

Welcome to St. George Church

A Parish with Spirit and Heart!



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

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Sr. Lori High, SSMN, Pastoral Administrator

Rev. Msgr. Jim Wall, Sacramental Minister

December 9, 2018

Second Sunday of Advent

What does it mean to have *hope*? To me, hope expresses a positive outlook for the future. St. Paul describes it as confidence in what has not yet been revealed. (*Hebrews 11:1*) Hope is a spiritual reality. To have hope requires an active faith in God's good design for creation.

Physical and natural realities harm and disappoint us so regularly that we can, at times, yield to despair or cynicism. Part of our Advent vigilance might be a call to assess when and how we are tempted to hopelessness, despair or cynicism. Such negativity draws us away from the goodness of God.

Having been claimed by God in baptism and gifted with faith in God's goodness, it is part of our Christian duty to strive to deepen our hope, our positive outlook. Hope is the key which allows us to navigate the troubles and difficulties of life without being defeated by them. As we hear God's Word and trust in God's goodness may our faith and hope enable us to embrace life with joy and share our positivity with others!

Sister Lori

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 8	10 am	Immaculate Conception	For the Faithful Departed
	5 pm	James Kiebzak, by Anonymous	
Sunday, December 9	10 am	Stephanie Jewett McCormick, by the McCormick family	
Monday, December 10	8 am	For the Faithful Departed	
Tuesday, December 11	8 am	Sally Denesha, by husband Joe	
Wednesday, December 12	8 am	Communion Service and Novena	
Thursday, December 13	8 am	Communion Service	
Friday, December 14	8 am	For the Faithful Departed	
Saturday, December 15	5 pm	For the Faithful Departed	
Sunday, December 16	10 am	Paul & Mildred (Schmidle) Forsythe, by the family	

Our next First Friday Mass will be on January 4th at 8 am in the Chapel.

Each First Friday of the month, following the 8 am Mass in the Memorare Chapel, we offer Eucharistic exposition and adoration until 10 am.

Consider joining us in this prayerful devotion.

Confession: Saturdays from 4:00 - 4:30 pm in the Church.

Join us in praying the Rosary Saturdays at 4:30 pm in the Church, and at 7 pm Mondays in the Chapel.



LET US PRAY FOR Doris Ellis, Don Murray, Joe Arcara, Stan Kociszewski, Jeanne McIntyre, Ann Marie Price, Bob Hardy, Linda Kraus, Gene Holden, Rita Kowalik and Elaine Ahles.

HERE'S OUR HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE!

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Saturday, Dec. 22 at 5 pm
Sunday, Dec. 23 at 10 am

Christmas Eve: Monday, Dec. 24 at 5 pm & 10 pm (*No 8 am Mass*)

Christmas Day: Tuesday, Dec. 25 at 10 am

New Year's Day: Jan. 1 at 10 am

HAITI CLEAN WATER RAFFLE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The winning tickets were drawn in the parish hall last Saturday after Mass. The **\$500.00 First Prize** was won by **Lin Kolb**; the second prize of **\$250.00** was won by **David Bevilacqua**; and the third prize of **\$100.00**, won by **Karen Nuwer**, was donated back to the Haiti Clean Water project.

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets or made donations!

Raffle proceeds will be used to purchase water purification systems for Haitian families.



The December issue of the **Western New York Catholic** newspaper is now available at all entrances. Please take a copy home with you today.

HAITI CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS are available on the Haiti card rack in the back of the church. Please consider giving Haiti Christmas Gift Cards to family and friends, which will also provide families at our twin Haitian parish with gifts of **farm animals, water purifiers, school tuition, medicines and sanitation facilities**. The people of our twin parish will benefit greatly from these gifts. *Thank you for your generous support.*

SUPPORT THE RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS THIS WEEKEND



Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious.

Please place your offerings in an envelope marked "RFR" in the regular offering basket, or donate online anytime at stgeorgercchurch.weshareonline.org/rfr.

Learn more at retiredreligious.org.

JOIN US FOR BRUNCH FOLLOWING THE DECEMBER 16TH MASS!

If your holiday schedule allows, we welcome you to join **Matt Boyle and his merry helpers** in the parish hall following the 10 am Mass next Sunday, for a fellowship brunch to continue the celebration of **Gaudete Sunday** (the PINK candle day!)



BAPTISM NEXT SUNDAY!

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism of *Caroline Susan Pitt* next **Sunday** at our **10 am Mass**. We hope that you'll join us in witnessing her acceptance into the family of God and our St. George faith family.

NEED A NOVEL CHRISTMAS GIFT? The Rosary Altar Society is selling *Dry Mix Gift Jars* at its **Bake, Craft & Gift Jar Sale this weekend at both of the Masses!** Choose from a wonderful variety of dry mix Gift Jars, candles, microwave bean bags, knit and crochet crafts and more! Proceeds of the sale are used to purchase necessities for the chapel and church.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS!!

Your angel, stocking and Christmas tree gifts have been delivered to grateful recipients at **Gerard Place, Harvest House** and the **Bread of Life Outreach Center**. *May those whom you have gifted be warmed by your kindness!*

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED FOR BOLO

The **Food Pantry** at **Bread of Life Outreach Center** would greatly appreciate your donations of **canned stews, pastas and soups** as the demand for these food items is especially high now that the weather is colder. Donation baskets are in the Gathering Space. Call the BOLO Center at **941-3550** for hours or questions.





EMERGENCY, CLOSING & CANCELLATION ALERTS

are published to our social media sites and emailed to everyone who is subscribed to our [parish email list](#). We also publish closings/cancellations to the local TV stations as soon as possible.

To get important and emergency parish notifications delivered directly to your phone or tablet (*free!*) text [@stg002](#) to **81010**, visit [rmd.at/stg002](#), or call the parish office at 652-3153.

BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS OFFERINGS which allow us to do so much good for our parish and our community! **Sunday** and **Holy Day** offerings last week were **\$2,504.74**. Offerings for **Maintenance & Capital Improvements** were **\$1,199.00**.



Our parish has also been incredibly blessed by one family's very generous end-of-year donation of **\$9,000.00!** *We are so grateful for your gifts, whatever the size.*

FINANCE UPDATE

Our Finance Committee (*Bonnie Klocke, Russ Deveso, Bob Marts, Tricia Bofinger and Bob Henning*) met this past week to review and sign the **Annual Financial Report** due to the Diocese. The Priest Moderator for our parish, Rev. Bob Wardenski, and the committee find **our financial status and procedures are in good standing.**

In the coming months we'll begin exploring ways to improve access to our church building, in accordance with the *Upon This Rock* mandate which we proposed. Details will follow as plans develop!



SWADDLING BLANKET COLLECTION UNDERWAY

Please place your swaddling blanket donations for the Mother Theresa

home for unwed mothers in the designated container in the Gathering Space.

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS



You and your family are invited to an evening of song and praise on **Monday, December 10th** at **7 pm** in the St. John Vianney Chapel of Christ the King Seminary

in East Aurora. Join us for Christmas carols, scripture readings, and fellowship! Refreshments and party food will be served. Sponsored by the East Aurora Knights of Columbus.

READINGS FOR December 16, 2018

*Third Sunday of Advent,
Gaudete Sunday*

Zephaniah 3:14-18A
Psalm Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "*Prepare the way of the Lord,*" which is what Advent is all about. We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by keeping the real meaning of Christmas alive in our own hearts, and to reach out to those in need.

Do you know someone who needs assistance? Please call the parish office to let us know so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas. God Bless all.



Retirement Fund for Religious

“The best thing I did in ministry was to teach children the Gospel through plays,” says Sister Clare Vandecoevering, 88. “Oh, they were just delighted!” A member of the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon, she spent more than 50 years in the classroom, sharing her love of Jesus and bringing the Catholic faith to life.

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Perhaps there was a Sister Clare in your life. Perhaps a special woman or man religious shared with you love, faith, and a belief in all that you could become. Maybe you knew more than one. Today those sisters, brothers, and religious order priests may be elderly, and their religious communities may struggle to meet retirement needs.

Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious supports necessities—such as medications and nursing care—and helps ensure the next generation of Sister Clares can continue in ministry. Please give generously.

retiredreligious.org

Almost 94 percent of donations directly aid senior religious.

OPLATKI CHRISTMAS WAFERS ARE AVAILABLE on the table at the back of church.



The breaking of the Christmas wafer is a custom that began in Poland in the 10th century and is practiced by people of Polish ancestry around the world. It is considered the most ancient and beloved of Polish traditions.

(Source: www.wikipedia.org)



**Sunday, December 2nd &
Saturday, December 8th
10:00am - 3:00pm**

**Bread of Life Outreach
8745 Supervisor Ave
Colden, NY 14033**

WINTER MARKET

A large graphic below the title "WINTER MARKET". It consists of a teal-colored shape that resembles a stylized mountain range or a wide, shallow V-shape. In the center of this shape is a white snowflake.

- ❄️ **Shop inside for a great selection of local handcrafted unique gift items**
- ❄️ **Raffle Items, Book Sale, and Gabriel's Closet Thrift store will be open**

BETHLEHEM LIVE

CHRISTMAS STORY
LIVE MANGER SCENE WITH ANIMALS
CHRISTMAS CAROLS
WARM REFRESHMENTS-ACTIVITIES



AT

**COLDEN UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
8795 LOWER EAST HILL ROAD
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2018
NOON – 3:00**

CHRISTMAS TO-DO-LIST

^{BE}
- ~~buy~~ presents

- ~~wrap gifts~~ <sup>SOMEONE
IN A HUG</sup>

- ~~send gifts~~ ^{PEACE}

^{DONATE}
- ~~shop for~~ food

^{BE}
- ~~see~~ the lights