



# HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH

85 Dakota Avenue • Buffalo, NY 14216

August 23, 2020 Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

## 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](mailto:holyspirit.northbuffalo@verizon.net)**  
**Web site: [www.holyspiritchurchbuffalo.com](http://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 8:15 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: ..... 7:00 a.m. (Holy Spirit)  
..... 8:15 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, August 25 St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz**

8:00a.m. ~ Communion Service

**Wednesday, August 26**

6:15p.m. ~ Holly Anne Morris req. Carol Cain & Family

**Friday, August 28 St. Augustine**

7:30a.m. ~ Eucharistic Adoration ~ Church

8:00a.m. ~ Robert Sireci req. Carol Cain

**Saturday, August 29**

4:00p.m. ~ Anita Marie LoGrasso

(55th Anniversary of Death) req. Family

John Mroz req. Wife & Family

**Sunday, August 30 Twenty-Second Sunday in**

**Ordinary Time**

7:00a.m. ~ For All Parishioners' Intentions

11:00a.m.~ Terance Cain (Birthday Remembrance)

req. Wife, Carol, Meggie & Patrick

**MINISTER OF THE WORD**

**Saturday, August 29**

4:00p.m. ~ Mike Martin

**Sunday, August 30**

7:00a.m. ~ Rita Riley

11:00a.m. ~ Ann Nowak

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

**Saturday, August 29**

4:00p.m. ~ Rick Amodeo; Carmela Kieffer

**Sunday, August 30**

7:00a.m. ~ Mary Senger

11:00a.m.~ Carmela Lunetta; Bruce Lull

**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



**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Thursday, August 27**

9:00-10:00a.m. ~ Food Pantry

5:00-6:00p.m. ~ Food Pantry

**FREE SPIRITS NEWS**...Please check our website @ [www.holyspiritchurchbuffalo.com](http://www.holyspiritchurchbuffalo.com) for the latest information on future meetings and events.



Sanctuary Candle burns this week in loving memory of Fred & Rose Marie LaRock from Manzella Family

**LPI'S GOSPEL MEDITATION - August 23, 2020**  
**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**



The only way to know God is to love God. Our minds will never fully grasp the mystery of God, but our hearts and souls can learn to love the mystery. Years ago, when life had a more innocent quality to it, we believed what we were told or witnessed, unless there was direct evidence otherwise. This was especially true if the information came from someone in authority. In a sense, we were a bit more gullible on one hand but also more trusting on the other. The latter is an admirable quality that sadly can be eroded when we realize we have been duped. With education and technological advances, we find ourselves more skeptical and less likely to too quickly accept and believe what we see and hear.

For all of the good that social media can do, it can also easily distort reality and truth. Photoshop and a myriad other technological truths can add to, fabricate, and make even the non-existent seem real. It is amazing. How far do we allow this obviously justifiable skepticism to take us? Questioning and doubting are healthy elements of any good relationship as long as we don't allow them to turn us away from a deeper experience of love and encounter. If we cannot get our minds around something or empirically justify or prove it, we tend to declare it a hoax, untrue, or unauthentic and walk away. The very same trust that can quickly be eroded is exactly what is essential for all of our relationships, especially our relationship with God. With all things and people that make a profound claim on us, we have to trust in the absence of knowledge. Full self-investment involves plunging completely into the unknown!

Simon Peter said to Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Peter came to this knowledge, which is not "head knowledge" because of the relationship he shared with Jesus and what God was able to reveal in and through that relationship. Peter simply "knew" because of love that this is who Jesus really is. The silent exchange of love between friends, and not an intellectual exercise of the mind, brought Peter to this place. When we stop and think about it, there are many things in life that we simply know but do not completely understand. When someone sacrifices their own well-being for another, it may not make intellectual sense when examined. But it makes a world of sense when it is carried out. The vastness of reality and an encounter with incomprehensible mystery all lead us to profound silence where we simply know something to be true. Have you trusted enough to allow your relationship with God to bring you to this place or are you still too skeptical?

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR AUG 24- AUG 30**

Monday: Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 [12]/Jn 1:45-51

Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13 [13b]/Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5 [1]/Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [1]/Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11 [5]/Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab, 15ab and 17 [cf. 15ab]/ Mk 6:17-29

Sunday: Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [2b]/Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27

**2021 MISSALETTE REQUEST**

....Anyone interested in receiving their own copy of the 2021 Missalette to use at Mass on the weekends, and then to be taken home each week, please fill out this form with your name and phone number and place in the collection basket.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**FRIDAY IS THE FEAST OF ST. AUGUSTINE:** here is a prayer of his that is very appropriate for our times.

*Dear Lord, watch with those who wake or watch or weep tonight, and give your angels charge over all who sleep. Tend your sick ones, soothe your suffering ones, pity your afflicted ones, shield your joyous ones and all, all for your love's sake. Amen*



**NEWS...**This summer we have read about people of great faith in the Sunday Gospels. Except for Mary, they were all imperfect people. Let us ask the Lord to increase our faith, too.

We are sending home the registration forms for this year's program. Please fill them out and return them through the Sunday collection, or at the Rectory, or in person when the program opens. Don't forget that if your child attends Catholic or private school and they are in 2nd or 3rd Grade, they must be in the parish religious education program to prepare for the celebration of Reconciliation (Grade 2) or Eucharist (Grade 3). Thank you.

**CARDINAL O'HARA FISH FRY DINNER:** A fish fry dinner will take place from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28 at Cardinal O'Hara High School, 39 O'Hara Road, Town of Tonawanda. Sponsored by the COHS Home School Association, the dinner is take-out only and includes macaroni salad, coleslaw, tartar sauce and bread and butter. A choice of hand-dipped beer battered haddock, breaded shrimp or chicken finger dinners are available. Tickets are \$12 presale, \$14 at the door. For tickets, use Venmo or call the school at 695-2600, ext. 312.



Are you or a family member at risk for out-of-home placement? Do you need help navigating complex healthcare and social support systems? If so, we can help. **Catholic Charities offers Care Coordination Services for all ages through Children's Health Home Care Management, Comprehensive Care, and Project HOPE (Helping Older People Excel) programs.** To meet your goals, our care coordinators will work with you, your family, your care providers and whoever you deem important to your health and happiness to complete comprehensive assessments and collaborate as a team to create a care plan directed by you. If you have a mental health diagnosis and/or multiple chronic conditions and feel you would benefit from linkage and referral to services, as well as advocacy and intervention, please visit [www.ccwny.org](http://www.ccwny.org) to learn more about our **Care Coordination Services** and complete a referral form. Join us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

**FOOD PANTRY...** Can you help stock our shelves with the following items: **canned corn; tuna fish**

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

**Team IA:** Sr. Katherine Marie; Norm Matuszewski; Rita Riley; Laura Zeitler work 8/27/20 9am - 10am.

**Team IB:** Sheila Blum; Mary Burger; Teresita Morales; Jamie Ridout work 8/27/20 5pm - 6pm

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURY**



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

Offertory Collection: .....\$2,844.00  
The same week a year ago: ..... \$4,415.00

**A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR PASTOR**

In the Gospel (Matthew 16: 13-20) at Mass this weekend is one of the key scriptural texts for our Roman Catholic understanding of the divine nature of the teaching authority and structuring of our Church. Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Personally, I believe he may ask us, constantly, the same question. If so, how do we answer him?

Simon answers him with, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus responds to Simon with, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Jesus sees Peter's answer not as something that Peter can take credit for, but rather as a gift revealed to Peter by the Father. Even Peter's fear and remarkable failure in denying Jesus three times just shortly after the Last Supper could not erase the gift, the charism, given him by Jesus, a gift revealed by the Father and confirmed by the Spirit with the Resurrection of Jesus. It was, and is, a gift, not only to Peter, but to all of us these two thousand years of Christian history.

As you know, my favorite novel of all time is Georges Bernanos' The Diary of a Country Priest. It was an assigned reading for one of my classes at the Alphonsian Academy, which is part of the Lateran University in Rome, Italy. After a difficult, ordinary, unremarkable, unappreciated, faithful life, the priest in the novel utters these last words as he is dying, "Grace is everywhere." Sometimes it has been translated as "All is gift." What if everything in our lives is seen for what it is, that is, as grace, as gift from a loving God? How do we respond with our gifts?

A few years ago, Bishop Malone started a five-year capital campaign, the name of which was taken from today's Gospel: "Upon This Rock." Some parishes are now in the fourth year of this appeal, while others are in the fifth year. The appeal was structured in such a way that 20% of the pledges are returned to the parish. Recently, at the end of July, the semi-annual disbursements were deposited into the bank account of each parish. The Upon This Rock donations are legally separate from the Diocese, and therefore our Upon This Rock donations cannot be used for settlements or legal fees associated with the sex abuse scandal or diocesan bankruptcy. I am grateful to all of you who have been able to continue to support the Upon This Rock. My own pledge reminder just arrived the other day, and I will be writing my check as well. Following are the updated Upon This Rock totals for each of our parishes. Holy Spirit received a disbursement of \$13,721.23 on July 31, 2020, bringing Holy Spirit's total disbursements received to date to \$93,475.36. St. Margaret received a disbursement of \$2,866.89 on July 31, 2020, bringing St. Margaret's total disbursements received to date to \$34,590.45. Your continued support of the Upon This Rock is helping us to continue in our necessary projects of improvements in each parish.

Our Church is built, according to Jesus, on the "rock" of Peter's faith. This was a grace, a gift given to Peter by God. Peter responded, not always perfectly, but ultimately faithfully, himself dying by crucifixion – according to tradition – upside down. All that we have is also grace, is also God's gift. I thank you for your faithfulness and generosity in sharing your gifts with our Church.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Father Joe

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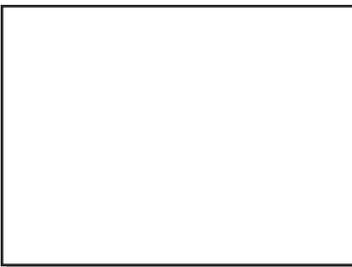
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