

Most Precious Blood

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Motto:

Let us do little things with great love.



22 PROSPECT ST., ANGOLA, NY 14006

Phone: 716-549-0420 Fax: 716-549-0425 Email: rectory14006@gmail.com Website: www.mpbangola.org

Lakeshore Catholic Faith Community

Pastor.....Rev. Timothy Koester

Pastor Emeritus.....Rev. John Kwiecien

Parochial Vicars

Rev. Ross Syracuse -- Rev. Michael Johnson
Rev. Johnson Machado

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Joseph Gray -- Deacon Bill Walkowiak
Deacon Neal Linnan -- Deacon Stephen Schumer

* * * * *

MPB Parish Staff

Pastoral Care.....Elizabeth Emhof (716-262-4782)

Trustees.....Elizabeth Duzen & Conrad F. Piskorz

Business Manager.....Mary Lou McEvoy

RCIA.....Marie O'Connor (716-549-1818)

Faith Formation.....(716-549-1818)

Liturgy Ministries Coordinator.....Corinne Best

Parish Secretary.....Pat Maiorana

Sacristan.....Diann Hosler

Parish Council Chair.....John Latimore

MPB Rectory Office Hours

Monday & Friday.....9:00 a.m. -- 1:00 p.m.

SCAN HERE
FOR
PARISH WEBSITE



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil:4:00 p.m.

Sunday:.....8:00 a.m.

Weekdays: Monday, Wednesday, Friday:.....8:00 a.m.

SACRAMENTS

Infant Baptism: During weekend Masses. Parents must be practicing Catholics and attend a Pre-Baptismal Class. Call the rectory office to register.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): Call the rectory office.

Reconciliation (Confessions): Tuesdays 5:30-6:30 p.m. or by appointment, in the Chapel.

Marriage: Couples contemplating marriage must make an appointment to meet personally with the Pastor before a definite wedding date may be scheduled. Church arrangements should be made at least 6 months prior to the wedding. No wedding date will be scheduled over the phone.

Anointing of the Sick: Anyone who is seriously ill is invited to contact the rectory to request the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion.

Parish Devotions

Holy Hour with Eucharistic Adoration : Wednesdays: immediately after morning Mass.

First Friday Devotions and Benediction: 8:30-11:00 a.m.

Letters of Recommendation: Registered parishioners in good standing for a minimum of 3 months and active, who are confirmed, and if married, did so in accordance with the Church's regulations, will be issued letters on request. One week prior notice is required.

New Parishioners: We welcome you warmly. Please register at the rectory office as soon as you arrive



Saturday, February 24

Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM - Joyce "Tootsie" Tomaka - req. Christine
Burgin

Sunday, February 25 - Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM - John Sack - req. Family

Monday, February 26

8:00 AM - Mary Ann Balon - req. Niece Michelle Marie
Balon

Wednesday, February 28-

8:00 AM - People of the Parish

Friday, March 1

8:00 AM - Richard Bogdan - req. Wife Vern

Saturday, March 2

Vigil: Third Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM - Peter Scaglione - req. Family

Sunday, March 3 - Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM - Howard & Shirley Kaiser - req. Kathie &
Don Mogavero

In your prayers, please pray for the deceased of the parish.

When a weekend Mass is celebrated in the intention of a loved one, please inform one of the ushers that you would like to bring up the gifts in the offertory procession.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25



GENESIS 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

PSALM 116

ROMANS 8:31b-34

MARK 9:2-10

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 3

EXODUS 17:3-7

PSALM 95

ROMANS 5:1-2, 5-8

JOHN 4:5-42

A Vocation View

Peter, James and John hiked up a mountaintop with Jesus, and so do those who are called to follow the Apostles' footsteps in the priesthood. If God is calling you, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716 - 847 -5535 or visit buffalovocation.org.



A Message from the Pastor

Second Sunday of Lent: Bonds Loosed

On the second Sunday of Lent, the Gospel reading proclaims the story of Jesus' Transfiguration. This year, in Mark's report, the Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his passion. There is also a discussion of the cost of discipleship. The Lenten season continues today with another story of testing.

Last Sunday, we heard the trial of Jesus in the desert. In this week's First Reading, we hear of how Abraham was put to the test. The Church has always read this story as a sign of God's love for the world in giving His only-begotten son. In today's Second Reading, Paul uses exact words drawn from this story to describe how God, like Abraham, did not withhold His only Son, but handed Him over for us on the Cross.

In the Gospel today, too, we hear another echo. Jesus is called God's "beloved Son" as Isaac is described as Abraham's beloved son. These readings are given to us in Lent to reveal Christ's identity and to strengthen us in the face of our afflictions.

Jesus is shown to be the true son that Abraham rejoiced to see. In His transfiguration, He is revealed to be the "prophet like Moses" foretold by God, raised from among their own kinsmen, speaking with God's own authority. Like Moses, He climbs the mountain with three named friends and beholds God's glory in a cloud. He is the one prophesied to come after Elijah's return. And, as He discloses to the Apostles, He is the Son of Man sent to suffer and die for our sins.

As we sing in today's Psalm, Jesus believed in the face of His afflictions, and God loosed Him from the bonds of death. His rising should give us the courage to face our trials, to offer ourselves totally to the Father, as He did, as Abraham and Isaac did.

In His Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection; Jesus instructs the disciples to keep secret what they have seen until after the Son of Man has risen from the dead. The disciples cannot possibly understand Jesus' Transfiguration until they also witness his passion and death.

We hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection, as we prepare to remember Jesus' passion and death. Freed from death by His death, we come to this Mass to offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and to renew our vows as His servants and faithful ones.

Choicest Blessings,

Fr. Tim

-- A Lenten Reflection --

Tuesday, February 27 -- St. Francis
6:00 p.m. -- in the Church



Pray For the Healing of the Sick

Diane Cooke, Eugene Frometa, Jane Granville, Pauline Landes, Karen Schiavone, Vigo Meyer, Linda Muscato, Anthony Genovese, Fran Downey, Dorothy Genovese, Lucille Zoda Galfo, Joseph Schiavone, Marlene Petrie, Antoinette Pinter, Kim Borkowski, Anna Geidel, John Yerney, Mary Ann Hartzell, Evelyn Paradiso, Carol Penski, Joyce Prisco, Karen Young.

St. Patrick Day Party at MPB

MPB's St Patrick Day Party will take place Sunday, March 3 from 4:00 until 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.



A corned beef dinner or a Reuben sandwich will be served with desserts, coffee, tea and soft drinks. A cash bar will also be available.

Live entertainment will consist of music by the Panfil Brothers and a performance by the Rince na Tiarna Irish Dancers. Ticket donations are \$25 and tables of eight or more may be reserved. For tickets or more information, call the Parish Office at 716-549-0420.

Southtowns Catholic to Host Gala



Southtowns Catholic School of the parish of St. John Paul II will host its annual charity event, which this year has as its theme *A Night at Gatsby's*. It will take place Friday, April 12 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Michael's Catering and Banquets, 4885 Southwestern Blvd., Hamburg. All are invited and encouraged to dress in the style of the '20s. Tickets are \$125 and may be reserved at the school office or on the website (www.southtownscatholic.org).

The evening will feature entertainment, games, food, beverages, auctions and Best Dressed award. The grand prize is a trip to a European place of your choice with \$1500: Paris, Madrid, Prague, Vienna or Rome. Second prize is your choice of Key West, Cancun, Jackson Hole or Lake Tahoe with \$500.

Family businesses of the communities of Southtowns Catholic and the Lakeshore Catholic Faith will be showcased. All auction items donated by members of each group will be displayed individually.

Split Club Drawing

Winner of the 2024 Spring Split Club's first drawing (the week of February 18) is **Kathy Brachmann** with ticket # 100.

2024 Split Club tickets are still available for purchase at the Rectory Office. The price of each ticket is \$60. Split Club members are eligible for 16 weekly drawings of \$75 each.



Road to Renewal Update

Southtowns Catholic School is doing well and open for registration. Invite a friend.

It appears rumors have arisen on Social Media and even from pulpits that "our school was closing." Our Vicar Foraine asked us to stop the rumor. "There are no schools closing in our Vicariate." Then on Friday the Diocese released the news that a parish and school were closing in the North Towns, and the rumors twist a little and then persist.

In our modern times rumors rule. People can only hear what they are able to hear; what mindset they are in is how they filter everything they hear. So if you deny a rumor and the slightest or similar aspect appears to come true, you are a liar; if you don't deny a rumor, it is automatically true because you did not deny it. Either way we find it easier to believe all rumors and be skeptical of everyone and all authority, then constantly question everything or demand explanations diverting us from the path we are on.

In his memoirs, *A Moveable Feast*, when he was having difficulty writing, Ernest Hemingway once explained: "I would stand and look out over the roofs of Paris and think, 'Do not worry. You have always written before and you will write now. All you have to do is write one true sentence. Write the truest sentence that you know.' So finally, I would write one true sentence, and then go on from there. It was easy then because there was always one true sentence that I knew or had seen or had heard someone say."

The Church has always and will always proclaim the truth as given to us from Jesus Christ. Sometimes we believers find ourselves in a position where our world and our life make it hard to see this; or we become burdened and overshadowed by chaos and rumors or even mishandlings of what we expect from others and even the Church.

The Road to Renewal is ripe for this and even infuriating some. I have tried to anticipate and put out here what we are doing, taking into account people's input, the Diocese Guidance and the Church's Mandate. We are working out of one true sentence. I invite each of us during this Lenten Season to not worry, proclaim one truth of Jesus Christ to someone else, and allow the Holy Spirit to continue to pour out truth through us.

Choicest Blessings,
Fr. Tim

Healing Mass

A Healing Mass will take place Wednesday, February 28 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Columba/Brigid Church, 75 Hickory St., Buffalo.

MPB Calendar

Saturday, February 24

4:00 p.m. - Vigil Mass

Sunday, February 25

8:00 a.m. - Sunday Mass
No Faith Formation

Tuesday, February 27

5:30 p.m. - Reconciliation - Chapel
6:00 p.m. - Lenten Reflection - St. Francis - Church

Wednesday, February 28

Following 8:00 Mass - Holy Hour - Chapel
10:30 a.m. - Bible Study - Annex
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study - Annex

Friday, March 1

8:30 a.m. - First Friday Devotions
5:00 p.m. - Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 2

4:00 p.m. - Vigil Mass

Sunday, March 3

8:00 a.m. - Sunday Mass
9:00 a.m. - Faith Formation (K-8) - Hall
4:00 p.m. - Irish Dinner - Hall
7:00 p.m. - Faith Formation (9-11) - Hall

Lenten Season Food/Paper Drive

MPB's drive to collect food, paper goods and personal care items to restock shelves at Operation Good Neighbor (OGN) continues until March 31. Goods turned over to OGN will be distributed to Town of Evans families in need.

Acceptable items are dry and canned foods only (e.g. soups, cereals, pasta and vegetables). Baby food and diapers are also in great demand. Examples of personal care items are Kleenex, paper towels, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo and bathroom tissue.

Please leave items in the red container at the Chapel entrance or call 716-481-4480 or 716-507-6703 for pick-up.

Catholic Men's Conference

The 2024 WNY Catholic Men's Conference will take place Saturday, March 9 at Cardinal O'Hara High School, 39 O'Hara Rd. Tonawanda. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. and the conference begins at 9:00.

The conference offers a day of prayer, fellowship and spiritual growth. Speakers are Deacon John Gaulin and Fr. Brian Zielenieski. There will also be a presentation by Mark Price who will speak about his role as St. Peter. Lunch will be provided.

To register, go to www.cmfofwny.org



2/18/24

Regular, Loose, Mailed in.....\$2,356.00
ACH.....\$360.00

Thank you for your support.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS
IN THE FAMILY OF PARISHES**

The celebration of the Stations of the Cross will take place in all of the parishes of the Family during Lent:

- St. Francis* - Fridays at 7:00 p.m.
- St. Mary of the Lake* - Fridays at 12:00 p.m.
- St. John Paul II* - Fridays at 9:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
- Most Precious Blood* - Fridays at 5:00 p.m.
- St. Anthony's* - Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

A LENTEN REFLECTION

Join Fr. Timothy Koester, Pastor, as he reflects on the Family's journey. You are invited to attend each session, which begins at 6:00 p.m. in the church: February 27 - *St. Francis*; March 5 - *St. Anthony*; March 12 - *St. Mary of the Lake*; March 19 - *St. John Paul II*.

Mission 2024

All are invited to register for the 2024 Mission at St. John Paul II, a seven-day Lenten retreat that takes place March 3-9. Each session features a speaker, discussion groups, music, a liturgical service and fellowship. Register online at: <https://www.jp2parish.org/mission-2024.html>

Operation Storm Heaven

The next Rosary date is Friday, March 1 at 5:30 p.m. in the Little Church of St. John Paul II. All are invited.

St. Francis HS Announces Events

Upcoming events announced by St. Francis High School are designed for those interested in applying to the school in the fall of 2024.

Saturday, March 2 at 8:30 a.m. - practice exam for 7th grade boys. **Tuesday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m.**- STEM Night - open to boys currently in grades 6, 7 or 8. Register for both events at www.stfrancishigh.org

For more information, call 716-627-1200 or email mail: admissions@stfrancishigh.org . St. Francis High School is located at 4129 Lake Shore Rd., Hamburg.

March 2 & 3	MPB Extraordinary Ministers	Lectors
4:00 p.m.	J. Sack, P. Pinto, F. Dybdahl,	R. Scaglione
8:00 a.m.	K. Wells, S. Vail, L. Feider,	J. Sedor