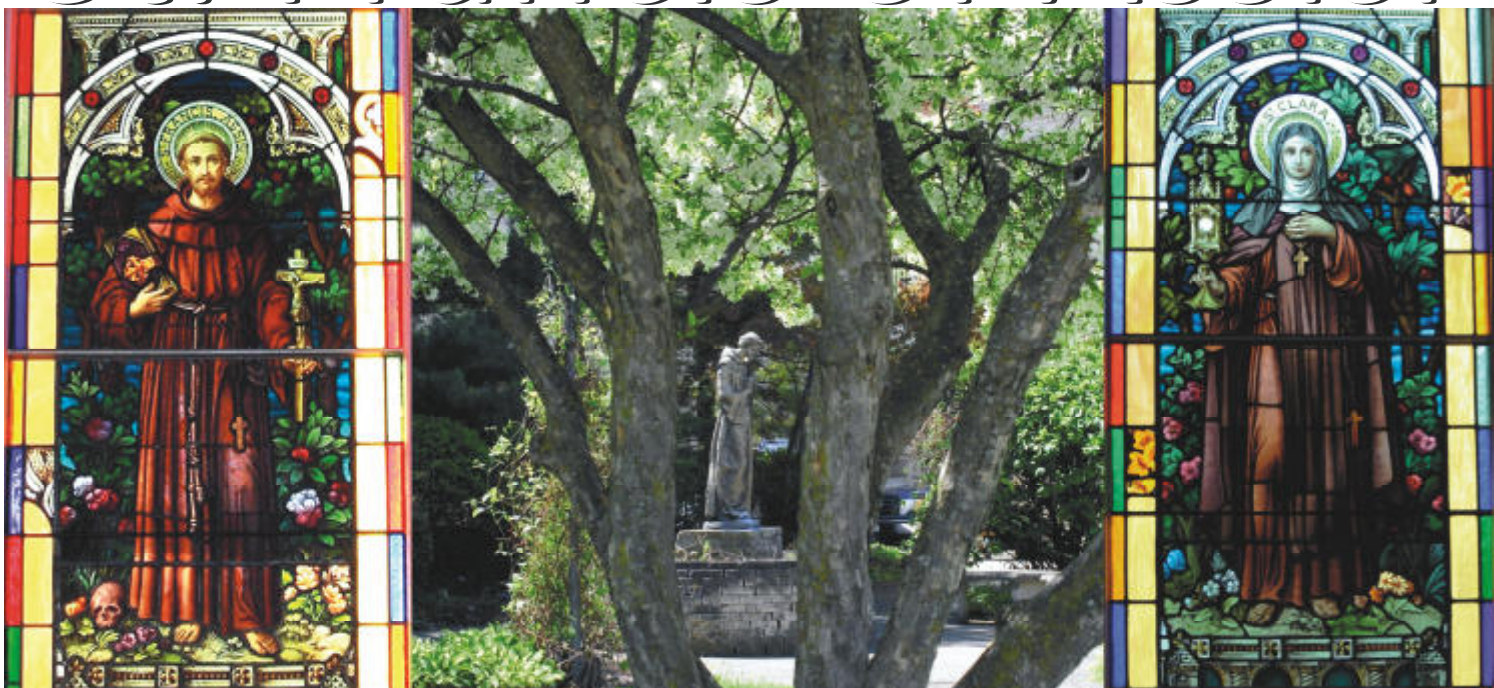


St. Francis of Assisi



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 22: Dn 13:1-9,15-17,30,33-62; Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday, March 23: Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday, March 24: Dn 3:14-20,91-92,95; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday, March 25: Is 7:1-14--8:10; Heb 10:4-40; Lk 1:26-38

Friday, March 26: Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42

Saturday, March 27: Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56

Sun, March 28: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Procession with Palms - Mark 11:1-10

1st Reading - Isaiah 50:4-7

2nd Reading - Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel - Mark 14:1--15:47 or 15:1-39



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

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 22 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 Harold Kreger by Family

Tuesday, March 23 - Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

8:30 Rev. Albert Hansen by Parish

Wednesday, March 24 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 Vincent Fields by Outreach

Thursday, March 25 - The Annunciation of the Lord

8:30 Thomas Sliwa (Birthday) by Family

Friday, March 26 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 Frida Blackmon by Outreach

Saturday, March 27 - Lenten Weekday

4:30 Joseph Jurczak by Ken & Diane Horn

Sunday, March 28 - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

9:00 Dalton Gauthier by Family

11:00 Mary Biracree by Family

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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 27

4:30 p.m. Pat Trimper

Sunday, March 28

9:00 a.m. Fran Phillips, Linda Szmanda (choir)

11:30 a.m. Sylvia Fritz

CANTOR SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 27

4:30 p.m. Dan Deyell

Sunday, March 28

9:00 a.m. Dan Deyell

LECTOR SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 27

4:30 p.m. Karen Szafran

Sunday, March 28

9:00 a.m. Ernie Renaud

11:30 a.m. Mary Ellen Roche

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

Loose Church Offering envelopes are available in the Church vestibule and the table in the Chapel. 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 24

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

Thursday, March 25

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

Friday, March 26

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

Saturday, March 27

3-4 p.m. Confessions - Chapel

Sunday, March 28 - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

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, Oliver Laub. **Please notify the rectory when their names can be removed!**

Lent and Holy Week Schedule

Friday, March 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

No confessions today!
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

Social Distancing Guidance for Liturgies

Thank you for your cooperation during this difficult time. In order to accommodate growing Mass participation, please note the following: Families may continue to sit together in the same pew. Others must remain socially distant. If you come to church alone, or with one other person, please move to the middle of the pew to make room for others to be seated. Also, be sure to sign the contact-tracing forms at the doors of the Church, and work with the ushers to find safe and socially distant seating. We all need to cooperate at this time to make sure that everyone can come to church and worship safely. Please remember to wear a mask at all liturgies. If you don’t have one, there is a supply of masks in the vestibule, along with hand sanitizer.

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, PVT1C Willard Bruce, MP Bobby Kindred, SGT James Retzer, PVT Jeffrey Alexander, PVT1C 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 Danielle 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,

I have been reading the “Best Lent Ever” every day. One of the daily talks was about prayer.

How do you begin your day? Try starting each day with prayer.

Matthew Kelly said “I am challenging you to spend some time each day in prayer. Now, I want to encourage you to begin your day with prayer. I realize not everyone’s a morning person. Whether you’re a morning person or not, I really encourage you. Just give it a try. What do you have to lose? Give it a try for a few days, for a few weeks. Start your day with prayer, and see how it begins to transform you.”

Each day I pray to the Holy Spirit to help me and guide me. I (we) have faced some challenging days and I (we) need a little help. So I look to the Holy Spirit. I hope for better days ahead so maybe start your day with a prayer, it can’t hurt and most certainly will help!

Please visit our web page or call the ECC for information on registration for the fall. Thank you for your support and prayers.

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.

**Hold yourself to a higher
standard than anyone
expects of you.**



LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION

- We discuss the Holy Spirit’s gift of PIETY this weekend at GOF. The gift of piety fosters the following spiritual dispositions: first, filial respect for God as a loving Father; second, a generous and childlike love, so that a person wants to please God, even if it means making sacrifices; and third, a loving obedience toward the teachings and commandments, respecting them as expressions of God’s love for us. As such, a person approaches prayer or worship at Mass not as a task or burden but as an act of joyful love; a person adheres to the commandments and teachings of the Church — as difficult as it may be at the time, given “popular” opinion — because he knows they express God’s truth and therefore show the way to eternal life. Piety also makes us love and have affection for “God’s friends” — the Blessed Mother Mary, the saints and the angels; or “God’s representatives” who exercise His authority — the Holy Father, the bishop, or parents; or “God’s treasures” — the Bible, the church, or blessed religious objects. We bow, genuflect and are reverent in church because of the gift of PIETY!



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 any of the following: canned fruit & veggies, coffee & tea bags, desserts, cake mix & frosting, boxed dessert mixes, and Easter candy, jelly beans & chocolates.** Please place your donation in the Barrel by the Chapel or Church 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. If you have a child ages 12-17 who is displaying chronic behaviors such as: noncompliance, verbal and/or physical aggression, school failure, curfew violations, running away, illegal substance abuse and/or criminal activity in two or more environments (home, school and/or community), consider Catholic Charities’ **Multisystemic Therapy Program** in Erie, Niagara, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties. MST is an intensive, family-focused intervention provided in the natural environment of the youth. Interventions are research-based and the program offers 24/7 availability. For more information about MST, call 204-0555, ext. 330 or visit www.ccwny.org/mst. In other WNY counties, office-based counseling is always available to families at www.ccwny.org/counseling.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

When Our Own Hour Comes

We parents know that it’s tricky, tackling the topic of fear with our kids. We want them to know that it’s okay to be scared, that it’s something we all feel from time to time. We want them to understand that bravery isn’t the absence of fear, but the choices we make in persevering despite that feeling.

Most of all, we want to model the right kind of behavior for our kids. Whatever our scary situation is — illness, a job loss, life changes — we want them to see us make a choice to face that fear head-on.

Jesus seems to be the parent who is gently broaching the topic of fear with his children. A great sense of foreboding hangs over these readings. Jesus knew what was coming. He knew it was going to be hard, both for him and for his followers, who did not have his courage. Even he admits to being “troubled” and he speaks of “the time of judgment.” There is the dramatic raising of Lazarus, the talk of how a grain of wheat must die in order to bear fruit, the depiction of Christ as an obedient student of his own suffering.

“Yet what should I say?” he asks them. “‘Father, save me from this hour?’ But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour.”

This week, Christ gives us a very parental gift: He shows us his fear, and he shows us how to conquer it. He challenges us to embrace the purpose for which we came to this hour — whatever that hour may hold.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi


UPCOMING EVENTS

O’Hara Practice Exam - Cardinal O’Hara High School is offering a free practice exam at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, April 17 for seventh graders who are interested in taking the Catholic High School Entrance and Scholarship exam in the fall. The practice exam is designed to help a student become more familiar with the content, format and timing of the exam so they will be better prepared for the November Catholic High School exam that could lead to a higher scholarship from Cardinal O’Hara High School. For more information, call Thomas Wilkie at 695-2600, ext. 333 or email twilkie@cardinalohara.com.

Open House - will be held at Cardinal O’Hara High School. The in-person event from 4-7 p.m. April 20 will be by appointment only. A virtual tour will start at 6:30 p.m. April 27. Each will give visitors an opportunity to meet students and faculty and learn what O’Hara has to offer. Faculty members will be on hand to answer questions. For more information or to make an appointment, contact Thomas Wilkie, admissions director, at 695-2600, ext. 357 or visit www.cardinalohara.com.

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