

Blessed Trinity Parish

317 Leroy Avenue - Buffalo, New York 14214



The Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 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

ANOIDING 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



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

Catholic Central Food Pantry - 350 Dewey Avenue
Every Wednesday 9:30am - 1:30pm
716-800-1075

The Nativity of Our Lord

First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10 (16ABC)
Psalms Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6
Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-6
Gospel John 1:1-18

Blessings of Joy in the One born for us!

This festive day and time of year brings LOVE to bear in special and heightened ways! In the Spirit of Love, everyone is welcome who comes to share in our story of the Birth that is for *all* people. We are glad you find a place here. To all who come from far, to all who are from near, to guests, parishioners, visitors, pray-ers, singers, and simple spectators... may the presence of God in the flesh, that comes to bear upon human hearts during these moments of Nativity worship, bring us closer together in the Peace, Hope and Promise that is birthed forth from Love. May the Infant Child, Jesus, bring you blessings of great Joy! Merry Christmas!

But Who's Counting?

Our Christmas story announces that "a decree went out" that all the known world should be counted. Each was to go to their own town.... to the place that identified them according to their people, house, tribe, family, lineage, place of origin. So Joseph took Mary to be enrolled... counted. All of us, too, are identified by who and where we're from and who we belong to; said another way, "You know a book by its cover" even if the cover is a thousand miles away, in a different land among a different group of people, in a place that does things in a different way. As we sink ourselves into the Christmas story of our faith, isn't the point to return to our "home" there, to remember what... WHO... is at the core of who we are as Christians, to take our place at the table of God's children? We're a people saved by Love in the flesh where our ultimate counting is among a timeless place and family and Savior who is the beginning and the end of all! Lots of people, for lots of reasons good & bad, are eager these days to do a counting. When called upon, where do we stake our claim? It's important to know for ourselves and who's counting... and Who's Counting!

The Advent Wreath Enflamed by Christmas LIGHT!

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 the 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 through the Birth of Jesus, the Light of the World. And so a fifth candle, centered among an encircling of flames, to remind us that the ultimate light for our lives is the One who came, as pure Gift of Love, for us!

-Fr. Bob



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessed Trinity Stewardship – Total offertory collection for December 17/18, 2022, was \$1,981 including Christmas flowers \$90, Retirement for Religious \$100 and fuel \$10.

Saturday, December 31st

Lector: Jack Curtin

Sunday, January 1st, 2023

Lector: Maggie Gatson

Eucharistic Minister: Fidelia Ejimadu

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

You Did it! Thanks to your generosity, the Sodality's Holiday Collection for our homebound parishioners exceeded its goal. Snowdrifts notwithstanding, parishioners were personally delivering grocery store gift cards in time for Christmas and presenting Mass cards with the help of local postal workers.

*Thank
You!*

'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. Heartfelt thanks to ***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!**



A GRATEFUL HEART.....

We have many reasons to be grateful during the Christmas season, but I am exceptionally grateful for our wonderful choir. Our members are a dedicated group of individuals with a wide range of formal training who share a love for our Lord - and our Church Community. Please join me in thanking them for their tireless efforts, week after week, but especially during Christmas. The magnificent acoustic in our church helps our choir sound like many more voices - and their faith makes their offering worthy for our Newborn King.

The 2022 Blessed Trinity Holiday Choir



*Vera Andrew
Luis Clay
Mickey Dick
Jim Kelly
Kathleen Marign
Rafael Rondon
Sr. Elizabeth Savage
Sue Trabert
Bonnie Williams
Don Williams
Palma Zanghi*

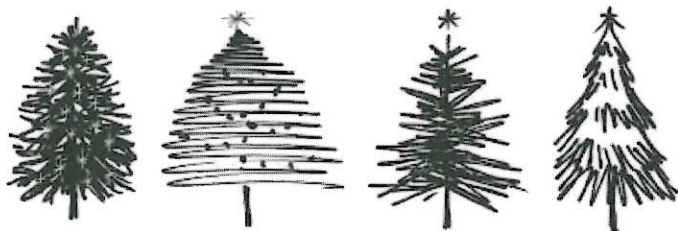


The Wrong and Strong Choir is also The Best Choir Ever, in my humble opinion.

-Elizabeth Clay

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.



"The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world." John 1:9. As we celebrate the wonder and joy of Christ's birth, we hope your hearts and homes are filled with peace, happiness, love, and the light of Christ our Savior. Merry Christmas from all of us at Catholic Charities!

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-jkxO1FZpQIQD6TYwu_apB](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmz8CT-jkxO1FZpQIQD6TYwu_apBOr8MtFrrjhQRWdfC1-w/viewform)

[Or8MtFrrjhQRWdfC1-w/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmz8CT-jkxO1FZpQIQD6TYwu_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. Auditions can be in-person or online. Rehearsals for the Lent and Easter seasons begin on January 9.

Mass



Intentions

Saturday, December 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Choral Prelude 9:30 pm

Mass 10:00 pm



Sunday, December 25 –

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 10:00 am

† Deceased members of the Becker, Curtin and Downs Families

John E. Curtin

Special Intention for Sr. Ann Helene

Tom and Pat Fiorella



Monday, December 26

† In memory of Ethel Grabenstatter

A grateful Parish

11:00 am

Tuesday, December 27

Special intention for Helen Roddy Gray

Ladies Sodality

11:00 am

Wednesday, December 28

Special intention for Sr. Peggy Gallagher

Ladies Sodality

11:00 pm

Friday, December 30

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

Estate of Mary Reilly

11:00 am

Saturday, December 31

† All Souls

Blessed Trinity Parish

4:30 pm

Sunday, January 1, 2023

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

† In memory of Catherine and Terry Gress

Bucki Family

Special Intention for Alice Davis

Ladies Sodality

10:00 am

† 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

December 26, 2022 – January 1, 2023

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

Monday: December 26

10 – 11:30 AM NO Food Pantry THIS WEEK **STL**

7 PM Bi-lingual Rosary (Spanish/English) via Zoom – click the Family Calendar link **CB**

Tuesday: December 27

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

Wednesday: December 28

9:30 AM—1:30 PM Food Pantry **BT**

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

4:15 PM Rosary **BT**

Thursday: December 29

10—11:30 AM NO Food Pantry THIS WEEK **SLVMI**

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

Friday: December 30

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

Saturday: December 31

Vigil of Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

4 PM **CB**

4:30 PM **BT & STL**

Sunday: January 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

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