

# St. Francis of Assisi



**150 BROAD STREET • TONAWANDA, NEW YORK 14150**

*We welcome you to all Liturgies.*

### MASSES

Saturday ..... 4:30 p.m.  
 Sunday ..... 9:00 & 11:30 a.m.  
 Monday - Friday ..... 8:30 a.m.

### CONFESSIONS

Saturday ..... 3:00–4:00 p.m.  
*(In Chapel Sacristy or by appointment)*

### BAPTISMS

Please call Fr. Mike at 693-1150  
 to arrange your child's Baptism.

### CONFIRMATION

Student preparation is handled through  
 the Faith Formation Office (909-7110).  
 Adult preparation is handled through  
 the R.C.I.A. program (693-1150).

### MARRIAGES

Arrangements should be made at least  
 6 months in advance with Fr. Mike.

### R.C.I.A.

Adult: The Rite of Christian  
 Initiation of Adults (RCIA).  
 Any person interested in becoming  
 Catholic, contact the rectory.

### STAFF

*Pastor* ..... Rev. Michael G. Uebler, 909-1751 (cell)  
*Weekend Assistant* ..... Rev. Joseph T. Nguyen  
*Permanent Deacon* ..... Deacon Paul Bork  
*Business Manager* ..... Mrs. Carolyn Gorski  
*Secretary* ..... Mrs. Jane Leone  
*Trustees* ..... Mrs. Linda Carlson, Mr. David Sharp  
*Organist* ..... Mr. Robert Hull, 471-1256  
*Advocate for Disabled Persons* ..... Mrs. Cecelia Sharp, 957-3768

### RECTORY OFFICE - 73 ADAM STREET • 716-693-1150

Monday–Friday ..... 9:00 a.m.–1:00p.m.

### FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

*Coordinators* ..... Michael & Sue Ann Saltarelli 909-7110 (cell)

### PARISH OUTREACH • 693-6247 -

*Located in rear of St. Clare Center*  
 Rita Alviti, Karen Szafran & Deacon Gary Hoover

### EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER • 70 ADAM STREET 692-7886

*Director* ..... Mrs. Sally Babcock  
*Email* ..... Babcock@stfrancistonawanda.org  
*Website* ..... www.stfrancistonawanda.org

### NEW PARISHIONERS

We warmly welcome you to our Parish Community.

*Bulletin available on the Internet: <http://www.ParishesOnline.com>*

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday, February 15:** Gn 4:1-15,25; Mk 8:11-13  
**Tuesday, February 16:** Gn 6:5-8--7:1-5,10; Mk 8:14-21  
**Wednesday, February 17:** Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20--6:2; Mt 6:1-6,16-18  
**Thursday, February 18:** Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25  
**Friday, February 19:** Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15  
**Saturday, February 20:** Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32  
**Sun, February 21: 1st Sunday of Lent**  
 1st Reading - Genesis 9:8-15  
 2nd Reading - 1 Peter 3:18-22  
 Gospel - Mark 1:12-15



(Parking is available on Adam Street in School and Rectory parking lots.)

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Monday, February 15 - Weekday (President's Day)**  
 9:00 Special Intentions of Samantha Elizabeth Forsyth by Debra Gural

**Tuesday, February 16 - Weekday**  
 8:30 Mary Smith by Holler Family

**Wednesday, February 17 - Ash Wednesday**  
 8:30 Healing for Kathy Mallery by Family  
 12:00 Kevin Daigler by Mom, Dad & Sister  
 7:00 Jack Carlson by Elizabeth Giacco

**Thursday, February 18 - Thursday after Ash Wednesday**  
 8:30 Souls in Purgatory by Fran Phillips

**Friday, February 19 - Friday after Ash Wednesday**  
 8:30 Healing for Fr. Dennis by Parishioners

**Saturday, February 20 - Saturday after Ash Wednesday**  
 4:30 Richard Solomn by Ray Smith & Family

**Sunday, February 21 - 1st Sunday of Lent**  
 9:00 Gerry Inman (Birthday) by Family  
 \*11:00 Healing for Fr. Mike by Parishioners

\*(Please note new Mass time: 11:00 a.m.)

### ATTENTION EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

**Ash Wednesday is February 17** and we are in need of Eucharistic Ministers to bring Holy Communion and ashes to the homebound. Covid protocols will be followed. Please make arrangements through the Outreach Office at 693-6247. Thank you!

**HELP US TO CONTINUE GOD'S WORK!  
 REMEMBER IN YOUR WILL:  
 ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH  
 OR THE ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI  
 ENDOWMENT FUND**

### CHAPEL HOURS AND INFORMATION

Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
 Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Parish contributions may be mailed to the rectory or dropped in the secure safe inside the front entrance of the Chapel. Donations may also be put in the drop box at the top of the stairs of the front entrance to the rectory. Our Chapel is under video surveillance 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### EUCHARISTIC MINISTER SCHEDULE

**Saturday, February 20**  
 4:30 p.m. Debby Swartz

**Sunday, February 21**  
 9:00 a.m. Pat Trimper, Jane Leone (choir)  
 11:30 a.m. Jeffrey Becker

### CANTOR SCHEDULE

**Saturday, February 20**  
 4:30 p.m. Dan Deyell

**Sunday, February 21**  
 9:00 a.m. Dan Deyell

### LECTOR SCHEDULE

**Saturday, February 20**  
 4:30 p.m. Lisa Petronio

**Sunday, February 21**  
 9:00 a.m. Judy Kurtzworth  
 11:30 a.m. Amabel Padilla

### R.C.I.A.

We will begin R.C.I.A. on Sunday, February 21st at 9:30 a.m. Any adult interested in making their sacraments or joining the Catholic Church, please call Karen at the Outreach at 693-6247, or cell # (716) 830-5055.

### 2021 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2021 Church Offering envelopes are available in the Church vestibule and the table in the Chapel. This year we have a 3-month supply of offering envelopes. We ask that you provide your envelope ID# on each offering envelope. If you don't know your envelope ID#, call the rectory (693-1150) to leave a message and someone will get back to you. Packets for March - June, will be available by the end of February.

### CURRENT PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ronald Snyder ...692-0228  
 Mary Ellen Roche ...531-0368  
 James Jaskowiak ...694-9492 (h) or 807-9419 (cell/text)  
 Thomas Smyers ...692-6976  
 Kelly Oldenburg ...874-4516  
 David Sharp ...957-3768 or dhsharp@verizon.net  
 Linda Carlson ...694-0652

**CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

**Wednesday, February 17 (Ash Wednesday)**  
 8:30 a.m., 12:00 noon & 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday  
 Masses - Church  
 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - SVDP Food Pantry, Outreach,  
 Family Clothes Closet & Hospitality

**Thursday, February 18**  
 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - SVDP Food Pantry, Outreach,  
 Family Clothes Closet & Hospitality

**Friday, February 19**  
 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross - Chapel

**Saturday, February 20**  
 3-4 p.m. Confessions - Chapel

**Sunday, February 21 - 1st Sunday of Lent**  
 All weekend Masses will be live-streamed from the  
 Church (please note the 11:30 Mass has been  
 changed to 11:00 a.m.!) - go to [stfrancistonawanda.org](http://stfrancistonawanda.org)  
 then click on the button to watch  
 Mass live.

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

We pray for God's healing and comforting presence for all of our sick and homebound parishioners, caregivers, family members and friends, especially: Kathy Kosiak, Vincent Polanowski, Sabine Miskey, Florence Donato, Trudie Lotz, Isaiah Sheehan, Jeanette Diegelman, Rich Petronio, Mara Moore, James Pasek, Jon Graefser, Reed Lesmeister, Patricia Shamber, Julie Kuciewski, Gene Graves, Judith Zielinski, Lydia Cannon, Trisha Cole, Art Francis, Vince Dominesey, Ashley McLearn, Kim Vaillancourt, Monica Shields, Christopher James Slauson, Rose LoGrasso, William & Patricia Blair, Tim Ellis, Jeanne Lauzonis, Ken Luckman, Daniel Paolucci, Kathy Mallery, Gerry Hess, Salvatore Scolla, Richard Murphy, June Brusino, Melissa Michael, Ayden Miller, Chris Golda, Lisa Kelly, Connor Radley, Robert McCormick, Teresa Meyer, Andrew Keleman, Nancy Lorich, Kyle Inman, John & Gerianne Ference, Patrick Roche, Angel Greenawalt, Kelli McDaniel, Duane Pietras, Liz Kobialka, David Hogenkamp, Jessica Cameron, Sandy Englert, Michael Moore, Ruth Tarasek, Charlie Insalaco, Judy McMahon, Neil Burrows, Meghan Wright, Beverly Overton, Donna Bene, Heather Hamilton, Virginia Quinn, Jon Graefser, Mary Barnes, Mike Koslowski, Dominic Cristelli, Mike O'Connor, Frank Corbett, Fr. Dennis Cleary, Tracey Everette, Oliver Laub, Kathy Kirisits, Linda Allen, Jim McNeill, George Mallory, Joyce Cassata, Mary Slauson, Renee Sylvies, Annabelle Frescholtz, Christian Licata, Vinny Frattura, Fr. Mike, Forrest Griffin, Debbie Sepielli, Madonna Whitus, Jennifer Nicken, Derek Cline, David Hamp, Sherry Dominesey, Cynthia & Vanessa O'Connor, Donna Kovac, Lenore Sheehan, Derek Cline, Paul Overton, Angelo DellaValle, Gerry Dickey. **Please notify the rectory when their names can be removed!**

*Dear Lord,  
 I love when You place me  
 where I need to be  
 and ever so gently You  
 give me an Ah-Ha moment  
 so that I know  
 I am where I need to be.  
 Thank you God for opening my eyes  
 to Your amazing Grace and  
 comforting me and letting me  
 know it will be alright. - Amen*



**2020 Donation Statements**

Anyone wishing to receive a donation statement for 2020 should drop a self addressed, stamped, business-size envelope into the collection basket or at the rectory office and your statement will be mailed to you. Thank you!

**CHAPEL RESTROOM**

The Chapel restroom will only be open during Masses, funerals, confessions and other services. This is not meant to be a public restroom. Thank you for your understanding!

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES**



We pray for the safety of those serving in the Armed Forces, especially: SSGT Stephen J. Stanko, III, MSGT Richard Ball, MSGT Ryan J. Snyder, PVTIC Willard Bruce, MP Bobby Kindred, SGT James Retzer, PVT Jeffrey Alexander, PVTIC Rory Bruce, SGT Andy Sulski, M/SGT Christian Roeske, S/SG Michael Shilen, Timothy Juliano, PVT Jeffrey Seal, SrA Jacob Choate, Vincent J. Bartolomeo, SFC Daniella Sales, CPL Michael Girard, SR Andrew D. Potter, PFC Nicholas Kaiser, CPT Devin M. Finn, SGT Thomas Will, Jr., Jacob Gagnon, PVT Nicolas Paul, CPT Grant Peehler, Ryan Barnard, 1LT Jordan Zajac, Matthew Seal.

### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Greetings,

Happy Valentine's Day! St. Valentine loved love. He wanted to help people understand about love and even more so about God's love. Sometimes love is a lot of work but it brings abundant blessings. The Corinthians said it best, "It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." Love is love is love.

Our Center is closed this week for February recess. During this week on Wednesday, Lent will begin. I know when we return on Monday the 22nd our classrooms will begin the journey of Lent through stories, songs and activities.

Please check out our web page for registration information or give us a call. We will be working on a virtual tour and a video to promote our Center since we cannot have an in person Open House at this time. So please help us spread the word. Thank you for your support and prayers.

Remember to be safe and wear a mask (with a heart)!

Peace & Love,

Sally Babcock ~ ECC Director



### SCRIP GIFT CARDS

Scrip gift cards are still available, even though we are all in quarantine! Tops, Budwey/Market in the Square, and more are still in stock, and orders can be placed by emailing program coordinator Kathy Deyell at [KDeyell@juno.com](mailto:KDeyell@juno.com). She will make arrangements with you regarding payment and delivery. And don't forget, you can always order online at [ShopWithScrip.com](http://ShopWithScrip.com) (contact Kathy if you need the enrollment code). Many vendors, such as Amazon and Walmart, have e-gift cards which are available almost immediately when you pay electronically with PrestoPay or a credit card, and physical gift cards can be ordered as well. Help support St. Francis of Assisi Parish even as we must remain physically distant from each other.

### ST. FRANCIS FAMILY CLOTHES CLOSET

A Clothes Closet for infants, children and adults is available in the St. Francis of Assisi Church basement (use entrance by the ramp). All clothing is free. Hours are Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. - noon and Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. COVID rules are in place. Call the Outreach office at 693-6247 if you have any questions. **Donations of gently used, laundered children's and adult clothing are appreciated. Please drop off your donations during regular hours.**

### LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION

- We continue our series on the Top 10 Reasons to be catholic. Here are the last 4 we share, but let us know your own!! There are WAY more than 10 reasons!!

#### Reason #7. Catholic Social Teaching

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: "The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society." Catholic social teaching may be, as some say, the best-kept secret of the Church. The foundation of Catholic social teaching is the dignity of the human person and the sacredness of each human life - as made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). Catholic social teaching, based on the Gospel, commits us to working on behalf of each human person, especially the least of our brothers and sisters (Matthew 25:40). Catholic social teaching challenges us to participate in service and advocacy. The members of the Catholic Church, the largest charitable organization in the world, serve in hospitals, orphanages, refugee camps, schools, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and nursing homes.

#### Reason #8. Prayer & Devotions

With all Christians we pray the Our Father, but we also have many other prayers and devotions - 2000 years' worth! We pray the Hail Mary, based on the Gospel of Luke: "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28). Many of the faithful pray the rosary, which is a meditation on the life of Christ. Besides Holy Mass, the Church prays daily the Liturgy of the Hours, which contains prayers, Scripture, and hymns in order to praise God and to intercede for all people, day and night. Our sacred, beautiful devotions include blessing ourselves with the sign of the cross, ashes on our forehead to begin Lent, and walking the footsteps of Jesus with the Stations of the Cross.

#### Reason #9. The Saints

The Catholic Church has officially declared thousands of Christians as saints. These were ordinary men, women, and children who lived with extraordinary faithfulness to Jesus Christ. The saints, these "holy ones" (Philippians 4:21), followed God's will with great love and heroic virtue - often in the face of persecution. They teach us the pathway to sainthood through the witness of their humility, single-mindedness, simplicity, prayer and action. We believe each one of us was created to be a saint - to be fully alive in Christ - through our unique call to holiness. We believe in the Communion of Saints, all the holy ones who together form "the greatest cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). We ask the saints in heaven to intercede for us because of their close proximity to God, just as we ask our friends to pray for us on earth (Colossians 1:9-15).

#### Reason #10. Universal Church

The word "catholic" means universal. The Catholic Church, established by Jesus Christ, is meant for all people for all times. The Mass is the same celebration - same prayers, same Scripture, same Eucharist - whether celebrated in Italy, Syria, India, Congo, the Philippines, Mexico, Burma, the United States or Argentina. We value diversity and the rich expressions of our faith. We welcome all people - no matter one's race, language, culture, country, or economic status. We welcome you!

**GOSPEL MEDITATION****6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

The Church, as a voice of the Gospel, proclaims the sacredness of all human life. Everyone created by God is fashioned in God's image and has Divine DNA at the center of their soul. God never leaves what God creates but always remains intimately bound to what he has given form. Everyone has a place and because they have received the gift of Divine Blessing, nobody deserves to feel inferior, unworthy, unwanted, unclean or marginalized. Even the most broken of souls has a place. We, the Body of Christ, have the privilege and responsibility to give voice to the voiceless. The cries of the little one in his or her mother's womb are just as sacred as the cries of one who is homeless and hungry. The migrant deserves our attention as much as the forgotten elderly and even the prisoner, with a heart hardened by anger and resentment, deserves respect and dignity.

The Gospel of Life is often hard to swallow, and we would rather keep those we consider unclean, different or unfixable in a place by themselves. It is hard to see them with us, but they deserve to be. There is far too much violence in this world and the result of that violence is the assault on human life. Many are forced to leave the place they call home in search of safer ground, finding few if any along the way who will help them. How different today's Gospel story would be if Jesus gave in to what was politically correct at that time. The leper would have been turned away and a soul, already beaten down by disease and fear, would have experienced an even deeper wound. Jesus wouldn't have captured much attention from anyone, nor would he have mirrored the Father's compassion and love.

Where do we stand with all of this? Do we at least understand that God's vision is often in conflict with the vision put forth in our world and even the one we advance ourselves? There is no doubt that it is incredibly challenging to find a place for everyone at the table. This challenge is compounded when the systems of operation and structure that are so ingrained in us affirm power and privilege rather than inclusivity and justice. Everything really goes askew when the powerful begin to control who is entitled to wholeness and inclusion, and greed becomes a driving force. Prejudice and entitlement raise their ugly heads and we find ourselves with quite a mess. It's time to admit that things have been a mess for a very long time. The mess needs to be healed, not by erasing it but by allowing God to touch it and make it whole. We need to bring God back to the center of life where God belongs. There are no easy solutions to the world's dilemmas. But, knowing that wholeness, healing, and dignity are worthy pursuits, we can more confidently labor to achieve God's vision.

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**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP****The Unfailing Goodness of God**

I have always wondered why Jesus told the cleansed leper not to publicize how he had been healed by the Son of God. It's not that I can't understand why Jesus would want to keep the matter quiet — after all, he knew that as soon as people heard, he would be mobbed with requests for healings, and his movements restricted.

What gets me is the fact that Jesus simply must have realized the leper would not listen to him. Why give someone a command you know they will ignore? It's a complicated question, and when I reflect on it, I can't help but connect it to another equally complicated question: why does God, all-good and all-knowing, allow bad things to happen?

Yes, God is all-good and all-knowing. So when He gives us free will, He knows what we will do with it. However, He is also all-powerful. He can and will bring good from any situation, any tragedy, or even any instance where someone ignores Him.

Was it a sin for this leper to do other than what Jesus had said? That's a heavy question for a Sunday morning! But it's plain to see that, even though this man ignored Jesus' command, God still used his actions. How many were brought to Christ because of the news spread by this leper!

As someone trying to live out a stewardship way of life, what is God requesting of you right now?

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi

**ST. FRANCIS SVDP FOOD PANTRY**

We have a non-denominational food pantry in the St. Clare Center. Anyone living in our area is welcome to come monthly to the pantry. The pantry is open Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to noon and Thursday from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Please use the side entrance ramp to the Church to begin your food pantry assistance.

Our St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry is in need of paper & plastic bags, as well as, coffee. Please place your donation in the Barrel by the Chapel front doors. St. Vincent DePaul Society thanks you for your generosity to help us serve the needy!

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Grief Sharing Meeting** - will take place on Wednesday, February 17, from 6:30-8 p.m. at Our Lady of Pompeii Parish Ministry Center, 129 Laverack Ave., Lancaster. Topic will be "Complicating Factors", how traumatic experiences affect grief. To register for the session, call Sister Joyce King at 683-6522, ext. 103.

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~ Parishioner ~



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