Our Lady of Peace Church

10950 Main Street, Clarence, New York 14031

Telephone: 759-8554 Fax: 759-8537 Rectory Office E-mail: olpclarence@wny.twcbc.com
Web Site: www.olpclarence.org Religious Education E-mail: olpreligioused@wny.twcbc.com

Retired Pastors
Msgr. Richard L. Wetter
Rev. Thomas D. Doyle

Pastor
Rev. Walter Szczesny

Permanent Deacon
Arthur Sullivan

Parish Trustees
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Lewis Wargo

Coordinator of Religious Education
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Bookkeeper
Kathy Kreppel

Parish Secretary
Karen Molitor

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Cathy Karda

Holy Name Society
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Sr. Barbara Bogden, OSF

Outreach
Sr. Barbara Bogden, OSF

Bereavement
Sr. Barbara Bogden, OSF

Choir & Music Director
Trudy Wargo

Msgr. Hammerl Parish Center Use & Rentals

Knights of Columbus
Christopher Martin

Youth Group
Karen Abt

PARISH MASSES:
Saturday: 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Monday: 8:00 am
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 6:30 am, 8:00 am
Friday: 6:30 am
Holy Day: 7:00 p.m. Vigil Mass, Holy Day 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:
Rectory office hours are 8:30 am until 2:30 pm Monday thru Thursday and 9 am until 12 noon on Friday. Closed on holidays. In case of emergency, call at any time.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE HOURS:
Mondays and Fridays, 9 am until 12 noon, except holidays.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:
Saturday from 3:30-4:00 pm. Anytime upon request.

BAPTISMS:
Baptismal instruction is required. Please call the rectory to register for a class.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:
In case of an emergency, please call the rectory.

NEW PARISHIONERS:
You are asked to register at the parish office either in person or by phone. Registration forms can also be found on our parish website: www.olpclarence.org.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:
Letters needed for Baptismal and Confirmation sponsors are issued gladly to those who are registered parishioners, attend Mass regularly, have been confirmed, if married, have done so in conformity with the laws of the Church, and have been a registered member of OLP Church for at least 6 months.

SICK AND SHUT-INS:
Please notify the parish office when you are to enter the hospital. Also, call if you desire bi-weekly or monthly Communion brought to you in your home or if you know of someone we should be visiting.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 15
8:00 Carmen Gallo - Mark & Bonnie Morgante

Tuesday, February 16
6:30 Mary, Virginia, Barbara & Michael Pollard - John & Anna Damin
8:00 Father's Day Intentions

Wednesday, February 17 - Ash Wednesday

6:30 L & D Walters - The Crowley Family
8:00 Linda M. Burke - Maureen & Michael Lankes
12:00 Eleanor Schlabach - Gilbert
7:00 L & D Mem. Scheeler & Wargo Family - Lew & Trudy Wargo

Thursday, February 18
6:30 Winn Sienne - Anita Pawlak
8:00 Fr. Vince Jazmines - The Wargo Family

Friday, February 19
6:30 Departed Souls

Saturday, February 20
4:30 Edward Burns - Matt & Katie Giansante & Family

Sunday, February 21
First Sunday of Lent
8:00 Romeo C. DiPirro - wife, Dorothy
10:00 Leon Ciesla - The Ciesla Family

Readings for the week of February 14, 2021

Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46;Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11;1 Cor 10:31 - 11:1; Mk 1:40-45
Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50:1 & 8, 16bc-17, 20-21; Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Ps 29:1a & 2, 3ac-4, 3b & 9c-10; Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 & 17 ; 2 Cor 5:20 - 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6; Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 5:27-32

Next Sunday: Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

LECTORS
February 20
4:30 Bruce Kloc

February 21
8:00 Richard Hahn
10:00 Kathleen Andrews

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS
February 20
4:30 Katie Giansante, Gina Freitas, Maureen McEwan

February 21
8:00 Patricia Comerford, Robert Shanahan, Lew Wargo

10:00 Mark Morgante, Lisa Cirillo, Lori Sebian, Ron Andrews

Eucharistic Adoration 8:30AM - 6PM in the Church on Wednesday, Feb. 17
(There will not be adoration during Mass time)

Tax Letters

Your 2020 Donation Statements have been emailed. If your email address has changed or you are not sure if we have your email, please contact the rectory office. If you need a paper copy please let us know.

An Important Message...

Due to Covid-19, we are still not taking any reservations for the rental of our parish center or pavilion in 2021. We will put a notice in the bulletin when the time comes that we are cleared to congregate again post-pandemic.

A Message From Father Walter

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"If you wish, you can make me clean." The leper's request of Jesus is a challenge to each of us. We can transform our lives and world in the goodness of God – if we wish. Jesus' compassion makes it possible for us to perform our own miracles of healing and reconciliation: to restore to health and community those considered "lepers," to bring God's grace to the brokenhearted, lost, and despairing. We possess the means to transform our lives and world – what is required is the desire and determination to do so: to heal the broken, restore lepers to wholeness, reconcile with those from whom we are estranged.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is so moved by the plight of the leper that he risks the possibility of contracting the disease, and the censure of the community, not only curing him of his illness, but inviting him to rejoin his human and religious family. Jesus works his wonders not to solicit acclaim for himself but to awaken faith in God's providence, to restore God's vision in a world where humanity is united as brothers and sisters in the love of God. Jesus calls us to let our own "miracles" of charity, mercy, forgiveness, and justice be "proof" of our committed discipleship to the Gospel and our trust in God who is the real worker of wonders in our midst.

In Peace,
Fr. Walt

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

The forty days of fasting before Easter includes every day of Lent except Sundays, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday, inclusive. Thus, there are forty-six days of Lent (including Good Friday and Holy Saturday), but only forty fast days since Sunday's are excluded. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are universal days of both fasting and abstinence from eating meat. Abstinence is also observed on all Fridays of Lent. Catholics age 14 and older are bound to observe abstinence regulations except for serious reasons; Catholics age 14 to 59 are bound to observe fasting regulations except for serious reasons. For all other weekdays of Lent, the Church encourages fasting, either in the traditional sense or through or some other form of self-denial determined by conscience. Other devotions, such as the Stations of the Cross, the rosary, scripture study, participation in daily Mass, and service to those in need, are strongly recommended.

Let Us Pray For The Sick

Adrian, Carol Baron, Christopher Baron, Amy Barton, Kiera Camron, Theresa Chapman, Ray & Betsy Daigler, Kevin D., Joseph Fennell, Bernadine Frank, Jill Garrett, Ann & John Gatti, Eric Gleason, Mark Hilbert, Jackie, Mary Lidkea, Jacqueline & Isabella Marino, Karl M., Raymond King, Marsha, Tom McGinley, Kathy McHugh, Donna Meister, Nancy, Verna Peter, Peter Rizzo, Bob Shanahan, Keith Smith, Dick & Mary Suchan, Rev. Michael Uebler, Karen W., Mary Ellen Wagner

Please pray for all deceased parishioners

Gloria Schuster
Melissa Sim
Ronald D. Kintzel, Sr.

Collection Total

February 7, 2021 $7,836.00

33 Day Diocesan Consecration to St. Joseph
Monday, Feb. 15 - Feast of St. Joseph, March 19

In response to the call of our Holy Father Francis, in his Apostolic Letter "PATRIS CORDE" on the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church honored this year, we will be holding a diocesan-wide consecration to St. Joseph.

Bishop Michael W. Fisher will celebrate Mass on the Solemnity of St. Joseph on Friday, March 19 at 12:10PM., at St. Joseph Cathedral in downtown Buffalo, to conclude the consecration.

"As your new bishop and shepherd, I am encouraging all of the faithful of our diocese to join together with me in prayer during this very special period of consecration to St. Joseph," said Bishop Fisher. "St. Joseph provides a timeless example of faithfulness and trust in God, despite uncertainty and even unreasonable circumstances. We would do well to reflect on how his witness might inspire our own as we seek in our day and time to reveal Christ to our world." ....Most Rev. Michael Fisher

More information at
www.buffalodiocese.org/consecration-to-st-joseph.

"Joseph was the man chosen by God to guide the beginnings of the history of redemption. He was the true 'miracle' by which God saves the child and his mother. God acted by trusting in Joseph's creative courage. Arriving in Bethlehem and finding no lodging where Mary could give birth, Joseph took a stable and, as best he could, turned it into a welcoming home for the Son of God come into the world (cf. Lk 2:6-7). Faced with imminent danger from Herod, who wanted to kill the child, Joseph was warned once again in a dream to protect the child, and rose in the middle of the night to prepare the flight into Egypt (cf. Mt 2:13-14)," ...Pope Francis

Youth Ministry News

Respect Life Prayer Service

Beginning Sunday February 14th,
join us for a Respect Life Prayer Service.
Every 2nd Sunday, following the 10AM Mass,
in the Church.

Sundays at the Barn

All Youth, grades 6-12 are welcome!

Come to the Barn for friendship, prayer,
service to others, FOOD and Fun!!!

Following the 10AM Mass, until 12/12:30

Sunday February 14th
Sunday February 21st

Questions??
E-Mail Karen Abt at olpyouthclarence@gmail.com

Respect Life

The truth of the Gospel of life is at the foundation of who we are as followers of Christ. In his earthly life, Jesus provided the perfect model for how we are to love our neighbor and live out the Gospel call: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these brethren, you did it to me." (Mt. 25:40)
Jesus calls each one of us to "care for the other as a person for whom God has made us responsible (EV 87). The Gospel of life is intrinsic to the whole Christian life and foundational to the decisions we make on a daily basis. For, "the Gospel of God's love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person and the Gospel of life are a single and indivisible Gospel"

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops "Living the Gospel of Life," Excerpts from Evangelium vitae, © 1995

Support Our Lady of Peace by eGiving

Faith Direct is a way to give directly to our parish. Enroll online at faith.direct/NY260 or contact the rectory for the enrollment form.

The Knights Of Columbus

"Pour out a spirit of compunction, O God, on those who bow before Your majesty, and by Your mercy may they merit the rewards You promise to those who do penance. Through Christ our Lord. From Prayer over the people, Ash Wednesday Mass.

Pray for Vocations

"Go, show yourself to the priest...for your cleansing." We no longer have leprosy, but we do need priests to be purified of mortal sins. If God is calling you to take up this healing mission, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716.847.5535 or visit buffalovocations.org

Prayer Shawl Ministry

If you or someone you know is undergoing surgery, battling illness, elderly, etc., comforting prayer shawls are available in the rectory during weekday business hours. Shawls are available at no cost. If you knit or crochet and would like to join this rewarding ministry, please contact the rectory for details. Shawls can be made in the comfort of your own home.

When you are lonely, we are hope. What we do with the 24 hours in a day can effect countless hours and days ahead. Our volunteers at Catholic Charities know this to be true. Through our programs, volunteers have the opportunity to serve the community through our multiple food pantries, lend a friendly ear through Friendly Phones and the Telephone Assurance Program, and much more. Help continue to move hands and hearts through Catholic Charities and the Fund for the Faith by giving to **Appeal 2021**. Call our Helpline at 716-218-1419 if you need assistance or want to donate, or visit www.ccwny.org/donation today. Catholic Charities of Buffalo is **HOPE for all seasons**.

Appeal 2021 Prayer

St. Ignatius, help us to be grateful and generous. To give and not count the cost. To labor and not seek reward. To share God's love with our neighbors in need. To meet them where they are in life and let them know they are not alone. Help us to be poor in spirit - to realize our dependence upon God. And to do all things for the greater glory of God. We ask this in the name of Jesus through your intercession. St. Ignatius of Loyola, pray for us!

Imprimatur: Most Reverend Bishop Michael Fisher

2021
Our Lady of Peace Church
10950 Main St., Clarence, NY 14031

Lent

"Lent is a time of grace, a time to convert and live out our baptism fully."
Pope Francis

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on February 17, 2021
Mass Times: 6:30AM - 8AM - 12Noon - 7PM

On Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, which is observed everywhere as a fast day, ashes are distributed. Ashes are blessed and imposed after the homily. These ashes are of branches of the olive tree, or, according to custom, of the palm tree or other trees which have been blessed the previous year. The custom of placing ashes on the heads of people and, originally, the wearing of sackcloth is an ancient penitential practice common among the Hebrew people. At first this ritual of ashes was not directly connected with the beginning of Lent. As early as the 300's, it was adopted by local churches as part of their practice of temporarily excommunicating of expelling public sinners from the community. These people were guilty of public sins and scandals such as apostasy, heresy, murder, and adultery. By the 7'th century, this custom has expanded in some churches into a public Ash Wednesday ritual. During the Middle Ages, emphasis was placed on personal rather than public sin. As a result, traditions on Ash Wednesday were adopted by all adult members of the Parish. Traditions similar to those in today's parishes were observed throughout the church by the 11'th century.

Ashes are blessed and imposed after the homily. The ordinary minister for the blessing of ashes is a priest or deacon. Others (Eucharistic Ministers) may assist with the imposition of ashes where there is a genuine need, especially for the sick and shut-ins. One of the following formulas is used: "REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL" Or "REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST, AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN."

Weekday Morning Masses

Masses are each weekday
6:30AM and 8AM.

There is No scheduled Mass on
Monday's at 6:30AM & Friday's at 8AM

Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 7PM, ***Communion Service afterwards***

2/19...Behold!.The Wood of the Cross
by ThomasGouin
2/26...With Jesus Today
by Sister Chris Koellhoffer, .H.M
3/05...Mary's Way of the Cross
by Richard G. Furey, C.SS.R.
3/12...Stations of the Cross for Our Time
from the Diocese of Orsory, Ireland
3/19...Everyone's Way of the Cross
by Clarence Enzler
3/26...Were You There? *by Deacon Paul Crafts*

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays from 3PM-4PM
(*except Holy Saturday*)
Wednesdays during Lent 4-6PM

Reconciliation in the Time of Jesus

Reconciliation, which consists of conversion of heart, forgiveness of sins, and restoration of relationships was central to the ministry of Jesus. Jesus came to call people to repentance (Mt 9:13) The reconciliation ministry of Jesus also made clear that God's healing and mercy are communicated in a human, visible and tangible way. Understanding this incarnate aspect of Jesus' ministry is essential for our understanding of the Church and the sacramental aspects of Christianity.

In the Early Church

The apostolic community believed Jesus had given it the power to forgive sins (Jn 20:22-23). Some of the ways the early Church continued Jesus' ministry of reconciliation were participation in the Eucharist (Jesus had poured out his blood for the forgiveness of sins (Mt. 26:28) and His eating with sinners was a sign of reconciliation; anointing of the sick (Jas 5:15); works of charity and fasting (Lk7:47; 1 Pt 4:8); and fraternal correction (Mt 18:15-20) and group pressure (2 Thes 3:14-15)

In today's Church

While sin may be secret, it is never private. When we fail to be what God wants us to be, not only are our links in the chain weakened but the strength of the community chain is also weakened. Penitents are asked to reflect deeply in preparing themselves for the sacrament. The aim is to get in touch with our spiritual life, attitudes and patterns of behavior that are destructive to our relationship with God, with others and with ourselves. Ideally, we participate in the sacrament in response to the promptings of the Holy Spirit calling us to conversion, in some specific areas in our lives.

Perhaps too often, this sacrament is used as a means to rid ourselves of guilt feelings. Under such circumstances, the primary focus is on self, rather than on reconciliation with God and others. We confess; we do penance; we fail to reconcile. If seen in this narrow and individualistic manner, and not in the broader context of our call to be reconcilers in a divided world, the sacrament of reconciliation loses much of its power and meaning.

The sacrament helps us to celebrate and to deepen our ongoing efforts to be people of reconciliation in our world. As ambassadors of reconciliation, we are called to be God's instruments in removing the barriers that keep people from communication with and caring for each other.

As God freely forgives us our transgressions, we too are willing to freely give and receive forgiveness.

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