

# Blessed Trinity Parish

317 Leroy Avenue - Buffalo, New York 14214



## Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

August 15, 2021

*We are a loving, welcoming community of Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Church, endowed with a diversity of backgrounds, gifts and experiences. Our lives are based on faith, hope and charity, guided by the Holy Spirit and sustained by the sacraments. Our faith life extends to the larger community around us, and we enthusiastically commit ourselves to serve our neighbors and each other.*



Rev. Robert Gebhard  
Temporary Administrator

Ms. Patricia Dyer  
Pastoral Associate  
Religious Education Coordinator

Ms. Elizabeth Clay  
Music Director

Mr. Homer Dick  
Ms. Madonna Hartzell  
Trustees

Ms. Debbie Popple  
Bookkeeper

Ms. Barbara Sercu  
Secretary

RECTORY	Ph: 716-833-0301 Fax: 716-834-4711
EMAIL	blessedtrinitychurch@gmail.com
WEBSITE	blessedtrinitybuffalo.org
CENTRAL BUFFALO CLUSTER	catholicchurchesofbuffalo.com
CONFESSIONS	Saturday, 4pm
BIBLE STUDY	Suspended until September
ANOINTING OF THE SICK	Will resume post pandemic
VISITS TO THE SICK	Call rectory during business hours
BAPTISMS	By appointment
WEDDINGS	Arrange six months in advance

Catholic Central Food Pantry - 350 Dewey Avenue

Every Wednesday 9:30am - 1:30pm



Rectory Office Hours:

Monday - Wednesday  
10:30 am - 2:30 pm



Sunday Mass: 10:00 am

Saturday Mass: 4:30 pm

Daily Mass: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri - 11:00 am

## ***Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary***

**First Reading** Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab (622)  
**Psalm** Psalm 45:10, 11, 12, 16  
**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 15:20-27  
**Gospel** Luke 1:39-56

### **Retrospect, Introspect, Prospect! –**

Wow, have things really heated up since my return from vacation.... Literally!! I am hoping that everyone had taken safety measures to remain as cool as possible during the past few 90° days. My vacation time could not have been more perfect, though. My kind of temps... 70-80°; lower humidity, sunny every day! I spent my days at our family camp making it a *work week*, however, the kind of work that for me is fun and enjoyable and a good *workout*.... Mowing, trimming, cutting and splitting wood for burning during the winter months, gardening ... and, of course, grilling, swimming, playing cards, cooking and EATING! I got everything done on my *to-do* list except one task! Surrounded by nature – a Garden of Eden full of millions of plants, nesting birds, chipmunks, squirrels, deer... and more and more – I can't tell you how many times I had to stop and wonder how anyone doubts that there is something or **SOMEONE** greater than ourselves at work in the world of our existence. Mystery keeps me alive inside... somehow. I am grateful for faith and have few doubts about the presence of God as I know I am blessed beyond my small ability to be thankful. But, thankful I am to be back with all of you and to continue the journey of Blessed Trinity parish. Onward and upward.....

### **Today's Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary –**

Did you know? From the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Paragraph 966 – “Finally the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death.” The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a singular participation in her Son's Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians:

*In giving birth you kept your virginity;  
in your Dormition you did not leave the world,  
O Mother of God, but were joined to the source  
of Life. You conceived the living God and, by  
your prayers, will deliver our souls from death.*

### **Thank you, Fr. Christopher!**

In these days of decline in priestly vocations, it is harder and harder to find priests available to cover parish sacramental responsibilities when a pastor or administrator looks to get away for vacation, workshops, conferences, or retreats. So I am very grateful to Fr. Christopher for taking on the added responsibility of being present to us during my times away and for the flexibility of the worshipping community here. Many thanks!

--Fr. Bob

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS.....**

**Blessed Trinity Stewardship** – The total offertory collection for August 7/8, 2021 was \$1,872.85 which includes \$105 for fuel.

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**Saturday, August 21**  
**Lector – Lorna Cameron**

**Sunday, August 22**  
**Lector – Bob Heicklen & Young Reader – Grace Iheke**  
**Eucharistic Minister – Maggie Gatson**

**Retired Diocesan Priests' Medical Benefits Fund** - We will be taking up a collection next week. Please give generously.

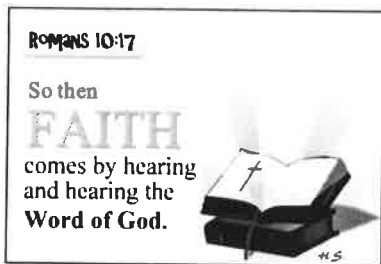
**“Serving Blessed Trinity Parish”** ~ The Parish Council at Blessed Trinity is an active group that assists the Pastoral staff in various and informal capacities. We provide input, help conduct and participate in church activities while supporting the mission of the parish. It is an interesting, enjoyable, and important role as we work together with our church community to be the beautiful congregation we are. At this time of year we invite interested parishioners who would like to join in. Meetings are conducted once per month September through June. If you are interested in serving and would like more information, please contact Colleen Schroeder (716)458-0186 or email [cannschoederrn@gmail.com](mailto:cannschoederrn@gmail.com).

**Blessed Trinity Featured on Virtual Statewide Tour of Churches** – Many of you are familiar with our past participation in the annual New York Landmarks Conservancy's Sacred Sites Open House Weekend. After cancelling in 2020, the Conservancy has chosen to restart with a virtual tour from 6-7pm on **Thursday, August 19**. Titled “Faith in the Empire State: Houses of Worship Across New York,” the hour-long ZOOM presentation will visit sacred sites “funded and designed by residents of towns and cities from Long Island to the Great Lakes,” exploring contemporary uses as well as historical significance. Representatives of each will be present to answer questions. Blessed Trinity and University Presbyterian Church – both listed on the National Register of Historic Places – are the only featured congregations from outside the Albany-NYC area. There is no charge, but pre-registration is required for virtual admission. The registration link and more information about both Buffalo churches can be found on our website: [www.blessedtrinitybuffalo.org](http://www.blessedtrinitybuffalo.org). Click on “Events, News, Photos ...” at the top of the home page and look for the post about this event.

**Weekend masses** - livestream on Facebook; recorded service available on YouTube later in the day.

**Liturgy Committee meeting** will meet on Sunday, August 22, after mass in St. Charles Hall.

**HUD Senior apartments in Kenmore** ~ Amenities and daily mass provided. For more information contact the rectory office (716)833-0301.



# KNOW YOUR FAITH

## *God Works Through Us ~ Part One*

When I was a little girl, I wanted to be a nurse. I played nurse, watched nurse television programs, had a nurse Barbie and, when I was *finally* old enough, I became a Candy Striper. I got my first look at the tough decisions that are made in life in the pediatric unit where I volunteered every week. As most of you know, becoming a nurse was not just a dream for me. It is a big part of my life today. I baptized three babies in the newborn intensive care unit where I spent 10 wonderful years. I saw the tiniest babies, who should have been tucked safely in their mothers' wombs for not weeks but months more. Those baptisms sealed for me the knowledge of the connection between God and humanity, the cooperation with God in creation. All of us played at different jobs throughout our childhoods - some big jobs and some everyday jobs. Remember the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker? Or the people that you meet when you're walking down the street each day?

Guidance counselors continue to ask "What do you want to do after high school?" Some of us knew right away what we wanted to do and others just wanted a "job-" it is the same today. We've already discussed the Dignity of Work, and we learned the hard way just which jobs were critical for us. We often talk about how God has called each of us. A priest or deacon may say that he has a "calling," but all of us do. The calling may not be to a particular profession nor to life as ordained clergy or consecration to religious life. Is God calling you to be a mother or father? Maybe he needs you to be a special aunt or grandparent. God may be calling you to reach out to your neighbors, volunteering at a soup kitchen or food pantry. Or he may be calling you to shovel the driveway of an elderly or disabled neighbor. A child awaits a home and another a tutor. A nursing home resident somewhere needs a visit. This is how we carry out our Baptismal Mission - all of us to be priest, prophet, and king.

Some are specially called to life as a priest, deacon or religious sister or brother. Since we can really only tell our own stories, I could tell you about how a religious sister/brother, deacon, priest or bishop changed my life, but it would be better that I thank God for that person and tell him or her. I have asked three people to tell you a smidgeon of their stories here: a religious sister, a deacon and a priest. I have also added a brief note about our bishop taken from the diocesan website. Today's featured writer is Sr. Liz Savage. In two weeks, we will feature the call to ordained ministry. Sr. Liz explains here what the life of a religious sister or brother is all about.

"Whatever his/her congregation and its form of spirituality, each vowed religious in the Catholic Church knows that he/she has been *Stimulated by the Holy Spirit of Love and receptive to Her inspiration....* (Following Vatican II, religious congregations took a serious look at their roots and changes were made.) "Active (non-cloistered) religious found a focus on the spiritual aspects of their lives. Their works or ministries were to be vehicles, not ends. Consequently, the religious consciously strive to heighten that dimension as they serve others. They found that it can impact the way they work. And—it encouraged them to branch out to new works. For example, John Peter Medaille, SJ, who assisted in founding the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1650, encouraged the Sisters to do 'any type of work of which women are capable.' Little did he know what that would lead to for 21st century Sisters!

"After years of having prescribed times and types of prayer done with many other community members, today's religious takes responsibility for identifying that which best nourishes her/him and intentionally builds it into the daily life.

"Today's religious life has few institutional elements, and most Sisters live in small groups. The community aspect of their lives remains essential—both a blessing and a challenge. Their vows—poverty, celibacy and obedience—were made to God, within their congregation. Membership calls for fidelity to its charism (core spiritual values) and heritage. Participating in congregational activities and gatherings—for prayer, celebrations, planning—can offer support. It can also require sometimes setting aside personal events and preferences. A respectful eye on the common good is important as the Spirit's inspirations unfold, each person's response to them changes. With grace, it deepens and becomes more expansive and inclusive."

--Sr. Liz Savage

***This August, we have a Vacation Bible School.*** The theme is "God Works Through Us." Remember the words of St. Teresa of Avila, "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

How will God work through you?

### ***Ministry Focus***

The **Choir at Blessed Trinity** has been praising God at weekly liturgies for over 75 years. Ethel Grabenstatter served as Music Minister for 50 years and was followed by Bridget Dick Blesnuk for 20 years, making the music leadership at our Church the most consistent in the Diocese. The parish has a volunteer adult choir that sings at the 10am Sunday Liturgy (from mid-September through the Feast of Corpus Christi), Holy Week services and the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. Rehearsals are held weekly from September

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Saturday, August 7 4:30 pm  
**In memory of Hattie Rumph**  
*John E. Curtin*

Sunday, August 8 10:00 am  
**In memory of Robert J. Kresse**  
*By his wife, Mary Kresse*

Monday, August 9 11:00 am  
**Deceased members of the Ryan, Reilly, Reynolds and Pfeiffer Families**  
*Estate of Mary Reilly*

Tuesday, August 10 11:00 am  
**Rest of the Souls of Arthur and Lillian Hildman**  
*Our Lady of Victory*

Wednesday, August 11 11:00 am  
**Eternal Joy and Birthday Remembrance for Adam Glowacki**  
*By his daughter, Barbara Sercu*

Friday, August 13 11:00 am  
**Mother's Day Intention**  
*Resurrection Church*

Saturday, August 14 4:30 pm  
**In memory of Bernita Heffern**  
*John E. Curtin*

Sunday, August 15 10:00 am  
**In memory of Elizabeth Duffy**  
*Duffy Family*

**Blessings for Mary Hartmann**  
*Husband – Anthony and children*

**REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS ALL WHO ARE SICK**

Especially parishioners ~ Sr. Ann Helene, Naoma Allen, Thomas Andrew, Yvonne Andrew, Bernice Bradley, Anthony Hartmann, Madonna Hartzell, Sionen Laciura, Marilyn Lang, Shirley Parks, Fr. Reger, Mary Ellen Roach, Janeva Tabb, Freddie White, Pedro Zola.

**† A remembrance in your will and last testament keeps alive the beauty and works of this church. †**



**The Sanctuary Lamp burns for a week in remembrance of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion.**

If you are interested in memorializing a loved one or special occasion, please contact the rectory at (716)833-0301.

**Know Your Faith, continued.....**

through the Feast of Corpus Christi), Holy Week services and the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. Rehearsals are held weekly from September through May. Our repertoire encompasses our rich Catholic musical heritage from Chant to Contemporary. A memorial choir is available for funerals upon request. For a rehearsal schedule and information about joining the choir or volunteering to cantor, leave a message for Mrs. Elizabeth Clay by calling the church office, (716)833-0301.

**The Pope's Prayer Intention for August** is The Church. "Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel."

**Faith Formation Notes** ~ Please remember to contact me or the rectory to **register your child** for religious instruction, First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. These will begin this Fall.

**A new Intergenerational Program** will be coming to our parishes this Fall. It will have four parts and be held seasonally. Each part will be held at one of our Family parishes.

**Adult Faith Formation** surveys will be at the doors of the church. Please let us know what would be most important for you - and commit to at least one Faith Formation event this year. You deserve it.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** begins in September. Please continue to pick up weekly lessons for children at the Welcome Space.

I can be reached at (716)256-2598. Office Hours are by appointment, but I am happy to meet with you.

--Pat Dyer



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 FUNERAL HOME**

**"Over 100 years of service"**

**2549 Main Street, Buffalo, New York 14214  
 716-832-0150**

**Homer H. Dick, Jr., Blessed Trinity Trustee**

