

Blessed Trinity Parish

317 Leroy Avenue - Buffalo, New York 14214



22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 29, 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

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8 (125B)
Psalm Psalm 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5
Second Reading James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27
Gospel Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



Retrospect, Introspect, Prospect! –

Things are beginning to churn with renewed startups!... Liturgy Committee meetings, Parish Council meetings, Discipleship Committee meetings, intergenerational faith formation and sacramental preparation planning, Road to Renewal initiatives, Bingo, upcoming coffee & pastry socials after Sunday Mass... so much more! These signs of life breed optimism and growing faith. They remind us of the importance of remembering that **we are made to make disciples** through the gifts and talents – time, talent, and treasure – given us by God for the building of the kingdom! Thank you to all who give and have given of yourselves to this endeavor of promoting the life of the church! There have been a number of volunteers who have dedicated themselves to keeping our lawns mowed, gardens tended, building and facilities kept, during these summer months... a huge savings for the parish and wonderful sign of commitment to the parish. I continue to encourage all parishioners to consider your stewardship as we need human resources such as catechists, religious education and formation teachers, mentors, and faith-sharers... committee members... supporters & friends... for our young, our teens, our young adults, our adults. Please consider your involvement as able and called by God.

“We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father, knowing, brothers and sisters loved by God, how you were chosen.”

– 1Thessalonians 1

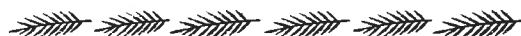
This Weekend

I am away this weekend performing a Committal Prayer Service for my Uncle Chuck, whose funeral I celebrated here at BT a few weeks ago. I thank Fr. Christopher Onuoha for his generous willingness to cover for me while I am away. I look forward to being with everyone again next Sunday!

--Fr. Bob

ANNOUNCEMENTS.....

Blessed Trinity Stewardship – The total offertory collection for August 21/22, 2021 was \$2,111.33 which includes Assumption \$61.33 and Retired Priests Medical \$92.00.



Saturday, September 4

Lector: Lorna Cameron

Sunday, September 5

Lector: Bob Heicklen

Eucharistic Minister: Fidelia Ejimadu

No 11am mass Monday 8/30 – Friday 9/4.
The office will be closed Monday 8/30.

Thank you for your generous support of the Retired Diocesan Priests' Medical Benefits Fund.

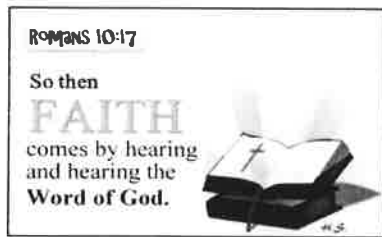


“Serving Blessed Trinity Parish” ~ The Parish Council at Blessed Trinity is an active group that assists the Pastoral staff in various and informal capacities. We provide input, help conduct and participate in church activities while supporting the mission of the parish. It is an interesting, enjoyable, 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.



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 – Call to Ordained Ministry

Two weeks ago, I told you about baptizing babies in the NICU. I remember heading for the operating room with a tiny baby. The parents did not want the chaplain called - they wanted to bring their baby to their own parish for baptism when he was well, "But," they said, "If he is going to die we want him baptized." The surgery did not go well and the surgeon saw that the baby was not tolerating the procedure. Once he was able to see the damage to the infant's intestines, he knew that there was nothing he could do. He closed the incision and we prepared to bring the baby back to his parents. The baby's "vital signs" dropped significantly when I moved him from the surgical table to the incubator. And, I baptized him as instructed. The surgeon (a non-Christian) just stood there watching as the baby's vital signs immediately improved. "That did not just happen," he said. But it did. This baby did die, but not before he was in the warm arms of his parents. For me, that was always a very sad occasion until I heard Fr. Paul Seil preach about the great privilege of having baptized a dying baby. I began to see this ministry as being the gentle hands that were there when that precious baby returned to God, to be a witness to the great love God has for his people, and to be a comforting presence for the families. This great privilege is the ordinary responsibility of the ordained clergy. Keep reading to learn about the personal calls of one deacon, who was part of the first diaconate class in the Diocese of Buffalo, and also that of our own administrator.

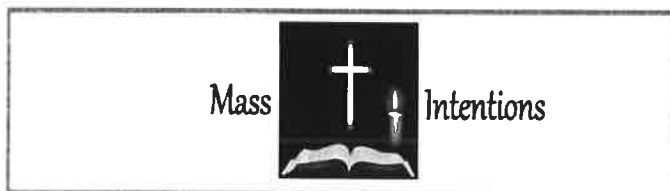
Bishops, priests and deacons receive a sacrament called Holy Orders. Each of the three main stages of Holy Orders has its own special place. We can trace this sacrament back to the actions of Jesus and to his apostles (Mt 28:16-20, Mk 14:22-25, Lk 22:18-20, 1 Cor 11:24, Mt 16:19, Acts 8:17, Heb 6:2.) And, we can trace every single bishop back to the apostles! That is what we call apostolic succession. Our Pope is a bishop, and his diocese is Rome. The Bishop of Rome, is what we call first among equals. His is the example given to all the other bishops throughout the world. Our Pope says that priests should "smell like sheep." Well, what else would a shepherd smell like?

The ordination ceremony (Sacrament of Holy Orders) proceeds with some variations so I will explain here the general outline for an ordination of priests. A candidate to be ordained a priest has already been ordained a deacon -- usually nine months to a year before the ordination to priesthood. The candidates sit with their families until they are **called** from the people of God -- the baptized -- to serve in a more explicit way as priest, prophet and king. They are then **presented** to the Bishop and the Bishop is told that they have been found worthy -- a lengthy years long process. This is followed by the **election** of the candidate by the Bishop and **assent** of the people -- usually with loud applause (and sometimes a few tears of joy.) The Bishop will then **instruct** the people and candidates on the duties of a priest. Following the homily, the Bishop **examines** each candidate as to his intent while he kneels before the Bishop, placing his hands in the Bishop's hands. The Litany of Supplication is one of the most moving parts of an ordination. If you do not have the opportunity to attend an ordination, you can see something similar during Good Friday services. Each candidate lies face down (**prostrate**) before God while the congregation prays for him. This posture is ancient and indicates the giving over of one's life to God and prayer for the Grace required. Next is **Laying on of Hands**, also an ancient rite, and it is followed by the **Prayer of Ordination** -- these two are the essential parts of the sacrament. They are **invested** with the stole and chasuble, their hands are **anointed**, and they receive a **fraternal kiss of peace** from the priests present. (The **Book of the Gospels** is given when they are ordained deacons.)

Reverend Robert Gebhard, Jr. Administrator, Blessed Trinity

One of the things that Priesthood, or Holy Orders, has meant for me is *discovering and learning to trust*, over and over again, the hand and heart of God at work in me and in so many amazing people, experiences, and situations along the journey. Some *discoveries* have come easy, others through painful or difficult struggle and discernment; through thick and thin. In my college years, thinking the course for my future life was pretty well set in the medical sciences.... completing a PhD.... picturing a family, a home of my own, a comfortable lifestyle... financially set... and then, out of nowhere, this gnawing, relentless restlessness just hit me! That period of time was a painful struggle to figure out why I had become so unsettled until, finally realizing that God was calling me to a new

Know Your Faith cont'd. on insert.....



Saturday, August 28 4:30 pm
 Deceased members of the Ryan, Reilly, Reynolds and Pfeiffer Families
 Estate of Mary Reilly

Sunday, August 29 10:00 am
 In memory of Sylvia Hecklen
 Robert Hecklen

No 11am Mass - Monday, August 30

No 11am Mass - Tuesday, August 31

No 11am Mass - Wednesday, September 1

No 11am Mass -- Friday, September 3

Saturday, September 4 4:30 pm
 Deceased members of the Ryan, Reilly, Reynolds and Pfeiffer Families
 Estate of Mary Reilly

Sunday, September 5 10:00 am
 Eternal joy for Randy and Rosanne Burgio
 Bud and Mickey Dick

† 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.

Ladies of Charity, a volunteer organization affiliated with Catholic Charities, is celebrating its 80th anniversary in part with a Sidewalk Sale extravaganza! The sale will be held from 10 am-1 pm daily from Monday, August 30 through Friday, September 3 in front of the Ladies of Charity Lots of Clothes thrift store, 1122 Broadway, Buffalo. All items will be \$1 or less. For more information on Catholic Charities and other services and programs we provide, visit www.ccnw.org. Join us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



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

Barbara Shanahan Presents: Bible Basics

Who: Anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic Church, RCIA candidates, RCIA team members, Confirmation candidates and others interested in learning more about Jesus and how the Bible came to be "The Bible"

What: An **entry level** 90 minute discussion

When: Tuesday, September 7, at 6:30pm

Where: St. Charles' Hall, 350 Dewey Avenue - the former school building at Blessed Trinity (317 Leroy).

Why: So that you will have a better understanding of just where the scriptures came from.

How: So that we will have adequate space Pre-Register by September 5, by contacting the Blessed Trinity Office at (716)833-0301 or Faith Formation at your own parish. Social distancing and safety precautions maintained. Handicap accessible.

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



VANDERCHER & DICK

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Homer H. Dick, Jr., Blessed Trinity Trustee



mission, a new direction, uncharted territory, a daunting leap of faith!... and a radically different life than I ever anticipated...! I finally took the leap, throwing caution to the wind in a sense, but with a strong awareness that God was actively prodding me in some strange new way. I began a new chapter in my life. Saying yes to following in Jesus' footsteps has meant a great and fulfilling life sharing and spreading the *Good News* – celebrating the sacraments, praying with the sick, preaching, teaching, collaborating in ministry, sharing in people's joys and sorrows, experiencing God's healing, promoting reconciliation, peace and justice. Every day brings a new surprise and a different opportunity to serve God and God's people and to be graced anew by those among whom I live and serve. To say yes to Jesus' call, "Follow me!" finds me, every day, humbled and grateful to have been called to walk in Jesus' footsteps as one of His disciple-priests among so many other faithful and faith-filled fellow disciples and companions on the journey.

**Deacon Paul Weisenburger, Sr.
Deacon St. Lawrence Parish**

Mary and I were married on April 16, 1966. This is my first vocation. I thank God for this blessing for I could not ask for a better way of life than this marriage has been with five children and twelve grandchildren and so far (through extended family) three great grandchildren. There was still a wondering in my mind, however, for I felt there was still something I had to do in life. In 1974 Bishop Head decided to bring the Permanent Diaconate to the Buffalo Diocese. The Permanent Diaconate was restored in the Church by Council Vatican 2. The feeling that this action of Bishop Head inspired in me was like a bolt of heavenly light to me. I wrote to the Bishop and told him that I felt called to serve. After much discernment on my part and on the part of Bishop Head's diaconate Leaders, I was chosen among twenty-one others to join the first class of candidates for the Buffalo Diocese. It was the divine answer to that feeling of something I was meant to do in life. The call of the Holy Spirit was answered. I was ordained May 14th 1978, a little over forty-three years ago. For forty-three years years my wife Mary (first vocation) and I have devoted our lives to our family and our Church family.

**Most Reverend Michael Fisher
Bishop of Buffalo**

A bishop is called from the priests ordained and serving the people. He is the head of the Diocese

to which he is appointed and is responsible for the care of all the people. He is often referred to as a shepherd and the people, his flock. When a priest is ordained, he promises obedience to the bishop who ordained him and to the bishop's successors. You can tell quite a bit about someone by the things they do and say. For example Bishop Fisher has this scripture quote on his webpage "His ways are faithfulness and love." (Psalm 25:10) Like many in ordained ministry, our bishop came to priesthood by way of another career - business and accounting. "Bishop Fisher attributes much of his call to the priesthood to the love and sacrifices of his parents and family, the constant prayers of a grandmother, the encouragement and example of wonderful priests, and a life-long desire to serve and leave this world a better place." (From Buffalodiocese.org/bishop-fisher)

How will God work through you?

Ministry Focus

The **Ministry of Service at the Altar** encompasses Eucharistic Ministers, altar servers, lectors and sacristans. Eucharistic Ministers assist the ordinary ministers of Holy Communion (priests and deacons) allowing the distribution of Communion to move smoothly. Lectors proclaim the Word of God with the first and second readings as well as assist with directions and announcements. Sacristans serve directly at the Altar assisting the priest in much the same way as altar servers do. Altar service for youth is available for both boys and girls who have made their First Communion. Training is available. Contact Mary Kresse (Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors) or the office (Sacristans and Altar Servers.)

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