



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

NOVEMBER 28, 2021
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily (Monday to Saturday)	8:00 a.m.
Saturday Vigil	4:00 p.m.
Sunday	8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Holy Day Vigil	6:30 p.m.
Holy Day	8:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)

Saturday	3:00–3:30 p.m.
Before Daily Mass and by appointment.	

DEVOTIONS

Recitation of the Rosary – Monday at 7:30 a.m.
St. Anthony of Padua – Tuesday after Mass
Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Wednesday after Mass
Miraculous Medal – Thursday after Mass
Exposition and Benediction – Friday after Mass

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Fr. Ross M. Syracuse, OFM Conv
fr.ross@verizon.net
 Cell: 1-410-258-4087

Faith Formation Coordinator & Youth Ministry Director

Mrs. Elizabeth Woods
sfareled@gmail.com

Business Manager

Mr. Mark Godios
mgodios@aol.com

Parish Secretary

Mrs. Anna M Pease
sfaoffice@verizon.net

Director of Music

Richard C. Jones
rcjogg@gmail.com

St. Maximilian Kolbe Friary

Fr. Alexander Cymerman,
OFM Conv
 Fr. Romulus Rosolowski,
OFM Conv
 Fr. Charles Jagodzinski,
OFM Conv
 Fr. George Maslar, OFM Conv
 Fr. Ross M. Syracuse,
OFM Conv

ADDRESS

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
 4263 St. Francis Drive ~ P.O. Box 182
 Athol Springs, New York 14010

EMAIL: sfaoffice@verizon.net

WEBSITE: www.stfrancischurch.us

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a Faith Community of Catholic Christians who are joined in love and guided by the Holy Spirit, called to deepen the awareness of God's presence in the lives of his people. As a Faith Community, we live God's Word through **Worship, Service, Evangelization, and Community**. With Christ as our model and St. Francis of Assisi as our patron, we desire to fulfill our mission for the benefit of all people. An ever vibrant and growing Faith Community is our prayer.

TELEPHONES

Parish Office	627-2710
Parish Fax	627-5263
Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Office	627-3357
Bereavement Office (Day Cummings)	507-6281
Diocesan Pregnancy Assistance Hotline	716-847-2205

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday: 9:00 A.M.—3:30 P.M.
 Please Call Ahead



† † † MASS INTENTIONS † † †

Monday, November 29

8:00 AM + Matthew Czyzewski

Req. by His Wife Goldie

Tuesday, November 30

8:00 AM For the Health of John Paul Miller

Req. by Jan & June

Wednesday, December 1

8:00 AM For The People & Faith Community

Thursday, December 2

8:00 AM + Jerry Nowak

Req. by Ronald & Tracy Klineczar

Friday, December 3

8:00 AM + William Weiss

Req. by The Weiss Family

Req. by The Family

Saturday, December 4

8:00 AM + Teresa Stachowiak

Req. by Frank & Joanne Wasiele

4:00 PM + Alfred Labine

(Birthday Remembrance)

Req. by The Family

Sunday, December 5

8:30 AM Living & Deceased Members of

The Altar Rosary & Holy Name Society

11:00 AM + Peg Hammond

Req. Michael & Jean Hymes

6:00 PM + Josiah Sewastynowicz

Req. by Daughter Eleanore & Family

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE



If you would like to make a donation of \$10 (suggested) for the sanctuary candle in memory of someone (living or deceased) or for a special intention, please fill out the form below. It can be returned via the mail, parish office or placed in the collection basket at Mass. We will post the name of the person remembered each week.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Intention _____

Checks should be made payable to *St. Francis Church*

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

Join us for First Saturday Devotions December 4 to Our Lady of Fatima, to pray for all souls, and world peace. Confessions will be heard before 8AM Mass, Rosary and devotions to follow.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING



For those of you who use our parish envelopes, next weekend there is a envelope for the Christmas Flower Offering. There are additional envelopes available in the vestibule of the Church. Offerings can also be made on e-giving. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL



James Cackovich, Marie Vallon,

Beth Woodworth, Joshua Woodworth,

Jeff Luke, Lynn Conlon,

Fr. Steve Frenier, Natalie Palmeri,

Tom McFaul, Albert Labasco,

Geri Koss, Joe Bloom, and Erik Young

It is very important that the Parish Office be notified if a family member is in the hospital. Please contact Anna Pease, our parish secretary, if you would like to place the name of someone on our Sick List. Please contact Fr. Ross if you or someone you know would like to be anointed

SENSITIVE TO GLUTEN?

If you are sensitive to gluten and would like to receive Holy Communion, please see Fr. Ross before Mass to make the necessary arrangements.

MASS INTENTIONS

One way that we can remember a loved one or pray for a special intention is through the Mass Intention. The usual offering is \$15. While most times the person remembered has died, we can also pray for the living, for someone's health or for any special intention. Please don't forget your mask when coming into the Office to request a Mass Intention.



PRAYER INTENTION BOOK



For those who attend our Masses or visit the church during the week, you have the opportunity to offer a personal prayer intention by writing it in the Prayer Intention Book on the lectern in the vestibule. At all our weekend Masses we offer a special prayer for all the intentions that are written in the Book of Intentions.



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS



- November 29: **Boy Scouts Meeting**– 7:00PM (GYM)
December 1: **Prayer Shawl Ministry**-10:30AM (Library)
Bingo–7:30 PM (Social Center)
December 4: **23rd Annual Roswell Benefit** - 5:00PM
 (Social Center)
December 5: **Faith Formation Session 4** - 9:30AM
 (Social Center)

23rd ANNUAL ROSWELL BENEFIT

Join us in the Social Center on Saturday, December 4 at 5PM to support a benefit for the kids at Roswell! Admission is 1 new unwrapped toy, a gift card or \$5. Enjoy Dinner, a Basket Raffle, 50/50, and a visit with Santa Clause himself! For more information or to make a donation call Debbie Ling (716-954-3096) or Mike Ling (716-912-6864)



GIFT OF GIVING



The First Sunday of Advent is November 28 and we will again be having the “Gift of Giving” during the Advent Season. No doubt the participation in this endeavor will be as successful as in the past, because of the generosity of our Faith Community. The trees will be in the usual spot in the front of the church.

ADVENT OUTREACH HEY! YOU NEVER KNOW!

During this time of Advent, as we prepare for Christmas, we encourage everyone to reach out to someone you know, a family member or friend, who, for one reason or another, hasn’t been coming to Church for a while. If that person has had a bad experience with the Diocese, parish or the pastor, or if they are going through tough times, you might be the right person to help them get back to the practice of their faith. Sometimes all that is needed is a *little push*. Let them know how much your being an active member of our Faith Community means to you. Please know that Fr. Ross is more than willing to meet with them and listen to their concern or complaint. Again, you might be that one person who can really be the Lord’s instrument of reconciliation and given a great Christmas gift!



SNOW REMINDER & REQUEST

Now that we find ourselves in the time when we might have a lot of snow, for those who attend Daily Mass, if the schools are closed, the church will not be opened and Fr. Ross will have a private, live-streamed Mass. If there is snow and the schools are open, please arrive as close to 8AM as possible. The reason for this is so that the snow plower will be able to clear the parking lot unimpeded. Bottom line, even if the schools are open and the weather is lousy, **STAY HOME!** God understands. Also, for those who are able, when we have snow and you have some time, shoveling by the doors on the property where the machines can’t get to, would be greatly appreciated. We are still looking for a part-time maintenance person. Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation.



CONGRATULATIONS

FIRST RECONCILIATION STUDENTS!

On November 20th the Candidates for First Sacraments received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Please join us in congratulating the following students:

† † † † † † † † † †

*Zachary Falkiewicz, Erin Gearhart,
 Mitchell Groundwater, Harper Johnson, Troy Lueck,
 Cameron Newman, Andrew Sigeti, and Gabriella Trost.*

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



As we find ourselves at the beginning of Advent, we are proposing the following TENTATIVE schedule of Christmas Masses. All Masses will be in the church. We have to keep in mind the possibility of changes with regard to COVID directives that might come from Diocese or Erie County,

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 PM & 10:00 PM

* * * * *

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00 and 11:00 AM

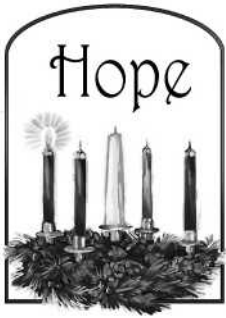
Please note: As a precaution, we will be insisting **FACE MASKS BE WORN DURING THE ENTIRE MASS**. While inconvenient, we want to make sure that everyone stays healthy. If you haven't yet done so, please make sure to get your COVID vaccinations.



Happy New Year!



REFLECTIONS FROM FR. ROSS



Happy New Year! It almost sounds funny, but it's true. We are at the beginning of another Church year with the arrival of this First Sunday of Advent. That means that Christmas is very near. I'm always a little concerned in that in the voices of many people I speak with about the approaching Christmas

Season, there appears to be a tone of semi-dread and almost a lack of looking forward to it. I often hear, "There's so much that I have to do: Christmas cards and gifts, get the house ready, all that cooking, etc."

For a while now, with the financial situation we are facing, we hear in the business that there is a lot of *downsizing* going on. It's an attempt to simplify and cut back so that a company or operation might become more efficient and productive. Perhaps we all need to *downsize* our approach to Christmas so that we will be able to participate in the true spirit of Christmas which is to *celebrate the wonderful gift of God's love, shared with us and given to us in the birth of His Son, Jesus*. Folks, this is what it's all about. If that's not at the heart of what we do, forget it. It becomes just one more thing to make our busy schedules even busier.

Part of Advent for me is to re-form and adjust my vision for the future as individuals, as members of families and as members of the Faith Community. We formulate that vision in the light of our relationship with God and in the light of truly knowing ourselves and where we are in our life's journey. As we attempt to fine-tune that vision, the following might prove helpful:

—Funny how a \$10.00 bill looks so big when you take it to church, but so small when you take it to the store.

—Funny how big an hour serving God looks and how small 60 minutes are when spent playing golf, fishing, or playing cards.

—Funny how we get thrilled when a football game goes into overtime, but when a sermon is a few minutes longer than usual.

—Funny how laborious it is to read a chapter in the Bible and how easy it is to read 200-300 pages of a best-selling novel.

—Funny how we believe what "others" say, but question what we are told in the Bible.

—Funny how people scramble to get a front seat at any game, but scramble to get a back seat at church services.

—Funny how we need 2 or 3 weeks to fit a church event into our schedule, but can adjust it for a social event at the last minute.

—Funny how much difficulty some have memorizing a gospel passage to share with others, but how simple it is for the same people to understand and explain some "juicy" gossip about someone.

—Funny how easy it is to point out the sins of others, but how difficult it is to remember our own since our last Confession of a year ago.


—Funny how people are so consumed with what others think about them, rather than what God thinks about them.

—Funny how everyone wants to go to heaven, provided they don't have to believe, or to think, or to say, or to do anything that will be difficult or demand a sacrifice.

The beginning of the Liturgical Year is a good time to make that New Year's resolution. What do I need to change? What is bothering me about me? As I look at my life honestly, what's really wrong? Am I trying to convince myself that my attitude and/or habits are really not that bad? What direction is my life really taking? Where is it really leading I? What are my life's goals? At the beginning of this Advent Season let us all take some time to look at our lives in the light of God's love for us. True change begins with one change. It's important to remember that the only person we can change is ourselves, and, when we change ourselves, we really change the world. Again, **Happy New Year!**

fr.ross@verizon.net





*Then they will see
"the Son of Man
coming in a cloud"
with power and
great glory.*

Luke 21:27, NRSV





Lakeside Memorial
FUNERAL HOME, INC.
Compassionate Healing
Charles A. Castiglia, Licensed Director
S-4199 Lakeshore Rd • Hamburg, New York
(716) 627-2919
www.lakesidefuneralhome.com

Are you caregiving for someone 60+ not on Medicaid?
Want to be compensated?
Call now for info and eligibility



NY Connects
Your Link to Long Term
Services and Supports

of
ERIE COUNTY

(800) 342-9871 • (716) 858-8526

PEGASUS Restaurant

Book your next special event in our elegant banquet room.

**Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner
TAKE OUT**

Open 24 hours • Sunday till 10pm

Areas Best Chicken/Beef Souvlaki,
Wraps, Melts, Homemade Daily Specials

**5748 South Park Ave.
Hamburg, NY • 649-9639**

10% SENIOR DISCOUNT

Sunday Breakfast Buffet 9am-1:30pm

MURRAY ROOFING CO. INC.

600 CAYUGA CREEK RD
CHEEKTOWAGA, NEW YORK 14227-1932
(716) 896-5555 | Fax: (716) 894-5730

Sales@MurrayRoofingCompanyInc.com

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ROOFING AND REPAIRS

WNY's Most Trusted!

www.murrayroofingcompanyinc.com

Call Today for your FREE Estimate!



Expressions

FLORAL & GIFT SHOPPE INC.
59 MAIN ST. • HAMBURG
716.648.2110
www.shopexpressions.com



Lombardo Funeral Home

Our Family Serving Your Family Since 1907

Don't overpay for one of life's necessities.

• **Traditional Funerals Starting at \$3,995**

Includes 2 day viewing, 20 gauge metal casket
(Concrete grave liner optional - not required by NYS; may be required by cemetery)

• **Direct Cremation \$899**

3060 Abbott Road • (Near Lake Avenue)

823-4812

"The End of High Cost Funerals"

MICHALEK & HARRINGTON, LLC

Attorneys at Law

300 Center Rd., West Seneca NY 14224 • (716) 675-6715

Let Our Family Handle ALL of Your Family's Legal Needs

Paul M. Michalek

Jeffrey M. Harrington Jane Michalek Harrington



571 Terrace Blvd., Depew

716-683-4196

Depew Location

Accepting New Patients

4855 Camp Road, Suite 100, Hamburg

716-646-1084

www.lakeshorepca.com

SIMONCELLI ELECTRIC



Simoncelli Electric, Inc.

Commercial and Residential

3740 California Road
Orchard Park, NY 14127

716/662-2780 • Fax: 716/662-3747

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!



Need payment assistance?
We're here to help.

National Fuel®

NATIONALFUEL.COM

1-800-365-3234

**AVAILABLE FOR
A LIMITED TIME!**

ADVERTISE HERE NOW!

Contact **Brett Burt** to
place an ad today!
bburt@4LPi.com or
(800) 477-4574 x6443

**FREE
AD DESIGN**

**WITH PURCHASE
OF THIS SPACE**



CALL 800.477.4574

WANAKAH PHARMACY



- Most Insurance Plans Accepted
- Unique Gifts
- Vaccinations Available

Mon-Fri 9-7

Sat & Sun 9-2

627-3232

4923 Lakeshore Rd. • Hamburg

HAMBURG CHAPEL
5453 Southwestern Blvd.
Corner Rogers Rd.

646-5555

JOHN J.

KACZOR

FUNERAL HOME, INC.

"...A Time & Place for Remembering"

BLASDELL/LACKAWANNA
CHAPEL

3450 South Park Ave.
(1/2 Mile North of Lake Ave.)

824-6377



3-D-4-2

For ad info. call 1-800-477-4574 • www.4LPi.com

14-0400