

† † † **MASS INTENTIONS** † † †

Monday, January 15

9:00 AM Intentions of John Czacher

Req. by Ann Czacher

Tuesday, January 16

8:00 AM + Irene Kujawa

Req. by Daughter, Terri

Wednesday, January 17

8:00 AM Members Of Our Faith Community

Thursday, January 18

8:00 AM + Polly & + John Naibo

Req. by Alice Zacharewicz

Friday, January 19

8:00 AM Health of Millie Zimmerman

Req. by Friends at 8:00 AM Mass

Saturday, January 20

8:00 AM Intentions of John & Florence Czachor

Req. by Ann Czachor

4:00 PM + Clarissa Ott

Req. by Dave & Chris Young

Sunday, January 21

8:30 AM + Mary Ann Krawiec

Req. by The Robertson Family

11:00 AM + Frances Wasielewski

Req. by Jim & Joyce Cackovich & Family

6:00 PM + Fr. Simeon

Req. by Annie Soyka

OUR FAITH COMMUNITY'S GIFT TO GOD

January 6/7, 2018

Attendance. 559

Regular Offering. \$6,468

Initial Offering. \$377

Regular Offering same Sunday last year \$4,700

From Fr. Ross: Please remember that I am very aware of all the sacrifices you make and that what you contribute I consider as your offering to the Lord and something very sacred. Thank you for the continued support and generosity you offer to your parish family. May God bless you always.

**2017 STATEMENT OF OFFERINGS TO
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH**



A statement of offerings to the parish, for tax purposes for the year 2017, is available to registered parishioners. Please call the office if you wish to receive a copy of your offerings for 2017. **Statements will be mailed only to those requesting a copy.**

THE VIGIL CANDLE

This week the Vigil Candle gives light to our Church for Frank & Carrie Agro, requested by Joe & Carol DiStefano. If you would like to make a donation (\$10) for a vigil candle in memory of someone (living or deceased) or for a special intention, please fill out the form below. It can be returned via the mail, parish office or placed in the collection basket at Mass. Each week there is one candle available for the Church and two for the Friary.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Intention _____

Friary

Church

Checks should be made payable to *St. Francis Church*

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK



Marie Brittain, Patricia Brown, George Bussi, Michele Chmura, Gerald Davis, Jeffrey Garringer, Carol Gasinski, Lillian Hosie, Helen Jurewicz, Rita LaBasco, Mary Ann Lasker, Alex Lissitschenko, Christine

Lopinski, Mary Jo Monheim, Meghan Quinn, Evelyn Rutkowski, Betty Schaefer, Jack Schultz, Terry Swift, Ed Szarowicz, Cynthia Towne, Daniel Weiss, Christopher Winkleman, and all others who are ill or suffering. *It is very important that the Parish Office be notified if a family member is in the hospital.* By law, the hospitals may no longer call the Church to inform us when someone is hospitalized. Please contact Sharon Gruver, our parish secretary, if you would like to place the name of someone on our *Sick List*. Unless we are notified otherwise, the names will remain on the list for one month.

IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE IS ILL

If you or someone in your family is ill, homebound, in the hospital or a nursing home, please let us know. We have members of our Faith Community who would love to visit and bring Holy Communion. However, we need you to call us. Too often we find out after the fact. We also have a Monthly Newsletter that we send out to those who cannot join us at church. Again, please give us a call!

HOLY NAME BINGO

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

Up to \$2,500 Progressive

Food, snacks & drinks available

Join us if you are able. Bring a friend or two



January

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- January 15:** **Martin Luther King's Birthday**
Parish Office Closed
Altar & Rosary Society Pierogi Making—9:00 AM (Kitchen)
Scouts Venture Crew Meeting—6:30 PM (Meeting Room 1)
Pastoral Care & Social Outreach Committee Meeting—7:00 PM (Parish Office Meeting Room)
Boy Scout Meeting—7:30 PM (Gym)
- January 17:** **Altar & Rosary Society Pierogi Making**—9:00 AM (Kitchen)
Prayer Shawl Ministry—10:30 AM (Library)
Adult Sacramental Program (RCIA)—7:00 PM (Parish Office Meeting Room)
Bingo—7:30 PM (Social Center)
- January 18:** **Yoga**—10:00 AM (Meeting Room 1)
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Meeting—5:30 PM (Meeting Room 1)
Civil Air Patrol—7:00 PM (Gym, Meeting Room 1)
- January 19:** **Sanctity of Life Ministry**—8:00 AM (Church)
Altar & Rosary Society Pierogi Making—9:00 AM (Kitchen)
Open Gym—7:00 PM (Gym)
- January 20:** **Lottery Ticket Sales**—Before/After 4:00 PM Mass
Altar & Rosary Pierogi Making—9:00 AM (Kitchen)
- January 21:** **Lottery Ticket Sales**—Before/After All Masses
Faith Formation Confirmation Session 4 9:15 AM (Meeting Room 1) / **Mass** 11:00 AM

LOTTERY TICKETS

Next week the folks on the Lottery Committee will be available in the front vestibule of the church to assist you in purchasing lottery tickets. Please stop and buy a ticket or two and help support our parish. A ticket is still only \$5.00!



HAVE YOU JOINED FORMED YET?

Take advantage of wonderful movies, great bible studies, and wholesome Catholic content on **Formed.org**. Register with our Parish Code 7Q378B

ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEE AWARENESS SUNDAY



Join us to celebrate five years of welcoming Asylum seekers as part of our Faith Community here at St. Francis by attending our Awareness Mass and Reception with Bishop Richard Malone. This event will take place Saturday, January 27 at 4:00 P.M. Mass. A reception will follow in the Social Center with a meet and greet with the Bishop and Peace House residents and alumni. You will also have the opportunity to tour the Peace House.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & YOUTH PROGRAMS

Next weekend, January 20/21, there will be a special collection for our Religious Education and Youth Programs. Any donation would be appreciated. These monies help fund speakers, youth conventions, field trips, and any extras we purchase. Thank you in advance for your support. If not monetarily please support us with prayers. For those of you who use e-giving, this collection will become active and open for donations on January 17 and remain active through January 22.

CONGRATULATIONS



We would like to congratulate the following students for receiving their Confirmation from Fr. Ross on December 30, 2017, at the 4:00 p.m. Mass: Abigail Donaldson, Scott Flowers, Matthew Janciewicz, Claire Syracuse. It was a very moving celebration welcoming the newly Confirmed and showing appreciation to their parents for being their "hero's." May God bless these awesome, spirit filled, families. Look for pictures on our website.

CHORAL WORKSHOP

On Tuesday, February 6 at 7:00 PM, St. John XXIII Parish, 1 Arcade St., West Seneca, will host Dr. Adam Luebke, conductor of the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus. The topic will be Singing in Style—Empowering Versatile Musicians. This event is co-sponsored by the Church Musicians Guild and the Buffalo Chapter of The American Guild of Organists.

JANUARY 15

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Monday, January 15 Mass will be at 9:00 AM. Also, please note that the Parish Office will be closed for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENING

"MARDI GRAS"



On Tuesday, February 13 we invite all our volunteers (Liturgical Ministers, Committee and Council Members, Fundraisers, Society Members, Catechists, Decorators, Garden Angels, Pierogi Makers, etc.) to join us for an evening of appreciation and fellowship. We will begin with a short Pre-Lenten Prayer Service in church at 7:00 PM and then move over to the Social Center for some light refreshments and fellowship. This will be a good time to get together with all those who work for the good of our Faith Community and who are essential to the continued growth of our Parish. Volunteers and their immediate family members are invited to join us for the evening.



PASTORAL CARE AND SOCIAL OUTREACH

Our Pastoral Care and Social Outreach Committee will be meeting on Monday, January 15 at 7:00 PM in the Parish Office Meeting group. The Committee is composed of Faith Community members who desire to try to put into practice Jesus' mandate and commandment to take care of our brothers and sisters in need. We are always looking for those who are interested and/or feel called to take this next step in putting real flesh on the Gospel by reaching out to others and see how we can offer opportunities for all the members of our Faith Community to serve others. Please join us.

BAPTISMS



We usually have our Baptisms on the last weekend of the month. If you have a newborn and would like more information, please call the parish office for our *Baptismal Guidelines*. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Ross.

OUR PARISH COMMITTEES

One of the ways that you can participate more fully in the life of our Faith Community is through the committees. We have lots! The committees are: **Faith Formation and Evangelization; Finance and Buildings; Liturgy, and Pastoral Care and Social Outreach.** We also have the Prayer Shawl ministry, the Pierogi makers and the Garden Angels. There are the Altar and Rosary and Holy Name Societies. All the above are always seeking new members to enrich their respective groups. You do not have to be an "expert" to join! The groups, committees and organizations usually meet once a month, excluding July and August. Please give prayerful consideration to becoming more involved in our Faith Community.



PIEROGI SALES START JANUARY 31!



We will begin our 2018 session with sales beginning January 31.. Sales will take place in the Social Center on **Wednesdays and Saturdays** from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The three varieties, Farmers Cheese, Sauerkraut, and Potato & Cheddar are \$10.00 per dozen / \$5.00 per half dozen. Large orders must be ordered in advance by calling Geri Koss at 627-5680. Sales will end on March 24 or until sold out. If you wish to volunteer in the pierogi kitchen you are most welcome!

MSGR. MAGUIRE SCHOLARSHIP

ESSAY CONTEST 2018

This contest is sponsored annually by the Holy Name Society. It is open to all Catholic students in their Senior Year in the Diocese of Buffalo, in Public and Private or Diocesan High Schools during the 2017 and 2018 Academic Year. Each contestant must write an essay in length of 500 to 600 words on the topic of: ***"What would you do and say, if the Lord was knocking at your door today."*** All entries must be postmarked no later than April 20, 2018. Please call the Diocesan Union of Holy Name Societies at 716-847-2201 or 847-2202 for application.

MASS INTENTIONS

One way that we can remember a loved one or pray for a special intention is through the Mass Intention. The usual offering is \$15. While most times the person remembered has died, we can also pray for the living, for someone's health or for any special intention.



PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS AT MASS

Did you know that you may request to present the gifts at Mass? All you need to do is approach a "Greeter" and tell them you would like to present the gifts; you don't have to wait for them to come to you! There are three (3) gifts so depending on the number in your group you may need to join with someone else. So, please don't hesitate to speak with a Greeter, and request to carry the gifts.

SENSITIVE TO GLUTEN?

If you are sensitive to gluten and would like to receive Holy Communion, the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, after many years of research, have discovered a way to offer a "low gluten" host that is approved by both the Celiac community and the Catholic Church. Please see Fr. Ross before Mass to make the necessary arrangements. One can also receive the fullness of the Body and Blood of Jesus by receiving just from the chalice.

PARISH WEBSITE

If you haven't done so as yet, please check out our parish website at st.francischurch.us. There is lot of information about our Faith Community and all this is happening here at St. Francis. Your suggestions are welcome.

“I Am”—so says God & a Good Friend

A shoulder to lean on...

A hand to hold...

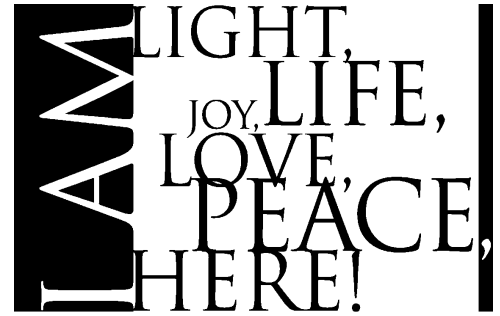
A smile to encourage you
when you feel low...

A finger to wipe away the tears
when you cry...

Arms to catch you
when you fall...

Legs to run
when you call...

Whatever you need—I am!



A helmet of faith to surround you
when doubts arise...

A chest plate of righteousness
to keep honor in your life...

A shield of truth to protect you
from the lies of the world...

A sword of strength to fight the battles
when you're too tired to fight...

Shoes to carry you into
the goodness of peace...

Whatever you need—I am!

A breeze to send you
a message of love...

A shadow very near
to be the person by your side...

A star to be
the twinkle in your eyes...

A sun to be
the brightness in your day...

A moon to be
Your guide in the night...

Whatever you need—I am!

