rajczak, Dennis Rineli, Sylvia Rinelli, Kristine Roper, Joseph Rumschik, Florian Rzepka, Carol Sajda, Pat Salemi, John Scime, Lucy Stanton, Peter Stawasz, Debbie Stearing, Judy Trometer, JoAnne Varney, John Washington.

And for All the sick, especially those with COVID-19

Please pray for the deceased: Kathleen Wagner and the holy Souls in Purgatory

Coming Back to Church

Question:

I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

Answer:

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

©LPi

Calendar Lottery Winners

Winning numbers will be listed next week as the Bulletin had to be submitted early!
Thank you.

*Winners determined
by the PA Lottery Pick - 3
Evening Drawing*

Stewardship will return next week.
Bulletin had to be submitted early!
Thank you!
Happy New Year!



The following dates are still available.

February
12, 20
24, 28

Mass Book Opening

Reservations for Mass Intentions can be made for Masses in **January through June 2022**; please contact the Parish Office: 834 - 4282

Requests are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, to be fair to everyone.

The Diocesan recommended stipend offering is \$15.

Readings for Sunday, December 26th

First Reading:

"I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD." (1 Sm 1:27-28)

Psalm:

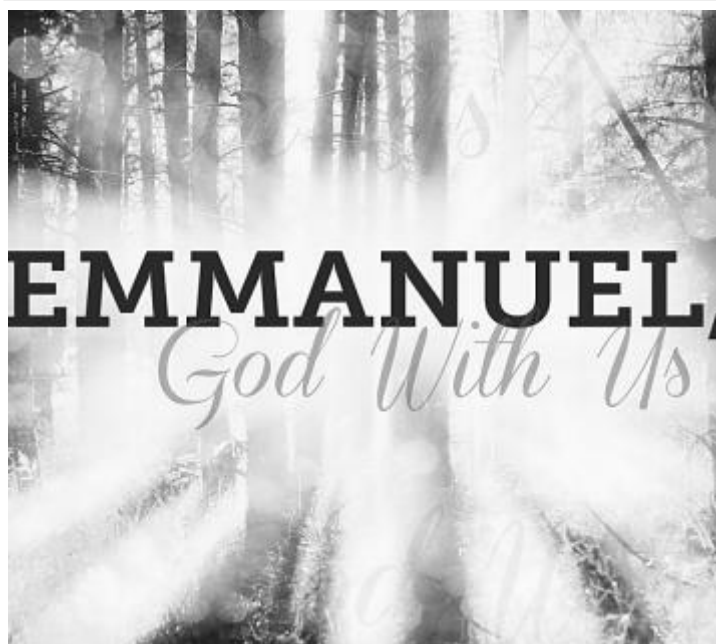
Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84)

Second Reading:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are. (1 Jn 3:1)

Gospel:

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (Lk 2:46)



PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP MICHAEL FISHER

My dear brother priests, deacons, religious brothers and sisters, and parish leaders,

I wish to share with you my first pastoral letter as your pastor and shepherd, and as your bishop: *"Our Road to Renewal. Our Journey Toward Holiness."* It is a reflection on our journey begun with the Road to Renewal, as well as the universal Synod that our Holy Father Pope Francis has convoked. The themes of both are so compatible – it's about listening, reflecting, and rediscovering our zeal for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

So many good things are underway across our Diocese as we take stock of the tremendous resources of our parishes and identify ways to more fully harness and share them from one parish to the next in our new Families of Parishes model.

As I approach the first anniversary of becoming your bishop, I hope that this reflection provides a worthy summary of where we are at this particular moment in the life of our local church, and enables us to have a common view of where we're headed, in both our own personal journey toward holiness, and as a family of committed believers.

We will be sharing this pastoral letter more broadly across the Diocese, in both digital and printed form, which will be provided to each parish for distribution in the coming days. I ask your assistance in promoting my pastoral letter as well. The pastoral letter can be found here: **[Our Road to Renewal - Our Journey Toward Holiness.](#)**

Thank you for all that you are doing to provide clear and abundant evidence of the lively and active faith that defines the Diocese of Buffalo. I wish you the blessings of our holy Advent as together we anxiously await the coming of the Messiah again in our midst.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Bishop Mike

Divine Mercy from the Diary of St. Faustina

Before supper, I went into the chapel for a moment to break the wafer spiritually with those beloved persons, so dear to my heart, though far away. First, I steeped myself in profound prayer and asked the Lord for graces for them all as a group and then for each one individually. Jesus gave me to know how much this pleased Him, and my soul was filled with even greater joy to see that God loves in a special way those whom we love. (Diary 1438)

MY RESPONSE: On Your birthday Lord, may we become more aware of all the gifts You give to us and those we love.



"St Gregory the Great Parish invites you to join us for "FIAT", our monthly Eucharistic Conference, Saturday, January 8 at 7 pm, in the church. Open your heart to the Lord and allow Him to make a difference in your life! Our guest speaker will be Fr. Dan Young, Pastor of Good Shepherd Parish, who will share with us the life of Fr. Nelson Baker. Come, for a solid faith filled talk, great music, prayer ministry and most importantly time with our Lord before the Eucharist. All are welcome!"



A special THANK YOU to the all who have helped to make our parish celebration of the Christmas season so very special. Thank you for a beautifully decorated church, to our choir who sang the songs of the angels, to all our ministers who came forward to assist at each Mass. Above all, THANK YOU to all of you, our parishioners, who gave so generously for the beautiful flowers and other generous donations during this time. We are truly grateful for your prayerful presence at Mass and at our Eucharistic Adoration. May our gracious, loving and merciful God continue to nurture your spirit and draw you ever closer to His compassionate heart.



Pro-Life Article

You do not have to be Catholic (or even religious) to know that medical and scientific evidence confirms that what grows in a mother's womb is a new, distinct human being. Moreover, everyone can understand that each human being----without discrimination---- merits dignity and respect. At the very least, respecting human life must exclude the deliberate and direct destruction of life---- and that is exactly what abortion is. However, the fact is that no institution has stood up against the abortion industry more than the Catholic Church. The Church has consistently and will continue to teach that abortion is evil, whether its words are popular or unpopular, politically correct or incorrect, because the "values" of different cultures may change from time to time, but the truth does not change. Pro-abortionists disparage Catholicism because it is the bulwark against abortion, just as the communists vilified Catholicism because it was a bulwark against communism. Bernard Nathanson, a renowned and reformed abortionist, admitted that demonizing the Catholic Church was a specific tactic of the pro-abortion movement. He stated, "We systematically vilified the Catholic Church and its 'socially backward ideas'.....We fed the media such lies as 'we all know that opposition to abortion comes from the hierarchy and not from most Catholics'.....and that Catholics in favor of abortion are enlightened and forward looking". What is even more disturbing about Nathanson's statement is that the pro-abortion propaganda fed to the mainstream media is uncritically accepted by it.



Joy is best expressed through dance. There is just something truly wonderful about the self-abandon a beautiful melodic dance reveals. If we are able to let go and really be free, it celebrates life in a way few other experiences really can. With the birth of Jesus Christ, God takes the Divine Dance to a deeper and more tangible level. We can now not only see what we believe but believe what

we see! This most perfect dance is a call to beauty, innocence, truth, purpose, hope, faith, and love. Today we know, beyond doubt, that we are a necessary part of God's beautifully choreographed masterpiece of life and not just a random happening without real intent or purpose. We are loved, treasured, and blessed.

Accepting the truth of God's birth in time we also accept an invitation to dance with God. We can let go of what tethers us to anxious concerns and superficial securities. Throw caution to the wind and go with God. We have been blessed with talents, gifts, and life eternal. Follow the rhythm of the dance with joy and listen to what the Word who became flesh tells us about what the next steps can be. Today, heaven remains the same, but earth has been profoundly changed.



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