



Welcome to St. George Church

A Parish with Spirit and Heart!

74 Old Glenwood Rd. West Falls, NY 14170-9704

Web: www.stgeorgercchurch.org

Email: stgeorge.wf@gmail.com

Office: (716) 652-3153 Fax: (716) 687-1336 Faith Formation Office: (716) 652-0126

Fr. Pascal (Pat) Ipolito, Pastor

Kathy Kita, Pastoral Associate, Director of Faith Formation

Week of January 24, 2016

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the Pastor's Desk

An ancient maxim—*Lex orandi, lex credendi*—states that we pray what we believe. Our prayer and belief affect how we live. Celebrating liturgy forms us as Catholic Christians. Its ritual actions, songs, scriptures, and prayers, along with how we use our bodies, all make a difference and prepare us to announce the gospel with our lives.

The first reading today describes a liturgy. The Israelites, returned from exile, relearn how to honor, hear, reverence and live God's law. They weep, overcome with emotion at being able to gather again and celebrate this ritual. They eat and drink to celebrate their return to temple, land, and religious practice. Maybe you have had a similar experience after being away from celebrating the Eucharist for a while.

Liturgy is also the setting for today's Gospel. Jesus reads from Isaiah and invites us to identify his life and ministry as the time when God's promised favor, freedom, justice, and mercy are fulfilled. Because people thought they knew Jesus well, they find his identifying himself with these words difficult. Adding "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing" adds fuel to the fire.

We gather as the Body of Christ to celebrate the liturgy. We have a personal relationship with God's saving love because we belong to Christ's Body. Our unique gifts help the entire Body live what we celebrate. We can live or ignore what we pray. When we live it, do people meet us and say, "Today the scriptures are fulfilled by your living"? We pray what we believe to know how to live. Being filled with the Spirit can free captives, announce good news, open eyes, and anoint the world with the presence of Christ.

Your words are Spirit and life, O Lord. Give us humble courage to announce your word through attitudes and actions that respect all the members of your Body and God's creation, from least to greatest.

- What parts of the liturgy bring you to tears or invite overwhelming rejoicing? Why?
- Does celebrating Mass make a difference in how you live? How?

Shalom! Fr. Pat

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, January 23	5 pm	Daniel Bielecki by the Sojka Family
Sunday, January 24	8:30 am	Ray Deibel, by Kathy & Gene Deibel
Sunday, January 24	11 am	AnnaMarie Fregelette, by Eileen & Ed Martin
Monday, January 25	8 am	Souls to be remembered from All Souls' Day
Tuesday, January 26	8 am	Souls to be remembered from All Souls' Day
Wednesday, January 27	8 am	Communion Service and Novena
Thursday, January 28	8 am	Communion Service
Friday, January 29	8 am	Souls to be remembered from All Souls' Day
Saturday, January 30	5 pm	To the Blessed Mother for favors received
Sunday, January 31	8:30 am	Helen Grys, by Mary Ann Pietrzak
Sunday, January 31	11 am	Isabella Robinson, by the Giallella family

**The next First Friday Mass is February 5th at 9:00 am in the Chapel.
Confession: Saturday from 4:00 - 4:30 pm**

*Let us
pray for...*

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK & SHUT-INS, especially: Doris Ellis, Peter Brady, Maryanne Mueller, Michael Schafer, John Branicky, Marsha Shuler, Dorothy Knaier, Louise Zelonis, Gina Reger, Richard & Antoinette Pucillo, Joe Arcara, Lou Williams, Jeanette Dipiano, Susan Dorobiala, Judy Zielinski, Jocelyn Tragarz, Sr. Mary Dee, Allison Kruger, Sr. Mary Ellen Twist, Jill Janik, David Dobson, Colette Longboat, Kathy Grover-Castro, Jim Moeller, Jim Cafferty, Linda Bettinger, Mario Nunez, Sarah Friedhaber, Jason Estabrook, Crystal Oats, Dianne Emerling, Bill Petrie, Sophie Cook, Margo McClelland, Steve Curvin, David Kroll, Dave Isbrandt, Bill Kegler, Mike Slawinski, Bill Henning, Dolores Lewandowski, Don Murray, Faith Smith, Grace Finch, Heather Nichter, Joan Kazmierczak, Pat Whittington, John Nichter and Loretta Ellis.

A BIG THANK YOU for supporting our Youth Community's "**Mercy Project**". The clothing we collected was distributed to **The Friends of the Night People**, **The Clothes Closet** in West Valley and **The Bread of Life Outreach Center** in Colden. In this **Year of Mercy** we've helped to bring warmth and comfort to others.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Our next **GIFT Faith Fest** will be on **Sunday, January 31st** from **9:30 - 10:45 am**. Masks! Bling! Drink! King cupcakes! "Laissez les bon temps rouler." (Let the good times roll!) Come join our **Mardi Gras celebration** as we prepare for the season of Lent!

Are you ready to **Grow Closer to God**
and **Share the Joy** during our
Jubilee Year of Mercy?



Join us this Lent in...

This is it! The final weekend for you to sign up for *Living the Eucharist!*

Don't miss this opportunity to enrich your spiritual journey during the six weeks of Lent.

(Note: Even if you've participated in previous years, we do need a registration form from you for this year!)

You can experience *Living the Eucharist* in a small adult group, in the teen group, or by sharing the weekly Family Activities at home with your children.

Or, reserve your copy of the Lenten devotional booklet, *From Exodus to Easter*. It offers wonderful spiritual reflections for each day.

Not sure which option is right for you? Chat with one of our team members at the registration table today, or call **Kathy Kita** at **652-3153**.

Learn more at www.stgeorgercchurch.org/le

Please support this ministry by *praying the Living the Eucharist prayer every day*.

Thank You

The **Bread of Life Outreach Center** thanks you for your generous offerings in last week's special collection, totaling **\$2,035.00** so far. If you missed the collection you can still mail your offering to the Rectory or leave it in this weekend's offering basket.

Also, the Outreach Center is having a **Book, Bangle and Bake Sale** on **Saturday, Feb 13th** from **10 am – 3 pm**. We will have gently used books, jewelry, local artisans and crafters, vendors and baked goods! **MIKEYS BBQ** food truck will offer pulled pork, burgers and Italian sausage! Mark your calendar and stop in for a bright break in this long winter. Interested crafters can call **June** at **536-5402**.

THEME BASKETS NEEDED FOR OUR ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST & THEME BASKET AUCTION February 7th!

Your thoughtful, generous, and creative **Theme Basket donations** contribute **immensely** to the success of this fundraiser! When yours is ready, you may leave it on the Rectory porch at any time.



Remember to join us on Sunday, February 7th, from **9 am - 1 pm** for a hearty and delicious breakfast of eggs, pancakes, sausage and beverage for **\$6 per adult, \$4 per child (under 10)**. *Don't miss this!* Bring your family and friends, too!

Tickets available at the door on Feb. 7th.

Volunteers are needed to serve during or clean up after the breakfast.
Please sign up on the sheets at the back of the church. Thank you!

MISSION OF MERCY We ask our St. George family to be generous as possible so we can fulfill our mission of mercy as we journey in faith together. **Christ be our Light.** Last weekend's offerings totaled **\$3,293.17.** *We sincerely appreciate your continuing generosity!*

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION NEXT WEEK This collection supports six Catholic agencies that **touch more than 100 million lives around the world.** The funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and Christ's love and respect to all people. *Next week, please give as generously as you are able to **The Catholic Relief Services Collection** and help Jesus in disguise.*



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reads the words of scripture: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor." **Have you considered answering the call to "bring glad tidings to the poor" by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?** If interested in more information, please call the Rectory at **652-3153.**



PARISH COUNCIL WELCOMES SUE DIBIANCA! Sue has graciously volunteered to be our **Spiritual Life** representative on the **2016 Parish Council.** *Thank you, Sue, for volunteering your time and talent to our parish. Additional parish council members are needed! Please speak to Fr. Pat or Russ Deveso if you are interested in serving on Council.*



YEAR OF MERCY: Focus on **The Corporal Works of Mercy**

Clothe the Naked - You can go through your closets and find garments to donate to the needy. Local thrift shops (**Bread of Life Outreach, St. Vincent de Paul**) would be happy to make them available to the needy at a low cost (and often those thrift shops are selling their items to raise money for other good causes, too, such as a local hospital or hospice).

Shelter the Homeless - Support the work of groups that specialize in relieving the problem of homelessness, such as the **Homeless Alliance for WNY** or **Covenant House.** The **Homeless Alliance** maintains an extensive database of housing possibilities and statistical data for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness, and it works diligently to help the homeless find homes once again or get help with utilities. **Covenant House** provides food, shelter, crisis counseling and a fresh start for troubled youth, some of whom only need a helping hand and a second chance to get back on their feet.

(Excerpted from www.thedivinemercy.org.) Learn more at www.yearofmercy.org.

Let's all make a concerted effort to perform these beautiful Works of Mercy.

Jerry and Barbara Castiglia thank everyone for your prayers on behalf of our dear sister, Anna Marie Fregelette. Thankfully, she passed very peacefully, surrounded by her family. We're sure your prayers helped. Thank you all.

2015 Charitable Contribution Statements for our parish have recently been mailed to all who made **recorded contributions** to our parish in 2015. If you did not receive a statement, and you believe you should have, please call the office at **652-3153** or email stgeorge.wf@gmail.com.

HELP *Jesus* IN DISGUISE

**"AMEN, I SAY TO YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID
FOR ONE OF THESE LEAST BROTHERS
OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME." (MT 25:40)**



Each time we encounter a suffering person, we encounter Jesus in disguise. The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC) funds six Catholic agencies that serve the disguised Jesus in our suffering brothers and sisters around the world. His disguise might be that of those suffering from natural disaster, those displaced by violence or war, or those migrants searching for a better life. Your support of this collection is an opportunity to help Jesus in disguise.



In the developing world, it is often hard for families to support themselves and their children. Sophie, a widow working in a village in Burkina Faso, was struggling to feed her family and pay for schooling for her children. Thanks to the help of Catholic Relief Services, one of the CRSC-supported organizations, her village was able to set up a Savings and Internal Lending Community (SILC). Through the SILC, members contribute what they can afford, allowing them to pool their resources and save collectively. Members can then borrow money to meet pressing needs or develop business opportunities. Through the SILC, Sophie was able to take out a \$200 loan to cover startup costs for her own canteen, a sum that would be nearly impossible for her to save. Her canteen has been very successful and began to pay off in only six months. Her community has benefited too, as she has been able to hire three assistants to work with her. Without the SILC and the work of CRS, it would have been nearly impossible for her, and others like her, to create a sustainable life for her and her family.



The BIA Pro Bono Project, a part of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) uses funds from the CRSC to provide support and legal representation to immigrants facing the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA). Pedro entered the

United States to provide a better life for his family and to flee violence and persecution. He entered the United States without inspection, but nearly 20 years later, Pedro was taken to an immigration detention facility away from his wife and three children while the BIA decided whether he could stay in the country. Thanks to the BIA Pro Bono Project, law students discovered that he had never been considered for Temporary Protected Status, and local legal counsel represented him. This counsel helped determine that he was in fact eligible for this legal status. After a year in a detention facility, separated from his family, Pedro was able to return home.

WITH YOUR DONATIONS

Feed Jesus' hunger in suffering refugees . . . through the USCCB Department of Migration and Refugee Services (MRS).

Give water to quench Jesus' thirst in the people of Bolivia and Ethiopia . . . through the humanitarian work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

Offer legal assistance to Jesus in struggling immigrants . . . through the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC).

Reach out to comfort Jesus' loneliness in isolated workers . . . through the pastoral work of the USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church.

Advocate on behalf of Jesus in the poor and abandoned . . . through the public policy work of the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development.

Send aid to Jesus in the victims of natural disasters . . . through the Holy Father's Relief Fund.



The Catholic Relief Services Collection

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON, DC 20017-1104

202-541-3400 • FAX 202-541-3460 • WWW.USCCB.ORG/NATIONALCOLLECTIONS

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