2015
St. Louis Church
Oldest Catholic Parish in the Diocese of Buffalo
Founded in 1829

Celebrating Our 186th 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.stlouisrcchurch.org
E-mail address: stlouischurch@verizon.net

PASTORAL STAFF
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 ..............................................Wendy Mistretta
Vice-President ...........................................John Zyga
Secretary ................................................Keith Boerner

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.

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
1069 Delaware Ave. • Buffalo, NY 14209 • (716) 885-6111

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.

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.

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 Raffeiner..........................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
Reverend Michael A. Anstett ...........1944-1948
Reverend Howard J. Schwartz .............1948-1964
Reverend Clarence Ott .........................1964-1965
Reverend Alfred M. Mosack ..............1965-1979

SHARE IN THE CARE

Many of us recall a special Catholic sister or brother who had a profound influence on our lives. Never counting the cost, these dedicated individuals shared with us faith, love, and a belief in all that we could become, choosing to invest in our futures rather than their own. Today, that sister or brother may be elderly and need care.

In the early and mid-twentieth century, religious communities attracted record numbers of women and men to live of service and prayer. Having many members afforded these communities a certain degree of financial security. Funds that religious communities earned or saved were used to build Catholic hospitals, schools, and social service agencies. Retirement was funded on a “pay-as-you-go” basis, with the stipends of the younger members providing the basics of daily living for themselves and for elder members. Health-care services were often provided at little or no cost to the religious institute. As a result, many religious communities now lack adequate retirement savings.

To help address this challenge, U.S. Catholic bishops initiated the Retirement Fund for Religious in 1988. Each year, proceeds from the annual Retirement Fund for Religious are distributed to hundreds of eligible U.S. religious congregations. In the Diocese of Buffalo the communities of religious men and women that benefitted from this appeal are: the Barnabites, Dominican Nuns, the Columban Sisters, Sisters of Mercy, Social Service Sisters, Sisters of St. Joseph, Sisters of St. Mary Namur and the Sacred Heart Sisters.

This weekend (December 12th and 13th), in the Diocese of Buffalo, the annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious is being conducted. Your support of those who have done so much for us in the past is greatly appreciated.

**Msgr. Manganello**

St. Louis Church will be open each Wednesday during Advent from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon for the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Penance.

**The Light is on for you, December 16th and 23rd.**

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Our Annual Christmas Party will be held in the Church Hall Sunday, December 13th following the 11:00 a.m. children’s Mass. **Handmade notecards will be sold to benefit the Immaculate Heart Sisters of Africa.**

**In your prayers…**

Please pray for all those who are sick, suffering, recovering and hospitalized, especially Joyce McCracken, Sharon Warner, Herb Bucki, Larry DiGiulio, James Watson, Pam Arrigo, Kathryn Guse, Raymond Sharrar, Gertrude Fouchey, Mame Kate Johnson, Bob and Mary Dickerson, Spencer Daly, Niziti Ascela, Catalina Alo, Kathleen A. Walter, Kristina Lewis, Carlos Calhoun, Marie Miller, Tracy Abram 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 429 people attended Mass at St. Louis Parish. Our regular collection was $6,978.00 and Christmas Flowers collection was $1,312.00.

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.”

THIS WEEK AT SAINT LOUIS

SATURDAY, December 12th
4:00 pm: First Collection: The Regular Offertory Collection Including Maintenance and Repairs Collection
4:00 pm: Second Collection: Retirement Fund for Religious Collection
4:00 pm: Collection for Toys R St. Louis, Warmth Tree, and Response to Love Center

SUNDAY, December 13th
9:00 am & 11:00 am: First Collection: The Regular Offertory Collection Including Maintenance and Repairs Collection
9:00 am & 11:00 am: Second Collection: Retirement Fund for Religious Collection
9:00 am & 11:00 am: Collection for Toys R St. Louis, Warmth Tree and Response to Love Center

After 11:00 am Children’s Mass: Christmas Party—Church Hall

MONDAY, December 14th
6:00 pm: Parish Council Pot Luck Supper—Rectory

WEDNESDAY, December 16th
11:00 am—12 noon: Confession

SATURDAY, December 19th
4:00 pm: The Regular Offertory Collection Including Pew Rent Collection
4:00 pm: Collection for Warmth Tree and Response to Love Center

SUNDAY, December 20th
9:00 am & 11:00 am: The Regular Offertory Collection Including Pew Rent Collection
9:00 am & 11:00 am: Collection for Warmth Tree and Response to Love Center
12 noon: Baptism of Caroline Garvey Clifford
4:00 pm: Festival Service of Lessons and Carols

RECEIPT OF TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS

By law, contributions that are to be used as a 2015 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 2015 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.

SAINT LOUIS ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Thank you to everyone who has donated the Annual Fund Drive. Donations will be accepted until December 31. So far, $46,184 has been donated and there is $1,286 in outstanding pledges.

CHOIR OF ST. LOUIS CHURCH

TO PRESENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Choir of St. Louis Church will present a Festival Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 20th at 4:00 p.m. here in St. Louis Church.

Featured will be carols and anthems of Praetorius, Ord, Posten, Willcocks, Iseler and others.

The service of Lessons and Carols traces, in scripture and song, the Nativity story as foretold by the Old Testament prophets and narrated by the Gospel writers. Begun in King’s College Chapel, Cambridge University, nearly a century ago, the service of Lessons and Carols is repeated in churches of nearly every denomination worldwide.

Please join us as we celebrate the season of Advent/Christmas in scripture and song.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TRIDUUM

AND NEW YEAR’S EVE MASS

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

The Solemn Christmas Triduum, beginning Monday, December 21 and closing on Wednesday, December 23, will be conducted by Rev. Jack Maltimore, SJ. Services each evening of the Triduum will begin with the Rosary at 7:00 pm, followed by Mass.

As in previous years, there will be a Mass offered at 11:30 pm, December 31, to give thanks to God for all the graces of 2015 and to ask His blessing on the year 2016. Rev. Msgr. David G. LiPuma will be the celebrant.

CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

CORY JAMES GALLAGHER

A Musical-Poetic Journey of Christmas
Saturday, December 19th at 7:00 p.m.
Saint Ambrose Church, 65 Ridgewood Road, Buffalo, NY
This event is by donation.

DECORATE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

The Saint Louis Garden Society (SLGS) and Christmas decorators will meet in the church on Wednesday, December 23rd at 6:00 p.m. to decorate our beautiful church for Christmas. New volunteers are always welcome.

WARMTH TREE

St. Louis Church parishioners are once again decorating our gigantic Warmth Tree with colorful winter hats, mittens, scarves and gloves. These items will then be given to area families. Help us make this year’s tree the most festive ever!

Donations will be accepted the weekends of December 12th & 13th and December 19th & 20th.

RESPONSE TO LOVE CENTER

The Response to Love Center provides a variety of compassionate programs that assist those in need and enable self-sufficiency. We asked them for a wish list and were told they are in need of baby food (small jars), diapers (sizes 2, 3 & 4), baby powder, baby shampoo and baby wipes as well as men’s and women’s toiletry items. As you can imagine, the list of items needed for those served is lengthy. If you prefer to make a monetary gift to the Center, please place your donation into an envelope marked: “Response to Love Center” and drop it into the collection basket during Mass. Donations will be accepted the weekends of December 12th & 13th and December 19th & 20th.