

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, Pastoral Administrator

Rev. Msgr. Jim Wall, Sacramental Minister

Week of February 11, 2018

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Ignatius of Loyola, a Spanish priest in the 1500s, founded the men's religious community we know as the Jesuits. His early life as a soldier formed him in discipline and orderliness. As his faith in Jesus matured, he intertwined his prayer life with his military background and developed what we now refer to as the "*Spiritual Exercises*". Some may have experienced the *19th Annotation*, an adaptation of the exercises for individuals to undertake with a spiritual director.

These exercises can be helpful in discovering God's presence in our lives. An important aspect of this prayer style is attentiveness to feelings of consolation or desolation. In spiritual discernment, these feelings are helpful as we struggle in life to journey toward God's goodness. When taking some moments to be still and reflect on who we are and how we are doing in life, we can feel calm and at peace with things; this is what Ignatius would call consolation. Similarly, we know that sometimes our inner self can be agitated and overly confused; this is what he would name desolation. Both feelings can be valuable indicators of God's plans for us.

As Lent begins this Wednesday, we are invited to take more time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving. May our times of prayer help us grow closer to God. Jesus, himself, experienced times of consolation and desolation during his time on earth. May we learn from his example to be courageous believers in God's goodness and grateful recipients of God's grace.

Sister Lori

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

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|-------------------------------|-------------|---|
| Saturday, February 10 | 5 pm | Dave Davin, by Ray Perreault |
| Sunday, February 11 | 8:30 am | Beverly Kathryn Bierl, by Shirley & Richard Smith |
| | 11 am | Stephanie McCormick O'Connor, by the McCormick family |
| Monday, February 12 | 8 am | For the Faithful Departed |
| Tuesday, February 13 | 8 am | For the Faithful Departed |
| Ash Wednesday | 8 am | Mass in Church |
| Wednesday, February 14 | | Joseph & Eleanor Diggins & children, by the Estate |
| | 7 pm | Communion Service in Church |
| Thursday, February 15 | 8 am | Communion Service |
| Friday, February 16 | 8 am | For the Faithful Departed |
| Saturday, February 17 | 5 pm | Joseph & Eleanor Diggins & children, by the Estate |
| Sunday, February 18 | 8:30 am | For the Faithful Departed |
| | 11 am | For the Faithful Departed |

**Our next First Friday Mass will be on March 2nd at 8:00 am in the Chapel.
Confession: Saturdays from 4:00 - 4:30 pm in the Church.**



LET US PRAY FOR... Doris Ellis, Don Murray, Sally Denesha, Jeanne McIntyre, Joe Arcara, Daniel Sojka, Stan Kociszewski, Rita Kowalik and John Nichter.

LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION - LENTEN FAITH FEST SUNDAY

You are all welcome to join us for Lenten learning, activities and music in the Parish Hall from **9:40 – 10:50 am** Sunday. *Come and see!*



PARISH COUNCIL MEETS THURSDAY in the Parish Office at 7 pm.

MEDICINES FOR HAITI We're collecting over-the-counter medicines for our twin Haitian parish of **St. Michael the Archangel** on the weekends of **February 17-18, 24-25** and **March 3-4**. We need **tylenol, ibuprofen, antacids, vitamins, cold and cough medicines, eye and ear drops, antifungal creams, antibiotic creams, hydrocortisone cream** and any other **new and unopened medicines. Toothbrushes and toothpaste** are also needed.



Please place your donations in the box in the back of the church during the above weekends, and the collected items will be sent to Haiti on the sea container in April. *Thank you all for your donations; the people of our twin parish greatly appreciate your generosity.*

FEBRUARY 7-14 IS NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK, part of an international movement seeking to celebrate and strengthen marriage.



For resources to prepare for marriage or strengthen your marriage and family, visit:
www.foryourmarriage.org/celebrate-national-marriage-week-2018/.



A HUGE thank you to our parishioners, our Youth, and our incredible and loyal band of volunteers who organized, cooked, served, cleaned, or sold tickets at our *Pancake Breakfast & Theme Basket Auction* last weekend!

We thank the **Colden Market & Café**, **Bob's NY Deli**, and **The Dog Bar** for their generous contributions, and especially YOU for supporting this fundraiser. We raised **\$1,500.00!**

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, March 29th at Christ the King Seminary.** (*No Mass at St. George Church.*) The Seminary community will gather for supper at **5:15 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 March 18th.** 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, the Blessed Sacrament will be brought for reposition in our Memorare Chapel until **10 pm.**



2018 CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL

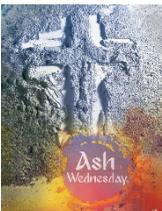
"They have been my angels. They're for me." That's how one client described her experience with our **Project HOPE** (Helping Older People Excel) program. Designed for older adults who've been diagnosed with a mental health illness and are at risk of out-of-home placement, the program provides services and linkages to keep them in their home. **Your gift to the 2018 Appeal ensures that Project HOPE can continue to make a difference in the lives of Western New Yorkers.**

Contribution Cards will be available in the Gathering Space at all Masses throughout Lent. **"Love your neighbor"** Gal. 5:14

BREAD OF LIFE OUTREACH CENTER needs canned soups, canned pasta and spaghetti sauce for the Food Pantry. You may place your donations in the baskets in the Gathering space at church, or bring them to BOLO during regular hours. Thank you for your support of our mission!

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

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



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES – Wednesday, February 14th 8 am MASS and 7 pm COMMUNION SERVICE

Lenten Guide: Prayer and abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday & Good Friday.
Abstinence from meat on all Fridays during Lent.

YOU HELP US FULFILL OUR MISSION OF MERCY

We are so grateful for you, our St. George parish family, and for the gifts which you share with us. Your generosity enables us to support and expand our community outreach and lifelong faith formation efforts as we journey in faith together. **Sunday** and **Holy Day** offerings last week were **\$3,649.00**. Offerings for Catholic Relief Services now total **\$563.00**.



*A most profound **Thank You** for your generosity to the **Bread of Life Outreach Center**, with Annual Appeal donations reaching **\$1,990.00!***

Your kind donations help us continue to fulfill our mission "to feed the hungry and clothe the naked" for the more than 100 local families who rely on us for help. Bless you all!



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 24TH

Catholic Women of Buffalo, Inc. invites all women to the 3rd Annual Buffalo Catholic Women's Conference, **The Heart of a Woman**, on **Saturday, February 24th** at Cardinal O'Hara High School in Tonawanda, NY. Conference Speakers are **Sister Tatum McWhirter, Kate Wicker, Dr. Janet E. Smith** and **Bishop Richard J. Malone**. Tickets are \$35. Call **222-0622** for more information or to register.

SAVE THE DATE! The **16th Annual WNY Catholic Men's Conference** will be held on **Saturday, March 10th** at Cardinal O'Hara High School, Tonawanda.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL In the Gospel today Jesus, moved with pity, touched the leper and healed him. Let us pray today for the grace to be generous with our gifts to help those who are suffering. **By your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you indeed put your faith into action as you bring healing to the poor, hungry and weeping. God bless all.**



Join us in Praying the Rosary in the Memorare Chapel Monday evenings at 7 pm.

READINGS FOR February 18, 2018

Genesis 9:8-15 (23B)
Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:12-15

2017 CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

may be picked up in the Parish Office during our regular operating hours: **Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday between 8:30 am – 1:30 pm.**

The Parish Office is closed on Wednesdays.

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.

CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEETS SATURDAYS



Join other men of faith **every Saturday morning** from **8:30-9:30 am** in the Parish Hall kitchen to share some coffee, scripture, and fellowship. *Questions?* Email **Paul** at kalinskip@gmail.com or **Matt** at his.t.his.victory15@gmail.com. Readings and reflection questions for

Saturday, Feb. 10th are at

http://www.stgeorgercchurch.org/documents/2018/2/CMFReadings_2018_02_10.pdf.

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Dear Diocesan Family,

As you are likely aware, St. Valentine's Day falls on Ash Wednesday this year. This is the first time these two occasions have overlapped since 1945. As a result, some people have inquired as to whether a dispensation from the Ash Wednesday fast and abstinence will be granted.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season, which is a solemn time of prayer and penance for the Catholic Church. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the only two days of the year on which fasting and abstinence are required. Due to the importance of Ash Wednesday in the lives of all Catholics – and even many of our non-Catholic brothers and sisters – a dispensation will not be granted.

Those who are accustomed to celebrating St. Valentine's Day might do so the day before (Mardi Gras) or on another non-penitential day. As we make this sacrifice, we should consider the immense love of Our Lord, who suffered and died for us!

It is especially important that parents help their children to understand the significance of Ash Wednesday and why it supersedes the celebration of St. Valentine's Day in the life of a Catholic.

Be assured of my prayers for you as we embark upon this Lenten season. May it be a time of grace and mercy for each of you!

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Richard J. Malone

Prayer of the wilderness

Lord of the Fast,

I come before you as a sinner
But fully aware of your divine mercy.

Still, I need this fast.
For only in stepping away from the things of this world
Am I able to fathom the immeasurable gift
That is my redemption.

Turn my nose from the scents around me
That I may again know the sweet fragrance of Christ.

Numb my tongue from all that allures it
So that I may taste anew the bread of my salvation.

Dull my touch to all sensations
That I feel only the pulse of my heart
longing to reconcile with my brother and my sister,
and you, my maker.

Stop my ears from all that lure them
So that I may hear your song of mercy
calling me back to the embrace of my father.

Blind my eyes from all that distracts them
So that I may gaze fully on the light of Christ.

And once we have met
There in wilderness
Then return me to the world.
Send me back among your people.
That I may fill their senses with all I have
found in you:

All that is good
All that is loving
All that is merciful.

Amen

