

Old priests never die they just fade away. Oops! That's old soldiers! Sorry.

People are asking me what will I do after the merger. Well, I am retiring. The Diocese of Buffalo has 3 residences for retired priests and they are building a 4th one. I will be at the Bishop Head Residence in Lackawanna. There will be 14 of us priests. Each has a small apartment with a garage. We will have meals together. Laundry, etc are taken care of. We will celebrate or concelebrate Mass at our convenience in the chapel, as each desires. We volunteer to help parishes as they need us.

I am most grateful to MDG parishioners for all the kindnesses and support they have given me. And I wish to beg forgiveness for my many failures. One can't reach his 81st birthday without glimpsing some of his faults. You were often more of a priest to me than I was to you. Whatever parish you join, you surely will be an asset. I will miss MDG and all of you. But it is time for me to join the ranks of the retired priests. It will give me more time to thank the Lord for all he has done, and continues to do for me.

~Father Ayoub

My New Address and Email

S. Paul Ayoub
10 Rosary Ave
Lackawanna, NY 14218
Email: ayoub@roadrunner.com

If you have a problem having a Mass said, email me the intention I will offer the Mass.

Dedication of the Mother of Divine Grace Chapel at IOP

Msgr. Ayoub will celebrate the Dedication at the newly named, Mother of Divine Grace Chapel on Saturday, Oct. 3rd at 11am at IOP.

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS THE SICK: especially for Gloria Kunkel, Audrey Eisenhardt, Arlene Hopkins, Larry Kiener, Jim Bowback, Mary Kometh, Sarah Benhatzel, Brian Heitman, Ella Heer, and all those in hospitals.

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Our departed brothers and sisters, especially Robert Lauta, Father Raymond McNicholas, and all deceased priests who were at MDG and all deceased parishioners. May the Lord grant them eternal rest.

Mother of Divine Grace Important Information

~ **Commemorative MDG Christmas Ornaments:** The Closing Liturgy Committee has ordered custom-made Christmas Ornaments to remember Mother of Divine Grace Church. The ornaments are available for \$7 each. You may purchase an ornament in the Library following all Masses this weekend (4:30pm Saturday, and 11am on Sunday). If you have pre-paid and placed an order with the Rectory, you may pick up your order in the Library.

~ **Pictorial Directory:** Copies of the MDG Pictorial Directory (\$5 each) will be available to purchase in the Library. The 2007 Directory is a wonderful keepsake.

~ **Envelope Contributions Letters** will be mailed during the first two weeks of October. Once the September envelopes have been processed after our last Mass on Sunday, Sept. 27th, the information will be sent to you. Please retain this information for tax purposes.

Memory Lane...

Our deepest appreciation goes out to all the Members of the Closing Liturgy Committee, who have already spent, and will continue to spend, their valuable time in making our Final Mass a memorable and blessed occasion.

There is a *very Special* DVD being made commemorating Mother of Divine Grace...church, people, events, etc. We will take orders for the DVD which will be available for \$5 per copy. The DVD will be completed *after* the Closing Mass and Dinner Celebration. This affords us the opportunity to include the pictures and memories of opening the Corner Stone, our Last Mass and Celebration. If you would like a copy, please complete an order form (which can be found in the pews). We will contact you when they are ready. Thank you to Chris, Adam and Matthew Duke for all their hard work in creating this beautiful memory!

Thank You!

A heart-felt thank you to all of parishioners and friends who brought in the beautiful Mums to decorate the Church for our final Mass. Don't forget to pick them up in the Library, take them home and lovingly plant them where you may enjoy them all season long.



Calendar for the Week

Saturday, September 26th – SS. Isaak Jogues & John de Breboeuf and Comp.

10:00 AM AA Meeting
3:45 PM Confessions
4:30 PM Mass (Eugene Kujawa & son)

Sunday, September 27th - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

11:00 AM Final Mass (Parishioners)

Mass Schedule at Infant of Prague

Monday, September 28th - St. Wenceslaus, Lawrence Ruiz & Companions

7:30 AM Mass (Robert Keller)

Tuesday, September 29th - Michael, Gabriel, Raphael; Archangels

7:30 AM Mass (Frances Lovello)

Wednesday, September 30th - St. Jerome, Priest & Doctor

7:30 AM Mass (Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Caffrey & Family)
9:00 AM Mass (Gayle Marwood)

Thursday, October 1st -

9:00 AM Mass (Doris Schalberg)

Friday, October 2nd - Guardian Angels, First Friday

9:00 AM Mass (Pat Scherer ~ birth)

Saturday, October 3rd -

8:00 AM Mass (Wayne M. Evans)
11:00 AM Dedication of the Mother of Divine Grace Chapel
5:00 PM Mass (For Respect of All Life & For End of Abortion)

Sunday, October 4th - 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 AM Mass
OPENING MASS FOR THE NEW FAITH COMMUNITY

Readings for the Week September 27, 2009

Sunday: Nm 11:25-29; Jas 5:1-6; Mk 9:38-43,45,47-48
Monday: Zec 8:1-8; Lk 9:46-50
Tuesday: Dn 7:9-10,13-14; Jn 1:47-51
Wednesday: Neh 2:1-8; Lk9:57-62
Thursday: Neh 8:1-4a,5-6,7b-12; Lk 10:1-12
Friday: Bar 1:15-22; Mt 18:1-5,10
Saturday: Bar 4:5-12,27-29; Lk 10:17-24
Next Sunday: Gn 2:18-24; Heb 2:9-11; Mk 10:2-16

Caritas In Veritate

Pope Benedict XVI understands that the world is in crisis. In his sweeping new encyclical on social and economic justice, *Caritas in Veritate* (*Charity in Truth*), the Pope seeks nothing less than to proclaim a new vision, based on the social teachings of the Church, which responds to the needs of the world, and ultimately leads us to God.

What Does This Mean For Me?

In Catholic social teaching, the Pope makes clear, we all have duties and responsibilities as part of our membership in the human family. So what does this mean for us? Where do we start when the problems seem so immense and beyond our control?

Caritas in Veritate inspires us to ask ourselves important, searching questions:

? Am I guided, in my interactions with others, by the truth of God's love for them and their identity as his children?

? Are my economic and lifestyle decisions reflective of the Gospel call to stewardship, justice, and the common good?

? Am I participating in efforts to bring the love of God in truth to those in need, both nearby and far away?

As we seek to answer these questions, we must realize that there are as many ways to contribute as there are people on this earth. Some ideas for how to respond to with Christian love to the challenges posed by the Church include:

~ Volunteer at a center that assist pregnant women or new mothers.

~ Seek out those who are isolated ~ the elderly, the immigrant, the poor, the young ~ and offer them the gift of your presence.

~ Grow in your understanding of the world. Study what the Church has to say including this encyclical. Read the Catholic press to learn more about the issues of the day from a Catholic perspective. Encourage your parish to develop a study group to read the encyclical together.

~ Practice an authentic Catholic stewardship of the earth: avoid waste and overconsumption, recycle and live simply.

~ Finally, do not forget the power of prayer and the Eucharist!

(excerpted from *Charity in Truth, OSV, Inv. No. P694, July 2009*)

Walk Down Memory Lane... Or Open Halls!

We have had many requests from those who plan to attend our Final Mass, asking for permission to walk through the school, one last time! The corridors will be open for those interested in viewing class pictures, or classrooms. Most of the Class Pictures are being featured as part of the MDG DVD.

Dinner Reservations

Those guests who have made their Dinner Reservations will be asked to "check-in" at the door. No walk-ins can be accommodated. (sorry!) At the check-in, you will receive a place-card reflecting your reservation, so that you may set it at a table of your choice. The place-cards will allow you to "save" your spot, and mingle with other guests. No table reservations are being taken.

The Cash Bar will be opened at 1pm. Dinner will be served at 2pm. The Celebration will end at 5pm.

Environmental Committee Meeting

The Infant of Prague Environmental Committee warmly welcomes new members (from MDG and IOP) to join us on Tuesday, Oct. 6th at 3pm in the Parish Center meeting rooms as we begin our planning for the liturgical year changes in our worship areas.

In keeping with the mission, the Environment Committee prepares the Church, Chapel, Sanctuary and Altar in order to create a fitting and meaningful atmosphere in which to celebrate the Liturgical seasons. Please call Fran Riso at 836-2479 for further information.

Spiritual Life Committee

The Spiritual Life Committee will begin their monthly meetings starting on Tuesday evening, Sept. 22nd at 7pm in the Parish Center. We warmly welcome all new members to join us for an evening of Spiritual Planning as we celebrate the presence of Jesus Christ in word and sacrament. Contact Fran Riso at 836-2479 for any further information.

COLLECTION RESULTS FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2009

NO. OF CONTRIBUTION	AVERAGE OFFERING
3.....	Over 100.00
0.....	90.00-100.00
0.....	80.00 - 90.00
2.....	70.00 - 80.00
0.....	60.00 - 70.00
4.....	50.00 - 60.00
4.....	40.00 - 50.00
3.....	30.00 - 40.00
5.....	25.00 - 30.00
5.....	20.00 - 25.00
18.....	15.00 - 20.00
14.....	10.00 - 15.00
35.....	5.00 - 10.00
27.....	1.00 - 5.00
TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTORS...120	
TOTAL ENV COLL.....\$2,489.00	
LOOSE CASH\$ 233.00	
GRAND TOTAL.....\$2,712.00	
AVERAGE CONTRIBUTION WAS...\$22.60	
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOURS.	

RESPECT LIFE

When abortion claimed the lives of both her unborn grandchild and her daughter. Mrs. Eileen Smith and she and her husband Tom experienced a 'baptism of fire' into the pro-life movement. She vowed that she would tell Laura's story in the hope that at least one woman would choose life after hearing it...Since then, she has heard about several...young women who have turned away from abortion after hearing about Laura's death. *NRL News*, May 2008.

WE ARE CATHOLIC, LET IT SHOW!

"The subtle lies of today's culture of death are a plague of spiritual leprosy, reducing the value of human persons to some arbitrary standard that changes like fashions. ... To the world around us, what matters is what we possess, but to the Lord, *we matter* because we are his beloved children, created in his image, for whom he died, and with whom he wants to live forever in heaven."

— Rev. John Bartunek, LC, STL, "Why You Matter: A Reflection on Human Dignity," pamphlet from 2009 *Respect Life Program*.

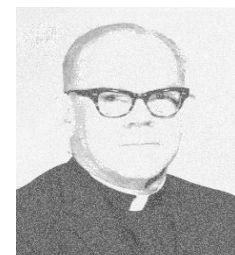


History of Mother of Divine Grace Roman Catholic Church 1946-2009

Mother of Divine Grace Parish was founded in May 1946. Portions of the territories of Our Lady Help of Christians and St. Aloysius Parishes were used to form the boundaries of our Parish. The building, which was built for a cost of \$75,000, housed a school which consisted of 14 classrooms above the Church. Rev. James Harold Lucid was appointed pastor and served as such until his death in October 1975.



Ground Breaking ~ 1947



Fr. James Lucid

Until the completion of the Church, services were held in the Tiorunda Community Building on Maryvlae Drive. The cornerstone for the Church was laid and dedicated by the Most. Rev. John F. O'Hara, Bishop of Buffalo, on October 26th, 1947. The cornerstone contains copies of various newspapers, historical documents of that time and U.S. coins of all denominations. The Holy Name Society and Christian Mothers Sodality were also established in 1947.

The combination Church and school building was completed in May 1948. A "Building Fund Appeal" in 1954 provided revenue, which added to the school's expansion, which was completed in 1955. In 1967, the New York State Thruway Authority cut through Cheektowaga, changing the boundaries of the parish.

The appointment of Rev. Msgr. S. Paul Ayoub as pastor in 1975, brought about new ideas and progressive changes in the Parish. His knowledge and foresight initiated the drilling of a gas well on the Church property in October 1979. The Church was renovated and re-dedicated on October 19th, 1980. Lighted faceted glass doors and windows enhanced the beauty of the Church, as did the new bell chimes, which were added in 1983.

MDG started the MDG Investment Club. People with small savings were able to pool them with others and receive higher interest. The Club was successful. In 1988, the former Convent was converted into Senior Citizen apartments and is owned by the Diocese of Buffalo. In June of 1989, the escalating cost of education and poor enrollment contributed to the closing of the parochial school after 34 years. The school building was then leased out to various organizations such as the Catholic Pamphlet Society, a Bethel Head Start Program and Kid's Klub Day Care Center. The remaining classrooms and grounds are used for various Community Services, such as The Town of Cheektowaga TGIF Program for children, Voting Place for the Erie County Board of Elections; Buffalo Rugby Club, etc.



Rev. S. Paul Ayoub

In June 2005, a parish-based strategic planning and spiritual revitalization initiative throughout the Diocese of Buffalo, called the "Journey of Faith and Grace", was started by Bishop Edward U. Kmiec, Bishop of Buffalo. On June 1, 2008, Bishop Kmiec announced that Mother of Divine Grace Parish in Cheektowaga will merge into Infant of Prague Parish in Cheektowaga. The Mother of Divine Grace site will be closed and the disposition of the buildings will be left to the discretion of the merged community at Infant of Prague Parish".

Rev. Msgr. S. Paul Ayoub will retire as the Church closes. The Last Mass for Mother of Divine Grace Roman Catholic Church was celebrated on Sunday, September 27, 2009 at 11am.

The faceted glass doors in the front of Mother of Divine Grace Church will be moved to Infant of Prague Church. One set of the six doors will be installed in the Chapel, which will be re-dedicated and named the Mother of Divine Grace Chapel on Saturday, October 3rd, 2009 at 11am.

One wonders where are all the Christmas babies, carried at the Midnight Mass? Who can find all the First Communion trees, or count the thousands of chocolate Santas and Easter eggs given after Christmas and Easter Masses, and the chocolate smeared faces of the little children. That too is Mother of Divine Grace.

Regina Coeli Laetare Alleluia! Quia quem meruisti portare Alleluia! Resurrexit sicut dixit Alleluia!

*This is the day the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad*

Mother of Divine Grace R.C. Church
120 Old Maryvale Drive
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

September 27, 2009

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Day The Lord Has Made

Several months ago, when we were told that MDG will close and be merged with IOP, it was like a ton of bricks have fallen on me. It is not that we did not know. We did. But that day we knew with our whole being, body and soul. 'This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad', kept running through my head. I mean, yes, this is the day the Lord has made, but rejoice? And be glad? Is not that a bit too much?

So many things run into your mind these last days. Like, Father Lucid talking with the original founders of the parish and encouraging them to work hard for their parish, to contribute from what little they had and to volunteer. Can anyone really know the thousands of hours of volunteer work that went into this parish? A church, school, con-

vent and rectory were built. What's more, a great parish was built. So many people throughout the world were affected in one way or another by the work of the MDG parishioners.

We can remind ourselves that there is a Mother of Divine Grace Church in the hearts and minds of the thousands of people who were in some way touched by this parish. So many received their sacraments here, so many attended Mass, went to school, received food and help from the St. Vincent De Paul Pantry and its volunteers. So, no matter the closing or merger, MDG lives on in the hearts of thousands of people.

And then there are those who were buried from this Church and now remember us at God's throne so we will continue to please Him and His Mother. For they too are MDGers. Death does not sever their membership with us, just their envelopes are no longer mailed!

'When Israel left Egypt, the house of Jacob from an alien people'.

This psalm 113 kept running into my head also, but in Latin with its mournful Gregorian chant. We sang it at Sunday's vespers, before the changes. Actually, the words themselves are triumphant. They gloat over the victory of the Israelites over Egypt. But the Gregorian chant itself is sad. Mixed emotions. You see the Israelites knew in their minds that they wanted to be free from slavery, but by their whole being, heart and soul, they clung to their homes in Egypt and its fleshpots.

This is our case too. In our minds we know the merger is what must happen, but our hearts do not. 'Le Coeur a des raisons que la raison ne connait point.' as the French say. The heart has reasons that reason does not know! Never forget the first church plans God gave to Moses were for a tent. He doesn't want us to sink roots on this earth. And so we sing: This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad!

S. Paul Ayoub



Hail, Holy Queen,
Mother of Mercy,
our life, our sweetness and
our hope!
To thee do we cry,
poor banished children of Eve;
to thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping
in this valley of tears.
Turn then, most gracious
advocate, thine eyes of mercy
toward us,
and after this our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of
thy womb, Jesus.
O element, O loving,
O sweet Virgin Mary!

Amen