Blessed Trinity Parish

317 Leroy Avenue - Buffalo, New York 14214

Sixth Sunday of Easter May 22, 2022

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	Phone: 716-833-0301
	Fax: 716-834-4711
EMAIL	blessedtrinitychurch@gmail.com
WEBSITE	blessedtrinitybuffalo.org
CENTRAL BUFFALO CLUSTER	catholicchurchesofbuffalo.com
CONFESSIONS	Saturday 4pm
BIBLE STUDY	Every Tuesday 7pm
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

716-800-1075

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 15:1-2, 22-29 (57C)
Psalm Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Second Reading Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23
Gospel John 14:15-16

Easter holds the promise of Peace, an Advocate, The Holy Spirit, & Freedom from Fear.

"The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." (John 14)

In the face of the heartbreaking hate crime that has touched so many lives, we need these words from John's Gospel more than ever. When sadness has us grasping for words of consolation that never come, when naiveté is pummeled by the reality of evil, when brothers and sisters are taken from us in their total innocence, when we feel that we are endlessly treading the waters of life without finding sand and rock upon which to stand and catch our breath in safety and surety, when fear surrounds and hatred threatens... we have to remember and stand, as critically as ever, for ways and words that keep us together, keep us in love with one another, brothers and sisters embraced in Christ. In the statement by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love - A Pastoral Letter Against Racism*, they take us to a grounding in the Word of God and the challenge before us all–

> "Holy Scripture boldly proclaims, "See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are" (1 Jn 3:1). This love "comes from God and unites us to God; through this unifying process it makes us a 'we' which transcends our divisions and makes us one, until in the end God is 'all in all' (1 Cor 15:28)... Racism occurs because a person ignores the fundamental truth that, because all humans share a common origin, they are all brothers and sisters, all equally made in the image of God. When this truth is ignored, the consequence is prejudice and fear of the other, and—all too often—hatred. Cain forgets this truth in his hatred of his brother. Recall the words in the First Letter of John: "Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him" (1 Jn 3:15). Racism shares in the same evil that moved Cain to kill his brother. It arises from suppressing the truth that his brother Abel was also created in the image of God, a human equal to himself. Every racist act—every such comment, every joke, every disparaging look as a reaction to the color of skin, ethnicity, or place of origin—is a failure to acknowledge another person as a brother or sister, created in the image of God. In these and in many other such acts, the sin of racism persists in our lives, in our country, and in our world."

Our greatest honoring of those who lost their lives in the senseless act of violence, hatred and racism in our city might be to commit ourselves to courageously living-by-example that no one is supreme but God alone; and to live-by-example every simple act of love that speaks our truth that we choose whatever makes us **a united 'we'** in a world of *me, my, and mine.* Tell the story that racism has no place in the world-of-we. 'We' have to reclaim the Common Good as a prized and protected value.
Consider reading and reflecting on *Open Wide Our Hearts* - https://www.usccb.org/resources/open-wide-our-hearts_0.pdf

Catholic Charities Appeal

We are $1,660 from our goal! Many thanks to those who made a donation/pledge on this past Wednesday, CC Hope Day, when your donations were matched! For those still considering a donation, the good works of Catholic Charities, and those in need who depend on their assistance, depends on your support. There are no pledges that are too small. Every penny counts! Please consider a donation as soon as possible. Pledges can be made by seeing Bob Heicklen (Parish Chairperson), Pat Dyer, or Fr. Bob after weekend masses or by contacting the parish office... or by contacting Catholic Charities (www.ccwny.org or 716-218-1400, ask for Appeals).

✷ ***Blessed Trinity Needs You!***
We especially need **Lectors, Eucharist Ministers/Ministers to the Sick & Shut In, & Greeters**. If you feel that you have the gift for these ministries, please see me, Pat Dyer, Mary Kresse or contact the parish office (716-833-0301). Training will be made available.

-Fr. Bob

ANNOUNCEMENTS .....

Blessed Trinity Stewardship – The total offertory collection for May 14/15, 2022, was $1,898 including Communication $3, Mission Co-op $3, Latin America $20, Easter Flowers $10, and Fuel $70.

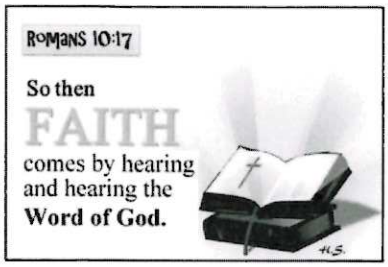
Saturday, May 28th
Lector: *Lorna Cameron*

Sunday, May 29th
Lector: *Maggie Gatson*
Eucharistic Minister: Fidelia Ejimadu

There will be no 11 AM Mass on Thursday, May 26th.

Bishop Fisher will lead a prayer service for healing after the mass shooting last weekend at TOPS. Join him at St. Martin de Porres on Monday, May 23 at 5 PM.

Thursday, May 26 is the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord. *Mass will be celebrated at 7pm. This is a Holy Day of Obligation, and you are encouraged to make every attempt to attend.*



KNOW YOUR FAITH

"HELLO?"

Have you ever played the telephone game? It is a game often played with young children. I played it last summer with our small Vacation Bible School and their parents. A message is passed from one person to another until all have heard the message. If you have played, you know that there is sometimes no resemblance to the original message whatsoever. Gossip has a way of biting you.

In recent weeks, we read accounts of unrest from the Acts of the Apostles. "Some," without authority, were instructing those who were to be baptized that they must first be converted to Judaism. The conversion process posed "no little dissension and debate." A primary symbol of the Jewish male is circumcision. Imagine the response among the Gentiles to whom Paul brought the gospel when they heard that they must first be circumcised. Remember -- this is first century Judea. There are no sterile operating rooms, no antibiotics, and no anesthesia. This would have been a significant burden. So, what did Paul and Barnabas do?

When Jesus, forty days after his resurrection, returned to the Father, he promised both that he would be "with (us) always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28:20,) and that he would "ask the Father, and he will give (us) another Advocate to be with (us) always." (Jn 14:17) Jesus asked them to remain in Jerusalem until the promise was fulfilled. The apostles and other disciples went to the upper room and "devoted themselves with one accord to prayer." (Acts 1:14) One of their first actions was to name a successor to Judas, thus ensuring their number for the future of the Church. When they were gathered for the celebration of Pentecost -- a feast of thanksgiving for the harvest and the giving of the law to Moses -- there appeared a great wind and fire, and the Holy Spirit came to rest upon the apostles and disciples who were present. In amazement, each heard in his own language. Jesus did not come to make us all alike. The Father sent his Spirit that we might understand each other. Wisely, Paul and Barnabas sought the counsel of the "brothers" (other apostles) who with prayer and the Holy Spirit decided the issue. In this same manner, decisions in the Church happen today. It is how our Family of Parishes will plan for our future.

As we walk the Road to Renewal with our brothers and sisters from our Family of Parishes, we must avoid the temptation to play the telephone game, listen to our family members, devote ourselves with one accord to prayer, and recognize the pain of our family members as well as our own and call upon the Holy Spirit as our guide.

-Pat Dyer

The diocese is forming a new youth council. Youth nominees are needed for grades 6-8 and 9-12. Please consider serving. For more information please contact Fr. Bob or Pat Dyer.

Diocesan Synod ~ Our Listening Sessions for Phase 1 of our Diocesan Synod will conclude at the end of May, but there are still plenty of valuable opportunities for you be heard. Here are some of the Sessions remaining:

- May 23rd at 6:30 at St. Vincent de Paul open to everyone
- May 24th at 5:30 at the Catholic Center downtown open to everyone
- May 25th at 6:30 at Holy Cross for the Hispanic community
- May 26th at 5:30 at Our Lady of Hope for the African community

Please check the Diocesan website for more details at www.buffalodiocese.org. And remember that Phase 2 will include all Parish Families of the Diocese.

Celebrating Memorial Day at a Catholic Cemetery is truly a mixture of flags and wreaths and tributes and taps. Join us at one of two locations for Memorial Day Mass as we honor those who have served our country in the military. On Saturday May 28 at 10 am Bishop Michael Fisher will celebrate Mass at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Kenmore and Fr. William Quinlivan will celebrate Mass at Holy Cross Cemetery in Lackawanna. Military are always welcome to represent their branch of the military. Masses will be held outdoors. Tent with limited seating available; you are welcome to bring your own lawn chair. Refreshments will be served after Mass. For more information on any of our services, please call 716-873-6500.

Is your child ages 12-17 displaying chronic negative behaviors such as noncompliance, verbal and/or physical aggression, truancy, school failure, curfew violations, running away, illegal substance abuse and/or criminal activity? Catholic Charities Multisystemic Therapy Program in Erie, Niagara, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties is an intensive, family-focused intervention program facilitated in the youth's natural environment, including the home. Visit www.ccwny.org or call 716-204-0555 ext. 502. Appeal 2022 is ongoing through June 30. To make a donation today, visit www.ccwny.org/donate or text **GIVEHOPE22** to 44321.

Remember in our prayers all who are sick.....

especially parishioners Sr. Ann Helene, Naoma Allen, Thomas Andrew, Bernice Bradley, Jerry Gallisdorfer, Anthony Hartmann, Patricia Hartinger, Madonna Hartzell, Sionen Laciura, Marilyn Lang, Shirley Parks, Fr. George Reger, Mary Ellen Roach, Janeva Tabb, Freddie White, Philip Woods and Pedro Zola.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 21 **4:30 pm**
† In celebration of the life of John Russell Tripi, Jr.
Angela Jost

Sunday, May 22 **10:00 am**
† In memory of Dr. Lawrence and Margaret Miano
Robert J. Kresse Family

Monday, May 23 **11:00 am**
Mother's Day Intention
Resurrection Church

Tuesday, May 24 **11:00 am**
† Deceased Members of the Ryan, Reilly, Reynolds and Pfeiffer Families
Estate of Mary Reilly

NO MASS -- Wednesday, May 25

****FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**
Thursday, May 26 **7:00 pm**
All Souls
Blessed Trinity Parish

Friday, May 27 **11:00 am**
† Deceased Members of the Ryan, Reilly, Reynolds and Pfeiffer Families
Estate of Mary Reilly

Saturday, May 28 **4:30 pm**
† In memory of Edmund Kozlowski
Gregory Allgrim

Sunday, May 29 **10:00 am**
† In memory of Rev. Gary Kibler
Sr. Ann Helene, OSF

† In memory of William and Mary Ann Blesnuk
Family

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

The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for Benefactors of Under This Roof.
If you are interested in memorializing a loved one or special occasion, please contact the rectory at 716-833-0301.

Weekend masses – livestream on Facebook; Recorded service available on YouTube later in the day.

This week in our Family of Parishes
May 23-29

You can view our entire schedule on the Family of Parishes Calendar on our website

Monday: May 23
7 PM Bilingual Rosary (Spanish/English) via Zoom. Click link on ***CB*** website
Tuesday: May 24
4 PM Bible Study via Zoom ***BT*** Faith Formation page on website for links
Wednesday: May 25
9:30 AM—1:30 PM Food Pantry ***BT***
12:30 PM BINGO ***STL*** Doors open 11 AM
6 PM Mass for the Holy Day ***STL***
Thursday: May 26
9 AM—Noon Food Pantry—Volunteers needed! Many different jobs available—some without client contact. Call 716-896-0047 ***STLVMI***
4—6 PM Silent Vigil open for private reflection ***BT***
Need a little peace, quiet, and restoration? You are invited to join us!
5:30 PM First Communion classes begin ***BT***
7 PM Mass for the Holy Day ***BT***
8 PM BINGO ***BT*** Doors open 6:30 PM
Friday: May 27
10 AM—Noon Food Pantry ***STL***

Our regular weekday Mass schedule
BT Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday **11 AM**
STL Wednesday **6 PM**
SMdP Monday through Friday **Noon**

Our weekend Mass schedule
BT Saturdays 4:30PM & Sundays 10AM
CB Saturdays 4PM & Sundays 9AM (Spanish) & 11AM Last Sunday of the month: Bi-Lingual 10AM
SMdP Sundays 8AM & 9:30AM
STL Saturdays 4:30PM & 10PM & Sundays Noon

BT – Blessed Trinity; CB – Columba-Brigid; STL – St. Lawrence; SMdP – St. Martin de Porres; SLVMI – St. Lawrence Vineyard Ministries Inc; FP – Family Promise

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.

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

BLESSED TRINITY CHURCH

317 Leroy Ave, Buffalo NY
Chicken Barbeque Dinner

Saturday, June 18, 2022
2-6 PM or sold out – Drive thru only

½ Chicken, Homemade Salads, Cornbread & Dessert
$13.00

Tickets available at 716-833-0301 or after Masses

Presale tickets guarantee dinner availability