



HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH

85 Dakota Avenue • Buffalo, NY 14216

December 13, 2020 Third 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 15

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

Wednesday, December 16

6:15p.m. ~ Joe Zientak req. Vito & Carmela Cavalieri

Friday, December 18

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

8:00a.m. ~ All Souls

Saturday, December 19

4:00p.m. ~ Deceased members of Manzella Family
req. The Family
John LoTempio req. Wife, Rita & Sons

Sunday, December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:00a.m. ~ For All Parishioners

11:00a.m. ~John & Joseph Panasiewicz req. Brothers & Sisters
Patricia & Adaline Cammarata & deceased
members of Cammarata & Minklein Families
req. Husband & father, Charles

MINISTER OF THE WORD

Saturday, December 19

4:00p.m. ~ Mary Ellen Loncto

Sunday, December 20

7:00a.m. ~ Rebecca Donoghue
11:00a.m. ~ Hedy Auletta

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday, December 19

4:00p.m. ~ Rosemary Cordaro; Tom Loncto

Sunday, December 20

7:00a.m. ~ Pat Bogdan
11:00a.m.~ Cassandra Smith; Ricky Warnes

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



GLOVES, HATS & SCARVES DRIVE FOR OUR FOOD PANTRY CLIENTS...Baskets are at the entrances of the Church for you to place these items to help our food pantry clients in the cold weather. **NEW** Socks, sweatshirts and sweatpants are also needed for **men** and **women**. **PLEASE ONLY NEW ITEMS.**



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR DEC 14- DEC 20

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, December 17

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

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

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.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURY

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

Offertory Collection: 12/6/20.....\$4,892.00
The same week a year ago:\$4,021.00

LPI'S GOSPEL MEDITATION - December 13, 2020
Third Sunday in Advent



Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Think of winning the Lotto. On this side of the winning ticket, it's all about the money, the new car, house, vacations, bank accounts, and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to the purchase of a ticket. Then, one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. Then one day, we wake up and realize that nothing has really changed, and I am not as satisfied as I thought I was or would be. I find myself living in my incompleteness and with my profound sorrow and grief. I did not find joy.

Glimpses of joy are possible but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. And, they are glimpses and do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment in memory. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something I create, manufacture or even acquire. It is not able to be purchased. It is a gift. My need for joy mirrors my need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who I am and desires a home within me. As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to my very soul and is given as gift by the God who loves me.

The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of my soul. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow.

A PRAYER:

Awaken us to your glory Dispel the darkness of night Destroy the heaviness of heart Cure the blindness of sight Heal the deafness of ears Open the mouth that is dumb Restore a gentleness of touch Encourage a sense of adventure Bring an awareness of You Awaken us to Your Glory.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES HAVE BEEN CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.



GIVING TREE...All gifts bought for the giving tree should be returned to Church by this Sunday, December 13th. Thank you for your generous support of these charities, your kindness is appreciated by so many!



CHRISTMAS OPLATKI WAFERS are available in the back of Church. \$3.00 for a pack of 2 wafers or two packs (4 wafers) for \$5.00. These Christmas wafers are a tradition celebrated in Poland and also parts of Lithuania, Latvia and Slovakia during Wigilia on December 2

A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR PASTOR

It has been a long time – 55 years, to be precise – since I was in kindergarten. But beginning with that fateful new phase of life, I remember being tested on a fairly regularly basis for any number of reasons. There were, of course, the quizzes and exams that each of our academic journeys included. However, there were other standards against which we were also measured. For example, I seem to remember each student being sent to the nurse’s office for various tests to gauge hearing and eyesight. Regarding the latter, “20/20” was always the ideal for vision, as I recall. In light of this year, 2020, which ensnared the world with the coronavirus pandemic, I don’t suppose many of us have been referring to “20/20” with much accent on perfect vision anymore. Yet, today’s Scripture readings for this Third Sunday of Advent may suggest that this year 2020, with its confusion, fear and uncertainty, may indeed be very much about testing the clarity and precision of our vision, after all.

First, shortly subsequent to the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, Jesus began his public ministry (as recorded in the Gospel according to St. Luke) when he stood up to do the reading in the synagogue of the town where he had grown up, Nazareth. Of all the Scripture passages he could have chosen, which did he choose? Jesus found the Scripture passage from Isaiah which is the first reading for our Mass today,

“The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord...”
Then, when people had begun to wonder if John the Baptist was himself the Messiah, we hear in the Gospel at Mass today,
“A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.”

Scripture provides us with “20/20” vision: John the Baptist was the humble Servant of the Lord as he simply pointed the way to Jesus the Messiah, the light. And Jesus, in defining his mission of bringing light to illuminate the darkness of our lives, made plain he had come into our world – God’s world – to bring glad tidings, healing and liberty. In the midst of such troubling times that the year 2020 has come to signify, Jesus more clearly than ever calls us back to “20/20” vision. John the Baptist had the grace, the humility, to know that he himself was not the light, but that Jesus was, and is. The darkness, uncertainty and fear that 2020 has brought can open our eyes anew to the only One who clarifies our vision: Jesus, the Christmas gift perfectly suited to our present needs.

Some have asked if Confession is still available. Others have asked about the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. In both cases, the answer is, yes, of course. All you need to do is to see me after Mass or call me to make arrangements. Likewise, the Mass book is now ready at each parish office for you to schedule Masses for your loved ones in 2021, a year which we hope will bring healing from the pandemic, without sacrificing a clarity of vision – a “20/20” – that emerged from a time of such fear and anxiety. After all, John “was not the light, but came to testify to the light.” Who could ask for a better role model this Advent?

Sincerely in Christ,
Father Joe

*****SEEKING GOD IN ALL THINGS*****

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John answered them, “I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.” - Jn 1:26-27

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1996, 1970 GCD.

FOOD PANTRY... Can you help stock our shelves with the following items: **canned fruit; canned stew meat**

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

Team IVA: Sr. Katherine Marie; Peggy Connors; Eileen Cook work 12/17/20 9am - 10am.

Team IVB: Joe Delmont; Mary/Al Freeman; Dominic Petrilli; Sharon Szablewski work 12/17/20 5pm - 6pm

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