

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

**Sun. Nov. 24**  
 8:00am - All Souls  
 9:30am - Alberta Hood Williams  
 by Katherine Williams

**Sun. Dec. 1**  
 8:00am - All Souls  
 9:30am - Anola Malik Lyons  
 by Katherine Williams

2025 dates are now available to have Masses said for loved ones and special intentions. Please arrange with the church office.

**December Lectors**

**8:00am Mass**

December 1 - Stephen Williams  
 December 8 - Luke Dyer  
 December 15 - Andre Allen  
 December 22 - Barbara Smith  
 December 29 - Pat Dyer

**9:30am Mass**

December 1 - Cynthia Davis  
 December 8 - Holy Name Society  
 December 15 - Lurita Boyd  
 December 22 - Alice Bragg  
 December 29 - Nikkei Goodwin

**Readings for the Week of November 24, 2024**

Sun., Nov. 24 - Dn 7:13-14/Rv 1:5-8  
 /Jn 18:33b-37e

Sun., Dec. 1 - Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12—4:2  
 /Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Mon., Dec 2 - Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11

Tues., Dec 3 - Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24

Wed., Dec 4 - Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37

Thurs. Dec 5 - Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Fri., Dec 6 - Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31

Sat., Dec 7 - Is 30:19-21, 23-26  
 /Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8


Sun., Dec. 8 - Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11  
 /Lk 3:1-6

**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 : Lula Bell, Robert Brown, Kathryn Chatmon, Shirley Hargro, Robert Harper, Susan Hutchins, Margie Lewis, Karl Magby, Jewel Marshall, Antionette (Tonie) Newton, Vanessa Newton, Louise Nolley, Mary Preston, Helen Washington, & Josephine Williams.

**The Holy Name Society is offering a beautiful ornament memorializing our church.**

*Available for \$25 each, buy four get one free!. To reserve one, please complete your order, please fill out the form found in the Gathering Space*

 **Toys for Tots** has been a project of St. Lawrence Parish for many years.

St. Lawrence Vineyard Ministries is continuing the tradition. Applications are available from Pat or Luke Dyer, Paula Hunt, Kristen Bell-Singletary, and the food pantries at Blessed Trinity and Schiller Park.

The distribution will be on December 21, in St. Charles Hall at Blessed Trinity. If you need assistance with toys for Christmas (including teens through age 17,) please see one of these and get your application with any required documents completed by Dec. 7.

Thank you & Merry Christmas

 **Volunteers are needed In decorating the church for Christmas on Sat., December 21 @ 10am. Please help.**



**Road to Renewal Update**

A Family 21-23 blending meeting took place on Wednesday, November 13th. Without final word on the makeup of our new blended family, we forged ahead discussing what we can do at this point. The following initiatives were agreed upon: (1) Develop information-sharing avenues, for example, a blended website or calendar to better share information about events, liturgies, etc. (2) Institute a common prayer to be prayed with and for each other, (3) Together in Song Christmas Caroling and Social event at Holy Cross on Friday, January 10th 2025 at 7 PM organized with the help of the diocesan Church Musicians Guild, (4) Encourage our individual parish membership to visit the other parishes in our Family 21-23 for liturgies, events, etc. Pillar Groups will be asked to help institute these initiatives as appropriate. Gratitude was expressed to the Order of Mary Immaculate (OMI) for their recommitment of priests to serving in the Diocese of Buffalo, most especially in our West Side parishes.

Fr. Bob Gebhard  
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**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

November 24, 2024 - Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

When I was a young boy in Burlington, Vermont, my dad had a good friend named Phil who owned a sporting goods store. I loved sports, so meandering the treasure-filled aisles was an unmitigated joy. One afternoon, we were shopping for a baseball glove. Dad said to me, "Hey Johnny, see that man who just walked into the store? That's Phil." I remember being fascinated and a little terrified. I recall thinking, "That man right there is in charge of everything in this store!" He reigned over every ball, sneaker, jersey, and sweat suit. Phil became a family friend. And he was a good owner. The store flourished, and I found myself even more at peace every time I went there. I felt a new hope and even responsibility for the store to flourish.

To say that Christ is the King of the Universe means that Jesus has absolute authority over everything in it. It should fill us with awe and fascination. He is in charge. The world and everything in it are finally his. Knowing that he knows and loves us should make us also feel a deep peace at being a part of his universe. This leads us to want his kingdom to flourish, to play some responsible role in it.

We advance his kingdom by promoting the truth. "Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice," Christ the King proclaims. In Phil's store, it was about the truth of athletics. In our world, it's all about the truth of all creation, especially the dignity of the human person, made by and for our loving God. Let's rejoice that we know the true king and commit to the flourishing of his kingdom.

— Father John Muir  
 ©LPi

<b>Parish Financial Information</b>			
<b>*Weekly Totals Include E-Giving</b>			
<b>November 2024</b>			
	<b>Regular Collection</b>	<b>Martin's Future</b>	<b>Diocese Collection</b>
Nov. 3	\$3,590.00	\$880.00	\$27.00
Nov. 10	\$3,181.00	\$675.00	\$5.00
Nov. 17	\$2,229.00	\$400.00	\$103.00
Nov. 24			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$9,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,955.00</b>	<b>\$135.00</b>

**(The Catholic Question Box)** Do you have a question for "The Catholic Question Box?" Send an email to: [patricia-dyernp@gmail.com](mailto:patricia-dyernp@gmail.com) or place your question in the collection, and someone from your parish will get it passed on.) or place your question in the collection, and someone from your parish will get it passed on.) . Have questions about becoming a Catholic? Email Dcn. Mike and have a conversation. [deaconmike716@gmail.com](mailto:deaconmike716@gmail.com)

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 During the month of November, we remember our **Faithful Departed. The Book of Remembrance** is located in the front of the church near the Baptismal font.  
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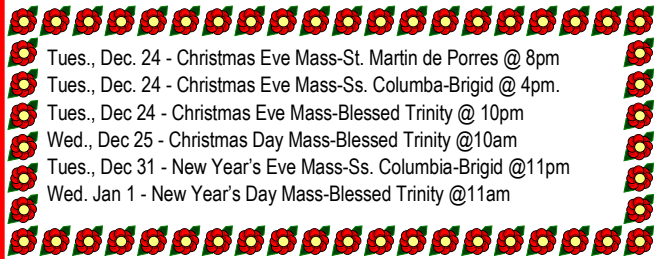
**This weekend marks the beginning of Advent** – a time of reflection, prayer and great anticipation for Jesus, the Light of the World, to arrive. During this special time, you can act as a light and a beacon of HOPE for those in need. This Advent, consider a drive to help our neighbors in Western New York. Good items for consideration are non-perishable and unexpired food items, toiletries, diapers, menstrual products, paper towels and cleaning supplies. Food items can be dropped off at any of Catholic Charities' nine food pantries during regular pantry hours, which can be found at [www.ccnny.org](http://www.ccnny.org). All other items can be dropped off by appointment at Ladies of Charity, 122 Broadway, Buffalo. Call 716-895-4001 to schedule an appointment. Join us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. If someone you know needs help, go to [www.ccnny.org](http://www.ccnny.org) or call 716- 218-1400.

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**The church office will be closed on Thursday, November 28, 2024, so we all can celebrate Thanksgiving with our family and friends.**



**Family 21 Events Calendar**

**Mon., Nov. 25** - Confirmation @ Ss. Columba-Brigid  
**Sat., Nov. 23** - Advent Retreat @ Ss. Columba-Brigid @ 10am  
**Wed., Nov. 27** - Thanksgiving Mass @ 7pm - Ss. Columbia Brigid. Please bring a non-perishable donation.

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**Tues., Dec. 24** - Christmas Eve Mass-St. Martin de Porres @ 8pm  
**Tues., Dec. 24** - Christmas Eve Mass-Ss. Columba-Brigid @ 4pm.  
**Tues., Dec 24** - Christmas Eve Mass-Blessed Trinity @ 10pm  
**Wed., Dec 25** - Christmas Day Mass-Blessed Trinity @10am  
**Tues., Dec 31** - New Year's Eve Mass-Ss. Columbia-Brigid @11pm  
**Wed. Jan 1** - New Year's Day Mass-Blessed Trinity @11am

**Sun., Jan. 19** - Martin Luther King Mass - St. Martin de Porres  
**Sun., Mar. 2** - Women's Guild - "Fat Tuesday" @ St. Martin de Porres after 8am & 9:30 Mass.  
**Sun., May 4** - Women's Guild celebrates "Wear White-Women's Day" 8am & 9:30am Mass

\*Flyers are located in Gathering Space

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**Advent Retreat: A Light, a Hope, and a Promise.** Isaiah and the prophets offered to all who dwell in darkness a great LIGHT. John the Baptist offered people in distress a sign of HOPE. Mary of Nazareth exercised the PROMISE of her faith. This changed life for the characters of Christmas and can also change life for us. Join us as we prepare for Advent and Christmas with presenter Dennis Mahaney in the hall at Ss. Columba-Brigid at 10 AM on Saturday, November 23. \$10 includes brunch. Please sign up so that we have enough food.  
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**Is caregiving through the holidays getting you down?** Join us at 6:30 PM on November 26 at Ss. Columba-Brigid for a presentation by the Alzheimer's Association to learn how to navigate the holidays when a loved one has dementia. Flyers with more details are now available.  
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**Confirmation:** You are invited to join Family 21 at Ss. Columba-Brigid as we celebrate Confirmation on Nov. 25, 2024 at 7 PM. We have 18 candidates this year. Please pray for them.  
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The feast of the **Immaculate Conception** is Monday, December 9. It is a Holy Day with an obligation to attend Mass. We celebrate at Blessed Trinity beginning at 6 PM with our Advent Penance Service followed by Mass. Mass will be bi-lingual and there will be bi-lingual priests for private confessions.

**Protecting God's Children**  
**Update for December 2024 is now available.**  
**"Our Mission to Protect vulnerable Adults"**