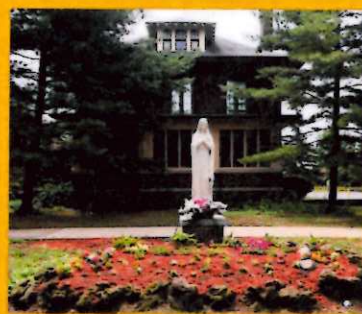
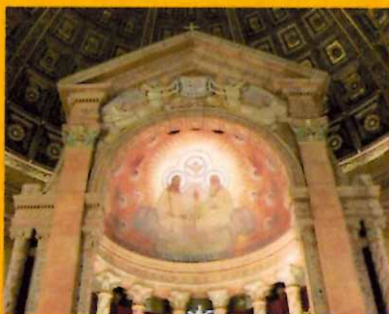


Blessed Trinity Parish

317 Leroy Avenue - Buffalo, New York 14214



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time January 29, 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
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

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13 (70A)
Psalms Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Gospel Matthew 5:1-12a

Attitudes for "Being"

As one of my priest friends reminded me the other day, the Beatitudes of the Gospel this weekend are a recipe for how it is that we are "to be"! It is so easy to get wrapped up into being "doers", losing sight of how we are also "to be", as God's own, poor in spirit, meek, righteous, merciful, peacemakers.... As Christians, we are challenged to consider that at the heart of our BEING we are rooted in Christ and his way. This coming week might be the perfect opportunity to consider especially one or two of the beatitudes and how we might bring them more fully into a more conscious awareness of their presence and power in our inner lives. We could certainly use some large doses of things like being "clean of heart" or full of "peace." For those who choose to live their God-given "being," Jesus announces, "*Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in heaven!*"

This Upcoming Week... Celebrations of Light and Healing

Thursday, February 2nd - The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

This celebration marks Joseph & Mary taking Jesus to the temple, as prescribed by the law, to dedicate him to the Lord. There they encounter Simeon, a righteous man, who declares, "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." Jesus is declared **light and glory** for all people! During mass, on this day, it is tradition to bless the candles, our beacons of light and glory, that are used throughout the year in our church. Candles will be blessed at our 11:00am mass.

Friday, February 3rd - The Feast of St. Blaise & the Blessing of Throats

Legend attributes many healing to St. Blaise, a physician. Probably, the most popular legend is his miraculous healing of a small boy choking to death on a fishbone lodged in his throat. On this day, it is tradition for the faithful to have their throats blessed with the words, "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you of all diseases of the throat and every other illness." Throats will be blessed at our 11AM mass.

-Fr. Bob

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessed Trinity Stewardship – The total offertory collection for January 21/22, 2023, was \$1,666 including Solemnity of Mary \$5, Catholic Relief Services \$5 and fuel \$25.

Saturday, February 4th

Lector: Greg Gaglione

Sunday, February 5th

Lector: Bob Heicklen

Eucharistic Minister: Toni Maus

This week we take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection to reveal Christ's love to our brothers and sisters in need. This collection helps 6 Catholic agencies to provide relief and support for struggling communities and to work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please give generously.



A Christmas Card with a jolly Santa arrived with the following greeting, which we would like to share: "HO, HO, Blessed Trinity Friends—May the magic and the wonder of Christmas be yours always. I received \$50 Dash's Market card. I will forever and forever 'Thank you all.' Tony H."

Many people are unaware that someone they know personally is silently suffering from participation in abortion. If a friend confided in you tomorrow that she had an abortion, would you be able to respond in a way that brings her closer to healing? Learn how in "How to Talk to a Friend Who's Had an Abortion" or call the confidential hotline at 716-847-2211 for information.

JANUARY IS RESPECT FOR LIFE MONTH

Prayer for Life

*Father and maker of all,
you adorn all creation
with splendor and beauty,
and fashion human lives
in your image and likeness.*

*Awaken in every heart
reverence for the work of your hands,
and renew among your people
a readiness to nurture and sustain
your precious gift of life.*

*Grant this through our Lord
Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in
the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God forever and ever.
Amen.*



One of these things is not like the other.....

I am a big fan of *Sesame Street*, and I have seen a lot of it! *Sesame Street* premiered when one of my younger brothers was a preschooler; I watched through high school and college with an even younger brother and then with our children and two of our grandchildren. There was a game that they played with a song that goes something like this: "One of these things is not like the others? Some of these things are kind of the same. Can you tell which one is not like the others, before I finish this song?"

We've been playing a similar game during our scripture study. As you know, the lectionary (the book with all the readings used at Sunday liturgies) is on a three-year repeating cycle. Each of the three years we read a different synoptic Gospel. "Synoptic" means to see with one eye. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are called synoptic because they have so many similarities. They are so similar that many scripture experts believe that Matthew and Luke used Mark and another document as their primary source. This year we are reading from *Matthew*. During the Lent and Easter seasons, we read from the Gospel of John. What makes "*John*" different from the other three Gospels?

The *Gospel of John* was written by one or possibly more authors toward the end of the first century. Though it was traditionally said to be written by John, the son of Zebedee, that is now believed to be unlikely. Given the time the book was written and its style, the author was probably not a witness, but had information from eye witnesses. Interestingly, the book is not strictly in chronological order. In this book, there is a greater emphasis on both the divinity and the eternal existence of Jesus. When you enter Blessed Trinity church and face the sanctuary, look up and you will see words that come directly from *John*. "In the beginning was the Word" and "the Word was made flesh." This is very different language from that of the other writers who seek to connect Jesus to the Messiah of the Hebrew scriptures. The Gospel is said to be "highly literal and symbolic" – a well-developed theology (study of God.) There are seven "signs" (wonderous deeds) that point to the divinity of Jesus. These signs have added meaning. For example, in the "second sign, the cure of the royal official's son (Jn 4:46-54) simply by the word of Jesus at a distance, signifies the power of Jesus' life-giving word." (USCCB – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops online Introduction to the *Gospel of John*)

You are familiar with the many teachings of Jesus that are found in the synoptic Gospels. For example, we learned that in *Matthew*, there are four fairly long monologues with Jesus teaching on many subjects. These subjects often address how we are to live. *John* doesn't say nearly as much about how we are to live, nor do we hear Jesus teaching very much. What we do hear is why we should pay attention to Jesus. We learn why he has authority to teach. The USCCB's Introduction also asserts that this Gospel author "seems to take pains to show that women are not inferior to men." (Just a tidbit for the Ladies' Sodality.)

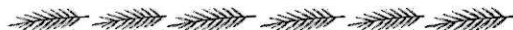
Join us as we explore eight video lessons from the *Gospel of John*, beginning on Tuesday, February 21, from 5:45--7 PM in St. Charles Hall. There will not be a class during Holy Week.

This will replace our regular scripture study which will return after the last of these classes. There is no charge for this discussion; however, anyone who would like a personal copy of the workbook can order it from me or directly from DynamicCatholic.com. The workbook cost is \$15.95. Please make checks payable to Blessed Trinity and let me know by February 5 if you want us to order for you.

In February, Pope Francis prays that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

We have several Lent resources available on the brochure rack at the ramp entrance. There will be a Lent calendar with upcoming events added soon.

-Pat Dyer



Catholic Health Services is looking for volunteers for all of our hospital sites – Kenmore Mercy, Sisters of Charity, South Buffalo Mercy and Mt. St. Mary's. Call Lisa Carey, Supervisor of Volunteer Services at 716-862-1106 or apply online at <https://www.chsbuffalo.org/volunteer>.

Our Confirmation process begins on Thursday, March 2 at 6:30 PM at Ss. Columba-Brigid. Candidates who are in 9th grade or above are invited to join us. (Bring a friend – even one who is not interested in Confirmation at all!) There will be four classes in the spring of 2023 and six classes in the fall of 2023. We begin with a video presentation followed by a discussion. Confirmation will be in late Fall of this year..

We are seeking mentors to attend our Confirmation classes. Active adult parishioners who have been Confirmed are invited to volunteer. No experience is required. If you have never been to a Protecting God's Children class and would still like to participate, please see Pat Dyer (716-256-2598) or Joyce Davis (SMdP.) They will be planning a "Family" class soon.

Our next religious education group meeting for youngsters Pre-K through grade 8 will be held at Ss. Columba-Brigid on Thursday, March 9 at 5:30 PM. We begin with dinner. Please have the first 18 lessons completed.

Bison Children's Scholarship Fund – This is a tuition assistance program helping economically eligible children attend private grammar schools of their choice regardless of income. Pre-application process open for new families online <http://bisonfund.com/our-scholarsips>. Deadline to apply is March 15, 2023. With questions or for further information contact BISON Fund office 716-854-0869. Flyers at entrance for more information.

Evan was ready to give up. "I had lost my job, had no relationships with anyone and was having money problems. I was mad, sad and didn't see a future for me," he said. But when he came to **Catholic Charities**, things began to turn around. "For the first time I could remember, I felt like someone was really listening to me and wanted to help. If it hadn't been for them, I don't know where I'd be today." Your gift to **Appeal 2023** helps ensure that people like Evan receive help when they need it most. Text GIVE HOPE23 to 44321 or www.ccwny.org/donation.

Mass Intentions



Saturday, January 28 – St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church

04:30 pm † Deceased members of the Ryan, Reilly, Reynolds and Pfeiffer Families
Estate of Mary Reilly

Sunday, January 29 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 am † In memory of Ivan Parks

John E. Curtin

† In memory of Tina James

Carl James

Monday, January 30 – Weekday

11:00 am Mother's Day Intentions
Resurrection Church

Tuesday, January 31 – St. John Bosco, Priest

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

Wednesday, February 1 – Weekday

11:00 am Mother's Day Intentions
Resurrection Church

Friday, February 3 – St. Blaise

11:00 am Hope and healing for Susan Nowak
Bud and Mickey Dick

Saturday, February 4 – Blessed Virgin Mary

04:30 pm † Deceased members of the Ryan, Reilly, Reynolds and Pfeiffer Families
Estate of Mary Reilly

Sunday, February 5 – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 am † In memory of Catherine and Terry Gress
Bucki Family

This week in our Family of Parishes

January 30—February 5, 2023

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

Monday: January 30

10 – 11:30 AM Food Pantry **STL**

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

Tuesday: January 31

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

Wednesday: February 1

9:30 AM—1:30 PM Food Pantry **BT**

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

Thursday: February 2

10—11:30 AM Food Pantry **SLVMI**

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

Friday: February 3

10 AM—Noon Food Pantry **SLVMI**

11:30 AM Rosary **BT** (enter Daily Mass Chapel door)

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

SAVE THE DATE

Feb. 9: 5:30 PM First Reconciliation Class **BT** in St. Charles Hall

Feb. 21—Apr. 18: Starting Point (Eight lessons from the Gospel of John) Tuesdays 5:45-7 PM **BT** in St. Charles Hall. No class during Holy Week.

Feb. 23: The Chosen (season 1) Thursdays 2 PM **BT** downstairs in St. Charles Hall. No fee

March 31: 7 PM Tenebrae Service – Enter into the spirit of Lent **BT**

† 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, 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.

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