

SOLEMNITY OF  
*Mary* MOTHER OF GOD

She is exalted, yet still one of us.





## MASS INTENTIONS FOR:

Sat 12/31 OAK 4:30pm † Joanne Barcomb by Bob & Chris Funke  
 Sun 1/1/23 ELBA 8:00am † John Zulawski (Birthday Anniv.) by Gallaway Family  
 OAK 10:00am † Mary (Latko) Kajstura by Reggie Barcomb

Mon 1/2 ELBA 6:00pm † Anna & Ignatius Mikolajczyk (Remb.) by Godchil  
 Tues 1/3 ELBA 8:00am † All Parishioners by Fr. Ted  
 Wed 1/4 OAK 7:00pm † Frank Gallaway (Birthday Remb.) by Gallaway Family  
 Thurs 1/5 OAK 8:00am † Dorothy Allen by Star Growers Family  
 Fri 1/6 OAK 8:00am † All Parishioners by Fr. Ted

Sat 1/7 OAK 4:30pm † Joanne Barcomb ( Birthday Remb.) by Edith Surprenant  
 Sun 1/8 ELBA 8:00am † Martha Cassidy by Tony & Peggy Michalak  
 OAK 10:00am † Shirley Levesque by David & Mary Ann Dorman & Family

## YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND PARISH

FOR THE WEEK of Dec.25, 2022

Amount Needed Each Week	\$4,646.62
Regular Offering	\$ _____
Difference	\$ _____

**Your stewardship of time, talent and treasure is truly appreciated!**



The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week at the Oakfield site In Memory of



*Ronald Hochmuth Sr.*

By Wife, Bernice & Family

The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week at the Elba site In Memory of



*Ann Gavenda*

By John, Pam, Sean & Matt Starowitz

With so many occurrences taking place in our troubled world today, praying the rosary is a powerful expression of our devotion to Mary. Recitation of the rosary in our parish takes place on the **First Saturday of each month beginning at 4:00pm**



This week's community-wide daily Rosary intention::

*Solemnity of Mary*

## WANT TO GET MORE OUT OF SUNDAY MASS?

Join Deacon Paul Kulczyk after 10am Mass beginning Sunday, January 22nd to engage in a conversation about the weekly theme and how to put that weekly theme into practice.

Let God speak to you through sacred scriptures, opening up a whole new Mass experience.

The dates will be as follows: January 22nd, February 12th, March 12th, April 16th, May 21st.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

1/2/2023-Church office closed  
 1/9/2023-Men's Group Meeting@6:30, Oakfield

Happy New Year! Is giving back one of your goals for 2023? If so, become a Catholic Charities volunteer. View all current opportunities at [ccwny.org/volunteer](http://ccwny.org/volunteer) and start the year by becoming a beacon of HOPE in your community!

# St. Padre Pio Parish

"Pray, Hope, Don't Worry" -St. Padre Pio

## Lector Schedule:

Saturday, 12/31	Oak	4:30 pm	John Palillo
Sunday, 1/1/23	Elba	8:00 am	JoAnne DeMare
	Oak	10:00 am	John Starowitz
Saturday, 1/7	Oak	4:30 pm	Tim Tomczak
Sunday, 1/8	Elba	8:00 am	Susie Zambito
	Oak	10:00 am	Jan Goodenberg
Saturday, 1/14	Oak	4:30pm	Linda Giambrone
	Elba	8:00am	Mindy Stempin
Sunday, 1/15	Oak	10:00 am	MaryAnn Dorman

## Greeter Schedule:

Saturday, 12/31	Oak	4:30 pm	Elaine Forti
Sunday, 1/1/23	Elba	8:00 am	Charles Zambito
	Oak	10:00 am	Jim Coffta
Saturday, 1/7	Oak	4:30 pm	Bob & Chris Funke
Sunday, 1/8	Elba	8:00 am	Cindy Kowalik
	Oak	10:00 am	Norma Day/Julie Fitch
Saturday, 1/14	Oak	4:30pm	Elaine Forti/Mary Ann Conley
	Elba	8:00am	Tim McKenrick
Sunday, 1/15	Oak	10:00 am	Jim Coffta

## Usher Schedule:

Saturday, 12/31	Oak	4:30 pm	Ben Giambrone/Terry Martino
Sunday, 1/1/23	Elba	8:00 am	Tom Stempin
	Oak	10:00 am	Reg Barcomb/Steve Harkness
Saturday, 1/7	Oak	4:30 pm	Tom Stempin
Sunday, 1/8	Elba	8:00 am	Tim Mckenrick
	Oak	10:00 am	John Palillo/Jan Bencic
Saturday, 1/14	Oak	4:30pm	Mike Kowalczyk/Ben Giambrone
	Elba	8:00am	Jan Bencic/Tom Stempin
Sunday, 1/15	Oak	10:00 am	Reg Barcomb/Terry Martino

## Eucharistic Minister Schedule:

Saturday, 12/31	Oak	4:30 pm	Donna Becker
Sunday, 1/1/23	Elba	8:00 am	Deacon Paul
	Oak	10:00 am	Barb Harkness
Saturday, 1/7	Oak	4:30 pm	Mary Ann Conley
Sunday, 1/8	Elba	8:00 am	
	Oak	10:00 am	Reg Barcomb
Saturday, 1/14	Oak	4:30pm	Ron Becker
	Elba	8:00am	
Sunday, 1/15	Oak	10:00 am	Mary Ann Conley

## Altar Server Schedule:

Saturday, 12/31	Oak	4:30 pm	
Sunday, 1/1/23	Elba	8:00 am	Paige & Kayla Harding
	Oak	10:00 am	Allison Harkness/ Cameron Emerson
Saturday, 1/7	Oak	4:30 pm	
Sunday, 1/8	Elba	8:00 am	Paige & Kayla Harding
	Oak	10:00 am	Tori Davis
Saturday, 1/14	Oak	4:30pm	
	Elba	8:00am	Kayla & Paige Harding
Sunday, 1/15	Oak	10:00 am	Clara Torrey

## Call to Vocations Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

God gives Moses the Priestly Blessing in today's first reading. We have the blessing' now we just need the priests to say it!

If you'd like to be one, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit [buffalovocations.org](http://buffalovocations.org).



## This Week's Gospel:

**Luke 2:1-14 and Luke 2:16-21**

God blessed us by becoming a member of the human family. This is what Christmas celebrates. The Holy Family and God's incarnation is why there is something so very human about this feast, something that touches us in a way deeper than mere nostalgia. Christmas celebrates God's becoming one of us and one with us. Jesus comes as an infant, placed in the care of a struggling, but lovely family. We are reminded at Christmas that our families are shrouded in the same holiness that Jesus' family is. We look to their lives together as an example of how to love each other through celebrations and struggles. We also remember that Mary is the human Mother of God. When we say Mary is the Mother of God, we are saying that we believe Jesus is God.





## **Lectio: Mary—The Bible and the Mother of God**

**Why is Mary so important to Catholics? Why have so many people been devoted to her over the centuries?**

**Join us for an eight-part study guided by Dr. Brant Pitre, as we examine what the Old and New Testaments, the life of Christ, and the early Church fathers reveal about the life and identity of Mary.**

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Join us at Our Lady of Mercy Parish Center or from the comfort of your own home (via Zoom) on **Wednesday evenings beginning January 11, 2023, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm**, as we delve into this thought-provoking study. Each session will include a video presentation and discussion.

There is a study guide that goes along with this program. It is not necessary, but many will find it helpful. The cost for this study guide is \$12, including shipping. If you would like a copy, please let Denise know ASAP so she can get them ordered. The study guide is also downloadable from [formed.org](http://formed.org).

To register, and to receive links to join the Wednesday evening discussions, please email Denise at the parish office:

**[youthminister@ourladyofmercylero.org](mailto:youthminister@ourladyofmercylero.org)**

# JANUARY

Margaret Palillo	Mathew Santy	Edward Vlack	Robert Hunt
Amelia Klycek	Erika Ranlett	Amanda Stempin	Kathleen M. Halat
Debra Palone	Joshua Abdella	Eugene Beach	Susan Di Angelo
Jackson Howard	Stacey Stachowski	Jarad Kogut	Kathleen Latko
Mark E Burhans	Connor Domoy	Natalie Emerson	Charles S. Zambito
Aaron L. Bastiano	Nadyne Karas	John Anderson	Linda Augello
Gerald Bacon	Mary Ann Haacke	Jessica Fredo	Florence Rodon
Daniel J. Scott	Teresa Maid	Michael Anderson	Anne Bacon
Duane G. Schultz	Terry Zilenski	John J. Kasmer	Mark Allen
Daniel Pruski	Rebecca Vlack	Nicholas Harris	John Anthony Zambito
Denise DiMatteo	Leo E Lynch, Jr	Sarah McCracken	Laura Pastecki
Austin Kogut	Sandra Chappius	Daniel Jachimowicz	Tamara Augello
Cindy McCracken	Patricia Cultrara	Karen Harris	Dean H. Gottler
Sydney Reilly	Karina Treleaven	Trisha Heale	John Igoe
Patricia L Zambito	Susan Zambito		
Sarah R. Creegan	Michael F. Zakes		



# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

January 2023

St. Padre Pio Catholic Church  
Rev. Thaddeus M. Bocianowski, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### A kinder, gentler you

Kindness is contagious. A recent study found that witnessing an act of kindness produces good feelings and inspires imitation. In the new year, make efforts to be kinder – more friendly, generous, and considerate – and inspire others to do the same.

### Choose not to be offended

In the news or on social media, it can appear that there is more polarization around issues now than in the past. Each side wants to persuade the other. Being right is no compensation for broken friendships, however. If there is someone in your life who deliberately pursues you to argue, don't take the bait. Rather than let arguments create a rift, look the other way when feeling slighted. Being kind is more rewarding than being right.



*"I have told you this that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world"* (John 16:33).



## Fall deeper in love with Christ in the New Year

At the center of all we do as Catholics must be a close and personal relationship with Jesus. He offers to each of us a deep, intimate, "I love you forever" kind of relationship. Make time to fall deeper in love with Christ:

**T-Talk:** Prayer is an amazing privilege. Through it, we have an open invitation: *"Call to me, and I will answer you"* (Jeremiah 33:3). We have a promise that He hears us: *"When you call me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you"* (Jeremiah 29:12). The God of the universe wants to hear from you.

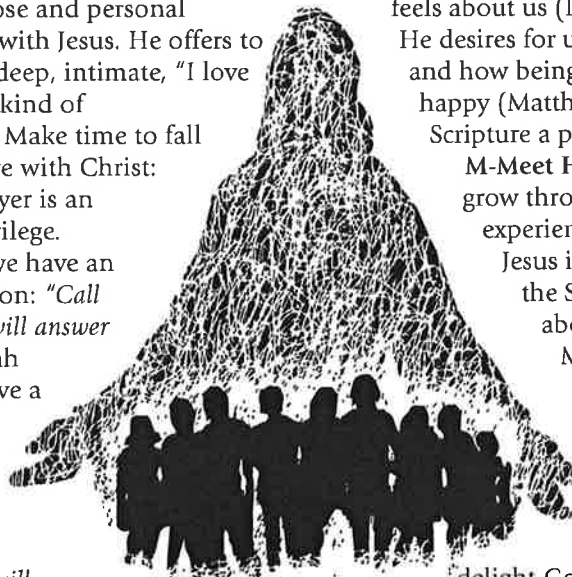
**I-Intimacy:** To love Christ, we must know Him. In Scripture, God tells us

who He is (Exodus 34:6), how He feels about us (Isaiah 43:4), what He desires for us (Luke 12:32), and how being His will make us happy (Matthew 5-7). Make Scripture a part of every day.

**M-Meet Him:** Relationships grow through shared experiences. We meet Jesus in prayer, Scripture, the Sacraments, and above all, during the Mass.

**E-Everything for love:** St. Thérèse of Lisieux discovered that she could

delight God by simply picking up a pin out of love. He wants to hear us, His beloveds, say, "I love you, too," in words and actions. Essential to falling in love with God is making time for Him.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics believe things that aren't in the Bible?

Catholics recognize the Bible as the inspired, inerrant Word of God, and we reject beliefs that contradict Scripture. Long before the Gospels were written down, the Apostles passed on to their disciples all that Jesus taught and did. This



is what we call, "Tradition," or what was "handed on." Not everything that was handed on could be written down. It was impossible to include everything Jesus did (John 21:25). Catholic beliefs don't depart from Scripture, but delve deeper into it.

# Make one change for God this year

When making New Year's resolutions this year, consider one change that will bring you closer to God. Here are some ideas other Catholics have used to strengthen prayer, serve the poor, and evangelize our faith ...

Laura felt her prayer life growing stale, so when her parish asked for adorers for the perpetual adoration chapel, she jumped at the chance. Now, Mondays at midnight, Laura can be found in the presence of the Eucharist. She



said, "I really look forward to my peaceful hour each week. It's just me and Him."

Peter's law practice is incredibly busy, but he takes an afternoon off every month to work at the local soup kitchen serving hot meals to the homeless and working poor. When asked why, he said, "Jesus said, 'When I was hungry, you gave me to eat.'"

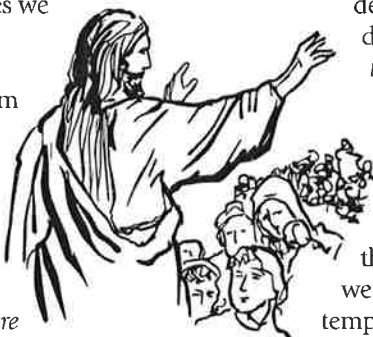
JoAnn's children are grown, yet she teaches a religious education class at her parish. "What better way to spread our faith than to children? That's where I can do the most good," she said.

## from Scripture

### Matthew 5:1-12a, Jesus' blueprint for holiness

This passage contains the Sermon on the Mount during which Jesus detailed the Beatitudes – the attitudes we need to be truly holy, and therefore happy. In fact, "beatitude" is translated from the Greek word for happiness. Jesus was saying, "Happy are you!" or "Congratulations!" if you live by these attitudes.

When Jesus said, "blessed are the poor in spirit ... blessed are they who mourn ... the persecuted" He promised that when we turn to God in times of trial, we will be comforted and cared for. When He said, "Blessed are the pure in heart ... those who hunger and thirst



for righteousness," He was showing us that a holy heart will receive what it desires. When He described "the meek ... the merciful ... the peacemakers," He gave us a blueprint for how to act.

We can measure our behavior against these standards. When we are faithful to God in tempting moments, and translate holy inner attitudes into outward actions, we'll know we're on the right path to holiness. When we live by the Beatitudes, we'll be truly happy.

## Q & A What qualities can I pursue to make me a better follower of Jesus?

Actually, when you were baptized, made your First Communion, or got Confirmed, the Holy Spirit conferred gifts to help you grow in strength and holiness. Recognizing these gifts and nurturing them will certainly make you a better Christian.

**Wisdom:** This gift helps us stay focused on God's will and His plan for us.

**Understanding:** Lets us grasp truths. It means seeing with the heart and the mind.

**Counsel:** Also called "right judgment," counsel enables us to weigh alternatives to make the right choice.

**Fortitude:** The ability to remain firm against pressure. (Also called courage.)

**Knowledge:** A person with knowledge sees more than one dimension of an issue to determine the right path.

**Piety:** Helps us think of ourselves as children of God and be eager to serve Him.

**Fear of the Lord:** The wonder and awe God inspires encourages us to respect Him and all his creations.

The more you use these gifts, the more you will grow in faith and holiness. Then you will certainly become a better Christian.

## Feasts & Celebrations

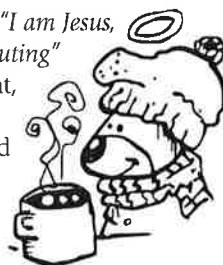
January 2 – St. Gregory Nazianzen (389). Known as "The Theologian" for his faithfulness and eloquence, St. Gregory was unwillingly made Bishop of Sasima. He worked to clarify the Church's teachings about the Holy Trinity.

January 16 – St. Berard and Companions (1220). St. Francis of Assisi sent St. Berard and his companions to evangelize in the Muslim territories. After being arrested in Morocco, they were martyred after refusing to stop preaching and renounce their Faith.

January 23 – St. Marianne Cope

(1918). St. Marianne began religious life as an educator in New York schools, and later became a nurse. In 1883, she helped St. Damien de Veuster serve the leper colonies of Hawaii, continuing his work after his death.

January 25 – Conversion of St. Paul (1st Century). Formally called "Saul", he persecuted the Christians until Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus, saying, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:5). After that, Saul became Paul and traveled around the known world, preaching the Faith.



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To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

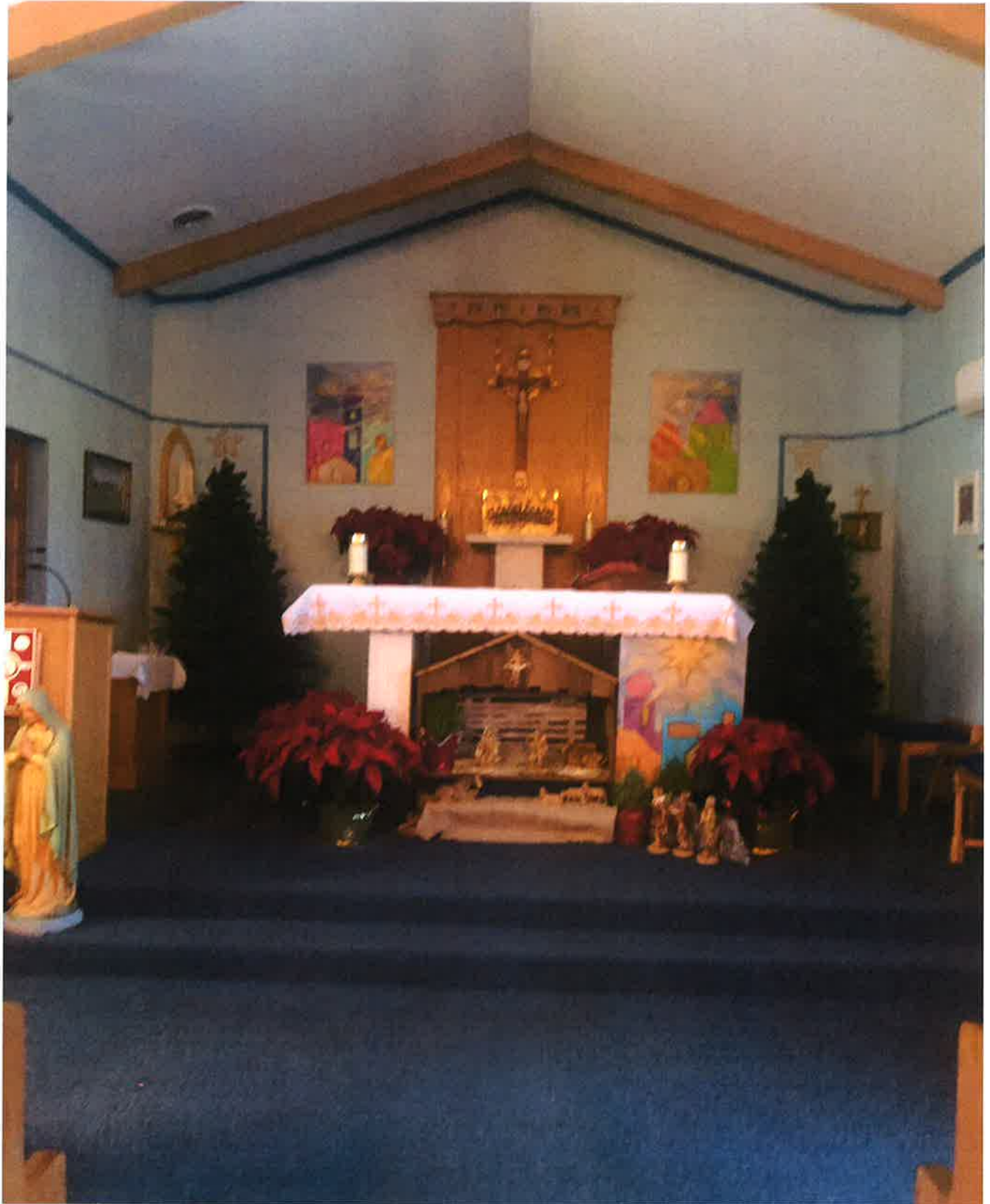


# St. Cecilia Worship Site





*Our Lady of Fatima Worship Site*





*The plaques are now on the new Columbariums and they are complete.*

*The Columbariums will be blessed on Saturday, April 15th and Sunday, April 16th.*





## OUR PARISH COMMUNITY PRAYS FOR:

### The Sick or Homebound...

Doug Chappius	John Kasmer
David Rupert	Richard Yunker
Marsha List	Father Martin
Larry Millen, Jr.	Ann Kasmer
Anna Fava	Wayne Walker
Loretta Stratton	Mark Burhans
Chloe Taddinio	Markie Rose Lewis
Donald Parker	Dominic Abramo
Charles Daniel Wheatley	Florence Surdi
Olivia Parmenter	Carol Vigneri
Chuck Zambito	Sally Olsen Ventura
Tammy Simmons	Casey Hoover
Diane Stafford	James McClurg
Susan Webster	John Hoffarth
Jason Charsley	Bill Palone
Liam Boyle	Rita Zambito
Mike Day	Burke Markle
Anthony Vallese	Melissa Olsen
Ron Schultz	Carlton Plummer
Marianne Wiedmann	Mike Johnson
Nora Jean Reuben	Pat Simmons
George Samson	Jo-Ann Olsen
Louise Hirsch	Brad Mersereau
Darlene Watson	John Torrey
Dawn King	Sandra K Houseknecht
Joyce LoBello	Pete Dambra
Leon Halat Sr.	Scarlet Pitman
Joe Jaszko	Kathy Cutitta
Annamarie & David Kuehnert	
Jack Houseknecht	Pat Augello
Jen Meyer	Dan Quinlan

*For all those who struggle in silence and those families*

To you,  
St Joseph, I  
go for help and  
protection.

Amen.



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### And our Military...

Thomas Hoover  
Kevin Brinkman  
Matthew Black  
Benjamin De Mare  
John E O'Donnell  
Anthony Ohl  
Ben Olsen  
Patrick Malone  
Robert Tumminello  
Tony Black  
Paul Birch

Jonathan Stucko  
Bryon Kelsey  
Raymond Mikolajczyk, Jr.  
Joseph A Teresi III  
Gregory Honadle  
Nick Stucko  
Zachary Gibson  
Brandy Malone  
Thomas Hartley  
Shawn Cunningham

If you would like to have names added to this list, please contact Pauli Miano, [pmiano@rochester.rr.com](mailto:pmiano@rochester.rr.com), 356-1561 or the parish office.



**JUSTIN D. CALARCO-SMITH**  
Parishioner



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**NEW PARISHIONER FORM**

It is a great joy to welcome new members to our parish community. If you are interested in joining our parish, please drop this form in the collection basket or return to the parish office-we will send you a registration form. Register as soon as possible. You won't want to miss all the programs, ministries and activities we have to offer.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please support your neighbors and fellow parishioners