DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Letters of Good Standing and Celebrets. Priests and deacons who will need good standing letters or celebrets to celebrate Masses or other sacraments in another diocese should complete and submit a “Request form for Letter of Good Standing” at least 3 weeks in advance (except for funerals). The form can be found on the diocesan website at: https://www.buffalodiocese.org/resources-for-clergy/ under “Chancery Forms.” Letters will not be issued unless the priest or deacon has a signed Code of Conduct and Uniform Release Authorization in his file, and is current with Virtus training and bulletins. For any questions, call the Chancery secretary at 716-847-5559.

Church Bulletin Announcements via Email. The Diocese of Buffalo publishes a weekly email newsletter that offers Church Bulletin Announcements about upcoming events, ongoing ministry and inspirational messages of faith. To subscribe, go to: https://www.buffalodiocese.org/chancery/.

Homily Helps from the Buffalo Diocese Care for Creation Committee. The Catholic Climate Covenant and the Integral Faith team provide resources for homilists and other materials that will help you integrate the rich insights of Laudato Si’ and Christian care for creation into Sunday Mass. These include highlights from the scriptures, readings of the day, relevant quotations from Laudato Si’, brief commentary, illustrations and anecdotes, sample applications, sample petitions, and bulletin notes. February 2022 Homily Helps available at: https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/?tid=14.

CHURCH BULLETINS

Tuition Assistance for Private Grammar Schools. New families can now apply for scholarships for the 2022-23 school year. To start the process, families can complete a pre-application form online at http://bisonfund.com/our-scholarships. The BISON Fund provides tuition assistance to economically eligible children in K-8th grade. If selected, the scholarships can be used at any private grammar school in WNY. The deadline to apply is February 28. The average scholarship is $1,500 and the maximum award is $2,500. For more information, call Cindy McDonald at 716-854-0869, ext. 1.

Kindling Your Faith Anew. For the month of January this study of the Apostle’s Creed using a movie presentation with different and amazing speakers each week will be held on Tuesday, January 18 and 25 from 10:30 am-12 pm in the Our Lady of Czestochowa Ministry, Building, 57 Center Ave., North Tonawanda. If interested, contact Sr. Jacinta at olcparishevent@gmail.com.

16th Annual Festival of Lights Benefit & Basket Auction on Sunday, January 16 at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, 1023 Swann Rd., Youngstown; doors open at 5 pm with Wine Tasting, followed by appetizers at 5:45 pm and dinner at 6:15 pm. In support of the Shrine’s renovation, the evening will consist of Basket Auction featuring over 300 baskets, door prizes, catered dinner by the Como Restaurant and much more. Tickets available by calling 716-754-7489. Basket Auction previews on Friday, January 14 from 11 am-7 pm; Saturday, January 15 from 9 am-6 pm; and Sunday, January 16 from 9 am-3 pm. The Shrine cafeteria will be open for service on Friday 11 am-7 pm for Fish Fry and on Saturday 10 am-6 pm with a variety of specials.
Youth Rally, March & Mass for Life on Saturday, January 22 at St. Gregory the Great Parish, 200 St. Gregory Ct., Williamsville; 3:30-4:15 pm Youth Rally in Ministry Center; 4:15-5:15 pm March for Life & Rosary on Maple Avenue; 5:30 pm Mass in Church with Bishop Fisher celebrating, followed by a reception in the Ministry Center. All are welcome; face coverings will be required. Please RSVP for seating purposes by January 15 at: https://tinyurl.com/YouthMassforLife. For more information and publicity resources, visit: https://www.stregs.org/youth-rally-march-mass-life/.

St. John’s Open House. St. John the Baptist School (1085 Englewood Ave., Kenmore) invites new and prospective families to visit us on Sunday, January 30 from 1-3 pm to tour our campus. We invite all interested families with students entering Pre-K 3 to Grade 8 to take a tour of our school and see all that St. John’s has to offer. Tours are by reservation only. Call the school at 716-877-6401 to reserve your spot.

Annulment Workshop on Saturday, February 5 from 9-11 am at UB North Newman Center, 495 Skinnersville Rd., Amherst. The session will include information on the recent changes in the annulment process and step-by-step help in getting started. A nominal registration fee will cover the cost of materials. For additional information, contact Barbara at 716-633-7786 or BJWTR@aol.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

“God’s Son, My Son”: St. Joseph, a one-man play on Monday, February 7 at 7 pm at Our Lady of Pompeii Church, 129 Laverack Ave., Lancaster; presented by Michael Sacilowski, Director of Religious Education of Queen of Martyrs Parish, Cheektowaga. Through this theatrical presentation, accompany St. Joseph as he fulfills his call to be a human father to Jesus and how he strived to protect Mary and Jesus. Listen to the Patron Saint of Workers who taught our Lord the carpenter’s trade and how work can be a path to holiness.

Save the Date: WNY Catholic Men’s Conference will be held on Saturday, March 26 at Cardinal O’Hara High School, 39 O’Hara Rd., Tonawanda. We welcome the attendance of priests, deacons, religious and seminarians and can use the help of priests for confessions. For more information, visit: https://www.cmfofwny.org/.

Coffee with Sr. Jacinta. Today is always the right day to grow and deepen your knowledge of your faith. Join Sr. Jacinta on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays from 9:30-10 am. either through Zoom or live in the Our Lady of Czestochowa Ministry Building, 57 Center Ave., North Tonawanda to study the Catechism of the Catholic Church, with insights and opportunities for questions and answers. If interested, contact Sr. Jacinta at olcparishevent@gmail.com.

Book Club will meet every Wednesday at 11 am in the Our Lady of Czestochowa Ministry Building, 57 Center Ave., North Tonawanda or through Zoom. Participants will read certain chapters each week and meet to discuss and share insights. If you are interested, email Sr. Jacinta at olcparishevent@gmail.com.

ENCLOSURES

1. Youth Rally, March & Mass for Life - letter

* = Priests and Deacons only
** = Diocesan Priests only
January 3, 2022

Dear Supporters of Life,

We are very excited to invite you and your parish community to attend the Youth Rally, March and Mass for Life on January 22, 2022 at St. Gregory the Great Parish with Bishop Michael Fisher. Our Respect Life rally will consist of dynamic pro-life speakers interspersed with contemporary Christian music to energize the youth for the march and public witness of the Rosary. Bishop Fisher will celebrate Mass, and the event will conclude with a reception. The schedule of events is as follows:

**Youth Rally, March & Mass for Life**
Saturday, January 22, 2022
St. Gregory the Great Parish
200 St. Gregory Court, Williamsville, NY 14221

3:30 – 4:15 pm Youth Rally in Ministry Center
4:15 – 5:15 pm March for Life & Rosary on Maple Avenue
5:30 pm Mass in Church with Bishop Fisher Celebrating
   Reception to follow in the Ministry Center

All are welcome to attend. We ask for parental oversight to help with safety. Face coverings will be required. Please dress appropriately as we will be marching outside regardless of the weather. Groups are encouraged to make appropriate signs for the event.

Priests are invited to concelebrate the Mass in Diocesan vestments, and Deacons are invited to vest for the Mass in Diocesan dalmatic or alb and stole. Please RSVP for seating purposes by Saturday, January 15, 2022 using the following link: [https://tinyurl.com/YouthMassforLife](https://tinyurl.com/YouthMassforLife)

We have developed several resources that you can use to get the word out. For more information and publicity resources, please visit our website at: [https://www.stregs.org/youth-rally-march-mass-life/](https://www.stregs.org/youth-rally-march-mass-life/)

Thank you for your continued support and witness to life!

Blessings,

Cheryl Calire  
Executive Director  
Office of Pro-Life & Pastoral Ministries  
Diocese of Buffalo

Rev. Leon J. Biernat  
Pastor  
St. Gregory the Great Parish  
Williamsville, New York