

# SAINT STEPHEN

## RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)

*"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them."*  
Saturday: 3:30-4:00 or anytime by appointment. Reconciliation Room is off the daily Mass chapel.

## BAPTISM

*"No one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit."*

Every second Sunday of the month. Families are asked to attend the 11:00 Mass with Baptisms following. Also, Baptisms are celebrated DURING the 4:30 Mass on the third Saturday of the month. Parents must attend a baptismal preparation class offered on the first Friday of each month. Godparents must present a letter of recommendation.

## MARRIAGE

*"What God has joined together, no human being must separate."*  
Weddings are celebrated on Friday evenings and on Saturdays at 10:30, 12:30 or 2:30. Arrangements must be made with a parish priest no less than six months before the wedding. Pre-marriage preparation is required.

## MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

*"Come to me, all you who are weary."*  
Call the rectory to make arrangements for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick or to have Holy Communion brought to the home. A communal Anointing of the Sick is held on the first Saturday of the month after the 9:00 Mass.

## PARISH MEMBERSHIP

*"That they may be one."*  
New parishioners are most warmly welcomed to our parish community and are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

2100 BASELINE ROAD  
GRAND ISLAND, NEW YORK 14072



# December 1, 2019



## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*"So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." - Mt 24:44*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

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### MASS SCHEDULE *"Do this in memory of me."*

SATURDAY ..... 9:00 a.m.; 4:30 p.m. Organ  
SUNDAY 7:30 a.m. Organ; 9:00 a.m. Organ & Choir;  
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Ensemble  
MONDAY TO FRIDAY ..... 7:30 a.m. & 12:05 p.m.  
HOLY DAYS ..... Please check the bulletin.

RECTORY: 773-7647 • FAX: 773-5792  
EMAIL: [ststephenswny@ststephensgi.com](mailto:ststephenswny@ststephensgi.com)  
WEB SITE: [www.ststephenswny.com](http://www.ststephenswny.com)  
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

A Respect Life Parish

Here the Gospel is preached, the lost are found, the believers are equipped, the poor are served.  
The lonely are enfolded in community, and God gets the credit for it all.



## DIRECTORY

773-7647

### MINISTERIAL STAFF

*"I have come to serve and not to be served."*

#### PASTOR

Fr. Paul M. Nogaro ext. 102

#### PAROCHIAL VICAR

Fr. Martin Gallagher ext. 107

#### ASSISTING CLERGY

Deacon Frank Kedzielawa 773-3364

#### PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Sr. Sharon Anne Radice OSF  
ext 103

#### YOUTH MINISTER

Bill Tixier 870-2071

#### ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER

Aaron Tham 816-0046

#### FOLK GROUP

Patrick Johnson 491-7049

#### CEMETERY SERVICES

Sandy ext. 101

#### MAINTENANCE

Mike McNamee ext. 127

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

EMAIL: [ssreled@ststephensgi.com](mailto:ssreled@ststephensgi.com)

FAX: 773-2231

#### DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS ED.

PK-5 Angela Diebold 773-2002 ext. 128  
6-11 Rebecca Cambria 773-2002 ext. 122

#### SCHOOL: 773-4347

FAX: 773-1438

EMAIL: [school@ststephensgi.org](mailto:school@ststephensgi.org)

WEB SITE: [www.ststephensgi.org](http://www.ststephensgi.org)

#### PRINCIPAL

Scott Gruenauer ext. 120

### RECTORY OFFICE

#### BUSINESS MANAGER

Karen Sweet ext. 104

#### ADMINISTRATIVE

#### ASSISTANTS

Sandy Beyer x. 101

Lori Lenz x. 114

Micahlena Beyer x. 100

#### TRUSTEES

Carl Walbert 773-2518

Richard Sander 773-3929



**Monday, December 2~Advent Weekday**

7:30am~Shirley Runckle (Estate)

12:05pm~Sara "Sally" Trippe (Russell Trippe)

**Tuesday, December 3~Saint Francis Xavier, Priest**

7:30am~Johanna Zakrzewski (Dianne, Jocelyn & Family)

12:05pm~Lucille Emmi (Daughter, Maria Schory)

**Wednesday, December 4~Weekday**

7:30am~Beatrice Hillock (Linda Clark))

12:05pm~Leo & Mary Vandervoort

(Rita Vandervoort & Family)

**Thursday, December 5~Advent Weekday**

7:30am~William Koch (Lee & Mary Herbst)

12:05pm~Michelle Sirianni (Joseph Sirianni)

12:30-5pm~ Exposition

**Friday, December 6~Saint Nicholas, Bishop**

7:30am~Mary Furari (Tony & Rose Buscaglia)

9:00am~Charles & Marie Barron (Lombardo Family)

~Whole School Liturgy

12:05pm~The Edward Gingras Family (Sister)

**Saturday, December 7~Saint Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor**

9:00am~ Amedee & Louise Gingras (Daughter)

~Anointing of the Sick

3:30-4:00pm ~Confessions

4:30pm~Jeff & Lynn Brenon (Debbie Zarbo)

**Sunday, December 8~Second Sunday of Advent**

7:30am~Anthony Palumbo (Paul & Kathy Aronica)

9:00am~Deceased Members of the Calvano & Nanula Family

(Virginia & Savino)

11:00am~In Memorial of Mary & Anthony Panepinto

(Panepinto Family)

12:00pm~Baptisms



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

"I'm never getting enough rest! How can I possibly be 'asleep'?" In a world of jam-packed schedules and high anxiety levels, physical rest may be hard to come by. Yet relentless pursuit of our to-do lists and social calendars may keep our minds off of the things that really matter. Jesus knows all too well a pattern of busy, harried ignorance. *"In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage ... they did not know until the flood came and carried them all away ... two men will be out in the field ... two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left."* When it comes to the spiritual life, we can be at work or at relaxation and still be spiritually asleep.

Each year, we are called back to remember the essential things. God comes to save His people. He becomes flesh to dwell among us. Supernatural light pierces the world's darkness and our own. Advent wakes us up. *"Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."* Every Advent, we prepare to celebrate Christ's first coming at Christmas, and we anticipate his second coming at the end of time.

*"At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."* There's another hour, too, both known and unknown. It's the present moment. Whether it's a lazy Saturday morning or a major business proposal, whether it's attending a kindergarten play or an elderly relative's bedside, at every moment the Lord wants to enter into our hearts. This Advent, let's pray for the grace to stay alert. Christ is coming soon.

WEEKDAY MASS READINGS

(Complete readings [www.usccb.org/nab](http://www.usccb.org/nab))

DEC.02: DN IS 4:2-6; PS 122; MT 8:5-11

DEC 03: IS 11:1-10; PS 72; LK 10:21-24

DEC 04: IS 25:6-10; PS 23; MT 15:29-37

DEC 05: IS 26:1-6; PS 118; MT 7:21-27

DEC 06: IS 29:17-24; PS 27; MT 9:27-31

DEC 07: IS 30:19-26; PS 147; MT 9:35-10:8

DEC 08: IS 11:1-10; PS 72; ROM 15:15:4-9; MT 3:1-12

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please Note: Call the rectory to place a sick person's name on the prayer list. Normally, the person should know about this & give permission. Some people prefer to keep this information private.

Ann Hegarty † Jean Anstett † Lou Macro † Kevin Beyer Jr. †  
Pat Fitzgerald, † Dustin Nowak † Richard Pyc † Linda, Lisa,  
Jacinta & Gianna Morinello † Frank Costanzo †  
Brett Lombardo † Olga Demicke † Fr. Dan Fiebelkorn †  
Eveylen Strobel †

And the deceased...Michael Klien, Gary Burkhart,  
Jessica Melgar, Joel Brennan †



The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for the birthday intentions of *The Deceased Members of the Vitch Family*  
With Love from Rita Madia



The host is offered this week for *Debra Samland*  
With Love from Ron & Karen Figler

**BUSINESS BRIEFS**

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings and Blessings to all and we hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

We held our first meeting of our Parish Event planning team! Plans are now underway! If you would like to join our Team, please e-mail my office and we will get you signed up!

[businessmgr@ststephensgi.com](mailto:businessmgr@ststephensgi.com) please include your name and best number to reach you on. We will add you to the e-mail group for quick future team communications!

Please mark you 2020 Calendar for Friday, February 21, 2020 for our 1<sup>st</sup> ever Mardi Gras Event.

Be on the look out for our Mardi Gras Mailing – it will have the tickets for our New Raffle ~ “The Mardi Gras Draw” – the Winners will be pulled at our Mardi Gras Event. *These would make perfect Christmas Gifts, for those hard to buy for people!*

We have had a couple of very busy weeks with meetings with our School Finance Committee, Our School Advisory board, Our Parish Finance Council, Our Religious Education Director’s in addition to the other routine meetings. The consultations with our Boards and Committees are of great assistance as we work to be the best possible stewards of the funds entrusted to our care & decision making.

At this time of year it does turn our thoughts to those we are thankful for! We are so blessed with a very active and vibrant parish! We are also blessed with so very many dedicated volunteers and ministries! Our ministries and volunteers are something that make our parish stand out, without our volunteers and ministers, we could not survive!

Thank you for your continued support of St. Stephen’s, without you, there would be no St. Stephen Parish!

Peace & Blessings,  
Karen Sweet  
Business Manager



# Holiday Schedule 2019

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

7:30am & 12:05pm

**BEST ADVENT EVER**

[www.bestadventever.com/your invited](http://www.bestadventever.com/your-invited)  
Free program to celebrate Advent

**FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE**

Decorate with your personal ornaments-  
in the narthex

**CHRISTMAS WAFERS (OPLATI)**

Available in Narthex

**NATIVITY STATIONS**

Dec. 5th & 17th @ 7pm in the Small Chapel

**SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00pm-In Church  
All are welcome!

**CHURCH DECORATING**

Sunday, December 22 @ Noon  
Volunteers welcome!  
Refreshments

**CONFESSIONS**

Saturdays (as usual): 3:30-4pm  
Thursday, Dec. 19  
Confessions: 12:30 (after noon Mass) &  
7:00pm Parish Penance Service  
(last confessions before Christmas)

**BAMBANELLI SUNDAY**

Dec 21 & 22 at all Masses

**CHRISTMAS EVE, TUESDAY DEC. 24**

Regular morning Masses - 7:30 & 12:05  
4:30pm - Children & Family Mass  
6:30 Mass  
Midnight Mass (Choir Singing before)

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

Wednesday, Dec. 25, 7:30; 9:00; 11:00

**PARISH CALENDARS**

Blessed & Available: Weekend of Dec. 29 & 30

**NEW YEARS EVE**

Tuesday Dec. 31  
Regular morning Masses: 7:30 & 12:05

**NEW YEARS DAY**

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
Holy Day of Obligation  
Wednesday. Jan. 1~9:00; 11:00 & 7:00pm

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Until The new schedule is prepared, please volunteer to serve at any Mass you attend. Thank you!

## IMPACT

### Youth Ministry News

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them”

—Matthew 18: 20

### CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS FOR ST. LUKE'S

At our next IMPACT gathering, we will be stuffing stockings for St. Luke's mission of mercy. These stockings will be given to underprivileged children in Buffalo at Christmas time. What a great way to help brighten the Christmas of a child who may otherwise have no Christmas at all!

### IMPACT GATHERING DECEMBER 8

Don't miss another incredible event with IMPACT, St. Stephen's Youth group. Join us at our next IMPACT gathering on December 8 at 7 pm in the Youth Center . All teens from grades 8-12 are welcome and encouraged to attend. Did I mention we have pizza?!?! Hang out with your friends or make new ones, learn about your faith and find out how to have a great relationship with Jesus. If you have any questions about the Youth Group please contact Bill Tixier on 870-2071.

BRING A FRIEND!



## Holy Name News

**Meeting** - The next monthly meeting is on Sunday, December 15, in the Brides Room after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

**Essay Contest** - Judging of the submitted entries will begin after the deadline. The winners and runners-up will be determined before Christmas. Their names will be announced at a later date.

**Membership** – The official membership campaign will conclude in December. However, renewals and new memberships will be accepted through calendar year 2020. Please forward your \$10 dues with name, address, e-mail address to the Holy Name Society, through the weekly collection or the rectory office.

Our mission drive for Saint Luke's Parish is going strong and will be ending at the end of November. A big thank you to all who have contributed so far.

Our NEHS and NJHS are hosting a sock drive for the Buffalo City Mission

December 9 - 13. If you would like to donate to this drive there is a box in the narthex. Thank you for your support!

This week PreK4 read the book Turkey Trouble by Wendi Silvano. The story is about a turkey who tried disguising himself as different animals to avoid being eaten on Thanksgiving. In reading groups, we read the emergent reader "Turkey in Disguise". We created disguises for our own turkeys and wrote sentences to tell what they were disguised as.



### FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:30 to 2:00 (or by appointment).

We are located in the Youth Center Building, which is behind the school, across from the playground.

### ELEMENTARY NEWS

PLEASE NOTE:

If you have a child who has not been in the Religious ed program and has not received their sacraments we offer a children's RCIA program.

Please call the religious ed office for more information.

Thank-you to all the First Eucharist children who participated in mass Nov. 16, you did an awesome job.

A reminder to all the children to use your special prayer book and to share it with your families as you prepare to receive Christ for the first time.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

#### CHRISTMAS OUTREACH PROJECT

Our Elementary students will be reaching out to the families of St. Patrick Pantry this holiday season in two different ways.

Our Pre-school/Kindergarten classes have been asked to send in paper products i.e. paper towels, facial tissue, and toilet paper. These may seem a strange request but ones that are very important to all our everyday lives and they can't be purchased with SNAP.

Grades one through five were given a name of a child and a gift to purchase for them.

Parents if your child did not receive a gift tag please call the office as soon as possible.

Any parishioner who would like to help us please look for the announcement in this bulletin about CHRISTMAS ANGELS.

ONGOING PROJECTS (please continue to support)

- Collecting School Supplies for The Ladies of Charities project
- Pull Tab collection to support Ronald McDonald House.
- Adopt Our Seminarians' Project

Used markers/highlighters etc. to be recycled

For more information or to answer questions please call Angela Diebold at the Religious Ed Office at 773-2002 (option 3)

### MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

Classes are in session this weekend, Sunday, December 1 at 10:00am for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Please bring your Christmas Drive gift. HighSchool sessions meet next week, Sunday, December 8th at 10:00am. Please bring your Christmas Drive gift.

**We are bursting at the seams!** Due to a high enrollment in our **High School** sessions, additional **Catechists** are needed. We gather just about once a month on Sunday mornings at 10:00am – 11:00am. Please consider helping with this rewarding ministry. Contact Rebecca Cambria 773-2002 ext. 122

Please join us... TODAY  
December 1, 2019

**1:00pm**

In the Hospitality Room

Fresh greens, candles and all the supplies you will need to create your very own Advent Wreath for use in your home.

**Space is limited** so please RSVP below or by email

For more information please contact Rebecca Cambria

773-2002 ext. 122 or  
cambriar@ststephensgi.org  
Free will offering

Yes! Count us in! Family

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



....prepare ye the way for the Lord

# Respect Life

Committee meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7 PM. New members always most welcome!  
Questions? Call Mark or Kathy – 773-5726

March for Life – January 24, 2020 – Washington, DC - Any parishioners, including youth, interested in participating in the upcoming March for Life? Contact the Respect Life Committee (Mark or Kathy at 773-5726) – our committee will help to financially sponsor your participation and will help you to make arrangements.

National Night of Prayer for Life – Sunday, December 8 - 9:00 pm -midnight – Eucharistic Adoration in the Daily Chapel - Let us bow down in UNISON across the nation before the Blessed Sacrament in Adoration and Reparation for the sins against the lives of our innocent unborn. It would be helpful if you would sign up for a shift on the sheet in the narthex but PLEASE feel free to come even if you haven't signed up!

Every human life has inestimable value:

“And can it be that in a world so full and busy the loss of one creature makes a void so wide and deep that nothing but the width and depth of eternity can fill it up.”

Charles Dickens



## CHRISTMAS ANGELS

The Elementary Religious Department is hoping that the parishioners' of St. Stephen will help us with our Christmas Outreach Project. Our program has supported St. Patrick Pantry for many years at Christmas time and during the year, through gifts, food drives, etc. As our numbers are down I am reaching out to see if anyone would like to help. You could adopt a child (we have names available) or a whole family. Other requests we have from the pantry are for five dollar gift cards to McDonald's, Tim Horton's, Kohl's, Tops, or Walgreens. In the past our teachers have helped out the Pantry with twenty-five dollar gift cards to Tops which are used to supplement the Pantry's food supply; so if you are able to help that way it would be much appreciated. All gifts/items need to be turned into the Religious Education office by December 7<sup>th</sup> attention Angela. If you have additional questions please feel free to call Angela at 773-2002 option 3 or extension 128. Thank-you but most of all God Bless You for your help.



## COFFEE & DONUTS

Throughout the winter months, our parish gathers to grow as a community over a cup of hot coffee and some tasty donuts. This event is only made possible through the help of volunteers. If your interested in helping continue this long time tradition, call Amy Finn at 432-6709 or email her at agfynn25@gmail.com.

## CHRISTMAS MASS INTENTIONS

As you can imagine, there is a great request for Mass intentions on Christmas and they cannot all be accommodated. Therefore, we will not assign a single intention for each Mass. Rather, we will open all the Masses for the intentions you request. *Intentions may be for the living, deceased or some special prayer need.* Please return the form below if you would like your intention included. All intentions will be published in the bulletin. All seven Vigil and Christmas Day masses will be offered for the intentions submitted as well as the following 8 days of the Christmas Novena. We hope that this will accommodate your prayer intentions for Christmas better than in the past.

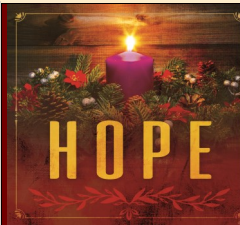
Detach & return to rectory or drop in collection  
**DEADLINE: FRI, DEC. 16**

My intention(s) to be included in all 7 Christmas Masses & 8 days of the Novena are:

\_\_\_\_\_

Requested by \_\_\_\_\_

Offering (if desired) \_\_\_\_\_



## Advent Wreath Prayer

Light the first candle and say:

(Isiah 9:1-2)

*The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light! (Isaiah 9:1-2) God of compassion, be with us in these long and dark days as we await the birth of your son Jesus. Amen*

If your children are old enough, allow them to take turns lighting the candles on the wreath. Little children may blow them out.

# SEASONAL HAPPENINGS

## Nativity Stations

During Advent we will celebrate the Nativity Stations - the Advent counterpart of the Stations of the Cross - which allow us to hear the Christmas stories proclaimed in their entirety. Only part of the story is proclaimed at each Christmas Mass, so come hear and celebrate the whole story as told by Matthew and Luke. We'll be in the Daily Mass Chapel at 7 pm on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. Same service each night. Come and enter into the Christmas Story. I look forward to seeing you there.

- Deacon Frank

## Christmas Concert

Cardinal O'Hara High School in the Town of Tonawanda will continue one of its longest running traditions with a Greccio reenactment and Christmas concert starting at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 11. The Cardinal O'Hara freshman class will reenact St. Francis of Assisi's pageant that depicts the birth of Jesus. O'Hara's Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, Chorus, Song Corps and Dance Ensemble will also perform their annual concert of holiday favorites in the Performing Arts Center immediately following the Greccio reenactment. The event is free and open to the public. Prior to Greccio, the music department will host a spaghetti dinner fundraiser from 4 to 6 p.m. in the student dining room. Tickets are \$9 presale, \$10 at door. Dinner tickets may be purchased by calling O'Hara at 695-2600, ext. 312.

## Speaker Series

Msgr. Frederick Leising

ADVENT AND CREATION: WHO IS GOD?

WHO ARE YOU?

Monday, December 16, 2019 from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM.

Our Lady of Pompeii Parish,  
129 Laverack Ave Lancaster NY  
(716) 683-6522 [www.olpparish.com](http://www.olpparish.com)

Msgr. Leising's presentation will ready our hearts for the birth of Christ!  
Refreshments follow! All are welcome

## Advent Lessons & Carols

St. Timothy's choir will present a program of advent Lessons & Carols in preparation for Christmas on Thursday December 5th at 7pm in St. Timothy Church (Ensminger rd & East Park Drive ). This service is a wonderful opportunity to take some time during this busy season to reflect on the meaning of the birth of Jesus/ All are welcome!

## Craft Show

A Holiday Craft & Vendor Show will take place Saturday, Dec. 7, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Cardinal O'Hara High School in the Town of Tonawanda. Admission is free. Proceeds from the fair will support the senior class prom. For more information, email [ktorrie@cardinalohara.com](mailto:ktorrie@cardinalohara.com) or call Karen Torrie at the school 695-2600 ext. 301.

## Festival of Lights

Our Lady of Fatima Shrine

Till January 6, 2020

Shrine open 9am to 9pm

Lights 5pm to 9pm

Free Christmas Concert Series

Dec. 11 - Buffalo/Niagara Concert Band 7:30pm

Dec 14 - Lock City Glee Club 5:00pm

Dec 29 - Voices of Mary 6:30pm

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC MEDIA CDS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX

The kiosk in Saint Stephen's Church Narthex is stocked with low-cost Catholic resources from the world's best Catholic speakers. A charge of \$3.00 is requested for each CD chosen, which should be placed in the provided envelope and in the Sacristy slot to the left of the Main Church Doors. **PREPARE THE WAY OF THE KING**

Dr. Scott Hahn - one of the most eminent Catholic theologians in our country today - reveals what scholars now know about the shepherds, the mysterious Magi, and King Herod. Your Advent journey will take on new meaning as you prepare your heart for the birth of our Lord. This illuminating presentation is sure to help you grow in appreciation of the greatest gift ever given to mankind - Jesus Christ.

## SPECIAL MAGNIFICAT EVENT

Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, internationally known EWTN *quest*, author, and vocations director of the Marin Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, will present a morning of prayer and testimony. Father Calloway's testimony to how the extraordinary love and mercy of Our Lord rescued him from a life of sin and painful consequences is a dynamic account of the power of the Holy Spirit to save souls! The event will take place at Our Lady of Victory National Shrine and Basilica, 767 Ridge Rd, Lackawanna, NY 14218 on December 7, 2019 from 7:30am-12:00pm. Advance registration is \$35 by November 29 (\$40 thereafter) and includes a boxed breakfast. Further details, agenda, and reservations may be had by contacting Maureen Wilson at 716-683-2290 or at the Magnificat website: [www.facebook.com/magnificatbuffalo](http://www.facebook.com/magnificatbuffalo).