



# HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH

85 Dakota Avenue • Buffalo, NY 14216

January 24, 2021 Third 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, January 26 Sts. Timothy & Titus**  
8:00a.m. ~ Communion Service (Sr. Katherine Marie)

**Wednesday, January 27 St. Angela Merici**  
6:15p.m. ~ Rose M. Fierro & Parents req. Estate

**Friday, January 29**  
7:30a.m. ~ Eucharistic Adoration ~ Church  
8:00a.m. ~ Severine D. Spampata req. Estate

**Saturday, January 30**  
4:00p.m. ~ Norma Santomauro req. Joe & Patty Rizzo

**Sunday, January 31 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
7:00a.m. ~ For All Parishioners  
11:00a.m. ~ George W. & Jean L. Nunz req. Estate

**MINISTER OF THE WORD**

**Saturday, January 30**  
4:00p.m. ~ Karen Adamski

**Sunday, January 31**  
7:00a.m. ~ Sheila Blum  
11:00a.m. ~ Joan Grieco

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

**Saturday, January 30**  
4:00p.m. ~ Edward Giannino; Carmela Kieffer

**Sunday, January 31**  
7:00a.m. ~ Rita Riley  
11:00a.m. ~ Mary Senger; Zach 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: **crackers; spaghetti**

*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 1/28/21 9am - 10am.

**Team IVB:** Joe Delmont; Mary/Al Freeman; Dominic Petrilli;  
Sharon Szablewski 1/28/21 5pm - 6pm

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JAN 25- JAN 31**

Monday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Mk 16:15-18

Tuesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10 [3]/Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: Heb 10:11-18/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: Heb 10:19-25/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 6]/Mk 4:21-25

Friday: Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40 [39a]/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75 [cf. 68]/Mk 4:35-41

Sunday: Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 [8]/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Sunday, January 24**  
9:30-10:45am ~ Religious Education Classes ~ Parish Ctr.

**Thursday, January 28**  
9:00-10:00a.m. ~ Food Pantry  
5:00-6:00p.m. ~ Food Pantry

**Sunday, January 31**  
9:30-10:45am ~ Religious Education Classes ~ Parish Ctr.

**LPI'S GOSPEL MEDITATION - January 24, 2021**  
**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**



It was a normal day by all accounts, but John just wasn't feeling himself. He was a little lightheaded and out of sorts. Later in the afternoon, he experienced a sharp pain in his chest and arm. Quick thinking and action brought John to the emergency department with a diagnosis of a significant heart attack. Surviving this ordeal, he found himself face to face with his cardiologist, having an honest conversation about things that needed to change. "I came close to death," John found himself thinking. Then came the remorse. He was a young man with a loving wife and children who were very close to facing life without him. John found himself with intense sorrow for living an unchecked and self-indulgent life that almost brought him to his demise. He wanted to change.

We all have our wake-up calls. We have experiences and encounters that force us to really think twice about choices we have made and directions we have taken. Often, we find ourselves looking at those we have hurt square in the eye and wallowing in our foolishness. We regrettably realize that we have allowed our needs to lure us into making some cruel mistakes. We impulsively say things and flippantly do things that reveal our unredeemed and unhealed self. It is a self we stumble over and try to tame but can't quite seem to master and control. Help!

We spin our wheels, naively thinking that we will somehow, perhaps through persistence, get ourselves unstuck. But, we don't. We just get out of the car, feeling very helpless, and ignorantly look at the mess we got ourselves into. Did we ever think to ask someone for help? Or, taken the advice of One who is wiser and avoid this route altogether? "Come after me," are words that Jesus says to all of us. In order to heed his invitation, we must leave our ego-self behind and follow.

When we really see and understand the freedom, peace, justice, and love he offers, we find ourselves with such sorrow in our hearts for how foolish and silly we have been. All the misguided choices and sinful actions come full view and we see how risky our random impassioned behaviors really have been. Repentance is beautiful. When done with a sincere and contrite heart, it directs us to the glory that can be ours, ignites us with the challenge of living a life in service of others and reminds us that all is well.

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURY**

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

Offertory Collection: 1/17/21..... \$3,875.00  
The same week a year ago: ..... \$3,102.00

**LET US PRAY:**

God of daily life, you are light for our eyes, music for our ears, health for our bodies. We rely on your power to sustain us in work and rest this day; we rely on your grace to lead us closer to your Son, Jesus, who is Lord forever and ever. Amen



Today we, the First Communion Parents and students, are having a zoom meeting about "Listening" to the readings at Mass, and the importance of praying for others in the General Intercessions. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders will be receiving their own Children's Bible.

When we pause in silence for our own intention, who or what do we pray for?

**APPEAL 2021 IS UNDERWAY!** Bishop Michael Fisher, Appeal 2021 Chair Rick Cronin, and Deacon Steve Schumer launched the Appeal earlier this week and announced the \$10 million goal, as well as **HOPE for all seasons** as the campaign theme and St. Ignatius Loyola as this year's patron saint. Your donation to the Appeal can support Catholic Charities of Buffalo and the Fund for the Faith. Your donation stays in Western New York. Your gift helps those in our communities who are struggling to live, work and support families, and those who need spiritual care and support. You help provide **HOPE for all seasons**. And it couldn't be easier: visit [www.ccwny.org/donation](http://www.ccwny.org/donation) or call our Helpline at 716-218-1419 today!



**FREE SPIRIT NEWS...**Due to the latest precautions mandated by the state, county, and diocese all future Free Spirit meetings are postponed. Please check our website @ [www.holyspiritchurchbuffalo.com](http://www.holyspiritchurchbuffalo.com) for the latest information on future meetings and events.



**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED FOR THE "FRIENDS OF NIGHT PEOPLE" COLLECTION!**



*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!*

**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**

St. Jerome was one of the great saints in the early Church. Near the Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem there is, I remember, a table with a skull above it, in an underground chapel dedicated to St. Jerome. The skull is meant to remind us of his scholarship (since our brain is inside our skull). But perhaps that skull also reminded St. Jerome of his mortality, that is, of the relative shortness of our lives here on earth. And so he worked tirelessly, and dedicated his life to the translation of the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Latin. Every time we read the Bible we are benefitting from St. Jerome's labors, scholarship and faith. One of the quotes from this scholarly and holy man is, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." In this vein, the following was once part of a homily,

One day a couple with a strong biblical background was chatting about who should brew the coffee in the morning. The wife said, "You should do it because you get up first." The husband said, "You're always the one in charge of the kitchen. You should do it!" The wife replied, "No, you should do it. Besides, it's in the Bible." The husband scratched his head and said, "I never knew that. Please show me." So she fetched the Bible, opened toward the end of the New Testament, and showed him. At the top of several pages, it indeed said, "HEBREWS"

And so, when we hear the first reading at Mass this weekend (from the Book of Jonah), we could easily presume that Jonah – as presented in the selected verses – was a model prophet, heeding God's message, acting upon it, and rejoicing in God's actions. After all, that is what appears in today's passage. However, knowledge of Scripture reminds us that today's first reading should actually read, "The word of the Lord came to Jonah A SECOND TIME..." It turns out that Jonah was not all that enthusiastic about his God-given mission. He had ignored God's message the first time, and had run away. Nor was Jonah at all pleased when, on this second time, when he did obey God's command, the people of Nineveh heeded his warning and experienced conversion in their lives. So, not only was Jonah reluctant to obey God's direction for his life at first, he was also disappointed when on his second response he actually succeeded in persuading the Ninevites to reform their lives.

Perhaps ignorance of Scripture is not only ignorance of Christ; it is also ignorance of our own lives as disciples of Christ. Do we at times find in Jonah, for instance, a reflection of our own sometimes less than ideal relationship with the Lord? Have we ever been reluctant prophets? Have we at times failed to rejoice in the spiritual rejuvenation that God is accomplishing through us, perhaps even despite us? Scripture is both consoling and challenging. We are blessed that our Church provides us in each parish throughout the world with the nourishment of both God's Word and Eucharist.

I am grateful that parishioners continue helping us to remain open safely during this pandemic, through social distancing, the proper wearing of masks during Mass, and by thoroughly sanitizing the church after each and every Mass. If you have not already done so, please take home with you a missalette, so that you can pray with the readings each day.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Father Joe

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