

# Blessed Trinity Parish

317 Leroy Avenue - Buffalo, New York 14214



## First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 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

Mr. Phil Van Dette  
Bookkeeper

Ms. Barbara Sercu  
Secretary



**RECTORY** Phone: 716-833-0301  
Fax: 716-834-4711

**EMAIL** blessedtrinitychurch@gmail.com

**WEBSITE** blessedtrinitybuffalo.org

**CENTRAL BFLO. CLUSTER** catholicchurchesofbuffalo.com

**CONFESSIONS** Saturday 4pm

**BIBLE STUDY** Every Tuesday 4pm via Zoom

**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

**FAMILY OF PARISHES** Ss. Columba-Brigid, St. Martin de Porres, St. Lawrence, Blessed Trinity

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



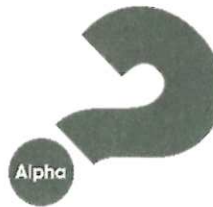
Sunday Mass: 10:00 am  
Saturday Mass: 4:30 pm

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



## First Sunday of Advent

<b>First Reading</b>	Isaiah 2:1-5 (1A)
<b>Psalms</b>	Psalms 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
<b>Second Reading</b>	Romans 13:11-14
<b>Gospel</b>	Matthew 24:37-44



**ALPHA** - Alpha Gatherings are on Tuesday evenings, through December 13, 5:30 – 7:30PM, at St. Lawrence. If you would like more information on the Alpha program, please investigate at [www.alphause.org/about/](http://www.alphause.org/about/)

-Fr. Bob

### Advent!- How prepared are we?

This special time of every year reminds us of the once-for-all-times birth of Jesus and our faith that He will come again at the end of time... We celebrate God's inbreak then, now and in an unknown future time. "As the new liturgical year begins, it is not without a remembrance of the passing year. On this, the first Sunday of Advent, the lectionary selections bring to a climax the themes featured in the last weeks of the old year. Concerned with the *eschata* or last things – the end of time, the final judgment, the reward of the just and retribution for the evil – the passing year left in its wake the theme of the second, definitive coming of the Son of Man. On the second Sunday of Advent, the focus shifts to the first coming of the Son of Man and the themes of incarnation, messianism, etc.... [The] faithful are drawn to focus on Advent's *true* concerns, the *comings* of Jesus, incarnate and risen. During Advent the realities of the first coming and of the final coming dovetail; Advent hope anticipates and prepares, not for a baby, earthly Jesus but for a risen and exalted Christ who will judge all people. These themes of judgment and justice are featured in today's readings." (pg. 1) *The Word We Celebrate – Commentary on the Sunday Lectionary*, Patricia Datchuck Sanchez, Sheed & Ward, Kansas City, MO, © 1989, p.1. How ready are we for Jesus' return? Will we be taken or will we be left? (see Mt. 24) We pray an Advent 'Come, Lord Jesus, come!' Are we really prepared for His final coming?



**Our annual Advent Penance Service** will take place here at Blessed Trinity on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, 7:00pm. Please mark your calendars now for this grace-filled opportunity to prepare for Christmas by celebrating God's reconciling and healing presence in our lives.



Due to the "SNOW EVENT" last weekend, please consider making up for last weekend's missed collections, both the regular collection and the second collection. In addition to our missing these collections, we

also had to cancel Bingo which provides us desperately needed operational funds. God's blessings on your generosity!

### ANNOUNCEMENTS .....

***Blessed Trinity Stewardship – There will be a second collection this weekend. Please be generous in your donations.***

#### Saturday, December 3rd

Lector: Jack Curtin

#### Sunday, December 4th

Lector: Bob Heicklen & Young Reader: Grace Iheke

Eucharistic Minister: Maggie Gatson

**To all bakers!** We are in need of donations of Christmas cookies for "Do you hear what I hear?" Please contact Pat Dyer if you are able to donate.

**Snowvember 2022** has resulted in a slow start for the Sodality's holiday collection for homebound parishioners and those in senior care facilities. Please remember to bring your cash donation to church next weekend (and no later than Dec. 11) or send a check payable to "Blessed Trinity Ladies Sodality" to Mickey Dick, 2549 Main St, Bflo. 14214. Contributions placed in the collection basket should be in a separate envelope marked "Sodality Project." We thank you in advance on behalf of the 20+ people who will benefit. Know someone you think should be included? Call Barb in the office at 716-833-0301, Mon-Wed, 10:30a-2:30p.

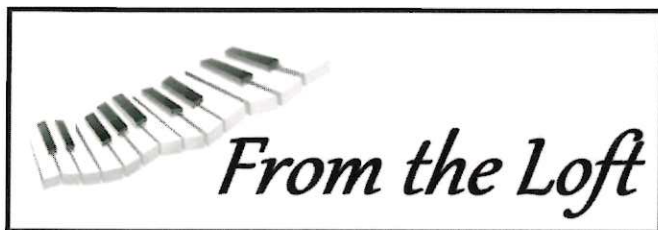


**Alpha and Blessed Trinity** will need a couple of people to help prepare 3 meals over the next 3 months. Contact Pat Dyer or Fr. Bob if you can help.

**Our first group session for children** in grades Pre-K to Grade 8 will be held at 5 PM on December 8 at Ss. Columba-Brigid church. If you are unable to attend our Holy Day Mass on December 7, you are welcome to attend at Mass Ss. Columba-Brigid immediately following the class.







I am always excited to hear Father Bob's ideas for our Liturgies, and he has not disappointed this year! This Advent's Opening Song, *O Come, Divine Messiah*, will be heard throughout the season at his suggestion, with increasing participation by the congregation as we get closer to the birth of our Saviour. The arrangement of this sixteenth century French carol is a variation on a 2017 setting by Hal H. Hopson. Be ready for the addition of some percussion in the weeks to come - our Blessed Trinity Choir has proven they have rhythm and soul!

Back by popular demand will be our Choral Prelude on Christmas Eve with our favorite Christmas carols. Don't want us to exclude your preference? Contact me or any choir member this week and we will do our best to include it in our preparations.

*O Come, Divine Messiah!  
The world in silence waits the day  
when hope shall sing its triumph,  
and sadness flee away.*

It promises to be a beautiful Advent!

-Elizabeth Clay

## **COCOA CHALLENGE 2022 – 2,600 packets by December 4<sup>th</sup>**



We have only to next weekend (Dec.4) to collect 2,600 hot cocoa packets. We are very close to our goal! Put it on your "to do list" today. Shopping inconvenient?

Make a donation in an envelope marked "Prisoner Gifts" and drop it into the weekend collection basket. Thank you. Please join your parishioners and volunteers from the community as we continue Sr. Karen Klimczak's message of forgiveness and non-violence and give hope to men and women incarcerated through the holiday season.

**Tradition has it** that on Christmas Eve the shepherds in southern France would sing this song to each other from their respective hilltops. Discover the answer at our Parish event: *Do You Hear What I Hear?* Sunday, December 4, 2-4 PM at Blessed Trinity, free admission, take-homes, bring your friends. Come and listen with new ears to the sounds and symbols of Christmas. This event is sponsored by your Family of Parishes. Presenters from all four parishes.



***Looking for a child-friendly Mass for Christmas Eve?*** Consider attending Ss. Columba-Brigid at 6 PM December 24. They are part of our Family of Parishes and offer a Mass featuring las posadas - the journey of Mary and Joseph in search of a place to stay.

***Thanksgiving is a time to reflect*** on our blessings and express gratitude for each and every one. We would be remiss, then, if we did not express our sincere thanks to you, our Catholic Charities supporters. Whether your support is through donations – either monetary or in-kind – or spiritual through prayer or through the gift of your time by volunteering, we are so grateful. Your generous support allows us to be a beacon of HOPE to those who come to us in times of need. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you!



***Taizé Prayer Service for Advent*** on Sunday, December 4 at 5 pm at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1029 Delaware Ave., Buffalo. In our very busy world, and especially during the holiday season, it can be difficult to set aside time to be quiet and to be present to the Lord. You are invited to spend 60 minutes in an evening of meditative prayer. The prayer service is characterized by repetitive, mantra-like songs, prayerful silence, and short scriptural readings. These elements guide the focus of the Prayer Service that is held in a candle-lit environment. Free, off-street parking in the Catholic Academy of West Buffalo lot. For reservations or questions, contact Michael Pitek at michael@thepitekgroup.com or 716-480-8313.

***International Nativity Display*** ~ Our Lady of Fatima Shrine will be hosting Father Roy Herberger's International Nativity Display during the Shrine's annual Festival of Lights. The exhibit, featuring over 300 nativity sets from around the world, will be on display starting December 2 from 5-9 pm in Fatima Hall. For a complete schedule, visit [www.fatimashrine.com](http://www.fatimashrine.com), call 716-754-7489 or email [office@fatimashrine.com](mailto:office@fatimashrine.com). Admission is free to the exhibit and Festival, with ample free parking and all wheelchair accessible. Fatima Shrine is located at 1023 Swann Rd. (off Rt. 18E), Lewiston.





Mass



Intentions

Saturday, November 26 4:30 pm

† In memory of Bernadette Dorscheimer  
Family

† In memory of Lucille Venezia and Clara Then  
Family

Sunday, November 27 10:00 am

† In memory of Barbara Strusienski  
Your prayer partner

† In memory of Robert J. Kresse  
His wife, Mary, and their children

Monday, November 28 11:00 am

† In memory of Shirley A. Parks  
Angela Jost

Tuesday, November 29 11:00 am

Mother's Day Intention  
Resurrection Church

Wednesday, November 30 11:00 am

† Deceased members of the Ryan, Reilly, Reynolds and  
Pfeiffer Families  
Estate of Mary Reilly

Friday, December 2 11:00 am

† Deceased members of the Becker, Curtin and Downs  
Families  
John E. Curtin

Saturday, December 3 4:30 pm

† In memory of Mary C. Nelson  
Family

Sunday, December 4 10:00 am

† Eternal Joy for Elmer Hartzell  
Madonna Hartzell

† In memory of Rev. Gary Kibler  
Sr. Ann Helene Koenig, OSF

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

Remember in our prayers all who are sick especially  
parishioners Sr. Ann Helene, Naoma Allen,  
Bernice Bradley, Lorna Cameron, Jerry  
Gallisdorfer, Anthony Hartmann, Patricia  
Hartinger, Madonna Hartzell, Sionen Laciura,  
Marilyn Lang, Edward Marien, Shirley Parks,  
Fr. George Reger, Mary Ellen Roach, Janeva  
Tabb, Freddie White, Philip Woods and Pedro Zola.



**The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for  
Desmond Gunning by Luis Clay.**



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

## **This week in our Family of Parishes** **November 28 – December 4, 2022**

View our entire schedule on the Family of Parishes Calendar  
on our website

### **Monday: November 28**

10 – 11:30 AM Food Pantry **STL**

7 PM Bi-lingual Rosary (Spanish/English) via Zoom – click  
the link on **CB** website <https://www.sscolumbabrigid.org/>

### **Tuesday: November 29**

4 PM Gospel of Luke via Zoom **BT** – go to top of  
Faith Formation page for link

<https://www.blessedtrinitybuffalo.org/>

5:30 PM Alpha **STL**

### **Wednesday: November 30**

9:30 AM—1:30 PM Food Pantry **BT**

12:30 PM BINGO **STL** Doors open 11 AM

4:15 PM Rosary in church **BT**

7 PM Advent Penance Service **BT**

### **Thursday: December 1**

10—11:30 AM Food Pantry **SLVMI**

8 PM BINGO **BT** Doors open at 6:30 PM

### **Friday: December 2**

10 AM—Noon Food Pantry **SLVMI**

### **Sunday: December 4**

2—4 PM "Do You Hear What I Hear?" Shared musical  
event for all ages **BT**



Alpha Tuesdays 5:30 PM **STL** thru Dec. 13

Dec. 8: 5 PM Group meeting grades Pre-K-8 @ **CB**

Dec. 9: Prison Package Project @ **BT**

### **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

***BT Weekend masses – livestream will  
resume first Sunday of Advent.***

***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**

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

**716-832-0150**

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

## ***Advent and Christmas in Our Family of Parishes***

***Advent Penance Service:*** 7 PM Wednesday, November 30, at Blessed Trinity

***Do you hear what I hear?:*** A shared musical event for all ages! Sunday, December 4 from 2 to 4 PM at Blessed Trinity

### ***Mass for the Immaculate Conception:***

6:00 PM Wednesday, December 7 at St. Lawrence

7:00 PM Wednesday, December 7 at Blessed Trinity

7:00 PM Thursday, December 8 at Ss. Columba-Brigid

### ***Masses for Christmas:***

#### ***Saturday, December 24***

4:00 PM St. Martin de Porres

4:30 PM St. Lawrence

6:00 PM Columba-Brigid including las posadas

9:30 PM Musical singalong Prelude to Mass at 10:00 PM Blessed Trinity

10:00 PM St. Lawrence

#### ***Sunday, December 25***

9:30 AM St. Martin de Porres

10:00 AM Blessed Trinity

10:00 AM Ss. Columba-Brigid

Noon St. Lawrence





# ADVENT CALENDAR 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>November 27</b> <b>The First Sunday of Advent</b> Begin your Advent journey by blessing your Advent wreath. Light the first violet candle and sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."	<b>28</b> What can you do this Advent to prepare your heart and life for the coming of Christ?	<b>29</b> "The salvation offered in the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ is nothing less than sharing in the very life of God, in the communion of love among the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. There is no greater gift that God could possibly give us." ( <i>The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church</i> , no. 9.)	<b>30</b> Saint Andrew, Apostle, spent his life bringing people to Christ. Follow his example by inviting someone to come to Mass with you.	<b>December 1</b> Today is World AIDS Day. Pray for those who suffer from this disease, their caregivers, and their healthcare workers.	<b>2</b> "Wait for the LORD with courage; be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD." —Psalms 27:14	<b>3</b> Saint Francis Xavier is a patron saint of missionaries. Spend some time today reflecting on how you can support the Church's mission by living as a missionary disciple.
<b>4</b> <b>The Second Sunday of Advent</b> On this Second Sunday of Advent, light two violet candles on your Advent wreath and ask God for the strength to be like John the Baptist, preparing the way of the Lord.	<b>5</b> "The grace of God, the gift freely given, ... inspires us to give thanks and worship him, works our transformation into the likeness of Christ, helps us to seek pardon and to receive it when we fall into sin, and impels us to go forth and bear witness to Christ in the world." ( <i>The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church</i> , no. 29)	<b>6</b> Today is the Memorial of Saint Nicholas. Saint Nicholas of Myra (in modern-day Turkey) was noted for his generosity to the poor. Consider how you can offer your time, treasure, or talent to assist those in need this holiday season.	<b>7</b> "They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles' wings; They will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint." —Isaiah 40:31	<b>8</b> Today is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States of America. It is a holy day of obligation. After attending Mass, pray a decade of the Rosary for peace and justice.	<b>9</b> Today is the Memorial of Saint Juan Diego. Ask for his intercession for migrants and those suffering from human trafficking.	<b>10</b> In the busyness and noise of holiday preparations, it is easy to lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Christ. Spend some quiet time today, alone or as a family, giving thanks for God's great gift of a Savior.
<b>11</b> <b>The Third Sunday of Advent</b> Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. At this halfway point in Advent, light two violet and the rose candles on your Advent wreath and Rejoice! For the Lord is near!	<b>12</b> Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego wearing the traditional garb of a pregnant woman. On this her feast day, ask for her intercession for all unborn children and their parents.	<b>13</b> In gratitude for the gift of God's mercy, plan to receive the Sacrament of Penance before Christmas.	<b>14</b> "Having been sanctified by the gift of the Eucharist and filled with faith, hope, and charity, the faithful are called to respond to this gift. Indeed, it is only natural that we give thanks to the Lord for all that he has given to us." <i>The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church</i> , no. 30.	<b>15</b> According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up before Christmas and remains in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. Share this blessing with your family and friends.	<b>16</b> Las Posadas, a reenactment of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter before the birth of Jesus, traditionally begins today. Pray for migrants seeking shelter around the world.	<b>17</b> Today marks the beginning of the "O Antiphons": This tradition, which comes from Evening Prayer, has been around since at least the eighth century.
<b>18</b> <b>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, light all three violet and the rose candles on your Advent wreath and pray that the light of Christ will enter your heart so that you may share the warmth of God's love with those you meet.	<b>19</b> "The nativity scene is 'like a living Gospel' ( <i>Apostolic Letter Admirabile Signum</i> , n. 1). It brings the Gospel to the places where people live. ... And in those places where we live, it reminds us of an essential thing: that God did not remain invisible in Heaven, but rather came to earth, became man, a child.	<b>20</b> We need to be conscious of the gift we have received, a gift that is none other than the Lord himself in his act of self-giving. We become conscious of this gift when we actively engage in every part of the liturgy. <i>The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church</i> , no. 31.	<b>21</b> "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." —Luke 1:45	<b>22</b> Spend a family evening eating cookies and drinking hot chocolate while you read the Christmas cards you have received. Before bed, pray an Our Father and a Hail Mary for all your beloved family and friends.	<b>23</b> Reach out to those in your community who may be alone this Christmas and invite them to Mass and to share part of your celebration.	<b>24</b> [Prayer] in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament... helps all of us to be formed by the self-giving love we behold in the Lord's gift of himself in the Eucharist. — <i>The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church</i> , no. 33

**25**  
**"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory."**  
 —John 1:14

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