

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.

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. **March 2022 Homily Helps available at:** <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/?tid=14>.

CHURCH BULLETINS

Bulletin message for weekend of February 19-20: No gift to Appeal 2022 is too small. In fact, each dollar raised during the annual Appeal leverages an additional \$3 to \$4 of government support and contracts. More funding means more services, like affordable and accessible mental health counseling and basic needs assistance, for those who need it most. Your donation helps strengthen and empower thousands of individuals across the eight counties of Western New York. To make a gift to Appeal 2022, visit www.ccwny.org/donation or text **GIVEHOPE22** to 44321.

Bulletin message for weekend of February 26-27: What is Catholic Charities to those in need? Sometimes a second home. Paul, a client for many years, said “The biggest thing that Catholic Charities means to me is, I don’t have any immediate family and no guidance in life, and they have really guided me in good, positive directions and I can’t tell you what they’ve helped me out with. Dental, with food, with housing, and not just that – a warm and welcoming feeling when you come in this place, and that’s how come I feel it’s my second home.” Your gift to Appeal 2022 helps people like Paul, and so many others, regain **HOPE** and a sense of belonging when they need it most. To make a donation today, visit www.ccwny.org/donation or text **GIVEHOPE22** to 44321.

Bulletin message for March: Learn about *Labeling for Lent*, a national initiative of the Coalition of Catholic Organizations against Human Trafficking; include human trafficking issues in your prayers in church and with other groups; contribute to help abolish this crime. **U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking** is a 501(c)(3) organization, 2039 N. Geyer Rd., St. Louis, MO 63131; sistersagainstrafficking.org.

Aprenda sobre el etiquetado para la Cuaresma, una iniciativa nacional de la Coalición de Organizaciones Católicas contra la Trata de Personas; que incluye temas de trata de personas en sus oraciones en la iglesia y con otros grupos; contribuir a ayudar a abolir este delito. **U.S. Catholic Sisters**

Against Human Trafficking es una organización 501(c)(3), 2039 N. Geyer Rd., St. Louis, MO 63131; sistersagainstrafficking.org.

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.

St. Ignatius of Loyola – Then & Today: ‘Ignatian Spirituality’ on Thursday, February 24 at 7 pm at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1029 Delaware Ave., Buffalo. Rev. Thomas Slon, SJ will give the lecture and explain what is unique about Ignatian Spirituality and why it might be especially helpful to us in our time as we face our own Church crises. The evening will offer opportunities to experience these methods of prayer and to engage in conversation. The public is invited and encouraged to make reservations for this free lecture at www.BSCBuffalo.org/events or by contacting Michael Pitek at 716-480-8313 or Michael@thepitekgroup.com. Free off-street parking available and free-will offering appreciated.

Mardi Gras. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Buffalo’s Old First Ward celebrates Mardi Gras on Saturday, February 26 from 6-10 pm at the Bison City Rod & Gun Club, 511 Ohio St., Buffalo. Featuring an authentic New Orleans menu prepared by Fr. Paul Seil and Chris Alongi, the event includes music by The Ralph Jeswald Combo, a variety of raffles and free beads to the first 100 guests. For more information, contact the church at 716-852-2671. Founded in 1897, the church (commonly referred to as “PETS”) is celebrating its 125th anniversary.

Ash Wednesday Retreat at Stella Niagara’s Center of Renewal (2 miles north of the Village of Lewiston). Begin the Lenten season by participating in an enjoyable, values-based retreat/workshop on Wednesday, March 2. Check-in and morning coffee from 8:30-8:55 am, retreat from 9 am-3 pm; lunch will be provided. Facilitated by Dr. Nancy Askins, Executive Director of the Center of Renewal, the retreat day will include discussions, music, contemplative time and reflective values-based activities designed to help retreatants prepare to enter the sacred six weeks of Lent in a meaningful manner. Advance reservations are needed by February 16. Current Covid protocols will be expected and verified of all participants. Visit www.stellaniagararetreats.org for details. To pre-register, call the Center of Renewal at 716-754-7376, ext. 1 or 2.

Weidner’s Chicken BBQ on Sunday, March 6 from 12-4 pm (or sold out) at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 4263 St. Francis Dr., Hamburg. For more information, contact Randy Harlach at 716-912-5488.

Mount St. Mary will host its annual Chrysalis Auction on Saturday, March 12 at 5 pm at The Historic Wurlitzer Building in North Tonawanda. The theme is: “Together Again: Red Carpet Style.” Tickets for the auction includes cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, live and silent auctions and dinner. Reservation and raffle tickets can be purchased online at: www.msacademy.org/support/chrysalistickets. To learn about advertisements, sponsorships, ways to support the event or other information, contact Ms. Alexis Arth, Coordinator of Development and Special Events at arth@msacademy.org or 716-877-1358, ext. 304 or visit: www.msacademy.org/support/chrysalissponsorship.

Our Lady of Charity Parish - Pot O’ Gold Drawing will be virtual on March 12. Top Prize: \$10,000. Tickets available after all weekend Masses at Our Lady of Charity, at the parish office (260 Okell St., Buffalo), in person at Mineo’s Pizza or by mail in request. For more information, contact the parish at 716-822-5962.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. The Office of Worship of the Diocese of Buffalo will offer two training opportunities for individuals who wish to become Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

- March 12 at 9 am at St. Joseph Cathedral (Msgr. Britt Social Room), 50 Franklin St., Buffalo;
- March 26 at 9:30 am at Holy Trinity Parish (St. Mary's Hall), 211 Eagle St., Medina.

Please first discuss the possibility with your pastor/parish administrator. Once your pastor approves, complete an application form (available from your parish office or the Office of Worship) and present it to your parish office for final approval, pastor's signature and parish seal. Forms should then be sent to the Office of Worship, 795 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14203 no later than 7 days prior to the training. When attending a formation session, please bring your personal Bible and a means of taking notes. For more information, email worship@buffalodiocese.org or call 716-847-5545. Details are also available at <https://www.buffalodiocese.org/em-training>.

Una Voce Buffalo Lenten Mission at St. Anthony of Padua, corner of S. Elmwood & Court Sts., Buffalo with Fr. Sean Kopczynski, MSJB. Intro to the Mission begins Sunday, March 13 at the 9 am Mass, followed by Evening Mission from March 14-18 with Low Mass at 6 pm and Mission at 7 pm. Each evening will feature Rosary and Confession starting at 5:15 pm. Catechism will be each morning at 8 am in the Scalabrini Room rectory basement.

Married Couples Retreat – The Mystery and Meaning of Marriage. Enjoy a weekend get-away with your spouse Friday, March 11 at 6 pm (with dinner) and closing on Sunday, March 13 at 11 am. A time for prayer, inspirational talks, discussion and sharing. The retreat will be hosted at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, 57 Center Ave., North Tonawanda. For more information or to register, contact Sr. Jacinta at olcparishevent@gmail.com or 716-692-0276. There is a guest house available at the parish if interested.

Retreat Weekend – Praying Sacred Scripture, with Dr. Tim Gray, beginning Friday, March 18 at 6 pm (with dinner) and closing on Sunday, March 20 at 11 am. This retreat consists of talks geared to equip participants to more fully understand and appreciate how to read and pray the Scriptures. It also includes Holy Mass, availability for Confession, conference, quiet time, meals and fellowship. The retreat will be hosted at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, 57 Center Ave., North Tonawanda. For more information or to register, contact Sr. Jacinta at olcparishevent@gmail.com or 716-692-0276. There is a guest house available at the parish if interested.

“La Feasta Di San Giuseppe.” St. Anthony of Padua Church, 160 Court Street, Buffalo, celebrates the Feast of St. Joseph, “La Feasta Di San Giuseppe,” on Sunday, March 20 with Mass at 11am followed by a sit down dinner at 12 pm. Parking is free. For tickets and information, call the rectory at 716-854-2563 between 9am-1pm. Pre-sale tickets only by March 2.

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/>.

Magnificat Ministry to Women, Gentle Woman, Mother of Mercy Chapter presents an “in-person” morning of prayer, testimony and praise! Join us on Saturday, March 26 at Millennium Hotel, 2040 Wlادن Ave., Cheektowaga, as we share breakfast and the testimony of our special guest, Maria Gehl. Maria is a local homeschooling, active mother of six, whose life has been filled with stories of the love, power, healing and joy that the Holy Spirit can give. Registration opens 9 am; seating at 9:15 am; program from 9:45 am to approximately 12:10 pm. Pre-registration is required. See www.facebook.com/magnificatbuffalo for cost and details, or call Maureen at 716-683-2290.

Lenten Parish Retreat. Our Lady of Peace Parish in Clarence is offering a 4-day Lenten Parish Retreat as part of the celebration of their 100th year of founding as a parish. Rev. George Knab, OMI, will conduct the retreat with sessions at 7 pm on March 27-30. Theme: Rosary Renewal. St. John Paul II

wrote of the rosary's capacity to form Christians according to the mind and heart of Christ. This retreat integrates his suggestions with preaching and ritual to dispose the people for the graces which each mystery offers. The retreat will take place at Our Lady of Peace Church, 10950 Main St., Clarence. For more information, call the parish at 716-759-8554.

Theater Camps. Two theater camps will be offered this summer at Cardinal O'Hara High School, Tonawanda for youngsters from 7-18. Working with theater professionals, each camp will end with live performances on the Cardinal O'Hara stage. One camp is for ages 7-12: July 11-29 from 9 am-3 pm; the second camp is for ages 11-18: August 1-19 from 9 am-3 pm. A non-refundable deposit is required to reserve a spot. For more information, email Thomas Wilkie at twilkie@cardinalohara.com or call 716-695-2600, ext. 357.

Word of Life-February 20: "We often assume parenthood happens easily after 'I do,' but for many married couples, it does not. For some, the joy of conception never happens. Others suffer repeated miscarriages. Still others experience secondary infertility... If you experience difficulty bringing a child into your family, know that you are not alone. God is with you, and his Church desires to walk with you... God has a beautiful plan for your life as a married couple."

Palabra de Vida-Febrero 20: "A menudo asumimos que la paternidad o la maternidad suceden fácilmente, pero para muchas parejas casadas no es así. En algunas, la alegría de la concepción nunca llega. Otras sufren repetidos abortos espontáneos. Otras sufren infertilidad secundaria... Si ustedes atraviesan dificultades para traer un hijo a su familia, sepan que no están solos. Dios está con ustedes, y su Iglesia desea caminar con ustedes. ... Dios tiene un hermoso plan para su vida como pareja casada."

Word of Life-February 27: "The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life. Every person is cherished."

Palabra de Vida-Febrero 27: "La esencia de nuestra identidad es que somos creados a imagen y semejanza de Dios y somos amados por Él. Nada puede disminuir el valor inestimable de cada vida humana. Cada persona es atesorada."

ENCLOSURES

(none)