



HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH

85 Dakota Avenue • Buffalo, NY 14216

March 29, 2020 Fifth Sunday of Lent

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, March 31

8:00a.m. ~ No Communion Service

Wednesday, April 1

6:15p.m. ~ Maria Mantione req. Gaetana & Carmela Campanella



Friday, April 3

8:00a.m. ~ For the Intentions of Laura Zeitler req. Eleanor Daigler

Saturday, April 4

4:00p.m. ~ Peter Gorman req. Wife, Laura Gorman Kevin McNinch (Birthday Remembrance) req. Nonnie

Sunday, April 5 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

11:00a.m. ~ Mercedes Fernandez & Peter Cornejo req. Jeff & Cindy Fecher

"Word on Fire"

Daily Mass online @ www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

Act of Spiritual Communion



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

Fifth Sunday of Lent – March 29, 2020

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 716-847-5535.



Sanctuary Candle burns this week in loving memory of John Panasiewicz (Anniversary of Death) from Brothers & Sisters

FREE SPIRITS NEWS

Please check our website @ www.holyspiritchurchbuffalo.com for the latest information on future meetings and events, due to the coronavirus precautions mandated by the state, county, and diocese.

FOOD PANTRY...due to the coronavirus precautions mandated by the state, county, and diocese our Food Pantry here at Holy Spirit will be closed until further notice.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All Religious education classes and all Church events have been cancelled until further notice, due to the coronavirus precautions.

Please check our website for the latest news @ www.holyspiritchurchbuffalo.com

GOSPEL MEDITATION - March 29th, 2020
5th Sunday of Lent



Even though we say that we believe, there is a part of us that doesn't. There are many times in our lives when we experience death, whether it be the physical death of someone we love, a failed relationship, the loss of a job, or a broken dream. As we are going through these death experiences, we can easily find ourselves reaching out to God to make it better and fix it! We think that the proper order of life is to maintain the things of this world, especially those things that are essential to our sense of well-being and security. We do not like change. The grieving that comes from our death experiences can keep us stuck and in despair. If we have lost something or someone of great value, the very meaning and essence of life is lost with them. We need gentle companions to lift us from despair and that is precisely who God desires to be in our life as well.

God calls us out of our tombs, where we have been closed up in fear and despair, and shouts, "Come out!" He desperately wants to show us the path to hope and the new life that is possible after loss and death. But our faith can be weak, and we still prefer to cling to the memory of what we had rather than the joyful possibilities of tomorrow. We sometimes live as if God is not real and that the transformative power of His resurrected presence is a story found in the Bible rather than a narrative unfolding in our lives.

God is the God of surprises, not our demise. God opens new possibilities, begins new chapters, creates new verses, and brings us to new heights! We spend so much time and energy ruminating over what we left behind yesterday that we are far too tired to see what can unfold tomorrow. Loving someone new doesn't negate our past loves. Embracing the love of a person, God, or life itself tomorrow doesn't diminish the love of yesterday. Each of our loves is different, and one cannot be replaced by another. They don't cancel each other out. God truly has tended to every detail of our lives, and if we listen to each detail, we find that they all lead us back to Him. Jesus wants us to come out of our closed-up tombs. Are we going to listen this time?

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MAR 30 - APR 5

- 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
- Sunday: Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14—27:66 or 27:11-54

BIBLE STUDY...No classes being held until further notice, due to the coronavirus precautions.

RCIA...Lenten Prayer:

*So surrender yourselves to God who is Love
Resist what is not of God and you will find yourself.
Let God's love be a magnet, drawing you close.
Reach out your hands, you loved sinners.
Share your hearts and be of one mind.
Begin each morning with Amen
and always keep Christ in mind.
Let your mourning be turned into dancing and
your dejection into jubilation,
love the Lord with your whole heart,
soul, mind and strength
and God will exalt you in return.
(A revision of the letter of James)*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS....No religious education classes or events until further notice, due to the coronavirus precautions mandated by the state, county, and diocese.

Our Confirmation Class is still collecting items for their service project “**CASES FOR KIDS**” Their goal is to prepare 16 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 are able to help with providing suitcases or small duffle bags or any of the items used to fill the cases please place items in baskets at the Church doors. All items can be brought in after the coronavirus restrictions have been lifted. Thank you for your support.



Our theme this year is, Lent is a pilgrimage up the Holy Mountain. How does living in Christ change our world view as we ascend the Mountain together? It is a serious and joyous season.

INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- For an end to war and bloodshed in our world, for the conversion of hearts who seek revenge and redress through violent means, for the safety of those who serve in the armed forces, for the countries who are in the midst of turmoil, confusion, famine, oppression

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

- Fast from facts that depress; feast on verities that uplift.
- Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.
- Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES VOLUNTEERS...Once again we are in need of volunteers to make phone calls on behalf of Holy Spirit, for the 2020 Catholic Charities Appeal. If you are able to volunteer your time please call the rectory as soon as possible at 875-8102 during business hours or email us at holyspirit.northbuffalo@verizon.net.



HEAVENLY PENNIES & MORE...Our Religious Education Program will be collecting 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 jars are at the doors of the Church. 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



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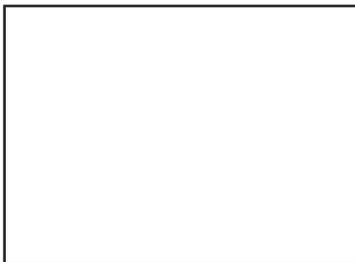
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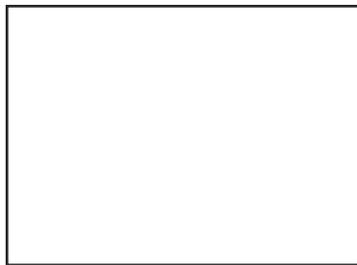
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