

Welcome to St. George Church

A Parish with Spirit and Heart!



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

Web: www.stgeorgercchurch.org

Email: stgeorge.wf@gmail.com

Parish Office: (716) 652-3153

Fax: (716) 687-1336

Sr. Lori High, SSMN, Pastoral Administrator

Rev. Msgr. Jim Wall, Sacramental Minister

December 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent

JOY is the word for today, the third Sunday of Advent. Our first and second readings use words such as *rejoice* and *gladness* over and over again. Joy is to be found through our belief in the love and faithfulness of God. St. Paul goes as far as to say we should find joy in the nearness of the Lord and have no anxiety whatsoever! Our knowledge of God should calm our every fear and lead us to be joy-filled.

This, of course, is much easier to *say* than to *live*. We are burdened with so many concerns that calming our hearts is a daily challenge. Hopefully we meet that challenge with the help of others. The crowds in today's Gospel turn to John the Baptist with the question, "*What should we do?*"

This is one of those Gospel questions that would be wise to adopt as one of our own in life and prayer. By asking those whom we trust and then carefully considering the advice offered, we often can find a way through the challenges we face. Part of Christian belief is the concept that *we are one body in Christ*—many individual pieces, yes—but *one body in faith*. We journey through life as a community, each one of us influencing the whole.

Temptations that can fracture our one body in Christ, such as selfishness or isolation, need to be avoided or reduced as much as possible. St. John's answers to the questioning crowds are evidence that he understood how connected we all are. The *selflessness* that Jesus demonstrated to us—always putting his Father's will and the needs of others first—brought him great joy in difficult times. May our journey in following Jesus lead us to a deeper love of one another and to profound joy in mind, heart and soul.

Sister Lori

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 15	5 pm	For the Faithful Departed
Sunday, December 16	10 am	Paul & Mildred (Schmidle) Forsythe, by the family
Monday, December 17	8 am	For the Faithful Departed
Tuesday, December 18	8 am	For the Faithful Departed
Wednesday, December 19	8 am	Communion Service and Novena
Thursday, December 20	8 am	Communion Service
Friday, December 21	8 am	For the Faithful Departed
Saturday, December 22	5 pm	John Stancavage, by the Price family
Sunday, December 23	10 am	Janusz & Tomasz Wankowicz, by the Kalinski family

HERE'S OUR HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE!

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

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.

JOIN US FOR BRUNCH FOLLOWING THE SUNDAY 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 Sunday, for a fellowship brunch to continue the celebration of **Gaudete Sunday** (the PINK candle day!)



WELCOME, CAROLINE SUSAN PITT!

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism of Caroline on **Sunday** at our **10 am Mass**. Many blessings to her parents, **Steven** and **Julia Pitt**, and to her siblings, **Annabelle** and **Josiah**.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES for parishes in our area will be offered on **Monday, December 17th** at **3 pm & 7 pm** at **Annunciation Church** in **Elma**.



It's getting close...



*The temptation is to hurry Christmas. Although we can't control how our culture celebrates the time before Christmas, we **can** keep Advent in our own home by teaching our children the value of delayed gratification.*

Wait for the party, to light the tree, to open a gift...

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.

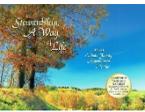


MANY THANKS to all who donated baked goods, worked at the sale table or purchased goods during our annual **Rosary Altar Christmas Sale** last weekend. Our profit was **\$678.00!** We use the proceeds of our sales to purchase items for the church and chapel, such as the new rose-colored chasuble and stole that you see Father wearing at Mass this weekend! We also donate to our missions in Kenya and Haiti, Harvest House, and Catholic Charities.



DID YOU KNOW... the homily is recorded at Mass every weekend?

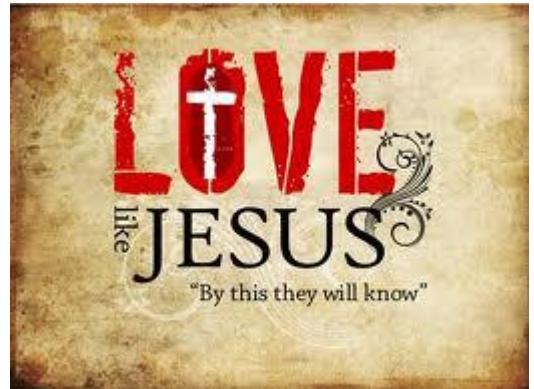
Visit www.stgeorgercchurch.org/homilies to listen to the homily. It's also a great way for shut-ins to feel "connected"!



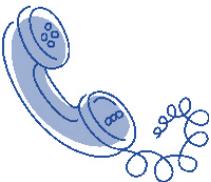
2019 CALENDARS are available at all entrances—please take one or several home with you!

Our sincere thanks to Kenneth

Howe Funeral Home for their gracious gift of the calendars every year!



TELEPHONE ASSURANCE PROGRAM (TAP) is a **free volunteer service** providing



regular telephone calls to homebound elderly and disabled persons checking on their well-being and giving people an opportunity to socialize. Relationships grow and last for years through a regular weekly, monthly or daily brief call. **If you know of someone who would like to receive calls or make phone calls, please call 716-218-1400.** TAP's main purpose is to alleviate some of the concerns facing those who live alone, and help

them to remain independent. TAP is the longest running program of its type in Erie County. Learn more at cwny.org/telephone-assurance-program.

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 \$2,824.22.** Offerings for **Maintenance & Capital Improvements** were **\$310.00.**



Religious give thanks. *"This money is pure gift,"* writes a religious sister of the support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious. *"It enables us to continue providing care for our elderly sisters."* Your gifts totaling **\$1,695.00** help hundreds of religious communities meet pressing retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. If you missed the appeal, **donate online** at stgeorgercchurch.weshareonline.org/rfr.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, *"Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise..."* Christmas is a time of love and gift giving—please share your abundance by **giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul** so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas. *Thank you again for your gifts to God's poor. God bless all.*

READINGS FOR December 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:1-4A
Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45



THIS IS THE FINAL WEEKEND TO DONATE SWADDLING BLANKETS!!

Be sure to place your baby blanket donations in the baskets in the gathering space by noon on Sunday, December 16th, so that we can deliver them to the **Mother Theresa Home** in time for Christmas.

CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEETS SATURDAYS

Join other men of faith **every Saturday morning** from **8-9:15 am** in the parish hall to share some coffee, scripture, and fellowship. **Questions?** Email **Paul** at kalinski@gmail.com or **Matt** at his.t.his.victory15@gmail.com.



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING? When you're out hunting down those Christmas bargains, perhaps you might keep in mind our need for **Theme Baskets** throughout the year? Some of those great buys can be stashed away now so that you can easily put a basket or two together for our next basket auction. By the way, our **Super Bowl Sunday Pancake Breakfast** and **Theme Basket Auction** is just around the corner on **February 3, 2019!**



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN! Be especially watchful for slippery spots on the church walkways and in the parking lot. Despite our best efforts to plow and salt them, icy spots still do persist.





Lessons and Carols

FOR ADVENT
AND CHRISTMAS

**Sunday
December 16
4:00 p.m.**

**Fourteen Holy
Helpers Church**

1345 Indian Church Rd.
West Seneca, NY 14224
716-674-2374

Fourteen Holy Helpers Choir
Patrick B. Barrett, Director

Admission Free

PLEASE POST