

† † † **MASS INTENTIONS** † † †

Monday, April 16

8:00 AM Intentions of Stanley & Suzanne Prorok
Req. by Rod Walas

Tuesday, April 17

8:00 AM + Rose Abramczyk
Req. by Grandson

Wednesday, April 18

8:00 AM Members Of Our Faith Community

Thursday, April 19

8:00 AM + Henry Dawidowicz
Req. by Genevieve Kulewski

Friday, April 20

8:00 AM Thaddeus Grela
80th Birthday
Req. by Helen Grela

Saturday, April 21

8:00 AM + Rose Kraska
Req. by Genevieve Kulewski

4:00 PM + Robert Baker

Req. by Harold & Trudy Beil

Sunday, April 22

8:30 AM + Ted & + Clara Milas-Krysinski
Req. by Daughter, MaryAnn

11:00 AM + Frank & + Josephine Nobile
(Anniversary)

Req. by Daughter, Jo Ann

6:00 PM + Walter & + Josephine Stempkowski
Req. by Granddaughter, Linda

THE VIGIL CANDLE

This week the Vigil Candle gives light to our Church in memory of + Hank & + Angelina DiStefano, 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, Carl Casper, Michele Chmura, Edward Cieslica, Jeffrey Colarz, Gerald Davis, Jeffrey Garringer, Carol Gasinski, Nicholas Horwood, Lillian Hosie, Helen Jurewicz, Thomas Kavinski, Charles Leavell, Alex Lissitschenko, Christine Lopinski, Mary Jo Monheim, Meghan Quinn, Evelyn Rutkowski, Betty Schaefer, Jack Schultz, Terry Swift, Ed Szarowicz, Lorraine Tomporowski, 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.

OUR FAITH COMMUNITY'S GIFT TO GOD

April 7/8, 2018

Attendance. 600

Regular Offering. \$5,516

Maintenance Collection. \$1,053

Regular Offering same Sunday last year \$5,358

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.

HELP US GROW THROUGH E-GIVING



During the Easter season, it is encouraging to see both new and familiar faces at our weekend Masses. Throughout the year, many of you already support the Parish with your time, talent and financial contributions, but greater participation is always welcome. We encourage you to look into our electronic giving program. It takes just a few minutes to set up a recurring giving plan. Visit the church website and locate the donation link.

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



20	42	59	62	
5	20	39	56	75
4	17	60	71	
11	18	32	61	66
15	19	36	47	69



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- April 16: **Cub Scouts Pack Meeting**—6:30 PM (Gym)
Scouts Venture Crew—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)
- April 18: **Prayer Shawl Ministry**—10:30 AM (Library)
Adult Sacramental Program (RCIA)—7:00 PM (Parish Office Meeting Room)
Bingo—7:30 PM (Social Center)
- April 19: **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)
- April 20: **Sanctity of Life Ministry**—8:00 AM (Church)
- April 21: **Faith Formation 3rd Grade Retreat--Banner Making / Church Search**—10:00 AM (Social Center, Church)
Spring Clothing Drive—4:00 PM (Social Center, Meeting Room 2)
Lottery Ticket Sales—Before/After 4:00 PM Mass
- April 22: **Lottery Ticket Sales**—Before/After All Masses
Spring Clothing Drive—8:00 AM (Social Center, Meeting Room 2)
Faith Formation Confirmation Session 5 with 11:00 Mass (Meeting Room 1, Church)

THANK YOU!

The Holy Name of Jesus Society would like to *Thank* the following businesses for their generous donations for our Fish Fry Dinners: Tops, McKinley—Tops, South Park Ave—Blasdell Pizza, Southwestern Blvd.—Wegmans, McKinley and B J's Wholesale Club.



We would also like to *Thank* everyone for supporting our Fish Fry Dinners during Lent. Whether you bought tickets, served, helped set-up or clean-up, we appreciate your help. A special *Thank You* to the Altar Rosary Ladies and all of their wonderful desserts and pierogies! Thank You!

SPRING CLOTHING DRIVE

Are you Spring Cleaning out your closets?

Do you want to donate your clothing?



Our Spring Clothing Drive is fast approaching and we can take your clothes off your hands. Saturday and Sunday, April 21/22, before and after all Masses, you can drop off your donations between the parish office and the social center. We accept all clothing sizes, bedding and towels that are in GOOD and CLEAN condition. Please do not donate dirty, torn or worn out clothing, shoes or bedding. Thank you for your donations! Any questions contact Jean or Allie at the Faith Formation office at 627-3357 or sfaredled@gmail.com

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!



CHURCHES IN ACTION

The next CIA Meeting has been scheduled for 7:00 PM Tuesday, April 17th at Sparks of Hope Recovery Center, 107 Main Street, Hamburg, New York 14075 The agenda includes: Sparks of Hope Moment for Mission, Review of Haiti Mission Trip, Loving Laura Project Update, and Planning for May Work Weekend—May 18 & 19. There is a lot to talk about and plan for so please join us



PASTORAL CARE AND SOCIAL OUTREACH

Our Pastoral Care and Social Outreach Committee will be meeting on Monday, April 16 at 7:00 PM in the Parish Office Meeting Room. 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.

WELCOME TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

On April 8 we welcomed into our Faith Community through the Sacrament of Baptism, Emerson Judith Zolnowski, Brayden Howard, Gianna Marie & Dominic Joseph Lovecchio, and Isabella Tucker. Please remember them and their families in your prayers. For information about Baptism, please contact the Parish Office.



WELCOME
TO THE
FAMILY

PLEASE, PLEASE, BE HERE!!!



Those of you who are registered here at St. Francis have received a letter from me concerning the diocesan-wide Mass Attendance Survey. We recently received information from the Bishop's office concerning an initiative that has to do with the number of Masses that are celebrated in the parishes throughout the Diocese. Bishop Malone has set in place a Task Force from the Priest Council to begin the process of each parish looking at its Mass schedule with an eye to adjusting the number of Masses celebrated on weekends. The proposed purpose of this is, when and where appropriate, to change the number of Masses due to the diminishing number of priests. To this end, this survey process will take place on the weekends of April 14/15, 21/22 & 28/29 in *all parishes of the Diocese*. As I shared with you in the letter, let's make the best of it by...

FIRST: *With the idea of firming up our own Mass schedule, it is important that we have as many people as possible attending the Masses on the weekends of April 14/15, 21/22 & 28/29. If you have a favorite Mass time(s), make sure you are present especially on those weekends.*

SECOND: *I was thinking that we could use this as an outreach or a WELCOME BACK initiative for those we know who have not been attending Mass on a regular basis or who have stopped going to Mass. Just imagine if each one of us was able to bring one person back to the regular participation in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Not only would it be great for the returning person, it would also help solidify the future of our Faith Community and our Mass schedule.*

I believe that our current Mass schedule suits us just right. Just so you know, that I truly enjoy being with you at all the Masses. We continue to be blessed to have Deacon Greg with us twice a month. I look forward to his celebrating with us and find that his homilies are truly inspirational and hit home for me and I am sure, for you.



ADULT MINI-CONFIRMATION PROGRAM



For adults who have been baptized in the Catholic Church, received First Communion but have not been confirmed, we will be having a special program for you on each of the Wednesdays in May from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated for our teens and adults on Thursday, June 7 at 7:00 PM. In order to participate in the program:

- ☞ One has to commit to all of the classes—no exceptions.
- ☞ Parish registration is required.
- ☞ Regular attendance as Mass is a must.
- ☞ One must be in compliance with regard to the Catholic Church's directives concerning marriage, living together, etc.
- ☞ Arrange for an interview with Fr. Ross.
- ☞ Fill out registration form after meeting with Fr. Ross.

If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Ross or Jean Hymes in the Faith Formation Office.

***THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER
FOR THE PROGRAM IS
FRIDAY, APRIL 27.***

A PRAYER FOR HEALING FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE

God of endless love, ever caring, ever strong, always present, always just: You gave your only Son to save us by his blood on the cross. Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace, join to your own suffering the path of all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them. Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters who have been gravely harmed, and the cries of those who love them. Sooth their restless hearts with hope, steady their shaken spirits with faith. Grant them justice for their cause, enlightened by your truth. Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and transform brokenness into wholeness. Grant us the courage and wisdom, humility and grace, to act with justice. Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors. Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



If you have been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church, please believe in the possibility for hope and help and healing. We encourage you to come forward and speak out. The Diocese of Buffalo has a victim assistance coordinator who is available to obtain support for your needs, to help you make a formal complaint of abuse to the Diocese and to arrange a personal meeting with the bishop or his representative, if you desire. The victim assistance coordinator for the Diocese of Buffalo is: Ms. Jacqueline Joy at Catholic Charities, 425 Main Street, Dunkirk, NY 14048 or jacqueline.joy@ccwny.org. Report Hotline (716) 895-3010. For assistance, contact Fr. Ross.

An Uplifting Easter Story

REFLECTIONS FROM FR. ROSS



In Phoenix, Arizona, a 26-year-old mother stared down at her 6 year old son, who was dying of terminal leukemia. Although her heart was filled with sadness, she also had a strong feeling of determination. Like any parent, she wanted her son to grow up and fulfill all his dreams. Now that was no longer possible. The leukemia would see to that. But she still wanted her son's dreams to come true.

She took her son's hand and asked, "Billy, did you ever think about what you wanted to be once you grew up? Did you ever dream and wish what you would do with your life?" Mommy, "I always wanted to be a fireman when I grew up." Mom smiled back and said, "Let's see if we can make your wish come true."

Later that day she went to her local fire department in Phoenix, Arizona, where she met Fireman Bob, who had a heart as big as Phoenix. She explained her son's final wish and asked if it might be possible to give her six-year-old son a ride around the block on a fire engine. Fireman Bob said, "Look, we can do better than that. If you'll have your son ready at seven o'clock Wednesday morning, we'll make him an honorary fireman for the whole day. He can come down to the fire station, eat with us, go out on all the fire calls, the whole nine yards! And if you'll give us his sizes, we'll get a real fire uniform for him, with a real fire hat-not a toy one-with the emblem of the Phoenix Fire Department on it, a yellow slicker like we wear and rubber boots. They're all manufactured right here in Phoenix, so we can get them fast."

Three days later Fireman Bob picked up Billy, dressed him in his fire uniform and escorted him from his hospital bed to the waiting hook and ladder truck. Billy got to sit on the back of the truck and help steer it back to the fire station. He was in heaven. There were three fire calls in Phoenix that day and Billy got to go out on all three calls. He rode in the different fire engines, the paramedic's van, and even the fire chief's car. He was also videotaped for the local news program. Having his dream come true, with all the love and

attention that was lavished upon him, so deeply touched Billy that he lived three months longer than any doctor thought possible.

One night all of his vital signs began to drop dramatically and the head nurse, who believed in the hospice concept that no one should die alone, began to call the family members to the hospital. Then she remembered the day Billy had spent as a fireman, so she called the Fire Chief and asked if it would be possible to send a fireman in uniform to the hospital to be with Billy as he made his transition. The chief replied, "We can do better than that. We'll be there in five minutes. Will you please do me a favor? When you hear the sirens screaming and see the lights flashing, will you announce over the PA system that there is not a fire? It's just the fire department coming to see one of its finest members one more time. And will you open the window to his room?"

About five minutes later a hook and ladder truck arrived at the hospital and extended its ladder up to Billy's third floor open window 16 firefighters climbed up the ladder into Billy's room. With his mother's permission, they hugged him and held him and told him how much they loved him.

With his dying breath, Billy looked up at the fire chief and said, "Chief, am I really a fireman now?" "Billy, you are, and the Head Chief, Jesus, is holding your hand," the chief said. With those words, Billy smiled and said, "I know, He's been holding my hand all day, and the angels have been singing.." He closed his eyes one last time.

Easter is time of hope and promise; it is a time of hope and transformation. We see that very clearly in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. What appeared on the outside as the end of dream, was actually the fulfillment of the promise that Jesus referred to so many times when he was with his disciples. Jesus reminds us that our lives are intertwined and that we all have a real part to play in one another's lives. While we might not be able to accomplish things in such a dramatic fashion as in the story above, we all can all help make each other's life a more meaningful and we can all help one another's dreams to come true.