

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 April 2, 2017

Fifth Sunday of Lent

We enter now into the final weeks of Lent. In some circles these days are known as the *Passiontide*. Our scripture readings will reveal tensions emerging in the crowds around Jesus. In his words and actions, Jesus is doing what we have come to call *comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable*. While Christianity was a persecuted, minor religion the faithful relied on this example of Jesus to undergird their struggle to proclaim Jesus as Lord and Savior. Once Christianity spread and became the dominant religion of the Western world this example of Jesus became focused on the suffering personally endured by Jesus for love of us and to save the world from sin.

As with most everything, our journey with Jesus through Passiontide needs to be balanced. An appreciation of his agony is important but, as we saw some years ago in the film *The Passion of the Christ*, an overemphasis on the gruesomeness can distract us from the message of love and forgiveness in the heart of Christ. And equally unbalanced would be an approach that simply leaps to Easter lilies and songs of resurrection.

The message of Easter encompasses the **whole story** from Holy Thursday's offering of self through bread and wine, through the night of betrayal and torture, to the condemnation and crucifixion of Good Friday, then enduring the fear and lonesomeness of Holy Saturday followed by the bewildering reality of Easter Sunday!

Sister Lori

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, April 1	5 pm	Robert Chilson, by the McMahon family
Sunday, April 2	8:30 am	Frank Scarcello, by Millie Puff
Sunday, April 2	11 am	James Barr, by Fr. Jim Wall
Monday, April 3	8 am	♥ Blessings for Jenny Keenen, by Ann Tara
Tuesday, April 4	8 am	♥ Blessings for Barb Riehle & Cathy Roche, by Ann Tara
Wednesday, April 5	8 am	Communion Service and Novena
Thursday, April 6	8 am	Communion Service
First Friday	8 am	Mary Schleich, by Norm & Donna
Friday, April 7		
Saturday, April 8	5 pm	Mary Schleich, by our St. George parish community
Palm Sunday	8:30 am	Mike Bruno, by Mary Ann Pietrzak
Sunday, April 9		
Sunday, April 9	11 am	Diane Senneff, by Glen & Cindy Weeks

**Our First Friday Mass is April 7th at 8:00 am in the Chapel.
Confessions: Saturdays from 4:00 - 4:30 pm**

Let us pray for... Doris Ellis, Ann Marie Price, Ellen Nichter, Jim & Mary Ann O'Donnell, Marion Habicht, Don Murray, Barb Songin and Anna & Erino Fabrizi.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL Today the Gospel challenges us to see and believe the signs of grace in our lives: joy, peace, forgiveness, mercy and kindness. Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brings joy, peace, forgiveness, mercy and kindness to the hurting hearts of the poor. *God bless all.*



KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO PROTECT



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The best way to protect our children and our church is for adults to learn red flag behaviors and to report concerns. This creates a culture of protection. Sign up for a **Protecting God's Children Workshop**, even if you are not required to. See the list of upcoming workshops at <http://goo.gl/h7dMYp>.

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.** To learn more call **716-558-7233** or visit www.fjcsafe.org.



👍 "Like" us on Facebook, at www.facebook.com/StGeorgeWestFalls

MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US FOR OUR PARISH RETREAT

~ Saturday, April 29th! ~



We welcome **Fr. Bob Pecoraro, S.J.**, who will guide our afternoon of reflection: ***Telling Our Sacred Stories***. Fr. Bob currently teaches and serves on the *Spiritual Direction* team at Christ the King Seminary. Our gathering **begins with lunch at noon** in the parish hall and **concludes with the 5 pm Mass**. Join us as we explore three inseparable stories that make each moment of our lives and all of our individual stories sacred! **Sign up today in the church gathering space!**

SOUP & BREAD SUPPER & SHADOW STATIONS OF MERCY—FRIDAY, APRIL 7TH!

Join us for a delicious potluck **Soup & Bread supper** at **6 pm** in the parish hall, **hosted by our YOUTH GIFT Team and families**. We welcome your contribution of a pot of soup, a loaf of bread, or rolls to share. Following our community meal, **plan to stay** for our Youth's presentation of the **Shadow Stations of Mercy** at **7 pm** in church.



Don't miss this special evening of friendship, faith and prayer!

EASTER BASKET BLESSING We have not scheduled an Easter Basket blessing at St. George this year, but we are glad to share with you these blessing times at neighboring parishes on **Holy Saturday, April 15th**:



12 noon	Annunciation – Elma
1:00 pm	St. John the Baptist – Boston St. Vincent dePaul – Springbrook Immaculate Conception – East Aurora
2:00 pm	St. Bernadette – Orchard Park Nativity of Our Lord – Orchard Park Saints Peter and Paul – Hamburg
3:00 pm	St. John Vianney – Orchard Park
4:00 pm	St. Joseph – Holland

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.



YOUTH MATTERS! Congratulations to our Youth Peer Mentors, **Jake**



Kearney and **Sidney Ploetz**, recipients of the **Manus Christi (Hands of Christ) Award**. Both were honored recently at the **65th Diocesan Youth Convention** weekend. This award is presented to high school students who have *exemplified Christian leadership* in their parish and the diocese. Check out the **Manus Christi**



Awards Ceremony on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/B4nwGHbluDs>. *The Young Church is alive and well at St. George!* We're grateful for your prayers and unwavering support.

OUR GENEROSITY ENABLES OUR MISSION & OUTREACH EFFORTS

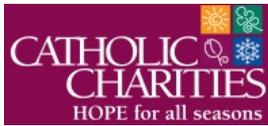
What we give to our parish in our weekly offerings is *our offering to God, an offering of praise and thanksgiving for all the blessings the Lord has given to us. Your generosity enables us to carry out the mission of Christ in our community*, in addition to paying our parish bills. Last week's offerings totaled **\$3,655.00**. Easter Flower donations totaled **\$674.00**. Thank you!



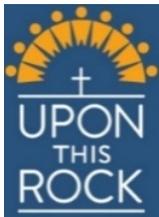
The world asks: "What does a person own?"

God asks, "How does a person use what he or she has been given?"

UPON THIS ROCK AND CATHOLIC CHARITIES



Our initial weeks of individual meetings with potential donors from St. George Parish have gone smoothly. Soon the entire parish community will receive letters from the Capital Campaign, announcing the amount pledged thus far and the dates of our **pledge weekends**. We ask that



you make your pledge checks payable to *Upon This Rock*. In order to clearly distinguish your *Catholic Charities* and *Upon This Rock* donation amounts, *please write the Catholic Charities 2017 amount in the memo line of your check*. Bear in mind that this Diocesan Campaign is a *five-year pledge program* with an aim to establish endowments to meet the *future needs* of Catholic endeavors in the Diocese of Buffalo. Questions? *Email Sister Lori at sisterlori@stgeorgercchurch.org* or call the parish office.

BREAD OF LIFE OUTREACH CENTER food pantry needs boxed **cold cereals**.

Your donations may be placed in the baskets in the Gathering space, or brought to the Center during business hours. BOLO currently serves over 80 families through the food pantry, and ***your generous support is always appreciated!***

Also, **Gabriel's Closet Thrift Shop** is still in need of children's clothing.

Food Pantry: Thurs. 3–6 pm, Sat. 10 am–1 pm.

Gabriel's Closet: Tues. & Wed. 10 am–2 pm, Thurs. 3–6 pm, Sat. 10 am–1 pm.



HOLY THURSDAY MASS & DINNER AT THE SEMINARY

We invite all parishioners to attend the **7 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper** on **Holy Thursday, April 13th** at **Christ the King Seminary**. The Seminary community will gather for supper at **5 pm in the Dining Hall**, and anyone wishing to do so may sign up to join them for this meal prior to the Mass. To defray the cost of the meal, a **\$13 donation is requested**, but not required. *We're taking reservations in our parish office until April 3rd*. This will allow us to give an accurate number to the food service folks as they prepare.

After the Holy Thursday Mass at the Seminary, Father Jim will bring the Eucharist back to our Memorare Chapel for our altar of repose. There will be *Eucharistic Adoration* in the Chapel on **Thursday, April 13th** from **9:30-11 pm**.