

Church of the ANNUNCIATION



DECEMBER 1, 2019 | 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LOCATION

7580 Clinton Street
Elma, New York 14059

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Office

p: 683-5254

f: 681-5668

w: www.annunciation.cc

e: parishoffice.annunciation@gmail.com

Rectory: 683-2077

Faith Formation: 683-5515

Strong Start Pre-K: 681-1327

MASSES

Morning Prayer & Communion Service

Monday-Friday 7:30am

Daily Mass Monday-Friday 9:00am

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm

Sunday 8:00am, 11:00am and 5:00pm

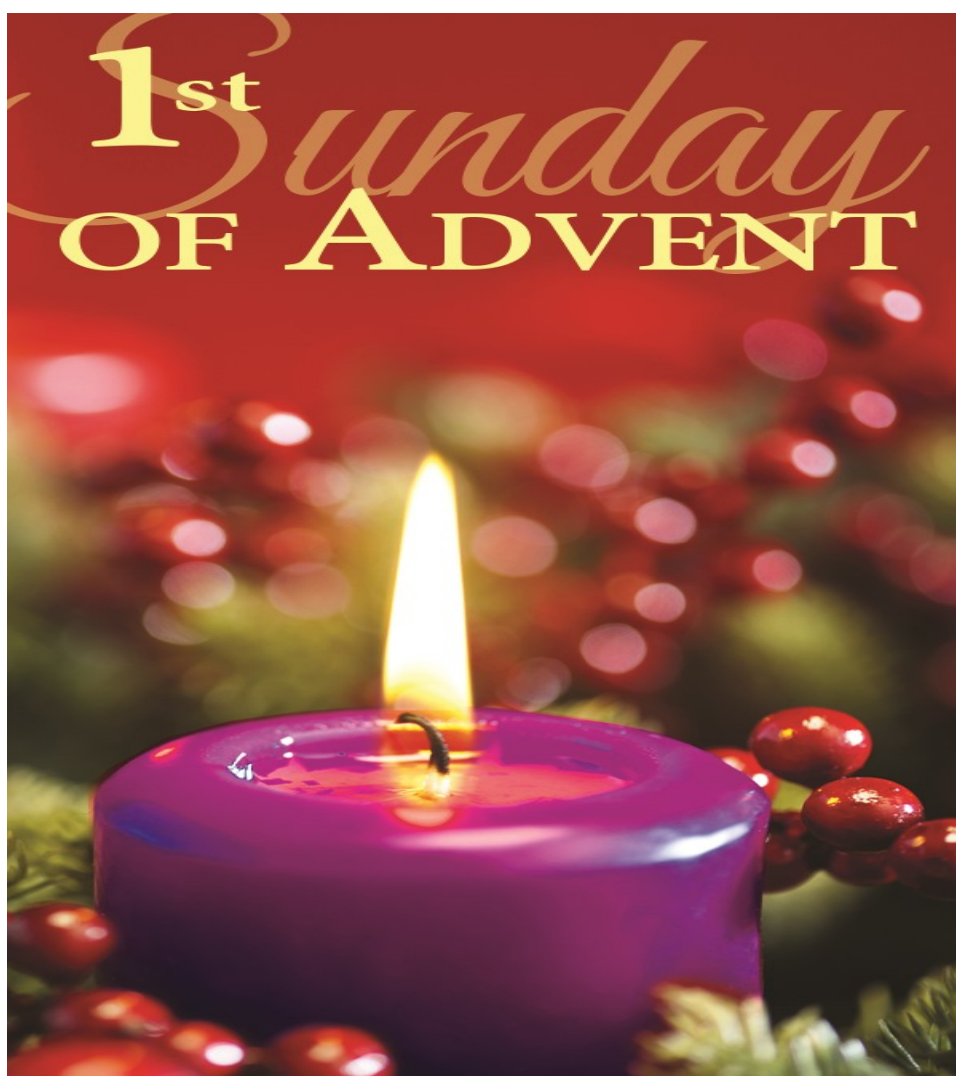
Holy Day of Obligation check bulletin for times

RECONCILIATION

Confessions are heard each Saturday
at 4:00pm or by appointment.

ADVENT BOOK & GIFT SALE

The annual Advent and Christmas book and gift sale will be this weekend, Saturday, November 30 and Sunday, December 1 after all Masses, except 5 PM Sunday, in Selbert Hall. We will have a variety of gifts and books to help you celebrate the seasons.



OUR PARISH NAME IS OUR MISSION!

With Mary, we joyfully announce: "God with us" in Jesus Christ.

Moved by the Holy Spirit, we strive to create a faith community of love and hope, of prayer, welcome and service where others will discover in and with us that Christ is Life!

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Eugene P. Ulrich

Pastoral Associate - Administration

Deacon James J. Jaworski

Pastoral Associate - Ministry

Deborah A. Keenan, MDiv

Assisting Clergy

Deacon Joseph P. Mercurio

Deacon Dennis W. Kapsiak

Rev. Msgr. Richard W. Siepk

Parish Secretary

Paulette Bruce

Parish Bookkeeper

Anne Swierat

Director of Family Faith Formation

Melissa Weisenburg

Coordinator of Youth Ministry

Colton Rodgers

Music Director

Cynthia Napieralski

Strong Start Pre-K Director

Carrie D'Attilio

Parish Trustees

Dottie Austin, Michael Skrip

Finance Committee

Lawrence Zielinski, Chair

Pastoral Council

Thomas DiScipio, President

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

Newcomers are invited to contact the Parish Office to register. Adult children need to be registered on their own.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Letters of Recommendation are issued to members of our parish who are registered at least three months, regularly attend Mass and receive the sacraments.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Please contact the Parish Office to arrange to take part in the Baptism Preparation Program.

Marriage: Couples who are planning to marry need to contact the Pastor at least one year in advance of their wedding date.

Anointing of the Sick: The sacrament is administered after the 5:00pm Mass on the first Saturday of the month. Persons who are homebound, in the hospital, or in nursing homes please contact the Parish Office for the Sacrament of Anointing.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults):

Anyone who wishes to enter the Church or complete their sacraments please contact the Parish Office.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Religious Education and Sacramental Preparation are available for students in Kindergarten through Grade 10.

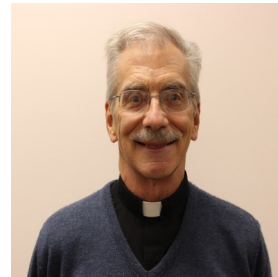
ANNUNCIATION STRONG START PRE-K

Pre-K 3 is a two-day program, offered on Mondays & Wednesdays or Tuesdays & Thursdays in the morning; Pre-K 4 is Monday-Friday mornings. For more information, contact cdattilio.annunciation@gmail.com.

LITURGICAL LIFE

PASTOR'S LETTER

The **season of Advent** begins today. In the Gospel according to St. Matthew, Jesus cautions his disciples: "Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for an hour you do not expect, the Son of man will come." However, unlike our safeguards about the "thief in the night" breaking in, we must be open to and anticipate Christ is coming in unexpected ways. "Advent" means "coming."



Bishop Malone and Bishop Grosz have returned from their November "ad limina" visit to Rome. NYS bishops met with officials of the Holy See to discuss challenges and opportunities the Church is facing. They had a two-hour meeting with Pope Francis. Bishop Malone commented on the meeting with Pope Francis and the Apostolic Visitation. "Pope Francis was most welcoming and gracious, expressing his paternal and loving support for us in our ministry. We each were personally greeted by the Holy Father as we entered and as we left. In a few words spoken privately to me, it was clear that the Pope understands the difficulties and distress we here in Buffalo, and I personally, have been experiencing. He was very understanding and kind. I am, of course, aware of the intense interest about the results of the Apostolic Visitation recently conducted here and submitted to the Holy See. The Congregation for Bishops has received the report, which is held in strict confidentiality. I had a brief discussion with Cardinal Marc Ouellet, Prefect of the Congregation. More on that to come. I ask for your prayers and patience while the path forward is discerned. In the meantime, be assured that I am wholly committed to fostering the healing of victim survivors, rebuilding trust, and with our clergy and other church ministers, renewing faith and carrying on the essential ministries that serve the needs of Catholics and of the larger Western New York community. Thank you for your active faith. Thanks to all who continue to be supportive of our diocese, of me and my ministry. May the peace of Christ reign in the hearts of us all."

Ladies in our parish are part of **Magnificat** – a group of women (and men), open to the Holy Spirit, who gather for prayer and inspiring talks. Magnificat is sponsoring a morning of prayer, testimony and praise at Our Lady of Victory on Saturday December 7, 2019. The guest speaker is **Fr. Donald Calloway**. For more information/registration call Maureen Wilson 683-2290 or contact Mary Kay Schaub. -Fr. Gene

Christmas Tree Sale

Come Support Troop 325

Christmas Trees, Wreaths and Holiday Swags For Sale.

All products are locally grown

ONE WEEKEND ONLY!

Saturday December 7th -9am - 5pm

Sunday December 8th -9am-2pm

**Annunciation School Parking lot
7580 Clinton Street**

Pre-Orders in Selbert Hall Dec. 1st after Mass

Prices: **Wreath** - \$35

Swags - \$15

Trees - \$65

Don't forget our Troop Bottle and Can Drive on December 7th.



THIS WEEK

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

6:00pm Advent Book & Gift Sale (Selbert Hall)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

8:00am Coffee Hour after 8 am Mass only (Selbert Hall)

9:00am Advent Book & Gift Sale (Selbert Hall)

9:15am Family Faith Formation Session (Church)

3:30pm Pop Culture Group Practice (Church)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

9:30am Respect Life Rosary (Chapel)

12:30pm Pinochle Club (Community Room)

6:00pm Family Adoration & Reconciliation (Church)

6:30pm Cub Scout Meeting (Gym)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

9:30am Ladies Faith Sharing (Meeting Room)

6:00pm Pickle Ball (Gym)
Cub Scouts (School)

7:00pm Liturgy Committee Meeting (Selbert Hall)
Holy Name General Meeting (Society Room)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

9:00am Home School Co-op (Langley Hall, School)

12:00pm Home School Co-op (Gym)

7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 325 Committee Meeting (Community Room)
Boy Scout Troop 325 PLC Meeting (Gym)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

9:00am St. Joseph Workers (Langley Hall)

9:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Meeting Room)

7:00pm Baptism Liturgy Preparation (Selbert Hall)
Pastoral Council (Meeting Room)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:00pm Nocturnal Adoration (Chapel)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

12:00am Nocturnal Adoration (Chapel)

5:00pm Anointing of the Sick (Church)

6:00pm Holy Name Society Christmas Party (Selbert Hall)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

11:00am Children's Liturgy of the Word (Selbert Hall)

3:30pm Pop Culture Group Practice (Church)

6:00pm High School Adoration & Reconciliation (Church)

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 30

St. Andrew, Apostle

5:00pm Suzanne Eck
by Elaine & Don O'Connell

Sunday, December 1

1st Sunday of Advent

8:00am Edmund Kuczmanski
by Delphine Roll & Family
11:00am Harold & Helen Meyers
by Jerry & Kathy Meyers
5:00pm John and Irene Nastaga
by Daughters

Monday, December 2

9:00am John F. Trankle Jr.
by Janet Goettelman

Tuesday, December 3

St. Francis Xavier, Priest

9:00am Chris & Vera Molik
By Bob & Chris Gill

Wednesday, December 4

St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor

9:00am All Souls Intentions

Thursday, December 5

9:00am Intentions of Annunciation
Parishioners

Friday, December 6

St. Nicholas, Bishop

9:00am William Toutman
by Maureen & Jerry Bergum

Saturday, December 7

St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor

5:00pm Roland Reusch
by Ledwin Family

Sunday, December 8

2nd Sunday of Advent

8:00am Deceased Members of
Annunciation Holy Name
Society
by Holy Name Society
11:00am Stephanie Partyka
by John Kupiec
5:00pm Vincent P. Markowski
by Bill & Kathy & Kate

There is a Communion Service Monday through
Friday at 7:30 AM. It is not a Mass. Morning
Prayer—Liturgy of the Hours is prayed.



Welcome to the family of God, through the waters of Baptism,
and into our Christian community: **Christine Rose Schueler**,
daughter of Michael and Regina.

STEWARDSHIP

DATE	11.17.19
Collection	9,485.00
Electronic Giving	1,392.00
Preservation Fund	65.00
Picnic	680.00
Memorial Fund	600.00
Bequests/Wills	0.00
Youth Big Board	165.00
Total	12,387.00

SMART GIVING

If you have an IRA and are over 70 ½ years old you may transfer up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity such as Church of the Annunciation. This charitable rollover gift allows you to give from pre-tax assets and your distribution is excluded from taxable income. Contact your IRA custodian to initiate a funds transfer. Annunciation needs to receive distribution by December 31 to be considered as a donation for this tax year. Thank you for your consideration.

IN OUR PRAYERS ...

Dawn Marie Buono, Eugene Burry, Sabrina Campbell, Greg Chatham, Stella (Barb) Craig, Marnie Czarnecki, Anne Dittmar, Bill Evans, Frances Evans, A.C. Furtney, Eric G., Herman Gagnon, Irene Garvey, Kim Harding, Jeff Keenan, Marilyn Kinmartin, Lorne LeMieux, Mary Mustillo, Patricia O'Brien, Sharon Partacz, Bella Pellittieri, Bob Pickup, Barbara Plezia, Jim Purpora, Cynthia Raden, Jan Turnbull, Ron Wenzel, Thad Woronowicz, and Deacon Frank Zwack. **The safety of and quick return of those serving in the Armed Forces.**

All names on the Prayer List will be printed in the bulletin for 4 continuous weeks. Contact the Parish Secretary if you wish to have the name repeated for an additional 4 weeks.



In **December** our gift is:
Large White Kitchen Bags

FAITH FORMATION

FAMILY CONNECTION

Many of us feel the pressure early in the holiday season to be ready for Christmas. But today's Gospel challenges us to be ready for something other than the gift-giving of Christmas.

Read together today's Gospel reading. As a family, talk about what it means to be ready for the day of the Lord. One of the roles of the family, the domestic church, is to be a school of faith leading one another to salvation. Reflect together as a family on how your family helps one another to be better Christians. Commit to one thing that your family will do this Advent season to help one another be better Christians. You might choose to write this commitment down and post it in a prominent place in your home, perhaps near your family's Advent wreath.

Pray together that God will help you in this Advent commitment. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or today's Psalm.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Congratulations to all our First Reconciliation students who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday,

November 23, 2019: James Bilson, Josette Clark, Jaxon Czajka, Gabriella Gross, Peyton Guida, Liam Hulsman, Shea Jacobs, Samuel Jay, Ember Kegler, Jude King, Caroline Marchewka, Parker McCrea, Bianca Mochrie, Maddox Nayman, Ava Niedziedz, Ella Niedziedz, Gabriel Panicali, Travis

A generous FISH donation for the Thanksgiving holiday from our Parish.



STARS OF BETHLEHEM

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16).

It is a testimony to your light that the Stars of Bethlehem has been an outreach of our parish since 1991 when you first began buying Christmas gifts for the poor in the city of Buffalo and some surrounding areas. We have been working with Catholic Charities in Lackawanna, St. Lukes, St. Lawrence, OLV Human Services, FISH, Peaceprints, OLPH/St. Valentines and Scofield Services. We, as a parish, will continue the tradition by taking a star from the back wall of the church on the weekend preceding Thanksgiving, November 23/24. On the back of the star is as much information as the organization has provided to us. It is a particular individual or family that has been interviewed by the charitable organization to find out the need or the wish. The exception is St. Lawrence parish and FISH, which asks for an un-wrapped gift for a child of any age or gender because their program invites parents to "shop" for their children.

Please put the # on the gift, not the star, and return to church by 12:00 noon on December 8. The gifts are sorted and delivered that day so the 5 PM mass is too late!

As we approach Thanksgiving with grateful hearts for all God has given to us, let us respond with generosity to those who need some help or encouragement or a glimpse of God's love in their life. Questions or information, call Maureen at 864-0522 or Mary Kay at 937-6791.

Upcoming Events in Faith Formation:

December 1 - Family Session 9:15 AM

December 2 - Family Adoration and Reconciliation 6PM

December 8 - High School Adoration and Reconciliation 6PM

December 15 - Catechist Planning Session 9:15 AM

December 20 - BLAST Family Christmas Event 6 PM

— NEWS & EVENTS —

UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER



Eucharistic Adoration with exposition needs a great push. People ask me: "What will convert America and save the world?" My answer is prayer. What we need is for every parish to come before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in holy hours of prayer.

~St. Teresa of Calcutta~

Sunday, December 8 at 9 PM to Monday, December 9 at 1 AM. Four hours of National Unity in Prayer when churches across the country pray across the four time zones in one solid harmonious cry to God for help! This is start of the day when Our Lady of Guadalupe first appeared to Juan Diego at dawn. We are working toward a common goal that unites us spiritually in an effort to help bring back the world to Christ and to help save millions of lives of our littlest and most vulnerable ones from the horrors of abortion. More than ever in the history of mankind we need assistance from above to counteract these evils. Our efforts, small though they may be, can be great in the eyes of God if we put our hearts and

souls into our work ahead. Here at Annunciation, the Chapel will be open for Eucharistic Adoration for four hours. We will say 15 decades of the rosary along with other suggested prayers and close with benediction. Please pray with us for an hour or whatever time you can spend.

FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS CONCERT

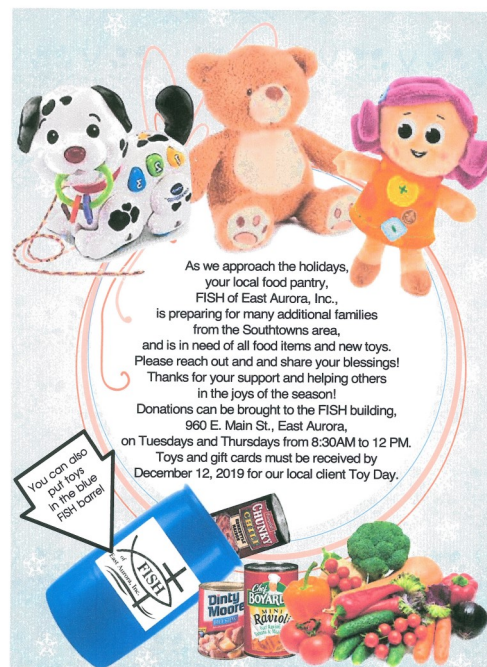
The Polish Singers Alliance of America, District IX will present it's Annual Festival of Christmas Carols (Koledy) Concert on Sunday, December 1, 2019 at 3:30 PM at St. Stanislaus R.C. Church, Peckham and Townsend Streets, Buffalo, NY. Free will offering.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WESTERN NEW YORK WHEELCHAIR PROGRAM

The Knights of Columbus worldwide have sponsored the delivery of tens of thousands of brand-new wheelchairs. The wheelchairs that we provide allow children to go to school, adults to go to work, and the elderly to get out of bed where they may have been confined. The wheelchairs that we deliver are **free of charge**. The purpose of this program is to help those who have a mobility problem and lack a means to acquire a wheelchair. If you or someone you know is in need of a wheelchair, please contact James Grubka at 864-3109 or via email at jhgrubka@aol.com

PARISH COMMUNITY VISITATION MINISTRY

Can you spare an hour a couple of times a month to visit members of our parish community? Then we are looking for you. The parishioners may be sick and home-bound, in the hospital, residential care or nursing facility. Providing "Quality Time" visits of Emotional-Social-Physical and Spiritual support, brings blessings to you and to the recipients. Try this ministry, and call for more information, 683-5254.



HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR WITH A HOLIDAY FOOD BASKET

During the Christmas season, most of us enjoy meals that have more food placed before us than we can possibly finish. Some of us, however, will not even have a full meal, or even any food at all. Employment doesn't guarantee that needs are met if the worker is in a minimum wage job trying to pay for rent, transportation, child care, and health insurance. If you are able to share what you have, consider donating to one of these charities that feed people in need. Make your check out to the charity and drop it in the collection with the form below, or mail to the Parish Office, and know that someone has a good meal for Jesus' sake.

Choose one or more, and make your check out to:

☐ **FISH of EAST AURORA**, a food pantry serving Aurora, Elma, Marilla, Wales and Holland

☐ **ST. LUKE'S MISSION OF MERCY**, serving the poor of the inner city of Buffalo with food and services

☐ **RESPONSE TO LOVE**, serving meals and programs to those on the East Side of Buffalo

☐ **CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION ANGEL FUND**, providing temporary

financial assistance to parishioners in need relating to medical bills, living expenses (heat, electricity, food, clothing, etc.), unemployment, or loss of housing

1 family: \$30 2 families: \$60 3 families: \$90 4 families: \$120 Other: _____

