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
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Henry B. Laudenbach…………………………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

**Announced Masses of the Week**

**SATURDAY, December 17:**
4:00 pm: VIGIL FOR FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
Richard Klener, by Loss Family

**SUNDAY, December 18:**
9:00 am: In Honor of St. Anthony, by Gary A. Halicki  
11:00 am: Deceased Members of Mikos Family, by Family

**MONDAY, December 19:**
12:05 pm: Catherine Neunder, by Estate

**TUESDAY, December 20:**
12:05 pm: Adelaide D. Volo, by Family

**WEDNESDAY, December 21:**
12:05 pm: For the People of Saint Louis Parish

**THURSDAY, December 22:**
12:05 pm: Mary Cirelli, by Geoffrey and Millie Klass

**FRIDAY, December 23:**
12:05 pm: Msgr. Paul Hoelscher, by Estate

**SATURDAY, December 24:**
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

**SUNDAY, December 25:**
9:00 am: Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. Louis Parish  
11:00 am: Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. Louis Parish

**SCHEDULE OF LECTORS**

**Weekend of December 24th and December 25th**

4:00 pm: Diane Randazzo  
Midnight: Ann Dumansky  
9:00 am: Wendy Mistretta  
11:00 am: John Zygaj

**SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Weekend of December 24th and December 25th**

4:00 pm: Frank and Jane Pelosi, Jim Ferrini, Robert Sprague, Ron and Margaret Foegen, Debbie Guillow and Pat Doyle  
Midnight: Kevin Brayer, Rosemary Bloch and Tim and Mary O’Shea  
9:00 am: Rosemary Bloch, Judy Perkowski, and Fred and Marilyn Steffan  
11:00 am: Mike Mikos, Ryan McGowan and Keith and Kathy Boerner

**Prepared the way for the Lord**

**Luke 3:4**

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**MEMORIAL PRAYER CANDLE**

The Sanctuary Light burns this week to the Glory of God and in memory of **Msgr. Robert A. Mack**, requested by Ted and Mary Guzowski.

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.

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**PREPARING THE WAY OF THE LORD**

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. One more week until Christmas. By now many of us have made our preparations for Christmas. The Lord is still preparing our hearts to make room for His Son Jesus to be born again in our lives. The signs and symbols of Christmas help us to reflect on the goodness of God that we celebrate.

Evergreen branches and trees decorate our homes and churches as a sign of life during the darkness of winter. Since the first celebrations of the winter solstice, branches of pine and spruce and balsam have been brought indoors to celebrate the “new sun” that dawns in late December with increasingly longer days of light. Against the cold winter landscape, these pieces of greenery were signs of hope that spring will return and that a new growing season will come again.

Our evergreen branches then are a sign of hope. Let the greenery stir within our hearts the hope that peace, joy, and good will are always possible; let the fresh smell of the pine remind us of God’s Spirit in our midst; let the branches give us pause to remember that we are all branches of Christ, who “takes root” in us this Christmas.

Let us pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Word of God, and transform our Advent hope into Christmas peace. May your Word of love take root in our hearts, enabling us to speak that Word in offerings of peace, joy and good will to all as we celebrate your birth again this year.

**Msgr. Manganello**

**VOCATION THOUGHT**

Today we hear that Jesus’ coming into our world and all of the love he poured out to 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.

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**In your prayers...**

Please pray for all those who are sick, suffering, recovering and hospitalized, especially James Palka, Tony Puglese, Susan Bertin, Bernadette R. Crawford, Heidi Comell, Niziti Ascela, Leah Manth, Donald Kopp, Geraldine Sliwinski, Sara Rimmer, Joan Taylor, Catalina Alo, George Calhoun, Miriam Tekie, Mary Almeida, Parn Arrigo, Debbie Buyers, Paul Sweeney, Ronald Beller, Kathleen Walter, Spencer Daly, Raymond Sharrer, John Zawistowski, John Forsythe, Amy Viz, Paulette Snavely, Sharon Warner, Larry DiGiulio, James Watson, 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.
**Spiri**

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**UAL AND FINANCIAL REPORT**

We warmly welcome all who come to St. Louis for Mass—tourists, visitors, parishioners and friends. Last weekend 379 people attended Mass at St. Louis Parish. Our regular collection was $5,235.00 and the Retirement Fund for Religious collection was $4,775.00.

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."

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**THIS WEEK AT SAINT LOUIS**

**SATURDAY, December 17th**

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 18th**

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

4:00 pm: A Festival Service of Lessons and Carols

12 noon: Baptism of Gordon Edward Young

1:00 pm: Baptism of Finnian Carter McGowan

**THURSDAY, December 22nd**

11:00 am—12 noon: Confession

**FRIDAY, December 23rd**

6:00 pm: Saint Louis Garden Society (SLGS) & Christmas Decorators will meet in church to decorate our beautiful church for Christmas. New Volunteers are always welcome!

**SATURDAY, December 24th**

3:40 pm: Christmas Music Program

4:00 pm: The Regular Offertory Collection Including Christmas Offering Collection

11:30 pm: Christmas Music Program

Midnight: Mass for Christmas

**SUNDAY, December 25th—Merry Christmas**

9:00 am & 11:00 am: The Regular Offertory Collection Including Christmas Offering Collection

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TRIDUUM AND NEW YEAR’S EVE MASS**

Criteria: The Solemn Christmas Triduum, beginning Wednesday, December 21 and closing on Friday, December 23, will be conducted by Rev. Martin X. Moleski, S.J. Services each evening of the Triduum will begin with the Rosary at 7:00 p.m., followed by Mass.

As in previous years, there will be a Mass offered at 11:30 p.m., December 31, to give thanks to God for all the graces of 2016 and ask His blessing on the year 2017. The celebrant will be announced at a later date.

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**ST. LOUIS PRESERVATION FUND**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the St. Louis Preservation Fund. The Preservation Fund is an important way for us to raise funds so that we may complete special projects that need to be done. Thank you for helping us with these special projects through your generosiy.

So far, $20,620 has been donated.

**IMMIGRATION EXHIBIT PLANNED**

A new exhibit highlighting the great Catholic immigration of the 1840’s and 50’s is being planned for our parish museum. We are looking for any materials regarding our pioneer families and their journey to America. Photos of the immigrants are especially desired. Material would be duplicated and returned to you. Please contact Michael Riester, parish archivist via the rectory.

**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 18th 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.

**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 December 17th & 18th.

**RESPONSE TO LOVE CENTER**

The Response to Love Center provides a variety of compassionate programs that assist those in need and enable self-efficiency. 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 December 17th & 18th.

**CONCERTS FOR THE SOUL**

Christmas Magic and Miracles: A Musical—Poetic Journey

Events are by Donation


**Thursday, December 22nd at 7:00 p.m.**

Wayside Presbyterian Church
5017 Lakeshore Road, Hamburg, NY

**Friday, December 23rd at 7:00 p.m.**

SS. Columbus—Brigid Church—Off Clinton Street
75 Hickory Street, Buffalo, NY

Also view Father Roy’s display of 500 Nativity sets from around the world.
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