

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

Rev. Msgr. Jim Wall, Sacramental Minister

Kathy Kita, Director of Faith Formation

Week of February 26, 2017

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Wednesday, many followers of Jesus will take part in an annual ritual. Palms blessed during the celebration of Palm Sunday have dried and been burned. The ashes of these burned palm branches will be traced in the sign of the cross on the foreheads of believers. Words will be prayed as the cross is formed similar to “Repent and believe the Good News” or “Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return”. This ritual is available to all; babies, the infirm, teens, the aged, men, women and children.

Ash Wednesday is a day when many people will alter their schedule so that they can receive ashes. The popularity of this ancient, earthy ritual is important to note. An ashen sign of the cross, borne on one’s forehead for all to see, communicates faith in a way words cannot. The message is both internal and external. Many of us, while not shy about our faith, rarely show it off in front of others. On this day, we are recognizable as believers in Jesus. That we make a choice to be marked by ashes of burnt blessed palms draws on the deepest understanding of ourselves. We are not our own makers, we are creations of God; and while God calls us to holiness, the truth is, we are sinners.

May this Lenten journey lead us into our center where we will find our Creator, God.

Sister Lori

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, February 25	5 pm	<i>This Mass intention is available</i>
Sunday, February 26	8:30 am	The Deceased Members of the Kujawa and Habicht Families, by Brian Kujawa
Sunday, February 26	11 am	Norma Hartman, by the Peplin family
Monday, February 27	8 am	<i>This Mass intention is available</i>
Tuesday, February 28	8 am	<i>This Mass intention is available</i>
ASH WEDNESDAY Wednesday, March 1	8 am	Mass with Ashes (Church) <i>This Mass intention is available</i>
	7 pm	Communion Service with Ashes (Church)
Thursday, March 2	8 am	Communion Service
FIRST FRIDAY Friday, March 3	8 am	<i>This Mass intention is available</i>
Saturday, March 4	5 pm	Kathryn & Helene Perreault, by Ray Perreault
Sunday, March 5	8:30 am	<i>This Mass intention is available</i>
Sunday, March 6	11 am	Kathy Tullar, by the Family

Mass Offerings Praying for deceased relatives and friends is an act of faith, hope and charity. One way you can honor your deceased loved one is to have a Mass offered for them. Although it is common practice to make a free-will donation (a \$15 Mass stipend) for the celebrant, **don't let your financial status prevent you from requesting a Mass intention.** To schedule a Mass, please call the parish office at **652-3153** or email stgeorge.wf@gmail.com.

Our First Friday Mass is March 3rd 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, Ellen Nichter, Jim & Mary Ann O'Donnell, Marion Habicht, Rita Kowalik and Barb Songin.



SPREAD A LITTLE CHEER! One of our parishioners, **Marion Habicht**, could use a little encouragement as she recuperates from a serious fall. If you'd like to send her a note or a card, it might really lift her spirits! Write to her at *Blocher Homes*, 135 Evans St., Room 214, Williamsville, NY 14221.

LENTEN OBSERVANCES

Abstinence from meat is called for on **Ash Wednesday, Good Friday** and **all the Fridays of Lent** for those who are 14 years and older. Bishop Malone has decreed that you may switch your day of abstinence during the week of St. Patrick's Day this year!

Fasting is called for on only two Lenten days—Ash Wednesday and Good Friday—for those between 18 and 59 years of age. *Catholic fasting* is defined as taking only one full meal during the day. Two smaller meals may be taken if necessary, but snacking between meals is to be given up for the day.

Our **GIFT Family Mass** will be **Sunday, February 26th** at **8:30 am**, followed by a **Parish Faith Fest** for all, to help us prepare for the season of Lent.



We welcome everyone to **join us in the parish hall after the 8:30 am Mass**, to share fun learning activities about the significance of the sign of the Cross!



The Lenten reflection and prayer booklets, *Becoming Whole, Becoming Holy*, are available at the church entrances this weekend. Please take one home. May you be uplifted and inspired by the daily meditations the booklet provides; preparing your heart and enriching your experience of Lent!

UPON THIS ROCK

As we've been anticipating, the Diocesan Capital Campaign *Upon This Rock* has arrived at St. George Parish. **Alex Marecki**, our parish campaign director, will be with us as we begin our campaign.

In order to get a "running start" on the St. George Parish goal, Sister Lori and Alex will be requesting a visit in the coming weeks with parishioners who may be able to pledge larger amounts over the five year drive. With that initial total in hand, we will then do more parishioner education, culminating in some weekends of pledge sign-ups in the Gathering space of Church.



This year's Catholic Charities goal for St. George Parish will be met through your initial donations to Upon This Rock.



Thank you to everyone who recently donated medicines, medical supplies, toothpaste and toothbrushes for our twin parish of St. Michael the Archangel in Coq Chante, Haiti. **Thanks to your generosity, the medical clinic at our twin parish will be supplied with many important medicines and supplies.**

OLD JEANS FOR SOLE HOPE PROJECT

This is the final weekend to donate your old jeans (any color, can be torn or stained) for the Sole Hope Project. Please place them in the "YOUth CAN" that's in the Gathering space until **Sunday**.



HELP US TO MAINTAIN ACCURATE PARISHIONER RECORDS

Do you have a **name, address, email address** or **phone number change** we should know about? Let us know! Visit stgeorgercchurch.org/update and fill out the online form. *If you're not yet registered with our parish, please call the office at 652-3153, stop in during office hours, or email stgeorge.wf@gmail.com.*

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICES On **Monday, April 10th**, Penance Services will be offered at **3 pm & 7 pm** at **St. Vincent de Paul Church** in Springbrook, and at **7 pm** at **Saints Peter & Paul Church** in Hamburg. *Haven't been to Confession in awhile?* Put your mind and heart at ease before you go, with the help of this Confession tip sheet: goo.gl/osyYFK.

OUR GENEROSITY ENABLES OUR MISSION & OUTREACH EFFORTS

What we give to our parish in our weekly offerings is our offering to God, an offering of praise and thanksgiving for all the blessings the Lord has given to us. Your generosity enables us to carry out the mission of Christ in our community, in addition to paying our parish bills. Last week's offerings totaled **\$3,773.00**. Thank you, and *God bless you for your generosity!*



*The world asks: "What does a person own?"
God asks, "How does a person use what he or she has been given?"*

ABOUT CREMATION, FROM BISHOP MALONE

In an effort to support the teachings of Pope Francis through the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Bishop Malone has issued a reminder about the proper disposition of the cremated remains of a loved one. While not opposed to cremation the Church does recommend that cremated remains be buried or placed in a mausoleum. Catholics can request further information about cremation burial by contacting Catholic Cemeteries at **873-6500** or at www.buffalocatholiccemeteries.org.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL Jesus tells us that our heavenly Father knows all that we need, so we need to let tomorrow take care of itself, as today has troubles enough of its own.



This month, through your prayers and support, your Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to provide Communion to the residents of two local nursing homes. In addition, we provided a much-anticipated bingo game to the residents of Absolut of Orchard Park. *Thank you and God bless.*

ALTAR SERVERS ARE NEEDED!! If you've made your First Holy Communion and you're interested in participating at Mass in a whole new way, become an **Altar Server!** *We especially need servers for the Saturday Masses.* Please call the office at **652-3153**.



HELP FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

If you are a victim of domestic violence and are in need of access to safety planning, spiritual care, legal assistance, limited medical assistance, counseling, and law enforcement, the **Family Justice Center of Erie County**, "Where Families Come First", is for you! All services are free. **All conversations strictly private.** For more information, call **716-558-7233** or visit www.fjcsafe.org.

Schedule

THE LECTOR, EUCHARISTIC MINISTER, AND ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE FOR MARCH-APRIL is now available in the sacristy and online.

Please pick up or download your copy today.

"Whether it lasts for a brief moment or for a hundred years, each of our lives is a good and perfect gift. At every stage and in every circumstance, we are held in existence by God's love. Every life is worth living."