

# HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS

THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
JANUARY 30/31, 2021

In life, every emotion we have comes from our hearts, not our heads. Whether it be love, joy, sadness, grief, hatred, jealousy, empathy, or even fear, we're driven by the force of nature that beats in the middle of our chests. And whether the decisions it causes us to make are rational or not, the fact that we **can** make them is what makes us special as humans and children of God.

The psalmist this weekend tells us: "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." So we can't help but ask ourselves, "When and **why** do I harden my heart?" When our heart is broken or something doesn't go our way, do we harden our heart to pretend the hurt isn't there, or do we give it up to God in prayer?

During the course of Mass, we're instructed to do the complete opposite of 'hardening our hearts.' We're invited to **lift** up our hearts to the Lord. God has big shoulders, and all that stuff we carry around that make our hearts heavy, God will gladly take. All the love and joy that sometimes makes it feel like our heart is ready to burst? God takes that, too.

St. Augustine once said, 'Our hearts are restless, Lord, until they rest in you.' As humans, we can't help how we feel, and a lot of the time, we don't even understand it. However, there is someone who will **always** understand it: God. Going forward, let's not harden our hearts, but give them back to the one who put them there in the first place.

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# FROM THE DIOCESE

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, ashes should not be imposed on a person's forehead in the usual manner. Instead, the European custom of sprinkling ashes on the crown of a person's head should be employed.

We have had a year filled with different ways of living and praying. There are fewer people in church. No water in the front. Less singing. Communion primarily in the hand. No coffee and doughnuts on the way home. Yet we still pray.

Instead of giving ashes as a cross on the forehead—unsafe in this COVID time—we can still receive them by sprinkling on the top of the head (permitted by our ritual rules).

Sprinkling ashes on the crown of the head recalls the biblical method of putting on sackcloth and ashes as a sign of penance: “Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth upon their heads” (Neh 9:1).

We will look a little cleaner. We can still repent, and believe in the Gospel. We will still bear ashes home to begin our lenten practices, borne of our hearts.

-Sr. Regina Murphy, SSMN  
Chancellor



## A COVID-19 PRAYER

For all who have contracted coronavirus, we pray for care and healing. For those who are particularly vulnerable, we pray for safety and protection. For our brothers and sisters around the world, we pray for shared solidarity. Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all. Grant peace. Grant comfort. Grant healing. Be with us, Lord. Amen.

## THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### First Reading

**Dt 18:15-20**

Moses spoke to all the people, saying: "A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you from among your own kin; to him you shall listen. This is exactly what you requested of the LORD, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let us not again hear the voice of the LORD, our God, nor see this great fire any more, lest we die.' And the LORD said to me, 'This was well said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him. Whoever will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I myself will make him answer for it. But if a prophet presumes to speak in my name an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die.'"

The word of the Lord.

**R/. Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9**

**R/. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; let us acclaim the rock of our salvation.  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to him. **R/.**

Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us.  
For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides. **R/.**

Oh, that today you would hear his voice: "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as in the day of Massah in the desert, Where your fathers tempted me;  
they tested me though they had seen my works." **R/.**

### Second Reading

**1 Cor 7:32-35**

Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties. An unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord. But a married man is anxious about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and he is divided. An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy in both body and spirit. A married woman, on the other hand, is anxious about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. I am telling you this for your own benefit, not to impose a restraint upon you, but for the sake of propriety and adherence to the Lord without distraction.

The word of the Lord.

**R/. Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel

**Mk 1:21-28**

Then they came to Capernaum, and on the sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him."

His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

# DISCIPLES STAY IN THE KNOW

## REMEMBERING THE CHILDREN

Harvest House Bottles for Babies Campaign begins February 13th, 2021. As in past years, parishioners are invited to take a baby bottle home, fill it with loose change, and return it by March 21/21. Bottle returns can be placed in the collection basket during weekend Masses. The monetary donations collected in the baby bottles will benefit the baby ministry at Harvest House. Thank you in advance for being so generous with this ministry, especially during this global pandemic.

## DRIVE-BY FISH FRY

It's "o-fish-al"! We're offering a drive-by fish fry!

**WHAT:** DRIVE-THRU BWs BBQ Fish Fry DINNER (PRE-SALE ONLY). Includes: Beer battered haddock, potato salad and coleslaw, lemon wedge, rye bread & butter, tartar sauce.

**WHEN:** Friday, February 26, 2021

**TIME:** 4:00pm - 6:00pm

**WHERE:** St. Amrbose Site (Okell St. side)  
COST: \$15

Mail a check into the parish office, stop by during business hours, or order right online on our parish website via WeShare ('Donate Online' button).

## PARISH TRANSITION PRAYER

God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on Our Lady of Charity parish and guide us during our time of transition. We pray we will be saying "Welcome" to a new Pastor soon and ask that you bless our parish with a Priest whose presence will be a grace both for him and for us. We are filled with faith, energized by the power of your love and united in the mission entrusted to us. We need your grace to be receptive to this change and view it as an invitation to conversion and growth. We pray this in the name of your Son and Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

Our Lady of Charity, pray for us.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Friday of every month.

Immediately following the 8:00am Daily Mass till 9:30am.

Come spend some time with the Lord as he is exposed on the altar. Various devotions will be offered, with Benediction to follow.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Lent will be here before we know it! Our Ash Wednesday Mass schedule is as follows:

8:00am - St. Ambrose Site

Noon - Holy Family Site

5:30pm - Holy Family Site

7:00pm - St. Ambrose Site

## WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

### Saturday

4:00pm (St. Ambrose Site)

### Sunday

8:30am (Holy Family Site)

10:00am (St. Ambrose Site)

11:30am (Holy Family Site)

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 4:30pm

Currently by appointment only.

(Office will be closed 12:00pm - 12:30pm for lunch)

Friday, closed

(716) 822-5962

Please consider remembering our parish community in your will.

### Temporary Administrator

Fr. Robert Mock

### Parochial Vicar

Fr. Martin Gallagher  
Fr.Gallagher@olcp.org

### Deacons

Deacon Tim Maloney  
Deacon Steve Schumer

### Business Manager

Elaine Williams  
E.Williams@olcp.org

### Director of Music & Worship

Brian Meyer  
music@olcp.org

### Administrative Assistant

Diana Deck  
d.deck@olcp.org

### SBCS at NDA Principal

Tristan D'Angelo  
824-0726

### Sacramental Preparation

Maureen Brown  
Kathleen Mulqueen

### Weekend/Weekday Help

Fr. Richard (Duke) Zajac  
Fr. Robert (Bob) Hora

### Prayer Link

768-4022

# DISCIPLES STAY ACTIVE

## COMMUNITY DINNERS

If you are interested or would like some more information please contact the parish office at 822-5962 or Mary Anne at 822-1837. Thank you!

**Sponsors for the coming weeks include:**

February 5: Boy Scouts

February 12: St. Vincent de Paul

**February 19: Volunteers Needed (Meatless)**

February 26: St. Vincent de Paul

## WEATHER UPDATE

Please note: If Buffalo Public Schools are closed due to hazardous winter weather, there will be NO Daily Mass that day. Please stay safe.

## INTERESTED IN BEING ON PARISH COUNCIL?

Do you love OLCP? Would you enjoy guiding the parish to a bright future? Parish Council is looking for fresh leadership. Previous experience is not necessary; only a devotion to serving. Parishioners college-age and above are encouraged to discern if Parish Council is right for them. Please feel free to call the Parish Office for more information.

Council terms run for three years, and they meet monthly. Our goal is to meet quarterly after pandemic challenges abate. Your voice is important! Represent OLCP with action. Thank you!

## NEW PARISH ENVELOPES

Envelopes are available to pick up at the Parish Office (260 Okell St.) during business hours. If you are unable to pick them up during this time, simply call the office and we will leave them in the unlocked vestibule or at whatever Mass you attend. Thank you for your understanding.

## TAX STATEMENTS

Any parishioner who would like a statement of your donations for 2020 should submit your request in writing. Please include your name, address, and envelope number. All requests should be in the parish office by January 31, 2021. You may put your request in the collection basket. Thank you very much for those who include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

## CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Any high school students interested in being confirmed in the fall of 2021 must register no later than Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms can be picked up in the vestibule at St. Ambrose office. They need to be completed and returned no later than February 15<sup>th</sup>.

They can be dropped in the collection (in an envelope) at either church or dropped in the mail slot at the parish office (just inside the door) attention to: Maureen Brown. The first class will be held on Mon. Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 6:30pm. Masks must be worn by all who attend.

## \*\* PLEASE NOTE: IMPORTANT \*\*

**Good News:** The restoration work at our Holy Family site is continuing this coming week! Due to the amount of scaffolding that will be up, the fumes from paint removal, and the repairing of the Lift-a-vator, **ALL MASSES WILL BE AT THE ST. AMBROSE SITE STARTING FEB. 1 until further notice.** Our goal is to have everything completed by Easter. Stay tuned to Facebook for updates!



## SAVE THE DATES



• **Healing Mass in Honor of St. Agatha** •  
Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm - St. Ambrose Site

All are invited for a special anointing in honor of St. Agatha, patroness of breast cancer.

• **Ash Wednesday** •  
Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>

8:00am - St. Ambrose Site, 12:00pm - Holy Family Site,  
5:30pm - Holy Family Site, 7:00pm - St. Ambrose Site

## FUN FACT:

Prior to the mid-1960s, this Sunday would have been called 'Septuagesima' (Latin for 'Seventieth'). It was a pre-Lent season that lasted three weeks. Vestments would already be violet, and the Alleluia would be gone.

# DISCIPLES PRAY TOGETHER

## PRE-BAPTISM SESSION

Before your child's Baptism, parents must virtually attend a Pre-Baptismal instruction class. The next session will be on **Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm** via Zoom. Please call the office (822-5962) to register. **Parents, remember you must have letters of recommendation from the godparents before the Baptism date can be set.**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NDA

Did you know that once your child is registered at Notre Dame Academy you are automatically a member of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)? We have been meeting via Zoom this year. Watch the Notre Dame Academy Facebook page for the link.

Do you know anyone looking for a great Catholic School? Please tell them about Notre Dame Academy. Please call 716-824-0726 today. For more information on South Buffalo Catholic School Notre Dame Academy please follow them on Facebook or visit: [www.notredamebuffalo.org](http://www.notredamebuffalo.org)

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

Let us remember all those who have gone before us. **+Judith O'Leary, +Sr. Elaine Franz, +Cheryl Fisher, +David Rose.** May they rest in peace.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

"MASTER, THE ONE YOU LOVE IS ILL." (JOHN 11:1-2)

Irene Andrzejewski, Irene Barrett, Louise Beamish, Teresa Beamish, Ann Alvira-Buchnowski, Patricia Cajak, Maureen Canney, Cheryl Clontz, Patricia Colern, Caroline Dominesey, Dottie Eberle, Brigid Evans, Vara Jones, Linda Kurcz, Janet Murray, Karen O'Neill, Maryann Rigby, Sandy Riley, Jane Rozek, Mary Sands, June Stebbins, Ruth White

Daniel Barry, Michael Beyers, Leon Bolick, Owen Chase, Eric Crawford, Vincent Crawford, Frank Czapezyk, Francis Davis, Larry Deskiewicz, Richard Dinnocenzo, Paul Fitzpatrick, Jason Florea, John Godwin, Eric G., Trooper Joseph Gallagher, Emmett Jakubowski, Rob Karr, Pat Kuhn, Robert Maggio, George Rodriguez, Josean Rodriguez, The family of Coach Frank Rossi, Jeremiah Smith, Jim Sweeney

**If you have anyone you would like added to the sick list, please contact the Parish Office.**

## NEWLY BAPTIZED

Welcome to **Adalyn Alice Haynes**, baptized in our parish this weekend! May the Lord bless her and her family as she begins her faith journey!

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Sat. / Sun., Jan. 30/31 - 4th Sun. in Ord. Time

- SA • 4:00pm  
**Diane Deacon** (req. by the Feeley Family)
- HF • 8:30am  
**Thomas Brinkworth** (req. by Tony & Cathy Bevilaqua)
- SA • 10:00am  
**Catherine & (son) Jim Parkinson** (req. by their family)
- HF • 11:30am  
**Steve Horvath** (req. by Maryann Csicsay)

### Mon., Feb. 1 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- SA • 8:00am - **Mary Clancy** (req. by Joan Smith)

### Tues., Feb. 2 - The Presentation of our Lord

- SA • 8:00am - **Pat & Mary Eusanio** (req. by Frank Cwick)

### Wed., Feb. 3 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- SA • 8:00am - **People of the Parish** (req. by Fr. Mock)

### Thurs., Feb. 4 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- SA • 8:00am - **Donna Bow** (req. by the OLCP Seniors)

### Fri., Feb. 5 - St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

- SA • 8:00am - **Herbert Coyne** (req. by St. Vincent de Paul Soc.)
- SA • 5:30pm - **All Who Need Healing**

### Sat. / Sun., Feb. 6/7 - 5th Sun. in Ord. Time

- SA • 4:00pm  
**Christine Lycett** (req. by Marie O'Brien)
- HF • 8:30am  
**Elizabeth McNamara** (req. by her family)
- SA • 10:00am  
**Mrs. Nguyen Nguyen** (req. by her family)
- HF • 11:30am  
**Cheryl Fisher** (req. by the Choir)

## SANCTUARY LAMPS

### St. Ambrose Site (January 31 - February 6)

**Christine Lycett** (req. by Marie O'Brien)

## HEALING MASS

We could all use some healing! Join us for a very special Healing Mass in honor of St. Agatha, patron saint of breast cancer, on Friday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30pm at the St. Ambrose site. All are welcome! Anointing will be available. **St. Agatha, pray for us!**

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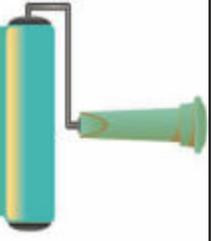
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