

2018 St. Louis Church

Oldest Catholic Parish in the Diocese of Buffalo
Founded in 1829

Celebrating Our 189th Anniversary

Rectory: 35 Edward Street • Buffalo, New York 14202-1505

Phone: (716) 852-6040 • Fax: (716) 853-9225

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Web address: www.stlouisrchurch.org

E-mail address: stlouischurch@verizon.net

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Msgr. Salvatore Manganello, J.C.L., S.T.L. Pastor
Rev. Msgr. John W. Madsen..... Weekend Assistant
Rev. Andrew R. Lauricella..... 12:05 Mass—Friday
TRUSTEES..... Rosemary Bloch, Michael Mikos
CURATOR OF 1903 KIMBALL PIPE ORGAN William Kurzdorfer
ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER..... Frank Scinta
CANTOR..... James Mrozek
DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION Ashlee Campbell
BUSINESS MANAGER..... John Beller
SECRETARY Dolores Vasi

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS

President..... Frank Pelosi
Vice-President..... Jane Pelosi
Secretary..... Robert Sprague

MASSES

Saturday 4:00 p.m. (Sunday Liturgy)
Sunday..... 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Eve of the Holy Day..... 4:30 p.m.
Holy Day 12:05 p.m.
Mon-Fri 12:05 p.m.
Confessions Saturday 3:15 - 3:45 p.m.



WEDDINGS

Registered Parishioners please call the Rectory for appointment. Arrangements should be made at least one year in advance.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK

Call Rectory for date and time. Anointing of the Sick, anytime day or night.

BAPTISMS

First & Third Sundays of the month at 12:00 p.m. Parents must attend a Pre-Baptism class prior to scheduling the Baptism. Classes are offered bi-monthly. Please call the Rectory for information.

DEADLINE

All items for the weekly bulletin must be in the parish office by Monday at noon.

FAITH FORMATION

We offer a variety of religious education, Sacrament preparation, and adult faith formation programs. Please contact 853-1972 for more information.

OUR PARISH SCHOOL

The Catholic Academy of West Buffalo

Grades Pre-K to 8

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HEARING ASSISTANCE

With our sound system we now have the **Phonic Ear**. This hearing assistance system is available to all who are hearing impaired. This system provides a transmitter with a headset and earplugs. Please come to the Sacristy for assistance.

PARISH MUSEUM & ARCHIVES: OPEN BY APPOINTMENT.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FORMER PASTORS

Reverend John Nicholas Mertz..... 1829-1836
Reverend Alexander Pax 1836-1843
Reverend Francis Guth..... 1844-1850
Reverend Joseph Rafffeiner..... 1850-1851
Reverend William Deiters..... 1855-1861
Reverend J. E. Moshall..... 1861-1862
Reverend Francis Anthony Gerber..... 1862-1863
Reverend Sergus Schoulepnikoff 1864-1867
Reverend Joseph M. Sorg..... 1867-1888

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Dr. Paul Hoelscher 1888-1916
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Henry B. Laudensch..... 1917-1944
Reverend Michael A. Anstett 1944-1948
Reverend Howard J. Schwartz..... 1948-1964
Reverend Clarence Ott..... 1964-1965
Reverend Alfred M. Mosack 1965-1979
Rev. Msgr. William A. Schwinger 1979-1995
Rev. Msgr. Robert A. Mack..... 1995-2002

Most Rev. Robert J. Cunningham, D.D., J.C.L., 2002-2004

Announced Masses of the Week

SATURDAY, December 22:
4:00 pm: VIGIL FOR FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 In Thanksgiving and Blessings in the New Year for Oczek and Klosko Families, by Family

SUNDAY, December 23: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9:00 am: Deceased Members of the Vetter Family
11:00 am: Carmela, John, Mary and Carrie Arnone, by Family

MONDAY, December 24: LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY
12:05 pm: Marie and Carl Miller, by Estate
4:00 pm: VIGIL FOR NATIVITY OF THE LORD
 Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. Louis Parish
Midnight: Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. Louis Parish

TUESDAY, December 25: NATIVITY OF THE LORD
10:00 am: Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. Louis Parish

WEDNESDAY, December 26: SAINT STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR
12:05 pm: For the People of Saint Louis Parish

THURSDAY, December 27: SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST
12:05 pm: The Crane Family, by Mary K. Crane Estate

FRIDAY, December 28: THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS
12:05 pm: Carmela Stadelmaier, by Sandra and Michael Clarke

SATURDAY, December 29:
4:00 pm: VIGIL FOR THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
 Mark Brzezicki, by Sandra and Michael Clarke

SUNDAY, December 30: THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
9:00 am: Anthony J. Colucci, Jr., by Anthony and Kim Jordan
11:00 am: Vincey and Anthony Barone, by Family

SCHEDULE OF LECTORS

Weekend of December 29th and December 30th
4:00 pm: Diane Randazzo and Joyce Persico
9:00 am: Tom Pirrung
11:00 am: Ed Kuzan



SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Weekend of December 29th and December 30th
4:00 pm: Debbie Guillow, Ann Dumansky, Jim Ferrini and Diane Randazzo
9:00 am: Judy Perkowski, Robert Sprague, Al Bluemle and Susan Ministero
11:00 am: Pam Nordstrom, Carolann Besch and Ryan and Lindsay McGowan



CHRISTMAS

MEMORIAL PRAYER CANDLES



The Sanctuary Light burns this week to the Glory of God and in memory of **Carmela, John, Mary and Carrie Arnone, requested by Family.** The St. Joseph Candle burns this week in honor of **Peter and Barbara Nagowski on their 40th Wedding Anniversary, requested by Florence Kowal.**

If you desire to have a Memorial Prayer Candle lit in memory of a loved one or for your intention, please use the envelope available for that purpose.

THE CHRISTMAS FLOWER

At this time of year leading up to Christmas, many stories are told about the traditions surrounding Christmas. We re-tell the story of the Birth of Christ in the manger along with all the participants of the first Christmas. As people gather to celebrate the Christmas season they re-tell the stories of their own traditions as well.

In some reading, I came across the story of the poinsettia. Our churches and homes will be decorated with this flower of Christmas for the next couple of weeks. The poinsettia was an unlikely choice to be the "Christmas flower" because it is found only in central America and only blooms for a few weeks in winter.

The ancient Aztecs extracted a purplish dye from the plant for textiles and used its milky white sap as a medicine to treat fevers. The poinsettia would have remained obscure if it hadn't been for Joel Roberts Poinsett, who served as the first U.S. Ambassador to Mexico in 1825. A physician and botanist, Poinsett sent some of the beautiful red plants to his home in South Carolina and began growing them and giving them to friends and fellow botanists.

The Mexicans have a legend about the plant. According to one, a little girl was devastated because she was too poor to bring any gift to her church's Nativity scene on Christmas Eve. An angel appeared to the little girl and told her to go and pick a weed from the roadside, bring it to the altar, and wait. The child did as the angel directed and when she placed the weed before the Christ Child it had been transformed into a tall beautiful plant bearing a whorl of brilliant scarlet flowers on the top.

From the ancient Aztec culture, from a small, poor region of Mexico, comes one of the most beautiful symbols of Christmas. Its medicinal properties mirror the healing wonders of Jesus; its deep red color is a sign of his death on the cross; its blooming in the middle of winter is a sign of the love of God dawning in our world; its legend exalts God's Spirit of generosity and compassion.

Msgr. Manganello



Please pray for all those who are sick, suffering, recovering and hospitalized, especially **Richard Devita, Ray Shamer, Frank Zawistowski, Delores Needham, Sara Ascela, Will Travis, Amy Vilz, Patricia Bortle, Patricia Guerra, Joel Rivera, Theresa Dominski, Lynn Goslinski, Tracy Abram, Mamie Kate Johnson, Bud Vetter, Deborah Buyers, John Zawistowski, James Palka, Bernadette R. Crawford, Niziti Ascela, Carlos Calhoun and Margaret Foegen.**

Please contact the Parish Office to have a loved one placed on the Prayer List. Names will appear for one month. If their condition continues to warrant our prayers, please call the office and we will gladly include them in one month increments as long as necessary.

We remember all those recently deceased and our deceased parishioners and loved ones.

SPIRITUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORT

We warmly welcome all who come to St. Louis for Mass—tourists, visitors, parishioners and friends. Last weekend 393 people attended Mass at St. Louis Parish. Our regular collection was \$5,457.00.

Your generosity is deeply appreciated. It enables the preservation, ministry and maintenance of our historic church. It assists us in reaching out to the people of our neighborhood.

Thank you for your support.

Please remember St. Louis Parish in your will. A bequest may be worded in this fashion - "I give to St. Louis Roman Catholic Church of Buffalo, NY the sum of _____ to be used for its general purposes."



In the name of Msgr. John Madsen, our Trustees, Parish Council and our staff and in my own name, we wish you and yours a most blessed, happy and joyous Merry Christmas. We pray that the Christ Child, the Prince of Peace will fill every corner of your hearts and homes with His Peace, Power and Presence.

Msgr. Manganello

ANNUAL PRESERVATION FUND DRIVE

Thank you to everyone who has so generously contributed to our Preservation Fund Drive. Thanks to your generosity in the past we have been able to maintain our beautiful church. With your generous support we will continue to be able to keep everything in good repair. Donations will be accepted until December 31st. So far, **\$41,973** has been donated.

DECORATE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

The Saint Louis Garden Society (SLGS) and Christmas decorators will meet in the church on Sunday, December 23rd at noon to decorate our beautiful church for Christmas.

New volunteers are always welcome.

RECEIPT OF TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS

By law, contributions that are to be used as a 2018 tax deduction by the donor must be postmarked or in the hands of the parish **no later than December 31. We will only issue year end contribution statements for 2018 if requested.**

Anyone who requires a tax statement may contact the rectory at 852-6040 or write **"Tax Statement" on the front of your church envelope.**

ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS

**to be held at the Carmelite Monastery
75 Carmel Road—Buffalo, NY**

As in previous years, Mass will be offered in our Chapel at 11:30 pm, December 31, to give thanks to God for all the graces of 2018 and to ask His blessing on the year 2019.

Rev. Peter J. Santandreu of St. Amelia's Parish will be the celebrant.

CATHOLIC ACADEMY CORNER

- * Fall tennis just ended and will begin again in January. It is very popular and our 2nd—4th graders love it!
- * The Advent season highlights all the community service projects our students have been involved with and continue to do. Several classes will be singing Christmas carols for the residents at the Buffalo Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing. 3rd grade continues to visit monthly to cheer-up the residents. 8th graders sponsored a very successful Christmas food drive for the St. Vincent De Paul Dining Room. 4th graders are spearheading Random Acts of Kindness and spreading it throughout the school. 'Tis the season for giving!
- * Our Handbell choir performed at St. Joseph Cathedral for the Lessons and Carols and did a wonderful job.
- * Girls' and boys' basketball has begun. Our Phys Ed teacher Nathan Longbine is the boys' new coach and Lisa Ehlers returns as the girls' coach. We are hoping for an exciting and competitive season.
- * Drama, Science and Art Clubs will begin in January, along with some new fitness programs. Canisius STEM Jr. Club students continue to tutor and teach chess in the After School Program. After school is always busy at CAWB!
- * Visit our website at cawb.org for information about our school. Please check us out on Facebook and Twitter!

THIS WEEK AT SAINT LOUIS

SATURDAY, December 22nd

4:00 pm: The Regular Offertory Collection

SUNDAY, December 23rd

9:00 am & 11:00 am: The Regular Offertory Collection

12 noon: Saint Louis Garden Society (SLGS)
Decorate Church for Christmas

MONDAY, December 24th

4:00 pm: Vigil for the Nativity of the Lord
Christmas Offering Collection

11:30 pm: Christmas Music Program

Midnight: Mass for Christmas

TUESDAY, December 25th—Merry Christmas

10:00 am: Christmas Offering Collection

SATURDAY, December 29th

4:00 pm: The Regular Offertory Collection

4:00 pm: St. Louis 2019 Calendars Available

SUNDAY, December 30th

9:00 am & 11:00 am: The Regular Offertory Collection

9:00 am & 11:00 am: St. Louis 2019 Calendars Available

VOCATION THOUGHT

Today we hear that Jesus' coming into our world and all of the love he poured out for us, through much sacrifice, was done in obedience to the Father's will. Remember that it may be God's will that you be a priest, or a religious sister or brother. If so, will you follow Jesus' example of faithfulness? If God is calling you to a Church vocation, call Father Andrew Lauricella at 847-5535.

FAITH MOMENT REFLECTION

Like a young child awaiting Christmas morning, our readings today fill us with great expectation and hope. In the first reading Israel is given God's promise that He will care for and stand firm with His people. We learn that from Bethlehem shall come forth from God one who will shepherd His flock, that "His greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace." In a similar way on Christmas we do much more than recall God's gift—a gift that was not wrapped in bright paper but in dreary swaddling clothes; a gift that was not found under a tree but in Bethlehem. On Christmas we also place our hope in God's promise to care for us and we trust that the promise once fulfilled in Bethlehem continues to be present with us today. Like both the Israelites of old and the young child of today we are also filled with a great expectation that we will very shortly find God's great gift of peace *in* and *for* our lives.

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