

Mass for the Intentions for the Week

Sun. December 7

8:00am - Deacon Ronald Walker

9:30am - Dennis Riley

by Margaret and Aaron

Sun. December 14

8:00am - Deacon Ronald Walker

9:30am - Dennis Riley

by Margaret and Aaron

Mass is the highest and greatest form of prayer. Contact the office to request a Mass for yourself, a loved one or for an intention, The offering is \$15.

Please check for a specific date.

Special Intentions Prayer for Our Parish

- ◆ Our Deceased Members
- ◆ Our 1st Responders,
- ◆ Health Care Workers
- ◆ Our Military Personnel
- ◆ All those in need of our prayers especially our sick & shut-ins : Jessica Allen, Alice Bragg, Shirley Hargro, Margie Lewis, Karl Magby, Jewel Marshall, Louise Nolley, Josephine Williams & Elise Wilson.



December Lectors

8:00am Mass

December 7- Stephen William

December 14 - Luke Dyer

December 21 - Andre Allen

December 28 - Barbara Smith

Christmas

December 25 - 8pm—Alice Bragg

9:30am Mass

December 7 - Margaret Braun

December 14 - Youth

December 21 - Lurita Boyd

December 28 - Ndidi Nwaburwu

Toy Drive by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Peter Claver will be collecting books and toys for children ages 10 to 14 in collaboration with St. Lawrence Vineyard Ministries. There is a collection bin located in the Gathering Space.

Deadline - December 14th, with distribution of items on Dec. 20th. At Blessed Trinity between 9am-12n

The Women's Guild will be collecting new undergarments for men and women in support of young adults transitioning out of Foster Care. Larger sizes greatly appreciated. Thank you, Marianne Partee & Laurie Alford

The Diocese of Buffalo-Office of Cultural Diversity

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FORMS

Applications available in the Gathering Space.

Application time has been extended to December 8, 2025

Lessons and Carols - Sat., Dec. 20th at 2:00 p.m. at Blessed Trinity so you can watch the game. Please join us as we tell the story of the birth of our Savior through scripture and song - it's a great way to focus on the true meaning of Christmas before the big rush - plus, there will be cookies! See flyer posted in the Information Corridor.

Subs 'N Suds Lecture Series The Vatican Position on the "Two State Solution" January 12, 2026 Supper 5:30 PM Lecture 6:30 PM at Blessed Trinity Lecture and Discussion Dennis Castillo, PhD Professor of Church History St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore

Christmas Volunteers Needed

Because Christmas is on a Thursday and the Church will close early on Christmas Eve. Flowers are scheduled to be delivered on Monday, Dec. 22nd, volunteers will be needed to decorate on Tuesday, Dec. 23rd @ 9am. If your schedule allows, please volunteer to prepare the Church for Christmas. Please sign up.

Readings for the Week of

December 7, 2025

Sun., Dec. 7 - Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Mon., Dec. 8 - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary-[Holyday of Obligation]
Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tues., Dec. 9 - Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14

Wed., Dec. 10 - Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30

Thurs. Dec. 11 - Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15

Fri., Dec. 12 - Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a,
10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Sat., Dec. 13 - Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sun., Dec. 14 - Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10
/Mt 11:2-11

The Albert Lenhard Scholarship

Application is now available in the Gathering Space. The completed application and the Personal Statement Essay should be sent to the Office of Cultural Diversity/ Social Justice, 795 Main St, Buffalo, NY 14203 to the attention of Sister Roberta Fulton, SSMN, by Monday, December 8, 2025.

There will be a 2nd collection next Sunday, Dec. 14th for Retirement for the Religious. Please be generous.

We want to express our thanks to you for your donations to replacing our church carpet. Through your generous response, our goal was reached.

Parish Financial Information
*Weekly Totals Include E-Giving

November Collections

	Regular Collection	Martin's Future	Diocese Collection
November 2,	\$2,401.00	\$975.00	\$20.00
November 9	\$2,562.00	\$1,213.00	10.00
November 16	\$2,594.00	\$682.00	\$188.00
November 23	\$1,991.00	\$1,185.00	\$182.00
November 30	\$2,467.00	\$735.00	0.00
Total Income	\$9,548.00	\$4,790.00	\$400.00

Are you unable to get to Mass? Do you know someone who cannot join us on the weekend? Or would like home visits and Holy Communion? Are you aware of someone who would like a visit? Please let the office know or complete the survey form found on the information table at the ramp entrance. Though this is an ongoing effort to identify individuals who would like a visit from someone in the parish family, you are encouraged to let us know as soon as possible so that we can plan. Please place the completed forms in the collection basket.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC – BENEATH THE SURFACE

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini reflection: It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

Culturally Catholic

Catholic culture is so thick, you could spread it on a scone. Or a baguette. Or a slice of ciabatta bread. Or naan (Wait, do you put butter on naan? I would, because I'm Midwestern, but I sense that this is, perhaps, incorrect).

Okay, maybe my comparison is imperfect, but what I'm saying is this: Catholic culture is delicious, it's versatile, and it's nourishing. It's the same everywhere, even though it also looks and feels totally unique in every place. The Day of the Dead in Mexico, Simbang Gabi in the Philippines, St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, Meskel in Ethiopia, Semana Santa processions in Spain: these are all touchstones of Catholic culture.

It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But today, when I hear John the Baptist's words to the Pharisees and the Sadducees, I am reminded that Catholicism is so much more than just cultural expression.

The Pharisees and Sadducees were loyal sons of Abraham and scrupulous observers of the law of Moses. Their culture, you could say, was strong. But John the Baptist is telling them — and he's telling us — that culture isn't enough.

Actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

It's something to remember especially as we approach Christmas, a time when culture and cultural rituals become so (beautifully) prominent. In the cultural practice of Christmas, we are like the Wise Men approaching the manger, bearing our gifts. But how terrible would it have been if the wise men had hurried away, their culture expressed, their ritual complete, and gone back to the world unchanged by the gaze of the Infant?

So be culturally Catholic. Bring these gifts to the Christ Child — but linger there. Reflect. And then when you return to the world, you will bring Catholic culture with you.

"At A Glance"

Family 21 Events Calendar

Mon., Dec. 8 - Immaculate Conception - Holy Day Mass @ Blessed Trinity—7pm

Fri., Dec. 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass @ Ss. Columba Brigid @7pm.

Sat., Dec. 13 - "Magnificat" the Rwandan Choir @ Holy Cross-345 7th St., Buffalo @ 4pm. (see flyer posted)

Sat., Dec. 20th - "Lessons and Carols" @ Blessed Trinity at 2pm.

Wed., Dec. 24th - Christmas Eve Mass

- ♦ Ss. Columba-Brigid - 6pm
- ♦ St. Martin de Porres - 8pm
- ♦ Blessed Trinity - 10pm

Thurs., Dec. 25th - Christmas Day Mass

- ♦ Ss. Columba-Brigid - 10am
- ♦ Blessed Trinity - 10am

Wed., Dec. 31st - New Years Eve

Ss. Columba-Brigid - 11pm

Thurs., Jan. 1st - New Years Day - Blessed Trinity - 10am

Mon., Jan. 12th - "Subs 'N Suds" Lecture Series- "The Vatican Position on the "Two State Solution" - Blessed Trinity @6:30pm. (see flyer posted)

Sun., Jan. 18th - Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mass at St. Martin de Porres at 9:30am. There will not be an 8am Mass on this day.

Holiday Poinsettia's for sale.

Fresh from the Greenhouse! Small 4" pot \$6.00, Medium 6" pot - \$9.00.



**To be delivered in December.
See or call Helen Smith-Porter
to place an order.
Home # -716-626-6651**

Road to Renewal Update

I was notified this past Monday that Fr. Felix Nyambe, OMI, has completed his tenure as pastor of Family 23 (Our Lady of Hope & Holy Cross). He departed Buffalo this past Thursday. We thank him for his presence and participation in ministry to our west side parishes, the sick, and to the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur. Fr. Quilin Bouzi, OMI, now assumes the leadership for these parishes. Familiar with Buffalo from his past ministry here, we can look forward to his leadership. Welcome back Fr. Quilin!

Fr. Bob