

February 21, 2021

St. John the Baptist

A Respect Life Parish

1085 Englewood Avenue, Kenmore, NY 14223



Shrine of St. John Neumann
Founding Pastor, 1836

Parish Website
www.stjohnskenmore.org

Rectory
873-1122 · Fax 873-3305

Outreach
873-2933

School
877-6401

Msgr. Charles A. Klauder
Parish Center
873-1122

Pastor
Rev. Michael J. Parker

Pastoral Assistant
Sister Jolene Ellis, OSF

School Principal
Mrs. Jenny Bainbridge

School Website
www.stjohnskenmore.com

Faith Formation
873-1122
stjohnskenmorefaithformation@gmail.com

Director of Youth
Nora Deakin

Director of Music
Ms. Cheryl Brinker

Masses

Saturdays: 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Sundays: 8:00, 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon

Weekdays & Holy Days: Schedule inside Bulletin.

Confessions

Tuesdays: 4:00 p.m. Any time by appointment.

Novena

To Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. John Neumann, after 12:00 noon Mass, Wednesdays, Church.

Holy Hour for Life

Friday, 1:00-2:00 p.m., Chapel.

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday through Friday, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Chapel.

Parish Office Hours

Available Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Evening: By appointment only.

New Parishioners

We warmly welcome you to our Parish Community. Please contact the Rectory as soon as possible.

Baptisms

Sunday at 1:15 p.m. Parents must attend the Baptism Preparation Program held each month, in advance of scheduling the Baptism. Please call the Rectory office for schedule and further information.

Weddings

Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance.

Hearing Impaired

This church has the latest in hearing assistance. Small, portable devices are available in the sacristy for individual use.

All are encouraged to sacrificial giving of time, talent and treasure.

Please remember the parish in your will.



MISSION STATEMENT

"St. John the Baptist is a Roman Catholic parish founded by St. John Neumann where God is loved and present in the liturgy, the sacraments and the community, faith is enriched, faith grows through our teaching and experiencing the gospel, all are welcomed in the spirit of openness and generosity, and charity is extended through our ministry to all."

First Sunday of Lent

Living the Paschal Mystery

Every year on the First Sunday of Lent, the gospel proclaimed is the wilderness temptation of Jesus. Mark's account is honed to three short verses following immediately and urgently after the baptism of Jesus. The Spirit "drove" Jesus into the wilderness, says Mark. Jesus is driven by the Holy Spirit and tossed into the physical and spiritual space where, before he begins his public ministry, before he proclaims one word of the Good News, he struggles with two consequences of his baptism: his naming as Son of God and his solidarity with humanity. He is alone with the memory of his ancestors and their wilderness wandering in what for them was not only a place of God's revelation and promises, but also a place of their temptations and failures. Jesus will show himself to be the most faithful Israelite.

Jesus comes out from his wilderness experience strengthened for praise and pain and mission. We, as baptized in his name, are called to be mindful of the struggle between sin and grace, success and failure, into which we too are tossed. We observe these Lenten weeks of heightened awareness of the importance of uncluttered spiritual and physical space where we can come to grips with our pain, where we can discover the beauty of God and our sisters and brothers under the surface sands of our busy lives.

Mark 1:12-15

Masses for the Week

Monday, February 22 - The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle

8:00 Martha Casey Lang by Jim & Kathy Verso

12:00 Mary DeAngelis by Cookie & Ed Camardo

Tuesday, February 23 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 Dick Kolf by McKeown family

12:00 James & Florence Morrissey by family

Wednesday, February 24 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 Stephanie A. Brewer by Michelle (Kavanaugh) Norris

12:00 Darleen Michalak by family

Thursday, February 25 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 Leonard Weiss by Joann Scime

12:00 Rosalie Panek by family

Friday, February 26 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 Marilyn Malucci by Buzz & Ann Stafford

12:00 James Szemraj by John Baxter

Saturday, February 27 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 Elizabeth Pierce by family

Vigil of the Second Sunday of Lent

4:00 Joseph DiRaimondo by wife Kathy

7:00 Deacon James Waggoner by family



Sunday, February 28- Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 John Samol by John Baxter

10:00 Mary Lou Christiano by Ann & Buzz Stafford

12:00 Michael Anzalone by wife & family

Baptismal Preparation

We welcome families who wish to have their child baptized here at St. John's. Please call the rectory office at 873-1122 to find out details of preparation.

St. John the Baptist RC Church

This Week at St. John's

Monday, February 22

- Rel Ed- Mr. Mical, RCR, 6:15-7:30pm

- BS104 Troop mtg., gym, 6:30-9pm

- Carissime Women's Prayer, chapel, 7:30-9pm

Tuesday, February 23

- Rel Ed Gr. 4,5, & 6, School, 6:15 -7:30pm

- Confessions, church, 4-5pm

- Cub104 Den meeting, PR/26, 6:30-9pm

Wednesday, February 24

Thursday, February 25

- BS104 Leaders mtg, 26, 7-9 pm

Friday, February 26

Saturday, February 27

- BS104 Troop Rec/basketball, gym, 2-4pm

Sunday, February 28

- Cub104 Pack mtg., gym, 6:30-9pm



We Remember in our Prayers...

Those who are ill, and those who have died, Richard Tidd. May they rest in peace.

We welcome to the parish: Hilary Woods; Justin Bennett; Kerri & Frederick Brace; James, Traci, Daniel, & Auggie Blenk.

We pray in thanksgiving for widespread distribution of the covid-19 vaccine and for all who have been impacted by this pandemic.

Public Celebration of Masses

Weekday and weekend Masses are in the church
M-F: 8am & 12pm Sat.: 4pm & 7pm Sun.: 8, 10am & noon

Dispensation from Mass attendance is still in effect.

For your safety and the safety of all who are present:
Face covering/mask is required Social distancing is required
Communion only in the hand Ushers/escorts will seat you

Church is open for private prayer daily
Mon. - Thurs. 8am-4pm Fri. 8am-2:30pm
Sat. 8am-8pm Sun. 8am-2pm
Enter through the doors next to the RCR parking lot.

OUR OFFERING TO GOD **Weekly Support Offering**

02/7/2021

Regular Collection.....\$13,292.44
(Online giving included)

This week last year.....\$12,488.17

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER MICHAEL

With Gratitude

St. John's *Upon This Rock: Standing Together in Faith* initiative has received a semi-annual disbursement of \$19,127.54. We continue to use the gifts for our parish as specified during our campaign.

The funds allow us to do vital repairs and work including:

- Two new furnaces for the Church. Hopefully this spring two more (4000 BTU's) will be replaced as fund becomes available.
- An additional camera for streaming Mass/services from Church.
- New gutters and drain line replacement due to a drain collapse.

Thank you for your willingness to honor your pledges and commitments.

If you have not as yet participated in the *Upon this Rock* initiative, please think about a pledge or a gift. All gifts can be fulfilled over a period of months, years, or through estate planning. I will be glad to assist those considering gifting the parish in any way now or in the future.

Blessings and appreciation for all you share with your parish.



St. John's Social Justice 34th Sleep Out for the Homeless

You can still donate to this worthy cause in one of four ways!

- Drop your donation cash or ***check payable to St. John the Baptist***, (clearly mark "Sleep-out") in the weekly collection basket.
- Drop your cash or check off at the rectory.
- Place your check in the mail, send to Deborah Finamore, 44 Belmont Ave., Buffalo, NY 14223.
- Help build a virtual house (in church as we have done in the past), purchase bricks for \$5, windows \$15, doors \$25, & roofs \$50.

Make checks payable to St. John the Baptist Church & memo "Sleep-out", our Social Justice Committee determines the local agencies to receive the funds.

Holy Honey!

How about a drizzle of honey on top of your favorite ice cream?!

Check out Fr. Ryszard's 100% Natural Holy honey. There are 2 size jars available in the rectory, 1 lb. jars (Light or Dark) \$8. Also 1/2 lb. bear jars for \$4.50.

With appreciation from Fr. Ryszard!



A Prayer for Lent

Loving God,

we are embarking on a Lenten journey together, you and I.

We are invited to let the Holy Spirit purify our hearts, and strengthen us in love.

That feels like what I am looking for – or what you are looking for in me.

I want to remember how much I need you in my life and how much my life needs redemption.

I want to remember it clearly each day all through Lent.

May my small sacrifices in fasting be a way to clear away the clutter in my life to see you more clearly.

May my longing for food and drink help me to focus my life more outside myself, more toward others.

Let me be aware of those who are suffering more than I am, and may I be aware of them as the brothers and sisters you have placed in my life.

Bless these days with your Word.

Let your light shine in the darkness.

Help me long for the Light

as I journey through these holy days.

I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart.

Jesus you're the one I love;

you're the one I know.

You're the one who makes me strong, Spirit in my soul.

Symbol of your love from the grain so tall.

Bread, blessed and broken for us all,

bread of life you give to us,

bread of life for all. Amen.



Holy Name Easter Raffle

St. John's Holy Name Society is holding their annual Easter raffle fundraiser with chances of winning \$75 in Dash's gift cards and more!

Tickets are a donation of \$1 each or a book of 6 for \$5. Drawings will be held on March 28th, 2021. Tickets are available in the parish office during regular business hours or from a HNS member.





SCHOOL NEWS

**Register Now
for
Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten & Grades 1 to 8**



St. John the Baptist School is now registering for its various programs for September 2021. We offer both full and part-time 3-year-old Pre-Kindergarten Programs, as well as a full-day Pre-Kindergarten 4-year-old and Kindergarten program. We are also enrolling for Grades 1 to 8. With our on-site before and after-school programs, St. John's can meet all of your childcare needs.

St. John's is the premier place to educate your child. Our programs include music, art, technology, library, and physical education. Moreover, our foreign language program begins in 4th Grade. Our focus on STEM/STREAM curriculum (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Religion and the Arts) is integrated into our daily curriculum as well as in after school enrichment academy courses.

We invite you to schedule a personal tour of our school by telephoning (716) 877-6401. Also, visit us on-line at www.stjohnskenmore.com for additional information. Your child's future starts at St. John's!

School Masks & Gaiters

St. John's face-masks and gaiters are still available for purchase.

MASKS: are adjustable to fit youth or adults and are \$5.00 each.

GAITERS: are youth size and are also \$5.00 each.

Both items are available in the rectory office OR by calling the school office at 877-6401.

Virtual Open House Partnerships

Due to the restrictions with COVID-19, a traditionally fun part of our students' school experience, attending field trips, is sorely missed. However, St. John's students have been given the opportunity to attend "virtual" field trips with many area partners and organizations!

Through funding from the Diocese of Buffalo STREAM Initiative, St. John's students will "visit" places such as the Explore & More Museum, Penn Dixie, and the Aquarium of Niagara. Students will have an opportunity to talk with experts about what they do and how it relates to what the students are learning in school!

Religious Education Teacher of the Week



St John the Baptist
Religious Education
Praying & Growing Together

This week we are spotlighting **Mrs. Denise Wirth** who teaches religion to our 7th and 8th graders! She is in her 11th year of sharing her faith with our students. Denise is an occupational therapist in Albion and works with children in the school system. She is married and has two awesome boys! The Wirth family have been parishioners of St. John's for 21 years. We are happy to have Denise here!

Contemplative Prayer Group

Contemplative Prayer gatherings will be taking place virtually until further notice. This is to assure the safety of our participants during the coronavirus pandemic. For any questions please contact Judy McFadden.

2021 Schedule: February 25, March 11, March 25, April 8, April 22, May 6, May 20

Vocations

Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days of prayer and fasting. In places of solitude we too can hear the voice of God. Take some time to listen this Lent. If God is calling you to a Church vocation, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit buffalovocations.org

A New Parish Ministry

Poor Widows of Saint Mary Ministry

Mission Statement:

With the graces of Saint Mary our patroness, we seek to assist in the growth of personal holiness while embracing the widowed state of life in service to the Church.

No meetings

A private prayerful ministry

A monthly Letter of Reflection will be sent

Those widows interested in this ministry, please fill out the form below and place it in the collection basket, or drop off at the parish office.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Black & Indian Missions **February 20-21**

This weekend we will take up a collection for The Black and Indian Mission. This collection (BIMC) exists to help diocesan communities to build up the Church and preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American, Native American, and Alaska Native people of God.

Every year, it is the amazing generosity of Catholic faithful just like you who enable the Black and Indian Mission Office to support the following important priorities:

Enlivening parish life & catechesis
Helping educators reach kids
Empowering evangelizers
Encouraging vocations

Please give generously to this mission. For more information visit www.blackandindianmission.org

OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY

A special "shout out" to the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce who had a food drive in their area. They distributed the food they collected to the various food pantries in their area and then, they reached out to us.

We are grateful for the food they contributed to St. John's!

This week we can use:

Crackers
Albacore Tuna Fish
Crushed Tomatoes
Brownies Mix
Canned Peas
Tomato Soup
Vegetable Soup



Thank you for your continued generosity toward those in need.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Prayer shawls are made available for our parish members who await surgery, are ill, homebound, or in crisis. Due to current virus restrictions, shawls are available for parishioners to pick up only at the rectory. They are blessed by Fr. Parker, steamed, and bagged for your safety.

New meeting schedule: Feb. 24, Mar. 24, Apr. 28, May 26
Meetings will be in the Reina Community Room, 6:30-8:30pm
We will wear masks, social distance, and limit attendance.

Interested in becoming a member? We can teach you.

Share your heart thru your handwork.

Please remember prayer shawl recipients in your prayers.

Call Betty at 877-3447 or the rectory for more information.

Blessed Prayer Shawls are available in the rectory for your needs. They are blessed by Fr. Parker, steamed, and bagged for your safety.

Adoration in the Chapel

This Lent why not devote quiet time with Jesus? The Saint John Neumann Shrine is open for Eucharistic Adoration Monday thru Friday from 2 to 4 pm.

St. John's Welcomes New Parishioners

If you are looking for a parish to make your own, we would love to have you join our faith community here at St. John's. Daily Masses are 8am & 12pm. Weekend liturgies are Sat. 4 & 7pm/Sun. 8, 10am & 12pm.
Call the rectory at 716-873-1122 for more information.

Need a Good Laugh?



And then there is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation:

"I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we should have enough money to pay for our new building proposal. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

AREA NEWS

The **Cardinal O'Hara Retired Priest Residence** is starting a gardening club to assist in the care of their garden and grounds. **Volunteers are needed** to assist with plantings and maintenance of the property.

If you are interested in getting some fresh air and your hands dirty by joining in the fun, we would enjoy your company from early spring to autumn. The priests would be greatly appreciative of your efforts. Please call Kathy at your convenience for more information and to learn about the first meeting.

716-260-2898/kdaigler-santana@buffalodiocese.org



Queen of Heaven LENTEN FISH DINNERS: March 5, March 19 from 4-7 PM. \$12 includes beer battered fish, macaroni salad, coleslaw, rye bread & butter.

DRIVE THRU Dinners by Andrews BBQ, Pick up only at Queen of Heaven Parish, enter on 4256 Seneca Street to Rear parking lot-exit to Mill Road. **PREORDER AT** www.qofhcarnival.com/fishry

LENTEN FISH FRY TAKE-OUT ONLY: February 26, March 5, March 12, March 19, and March 26 at **St. Greg's Ministry Center**. 4:00 -7:00pm Menu: Fried Fish, Fresh Baked Fish or Breaded Shrimp served with French Fries, Cole Slaw, and Roll

Pre-Sale Tickets: \$11.00 online or at the Parish Office, Store or Café Walk-in at the Door: \$12.00

Bocce's Pizza available \$2.00 per slice

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