

# 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 23, 2018

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

What is it like to be *near* or *proximate* to something? For me, it depends upon what the something is! When I draw near to a friend's house for a visit, I feel excitement and gladness. When I am sliding on ice and approaching an immovable object, I cringe and am afraid. Some of us live near neighbors who can be a comfort but may occasionally be too loud, too close. Scientists proclaim every now and again that a planet or an asteroid is in its closest proximity to earth ever, yet that usually means millions of miles away!

The celebration of Christmas is near, indeed. This Fourth Sunday of Advent is like a springboard into the mystery of the Incarnation! One or two steps of approach and we leap into Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. This Feast, itself, is a revelation of nearness. We celebrate God's choice to be so near as to be one with us. The Word made flesh, Emmanuel: God with us.

Mary, newly pregnant with Jesus, hurries in today's Gospel to be near her cousin, the elderly Elizabeth, already six months along in her pregnancy with John the Baptist. This passage from Luke's Gospel is called "The Visitation" and is rich with meaning. As the story goes on, we learn that Mary remained there, close to Elizabeth, about three months. That is to say that Mary stayed with Elizabeth until the successful birth of John.

We can only imagine how being together during these days of pregnancy bonded these women and their children. One of the Psalms declares that God "*knits us together in our mother's womb*". These are perfect days to rejoice in God's intimate relationship with all of humanity and with each one of us individually. God is, has been, and always will be near to us.

Sister Lori

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 22	5 pm	John Stancavage, by the Price family
Sunday, December 23	<b>10 am</b>	Janusz & Tomasz Wankowicz, by the Kalinski family
<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>		
Monday, December 24	<b>5 pm</b>	Dr. Richard B. McCormick, by the McCormick family
<b>The Nativity of the Lord</b>	<b>10 pm</b>	Daniel Sojka, by Tony & Kathy Sojka
Tuesday, December 25	<b>10 am</b>	Dorothy Dolce, by Frank & Louise Dolce
<b>The Nativity of the Lord</b>		
Wednesday, December 26	8 am	<b>Communion Service and Novena</b>
Thursday, December 27	8 am	<b>Communion Service</b>
Friday, December 28	8 am	Donald & Betty Schmidle, by the family
Saturday, December 29	5 pm	Jerry Castiglia, by Barbara & family
Sunday, December 30	10 am	Daniel Sojka, by Carolyn & Dennis Dee

### 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:** Tuesday, 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.

**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!



**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 benefit greatly from these gifts.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS now total \$916.00!

Thank you for remembering and honoring your loved ones through your gracious donations and intentions. *Our worship space is especially glowing with nature's warmth, color and fragrance this Christmas season!*



*The Altar flower bouquets this week have been donated by the Price family in loving memory of John Stancavage. Thank you Roy, Ann Marie and Linda!*

**REMEMBERING JOHN R. DEIBEL** John passed away on **Saturday, December 15th**. He was one of the sons of the late **Ray and Mary Deibel**, who were beloved longtime members of our parish. John's life was celebrated with a Memorial Mass on **Saturday, December 22nd** here at St. George. Kindly remember John and his family in your prayers. May he rest now in eternal peace together with his mother and father. More info at [castigliafuneralhome.com](http://castigliafuneralhome.com).



**SUCCESSFUL BRUNCH!** Thanks so much to everyone who joined us for brunch after last Sunday's Mass, and to all who helped to make it happen. Free-will offerings totaling **\$124.00** received during the brunch were donated to the **Mother Theresa Home**. We are grateful for your shared fellowship and your generosity.



### UPCOMING NOTABLE DATES

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|----------------|--|
| <b>Jan. 1</b>  | <b>10 am Mass: Solemnity of Mary</b> ( <i>Parish Office closed</i> ) |
| <b>Jan. 13</b> | 11:15 am – 2:15 pm Youth Session                                     |
| <b>Jan. 17</b> | 7 pm Parish Council Meeting  |
| <b>Jan. 19</b> | 12:30 - 3 pm Confirmation Candidate Session                          |
| <b>Feb. 3</b>  | 9 am - 1 pm Super Bowl Sunday Pancake Breakfast & Basket Auction     |
| <b>Mar. 6</b>  | <b>Ash Wednesday</b>   |



**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 [ccwny.org/telephone-assurance-program](http://ccwny.org/telephone-assurance-program).

## YOU HELP US FULFILL OUR MISSION OF MERCY



We are so grateful for you, our St. George parish family, and for the gifts which you share with us. Your generosity enables us to support and expand our community outreach and lifelong faith formation efforts as we journey in faith together.

**Sunday and Holy Day offerings last week were \$3,270.25.**

Your offerings for the **Retirement Fund for Religious** now total **\$1,850.00!**

Make a donation anytime at [stgeorgercchurch.weshareonline.org](http://stgeorgercchurch.weshareonline.org).

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SWADDLING BLANKET

**DONATIONS!!** A big "**Thank You**" to all who donated swaddling blankets to the **Mother Theresa Home**—the home was very grateful.

*The Faith Formation team wishes you a very Merry & Blessed Christmas!*



Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. The Savior of the world comes for the people in dark

places. The real, lasting, and deep joy is that the Light shines there.

*Through your gifts to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, light has shown, bringing real, lasting and deep joy to the hearts of God's poor who live in dark places in our streets and neighborhoods. Thank you for all that you do, and allow us to do. God bless all.*

**HAVE YOU REQUESTED A MASS INTENTION?** We thank you for remembering those dear to you and others by requesting that they be honored in the Mass. If you wish to bring up the gifts at the requested Mass, be sure to arrive before Mass begins and let the ushers know that would like to bring up the gifts at the intended Mass. Otherwise, the ushers will select two parishioners from among the general congregation for this role.



**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 saw Father wearing at Mass last weekend! We also donate to our missions in Kenya and Haiti, Harvest House, and Catholic Charities.

**Did you know? All meetings and events are in our parish Calendar online.**

Visit [www.stgeorgercchurch.org/calendar](http://www.stgeorgercchurch.org/calendar).

Have an event to submit? Call **652-3153** or email [stgeorge.wf@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorge.wf@gmail.com).



### READINGS FOR December 30, 2018

*Feast of the Holy Family  
of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

Colossians 3:12-21

Luke 2:41-52

## *Christmas Flower Offerings*

### *Honoring our Family and Friends*

*Daniel Joseph Sojka, Anthony M. Sojka, Jean Sojka, Norman E. Conway; Meta M. Conway; Cheri Henning; Catherine & Jim Righter, Katie & Gerard Oehler, Charlie & Cindy Redmon; Connie & Ken Henning; Holden & Kraus Families, Eugene Wolf, Sr.; Rosemary Schneider, Mary Schneider, Betty McElheny, Dolie & Herb Smith; Alice & Lucian Dombrowski, Suzie Nuwer, Bonnie Drake; Weeks & Malek Families, Gertrude Hayden, Joseph F. Sapia, Jr.; Raymond Gottstine, Paul & Dolores Hertel, Rose & John Mahoney, Richard Will, Norv Kranz, Ted Batycki, Robert & Martha Jane Tuttle, Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Kibler, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bowen, Mary & David Rjeman, Grant & David Rjeman, Robert O. Pehoda, Howard Parker, Sally Denesha, Joseph Denesha Sr.; Rose Denesha, Janetta Kulik, Frank Condello; Sam & Louise Maggio, Joseph & Emily Antkowiak; Marian & Robert Bull, Eunice & Fred Vitale, Anthony Vitale, Gladys Stroup, Dorothy & Bob Hartmetz, Ray Gottstine, Bob Gottstine, Louis Gottstine, Teresa Gottstine, Dziulko & Ruhland Families; Arthur Hider, Agnes & Bill Mazurczyk, Vincent Mazurczyk, George Rogers, Bea Rogers, Thomas Woodrow, Bea Woodrow, Pasquariello & Schwarzenholzer Families; Nemec & McGrath Families, Clarence & Esther Ling, Howard & MaryJean Ling, John & Adam Sikora, Richard & Norma Hartman, Gary McKale, Kathy Tullar, Molloy, Dengler, & VanTassel Families, James & Tillie Wagner, Daniel Wagner, Ruth & John Kreutzer, Ken & Lucille Fierle, Bob & Jimmie Wagner & Kenry Fierle*

*Thank you for your generous offerings  
to beautify our Church this Christmas season.*