



# HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH

85 Dakota Avenue • Buffalo, NY 14216

January 10, 2021 *The Baptism of the Lord*

## 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, January 12**

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

**Wednesday, January 13 St. Hilary**

6:15p.m. ~ Rose M. Fierro & Parents req. Estate

**Friday, January 15**

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

8:00a.m. ~ Norma Santomauro req. Joe & Patty Rizzo

**Saturday, January 16**

4:00p.m. ~ Helen Sammon req. Estate

**Sunday, January 17 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:00a.m. ~ For All Parishioners

11:00a.m. ~ Mary Kay Oddo req. Estate

**MINISTER OF THE WORD**

**Saturday, January 16**

4:00p.m. ~ Mary Ellen Loncto

**Sunday, January 17**

7:00a.m. ~ Hedy Auletta

11:00a.m. ~ Dan Wolf

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

**Saturday, January 16**

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

**Sunday, January 17**

7:00a.m. ~ Pat Bogdan

11:00a.m. ~ Carmela Lunetta; 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



Sanctuary Candle burns this week in loving memory of Carmine & Maria Manzella From Manzella Family

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

*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 1/14/21 9am - 10am.

**Team IIB:** Carmela Cavaliere; Rosie Kieffer; Tom Pitz; Paul Shea work 1/14/21 5pm - 6pm

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JAN 11- JAN 17**

Monday: Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9 [cf. 7c]/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 7]/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11 [8]/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8 [cf. 7b]/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [cf. Jn 6:63c]/Mk 2:13-17

Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/n 1:35-42

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Sunday, January 10**

9:30-10:45am ~ Religious Education Classes ~ Parish Ctr.

**Thursday, January 14**

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

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

**Sunday, January 17**

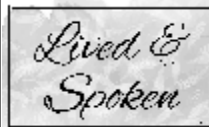
**NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES TODAY DUE TO THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY**



**HAVE YOU PRAYED TODAY?**



**LPI'S GOSPEL MEDITATION - January 10, 2021**  
**The Baptism of the Lord**



We need history. We need it in order to understand ourselves, personally and collectively. The pieces of our histories may not have always been the most positive, honest, exemplary, dignified, proud and

best moments of our lives, but they are ours. We have to acknowledge, remember, accept, and often heal them. We cannot forget them or pretend that they never existed. As horrible as the atrocities of events like Auschwitz, brutal injustices committed throughout the human journey, or personal painful experiences in our own stories, we need to remember. These times when humanity in general or people in particular have lost their way are times that need to be reconciled and redeemed.

If we lose the memories, we will make the same mistakes again. The human soul needs a strong sense of affirmation, direction, and clear purpose. Without these essentials, we will easily run amuck and repeat the sins of our past. God's voice throughout history has spoken precisely about this! We are reminded through the voices and example of many prophets and witnesses not to make the same mistakes again, come back to center, discover the purpose given to us by God, maintain a sense of proper direction, seek healing for wounds and be reconciled to our Creator.

Baptism is so incredibly important for the salvation of humankind, not only eternally but also here and now. Our existence depends upon it. It gives us the affirmation we need from God by gifting us with the same intimate relationship Jesus had with the Father. We are blessed with the direction and clear purpose we need in order to be productive stewards and faithful Christians. Baptism calls us to remember, accept, and deal with the sins and inequities of our past regardless of how hurtful and serious. We consciously choose to turn away from them and put on the new life of Christ. To do this well, we must look hard and long at our sins and failings, listen to what they are saying and learn from them. If we ignore the past, collectively or personally, or pretend that it never happened, we will never grow. We will surely die.

People need to hear the message, lived and spoken, delivered by the baptized members of the Body of Christ. It is an essential message of hope that is layered with visions of justice, peace, reconciliation, redemption, blessing, and healing. It is a message that helps us remember what has gone before, the graces and the sins, and bring ourselves by God's help where we need to be. We are called to do much more than sit home behind our closed doors. We have a message to deliver. Are we ready to do so?

**A PRAY:**

“O God, who lift up the humble and lay low the mighty, help us and rescue all those who are in trouble, have mercy on the lowly, lift up those who have fallen, reveal yourself to the needy, feed the hungry, give power to the weak and encourage the faint-hearted.” - Pope St. Clement I



Today the Parents of our Second Graders are meeting to help their children prepare for First Reconciliation. We are learning about the difference between mistakes and sin, how to make up or make peace, how to examine our conscience, and how to find peace and forgiveness with Jesus whose love is unending. Our meeting is in the Winter Chapel at 9:30AM.

There are no classes, next week, January 17, due to the Martin Luther King Holiday.

**January 24** is a Zoom meeting of the Parents and children preparing for First Communion. Our themes are “Listening” and “Caring”. How are we as listeners to the Gospel?



**Our Church Hall is now open for additional seating to attend our weekend Masses. At Communion time Father Joe & Eucharistic Ministers will come downstairs to distribute Communion to all gathered for Mass in the Church Hall. There is plenty of room to follow the social distancing guidelines. Please think of joining us this weekend!**

**PLEASE HELP...**Our Free Spirit Group collect new and gently used items for the **“Friends of the Night”** a drop-in center located on Buffalo’s West Side - offering a meal or clothing to the needy. Items that are being collected are: Hats, gloves, boots, scarves, sweatpants, sweatshirts, socks, and coats. Please bring all donations this weekend January 9th & 10th or Monday, January 11th from 9-11am. Someone will be in the Dakota Street hallway entrance to take your donations . Thank you!

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURY**

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

Offertory Collection: 12/25/20.....	\$3,918.00
The same week a year ago: .....	\$4,887.00
Offertory Collection: 12/27/20.....	\$3,541.00
The same week a year ago: .....	\$4,031.00
Offertory Collection: 1/3/21.....	\$3,542.00
The same week a year ago: .....	\$4,522.00

**2020 TAX STATEMENTS**

Tax Statements are available. If you need a copy printed for your 2020 tax preparations, please fill out the bottom portion of this box and put it in an envelope in the weekend collection (Attn: Karen) or call the rectory office during regular business hours to request a statement (875-8102).

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR PASTOR**

Prior to my being assigned by Bishop Henry Mansell to serve as pastor of Holy Spirit, I had served as a parochial vicar in parishes in Kenmore, Clarence, East Aurora and Orchard Park. In other words, when I came to North Buffalo, it was the first time I was serving as the pastor of a parish. And then, several years later, I was assigned by Bishop Kmiec to serve as pastor to both Holy Spirit and St. Margaret. Every priest spends years in seminary preparing for ministry, but I think that – without discounting in any way the genuine value of theological education – much of the learning of *how* to “pastor” a parish happens precisely by serving *as* a pastor. And what has been confirmed for me since I arrived as pastor in 2003 is that, truly, *“all is grace.”*

For example, when I arrived at Holy Spirit, Deacon Bill Hynes was the organist. But then just three years or so after I arrived, Deacon Bill wanted to focus exclusively on being a deacon, meaning he no longer would be the organist. For me as a new pastor, that was a bit of a crisis: where would I find a new Music Director? Nothing in seminary formation had prepared me for that eventuality. By God’s grace, a Holy Spirit parishioner had a daughter whom I knew when she had served as Music Director when I was a parochial vicar in Clarence. She agreed to help for a year while we searched for a new Music Director. And that search bore fruit, resulting in Rasa coming to us Director of Music. Rasa began to serve at Holy Spirit on the Feast of the Epiphany, exactly fifteen years ago. And what a beautiful day to begin: just as the Magi arrived from afar and shared with the Christ Child their gifts, so also Rasa came from as far as Lithuania, and has so generously shared her gift of music and song, first at Holy Spirit, and then at both Holy Spirit and St. Margaret.

As a student in Rome, I had the privilege of traveling through much of Western and Eastern Europe, as well as Israel and Russia. As a priest in the Diocese of Buffalo, I served in large suburban parishes. But neither as a student nor as a priest have I ever experienced anywhere else the *quality* of music and song that Rasa brings to our time of worship *each week*. I am grateful for her dedication to our parishes, as well as to her formation of adult choirs at both parishes, as well as the youth choir at Holy Spirit. Though choirs are not permitted presently due to the pandemic, cantors are; and so Rasa has continued working with our cantors.

When I first realized I would need to find a new Music Director back in 2006, I was not really certain where to begin. Nothing in seminary had prepared me for that. But what seminary – and even more, parish life – *did* prepare me for was to trust that *“all is grace.”* Rasa’s professional, faith-filled presence among us continues to inspire, and to foster joy!

Sincerely in Christ,  
Father Joe

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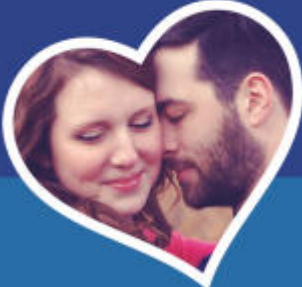



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