

# Blessed Trinity Parish

317 Leroy Avenue - Buffalo, New York 14214



## 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## September 19, 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 L. Gebhard, Jr.  
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](mailto:blessedtrinitychurch@gmail.com)

WEBSITE [blessedtrinitybuffalo.org](http://blessedtrinitybuffalo.org)

CENTRAL BUFFALO CLUSTER [catholicchurchesofbuffalo.com](http://catholicchurchesofbuffalo.com)

CONFESSIONS Saturday, 4pm

BIBLE STUDY Suspended until September

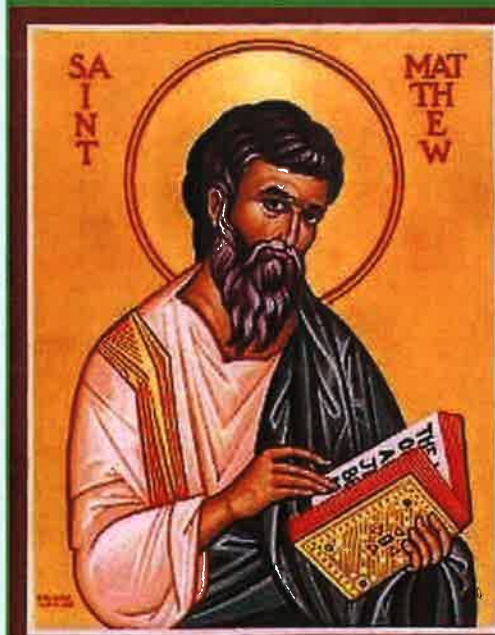
ANOINTING OF THE SICK Will resume post pandemic

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

## 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

<b>First Reading</b>	Wisdom 2:12, 17-20 (134B)
<b>Psalm</b>	Psalm 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14
<b>Second Reading</b>	James 5:1-6
<b>Gospel</b>	Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

### The Gift of Faith and Our Catholic Faith



How reassuring it was to hear the spontaneous applause of support for Amos as I announced, at the beginning of Sunday Mass last weekend, his desire to enter into the RCIA process toward becoming a Catholic someday to hopefully be fully initiated into the Church through the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, & Eucharist. Praying over him, as he was sent forth from us to hear the scriptures and begin the process of faith-faith sharing, with his catechists, was humbling and moving for me. The RCIA process allows for the flexibility that a ‘seeker’ remains in the process, being informed and formed in the ways of the Gospel and our Catholic faith, until a time when that individual (called a catechumen or candidate) feels ready, and is deemed ready by the Church, for such a commitment to Christ, His Ways, and His Church. Please continue to keep Amos in your prayers as he responds to God’s call at this time along his journey.

### Stewardship

Thanks to all parishioners who continue to respond to our parish needs with your time, talent and treasure. As a small faith community, I continue to be impressed by your generosity in the weekend collections as well as your response to special collections, fundraisers, our Under This Roof Fund, bingo and so much more. This support is so critical to meet ministry, operational and maintenance needs. Often, I wonder if people realize the fruits of their support. For example, most recently, we have been able to complete needed exterior painting of the church windows & doors, plumbing repairs, repair of our chair lifts in St. Charles Hall; we had to replace 2 full-length windows in the Dewey Ave entrance of St. Charles Hall due to vandalism... just to name a few out-of-the-ordinary expenses that always seem to come

along. Further, we are blessed with the involvement we have in our parish groups and organizations. Certainly this is an indicator of your strong commitment to the parish. A number of volunteers have come forward to help tend to our landscaping maintenance, with cleaning of the church and rectory, picking up trash on the property... A million thank you’s! Who knows what the future holds but the present is packed with wonderful spirit and the commitment of community in faith!

--Fr. Bob

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

**Blessed Trinity Stewardship** – The total offertory collection for September 11/12, 2021, was \$1,511.05 which includes Seminarian.& Diaconate Fund \$66.05 and \$80 for fuel.



**Saturday, September 25**

**Lector: Greg Gaglione**

**Sunday, September 26**

**Lector: Mary Kresse and Young Reader: Avery White**  
**Eucharistic Minister: Maggie Gatson**



**Thank you** for your generous donations to the Seminarian & Diaconate Formation Fund.

**Earthquake In Haiti** ~ We will be taking up a second collection next week, **September 26**, for the humanitarian, long-term recovery and church needs arising from the earthquake in Haiti. Funds collected in this special appeal will be used to support the efforts of Catholic Charities USA and/or Catholic Relief Services, the official relief agencies of the U.S. Catholic Church, as they and their local agencies respond to the immediate emergency needs as well as aid in long-term recovery.

**School Alumni Sunday** ~ This Sunday we welcome back alumni of the parish grammar school and friends as they resume what had been an annual In Memoriam gathering. Mass will begin with the ringing of the 112-year-old bell from original church/school building which was rededicated in its present location on the church lawn during the last Alumni Sunday in October 2019. At the Prayer of the Faithful, we will pause to remember 33 alumni and 2 former priests who served the parish, all of whom have passed since the 2019 reunion. Blessed Trinity School operated from 1909-1975, during which time the Sisters of St. Joseph and lay faculty educated more than 2,300 students.



**As we pray for peace through singing**, let's also remember to pray for renewal as our diocese reorganizes to meet the needs of today's Catholic family. You may have noticed a new prelude to the Mass, the *Hymn for Renewal*, written for the Buffalo Diocese by Deacon Timothy Chriswell from Sacred Heart in Bowmansville and Father Bryan Zielenieski from St. Mary's in Swormville, as well as two other local composers, M. Palmer and D. Chriswell. Deacon Tim is the Director of Deacons and Lay Formation and Fr. Bryan is the Episcopal Vicar for Renewal and Development in the Buffalo Diocese - people very well-versed in the need for renewal.

It was a little difficult for me to get my head around the lyrics initially, describing Christ as "The Un-doer of Knots," but as I pray these words, I am beginning to understand them more. I offer them below for your consideration - and the melody should be in your heart soon as we prepare for Mass each week with this Buffalo-born hymn.

### ***Hymn of Renewal....***

*Renew in my heart love for family  
renew in my heart love for Your Church  
renew in my heart love to serve you  
Un-doer of Knots, pray for me.*

*Knots in my life insecurities  
Knots in my life bring me down.  
Only you can carry me  
Un-doer of Knots, pray for me.*

*Renew in my heart love for family  
renew in my heart love for Your Church  
renew in my heart love to serve you  
Un-doer of Knots, pray for me.*

*Bound by the past guide our future  
bound by the pain heal our broken hearts  
bound by darkness bring us to light  
Un-doer of Knots, pray for me.*

*Renew in my heart love for family  
renew in my heart love for Your Church  
renew in my heart love to serve you  
Un-doer of Knots, pray for me.*

*Seal with grace freedom from addictions  
seal with grace all shepherds who serve  
Seal with grace all God's holy people  
Un-doer of Knots, pray for me.*

*Renew in my heart love for family  
renew in my heart love for Your Church*

*renew in my heart love to serve you  
Un-doer of Knots, pray for me.  
Un-doer of Knots, pray for me.*

I am looking forward to hearing you pray and sing along as we travel this road to renewal together.

*-Elizabeth Clay*

**Cabrini Clues** – Now that Father Bob has given you a head start on acquiring facts about Mother Cabrini, we hope you are inspired to find out why the movie's director, Alejandro Monteverde, believes Frances[ca] Cabrini's story is "as relevant today as in the 1890s." Our **Oct. 3** group discussion is only two weeks away, so take time to "Google" her name or visit the public library and check out one of the books about her in their collection. Then, come and contribute to the conversation about this remarkable woman and first American citizen to be canonized. **We'll see you in St. Charles Hall following Sunday Mass on October 3 for the Cabrini Trivia Challenge.** Any Sodality member willing to shop or provide food for the meeting is asked to call Vera 716-704-2944 or Mickey 716-832-2540.

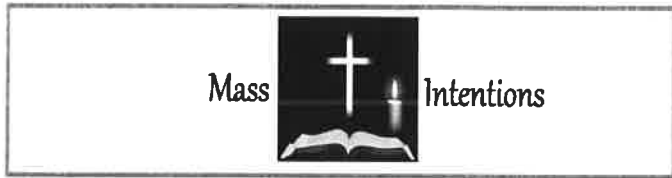
**Dollar Sale** at St. Andrew's Consignment Shop, 111 Crocker Street, Sloan, on Saturday, September 25 from 11am-4pm. The sale includes all men's, women's and children's clothing, shoes, purses and selected general merchandise items. For more information, call 716-892-0425.

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

**Are you looking for a meaningful way to give back?** Consider becoming a Catholic Charities volunteer. Current opportunities include English as a Second Language volunteer, food pantry volunteer, donations assistance volunteer and more. To view all opportunities, visit [www.cwny.org/volunteer](http://www.cwny.org/volunteer). For more information on Catholic Charities and other services and programs we provide, visit [www.cwny.org](http://www.cwny.org). Join us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

**Anniversary Mass** on Sunday, October 24 at 10:30am at St. Joseph Cathedral, 50 Franklin St., Buffalo. The Anniversary Mass honors couples who will observe their 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, and 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries and recognizes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice, challenges and comforts in daily married life. Registration is required by Friday, October 1; contact the rectory 716-833-0301 to register. Photos and brunch will follow the Mass.

**Fall Equinox Prayer** ~ Blessed Sacrament Church will hold a Taizé prayer service for the Fall Equinox on Wednesday, September 22, 7:30-8:30pm located at 1029 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo. Join us for an evening of meditative prayer; gather outside on the front steps, bring a lantern or a candle in a vase to create a candle-lit environment, and bring your own chair.



***Mass is the highest and greatest form of prayer.***



Contact the office to request a Mass for yourself, your loved ones, or for any intention. The stipend is \$15.

***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***

***Diocesan Hispanic Heritage Mass ~ September 19, 11am at Holy Cross, 345 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Buffalo. Celebrant and Homilist Bishop Michael Fisher. All are welcome.***

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

**Bingo every Thursday**  
Doors open at 6:30 pm and game starts at 8 pm.



**VANDERCHER & DICK  
FUNERAL HOME**

***"Over 100 years of service"***

**2549 Main Street, Buffalo, New York 14214**

**716-832-0150**

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



***Saturday, September 18 4:30 pm***  
**Deceased members of the Ryan, Reilly, Reynolds and Pfeiffer Families**  
*Estate of Mary Reilly*

***Sunday, September 19 10:00 am***  
**Alumni Memorial Mass**  
*Blessed Trinity School Alumni*

***Monday, September 20 11:00 am***  
**Mother's Day Intention**  
*Resurrection Church*

***Tuesday, September 21 11:00 am***  
**Deceased members of the Ryan, Reilly, Reynolds and Pfeiffer Families**  
*Estate of Mary Reilly*

***Wednesday, September 22 11:00 am***  
**Mother's Day Intention**  
*Resurrection Church*

***Friday, September 24 11:00 am***  
**Deceased members of the Ryan, Reilly, Reynolds and Pfeiffer Families**  
*Estate of Mary Reilly*

***Saturday, September 25 4:30 pm***  
**Eternal Joy for John F. Curtin**  
*Family*

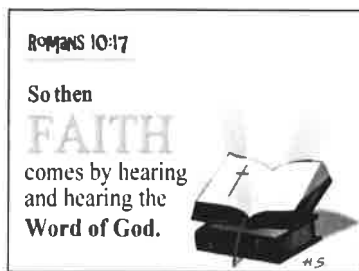
***Sunday, September 26 10:00 am***  
**In memory of Mabel Callahan Galu**  
*Robert J. Kresse Family*

***† 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

## ***Created in his image ... Part One***

"God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (Gen 1:27) Since **October is Respect Life Month**, we're going to talk about life issues and how we can address them. "Thou shall not kill." That seems very simple, and, it is, if you apply that line from Genesis to our decisions. That is how the Church crafts its teaching on various life issues. The Liturgy Committee has asked that we present some of these over several weeks for Respect Life month as well as the resources to help. If you have any questions, please contact me.

In 1982, I was a busy and tired mother of four with a brand new baby, and I made a terrible mistake that nearly cost the life of my beautiful one year old daughter. It was Sunday morning, the day our baby was to be baptized. Our toddler had a leaky diaper and needed a last minute bath. Her baby sister was crying, and it seemed to my husband that there was something very wrong with the baby. He called for me to come right away, and I left our toddler alone in the bathtub. I will never forget that terrible morning. As I breathed life back into our child, I realized what it might be like to lose a child. That little girl is now the office manager in my clinic office. One day my daughter asked a mother, a pediatrician in her home country, if she had her son's vaccine records. "No," they were left behind. When we learned that she was a pediatrician, but would not be qualified to work in the US, we asked why she had come here. She answered simply, "I was tired of hiding my baby in the basement to protect him from the bombs." I knew what it meant to be afraid of losing a child.

The US opened its doors to this family and many others, but what of the many left behind? What resources are available to local mothers and fathers who lack food, adequate shelter, clothing, health care or legal representation? What about those frightened by an unplanned pregnancy?

We know that in Catholic Social teachings there are "two feet" - charity and justice. Both are essential. We care for the immediate needs and work to prevent those needs in the future. On January 1, 1972, Pope St. Paul VI, said, as part of his World Peace Day proclamation, "If you want peace, work for justice." Truer words have never been spoken. There are so many issues that come to mind from events in the last several years - local, statewide, nationally, and globally. We begin by

educating ourselves. It also is not helpful to the young mother coming here with her child to say "We're working on it" when she is fleeing bombs and her child needs the necessities of life. Today and over the next several weeks, I want to look at some of the local resources available to help those in need. If you are in need of any services or would like to help, please let us know and we will be happy to help.

The Catholic Church teaches that life is sacred from the moment of conception. "At the Hubert Humphrey Building dedication, Nov. 1, 1977, in Washington, D.C., former vice president Humphrey spoke about the treatment of the "weakest members of society as a reflection of a government: 'The moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped.'" (*Columbian*, November 11, 2016.)

In 2017, 17% of pregnancies in the US ended in a voluntary abortion. In 2014, 75% of those seeking abortions lived below the poverty level. That same year 24% identified as Catholic. Abortion should never be the only option for those in dire economic circumstances.

Abortion has been called a way to reduce Down Syndrome and other genetic or congenital conditions. There are many happy and healthy people with Down Syndrome. If we eliminate those, where will our standard be? Will you or I meet the acceptable minimum? (Join us for Adults Only movie night on September 24 at 6:30, where we will view the film ***Peanut Butter Falcon*** featuring a person with Down Syndrome as the lead character.)

What about exposure to substances that cause defects? There is a wonderful story of tenor Andrea Bocelli whose mother was urged to have an abortion after exposure to rubella (a virus known to cause birth defects.) Mr. Bocelli was indeed blind at birth; however, he is also a magnificent singer, a husband and father. Was his life worth saving? He certainly agrees that it was. You know that I worked for many years in newborn intensive care units. I cared for many seriously premature and developmentally disabled infants. I found great joy in this.

How can we help people who find themselves expecting a baby under difficult circumstances? Emergency Pregnancy Services:

- Sometimes people are just scared. Listen. Listen and listen again. Share a cup of coffee together.
- Next as needed, contact our own Diocesan Pro-life office 716-847-2205, the Mother Teresa Home 716-424-0217, and/or the St. Gianna Molla Center 716-842-2229. The Pro-life Office will know exactly which services are available from each of these options. The St. Gianna Molla center has more than one location.

- Harvest House Baby Ministry requires referrals but can often help with clothing and emergency furnishings as well as emergency formula. They can be very helpful if a relative suddenly gains custody of an infant. Contact Pat Dyer or our Food Pantry for a referral.
- Those who are elderly or dying also face pain and loneliness. The Church teaches that life is to be respected through natural death. As we grow older, we need increased levels of support, but support as adults.
- If you suspect an adult is being abused or neglected call the Elder Abuse Hotline for Erie County 716-858-6877.
- Catholic Charities senior programs can be found at ccwny.org.
- There is also Hospice (ask the person's healthcare provider) and visits from familiar people from one's own parish (Compassion Ministry).
- Frequently there are questions about what is appropriate healthcare when someone is dying or terminally ill. Here is just one example: Should a feeding tube be placed when a person cannot eat on his/her own? The crucial question here is "Are we prolonging life or prolonging death?" Don't go it alone. Ask when you have questions. No time? Call the hospital chaplain. You already know some of them: Fr. Butch (ECMC), Fr. Duke (Sister's), Fr. Chris (VA), and Fr. Christopher Okoli (Chaplaincy Education at Sister's.)
- Remember, if you are the caregiver, to care for yourself. Take an afternoon off to go to a movie, or shopping or for a walk. Do not be afraid to ask for help.
- The Church never condones assisted dying, but insists that everything possible be done for the comfort of the dying person and to enable them to be with those they love until their very last moment on earth. This time together can be a wonderful blessing, a time to give back to those who have given of themselves to you over the years. If you have questions, call the office. If Fr. Bob is unavailable, I will help you or find someone who can.

In the coming weeks we will talk more about other life issues. Want to see something specific? Just ask.

**Please see Fr. Bob or Pat Dyer with questions about these announcements:**

- **Children's Liturgy** will continue to be held on the **FIRST** Sunday of every month during the 10am Mass. This is our primary means of educating our children so it will be very important for them to be at Mass.
- **Confirmation classes begin this weekend** for anyone in grade 10 or above. Catholic adults, who have never been Confirmed, are encouraged to call also. Classes will be held at

St. Martin de Porres church. I will be there to greet you and to make sure that you feel at home with the others who are journeying with you.

- If you are a non-Catholic worshipping with us on Sundays, join us for **discussions of the readings after the Opening Prayer**. Our team works very hard to be ready for our discussions. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith is welcome to participate.
- A small change has been made in Scripture Study this fall. There will be a **six-session video series on the Jewish Roots of the Parables of Jesus**. Our first class is Tuesday, September 28 at 7pm. This will be held in the Faith Formation classroom in St. Charles' Hall. At the completion of the series, we will begin the Gospel of Luke via Zoom. Several other offerings will be available through the Family of Parishes Faith Formation
- Our **first Intergenerational Session** will be at St. Lawrence Parish on October 19. Please try to be there. All ages and a simple meal will be included. We want a good turnout when it is our turn in the spring. Signup sheets are available at the entrances of the church. Please be kind and register as food and other materials will be needed.
- I will host **Movie and Discussion Nights**. Donations to cover costs are gratefully accepted.
  - Adults Only: Wine and Cheese Movie Night and discussion. MUST be over 21. No charge. Our first movie night will be 9/24 at 6:30 PM. I will be your host at Ss. Columba-Brigid. September's movie is **Peanut Butter Falcon**.
  - Respect Life Movie Night: (14 and older - sorry no wine this evening) **Entertaining Angels**. October 8 at 6:30 PM in the Clinic Waiting Room, Franciscan Guest House at St. Lawrence. Snacks available.

-Pat Dyer

***The Pope's Prayer Intentions for September:  
An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle.***

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

# Upcoming Movie Nights

*Hosted by Pat Dyer, Blessed Trinity*



## ***Peanut Butter Falcon:***

Ss. Columba-Brigid 6:30 PM  
Friday September 24 **Adults Only!** (Over 21 - ID may be requested) Wine and Cheese.



## ***Entertaining Angels***

To celebrate Respect Life month:  
Clinic Waiting room of Franciscan  
Guest House at St. Lawrence 6:30  
PM Friday October 8 **Over 14** - no  
alcohol served. Snacks available.

Questions? Call Blessed Trinity 833-0301 or Pat Dyer 256-2598. Donations to cover costs are gratefully accepted