

Welcome to St. George Church

A Parish with Spirit and Heart!



St. George Church, 74 Old Glenwood Rd. West Falls, NY 14170-9704

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Sr. Lori High, SSMN, Parish Administrator

Msgr. Jim Wall, Sacramental Minister

Kathy Kita, Director of Faith Formation

Week of December 4, 2016

The Second Sunday of Advent

Many of our parishioners over the age of 60 probably had the experience of religious sisters or brothers teaching them, either in school or in faith formation (known as CCD in olden days). Those under 60 years of age, and especially anyone under the age of 30, probably have not had a religious as a teacher and many have never really known one. Few media images of those in religious life have given realistic images of sisters or brothers in our culture today. I can think of only one: Susan Sarandon portrayed Sister Helen Prejean in the movie *Dead Man Walking*, and the few scenes of her interacting with her community of sisters rang true to me.

Next weekend you will find an envelope among your weekly offering envelopes for the annual *Retirement Fund for Religious*. Religious communities care for themselves financially based on the income of those gainfully employed. As our members have aged out of the active employment market, our pool of resource money has dwindled. My community, the *Sisters of St. Mary of Namur*, relies on grants from the national Retirement Fund for Religious, as do most of the local communities of men and women religious. I am grateful for my salary here at St. George, which goes directly to my community's common bank account to help cover living costs for the 65 or so sisters in our Province. I am also grateful for whatever donation you can earmark for the Retirement Fund for Religious in next week's collection. It is truly a blessing for us.

Sister Lori

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 3	5 pm	Raymond & Dorothy Perreault, by Mr. Ray
Sunday, December 4	8:30 am	Carey T. Boyle, by the Family
Sunday, December 4	11 am	John & Gertrude Peterson, by Rick, Nancy & family
Monday, December 5	8 am	Souls to be remembered from All Souls' Day
Tuesday, December 6	8 am	Baby Happy, by Fred and Carol
Wednesday, December 7	8 am	Communion Service & Novena
Thursday, December 8	7 pm	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day) Father Eric Sikora, by Mary Ann Pietrzak
Friday, December 9	8 am	Father William Snyder, by the Society for St. Vincent de Paul
Saturday, December 10	5 pm	Kathy Tullar, by the Family
Sunday, December 11	8:30 am	Stephanie Jewett McCormick, by the Family
Sunday, December 11	11 am	Dennis Grabianowski, by the Family

**The next First Friday Mass is January 6th at 8:00 am in the Chapel.
Confessions: Saturdays from 4:00 - 4:30 pm**

LET US PRAY FOR... Doris Ellis, Don Murray, Ann Marie Price, Jean Peplin and Shirley Baker.

MARRIAGE MOMENT Many parents put a small treat in their children's shoes the night before **St. Nick's Day, December 6th**. Consider putting a treat in your spouse's shoe (a Hershey Kiss, a love note, a coupon for a favor like a backrub or a chore you'll relieve your spouse of the next day).



WELCOME, NEW PARISHIONERS! We're thrilled to welcome **Mary Beth & Bill Darling** and daughters **Jade & Jenna; Julia & Steven Pitt** and daughter **Annabelle** and son **Josiah**, and **Darcy Zappia** to our faith community!

May you find warmth, fellowship and happiness in our parish.

CALLING ALL KIDS! We're looking for actors to play roles in the nativity story at the **5:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve**. We need singers for the choir and liturgical dancers, too! Sign up at the GIFT table in the Gathering space.



Please remember to return your gift, with the angel attached, by the morning of Sunday, December 11th. If you took a **yellow angel**, please *don't* wrap the gift, but *do* attach the Angel to it. Your gifts will be given to grateful recipients at **Gerard Place, Harvest House** and the **Bread of Life Outreach Center**. Thank you!!

WE ARE "PREPARING THE WAY OF THE LORD!"



Check out our Jesse Tree in the gathering space! This Catholic tradition helps us connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the story of our salvation. The Jesse Tree is named from today's first reading from Isaiah: "On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots, a bud shall blossom." Jesse was the father of King David.

Each day of Advent, we adorn the Jesse Tree with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophecies, and events in the Old Testament that lead up to the birth of our savior, Jesus. They show God's faithfulness across 4,000 years of history!

See if you can identify the ornaments for Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph!

HAITI CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS are now available on the Haiti card rack in the back of the church. Please consider giving Haiti Christmas Gift Cards to family and friends, which will also provide families at our twin Haitian parish with gifts of **farm animals, water purifiers, school tuition, medicines and sanitation facilities**. The people of our twin parish will benefit greatly from these gifts. *Thank you for your generous support.*



ADVENT REFLECTION booklets are available at the church entrances this weekend. Please take one home and may you be uplifted and inspired by the daily meditations the booklets provide, preparing your heart and enriching your experience of Advent!

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES The Eastern Erie Vicariate has scheduled Penance services on **Monday, December 19th** at each of the following churches: **St. John Vianney** in Orchard Park; **Resurrection** in Cheektowaga; **Our Lady of Pompeii** in Lancaster and **Annunciation** in Elma. *Penance services with an opportunity for individual Reconciliation will take place in each of these churches at both 3 pm and 7 pm on December 19th.*

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU

During this beautiful season of Advent, when we prepare our hearts to receive the Lord anew once again, our Bishop is asking priests to offer additional opportunities for the faithful to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As part of this effort, called *The Light is On for You*, the following extraordinary times for Reconciliation are available locally:



St. George Parish: Sunday, 12/4 & 12/11 from 9:45-10:15 am.

Fourteen Holy Helpers, Gardenville: Wednesdays, 12/7, 12/14 & 12/21 from 5-6:30 pm.

St. John Vianney, Orchard Park: Wednesdays, 12/7 & 12/14 from 4-5 pm.

Annunciation, Elma: Wednesday, 12/21 from 5-7 pm. See buffalodiocese.org/light-is-on for additional dates & times.

*Thank
You*

*To the 'elves' who decorated our church and chapel so beautifully for Advent!
We sincerely appreciate the time and effort you gave to make our worship spaces so inspiring and uplifting.*

OUR MISSION OF MERCY We ask our St. George family to be generous as possible, so we can fulfill our mission of mercy as we journey in faith together. Last week's **Sunday Offerings** totaled **\$2,953.00**. *Thank you for your generosity!*

God looks at the heart, not the hand—the giver, not the gift.

BREAD OF LIFE OUTREACH CENTER'S ONLINE AUCTION IS NOW UNDERWAY!



Up for bids are a **Kissing Bridge Trans Pass** (\$825 value), a **Filet Mignon dinner for 6** (priceless), a **Luxury Sailboat Cruise on Lake Erie** (\$300 value), and an **original painting of Sprague Brook Park** by **Linda Hall** (\$250 value). Check it out here: www.32auctions.com/bolo16.

The auction ends at 7 pm on December 15th.

MONDAY EVENINGS THROUGH ADVENT our St. Vincent de Paul Society members will pray the **Advent Rosary** in the Memorare Chapel. Come and share in these special prayers **Monday evening at 7 pm** through Dec. 19th!



REST IN PEACE, JOAN KAZMIERCZAK Joan was the beloved Mother of our Youth Coordinator, **Elaine Ahles**, and she passed away peacefully on Tuesday, November 29, 2016. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. John the Baptist Church in West Valley on Saturday, Dec. 3rd. See <https://goo.gl/8ZBN8f> for her full tribute. Our prayers are with Elaine and all of Joan's family; may they be comforted by the knowledge that 'Joanie' is wrapped in God's loving embrace.



NEED A NOVEL CHRISTMAS GIFT? The Rosary Altar Society is selling **Dry Mix Gift Jars** at its **Bake Sale on December 17-18!** Choose from a wonderful variety of Soup, Hot Cocoa and Cookie mixes:

Ultimate Chocolate Brownie

Love Soup

Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookie

Rainbow Bean Soup

Cranberry Hootycreek Cookie

Potato Soup

Peppermint Stick Hot Cocoa

Beef Barley Soup

Hot cocoa with marshmallows

Granola



Your Society of St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank everyone who participated in our recent collection. **Offerings now total \$2,098.00**—thank you for your generosity! *Without your help, we would not be able to do your work to assist God's poor.*

If you've not yet had a chance to donate and wish to do so, please use the envelope provided with your offering envelopes, or **clearly mark a plain envelope with "SVdP"** and put it in the next regular collection. *God Bless all.*