



HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH

85 Dakota Avenue • Buffalo, NY 14216

November 29, 2020 First Sunday of Advent

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 8:15 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, December 1

8:00a.m. ~ Communion Service

Wednesday, December 2

6:15p.m. ~ John K. Hall req Tom & Pat Pitz

Friday, December 4 St. John of Damascus

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

8:00a.m. ~ All Souls

Saturday, December 5

4:00p.m. ~ Cosimo & Sanda Bonfante

req. Josephine Cicero

William Buyers Sr. req. Thielmann Family

Sunday, December 6 Second Sunday of Advent

7:00a.m. ~ Msgr. Charles T. Griffin

(10th Anniversary of Death) req. Parishioners

11:00a.m. ~ For All Parishioners

MINISTER OF THE WORD

Saturday, December 5

4:00p.m. ~ Sheila Blum

Sunday, December 6

7:00a.m. ~ Rita Riley

11:00a.m. ~ Mary Pat Battaglia

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday, December 5

4:00p.m. ~ Edward Giannino; Eric Winegarden

Sunday, December 6

7:00a.m. ~ Angela Downey

11:00a.m. ~ Mary Senger; Ray Schwartzott



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

FOOD PANTRY... Can you help stock our shelves with the following items: **spaghetti; peanut butter & jelly**

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

Team IIA: Sr. Katherine Marie; Chris Krawczyk; Miriam Langan; Suzanne Zbrzezny work 12/3/20 9am - 10am.

Team IIB: Carmela Cavalieri; Rosie Kieffer; Tom Pitz; Paul Shea work 12/3/20 5pm - 6pm

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NOV 30- DEC 6

- Monday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22
- Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24
- Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37
- Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31
- Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
- Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, November 29

No Religious Education Classes today due to the Thanksgiving holiday

Thursday, December 3

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

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

Sunday, December 6

Religious Education Classes have been canceled until further notice

FREE SPIRIT NEWS

Due to the latest precautions mandated by the state, county, and diocese all future Free Spirit meetings have been canceled. Please check our website @ www.holyspiritchurchbuffalo.com for the latest information on future meetings and events.



ROAD TO RENEWAL: During this past week, registered parishioners should have received in the mail a copy of the Pastoral Letter prepared by our Diocesan Apostolic Administrator, Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger. The purpose of the Pastoral Letter is to provide the spiritual foundation for our Diocesan Road to Renewal Initiative. Everyone is strongly encouraged to read the Pastoral Letter and to reflect upon it as we go forward in the pastoral renewal of our diocesan family. Copies of the letter may also be obtained here in our parish church. Thank you!

In the Unexpected

“What could happen next?” How many times have you asked yourself that question in the past year? Though we most often use that expression when things don’t seem to be going our way, this year it has been an expression of the constant changes to our world which the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought. But we might use the same expression to explain our feelings of being overwhelmed by blessings and good things, when the stars seem to align just right.

No matter what, we can say with certainty that tomorrow will not go exactly as we envisioned. Our lives are influenced by so many factors and the world around us is increasingly complex. Rather than be surprised by the unexpected, maybe we should expect the unexpected.

Living in this manner causes us to cherish more deeply the gifts we have been given. It helps us to live in the present and become mindful of those around us. Our relationships deepen. Our sense of responsibility builds. Our stewardship way of life finds new meaning and purpose.

This Advent will not be the same experience as last Advent. It remains to be seen what the coming days and weeks have in store for each of us. However, no matter what happens, Jesus Christ is there to welcome us to the unexpected. He will celebrate with us in joy, and he will even feel our pain. You can count on the unexpected, but you can also count on Him to be there with you. He is now and forever, Emmanuel, “God with us.” He is the expected in all things unexpected.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

A PRAYER FOR ADVENT:

Stir up our hearts, we beseech you, to prepare ourselves to receive Your Son. When he comes and knocks, may he find us not sleeping in sin, but awake to righteousness, ceaselessly rejoicing in his love. May our hearts and minds be so purified, that we may be ready to receive his promise of eternal life.



Today is the First Sunday of Advent. There are no classes, but you and your family can surely begin your preparation for Christmas using the Advent materials we sent home last week.

ATTENTION LECTORS...The new 2020-2021 Lector Books are in the sacristy for pick up. Names are on each book for those who wanted a book.



GIVING TREE...This year's recipients of our Holy Spirit Giving Tree are Courage for Carly Club (Roswell Park Cancer Center), Little Portion Friary, Disabled Veterans Organization, Holy Spirit Food Pantry and Gerard Place. **The tree is now up in the back of Church.** Some items the organizations are

asking for are: small kitchen appliances such as electric griddles, frying pans, coffee pots, crock pots, hats, gloves, scarves, sweatshirts, t-shirts, socks, bags filled with toiletry items for men and women, toys for boys and girls of all ages, gift cards to such places as Dollar Tree, Dollar General, Wegmans, Tops, Walmart, Target, Burger King, McDonalds, Subway, Tim Horton, Amazon, I-Tunes, Kohls Etc. **All items are due back to Holy Spirit by December 13th.**

BLUE BOOKS...We are once again giving out the "Little Blue Book" to encourage everyone to spend a few moments in prayer and reflection as we celebrate the seasons of Advent and Christmas. This is a great way to deepen our love of and gratitude to God for sending us His Beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

THANK YOU to all who contributed to our Thanksgiving Drive for our Food Pantry and to all who helped to fill and distribute the bags. We were able to provide food for many families. May God Bless your generosity!



Rev. Peter Popadick and the Parish Community of St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church invite all to the 77th Annual Family Christmas **BASKET** Fest on Saturday, December 5, 2020, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall, 157 Cleveland Drive in Cheektowaga. Preview night for Early Birds on

Friday, 12/4/20 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The Christmas Basket Fest includes a Grand Prize Drawing, our famous Humongous Theme Baskets, and some delightful side raffles. A take-out Spaghetti Dinner compliments of the Knights of Columbus will be available, as well as Mike's Homemade Chili. For more information call the St. Aloysius Rectory at 833-1715.

A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR PASTOR

As I have mentioned periodically before, since the company which publishes our church bulletin (and the bulletins of many other churches throughout our diocese and other dioceses as well) is located out of state, they require extra lead time whenever public holidays impact their printing schedule. In light of the recent Veterans Day holiday and Thanksgiving Day holiday, we have had to send them our bulletin drafts in advance. So, although you may be reading this on the weekend after Thanksgiving, I am in fact writing this when Thanksgiving has not yet come. Such a time-lapse experience can seem either surreal or a cause for reflection. I find myself opting for the latter. Looking "back" at Thanksgiving when it has in fact not yet come, makes me more aware of the deeper significance of this national holiday, and, for that matter, of a stance of gratitude – of giving thanks – as people of faith in the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. All that being said, and aware that you are reading this on the First Sunday of Advent, the weekend *after* Thanksgiving, I do hope that your Thanksgiving was a day of celebration and of reflection, despite and because of the marked change of circumstances brought on by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

As I write this – again, some ten days or so before you will be reading it – the governor and county executive yesterday (November 18th) announced that much of Erie County was being moved into the "Orange Zone." There are many immediate implications for all schools, all churches, and many businesses that are within an orange zone. We in the City of Buffalo, as well as many other towns and cities, are now in this designated orange zone. The practical implication for us as a church is that beginning on Friday November 20th we became subject to a limit of 25 people at Mass. Before this we had been allowed to have 33% capacity, which was over 100 people at Mass in each of our two parishes. Now, however, even churches with a remarkably large capacity – think of Our Lady of Victory Basilica, for example, or St. Louis Church – are limited to 25 people at a Mass. This is a slight improvement over the total ban on public celebrations which was in effect from mid-March to mid-June, but 25 is still a very small number of people. We had been slowly re-building our attendance, as people became aware of our safety protocols and social-distancing and mask-wearing compliance and began to return to the celebration of Eucharist, which is the heart and soul of our Catholic Faith. Weekend Mass attendance at Holy Spirit had begun to reach 250; and weekend Mass attendance at St. Margaret had begun to reach 150. And both of these numbers were well within the allowed 33% capacity rule that was in effect.

Now, however, much of Erie County is in the orange zone, and our limit is reduced to a total of 25 people at Mass. This leaves me with only two options – either to stop the public celebration of Mass, or to continue the public celebration of Mass while respecting the limit of 25 people at a time. I am choosing the latter option. Mass will continue to be celebrated publicly at the normal times (Saturday at 4:00pm at Holy Spirit, and Sundays at 7:00am at Holy Spirit, 8:15 and 9:30am at St. Margaret, and 11:00am at Holy Spirit), but each can have only 25 people at a time. The only practical way to do this is to require you to call each rectory office to reserve your spot at Mass. Please call on Monday or Tuesday each week to reserve your seat for the following weekend or to see if spots are still available. I trust that you will be considerate of others who want to attend but are not able to when the list is already filled up, and that you will give them the opportunity even if it means that you must sacrifice your own opportunity.

I do not like this any more than you do. Yet is not a matter of what I like, but of obeying health safety measures that are mandated by government authorities. In the meantime, pray for one another, and for all engaged in the development of safe and effective vaccines. Perhaps this time of "social distancing" will ultimately make us more aware of the treasure of Catholic community that had always been ours, and which shall be yet again, Good Lord Willing.

Sincerely in Christ,
Father Joe

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



DENGLER, ROBERTS,
PERNA FUNERAL HOME


*Honoring Memories,
Celebrating Lives*



3070 Delaware Ave.,
Kenmore NY
873.7825

www.DenglerRobertsPernaFuneral.com

FREE
AD DESIGN
WITH PURCHASE
OF THIS SPACE.
- 800-477-4574 -

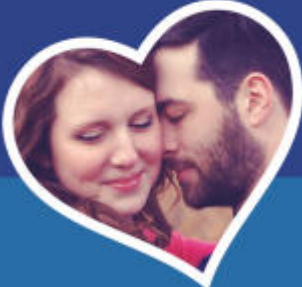
Huber Electric Inc.

CERTIFIED - WOMAN OWNED BUSINESS

Commercial • Industrial • Residential
Licensed and Insured • Electrical Contractors

LAURA TIRONE
laura.tirone@huberelectric.com
(716) 824-8816 • huberelectric.com
160 Frankhauser Rd. • Williamsville

catholicmatch®
New York



CatholicMatch.com/NY

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

Contact **Chris Reeves** to place an ad today!
creeves@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6206

Lombardo Funeral Home

Our Family Serving Your Family Since 1907

Don't overpay for one of life's necessities.

- **Traditional Funerals Starting at \$3,995**
Includes 2 day viewing, 20 gauge metal casket
(Concrete grave liner optional - not required by NYS; may be required by cemetery)
- **Direct Cremation \$899**
Serving The Northtowns
885 Niagara Falls Blvd. • (Near Eggert Rd. & Sheridan Dr.)

837-7100
"The End of High Cost Funerals"

Amici
RISTORANTE

SINCE 1995

2516 ELMWOOD AVE. • KENMORE, NY
716-874-0143
Orazio Gervasi, Proprietor



Kenmore Housing Authority
Senior Citizen Housing

657 Colvin Blvd. 874-6000

SPREAD THE WORD
A Thriving, Vibrant Community Matters



SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

ADT-Monitored Home Security
Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide



Authorized Provider | SafeStreets | 1-855-225-4251

John E Roberts
FUNERAL HOME

Locally owned and operated

Our family serving yours for over 80 years.

Proud to continue to serve the parishioners of Holy Spirit from our Amherst location at 280 Grover Cleveland Hwy.

www.jerfh.com
(716) 873-3478

Too Sick for Mass?
SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!

Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered right to your inbox!

www.parishesonline.com

