

MASS SCHEDULE

May 5 - Monday

6:45 a.m. Irene Versace by the NTC Ascension Staff

May 6 - Tuesday

8:15 a.m. Florence Andrews by Michalina McArdle

May 7 - Wednesday

8:15 a.m. Joseph Wlodarczyk by Emil & Mary Wlodarczyk

May 8 - Thursday

8:15 a.m. Joseph Breloff by OLC Holy Name Society

May 9 - Friday

8:15 a.m. Helen Smolen by Steve & Vickie Kwarciany

May 10 - Saturday/Vigil: Pentecost

4:00 p.m. For all Mothers

May 11 - Sunday ~ Pentecost

8:00 a.m. (Polish) For all Mothers
9:30 a.m. For all Mothers
11:30 a.m. For all Mothers

SANCTUARY LIGHT

In memory of Jan & Jozefa Ziolkowski by Klis Family.

ALTAR CANDLES

In memory of Anna Pazik by Frank & Laura Socha

PARISH FINANCES

Weekly Need.....\$7,211.00
Sunday offertory (April 26 & 27).....6,042.05
Catholic Home Missions.....849.00

RENOVATION FUND

In memory of Carol Meritt by Mary Lee & Rich Tierney, \$50.

TODAY'S MASS

Focus: We have entered the last week of the great season of Easter. We are in between the celebration of the Ascension (when Christ returned to His Father) and that of Pentecost (When the Holy Spirit will be poured out upon the disciples). Today let us reflect on the way Jesus glorified the Father by laying down His life and taking it up again. The cross will be the means by which He is "lifted up" in both a literal, physical sense, and in the figurative sense of being gloriously exalted.

First Reading: Acts 1:12-14. The eleven disciples, some unnamed women, Jesus' mother and Jesus' brothers all stayed together in Jerusalem after the Ascension. By staying in Jerusalem, the group adheres to Jesus' final instruction, the last of His words Luke records in his Gospel: "stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." The disciples' clothing "with power from on high" refers to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. It is important to note that prayer was considered of utmost importance to the Church.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:13-16. This reading from the letter of St. Peter promises rejoicing at the revelation of Christ's glory. This is our faith; this is our hope. Bearing the name of "Christian" is a means by which the righteous sufferer glorifies God.

Gospel: John 17:1-11. In John's Gospel, Jesus' glorification appears to be clearly identified with His Crucifixion and Resurrection. We read in today's reading: "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to Your Son, so that Your Son may glorify You." The Son was totally obedient to the Father's will. Jesus' prayer for His disciples is included - a beautiful prayer for unity, for strength, for courage and for hope.

NEXT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:1-11 ~ 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 ~ John 20:19-23

ROSARY

We pray the rosary before all Masses. This week's intention: for all members of our armed forces and for the chaplains who serve them, that they will be comforted in times of stress, loneliness and discouragement.

FIRST COMMUNICATIONS

With great joy, we present the children of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish who are receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion today (Sunday): Cody Barone, Matthew Craft, Sara Herring, Daniel Hoffarth, Kristina Krehan, Jenna Krull, Kerstin Kubiak, Ryan Lamanna, Collin Maziarz, Madeline Miller, Natalie Ringler, Robert Rozicki, Alana Scherer, Bryce Schmigel, Tristian Scricco, Daniel Smolka, Brianna Summers, Luke Wojtaszek.

We extend our prayers and best wishes to all of you. God bless!

MAY CROWNING

Our parish May Crowning will be held on Wednesday, May 14 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the church and followed by procession to the grotto for the Rosary and Crowning. All are invited.

ROSARY SOCIETY MASS & LUNCHEON CARD PARTY

Members are asked to meet in church on Wednesday, May 14, at 11:30 a.m. for the Rosary and Mass at noon. Luncheon, cards and a short meeting will follow in the parish hall.

NTC OPEN HOUSE

On May 20 at 6:00 p.m., North Tonawanda Catholic School will host an Open House at the Ascension Campus, 75 Keil Street. Please join our principal and faculty and learn about our wonderful school. Tours will be available and parents and students on hand to answer any questions. Parents of our OLC students are encouraged to attend. For more information, call the main office at 693-2828.

NTC CARNIVAL TICKETS

It was called to our attention that in the recent NTC Raffle mailing, some envelopes did not include five tickets as was indicated in the letter. Additional tickets will be available at the rectory shortly. The committee apologizes for the mix-up.

HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to Stephanie Brennan who was awarded first honors for the third quarter at Nardin Academy.

RECEPTION FOR FATHER DENNIS

A farewell reception for Father Dennis will be held on Saturday, June 7, in the parish hall following the 4:00 p.m. Mass. Donations of finger foods and baked goods would be appreciated, to be brought to the hall by 2:00 p.m. Please complete the form below and return it through the weekend collection basket by June 2.

Name _____
Number attending _____
Donation item _____

OPENING LITURGY AND RECEPTION HERE

All are invited to celebrate this special liturgy on Saturday, June 29, at 4:00 p.m. The present parish council will coordinate the reception to be held after the Mass, for which we will need donations of finger foods. Please keep this date open; further information forthcoming.

NTC ART FESTIVAL

In conjunction with our Open House on May 20, North Tonawanda Catholic will hold an Art Festival in Msgr. Szabo Hall on Vandervoort Street from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Students' artwork will be on display, and the event will also include art demonstrations, a craft corner for make-it/take-it crafts, a caricature artist and art vendors. Public participation is welcome.

PIEROGI

Requests for May 9 are still being accepted at the rectory (693-3822) cheese at \$8.50 per dozen, potato/cheese or sauerkraut at \$8.00.

PRAISE SONG

PraiseSong at Blessed Sacrament Church will present St. Martin dePorres Gospel Choir with Fr. Ron Sajdak on Friday, May 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the church located at 263 Claremont Avenue.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The OLC Parish Council met last week and, as had been previously announced, discussion centered around attendance at the 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass. Mention was made of the drop in attendance over approximately the last year to between fifty and sixty people (excluding holidays). Only one letter was received requesting that the Mass remain as it is. It was suggested that celebrating the Mass in the English language may bring about an increase in attendance. After discussing the matter, the council decided that beginning Sunday, June 1, the 8:00 a.m. Mass will be in English and that the Polish Choir continue to provide music for this liturgy. The new parish council will continue to monitor this issue and see what the numbers are in the next few months.

As the OLC and St. Joseph Parish Councils came together, the determination was made to form an interim council made up of four representatives from each parish to begin meeting after June 22. OLC's representatives are: Michael Marinucci, Dawn Kwasniak, Patricia Bigelow and William Van de Water.

St. Joseph's Parish Council extends an invitation to all to join in the celebration of their church's history and service to the North Tonawanda Community at a liturgy on Sunday, June 22, at 10:30 a.m. An invitation and RSVP follows.

TO OUR FRIENDS AT OLC PARISH

As part of St. Joseph's final celebration, you are cordially invited to a picnic following the 10:30 a.m. Mass on June 22. A catered luncheon, including chicken and ribs, is planned. In order to plan appropriately, an accurate count is needed of those planning to attend. Please respond by Sunday, June 8, through the weekend offertory collection basket or by mail to: St. Joseph R.C. Church, 1451 Payne Avenue, North Tonawanda, NY 14120.

Name _____

Adults _____ # children 5 to 12 _____

Children 4 and under _____

FLOWER SALE

Spring has sprung! Our annual Spring Flower Sale order forms are included with this bulletin, and additional forms can be found in the church vestibule. Orders, together with payment, may be returned through the weekend collection basket or to the rectory by May 13. Call Marian Pilecki at 625-4131/625-4129 with any questions.

SPRING SALE

With the merger of Ascension and St. Albert the Great Churches, a Spring Sale will be held on Sunday, May 18, in Msgr. Szabo Hall from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. offering vases, bibles, small statues, religious articles and pictures, candles, spiritual books, tables, chairs, shelves, stools and small household items.

FUNDRAISER TODAY

Sikora Post #1322, American Legion, is holding a benefit today (Sunday) for 2 year old Lily Wolf, stricken with acute leukemia. Doors open at 2:00 p.m. and the \$20 admission includes food, beverage, a set of auction tickets and entertainment. In addition to a Chinese Auction, the event will feature door prizes, raffle and more.

EXPERIENCE WORKS

If you are 55 or older, **Experience Works** may have training and employment opportunities you have been looking for. **Experience Works** began in 1965 as a small project to help older, low-income retired people supplement their income while providing important services to their local communities.

If you have very limited income and want to work, the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) may be just right for you. It is the only employment program focused on meeting the training and employment needs of the older population.

Veterans, or spouses of veterans, are given preference for enrollment with SCSEP with a copy of Form DD214.

You can take advantage of the many opportunities that are available even if you haven't worked in a long time, have never worked outside the home, have physical limitations, live in a small town or in the country, receive Social Security, or don't have a high school education.

To find out if you are eligible, call **Experience Works** at 1-800-854-1578 or 585-786-5780.

HEALTH MINISTRY

The older people become, the more they need regular exercise. It helps prevent bone loss (reducing the risk of fractures) and reduces the risk of dozens of diseases associated with aging. It increases muscle strength and may improve balance and coordination, which can reduce the likelihood of falling. It also increases your capacity to handle basic living tasks, like carrying grocery bags, getting up from a chair or doing household chores. Being physically active is a real key in maintaining quality of life and independence. Come join our Senior Exercise Classes, which continue every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. in our parish hall. All are welcome.

Older adults can gain significant health benefits from a moderate amount of physical activity, preferably daily. Physical activity need not be strenuous to bring health benefits. What is important is to include activity as part of the regular routine.

A VOCATION VIEW

Realizing that all we have comes to us from the Father of Jesus - this is the first step in the journey through death to resurrection. Dare to walk the walk. If God is calling you, call Father Walter Szczesny at 847-5535.