



HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH

85 Dakota Avenue • Buffalo, NY 14216

February 2, 2020 Presentation of the Lord

The Mission of the Holy Spirit Parish Community

As the family of the Holy Spirit Parish Community, we welcome all to our home, Christ's home. Our journey in Faith brings us together through prayer, Eucharistic celebration, support, love and caring. We commit to give generously of ourselves, our time, and talent to one another, and to all in our neighborhood.

May the Holy Spirit guide and comfort us in our never ending journey for peace and strength as witnesses for God's goodness.

PASTOR
Rev. Joseph D. Wolf

DIRECTOR OF LAY MINISTRIES
Sr. Katherine Marie Bogner, SSMN

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Karen Adamski

PARISH SECRETARY
Karen Cheman

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY
Rasa Stalygiene
(716) 773-3858

PARISH CENTER/RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
(716) 875 - 9478

RECTORY
91 Dakota Street

Phone: (716) 875-8102/Fax: 875-4186
Email: holyspirit.northbuffalo@verizon.net
Web site: www.holyspiritchurchbuffalo.com

NOVENA: Every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Followed by Mass at 6:15p.m.

CONFESSIONS: Every Saturday beginning at 3:15p.m.(Holy Spirit Church)

Every Sunday following 8:00 a.m. Mass. (St. Margaret Church)

SICK CALLS: Phone rectory immediately in case of serious illness or accident. Also please let us know if you are confined at home and would like Communion brought to you.

MARRIAGES: Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance at the rectory. Attendance at Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter is required.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION: If you are asked to be a Godparent, please call the rectory for your letter of recommendation, which attests that you are Baptized, Confirmed, and, if married, married in the Church. Of course your weekly presence at Mass here is vital to being a good role model as Godparent.

BAPTISMS: Please call the rectory to schedule your pre-Baptismal Class. Baptisms are normally celebrated on Sundays at 12:15pm, or during one of the weekend Masses.

NEW PARISHIONERS: We welcome all newcomers to our parish family and invite you to register as a member of the parish. Please stop by the rectory and introduce yourself!

OLD PARISHIONERS: If you are moving out of the parish, please notify the rectory by phone as soon as possible.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturdays: 4:00 p.m. (Holy Spirit)
Sundays: 8:00 a.m. (St. Margaret)
..... 9:30 a.m. (St. Margaret)
..... 11:00 a.m. (Holy Spirit)
Holy Day Masses: Consult the bulletin.
Weekdays: Mon., & Thurs., 8:00 a.m.
(St. Margaret)
..... Wed., 6:15 p.m. (Holy Spirit)
..... Fri., 8:00 a.m. (Holy Spirit)

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00 a.m. ~ 4:00 p.m. Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. ~ 5:00 p.m.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, February 4

8:00a.m. ~ Communion Service (Sr. Katherine Marie)

Wednesday, February 5 St. Agatha

6:15p.m. ~ For the Intentions of Fr. James M. Pribek S.J.
req. Eleanor Daigler

Friday, February 7

7:30a.m. ~ Eucharistic Adoration ~ Church
8:00a.m. ~ Dagostino Rosolino req. Lina Privitera & Family

Saturday, February 8

4:00p.m. ~ Deceased members of Reagle & Caputi Families
req. Esther & Mike Caputi
Mario Campanella req. Maria Campanella

Sunday, February 9 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

11:00a.m. ~ John LoTempio req. Scott & Christopher Chimera
Richard Delmont req. Bob & Martie Rice

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, February 8

4:00p.m. ~ Sam & Jon Chapman

Sunday, February 9

11:00a.m. ~ Kevin & Aiden O'Sullivan

MINISTER OF THE WORD

Saturday, February 8

4:00p.m. ~ Karen Adamski

Sunday, February 9

11:00a.m. ~ Joan Grieco

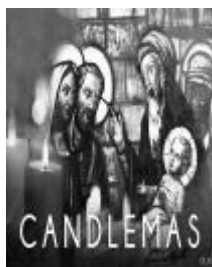
EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday, February 8

4:00p.m. ~ Carmen Manzella; Nick Macchia; Cathy Slisz

Sunday, February 9

11:00a.m.~ Mike Delmont; Bruce Lull; Mary Senger;
Andrea Graziano; Ray Schwartzott



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, February 2
9:30-10:45am ~ Religious Education
Classes ~ Parish Ctr.

Monday, February 3
6:00p.m. ~ Grief Support Mtg. ~ Winter Chapel
6:00p.m. ~ St. Joseph Table Committee Mtg. ~ Ch. Hall
7:00p.m. ~ Parish Council Mtg. ~ Parish Room

Wednesday, February 5
7:00p.m. ~ Bible Study ~ Winter Chapel

Thursday, February 6
9:00 - 10:00a.m. ~ Food Pantry
5:00 - 6:00p.m. ~ Food Pantry
5:30p.m. ~ Adult Choir practice ~ Church

Sunday, February 9
9:30-10:45am ~ Religious Education Classes ~ Parish
Ctr.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURY



Hebrews 13:16: *“Do not neglect good deeds and generosity. God is pleased with sacrifices of that kind.”*

Offertory Collection:\$4,222.00
The same week a year ago:\$3,632.00

FREE SPIRITS NEWS

Next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 13th @ 12noon in Church Hall. Doors open at 11:30am. Join us for Lunch/50/50/bingo.

- ⇒ **Bake Sale** weekend of Feb. 15th & 16th.
- ⇒ Mar. 22nd - Lancaster Opera House Matinee performance of Nunsensations “The Nonsense Vegas Revue” payment deadline Feb. 13th. \$38
- ⇒ Jun. 2nd Rescheduled **Best of Buffalo Double Decker Bus Tour** - Payment deadline May 2nd. \$48

FOOD PANTRY... Can you help stock our shelves with the following items: **canned vegetables; cereal;**

pork & beans; BROWN PAPER BAGS

Whatever you do for one of my least brothers or sisters, you do for me” (Jesus)

Team IVA: Sr. Katherine Marie; Peggy Connors; Dorothy Hausle; Eileen Cook work 2/6/20 9am - 10am.

Team IVB: Joe Delmont; Mary/Al Freeman; Dominic Petrilli; Sharon Szablewski work 2/6/20 5pm - 6pm

GOSPEL MEDITATION—Presentation of the Lord.

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.” Very often, having more light is not something we desire as it forces us to confront something we really do not want to see. There can be comfort found in darkness. It has an eerie sense of security to it. We do not have to challenge ourselves or be challenged and can simply exist in some artificial state of self-fabricated blissfulness. Jesus came to bring light, and it is a light that is resisted by many and hated by some. It is a light that causes us to see things as they really are and not as we may want them to be.

It is no wonder then that Simeon boldly and honestly proclaims to Mary, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” We have to take the Gospel message as it is and not just use those parts that are useful to us or more palatable. Taking Jesus at face value can and will lead to turmoil and dissention. Hearts will be pierced. Jesus’ proclamation of what the world God created really ought to look like has real and absolute social implications.

It has a lot to say about how we treat our brothers and sisters: spiritually, personally, economically, and globally. It has everything to do with the poor, the immigrant, the scared, the unborn, the vulnerable, the sick, and the broken. The light opens us to a challenging, table-turning experience that may not be something we want to see but shows us where we need to be.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR FEB 3- FEB 9

- Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [8a]/Mk 5:1-20
- Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [1a]/Mk 5:21-43
- Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 [cf. 5c]/Mk 6:1-6
- Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd [12b]/Mk 6:7-13 this is correct
- Friday: Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51 [cf. 47b]/Mk 6:14-29
- Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 [12b]/Mk 6:30-34
- Sunday: Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [4a]/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16

BIBLE STUDY... Our Bible Study group will meet on Wednesday, February 5th at 7:00pm in the Winter Chapel. We continue our study of the 1st Book of Samuel and we read about the adult prophet, Samuel - and the struggle of the Israelites with the Philistines.

RCIA...A prayer to Mary Immaculate:
"You are all beautiful, O Mary! In you the Word of God became flesh. Help us always to heed the Lord's voice: May we never be indifferent to the cry of the poor, or untouched by the sufferings of the sick and those in need; may we be sensitive to the loneliness of the elderly and the vulnerability of children, and always love and cherish the life of every human being. You are all-beautiful, O Mary! Hear our prayer, graciously hear our plea. Amen" –Pope Francis

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS....Today is the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. It is also called "Candlemas Day" because the Church blesses candles as a reminder that Jesus was recognized by Simeon and Anna as the One that they were waiting for, the true light of the world. Light helps us to see more clearly, to recognize what is before us. Light candles at home today, or any day, at dinner to help us recognize the beauty of family and ordinary and special times. Light candles in times of fear or loneliness. Light candles to recognize Christ's presence among us, day in and day out.

Today is the 4th lesson for our children who will soon be celebrating Reconciliation for the first time. However we have responded to God's love, He continues to offer us His gifts of forgiveness and mercy.

The First Communion Parent Meeting is at 10:15 in the Winter Chapel. The theme is "Giving Thanks for Creation." In the Eucharist Liturgy we are reminded of all God's gifts given to us: "Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received..." We will bring up their collages of thanks at the Offertory.



HOLY SPIRIT ASH WEDNESDAY FISH FRY...Wed., Feb. 26 from 4:00-8:00pm, in the Church Hall. Tickets are \$12 and are now available after both weekend Masses or at the rectory during business hours. Once again we are

asking for volunteers for a Fish Fry Committee. Please call Karen at 875-8102 if you are interested in helping. Thank you!

ST. JOSEPH TABLE 2020...will be held here at Holy Spirit Church Saturday, **March 21st** at 5:00pm. Ticket sales will begin the weekend of Feb. 8th & 9th and will be available after both weekend Masses and at the rectory during business hours. **Ticket price is \$15.**This is a very popular event and sells out very quickly. **Our first planning meeting will be on Monday, Feb. 3rd at 6pm in the Church Hall.** If you are interested in helping with the planning and preparing of this event please come and join us or call Karen at (875-8102).



CALLING ALL MALE CHEFS OF THE PARISH...Our annual Men's Cook off will be Sunday, March 8th at 1:30p.m., downstairs in the Church Hall. All men of the parish who would like to enter the competition are asked to please call Mike Cheman at (716)238-3669 to register by March 2nd.

A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR PASTOR

On the Church's worldwide calendar, today's Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is one of only a few Feast days that takes precedence over the normal Sunday readings whenever the Presentation falls on a Sunday. What image do you have of Simeon, this man who "was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel" or of Anna, who "never left the temple"? And what is the liturgy trying to tell us by making this event of the Presentation of the child Jesus in the temple so pronounced? Put simply, can we also rejoice along with Simeon, for, "our eyes have seen God's salvation...a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for God's people Israel"? Simeon is aware that Jesus is the Father's answer to the longing of Jew and Gentile alike, that Jesus is our peace, our light of reconciliation with God and neighbor.

I was grocery shopping earlier today, the first day that plastic bags were no longer available. The cashier recognized me, as she had previously always greeted me with a smile. I grumbled that I did not think using the reusable bag I had just bought was going to save the world. Her smile instantly vanished and she said we were filling the ocean with single-use plastic bags. I responded that for me they had never been only a "single-use" bag, since I found many uses for them at home, and they could also be returned to the store for recycling. She said I may have been responsible with the plastic bags, but many were not. I said that the key is for all of us to act more responsibly. She did not seem to think people could change. What sadly did change was her demeanor, as she clearly did not appreciate my comments.


That brief, uncomfortable encounter made me think of how vital it is that all of us strive to be responsible, both in our care for one another and in our tending of God's gift of creation. Many may take comfort in banning plastic bags, and not realize that other aspects of our lifestyle may in fact be far more toxic than we realize. What legacy do we leave our children when we discard well-working, complex electronic devices simply because a newer model has arrived? How often do we toss into our trash bins items that we know are meant to be recycled, or other items which can be dangerous in normal landfills? Like the serpent in the Garden of Eden, the value of convenience unconsciously alters our better judgment. We live in a "throw away" society, and worse, a society (including churches), which discards individuals and whole groups of people in a way that is anything but Christ-like. I will use the reusable bag when I shop, but I'm not expecting that will save the world. When we join Simeon and Anna in beholding Jesus as God's gift of light and reconciliation, when we accept that we are responsible for one another and for the earth itself...THAT is when I expect we will sense new life for our weary world.

Just a reminder that Holy Spirit's Lenten Fish Fry will be from 4:00 – 8:00pm on Ash Wednesday, which this year is February 26th. That is less than four weeks from now. It is being prepared for us once again by Amici Ristorante, with the fish being fried at Holy Spirit, and the side dishes of potato salad, coleslaw and macaroni salad being homemade at the restaurant. It will be delicious! Why not get your tickets today after Mass? What better way to begin Lent than by celebrating Mass together, and then enjoying each other's friendship at a traditional Buffalo fish fry?

Sincerely in Christ,
 Father Joe



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