

Mater Ecclesiae

# The Downtown Family of Catholic Parishes



ST. LOUIS • BLESSED SACRAMENT • ORATORY OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA • ST. MICHAEL • ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL

## ST. LOUIS

*Oldest parish in the Buffalo diocese.*



780 Main Street (at Edward), Buffalo, NY 14202  
[StLouisRCChurch.org](http://StLouisRCChurch.org)  
716-852-6040  
[ChurchOffice@StLouisRCChurch.org](mailto:ChurchOffice@StLouisRCChurch.org)

## BLESSED SACRAMENT

*"The Bishop's Chapel"*



1029 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209  
[BlessedSacramentBuffalo.org](http://BlessedSacramentBuffalo.org)  
(716) 884-0053  
[office@BlessedSacramentBuffalo.org](mailto:office@BlessedSacramentBuffalo.org)

### FAMILY MASS TIMES

#### SATURDAY VIGILS

- St. Louis Parish: 4:00 pm
- Blessed Sacrament Church 4:30 pm
- St. Michael's: 5:30

#### SUNDAYS

- St. Louis Parish: 9:00 & 11:00 am
- Blessed Sacrament: 10:30 am
- St. Michael's: 12:00 pm

#### WEEKDAYS: MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY

- St. Louis Parish: 12:05 pm
- Blessed Sacrament: 8:00 am
- St. Michael's: 6:45 am
- St. Joseph's : 12:10 pm (M-F)

#### CONFESSION: ON REQUEST AFTER ANY MASS

- St. Louis: Saturdays: 3:15-4:00 pm
- St. Joseph's Cathedral: Wed & Fri 11:45 am; Saturday 4:00 pm
- St. Michael's: after 6:45 am daily until 9:00 am, or by appt.
- St. Anthony's: 30 mins before all Masses

#### BAPTISMS:

New parents must participate in a virtual pre-baptismal instruction class. Information and registration forms are available on the St. Louis website for the Downtown Family of Parishes. Questions? Contact the Faith Formation Office at [religiously@StLouisrcchurch.org](mailto:religiously@StLouisrcchurch.org).

#### WEDDINGS: AT ST. LOUIS OR BLESSED SACRAMENT

Registered parishioners should call the family office to discuss and check available dates. Arrangements should be made 8 months in advance.

#### NEW PARISHIONERS: AT ST. LOUIS OR BLESSED SACRAMENT

We welcome you to the Downtown Family of Parishes! Registration forms can be found on the websites.

#### ANOIDTING OF THE SICK

Anointing in preparation of surgery or illness can be done after any Mass. Communal anointing takes place the last Sunday of the month after the Noon Mass at St. Michael's.

#### BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Email to [dbfpbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:dbfpbulletin@gmail.com)

September 14, 2025 ~ The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

# September 14, 2025 ~ The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Week of September 14, 2025

## Saturday, September 13

St. Louis 4:00 pm Kevin Fletcher  
Req by: Mike and Rosemary Fletcher

Blessed Sacrament 4:30 pm Intentions of Pope Leo  
Req by: Blessed Sacrament Parishioners

Saint Michael's 5:30 pm All Souls  
Req by: St. Michael's Parishioners

## Sunday, September 14 ~ The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Saint Louis 9:00 am Pasquale Mustillo  
11:00 am Req by: Louis Mustillo  
Kevin Christner  
Req by: Don, Sue, Orrie Christner

Blessed Sacrament 10:30 am Charlotte and Joseph Kopera  
Req by: John Kopera

Saint Michael's 12 noon Marjorie Dolan  
Req by: Estate

## Monday, September 15 ~ Our Lady of Sorrows

St. Louis 12:05 pm Intentions of Pope Leo  
Req by: St. Louis Parishioners

Blessed Sacrament 8:00 am **NO MASS**

Saint Michael's 6:45 am Michael Banaziak  
Req by: 6:45 am Mass Friends

## Tuesday, September 16 ~ SS Cornelius and Cyprian

St. Louis 12:05 pm Downtown Family of Parishes  
Req by: St. Louis Parishioners

Blessed Sacrament 8:00 am Downtown Family of Parishes  
Req by: Blessed Sacrament Parishioners

Saint Michael's 6:45 am Michael Banaziak  
Req by: 6:45 am Mass Friends

## Thursday, September 18

St. Louis 12:05 pm Howard D. Curlett, Jr. & Rose Regina Curlett  
Req by: Sandy Curlett

Blessed Sacrament 8:00 am **NO MASS**

Saint Michael's 6:45 am Thomas Menchini  
Req by: Paula Braunstein

## Friday, September 19 ~ St. Januarius

St. Louis 12:05 pm Diane Donnaruma  
Req by: Evan and Trish Lewis

Blessed Sacrament 8:00 am Intentions of Pope Leo  
Req by: Blessed Sacrament

Saint Michael's 6:45 am Cynthia Jean Euler  
Req by: Rosemarie Recchia

Mater Ecclesiae

The Downtown Family of Parishes



### Pastor

Rev. Raymond Corbin  
716-852-6040 x 202  
FrRayssp@gmail.com

### Associate Vicar

Rev. Jacek Mazur  
Japioma@hotmail.com

### Family Clergy

Msgr. Salvatore Manganello  
Rev. Ben Fiore, S.J.  
Rev. Richard Zaroni, S.J.

### Permanent Deacons

Thomas LaBelle  
tlabelle1012@gmail.com  
Carmelo Gaudio

### Dir. of Religious Education

Ashlee Campbell

religiously@stlouisrcchurch.org

443-744-0354

**Saint Louis**  
35 Edward St

### Dir. of Music

Frank Scinta

### Trustees

John Beller  
Erin Peradotto-Tehaar

### Business Manager

Kevin Brayer

### Cantors

James Mrozek  
Erin Peradotto-Terhaar

**Blessed Sacrament**  
1035 Delaware Ave

### Dir. of Music

Anthony Domzal

### Trustees

Paul F. Jones  
Jim Knab

### Cantor

Cory James Gallagher

**Saint Michael's**  
651 Washington Ave.

### Trustees

David Granville  
Steven Nosek

### Musicians

Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak

### Cantor

Michael Dobrasz

### DOWNTOWN FAMILY PASTORAL COUNCIL

Peter Rizzo - **President (BSC)**

Dennis Burns - **First Vice President (St. Louis)**

Alyssa Zakroczemski, **Second Vice President (BSC)**

Anne Harrington, **Secretary (BSC)**

# Saint



# Louis

## 2025-2026 FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION

The Family #22 Faith Formation program will begin on *Catechetical Sunday, September 21st* and will continue through April. Classes will alternate between Blessed Sacrament and St. Louis. The program includes family faith formation lessons, service sessions, and at-home lessons. All children, age 4 through 10th grade, are welcome to attend.

Detailed program information is available on the St. Louis website: <https://stlouiscchurch.org/religious-education/prek-10-grade-faith-formation/>

- **New Families:** Please complete a registration form and send it to Ashlee Campbell, CRE
- **Returning Families:** Families should have received an email about the program on August 15th. Simply reply to this email to let the CRE know you're coming back!

If you have any questions about the program, contact Ashlee Campbell at 443-744-0354 ~ [religioused@stlouiscchurch.org](mailto:religioused@stlouiscchurch.org)

## SPIRITUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORT

We warmly welcome all who come to St. Louis for Mass—tourists, visitors, parishioners and friends. 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.

**OUR COLLECTION FOR LAST WEEK WAS \$5,671.00.**

**OUR WESHARE COLLECTION WAS \$466.61.**

**TOTAL FOR SEMINARIAN WAS \$50.00.**

**TOTAL FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION WAS \$50.00**

**TOTAL FOR CATHOLICS FOR GAZA WAS \$447.00.**

**OUR TOTAL COLLECTION LAST WEEK WAS \$6,684.61.**

**THE NUMBER OF PARISHIONERS WHO  
ATTENDED WAS 360.**

**\*\*Please Note: We are only accepting online giving through WeShare.**

WeShare is a Catholic owned and operated company whose rates benefit the Parishes. Please visit the Parish website for instructions to switch. You can also support the parish by mailing your donation or using our **WeShare** account on our web page or the QR code on the bottom of the page.



## COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour will resume on Sunday, September 28th in the back of the church. Please join your fellow parishioners and visitors for fellowship, coffee, and snacks!

## IN YOUR PRAYERS

*Please pray for all those who are sick, suffering, recovering and hospitalized, especially Fran Angelo, Diane Andriaccio, Gabriella Parisi, Rosemary Bloch, Laurie Hoehn, Tracy Allen Abram, Greg Joseph, Marcella Ng, Beverly Grover, Kim Bach, Bill & Donna Reeves, Richard Shephard, Joseph Barba, Sr., Dr. Fred Luongo, Michael MacPherson, Patricia Guerra, Jay Deveau, Sondra Schreiber, Christine Maciejewski, David Marchetti, Frank Zawistowski, Bernadette R. Crawford, Carrie W., Joyce Persico, Jeanine L., Richard J. Wall, Sr., Gail Neil, Fred Wolf, Ed Kast, Linda Holben, Rachel Gaiser, Michael Hawkins, Allie Urbanski, Dr. William Fiden, Sharon Hunger, Fr. Drew Morgan, Margaret Foegen.*

*Please contact the Parish Office to have a loved one placed on the Prayer List. If their condition continues to warrant our prayers, we will gladly include them as long as necessary.*

*We remember all those recently deceased, Monsignor Joseph Sicari, Delores Adams and especially our deceased parishioners and loved ones.*

## MEMORIAL PRAYER CANDLES

**The Sanctuary Candle** burns this week to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Kevin Christner, by Don, Sue, and Orrie Christner.

**The Pieta Altar Candle** burns in Loving Memory of Memory of Kevin Christner, by Don, Sue, and Orrie Christner.

**The St. Joseph Altar Candle** also burns in Loving Memory of Memory of Kevin Christner, by Don, Sue, and Orrie Christner.

If you desire to have a Memorial Prayer Candle lit in memory of a loved one or for your special intention, please use the envelope available for that purpose. We honor requested dates as they are available.

## LECTORS/EUCHARIST MINISTERS SEPTEMBER 20 AND 21, 2025

### Lectors:

**Saturday, September 20 4:00** Ann Dumansky

**Sunday, September 21 9:00** Bob Sprague

**Sunday, September 21 11:00** Pam Nordstrom

### Eucharistic Ministers:

**Saturday, September 20 4:00** Diane Randazzo

**Sunday, September 21 9:00** Mary O'Shea

**Sunday, September 21 11:00** Emily Schimert, Jim Ferrini



# Blessed



# Sacrament



Blessed Sacrament Church honors Josephine DiLiberti for 24 years of service as sacristan for the church.

Thank you for all your service, Josephine!

## HELP GET OUT THE VOTE!

The Blessed Sacrament Peace and Justice Committee is once again working with **Reclaim Our Vote** and the **Center for Common Ground** to write postcards encouraging people to get out and vote. The current campaign focuses on the November election in Virginia for Governor, Lt. Governor and the entire Legislature.

Since 2018, the Center for Common Ground postcards have made a huge difference to rural voters of color who have no other contact opportunities. Their message asking voters to check their voter registration and pledge to vote, empowers these forgotten communities.

If you would like to **Help Get Out The Vote**, contact Mary Lee Sulkowski: text at 716-867-0946 or ;by email: [misbuf@aol.com](mailto:misbuf@aol.com). Postcards and instructions are provided; the volunteer writer pays for postage - the current postcard rate is 61 cents.

## PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Committee has changed its regular meeting date to the **FIRST MONDAY of EACH MONTH**.

This is a change from the previous schedule of the first Tuesday of each month.

The next meeting will be **MONDAY, OCTOBER 6 at 6:30 PM in St. Joseph's Hall**. New members are always welcome.

For more information, contact Kathleen McCarthy at 716-881-2897 or [mccarthy2937@aol.com](mailto:mccarthy2937@aol.com).

## LECTOR/EM SCHEDULE - SEPTEMBER, 2025

### Lectors

#### Sat. 4:30 pm

September 6: P. Jones  
September 13: **NO MASS**  
September 20: R. Lehner  
September 27: M. Cusack

#### Sun. 10:30 am

September 7: M. Pitek  
September 14: G. Reidel  
September 21: M. Flores  
September 28: S. Faletta

### Eucharist Ministers

#### Sun. 10:30 am

September 7: Deacon Tom  
September 14: G. Reidel  
September 21: J. Knab  
September 28: D. Russell

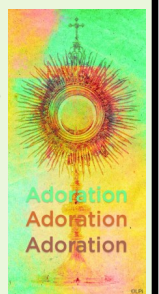
#### Sun. 10:30 am

September 7: Deacon Tom  
September 14: M. J. Carroll  
September 21: J. Knab  
September 28: M. J. Carroll

## ADORATION WITH ROSARY AND DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE

Adoration with Rosary and Devotion to the Holy Face will occur Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm at Blessed Sacrament Church, Delaware Ave.

All are invited to come and spend time in prayer and reflection before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament



## COLLECTION FOR AUGUST 31 AND SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

The collection report for last week is as follows:

**E-giving - 8/31/25 \$1,447.01**

**9/7/25 \$3,518.01**

**Weekly - 8/31/25 \$2,056.00**

**9/7/25 \$1,973.00**

**Total - 8/31/25 \$3,503.01**

**9/7/25 \$5,491.01**

**There will be one collection next week**

## MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION - CHANGE IN DATE

The **October** food collection will take place on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4 and SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5**.

The **November** collection will be as usual on the 2nd weekend of the month - **November 15 and 16**.

Donations of non-perishable and unopened food items may be placed in the blue bin in the church vestibule.

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - BENEATH THE SURFACE

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Mini Reflection:** When the faithful of the Israelites were bitten by the serpents, they were healed by looking upon the instrument of their suffering: the serpent itself, mounted on Moses' staff. To heal us, God invites us to look upon the cross.

### The Cross is Not Negotiable

"Holiness isn't for wimps," Mother Angelica famously said. "And the cross isn't negotiable, sweetheart - it's a requirement."

I love Mother Angelica, and I love this quote. Following God is *tough*, and to do it you have to make a decision to *be tough*, to endure tough things - and ultimately, to love the toughness of it all, because within that struggle God meets us with mercy and salvation

But in light of today's readings, I think Mother Angelica would forgive me for tweaking her words a tiny bit. Holiness *is* for wimps, *because* the cross isn't negotiable.

When the unfaithful among the Israelites were bitten by the serpents, they were healed by looking upon the instrument of their suffering; the serpent itself, mounted on Moses' staff. With a literary flourish that puts Homer and Shakespeare to shame, God inverts that primitive symbol. To heal us, He invites us to look upon the cross the sacrifice which achieved our redemption.

Jesus came here to die on that cross for us. For the wimps. Because we couldn't do it ourselves, even if we tried. We couldn't right all of our wrongs, not if we had a million years to do it. We would keep screwing it up. We would keep failing. We're wimps; that's what we do.

But the cross - the cross is a magnificent invitation to something more. Divinity Himself, assuming the cloak of flesh and the weight of sin, so that when we look at the cross we might recognize ourselves. So that we might see what we have been, what we are, what we could be.

And none of it is negotiable.

©LPi

# SAINT

716-854-6726



# MICHAEL'S

651 Washington St.

### ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH ATTENDANCE & COLLECTIONS

Sept. 7, 2025 129

Sept. 7, 2025 \$2,259.30

#### IN YOUR PRAYERS FOR ST. MICHAEL'S

Evan, Fran, and Mo Angelo, Judith Barone, Alexander & Michael Brickel, Lorraine Brown, Alonso/Caceres/Rios Santa Cruz, Peter Caruso, Annie Feldman, Phyllis Galie, Mary Buttner Gutierrez, Gloria Knight, Ben Lisiecki, Elaine Love, Dr. David Marchetti, Jean McCarthy, Tom Passmire, Cheryl Radwan, Arlo Thomas Stadler, Jack Stepniak, Mark Szpakowski, Angelo Tomsello, Ann Weihing.

#### ST. MICHAEL'S INFORMATION

**Email:** StMichaelChurchBuffalo@gmail.com

**Musicians:** Mark Di Giampaolo, Istvan Hernak

**Cantor:** Michael Dobrasz

**Holy Hour:** Join us Sundays for a Holy Hour starting at 1pm, featuring exposition, adoration, rosary, and silent prayer until 2pm at which time the church will close.

#### St. Michael's Update:

The Vatican has upheld the Diocese's decision to merge St. Michael's with St. Louis. An appeal has been filed to a higher Vatican Court. There is a 60 day waiting period for a decision. Updates forthcoming.



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### ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL

50 Franklin  
716-854-5855  
Cathedral@BuffaloDiocese.org

### ORATORY OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

160 Court St  
716-854-2563 StAnthonyBuffalo@yahoo.com



The Canonization of Carlo Acutis & Pier Giorgio Frassati  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Two of the Church's Newest Saints - Ss Carlos Acutis and Giorgio Frassati - pray for us!

### STELLA NIAGARA NEWS

Reservation Deadline - September 27, 2025

### SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION RETREAT

Presented by: Sr. Marcella Kiesel, OSF

Sunday, October 11, 2025 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

A Franciscan Sister of Penance and Christian Charity with experience in Spiritual Direction as well as teaching college.

This retreat deals with the spiritual awaking to the sufferings in our daily lives and will open new possibilities about how to deal with all areas of suffering.

**Cost \$75.00** - Includes retreat, lunch, and book by Louis M. Savary and Patricia H. Berne, *Teilhard de Chardin Seven Stages of Suffering: A Spiritual Path for Transformation*.

The Center of Renewal at Stella Niagara, 4421 Lower River Rd, Stella Niagara, NY 14144, 716-754-7376, ext 1

### CATHOLIC FERTILITYCARE™ CENTER OF WNY - SISTERS OF CHARITY HOSPITAL/MERCY HOSPITAL

Wanting to understand the way God created us? Be empowered with knowledge, learn how your fertility works and plan your family naturally.

Upcoming Introductory Sessions in the Creighton model FertilityCare™ System will be held at Sisters Hospital on Monday, October 20th at 6:00 pm and Saturday, November 15th at 10:00 am.

To pre-register, please contact the Sisters Hospital Catholic

### RETRouvaille NEXT STEP ANNUAL WORKSHOP

Do you feel empowered to elevate your relationship to new heights after a Retrouvaille Weekend?

Are you ready to unlock a deeper connection? If you've attended a Retrouvaille Weekend in the past, then you are ready for the "next step" challenge. We are pleased to announce that our annual workshop will be held on Saturday, October 18th in the Buffalo area. For details to RSVP, contact our confidential line 716-474-9371 or [HelpOurMarriage.org](http://HelpOurMarriage.org)



## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDER- STANDING OF SCRIPTURE

September 14, 2025

### The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

John 3:13-17

One of my favorite movies is the 1991 comedy *What about Bob?* Bill Murray plays a troubled, paranoid hypochondriac named Bob Wiley who innocently but annoyingly hounds Dr. Leo Marvin, played by Richard Dreyfuss. Bob is paralyzed by his fear of, well, everything, and is convinced the psychologist can heal him. But Dr. Marvin's failed attempts to heal Bob end up driving the doctor to attempt to murder Bob. He fails. The surprise is that, having faced death head on, Bob is suddenly healed. He attributes his healing to Dr. Marvin for break-through "death therapy." In facing the cause of his deepest illness and dysfunction, Bob is healed.

Underneath this light-hearted comedy is a dead-serious resonance with this week's feast: the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Christ is lifted up on the cross to force us to face the truth of sin and death. In that reckoning we find healing. Like Moses' snake on a pole, the cross says: this is what is causing your sickness - rebellion, disobedience, sin. Look at it! Don't run from it. Now seeing it exposed, we see life. We see our physician mercifully healing us. In this sense, we are all like Bob Wiley. The "death therapy" of the cross is our only hope for healing.

This week I invite you to "exalt the cross". If you don't have one in your house, get one. Use it for prayer. Gaze on it frequently. It teaches us to not be afraid. It heals us.

~ Fr. John Muir

