



HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH

85 Dakota Avenue • Buffalo, NY 14216

December 20, 2020 Fourth 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 22

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

Wednesday, December 23

6:15p.m. ~ Lina Battaglia req. Family

Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve

4:00p.m. ~ Thomas & Mildred Amodeo req. Family
 Giuseppe & Gaetana Milazzo & Deceased members of Milazzo & Mancuso Families req. Carol Milazzo
 11:00p.m. ~ Gloria M. Sperduti & Anthony "Tee" Wolf req. Son & Uncle, Fr. Joe
 For Deceased members of Costanzo & Maritato families req. Family

Friday, December 25 Christmas Day

11:00a.m. ~ Nicholas & Angela Pantano & Deceased of the Pantano Family req. Elsie Pantano

Saturday, December 26

4:00p.m. ~ Scropo Family & Charles Dispenza req. Rosalie & Diane Scropo

Sunday, December 27 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

7:00a.m. ~ For All Parishioners
 11:00a.m. ~ Salvatore Milazzo req. Wife & Children
 Nicolo Alleca req. Lina Privitera & Family

MINISTER OF THE WORD

Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve

4:00p.m. ~ Rose Amodeo
 11:00p.m. ~ Karen Adamski

Friday, December 25 Christmas Day

11:00a.m. ~ Dan Wolf

Saturday, December 26

4:00p.m. ~ Karen Adamski

Sunday, December 27

7:00a.m. ~ Sheila Blum
 11:00a.m. ~ Sue Zbrzezny

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve

4:00p.m. ~ Rick Amodeo; Liz Cook, Carmela Cavalieri
 11:00p.m. ~ Carmen Manzella; Ray & Zach Schwartzott

Friday, December 25 Christmas Day

11:00a.m. ~ Mary Senger; Phyllis Ostrowski; Pat Bogdan

Saturday, December 26

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

Sunday, December 27

7:00a.m. ~ Angela Downey
 11:00a.m. ~ Carmela Lunetta; Rick Mendolera

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

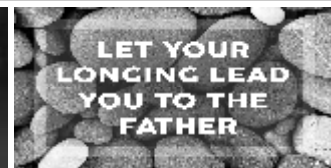
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Religious Education Classes have been canceled until further notice

Our Food Pantry will be closed Thursday, December 24th & 31st. Due to the Christmas day and New Year's day Holiday. We will reopen Thursday, January 7th. Merry Christmas!



Sanctuary Candle burns this week in loving memory of John & Joseph Panasiewicz from Brothers & Sisters



The Journey

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, "Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?" I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn't go as you had hoped, remember is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR DEC 21- DEC 27

- Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
- Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
- Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
- Thursday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
- Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25. Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14. Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20. Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
- Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
- Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

O Come All Ye Faithful

A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS:

Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas, Put into our hearts this peace for which we sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give us. Help us know one another better, and live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father. Reveal to us also your beauty, holiness and purity. Awaken in our hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join us all together in your love, and give us your heavenly peace. Amen - Pope St. John XXIII



Religious Education Classes for Holy Spirit & Saint Margaret will begin again Sunday, January 3, 2021.



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

Our schedule of Christmas Masses is as follows: on Thursday, Christmas Eve, Masses are at 4:00pm (Holy Spirit), 5:30pm (St. Margaret) and 11:00pm (Holy Spirit). On Friday, Christmas Day, Masses are at 9:00am (St. Margaret) and at 11:00am (Holy Spirit). All Masses are subject to facial coverings and social distancing, as well as a 33% capacity limit. The 11:00pm Christmas Eve Mass at Holy Spirit will once again feature the "Living Nativity" with donkey, sheep and a Holy Family, and if you are planning to attend the 11:00pm Mass, I ask you to call Holy Spirit rectory to reserve your spot, so we do not exceed the capacity limit.

In light of the pandemic-caused 33% capacity limit imposed on churches in New York State, there is a new development that I would like to share with you. Given the design of Holy Spirit Church, with the former Holy Spirit School cafeteria/gym (now called the Church Hall) directly below, a brand-new sound and video connection has been created and installed which will allow the live-streaming of the Mass upstairs in Holy Spirit Church to be broadcast downstairs in the Church Hall simultaneously, and then I and/or Eucharistic Ministers will come and distribute Communion to all who are gathered for Mass in the Church Hall at Communion time. This will effectively allow approximately double the amount of people to safely gather for Mass: 33% upstairs in the Church, and another 33% downstairs in the Church Hall. And this is being done without any brick-and-mortar construction costs! This is thanks to the architectural design of Holy Spirit, which provides two large, open spaces at once. While I would like to do the same at St. Margaret, it is not possible, due to the different architecture. Ironically, it would have been possible in the original St. Margaret Church (now The Cornelius), but the present St. Margaret Church has a very small basement under only the sacristies, and no basement under the church itself. I do not know why it was built without a basement, as it would have been helpful in these days of capacity limits. Nevertheless, we must make use of what we have. And I do believe that the 5 Masses between the two parishes, especially with the double capacity of Holy Spirit now (that is, upstairs plus downstairs) will be sufficient to accommodate all who desire to welcome the Christ Child in a prayerful, safe and healthy environment.

A Blessed and Merry Christmas to You and Yours,
Father Joe

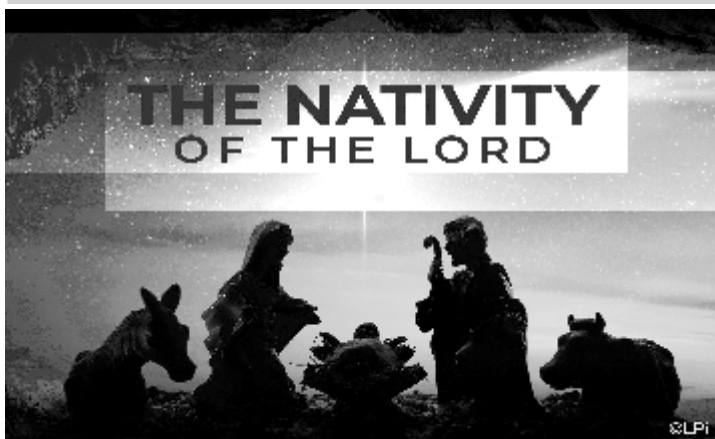
A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR PASTOR

In the Gospel reading for today, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we hear from St. Luke, "The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin... Mary. And coming to her, he said, 'Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.'" Then, in the Gospel reading at each of the Christmas Masses this Thursday and Friday, we will also hear from St. Luke, "While they were there (that is, Bethlehem), the time came for her to have her child...and (she) laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn." In other words, both the announcement (thus, the Annunciation) and the birth (thus, the Nativity) of Jesus, the Word Made Flesh, came unexpectedly. Prior to Gabriel's mission to Nazareth that day, Mary would have had no idea what was going to be asked of her, that she would bear God into the world, literally. And prior to that first Christmas, Mary and Joseph could not have known that the birth of this Child was to be on that precise day. For that matter, few of our own parents knew in advance the exact day on which each of us would be born. As I recall, I was born two weeks later than had been expected, for example.

That moment of the Annunciation and the subsequent Nativity of our Lord came in God's perfect time, not necessarily ours. There are reasons beyond our imagining that make the humble poverty of a manger the absolutely best and most beautiful place for the Son of God to be born in His Father's creation. And that unexpected moment of the Annunciation found Mary ready, just as the unexpected moment of Christ's Birth found both Mary and Joseph prepared as best they could be. So it is that Christmas this coming week, in the midst of such a unique time of worldwide pandemic lasting already for nearly a year, may seem to be arriving at such an unexpected time, and still find us ready – as best we can be – to pause in wonder at the birth among us of this Child who is one of us in appearance, while at the same time being One with God in essence. Because the pandemic has taken away from us so much that seemed perfectly normal, it may be possible that this particular Christmas can lead us to find new and renewed meaning in what has not changed, that is, in this Child who is uniquely both Son of God and therefore our Lord, and son of Mary and therefore our brother.

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.....\$4,806.00
 The same week a year ago:\$4,021.00



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 -



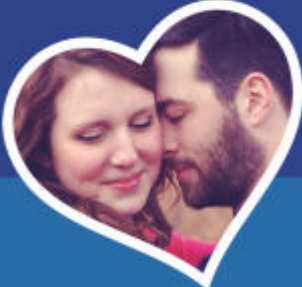

Huber Electric Inc.

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
- Flood Detection
- Fire Safety
- Carbon Monoxide




ADT 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

