



Blessed Sacrament News

Vol 5 June 2021

1029 Delaware Avenue | Buffalo, NY | 716.884-0053

Parish Pastoral Council

Officers:

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Vice President

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Faith Formation



Welcome New Parishioners

During the last three months, April to June 2021, our Parish was blessed with the arrival of new parishioners! During this time 5 new households joined the parish. This represents 8 new parishioners: 7 adults and 1 child, 11 months old.

We would like to extend a **big, warm Blessed Sacrament "WELCOME" to our Faith Community and to the Elmwood Village neighborhood!** We all look forward to getting to know you and working with you in the years to come. In the meantime, we'd like to introduce you to some of these new parishioners. Make sure you greet them the next time you're both in church. Summertime is a great time to gather outside at the entrance of the church after Mass and get to know one another a little better.



Aurora, Marc, and Megan
Carlton

1) When did you join the parish? Why did you join?

We joined the parish on June 16, 2021. We had previously attended Immaculate Conception in East Aurora. We moved to the Elmwood Village recently and had the opportunity to talk to Fr. Joe about baptizing our baby girl, Rory. He was kind, welcoming and knowledgeable, which made us decide to join Blessed Sacrament.

2) After joining, what aspects of Blessed Sacrament's parish life do you especially like?

We just joined on June 16, but we are really looking forward to getting to know the community.

3) Who are the other members of your household? What are the occupations/employers of the adults?

Marc is an independent contractor who does sound design for video games and Megan works in the back office at M&T Bank focused on consumer strategy and segmentation. The third member of our household is our daughter, Aurora Carlton, soon to be 11 months old.

4) What do you look forward to in 2021 at Blessed Sacrament?

We look forward to baptizing Rory in the church and getting to know everyone in the community.



Patrick Gillick

1) When did you join the parish? Why did you join?

I joined the parish in June 2021. I had previously attended services in the Cornell University and Ithaca College Catholic communities. I recently moved back to Western New York and I now live around the corner. Being able to walk to Mass is amazing.

2) After joining, what aspects of Blessed Sacrament's parish life do you especially like?

The warm welcome and goodbye from the greeters really stands out. I haven't been to many parishes where there is a genuine and authentic greeting.

3) Who are the other members of your household? What are the occupations/employers of the adults?

I am the Executive Director of Little Portion Friary. I have multiple fish tanks and there are too many fish to name them.

4) What do you look forward to in 2021 at Blessed Sacrament?

Being able to walk to and from Mass and getting to meet everyone.



Blessed Sacrament News

Diocesan Road to Renewal: “Family of Parishes”

The Road to Renewal is the Buffalo Diocese’s program to revitalize the Church in Western New York given the many problems it has faced over the last several years, including a declining number of priests. You may have read articles in the newspaper, in our bulletin, or watched videos on YouTube about this program. Most recently, in our June 27th bulletin there was an excerpt from Bishop Fisher’s letter referencing the Family of Parishes. Under the June draft plan, Blessed Sacrament Church will be aligned in a single “family of parishes” with four other nearby churches: St. Louis Parish, St. Joseph Cathedral, St. Anthony of Padua Parish, and St. Michael Parish. Some basic information on the Family of Parishes model follows.

Family of Parishes:

A family of parishes will be a grouping of parishes that comes together to form a family. Each family will contain three to six parishes. The goal of the concept of families of parishes is to strengthen parishes, in light of the declining clergy numbers and other challenges. There is no plan to close any existing parish.

Advantages of the Family of Parishes Model:

- Each parish has gifts and talents that can benefit other parishes.
- Collaboration between parishes is important for a strong future.
- Priestly ministry becomes shared within the family.
- Better utilization of financial resources.

Family of Parishes does NOT mean:

- Closures
- Mergers
- Pooling of assets & resources

CURRENT TIMELINE: ROAD TO RENEWAL

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| June 2021: | Family of Parish draft distributed |
| Summer 2021: | Consultation Phase on draft of Families of Parishes |
| September 2021: | Pilot program with three Family of Parishes begins |
| September 2022: | Diocesan-wide implementation of Families of Parishes model |

Given the current timeline, we are in the *Consultation Phase*. Clerical and lay leaders of the parishes will be gathering to develop organizational and operational plans for that family of parishes. During this “consultative” phase, open dialogue, clear feedback, and active listening are all critical components. This process will take time. And, we need to pray that the Holy Spirit guides and enlightens all who are involved. For updates directly from the Diocese, go to www.roadtorenewal.org. We will keep you informed on developments that will shape our Family of Parishes.

Green Thumbs at Work!



The Green Thumb Ministry was established last year as one of several Parish Life Ministries. This past Spring, we have been able to see how such hard work, and definitely what having a green thumb means! Tim Weigel, Green Thumb Ministry chairperson, supervised a number of parishioners as they weeded, planted, and mulched beds around the church, rectory, carriage house, and grotto.

We extend a special thanks to the team of Green Thumbs: Tiffany Bentley, Celine and Sam LaDuca, Cathy Pitek, Peter Rizzo, and Carl Weigel. We also thank Matt Ferrell for organizing a team of Boy Scouts to remove weeds. If we inadvertently missed thanking anyone, please accept our deepest apologies. You can see the difference landscaping can make to our buildings and grounds. The Grotto is a great example.

Special appreciation goes out to Earl Knab of Rochester, NY. Earl is parishioner Jim Knab’s brother. He traveled into town many times to rebuild the red bench and do some heavy-duty cleanup work in the rectory basement and carriage house. Thank you!

The Grotto Before



The Grotto After





The Celebration of the Sacraments

First Reconciliation: April 24, 2021

Congratulations Children:
Gellert William Dorn
Nathan Joseph Gandour
Lincoln John Malecki
Alexandra Maya Sieminski



Fr. Joe, **Gellert**, Colleen, and John Dorn



Fr. Joe, **Nathan**, Becky, Ben, and Andre Gandour



Fr. Joe, Taylor, **Lincoln**, Jennifer, Leah, Luke, and Luke Malecki



Fr. Joe, Nayomi Perara, **Maya**, Anna, Diane Sieminski, and Mark Sieminski



First Eucharist: May 22, 2021

Congratulations Children:
Vincent Luca Lopez
Niamh Bernadette McNally
Gabrielle Anna Weigel



Robert, James, **Gabrielle**, Tim, and Kathleen Weigel



Anthony D'Avanzo, Gina Gandolfo, **Vincent**, Vincent Lopez, and Jackie Lopez



Ciarin, John, **Niamh**, and Sinead McNally



Blessed Sacrament News

Our Post-Covid Parish and Church: A Look Ahead



It's easy to stay home.

We all want to belong to something bigger than us.

And yet, it's impossible to build Community without People!

Our DOORS are OPEN...

YOU are MISSED!

RETURN and DISCOVER how to be in HIS PRESENCE.

PRAY and GROW together as a Faith Community at

Blessed Sacrament Church

While Covid-19 restrictions have relaxed and our Church is open, it doesn't automatically mean that people will return to their church-going practices. We know that we must actively work to encourage people to return, and so the Parish Pastoral Council recently launched a RETURN TO CHURCH CAMPAIGN.

It is incumbent upon all of us to invite our family members, neighbors, and friends to return to in-person participation at church, as well as inviting new people to join our parish community. We are asking **YOU** to participate. The campaign will be developed over the next few months to generate programs that appeal to diverse ages, genders, ethnicities, and spiritualities.

A brief overview:

CAMPAIGN: Return to Blessed Sacrament Church

TIMELINE: Year Long Campaign

THEME: HEAD, HEART, and HANDS (to foster engagement and participation)



Know God with your HEAD



Love God with your HEART



Serve God with your HANDS

PLANNING: July and August

KICK OFF: September 2021: MORE DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED!

TO GET INVOLVED, CONTACT MICHAEL PITEK

CALL: 716-480-8313

EMAIL: michael@thepitekgroup.com