

Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week
M – Memorial A – Anniversary L – Living

Thursday, December 14th
8:00 am– Mother’s Day Intentions

Saturday, December 16th
8:00 am–Father’s Day Intentions

Sunday, December 17th
9:00 am–Stephen Horvath–M
(Heidi Bauman)

LECTOR SCHEDULE
Sunday, December 17th
9:00 am –Nancy Palumbo

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER SCHEDULE
Sunday, December 17th
9:00 am – John Hilton, Michael Kasperzyk,
Carolyn Kramer & Scott Youngers

SACRISTAN SCHEDULE
Sunday, December 17th
9:00 am–Help Needed

Counters for 12/17/2023—Team Z



“Rosebud” Bouquets
Amanda Youngers
Lois Weber

Prayer Chain

If you know someone that you would like our faith community to pray for, please call Bill Franczak @ 716-537-9448 or Mary Major at 716-537-9336. Please leave your name and phone number along with the name of the person going on the list and the reason why. Thank you!



Today’s Scripture Readings
Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11
2 Peter 3:8-14

Psalms 85
Mark 1:1-8

Readings for Next Weekend
Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61: 1-2a, 10-11
1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Luke 1
John 1:6-8,19-28



Religious Education will be held December 17th at 10 am. Families are welcome to attend to help decorate the church for Christmas.

A family Penance Service will be held December 15th at 7pm at Immaculate Conception

All are invited - bring the kids
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
7:00 PM on Wednesday, December 13
At Immaculate Conception Church
520 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora
A multiple-Parish event featuring parishioners of Annunciation, Immaculate Conception, St. George, St. Joseph, and St. Vincent de Paul
It’s a wonderful way for to prepare for Christmas
Music provided by the St Joseph music ministry
Fellowship, food and refreshments will follow immediately
This is a free event sponsored by the East Aurora Knights of Columbus



FAMILY NEWS & EVENTS

We light the second candle of our Advent Wreath and are reminded of God’s ancient promise, **“I will be your God and you will be my people.”** As we continue our sacred journey to Christmas may we find Hope and Peace.

~ Father Jerry

The clocks were turned back an hour several weeks ago; the mornings and evenings are now dark and autumn has given way to winter. In more ways than one, these are now dark days. **How then during Advent, as we prepare for the Nativity, do we maintain not only an attitude of optimism, but also a spirit of faithful hopefulness and peace?** In today’s Gospel we meet and hear the great voice of Advent; John the Baptist, who offers us a message.

John arrived and offered the people a message of hope when they most needed it. He is the last of the great biblical prophets. These were God’s messengers who did not come to foretell or predict the future, rather the very opposite. **They reminded the people of a past they had forgotten and point to a future they could not yet see.** When John began preaching, many had forgotten God’s ancient promise, *I will be your God and you will be my people.* John tells the people that God has not forgotten them and that the long awaited and promised Messiah is coming in the person of Jesus Christ. **He encourages and challenges the people with the great words from Isaiah in the first reading; ‘Prepare a way for the Lord, make a straight path for God in the wilderness.’** Today John offers Hope.

How then do we remain hopeful and peaceful?

Perhaps the prayer after the Our Father at Mass can encourage and strengthen us these Advent days. The words of this prayer are at the very heart of our Advent preparations, *Deliver us, Lord, we pray from evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.*

It is no coincidence that Jesus, the Light of world, was born at the darkest time of the year. Today the second candle on the wreath is lit as we take a small but significant step on our journey toward the Nativity. In these dark days, the gentle light from the wreath guides our steps and leads us to Jesus, the true Light of and for the world. God is with us; **we are not alone.**

It is said that it is better to light one small candle than to curse the darkness. Perhaps this week as we try our very best to prepare a way for the Lord, we might light one small candle in our home to dispel any darkness we are experiencing, *as we await the blessed hope, peace and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.*

– Br Michael Moore OMI

HAITI FUNDRAISER - St. George Parish in our Family of Parishes is now having an Advent fundraiser for its twin Haitian Parish. Haiti Christmas Gift Cards are now being sold and are available on the Haiti table in the back of the church at St. George. The Haiti Christmas Gift Cards allow you to provide Haitian families with gifts of **goats, water purifiers, school tuition, medicines and sanitation facilities** in the name of your family members and friends. The people of St. George’s twin Haitian parish will benefit greatly from these gifts. Thank you for your generous support.

Buffalo Bells
presents
Winter Wonderland
Please join us for a
FAMILY-FRIENDLY HANDBELL CONCERT
featuring
Traditional Christmas Songs and Holiday Favorites

Monday, December 11, 2023
7 pm Free Handbell Concert
at St. Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church

Please join us for socializing & refreshments following the concert.

6441 Seneca St., Spring Brook

Help For Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times. For more information call (716) 474-9371 or visit <https://www.HelpOurMarriage.org>. The next weekend is January 26-28, 2024. Please register by 1/3/24. Space is limited. All calls are confidential.

Please plan to join us for Christmas— Let’s Celebrate Our Lord’s Birth!

Christmas Eve Masses
Sunday, December 24th:

4:00 pm Immaculate Conception
4:00 pm St. Vincent’s
4:30 pm St. Joseph
5:00 pm Annunciation
5:00 pm St. George
6:00 pm Immaculate Conception
8:00 pm Annunciation
10:00 pm St. Vincent’s
12 Midnight Immaculate Conception

Christmas Day Masses
Monday, December 25th:

8:00 am Immaculate Conception
10:00 am St. George
10:00 am St. Vincent’s
10:30 am St. Joseph
11:00 am Annunciation

Annunciation 7580 Clinton St. Elma	Immaculate Conception 520 Oakwood Ave. East Aurora	St. George 74 Old Glenwood Rd., West Falls	St. Joseph 46 North Main St. Holland	St. Vincent 6441 Seneca St. Spring Brook
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Photo by Deb Adams