

# Blessed Trinity Parish

317 Leroy Avenue - Buffalo, New York 14214



## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 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](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

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

**First Reading** Isaiah 7:10-14 (10A)  
**Psalms** Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6  
**Second Reading** Romans 1:1-7  
**Gospel** Matthew 1:18-24

### THE Sign of the Times!~

We often reference "the signs of the times," those instances happening now that call for our attention and action. But, there is a sign that spans all times! It is the sign of LOVE! Our first reading today announces, it "Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel. (Isaiah 7)" Emmanuel, God with us, is the gift of an ever-embrace of God's love for us in Jesus his Son. As we move through this last week of our Advent Season, let us each work on ways to bring LOVE into the lives of others and our world. Isaiah has reminded us that walking in the "land of gloom" is not the path of God. Our God has come to save us.... LOVE is the light for our path, our walking. We have to make it a sign for our times!

### The Advent Wreath

Once again this year, our circle of live greens holds the story of the significant moments in our past year as a parish. Dried flowers and plants - gathered from flower arrangements from weddings, funerals, or other significant parish events here at Blessed Trinity, and nature around us - all adorn the evergreen branches.... We find ourselves in this weave of fire, light and life! It tells of our journey in and of faith. In other words, our faith - and parish family - is represented there, a reminder that we journey through this season of waiting and watchful attentiveness together. The wreath causes us to pause and consider what has been and what is yet to come as a parish family, and as God's people giving way to considering the birth of Christ that we will celebrate with Christmas and Jesus' promise that He will come again at the end of all time! Please take the opportunity to visit the wreath in our church and see our parish life woven into it. May Emmanuel, God-with-us, be our focus in this season of purple-pink and slowly growing Light!

Congratulations to Daniel & Ashley Commaroto on the baptism of their daughter, Josephine Lou Maria, last Saturday morning here at Blessed Trinity! Dan & Ashley were married here at Blessed Trinity. It is our joy to celebrate with them the growth of their family, the baptism of their first child, and the blessing of the increase of God's Family of Faith.



The financial report for Blessed Trinity Church for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 is inserted in the bulletin. If you have any questions, you may contact Phill Van Dette at 716-833-0301.

-Fr. Bob

## ANNOUNCEMENTS .....

**Blessed Trinity Stewardship** - Total offertory collection for December 10/11, 2022, was \$2,611.95 including Christmas flowers \$125, Retirement for Religious \$675, Immaculate Conception \$52.



**Saturday, December 24th**

Lector: Jack Curtin

**Sunday, December 18th**

Lector: Maggie Gatson

Eucharistic Minister: Toni Maus

There will be no Bible Study on December 20 and 27. Bible study resumes with Chapter 5 of Matthew's gospel on January 3, 2023

**Prayerful thanks** for your generous donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious. It is greatly appreciated!

**We'll be "decking the halls"** - not to mention the nave, transept and Sanctuary - on Monday evening, December 19, beginning at 6:30. Please stop and lend a hand. It will make your Christmas experience at Blessed Trinity even more meaningful. Please enter by the ramp side door.

**Report Prisoner Gifts 2022** - Continuing Sr. Karen Klimczak's message of hope, love, peace, and forgiveness to the imprisoned. A **Big Thank You** is extended to all the friends and supporters of Sr. Karen who donated goods, cash, books and helped package the gifts. On **Wed. 12/7**, goods and books were delivered with the help of men from PeacePrints and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. On **Fri. morning 12/9**, 30+ volunteers, representing churches, schools, social agencies and friends of Sr. Karen Klimczak, unpacked, sorted and counted supplies for 1300 gift bags. Cartons and boxes were flattened and recycled. Working very efficiently, they then filled the hand decorated gift bags destined for the women at Albion Correctional Facility. A spirited evening crew of adults and children prepared gift bags for the men at Wende. A note of peace and encouragement was included in each gift bag. On **Tues. Dec. 13**, "Paint of WNY" donated a truck and employees to load the boxes and deliver to the prisons that day.

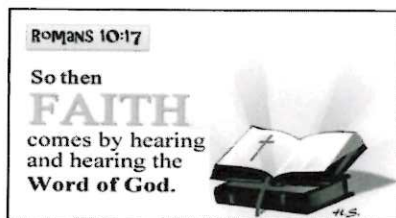
**Blessed Trinity hit its Cocoa Challenge goal of 2,600 packets.** Parish donations totaled \$470 to purchase cocoa with \$263 left to donate to Peaceprints of WNY. Any leftover goods were donated to the food pantries at Blessed Trinity and St. Lawrence. We are most grateful that Blessed Trinity Church was again made available for this yearly project and for the generous support of parishioners. We acknowledge and thank Janice Burns, project coordinator, for her hard work bringing this project to another successful end

**Hopefully we have left some Peace Prints.**

**Christmas Community Concert - Sunday, Dec. 18 @ 3 PM**  
**St. Martin de Porres, 555 Northampton St., Buffalo**  
Sounds of the season. Free admission!



**Concerts for the Soul presents Christmas Angels of Hope** ~ A musical-poetic journey through the magic and mystery of the season with Cory James Gallagher and Amy Gallagher. **Wednesday, December 21, 7 PM. Ss. Columba-Brigid Church 75 Hickory St., Buffalo.** Free will donation.



## KNOW YOUR FAITH

### LOVE EMBODIED

My sister takes more photographs than you can imagine - people, places, and dinner (lots of pictures of food). Yesterday she posted hundreds of them on Facebook. "What a wonderful year it was," she said and followed with pictures to prove it and to show all the places she had been.

I wonder how you would describe 2022?

It certainly was a year of tragedies with several mass killings - and one close to home that shook many of us who either knew a victim or a victim's family. Many of us have shopped at the Tops where this occurred. Our daughter works for a vendor and is usually assigned to this store. It was luck that she was not there on that fateful day. Buffalo was on the national news and our mayor was invited to Washington. We mourned the loss with our bishop at St. Martin de Porres. If this was not horrific enough, it was followed quickly by the murder of 21 including 19 children at an elementary school in Texas. These senseless hate-filled murders continued throughout the year and it never seemed to end. I lost a close friend. You may have lost someone close to you. Of course, we also experienced the contentious mid-term elections in which each accused the other of being on the precipice of destroying democracy. On the tail of the election, came an unprecedented snowstorm - wait - unless you count 2014, 2001, and 1977... People died shoveling the heavy, wet snow that put Buffalo on the national stage again.

There's good news, too. With each tragedy has come an outpouring of generosity and love toward others. There have been more conversations about our differences and our similarities - often guided by #OneBody. Buffalo is back in the news, but this time for the winning Bills (Go Bills!). I visited family, and maybe you did, too. My family celebrated a wedding and engagement. And, we welcomed a new baby to our family and two new babies to the parish. We celebrated the rhythm of the year, Lent, Easter (and another Baptism,) First Communions, funerals, and ordinary time. And who can forget our neighborhood block party? We anticipated the coming of the "Family" and the "Renewal" - maybe we'd start sooner, then it was delayed three times. We continued to gradually spend more time together with the families in our "Family of Parishes." We went camping and journeyed through Alpha. And, we heard "the bells" a couple of weeks ago. It has been my pleasure to spend time getting to know each of you a little more each week.

This is our world - the world created by God with us created in his image. We are free to choose our paths in life. Free to be kind or indifferent, generous or miserly. It is what makes both tragedy and joy. We are not alone in the world. The evangelist John says that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us - that God "so loved the world" that he gave his only son. "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God

is with us." (MT 1:23) Christmas rightly falls just a few weeks into the new Church year for it is a new beginning, a new covenant, and another chance for us to be the people God desires us to be. And, God is here to help us along the way. *Merry Christmas. God is truly with us until the end of the age.*

-Pat Dyer

### The Pope's Prayer Intentions for January 2023

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition, and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.



### *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.

*So much has changed* since the founding of the Catholic Charities in 1923, but one thing has remained a constant: just as we have for 99 years, Catholic Charities is here and ready to help - now. If you have an urgent need or you or your family is facing a crisis situation, please give us a call or visit [www.ccwny.org](http://www.ccwny.org) to complete an online assistance form. Help and HOPE are available.

### *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.

*Baptized Catholics in grade 10 or above* and adults who have not been Confirmed are invited to register for Confirmation classes. Classes will begin after the New Year. Please obtain a registration form from the parish office. Registrations are due by December 31. The class day and times will be determined after we have our registrations.

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-ikxOlFZpQIQD6TYwu\\_apBOr8MtFrrjhQRWdFc1-w/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmz8CT-ikxOlFZpQIQD6TYwu_apBOr8MtFrrjhQRWdFc1-w/viewform)



Mass



Intentions

Saturday, December 17 4:30 pm

† In memory of Barbara Strusienski  
Joseph Strusienski

Sunday, December 18 10:00 am

† In memory of John Bee  
Bud and Mickey Dick

† In memory of Lawrence and Jeannie Miano  
His grateful sister, Mary Kresse

Monday, December 19 11:00 am

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

Tuesday, December 20 11:00 am

Mother's Day Intention  
Resurrection Church

Wednesday, December 21 11:00 pm

† All Souls  
Blessed Trinity Parish

Friday, December 23 11:00 am

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



Saturday, December 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

Choral Prelude 9:30 pm  
Mass 10:00 pm

Sunday, December 24 –

**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD** 10:00 am

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



† 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, 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.

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.

## This week in our Family of Parishes

**December 19 – 25, 2022**

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

**Monday: December 19**

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: December 20**

4 PM CANCELED UNTIL JANUARY 3, 2023 – Gospel of  
Matthew via Zoom BT

**Wednesday: December 21**

9:30 AM—1:30 PM Food Pantry BT

12:30 PM BINGO STL Doors open 11 AM

4:15 PM Rosary BT

7 PM Christmas Concert CB

**Thursday: December 22**

10—11:30 AM Food Pantry SLVMI

8 PM BINGO BT Doors open at 6:30 PM

**Friday: December 23**

10 AM—Noon Food Pantry SLVMI

**Saturday: December 24 – Vigil of Christmas Masses**

4 PM SMdP

4:30 PM STL

6 PM CB with las posadas

9:30 PM BT Musical Prelude; Mass at 10 PM

**Sunday: December 25 –**

Christmas Masses

9:30 AM SMdP

10 AM BT and CB

Noon ST



### 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 on Facebook.**

**Recorded service available on  
YouTube later in the day.**

## **VANDERCHER & DICK FUNERAL HOME**

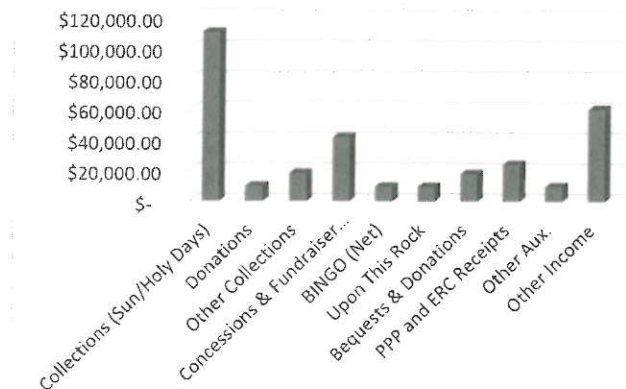
**2549 Main Street, Buffalo, New York 14214**

**716-832-0150**

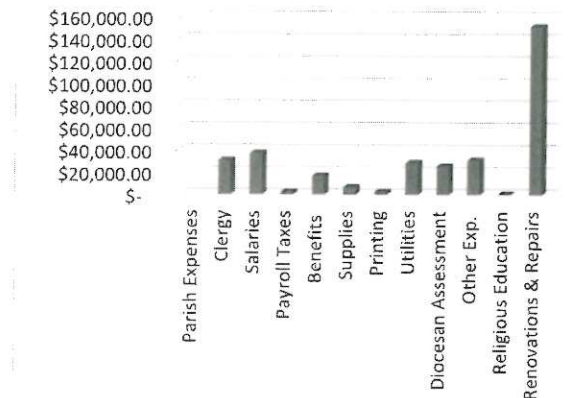
**Homer H. Dick, Jr., Blessed Trinity Trustee**

# Blessed Trinity RC Church

## Parish Income 2020-2021



## Parish Expenses 2020-2021



### Parish Income

Collections (Sun/Holy Days)	\$ 110,604.40	28.34%
Donations	\$ 9,953.25	2.55%
Other Collections	\$ 18,494.51	4.74%
Concessions & Fundraiser (Net)	\$ 42,012.09	10.77%
BINGO (Net)	\$ 9,563.10	2.45%
Upon This Rock	\$ 9,441.04	2.42%
Bequests & Donations	\$ 18,020.00	4.62%
PPP and ERC Receipts	\$ 24,089.27	6.17%
Other Aux.	\$ 9,713.58	2.49%
Other Income	\$ 60,260.91	15.44%
Insurance Reimbursements	\$ 78,077.89	20.01%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 390,230.04</b>	

### Parish Expenses

Clergy	\$ 30,642.74	9.19%
Salaries	\$ 37,191.25	11.15%
Payroll Taxes	\$ 2,258.99	0.68%
Benefits	\$ 16,714.37	5.01%
Supplies	\$ 6,534.01	1.96%
Printing	\$ 2,397.60	0.72%
Utilities	\$ 28,630.36	8.58%
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 25,412.66	7.62%
Other Exp.	\$ 31,005.86	9.29%
Religious Education	\$ 524.60	0.16%
Renovations & Repairs	\$ 151,600.01	45.45%
Equipment & Furnishings	\$ 664.16	0.20%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 333,576.61</b>	

### Other Expenses: \$68,161.88

Bank Charges	\$ 3.00
Interest Expense	\$ 2,930.57
Admin Fee Investments	\$ 394.42
Bank Adjustments	\$ 80.00
Maint/Repairs	\$ 5,004.39
Gasoline	\$ 22.92
Snowplowing	\$ 2,780.00
Security	\$ 719.10
Copier	\$ 4,205.41
Other Contract Srv.	\$ 8,514.79
PDS Software	\$ 852.06
Catholic Charities	\$ 26.35
Goodwill	\$ 1,196.81
Liturgy	\$ 283.55
Music	\$ 13.26
Other Parish Ministries	\$ 962.74
Misc. Admin.	\$ 357.70
Misc. General	\$ 2,311.53
Other Misc. Operating	\$ 347.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 31,005.86</b>

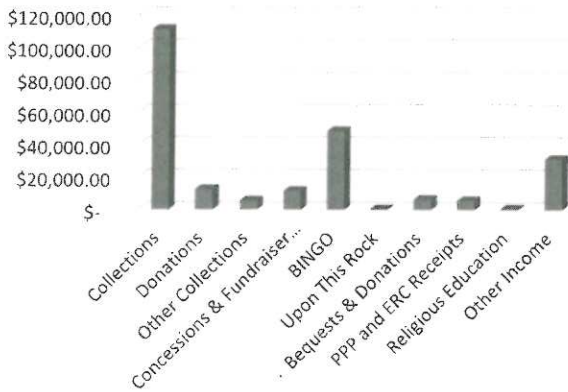
\$ 56,653.43

Investment Income/Loss \$ 95,152.81

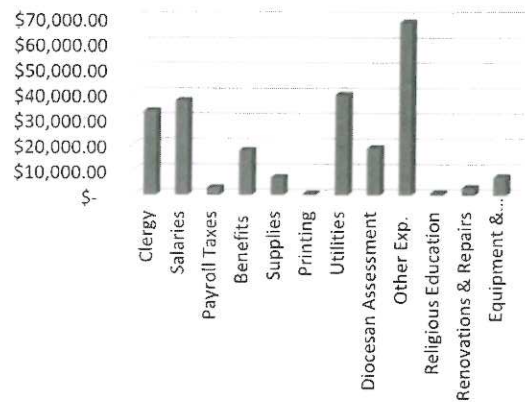
Other Income & Expenses Includes Food Pantry, Votives & Grants)

## Blessed Trinity RC Church

Parish Income 2021-2022



Parish Expenses 2021-2022



### Parish Income

Collections	\$ 111,408.05	47.41%
Donations	\$ 12,745.00	
Other Collections	\$ 5,682.11	2.42%
Concessions & Fundraiser (Net)	\$ 11,701.12	4.98%
BINGO	\$ 48,630.43	20.70%
Upon This Rock	\$ 475.27	0.20%
Bequests & Donations	\$ 6,540.50	2.78%
PPP and ERC Receipts	\$ 5,733.88	2.44%
Religious Education	\$ 750.00	0.32%
Other Income	\$ 31,299.76	13.32%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 234,966.12</b>	

### Parish Expenses

Clergy	\$ 33,082.46	14.09%
Salaries	\$ 37,178.00	15.83%
Payroll Taxes	\$ 2,791.22	1.19%
Benefits	\$ 17,551.12	7.47%
Supplies	\$ 6,881.27	2.93%
Printing	\$ 474.52	0.20%
Utilities	\$ 39,505.03	16.82%
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 18,429.00	7.85%
Other Exp.	\$ 68,161.88	29.02%
Religious Education	\$ 756.91	0.32%
Renovations & Repairs	\$ 2,904.36	1.24%
Equipment & Furnishings	\$ 7,153.00	3.05%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 234,868.77</b>	

### **Other Expenses: \$68,161.88**

Bank Charges	\$ 186.50
Interest Expense	\$ 20.36
Admin. Fee - Invest.	\$ 381.44
Property Ins.	\$ 32,287.08
Maint/Repairs	\$ 3,927.08
Maint/Repairs - Organ	\$ 275.00
Snowplowing	\$ 3,129.00
Security	\$ 95.00
Copier	\$ 1,085.50
Other Contract Srv.	\$ 19,240.63
PDS Software	\$ 885.00
Catholic Charities	\$ 365.50
Goodwill	\$ 888.10
Liturgy	\$ 2,464.15
Music	\$ 299.00
Evangelization	\$ 148.09
Funeral	\$ 9.57
Legal Fees	\$ 1,000.00
Misc. General	\$ 1,474.88

**Net Surplus or (Deficit) \$ 97.35**

Investment Income/Loss \$ (43,347.35)

Other Income & Expenses Includes Food Pantry, Votives & Grants)