

# Blessed Trinity Parish

317 Leroy Avenue - Buffalo, New York 14214



## Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

January 1, 2023

*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](mailto:blessedtrinitychurch@gmail.com)  
WEBSITE [blessedtrinitybuffalo.org](http://blessedtrinitybuffalo.org)  
CENTRAL BFLO. CLUSTER [catholicchurchesofbuffalo.com](http://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



## Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

<b>First Reading</b>	Numbers 6:22-27 (18ABC)
<b>Psalm</b>	Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
<b>Second Reading</b>	Galatians 4:4-7
<b>Gospel</b>	Luke 2:16-21



### About today's Solemnity

Today, the Church celebrates Mary as the Mother of God. She is called *Theotokos* ("God-bearer"), for "God sent his son, born of a woman" (Gal 4:4). Because Mary found favor with God, his Son took the flesh of Mary – it is thanks to her that Jesus is *fully* human, with flesh like ours, except for sin, and also fully divine.....

Mary keeps everything, reflecting in her heart. What must it be like to be Mary, witnessing this incredible unfolding of God's Plan? Read the second chapter of Luke. Imagine yourself experiencing these things as Mary does. What do you see, smell, feel, touch, taste? We see in Mary a model of contemplation. She saw God's presence in her life, and she responded by meditating on it, giving it her focus and attention. Of course, God was acting in her life in a way that was completely different, completely new. But God also acts in each of our lives, in a way that is unique, our own call to holiness. Spend a few minutes in silence, looking at your day and finding God's presence there. What is God doing in your life right now?

--Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays 2023, Liturgy Training Publications, Chicago, IL, © 2021, pp. 46 & 47

-Fr. Bob

## ANNOUNCEMENTS .....

**Blessed Trinity Stewardship** – There was no total offertory collection for December 24/25, 2022, due to the blizzard. It will be reported next week.

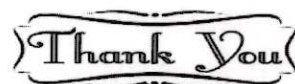
### Saturday, January 14th

*Lector:* Greg Gaglione

### Sunday, January 15th

*Lector:* Mary Kresse & *Young Reader:* Simon Kresse

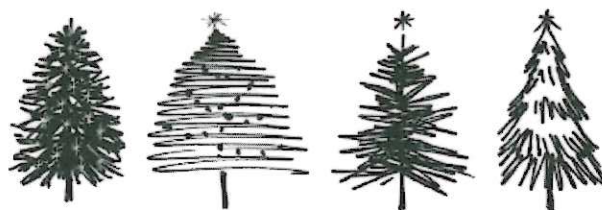
*Eucharistic Minister:* Maggie Gatson



**You Did it! Thanks to your generosity, the Sodality's Holiday Collection** for our homebound parishioners exceeded its goal. Storm warnings notwithstanding, parishioners did their best to beat the Christmas Blizzard and personally deliver grocery store gift cards in time for Christmas. (If that didn't happen for someone you know, s/he can expect a visitor in the new year). We're hoping that Mass cards arrived ahead of the blizzard.

**Before we "built the manger," somebody had to clean "the stable."** Many thanks to Mickey Dick, Dorothy Manuppelli, Kathy Press, Sr. Mary Reichelderfer, Rafael Rondon, Joe Strusinski, and Sr. Peggy Wetzel who were up to their elbows in Pine Sol and Murphy's Oil Soap as they washed floors and pews in preparation for the decorators.

**'Twas the Monday before Christmas and all through the church,** some two-dozen people had all set to work. They trimmed the tree, hung the wreaths, added confessional toppers and pew candelabra, set candles in windows, fashioned lots of bows, and settled the Holy Family in their humble abode. Even though you didn't get to experience their efforts on Christmas, please don't let all this handiwork go unnoticed. The Church's Christmas season ends next weekend with the Feast of the Epiphany. Be sure you join us for worship by then. Heartfelt thanks to the decorating team of Don Blesnuk; Tom, Nik and Drew Brodfuehrer; Kenny Colligan, Bud and Mickey Dick, Tom Dinder, Kathleen Dove, Darvan and Vontrese Draper, Ellen Duffy, Shammy Dunnigan, Pat Dyer, Alan Frank, Fr. Bob Gebhard, Amy Johnson, Dan Korchowsky, Roy Laciura, Dorothy Manuppelli, Kathy Press, Sr. Liz Savage, Colleen Schroeder and Pam Zanghi for all their contributions, including the pizza and homemade holiday cookies. You're the best!







## LESSONS FROM A BLIZZARD

The holidays are met with anticipation about seeing our families. Some of it good – and some of it not so good. Like many of you, we've been playing with work and travel and weather to make plans for our celebrations. One granddaughter won't be home until a couple of days after Christmas so that she can visit her fiancé's family; another will not be here because of the snowstorm. She couldn't leave early due to her work schedule. Our grandson is excited but also disappointed because for the first time his sister won't be here and his mother could not get here either. Of course, Wegman's and Amazon would have us believe that if we just shop there and get together more – we will be happy. If you wear your L.L. Bean flannel shirt, you will be comfortable, and, if only Amazon had been around, Romeo and Juliet's families would have had a great time partying together. But even Wegman's and Tops are closed as I write this. One of my favorite feasts in the Church is the Feast of the Holy Family. This year, since there is no Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Day, the feast falls on Friday, December 30.

When we talk about the Holy Family, we often imagine a "perfect" family. Perfection is a pretty difficult model for us to follow. I've seen some comments on Facebook about the birth of Jesus that some believe to be sacrilegious. One shows St. Joseph trying to get his wife to speak to him. Apparently, she is a bit upset that he didn't "make a reservation." Another speaks of what Mary went through giving birth alone, wondering about how she would have felt, nursing a newborn – with no help from family. Surely Mary and Joseph were sometimes tired, worried, and confused. Didn't they "lose" Jesus only to find him teaching in the temple? Maybe Mary misplaced a coin like the woman in the parable. If Joseph were a poor carpenter, Mary would have turned the house "upside down" to find the coin.

Christmas came without the last-minute trip to the store and without the pageantry (though wonderful) of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. Perhaps a blizzard at Christmas will remind us of those things that we should learn from the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph: **Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.** Do these sound familiar? They should be familiar to anyone who has been Confirmed. These are the fruits of the Holy Spirit. May you receive these gifts this year and use them wisely in the new year.

-Pat Dyer

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** Is giving back one of your goals for 2023? If so, become a Catholic Charities volunteer. View all the current opportunities [www.cwny.org/volunteer](http://www.cwny.org/volunteer) and start the year by becoming a beacon of HOPE in your community!



**Reminder ~ Fr. Roy Herberger's Nativity Sets Exhibit** on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10AM-4PM from now until January 8 (except Christmas and New Year's weekends) at Our Lady of Victory Basilica (lower level), 767 Ridge Rd., Lackawanna. This unique collection features Nativity sets from around the world! Any questions, call Fr. Roy at 716-852-2076.



**The Diocese of Buffalo** is looking at options for opening a tuition-free elementary school in 2024. Please scan the



QR code or use the link to take a short survey designed for interested parents and East Side community members.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmz8CT-ikxOIFZpQIQD6TYwu\\_apBOr8MtFrrjhQRWDfC1-w/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmz8CT-ikxOIFZpQIQD6TYwu_apBOr8MtFrrjhQRWDfC1-w/viewform)

**Auditions for The St. John Paul II Schola Cantorum** from now through early January for our Lent and Easter seasons. The Schola - which rehearses at Blessed Trinity, Buffalo – is an *a cappella* choir dedicated to preserving, promoting and performing sacred choral works from the great treasury of music of the Catholic Church. We are looking for singers of all voice ranges who can read music and whose voices can blend well with others. You will learn how to read and sing Gregorian Chant. You will be part of a group that loves God and loves great music. You will have the opportunity to sing in some of the most beautiful churches in Western New York. To arrange for an audition, email [JP2Schola@gmail.com](mailto:JP2Schola@gmail.com). Auditions can be in-person or online. Rehearsals for the Lent and Easter seasons begin on January 9.





Mass



Intentions

Saturday, December 31 4:30 pm  
**Feast of the Holy Family**  
† All Souls  
Blessed Trinity Parish

Sunday, January 1, 2023 10:00 am  
**Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
† In memory of Catherine and Terry Gress  
Bucki Family  
Special Intentions for Alice Davis  
Ladies Sodality

Monday, January 2 11:00 am  
**Mother's Day Intentions**  
Resurrection Church

Tuesday, January 3 11:00 am  
† Deceased members of the Ryan, Reilly, Reynolds and  
Pfeiffer Families  
Estate of Mary Reilly

Wednesday, January 4 11:00 pm  
**Mother's Day Intentions**  
Resurrection Church

Friday, January 6 11:00 am  
† Deceased members of the Ryan, Reilly, Reynolds and  
Pfeiffer Families  
Estate of Mary Reilly

Saturday, January 7 4:30 pm  
† In memory of Shirley Monnin  
Family

Sunday, January 8 10:00 am  
† Birthday remembrance for John Duffy  
Duffy Family  
Special Intentions for Madonna Hartzell  
Ladies Sodality

† 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, Nancy DeBoy, Jerry  
Gallisdorfer, Anthony Hartmann, Patricia Hartinger,  
Madonna Hartzell, Sionen Laciura, Marilyn Lang,  
Edward Marien, 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**

**January 2-8, 2023**

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

### **Monday: January 2**

10 – 11:30 AM Food Pantry **STL**  
7 PM Bi-lingual Rosary (Spanish/English) via Zoom – click  
the Family Calendar link **CB**

### **Tuesday: January 3**

4 PM Gospel of Matthew via Zoom **BT** – Go to the date  
of the meeting and click the link  
<https://blessedtrinitybuffalo.org/calendar/>

### **Wednesday: January 4**

9:30 AM—1:30 PM Food Pantry **BT**  
12:30 PM BINGO **STL** Doors open 11 AM  
4:15 PM Rosary **BT**

### **Thursday: January 5**

10—11:30 AM Food Pantry **SLVMI**  
8 PM BINGO **BT** Doors open at 6:30 PM

### **Friday: January 6**

10 AM—Noon NO Food Pantry THIS WEEK **SLVMI**

### **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.

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

## **VANDERCHER & DICK FUNERAL HOME**

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

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