

March 14, 2021 4th Sunday of Lent

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 & 11:00 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, March 15: Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday, March 16: Ez 47:1-9,12; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday, March 17: Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday, March 18: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47
Friday, March 19: 2 Sm 7:4-5a,12-14a,16; Rom 4:13,16-18,22; Mt 1:16,18-21,24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Saturday, March 20: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53
Sun, March 21: 5th Sunday of Lent
 1st Reading - Jeremiah 31:31-34
 2nd Reading - Hebrews 5:7-9
 Gospel - John 12:20-33



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

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 15 - Lenten Weekday
 8:30 Special Intentions of Joshua Rankin by Debra Gural

Tuesday, March 16 - Lenten Weekday
 8:30 Robert Hayden by Ernest & Marilyn Renaud

Wednesday, March 17 - Patrick, Bishop
 8:30 Lorraine Wiech by Outreach

Thursday, March 18 - Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop
 8:30 Terence Watters by Family

Friday, March 19 - Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 8:30 Special Intentions of the Jay Holler Family by Jay Holler

Saturday, March 20 - Lenten Weekday
 4:30 James Johnston by Family

Sunday, March 21- 5th Sunday of Lent
 9:00 Agnes Gauthier by Family
 *11:00 Special Intentions of Antonia Heffron by Debra Gural

PLEASE SUPPORT THE LOCAL
 BUSINESSES WHO ADVERTISE
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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.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 20
 4:30 p.m. Robert McCartney

Sunday, March 21
 9:00 a.m. Linda Guido, Linda Szmanda (choir)
 11:30 a.m. JoAnn White

CANTOR SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 20
 4:30 p.m. Cecelia Driscoll

Sunday, March 21
 9:00 a.m. Cecelia Driscoll

LECTOR SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 20
 4:30 p.m. Lisa Petronio

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

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!

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 April - June, will be available by the end of March.

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, March 17

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - SVDP Food Pantry, Outreach, Family Clothes Closet & Hospitality

Thursday, March 18

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

Friday, March 19

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross - Chapel

Saturday, March 20

3-4 p.m. Confessions - Chapel

Sunday, March 21 - 5th Sunday of Lent

All weekend Masses will be live-streamed from the Church - go to 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, 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 McMahan, 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, Norm & Kathy Kirisits, Linda Allen, Jim McNeill, George Mallory, Joyce Cassata, Mary Slauson, Renee Sylvies, Christian Licata, Vinny Frattura, Fr. Mike, Debbie Sepielli, Madonna Whitus, Jennifer Nicken, Derek Cline, David Hamp, Sherry Dominesey, Cynthia & Vanessa O'Connor, Donna Kovac, Lenore Sheehan, Derek Cline, Angelo DellaValle, Gerry Dickey, Jeffrey Frazier, Barbara Steves, John Long. **Please notify the rectory when their names can be removed!**

Lent and Holy Week Schedule

Friday, March 19 & 26

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross - Chapel

Palm Sunday, March 27 & 28 Masses

4:30 p.m. Saturday - Church
9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday - Church

Holy Thursday, April 1

7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Last Supper - Church, with Solemn Exposition of the Eucharist - Chapel

Good Friday, April 2

2:00 p.m. Confessions - Chapel
3:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy - Church

Holy Saturday, April 3

12:00 p.m. Blessing of Easter Food - Chapel
3:00 p.m. Confessions - Chapel
7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass - Church

Easter Sunday, April 4

9:00 a.m. Mass with Choir
11:00 a.m. Mass with Contemporary Ensemble

St. Peregrine Prayer for People with Cancer

O great St. Peregrine, you have been called "The Mighty" and "The Wonder-Worker," because of the numerous miracles which you have obtained from God for those who have had recourse to you.

For so many years you bore in your own flesh this cancerous disease that destroys the very fiber of our being, and who had recourse to the source of all grace when the power of man could do no more.

You were favored with the vision of Jesus coming down from His Cross to heal your affliction. Ask of God and Our Lady, the cure of the sick whom we entrust to you. (Pause here and silently recall the names of the sick for whom you are praying)

Aided in this way by your powerful intercession, we shall sing to God, now and for all eternity, a song of gratitude for His great goodness and mercy. Amen.

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,

Today begins Daylight Savings Time - Spring ahead! I really hope spring is ahead, it has been many cold mornings greeting children this winter. Part of our Covid-19 plan is for parents to walk the children to the door, we take the children's temperature and check them in. This has worked out very well. Parents are not waiting in long lines to come in and there is no time for a reluctant Pre-schooler to be upset. Even as our lives are coming back to somewhat "normal", this morning routine must stay. It will just be a little easier to take when the temperature is in the 50's/60's.

Our registration for September is moving along. Every day we get calls and registrations in the mail. Please give the office a call, 692-7886, if you would like more information about our Pre-K and Afterschool Care programs.

Our teachers and children are ready to get outside, go for walks and "Spring" ahead, let's hope Mother Nature feels the same!

Be safe and wear your mask!

Blessings,
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. She will make arrangements with you regarding payment and delivery. And don't forget, you can always order online at 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.

ACT OF HOPE

O My God, relying on Your almighty power and infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of Your grace, and life everlasting through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer.



LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION

- We continue to meet in person for more and more of our Faith Formation offerings. We've been meeting after mass for GOF for months now, which has been a GREAT blessing for us! We also began meeting with our middle school "Beyond" club. We are reading a series called "Tales of the Kingdom". It's a great allegory of faith for ALL ages! I learn more every time I read it. We also begin our in person First Eucharist sessions for children and parents. Jen and I teach the children and Michael shares with the parents. It's such a special time. We are grateful to be able to meet socially distanced with masks in our facilities! God truly is good!

- Join Michael and me on Wednesday evenings from 8-8:35pm for "We gave up Date Night for Lent"! We discuss a topic and take questions and comments and feedback. Tune in to the Friends of St. Francis of Assisi facebook page or @st_francois_tonawanda Instagram.

"It is time to recognize the beautiful miracles that surround us every day."

- Matthew Kelly
(Taken from *The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity*)

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 your **Lenten Offering of Easter candy, jelly beans & chocolates**. 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!

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.**

UPON THIS ROCK

Beginning in 2015, The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y., Inc. (“Foundation”) began soliciting donations to its “Upon this Rock” (“UTR”) capital and endowment campaign. The UTR campaign raised funds for many purposes, including soliciting funds for making essential upgrades to classroom facilities and technology of Christ the King Seminary (“CKS”), expanding CKS’s role as a center of retreat and religious celebration, and establishing an endowment fund for CKS. Unfortunately, in early 2020, CKS’s Board of Trustees determined that CKS would close at the end of the 2020-2021 academic year. CKS’s closure will make it impossible for the Foundation to use the UTR funds raised for CKS for their original intended purposes. However, under New York law, when the original purposes for which funds are donated become impossible to achieve, those purposes can be modified in a manner consistent with original intent by the New York State courts. For many years, CKS provided education and formation for ordained and lay ecclesial ministers in the Diocese of Buffalo and beyond. Accordingly, the Foundation has asked the New York State Supreme Court for the County of Erie to approve a modification of the purposes of UTR funds raised for CKS so that those funds can be used to support the education and formation for ordained and lay ecclesial ministry in the Diocese of Buffalo, as determined in the discretion of the Foundation’s Board.

If you have donated to UTR and would like to be heard regarding this requested modification, you may send a letter to: The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y., Inc., attention Executive Director, 795 Main Street, Buffalo, N.Y. 14203 or an email to donor.info@frcdb.org. Copies of letters or email received by the Foundation will be provided to the Court. You may also make a formal filing in the legal proceeding entitled Matter of the Modification of Endowment Funds of The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo N.Y., Inc., Erie County Index No. 814747/2020. In order for your submission to be available for the Court’s consideration, please be sure to send any letter or email, or make any filing, no later than Friday, April 9, 2021.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

When you are troubled, we are hope. The opioid addiction crisis hasn’t left one corner of Western New York untouched. To combat this serious problem that’s plaguing our communities, Catholic Charities provides a **Chemical Dependency Treatment Program**. Our outpatient program is New York State OASAS-licensed and seeks to treat addiction with a combination of therapy and medicine. Your donation to the 2021 Appeal helps us continue to provide treatment for those who are most in need. To donate or to seek help, please call Helpline at 218-1419 or visit www.ccwny.org/donation. Multiply God’s goodness. For more information about the outpatient program, visit www.ccwny.org/addictionhelp. In the darkest days, we are **HOPE for all seasons**.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Awake, O Sleeper!

This morning came a little earlier than I would have liked — Daylight Savings Time always does. Sometimes that morning sunlight seems more intrusive than illuminating. You’re still half-lost in sleep, and that sun is demanding of you a lot more than you’re ready to give.

I’ve said it, and I’m sure you’ve said it, too. “Just five more minutes.” You hit the “snooze” button on your iPhone once (maybe twice? Show of hands?) and turn away from the window.

So many kings of the Old Testament were steadfast in their sleepy ways, rejecting the light their God tried to share with them. Likewise, John tells us that, though Light — Christ — was sent into the world, the world preferred darkness.

Sometimes it seems, when reading through Scripture, that all throughout salvation history, God has been trying to pull back the curtains, to rouse us from our defiant slumber. And we resist Him. Time and time again, we resist Him.

Light brings a certain responsibility with it. It seems to compel productivity. Furthermore, there’s no hiding in the light. Any photographer worth his salt knows how to manipulate it, highlighting the good and casting some merciful shade on the bad.

As we enter into the fourth week of Lent, we’re getting so close to the main event. Can we handle the light that will come on Easter morning, bursting into the tomb as the stone is rolled away? Can we keep ourselves from hitting the “snooze” button on our souls, and sit up to face the dawn of a new day?

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi

UPCOMING EVENTS

Grief Sharing - the next session will be on Wednesday, March 17, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Pompeii Parish Ministry Center, 129 Laverack Ave., Lancaster. Topic: Lessons of Grief - Part 1. An often overlooked reason that grief is so painful; why going to church can be so difficult; the benefits of helping others. If you have questions, or to register, call Sister Joyce King at 683-6522, ext. 103.
Tuition Freeze - Cardinal O’Hara High School announced that it will not increase tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year. Cardinal O’Hara hopes that this plan will reduce the additional burden on people who are sacrificing so much to allow their children to continue to take part in the outstanding, faith-based, educational program at Cardinal O’Hara High School.

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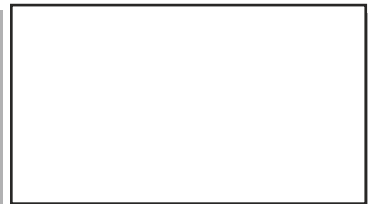
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