

Greater East Buffalo Family of Parishes

December 21, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent

St. John Kanty

St. John Gualbert

Corpus Christi

St. Katherine Drexel

St. Adalbert

St. Stanislaus



Mass Schedule:

SATURDAY VIGIL:

4:00pm.....St. Stanislaus

4:00pm.....St. John Gualbert

SUNDAY:

9:00am.....St. John Gualbert (Polish)

9:15am.....Corpus Christi

10:15am.....St. Stanislaus

10:30am.....St. Katharine Drexel

11:45am.....St. John Gualbert

12:00pm.....St. Stanislaus (Polish)

5:00pm.....St. Stanislaus

CONFESSIONS: *Every Saturday*

3:15pm.....St. Stanislaus

3:30pm.....St. John Gualbert

8:45am (*Sunday*).....Corpus Christi

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday/Wednesday/Friday

8:00am...St. Stanislaus

8:30am...St. Katharine Drexel

Tuesday/Thursday

8:00am...St. John Gualbert

Corpus Christi

8:45am...M, T, W, Th, F

8:45am... First Saturday

Bulletin Deadline:

Bulletin requests are due 10 days in advance. Please email them to bulletineastbuffalo@gmail.com



Office Hours:

Central Office

at St. Stanislaus
Monday-Friday
9:00am-3:00pm
123 Townsend St
(716) 854-5510

St. John Gualbert

Open for In-Person
Visits Thursdays Only
8:00am-11:30am

Corpus Christi

M, T, W, Th
9:30am-1:30pm
199 Clark Street
(716) 896-1050

* For Sacramental Emergencies after office hours, please call Fr. Mark at 716-331-9041

Parish Family Staff:

Rev. Cole Webster.....Pastor
Rev. Mariusz Dymek, OSPPEPastor
 (Corpus Christi)
Rev. Jacek Mazur.....Parochial Vicar
Rev. Mark Kreis, OSPPE, Ph.D......Corpus Christi
Cathy Bergen.....Secretary (Corpus Christi)
Noreen Mavromatis...Bookkeeper/Notary Public
Barbara Myszkiewicz.....Secretary
Elaine Williams.....Bookkeeper
Zyggy Laskowski.....Maintenance (Gualbert)
John Riccione.....Maintenance (Drexel)
Bogdan Szymczyk.....Maintenance (Stanislaus)
Bob Zielinski.....Maintenance (Kanty/Adalbert)
Mary Palmer.....Organist (Stanislaus)
Eric Sabadasz.....Organist (Stanislaus)
Rasa StalysieneOrganist (Stanislaus)
Michael Zachowicz..... Organist (Gualbert/Stans)
Andrew N. Kowtalo.....Organist (Corpus Christi)
Timothy NeelOrganist (Drexel)

Weekly Collections:

St. John Gualbert	12/7	\$1419.00
St. Stanislaus	12/7	\$1963.00
St. Katharine Drexel	12/7	\$1819.00
Corpus Christi	12/7	\$3007.00

SANCTUARY LIGHT INTENTIONS



The candle is lite for

Zygmunt, Kazimiera, George Zgliczynski

By Loving Family

St. Stanislaus

From Fr. Cole Webster

A familiar verse that we hear this season is John 8:12. Jesus said, *"Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* This is truly the essence of the Christmas message. As we celebrate Christ's rebirth in our hearts, the trajectory of our lives ought to change as we turn from darkness to one that is flooded by Christ's guiding light. Where in our lives do we need his light to penetrate? Are we weighed down by anger, engulfed in sadness, lacking direction, exhausted with trying to keep up with society's expectations, or confused by the world's various 'truths'? Our Savior, born as a babe but mighty in power, invites us to come to the manger with open hearts so that we can follow the light of life.

Merry Christmas!

Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia!

Nativity of Our Lord Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve ~ Wednesday, December 24

4:00 PM	St. Adalbert	Fr. Cole
4:00 PM	St. John Gualbert	Fr. Mariusz
6:00 PM	St. Katharine Drexel	Fr. Jacek
10:00 PM	St. John Gualbert	Fr. Cole
11:00 PM	Corpus Christi	Fr. Mariusz
Midnight	St. Stanislaus	Fr. Jacek

Christmas Day ~ Thursday, December 25

9:00 AM	St. John Gualbert (Polish)	Fr. Jacek
10:15 AM	St. Stanislaus	Fr. Bob
10:30 AM	St. Katharine Drexel	Fr. Cole
11:00 AM	Corpus Christi	Fr. Mariusz
12:00 PM	St. Stanislaus (Polish)	Fr. Jacek

*****No 11:45 AM Mass at St. John Gualbert*****

Central Office Holiday Schedule @ St. Stanislaus

Wednesday, December 17

Office will close at 12 PM

Christmas Eve office will close at 12 PM

Christmas Day—closed

December 26—closed

New Years Eve office will close at 12 PM

New Year's Day—closed

Friday, January 2 Open

YOUTH MINISTRY

Children's Liturgy
at Saint Katharine Drexel 10:30 Mass
First and Third Sundays of the month



December 21



Our Family Faith Formation
Program has begun!
We meet monthly at
10:00am at St. Katharine
Drexel.

Upcoming dates:

January 10	March 7
February 7	April 11
	May 9

Blessing of Salt and Epiphany Water
with Fr. David Baker
St. John Gualbert Church
Monday, January 5 at 6:30pm.

Epiphany water is a special kind of holy water that involves two exorcisms. This ritual uses salt and water, similar to regular holy water blessings. But, it's done with an extensive liturgy that includes prayers and actions meant to cast out evil spirits.



EMMANUEL
GOD WITH US

BIBLE STUDIES

Fr. Mark Kreis, OSPPE, Ph.D. will conduct **Bible Classes** on **Wednesday, Nights at 6:30 PM** in the Social Center at St. Stanislaus Church. If you have any questions, please, contact Fr. Kreis directly at his cell-phone: (716) 331-9041. The lectures are free of charge.

Every other Tuesday
At Saint Katharine Drexel Rectory
From 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Our next meeting and topic will be:
January 6 Grace

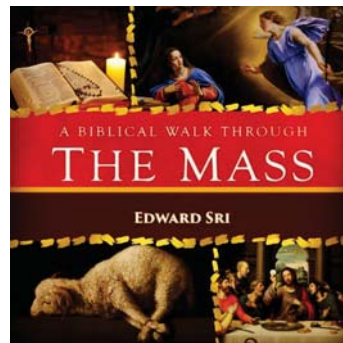
Please call Barb Delenkitis (716 839 4084) if interested in attending and for further information.

Monthly Men's Group—Cor

The next men's Group *Cor* (which means 'heart') meets with Fr. Cole on **January 20 from 7-8pm** at St. John Gualbert Rectory. Open to all men, the meeting lasts an hour as we pray and explore our faith together utilizing the *Into the Breach* series produced by the Knights of Columbus. Next session topic is: Leadership. True leadership seeks greatness and brings out greatness in others. Robert Yates discusses his service in the Air Force and highlights the importance of being servant leaders.

COMING SOON!

Fr. Cole will be leading a four-week book study at St. Katharine Drexel, *A Bible Walk Through the Mass* by Dr. Edward Sri.



SESSIONS @ 6:30PM:

January 7
January 14
January 21
January 28

Stay Tuned!



St. John Gualbert
Our Lady of Czestochowa Chapel

CHAPEL PLAQUES

What are Czestochowa plaques?

Located in the vestibule of our church in a lovely chapel dedicated to the miraculous icon of the Black Madonna, you will notice that the walls are lined with name plaques.

Are the plaques only for the deceased?

Most of the names are of the deceased, although there are also some people who are living, so as to participate in the spiritual benefits of the chapel while still in this world. Both the deceased and the living can be enrolled.

What are the spiritual benefits of enrollment?

A monthly Mass on the first Saturday of every month is offered at 4 pm for the intention of all those enrolled in the OLC chapel. This is certainly a beautiful way for someone to remember a deceased loved one or a person that you would like to have the spiritual benefits of a monthly Mass for their intention.

What is the procedure for enrolling?

Simply contact the rectory office with the name (or names) you would like placed on the plaque. The name of the donor may also appear. The offering is \$250 for each plaque.

How will we know that a name has been added?

We will print the name (or names) in the parish bulletin every time that someone is enrolled.

Jesus is Here!

TRIALS AND RESURRECTION

Conference

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

10:00 AM — 3:00 PM AT ST. STANISLAUS

389 PECKHAM ST., BUFFALO, NY

Enjoy a day filled with presentations, interactive small-group conversations, music, and a lunch with fellow participants.

\$25 PER PERSON
LUNCH INCLUDED

Keynote Speaker: FR. CARL GALES, SVD



Father Gales, who was born in Baltimore, was a musical prodigy. In his youth, he performed as a concert pianist at Carnegie Hall in New York City. In 2021, he professed Final Vows with the SVD and was ordained to the priesthood in 2022.

Current pastor of Our Lady of Africa, Fr. Gales helped merge together five parishes through the Archdiocese of Chicago's Renew My Church process.

REGISTER AT



DEADLINE TO REGISTER
BY JANUARY 14



Greater East Buffalo Family of Parishes Visit to the Festival of Lights at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine

Friday, December 26th

Sponsored by the Spiritual Pillar

- See the Lights!
- Fellowship!
- Fish Fry!
- Rosary!

Anyone interested in seeing the beautiful Christmas Lights at Our Lady of Fatima, we are planning an informal visit as a church family on Friday, December 26th. The lights are on from sunset until 9:00 pm.

Take a break after the Christmas rush is over! The church offers a Fish Fry dinner until 7:00 PM, which can be ordered when you arrive. However, in case it's busy and you don't want to wait, you have the option to phone in your order with your approximate arrival time at 716-754-7489 (press the directory to reach the kitchen).

We also plan to do a group Rosary in the church at 7:15 pm.

All transportation to the shrine is per party, though individuals might want to team up with others to carpool. There is no alternate day if inclement weather arrives, use your judgement as per travel.

Our Lady of Fatima Shrine
1023 Swann Road
Youngstown, New York 14174



SAINT ADALBERT BASILICA
212 STANISLAUS ST. BUFFALO, NY 14212

UPCOMING Masses & Events

MONTHS OF NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Christmas Chocolate Candy Fundraiser featuring our newest addition, chocolate pierogi in milk & dark. See our Facebook page for details or for information please call: 716-997-9983.

DECEMBER 18 | 4-7:00 PM | PENANCE SERVICE
4-5:00 PM | VESPERS & MORE

DECEMBER 24 | 4:00 PM | CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

Fr. Cole Webster will be our Celebrant & our Music Ministry will feature soprano Brittany Mruzek.

DECEMBER 28 | 2:00 PM | CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Doors open at 1:00 PM. We will have the original AM&A's Christmas Window on display, concert by the St. John Paul II Schola Cantorum. Join us for some warm beverages and cookies.

MAY 17, 2026 | 1:30 PM | LOURDES VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE EXPERIENCE

Receive the Lourdes Water, touch the Grotto Rock, Adoration & Benediction & Candle Procession at the Basilica Grotto. (Plenary Indulgence Granted by Papal Decree; Vatican Recognized.)

www.stAdalbertBasilica.org | www.facebook.com/SaintAdalbertBasilica



WESOŁYCH ŚWIAT BOŻEGO NARODZENIA! (MERRY CHRISTMAS!)

A few months ago, I was unpacking my 5-year-old's overnight bag after a sleepover at his cousin's house. Inside, I came across a small plastic bag containing a broken piece of a flat wafer-like substance. I studied it, and on it was a simple imprinted image of the Holy Family. I asked my son what it was. He lifted his hands up and said with his signature lisp, "This Polish Christmas bread, Mom!" His response was so matter-of-fact – as if I should already have a perfect understanding of what he was talking about. But in reality, I had no idea.

In a moment of bizarre coincidence, a week later, I received an email from the editorial director of FAITH suggesting that I write about the oplatki Polish Christmas tradition. I had never heard of it, so I did some research online. A bunch of photos of that same flat wafer with imprinted images of the Nativity popped up! I then had a reference as to what was in my son's bag. An oplatki!

Oplatki (plural) are thin wafers stamped with a Christmas scene, and are part of a beautiful tradition that dates back many centuries in Poland. A priest blesses the oplatki and he or another religious member then distributes them to families to recall the eucharistic presence of Jesus at Mass. The families return home with them, carrying a blessed reminder of the meaning of the Christmas season.

The customary practice varies slightly from family to family, but it commonly begins with the father or eldest member of the family taking the oplatki and breaking a large piece off to give to his wife. He may share what he is thankful for, wish her a blessing or even ask for forgiveness. She breaks a piece off and reciprocates with a sentiment or blessing for her husband. Then each family member or loved one, oldest to youngest, continues with the breaking of the unleavened bread and sharing their Christmas wishes and blessings for each other. When the ritual is finished, everyone sits down for a simple meal before the midnight Mass.

This beautiful tradition is still popular today throughout Eastern Europe, and even here in the United States amongst families of Polish descent. I just learned that many parishes here in our area provide oplatki Christmas wafers to parishioners, which is where my brother-in-law gets them for his family. Being Polish, he grew up practicing the beautiful tradition of the breaking of the bread, and now shares the custom with his own family. As for the remaining wafers, those are used by his children to "play Mass" at home. Hence, the leftover broken piece my sister-in-law placed in my 5-year-old's bag at the end of his sleepover with his cousins.

I am so grateful that this entire tradition was revealed to me recently, as I was not previously familiar with it. But it is an enduring custom and, though I am not Polish, I am inclined to adopt the tradition for my own family!

St. John Gualbert

November Parish Club Winners

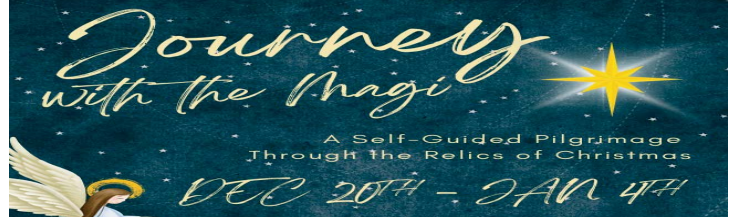
Congratulations to

Chris Walters \$21.25

Nancy Kilijanski \$12.75

Greg & Sue Serwon \$ 8.50

Amount collected \$85/Parish share \$42.50



Just as the Magi journeyed to see the Christ child, we invite you to walk through the story of Jesus' birth in a self-guided pilgrimage at St. John Gualbert Diocesan Relic Shrine, 83 Gualbert Ave., Cheektowaga, NY. Pamphlets will guide you to encounter relics of the manger, the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, St. John the Baptist, St. Nicholas, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Wenceslaus, and other saints who foretold, witnessed, or celebrated the Nativity. The shrine will be open Saturday's and Sunday's December 20th-January 4th. Join us for a free guided tour of the second largest relic shrine in the country on Saturday, December 27th at 10:00am. If you have any questions or would like more information about our Adopt-A-Relic Initiative, please call our Central Office at 716-854-5510.

Let's lend a helping hand to the MOTHER TERESA HOME this Advent!



Sharing **LOVE** this fourth week of Advent!

The Mother Teresa Home has provided shelter, clothing, and has many other services to hundreds of mothers and babies through the years at no cost to them. Thank you for your generous contributions to this vital ministry!

Pictured is the Statue of the Holy Family on the grounds of the Mother Teresa Home!

Date	Day	Time	Site	Mass Intention	Requested By	Presider
12/21	Sun	9:15 AM	Corpus	+Victoria Gorczyca (Birthday)	Paul & Kathy Gorczyca	Fr. Mark Kreis
12/22	Mon	8:45 AM	Corpus	Pro Populo		Fr. Mark Kreis
12/23	Tue	8:45 AM	Corpus	Good Health & God's Blessings on Donna Oleszek		Fr. Mark Kreis
12/24	Wed	11:00 PM	Corpus	In Thanksgiving from Fr. Mariusz for all the Good People, Kind & Helpful around Corpus Christi		Fr. Mariusz Dymek
12/25	Thu	11:00 AM	Corpus	Parishioners of Corpus Christi Church		Fr. Mariusz Dymek
12/26	Fri	8:45 AM	Corpus	+Rita Sikorski	Leonard Sikorski	Fr. Mariusz Dymek
12/28	Sun	9:15 AM	Corpus	+Frank Serafin	Family	Fr. Mariusz Dymek
12/21	Sun	10:30 AM	Drexel	+Irvin Gardner	Joann Denz	Fr. Cole Webster
12/22	Mon	8:30 AM	Drexel	+Sheilah Quigley	Brian Quigley	Fr. Jacek Mazur
12/24	Wed	6:00 PM	Drexel	+Richard Radka & Joseph Lewandowski	Family	Fr. Jacek Mazur
12/25	Thu	10:30 AM	Drexel	+Kevin Krotz	Pam Krotz	Fr. Cole Webster
12/26	Fri	8:30 AM	Drexel	Pro Populo		Fr. Cole Webster
12/28	Sun	10:30 AM	Drexel	+Deceased of the Wasielewski & Koeppl Family	Ken & Mary Wasielewski	Fr. Jacek Mazur
12/20	Sat	4:00 PM	Gualbert	Pro Populo		Fr. Jacek Mazur
12/21	Sun	9:00 AM	Gualbert	+Antonina Fydrych	Granddaughter	Fr. Jacek Mazur
12/21	Sun	11:45 AM	Gualbert	+Mary Riley	Thomas McCaffery	Fr. Cole Webster
12/23	Tue	8:00 AM	Gualbert	All Souls		Fr. Cole Webster
12/24	Wed	4:00 PM	Gualbert	+James Zak	Family	Fr. Mariusz Dymek
12/24	Wed	10:00 PM	Gualbert	+James, Mildred, Vincent G., Vincent J. & Judy	Family	Fr. Cole Webster
12/25	Thu	9:00 AM	Gualbert	+Patricia Zak	Husband & Family	Fr. Jacek Mazur
12/27	Sat	4:00 PM	Gualbert	+Edward & Theresa Olszowka	Sharon & Jack Lotz	Fr. Jacek Mazur
12/28	Sun	9:00 AM	Gualbert	All Souls		Fr. Jacek Mazur
12/28	Sun	11:45 AM	Gualbert	+Robert Pszczolkowski	St. John Gualbert Advisory Cmte	Fr. Cole Webster
12/20	Sat	4:00 PM	Stanislaus	+Irene Skowron	Daughter	Fr. Cole Webster
12/21	Sun	10:15 AM	Stanislaus	+Jacek Fijalkowski	Mom	Fr. Bob Stolinski
12/21	Sun	12:00 PM	Stanislaus	+George Zgliczynski	Loving Family	Fr. Jacek Mazur
12/21	Sun	5:00 PM	Stanislaus	+John Szyjka (Birthday)	Nancy Weigand & Family	Fr. Bryan Zielenieski
12/22	Mon	8:00 PM	Stanislaus	+Cecilia Ciesielski	Estate	Fr. Cole Webster
12/24	Wed	8:00 AM	Stanislaus	All Souls		Fr. Cole Webster
12/24	Wed	4:00 PM	Adalbert	+Richard & Dorothy Wolicki	Family	Fr. Cole Webster
12/24	Wed	12:00 AM	Stanislaus	+Chester/Anna Chmiola	Estate	Fr. Jacek / Fr. Cole
12/25	Thu	10:15 AM	Stanislaus	Living & Deceased Friends & Family of Fr. Bob		Fr. Bob Stolinski
12/25	Thu	12:00 PM	Stanislaus	+Lucy Wawrzyniak	Estate	Fr. Jacek Mazur
12/26	Fri	8:00 AM	Stanislaus	+John Sroka	Steve & Karen Root	Fr. Jacek Mazur
12/27	Sat	4:00 PM	Stanislaus	+Jake Zglinicki	Doreen Skowron-Mota	Fr. Mariusz Dymek
12/28	Sun	10:15 AM	Stanislaus	+Helen Zielenski	Estate	Fr. Cole Webster
12/28	Sun	12:00 PM	Stanislaus	+Rita Bieszcz	Nancy Weigand & Family	Fr. Mariusz Dymek
12/28	Sun	5:00 PM	Stanislaus	Deceased of the Gabalski Family	Estate	Fr. Bryan Zielenieski

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AN ADVENT FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

Saturday, December 6, 7:00PM

Sunday, December 7, 3:00PM



www.sjs.edu/events

RSVP