TREASURES of our DIOCESE

175

CELEBRATING

1847-2022

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Let your pilgrimage begin...

The Diocese of Buffalo has a rich 175-year history in Western New York. From the very beginning when Bishop Timon first arrived and was named the first Bishop of Buffalo, the Church in Western New York has been part of the communities throughout the region. Even before the diocese was established in 1847, parishes that still exist today, were ministering to those in the region. As the diocese celebrates 175 years, you are invited to visit some of the parish communities, churches and institutions throughout Western New York and discover some of the treasures of the Diocese of Buffalo.

From the table that St. John Neumann used as an altar when celebrating Masses at the various mission parishes he served, to the unique architecture which serves as a reminder of the faith of the people, you will be in awe as you journey from site to site on this pilgrimage.
You are invited to inquire with the individual sites to see if the locations are open for visitors, and when Mass is celebrated. Some sites are linked and may not necessarily be open during the day if not the main site of the community.

Pictures of St. John Neumann and Venerable Fr. Nelson Baker can be found on the pages of locations which these holy servants have special connections to, making them exceptional places to visit.

Through the intercession of St. Joseph, Patron of the Diocese of Buffalo, may you be kept safe in your travels and be inspired by your discoveries.
CATTARAUGUS COUNTY
Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels

Est. 1876

202 South Union Street, Olean, NY 14760

On September 26, 1915, Venerable Nelson Baker, as vicar general, blessed and opened the church.

The Munich-style windows were produced by Daprato Statuary Co. in Chicago by European artisans during WWI and installed in 1919 in time for the consecration of the church on June 29 by Bishop William Turner. They are exceptional for their size and their exquisite artistry. Because of the church’s north/south orientation, the architect, Emile Uhlrich, designed their size and position so that sunlight plays through the giant window paintings from morning through dusk. Fr. Thomas Plassmann, OFM, president of St. Bonaventure University, devised the windows theme: the life of Jesus with his mother, Mary, in chronological order beginning with the annunciation and ending with the crucifixion.

www.smaolean.org

@BasilicaOlean
St. Bonaventure

*Est. 1854*

95 East Main St. • Allegany

The statues of Mary and Joseph were created by Otto Georg Hitzberger in 1952 for the original Christ the King Seminary Chapel. At that time, the Seminary Chapel was on the campus of what is now St. Bonaventure University. The statues were placed in the sanctuary as part of a church remodeling in 2019.

Hitzberger is an internationally renowned artist who came to the United States in 1949. At the age of 15, he entered the Oberammergau wood carving school and advanced to the Academy of Fine Arts in Berlin. He is a master carver and sculptor.

stbonas.weconnect.com

🔗 St. Bonaventure Parish (Allegany)
St. John the Evangelist

Est. 1896

931 North Union St. • Olean, NY 14760

This Southern Tier community received a set of stained glass windows in 1896, donated by Fr. Hamel, the first priest to establish a Catholic church in the city of Olean on the south side. The windows can still be viewed behind the altar on the right side.

www.sjteolean.org

🔗 St. John the Evangelist
St. Mary R.C. Church

Est. 1863

36 Washington Street
Cattaraugus, NY 14719

This parish community has served the Cattaraugus area for over 150 years. When arriving to the church, visitors are welcomed by a pure white statue of our Blessed Mother. Her image welcomes all who seek hope and comfort, and they can find it in the image of Our Lady.

stmaryscatt.org

St. Mary’s Church Cattaraugus, NY
St. Philomena

*Est. 1873*

26 Plymouth Ave. • Franklinville 14737

The church contains works created by sculptor and painter Larry Griffis Jr., the artist who created the Griffis Sculpture Park in East Otto. He created the crucifix that hangs above the altar area. In 1964, it was entered into the Canisius College liturgical exhibit and won. He also created the statue of St. Philomena in the front circle. It is a steel alloy artwork.

[www.spvm14737.org](http://www.spvm14737.org)

[St. Philomena R.C. Church](http://www.spvm14737.org)
CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
Christ Our Hope Parish
St. Matthias Church
Est. 1873
1762 French Creek Mino Road
Clymer, NY 14724

This Chautauqua County community recently renovated their sanctuary space in 2019. The original artwork in the sanctuary was created by New Guild Studios. While visiting the inside sanctuary, make sure to step outside to visit the meditation garden on the hillside located behind the church.

Christ Our Hope Parish

SPONSORED BY:

(716) 355-6479
Christ Our Hope Parish
St. Isaac Jogues Church

Est. 1941

119 Miller Street • Sherman, NY 14781

This church is named in honor of French Jesuit Missionary, St. Isaac Jogues. St. Isaac, one of the “North American Martyrs,” was martyred in New York State in 1646. A statue of St. Isaac can be found inside the church.

Christ Our Hope Parish

SPONSORED BY:
Law Office of Michael J. Antkowiak P.C.
(814)432-3289
Our Lady of the Snows

Est. 1946

36 E. Main Street • Panama, NY 14767

This rural community has a Divine Mercy painting located in its sanctuary behind the altar, which helps lead visitors into a state of prayer while seeking God’s mercy, love and forgiveness. The community also has a narthex that allows for great community gathering.

www.sh.thischurch.org

🔗 Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lakewood, NY
Sacred Heart of Jesus

*Est. 1912*

380 E. Fairmont Ave. • Lakewood, NY 14750

This rural community recently went through a period of renovation and restoration. During that time, the community updated its sanctuary and worship space. Visitors to this church will find beautiful artwork and statues that provide enriching visuals of our faith to meditate with in prayer.

www.sh.thischurch.org

© Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lakewood, NY

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**SPONSORED BY:**

Bemus Point Market

12 Main Street Bemus Point, NY

Open daily 7am – 9pm
St. Dominic Parish Community

Est. 1944 (St. Patrick Site rebuilt following a fire)

1915 (St. James Major site rebuilt)

St. Patrick Site
12 Main Street
Brocton, NY 14716

St James Site
15 Union Street
Westfield, NY 14787

Both of these Chautauqua communities have tragic fires as part of their history. St. Patrick’s came out of St. Michael’s, which experienced a fire in 1944, and St. James, originally established in 1871, experienced a fire and was rebuilt in 1915. Both cemetery sites for St. James on Union Street and on Main Street provide opportunities for exploration for those who enjoy older cemeteries. The St. Patrick site has original items that survived its fire. Some of these items include the crucifix which hangs on the back wall as well as the original altar and tabernacle, which are located on the side.

Fr. Baker was involved in the incorporation of both parish communities.

www.stdominicrcc.org

SPONSORED BY:
New York Life/Robert Ducato & Associates
www.bducatoassoc.com
St. Mary

Est. 1926

24 E. Chautauqua St. • Mayville

Venerable Nelson Baker was Vicar General of the diocese when St. Mary’s Church was built. He hired the same craftsman who designed the windows of Our Lady of Victory Basilica to design St. Mary’s windows. He suggested the church be named St. Mary of Victory, but there is no documentation to explain why his request was not fulfilled. Sadly, he was ill and unable to attend the dedication of the church, but he made many visits to the parish during the planning and building of the church. When St. Mary, Mayville and Our Lady of Lourdes, Bemus Point merged into one parish, we took the name St. Mary of Lourdes for our parish community.

Venerable Nelson Baker donated the statue of Our Lady of Victory at the side altar and the Our Lady of Victory window above the main entrance of the church.

www.stmaryoflourdesrcparish.org
ERIE COUNTY
St. Anthony

Est. 1904

417 Commercial St. • Farnham, NY 14081

This active rural community has served the lake shore community since the early 20th century. The rose window in this church was replaced with stained glass in 2005. When visiting the church, don’t forget to visit the memorial walkway and Marian shrine located to the left of the church.

www.saintanthonyfarnham.org

St. Anthony’s of Farnham
Located behind City Hall in downtown Buffalo, this Italian parish hosts an Italian Heritage Museum in its basement. The sanctuary within the church is filled with beauty and has been visited by several great figures in the church’s history in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. St. Frances Cabrini visited in 1892, and, in 1901, Bishop John Scalabrini, founder of the Missionaries of St. Charles, visited the community. St. Luigi Guanella also visited the parish in 1913. Buffalo’s own Venerable Fr. Nelson Baker dedicated the parish’s school on January 11, 1912.

www.stanthonyofpadua-buffalo.org

St. Anthony of Padua Church - Buffalo

Sponsored by:

ODL Orthodent Laboratory
155 Chandler St., Suite 2A,
Buffalo, NY 14207
(716) 839-1900
Assumption

Est. 1888

435 Amherst St. • Buffalo, NY 14207

The Romanesque Revival church was renovated in 2010–2011. The exterior bricks and roof were repaired, new lighting fixtures were installed inside the church, and the 1920s decorative scheme returned. Additional borders were added around the arcades and stained glass windows. The border design was modeled after the borders around the sanctuary sgraffito murals designed by Italian muralist Jozef Slawinski. A relic of St. John Paul II and picture of his visit as then Cardinal Karol Wojtyla on September 17, 1969, may be found in the right portion of the sanctuary.

www.assumptionbuffalo.org

assumptionbuffalo
Blessed Sacrament  
*Est. 1929*

263 Claremont Ave. • Tonawanda, NY 14223

The church features a large stained glass window above the sanctuary. There is also a Chapel of Divine Mercy on the parish campus. Msgr. Bernard McLaughlin was the second pastor of the parish. He was ordained a bishop while serving at Blessed Sacrament, and he remained at the parish until 1972.

www.bsacramentchurch.com

✉️ blessedsacramentchurchtonawanda
Blessed Trinity

*Est. 1906*

317 Leroy Ave. • Buffalo, NY 14214

Displayed on the church façade and portico at this church pilgrims will find the teachings of the Church. From scripture, to various doctrines and teachings, former St. Bonaventure University President Rev. Thomas Plassman designed this unique iconography to teach the faith. Also featured is a unique statue of Mary which was carved from a hollow log believed to be about 260 years old.

www.blessedtrinitybuffalo.org

🔗 Blessed Trinity R.C. Church

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SPONSORED BY:

Vandercher & Dick FUNERAL HOME
Christ the King

Est. 1926

30 Lamarck Drive

This parish community made history when it became the first church in the world to be named “Christ the King” after Pope Pius XI’s proclamation of the Feast Day. Built in the style of Tudor Castle, there are two prominent willow trees located on the front lawn which were planted 80 years ago and are now two of the largest in Western New York. The parish also offers perpetual adoration in its chapel, which is located between the church and school. The chapel is open daily 7A.M. until 7P.M.

Fr. Baker signed the papers of incorporation for the parish.

www.ctksnyder.org

SPONSORED BY:

Granite Spine, LLC.
Church of the Annunciation

*Est. 1905*

7580 Clinton St. • Elma, NY 14059

The original Freiburger Chapel is located by the parish center across the street from the church. While getting ready to leave Alsace Lorraine, Mother Freiburger found a five franc piece. Her parish priest told her to take it to America and find a good place for it. So with five francs and the help of her neighbors, the Catholic settlers built the Chapel, and it is called “Our Lady in the Woods.” The first church building was completed in 1907, and it is now called Langley Hall.

www.annunciation.cc

🔗 annunciationelma
Ss. Columba-Brigid
Est. 1888

75 Hickory St. • Buffalo, NY 14204

This city parish is filled with great diversity and faith. The community has a peace garden in honor of Sr. Karen Klimczak, who was murdered on Good Friday in 2006. The garden has monuments that chronicle Sr. Karen’s life along with markers dedicated to peacemakers. Visitors will also find the St. Kateri Tekakwitha Habitat, which is wonderful to visit during the summer months. The habitat is dedicated to reintroducing native species of plants, especially those that attract bees and butterflies.

www.sscolumbabrigid.org
🔗 SsColumbaBrigidChurch
Corpus Christi Church
Est. 1898 (Present cornerstone was laid in 1907)

199 Clark St. • Buffalo, NY 14212

One of Buffalo’s iconic Polish parishes, Corpus Christi Church is located at Clark and Kent Sts (Superman Corner), The church features many unique items and exquisite artwork, including stained glass windows made by Franz Mayer Works of Germany; Radziewicz pipe organ, the only organ in Buffalo built by a Polish-American Firm, decor that highlights the Eucharist, and a rendering of Raphael Santi’s (1483-1520) Disputa of the Holy Eucharist by Marion Rzeznik, who worked with Gonippo Raggi on Our Lady of Victory Basilica.

The Pauline Fathers and parishioners have undertaken numerous restoration projects including a new roof and new cupolas.

Stop by, visit and see for yourself.

www.CorpusChristiBuffalo.org

Corpus Christi Church Buffalo
Epiphany of Our Lord  
*Est. 2006*

10893 Sisson Hwy. • North Collins, N 14111

The sanctuary space in this rural church is filled with stars representing the magi who were guided by the Star of David. Each star in the sanctuary space has special meaning and can be read about when visitors visit the community.

www.epiphanyofourlordrc.com

Epiphany of Our Lord RC
The stained-glass windows of this church were made by Otto F. Andrle Stained Glass Art Inst. Inc. in Buffalo in the early 20th century. The windows themselves depict the “Fourteen Holy Helpers.”

On display for prayer are life-sized wax representations of parts of the body healed after pilgrims journeyed to Fourteen Holy Helpers praying for healing through the intercession of the saints.

www.14hh.org

Fourteen Holy Helpers Parish

SPONSORED BY:
K&B Dry Cleaners & Pressers
3451 Clinton St. • West Seneca, NY 14224
Good Shepherd

*Founded by St. Neumann in 1839 and incorporated in 1847*

5442 Tonawanda Creek Rd.
N. Tonawanda, NY 14120

Good Shepherd RC Church was founded by St. John Neumann in 1839 and incorporated in 1847. Good Shepherd RC Church features a statue located outside the church of St. Neumann sculpted by Sr. Catherine Muelbauer, dedicated on May 27, 1998. A hand-painted mural by artist Carlo Nisita of St. Neumann completed in 1970 is located in the Parish Hall. We honor St. John Neumann on his Feast Day, January 5th.

www.goodshepherdpendleton-campus.org
Built in 1938 by the Bernardini Statuary Company, Inc., this grotto was designed and constructed for the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph under the direction of Father Benedict Przemielawski, OFM Conv., brother of Sister Judith Przemielawski, FSSJ, and uncle of Sister Marcia Stobnicki, FSSJ. Housed here on the original motherhouse grounds of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph, this beautiful structure is a replica of the grotto in Lourdes, France, where the Blessed Mother is said to have appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous.

Over 2,000 people attended the dedication of the grotto on June 5th, 1938. Since that day, lovingly nurtured by the hands of countless Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph, the grotto has served as a place of prayer and meditation for thousands of visitors, far and wide. This grotto stands as a testament to the faith, dedication, and enduring legacy of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph.
The restoration of the Grotto began in the fall of 2021 and will be complete in anticipation of the 125th anniversary of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph on September 8, 2022.

Pope Saint John Paul II visited this campus in 1969 to bless the Polish literature collection in the McGrath Library. He would have seen the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto located on the campus grounds for himself.
Holy Spirit Church

Est. June 1958

2017 Halley Rd. • North Collins, NY 14111

In the village of North Collins, there were two separate but devout groups of Catholics, both considered missions of other Catholic parishes until after 1900. Services were held in various facilities until churches were built. St. John the Baptist Parish was organized in 1902 as a mission of St. Joseph's in Gowanda. Sacred Heart of Jesus was built in 1907 as a mission of Eden, NY. Sacred Heart and St. John’s memberships and physical properties were incorporated in 1952 as Holy Spirit Parish under Rev. Roman J. Ott, Administrator. The name Holy Spirit was chosen to reverence the third person of the Blessed Trinity and to show no partiality to either of the existing churches. Bishop O’Hara remarked, “The Holy Spirit is the God of Love, which unites things into one.”

When the parishes merged, larger facilities were needed. On June 8th, 1958, parishioners gathered at the site for an outdoor Mass and blessing of the site for the new church and school complex. The church cornerstone and buildings were blessed on November 23, 1958. Holy Spirit School opened in September 1959.
Fr. Ott remained at Holy Spirit until reassignment in January 1964. Rev. Bernard Weiss was installed as Pastor on January 13, 1964 and served until his retirement at the end of 1984. The school flourished for many years, with Rev. Ott, Rev. Weiss, the Felician Sisters and a very dedicated guild. However, over time, enrollment began declining. In June 1985, after 25 years, the school closed.


www.icchsc.org

immaculateconceptionholyspirit
Immaculate Conception Church

Est. 1908

8791 South Main St. • Eden, NY 14057

In 1907, there were about 40 Catholic families living in Eden Center and Eden Valley. Because there was no church in Eden, the families would have to travel to East Eden or Hamburg to attend Mass. Due to this, Mathia Wegner and Mrs. Albert Baker set about having Masses said in Eden. They received permission from Bishop Charles Colton to have Mass celebrated upstairs over the Bakers’ store until a church could be built.

In 1908, Rev. Hyainthy Copola was sent by the Bishop to oversee the construction of the church and to be its pastor. Construction began in September, and the church was dedicated on December 8, 1909. It was a parish founded for German, Irish, French, English and Italian Catholics of the neighborhood, about 200 souls. Rev. Coppola was instructed that all announcements be done in English and Italian. Throughout the coming years, ICC continued to minister to the families of Eden. Because the church was the center of Catholic family life, various societies were established. The Holy
Name Society was canonically established in 1911, followed by The Tabernacle Society, which later became the Altar and Rosary Society. It was these societies that raised funds to purchase a new altar, new pews, banners, etc. Meanwhile, the number of families joining the parish continued to increase.

By 1951, the number of parishioners had grown to over 600 people. Rev. Norman R. George, pastor of this growing faith community, decided a new church was needed to meet the needs of the parishioners. A building fund was started with the help of all the societies. After 6 years, enough money had been raised for a down payment, and permission was granted for the construction of the new church. An intense fundraising effort was undertaken, with many individuals donating or pledging money to defray expenses. Located behind the altar of the church is the main stained glass window, which depicts the complete story of our faith from creation to redemption.

www.icchsc.org

immaculateconceptionholyspirit
Immaculate Conception

Est. 1882

520 Oakwood Ave. • East Aurora 14052

Immaculate Conception Parish was a mission from St. Vincent de Paul in Springbrook. As the congregation grew, property was purchased in 1882, and Bishop Ryan, the second bishop of Buffalo, laid the cornerstone of the original church. The school began in 1904 in the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent. The current school building was completed in 1959, and there is a Peace Pole on the Park Place side of the building by the school’s main entrance.

The current church building was completed in 1978. The stained glass windows on the sides contain symbols for the Joyful and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. It was renovated in the early 1990s. The unique wall tiles were added to the back of the sanctuary to symbolize the Holy Spirit.

Venerable Nelson Baker assisted Bishop Colton in dedicating St. Clara’s Academy (the first school building) in 1906.

Website: icchurchea.org

ICYO THEA
Most Precious Blood

Est. 1871

22 Prospect St. • Angola, NY

Located between the chapel and rectory, Most Precious Blood has a prayer garden which features a statue of Our Lady of the Lake. The statue was brought from St. Peter’s Chapel in Angola, and the garden itself is made up of many memorials and flowers.

SPONSORED BY:
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Est. 1954

4375 Harris Hill Rd. • Williamsville, NY 14221

This parish community dedicated to our Blessed Mother has a stained-glass window of the Baptism of Jesus in the center of the gathering space, which once served as the church’s baptistry. The window reminds us of the graces we receive through our own baptism. The parish’s coat of arms is also of interest located on the outside façade of the front of the church underneath the pointed arch. The cradle represents the birth or Nativity of the Virgin Mary; the dove suggests her Immaculate Conception; and the crown indicates her Coronation as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

www.nativityharrishill.org

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

SPONSORED BY:

Zgoda & Associates CPA's PC

17 Limestone Dr., Suite 9 • Williamsville, NY 14221
(716) 759-8358
In 1853, Bishop Timon granted permission for the construction of the chapel in honor of the Blessed Mother. The story of the Batt family’s journey to America that led to the chapel construction may be found on the parish website. It was a pilgrimage destination for Catholics for many years and has been expanded twice. In 1894, the Buffalo Courier Express called the chapel, “the second Lourdes.” Venerable Nelson Baker laid the cornerstone for the school in 1924 and opposed a proposal to demolish the chapel, which was thought to be too small for the growing parish. He believed it should be preserved. In 2000, the chapel was restored, and it continues to be used daily.

Saint Connection: St. John Neumann approved the first chapel expansion, and the stones used for it came from SS. Peter and Paul, Williamsville, where he served as pastor. St. Frances Xavier (Mother) Cabrini made a pilgrimage to the chapel early in the 20th century.

www.ourladyhelpofchristians.org

olhcchktg
Our Lady of Bistrica
Croatian R.C. Church

Est. 1917

1619 Abbott Rd. • Lackawanna, NY 14228

The rectory of this parish community houses a special Marian collection. The rectory itself is the former home of Colonel Weber, who served in the Civil War. This community also supports the cause for canonization of Blessed Cardinal Aloysius Stephanie, whom the previous pastor of the parish served as secretary.

www.ourladyofbistrica.org
Our Lady of Charity

*Merged in 2010*

St. Ambrose Site and Parish Office
260 Okell St.
Buffalo, NY 14220

Holy Family Site
1901 South Park
Buffalo, NY 14220

This South Buffalo community has two worship spaces which help provide a prayerful environment for anyone seeking a place of prayer. In 2017, the St. Ambrose site was renovated, creating a more modern environment, including stained-glass windows which highlight many Church reforms from Vatican II. Down the road at the Holy Family worship site, restoration has recently taken place in the neo-Romanesque style church, revealing plenty of Celtic artwork which helps it claim the title “most Celtic church in North America.”

OurLadyOfCharityParish.com

Our Lady of Charity
Our Mother of Good Counsel

Est. 1906

3688 South Park Ave. • Blasdell, NY 14219

Our Mother of Good Counsel Church and School was originally founded by Fr. Nelson Baker and dedicated on May 13, 1906, while he was pastor of St. Patrick Church, later to be called OLV Basilica. Excavation began on June 9, 1952, for the current church. The Feast Day for Our Mother of Good Counsel is April 26th.

Our Mother of Good Counsel was inducted into the National Register of Historical Places on December 21, 2020.

www.omgcbny.org

Our Mother of Good Counsel
Our Lady of Peace

Est. 1922

10950 Main St. • Clarence 14031

Our Lady of Peace is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. In front of the original 1922 church building is our Grotto Shrine to St. Mary. It was built in 1936 by a parishioner. The stones were found in a ravine at the back of the church.

www.olpclarence.org

facebook.com/OLPClaurence
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Est. 1949

3148 Abbott Rd. • Orchard Park 14127

In 1920, Venerable Nelson Baker had a small wooden church constructed near Lake Avenue on the area referred to as “The Hill.” It was replaced with a brick building in 1929, when the wooden one was destroyed by a tornado. In 1949, the mission officially became a parish. The current church was built in 1965. It contains a processional cross, a gift from Venerable Nelson Baker, which is located at the left front of the church near the statue of Mary.

www.olshop.org

© OLSH14127
In 2018, an adoration chapel was constructed in the entranceway between the church and school. Visitors enter through the stained glass entrance doors depicting the heavenly choir of angels joining in prayer. The altar is in the center of the chapel, and the monstrance is double-sided so that the Precious Body of Christ may be viewed from anywhere in the space. A beautiful painted sky is above the altar to represent the heavens.

www.qofhchurch.org

qofhchurch
Queen of Martyrs

*Est. 1946*

180 George Urban Blvd.
Cheektowaga 14225

The murals in the sanctuary were commissioned by Fr. Dan Lapinski in the late 1990s. They depict various martyrs connected to the history of the parish. These include Stanislaus and Popieluszko (of Polish ancestry), Maximillian Kolbe and Edith Stein (martyrs of World War II), Isaac Jaques (martyred in New York State), and Maria Goretti (the patron of children).

www.queenofmartyrsbuffalo.com
Sacred Heart of Jesus

Est. 1920

5337 Genesee Street • Bowmansville, NY 14206

It is special when a parish community has an outdoor shrine, but this community has two shrines that are interconnected outside. The Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, modeled after Lourdes, was built in 1926, and the Shrine of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus was built in 1927. Inside the church, visitors will find the statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the statue of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, both designed and sculpted by Jose Ferreira Thedim, the sculptor of the original statue at the shrine in Fatima and of the traveling Pilgrim Virgin statues.

Fr. Baker was a signer on the incorporation papers for the parish.

www.sacredheartshrine.org

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
Between 1941 and 1944, the village’s population grew rapidly, and the three closest Catholic churches could not accommodate all of the people. People were moving to the area for the jobs at the war production plants in the Tonawandas and Kenmore. Bishop John Duffy thus directed that St. Andrew’s Parish be created. By 1953, the church and school building could not accommodate the growing community, so our present church was dedicated in 1962.

There are mosaics of St. Peregrine and Our Lady of Perpetual Help above the shrines in the church. The mosaics were procured from Christ the King Seminary and were commissioned by artist Aleksandra Kasuba from Queens, New York.
St. Francis of Assisi

Est. 1929

4263 St. Francis Dr. (PO Box 182)
Hamburg, NY 14010

In 1999, the inside of the church was beautifully renovated. Fr. Joseph Dorniak, OFM Conv. painted three large murals behind the high altar. One depicts the Crucifixion with Lake Erie behind it, another Jesus the Good Shepherd, and the third shows the Baptism of Jesus with a powerful reflection of Jesus in the water.

stfrancischurch.us

AtholSprings
St. Francis High School

Est. 1927

4129 Lake Shore Rd. • Hamburg 14085

The cornerstone was laid in 1925, and the first academic year began in 1927. The school is looking forward to celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2027. The school chapel is located inside the main school doors. It includes stained glass windows, terrazzo floors, and a pipe organ.

www.stfrancishigh.org

St.FrancisHighSchoolAtholSprings
St. George

Est. 1912

74 Old Glenwood Rd. • West Falls, NY 14170

Originally a mission church of Nativity of Our Lord, Orchard Park, NY, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Colden, NY, and St. George in Jewettville, NY, became independent parishes in 1942. In 1958, due to an increase in the number of families attending, the worship space moved to a newly constructed, multi-use building behind the chapel. The original church building is now known as the Memorare Chapel.

St. George is the only church in the Diocese of Buffalo dedicated to the memory of St. George.

www.stgeorgercchurch.org
St. John Gualbert Church and Diocesan Shrine

*Est. 1917*

83 Gualbert Ave. • Cheektowaga

St. John Gualbert has one of the largest relic collections, with over 1100 relics. You may view all of them at the side altar inside the church.

The word relic comes from the Latin *relinquo*, literally meaning “I leave,” or “I abandon.” Relics may be a piece of a saint’s body, an item owned or used by a saint, or an object which has been touched to a saint’s grave. All are welcome to venerate the relics when they visit.

🔗 Gualberts1917
St. John Kanty

Est. 1892

101 Swinburne St. • Buffalo 14212

Sculptor Frank Pedevilla created the life size wooden sculpture of The Last Supper in the choir loft. It was originally created for the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Montreal, but, due to additional border crossing fees, the Cathedral was unable to accept delivery. St. John Kanty was able to purchase it, and it was originally set in the main altar. After a fire in 1955, it was moved to the choir loft.

The mural and stained glass windows in the apse of the sanctuary were created by local artist Jozef Mazur.

www.saintjohnkanty.com

SaintJohnKanty
St. John Paul II Parish

Est. 2011

2052 Lakeview Rd. • Lake View, NY 14085

Saint John Paul II Parish was formed through the merger of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lake View, NY, and St. Vincent de Paul, North Evans, NY. In 2011, Bishop Kmiec officially announced our new name of Blessed John Paul II. Rev. Peter Karalus was the first pastor to serve at Blessed John Paul II and then Saint John Paul II.

This welcoming parish has a first class relic of Pope Saint John Paul in the prayer chapel that is located adjacent to the sanctuary space.

The original church, built in 1922 and fondly known as the “Little Church,” is now our 24/7 adoration chapel.

www.jp2parish.org
jp2parish
St. John the Baptist Church and St. Mary’s Oratory

*Est. 1869 (St. John the Baptist Parish); 1851 (St. Mary’s Oratory)*

St. John the Baptist Parish in Boston, NY, is a Roman Catholic parish founded in 1869. The pipe organ in St. John the Baptist was originally commissioned in 1899 for Our Lady of Lourdes in Buffalo, NY. When that parish was closed in the 1980s, St. John the Baptist Parish purchased and moved the organ to Boston, NY.

St. Mary’s Parish in East Eden, which was founded in 1835, was converted to an oratory in 2005 and merged into the parish. The oratory worship site dates back to 1851. The original altars at the front of the oratory have not been significantly altered since that time.

www.stjohnrcchurch.org

🔗 St. John The Baptist RC Church
St. Joseph Collegiate Institute  
*Est. 1861*

845 Kenmore Avenue

St. Joseph Collegiate Institute is the oldest all-boys Catholic high school in the diocese. It is considered “The Cathedral’s School” due to its founding by the invitation of Bishop Timon and the school’s historical connection with St. Joseph Cathedral.

It was originally located at 1 Delaware Avenue. The second building was rented on Prospect Avenue, and in 1897, the Christian Brothers purchased property on Main Street near Bryant. Construction on the current building began in 1949 and was completed in 1950. Additional buildings and expansions have taken place over the years, and the tradition of excellence has endured for over a century and a half.

www.sjci.com

sjcipage
St. Martha

Est. 2011

10 French Rd. • Depew 14043

In 2015, five years after the merger of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament and St. Barnabas, our parish community decided to remodel the sanctuary to ensure that the newly formed parish continues to be seen as a new parish. Noted artist SM. Ann Therese Kelly CSSF was commissioned to design the stained glass panels behind the altar. The window to the right depicts St. Martha, and the window to the left features Jesus, Mary of Bethany (sister of Martha), and the Holy Trinity. They are connected by the altar where the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus.

The rest of the stained glass windows feature events from Jesus’s life. Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament is the window behind the altar, and the Resurrection window is at the rear of the church.

The Stations of the Cross came from St. Mary of Sorrows Church (1872-2002) and were acquired in the 1980s.

www.stmarthadepew.org

stmarthadepew
St. Mary

Est. 1849

5919 Transit Rd. • East Amherst, 14051

The original church building was completed in 1865, after the Civil War. It has 14 stained glass windows that were created by Andrle Glass Studio of Buffalo. Mr. Otto Andrle’s work is considered to be equal to that of the early masters, and his studio also created the windows for the Our Lady of Victory Basilica in Lackawanna.

The present school building was erected in 1931 and was served by the Franciscan Sisters in Williamsville. Our new church was completed in 2010 to accommodate our growing parish. There is a Redemptorist Cross in the narthex of the new church because they were the first priests to serve our parish.

St. John Neumann ministered to the community at “The Transit,” which later became St. Mary Church. There are St. John Neumann relics beneath the altar in the new church and on display in the original church.

www.stmaryswormville.org

StMaryParishSwormville
In 1962, this church was struck by lightning, causing a fire. It damaged most of the interior and many of the stained glass windows. Remarkably, a wooden statue of St. Anthony survived the fire and is inside the church today. There are artistic copies of four panels from the 11th century door of St. Zeno Church in Verona, Italy. The panels are the only copies authorized by the Italian government’s “Belle Arti” office.

Venerable Nelson Baker studied at Canisius College and was one of its first students. The college was established by St. Michael’s Church and located next to it. In 1910, the college moved to its present location on Main Street.
St. Philip the Apostle

_est. 1967_

950 Losson Rd. • Cheektowaga 14227

In 2017, the parish celebrated its golden jubilee. That same year, the tomb of the apostles, St. Philip and St. James, was opened for the first time in 600 years in Rome. The timing led the parish to attempt to obtain a first-class relic of St. Philip. Letters were required from the pastor to assure the relic was destined for veneration by the faithful. Since it was the relic of an apostle, a letter was also required from the Bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo. A Franciscan friar traveled to Rome to procure the sacred relic for the parish. It is located in the rear of the church by the stained glass of St. Philip. You may find more information about the relic including videos on the parish website under the About Us section.

www.spaparish.org

stphilipwny
St. Teresa of Avila

*Est. 1869*

5771 Buell • Akron 14001

Originally, St. Teresa’s was a mission of St. Vincent de Paul, Springbrook. When it became a parish, it had a mission in Crittenden, which eventually became part of a church in Pembroke. St. Teresa’s also had a mission in Clarence, which is now Our Lady of Peace Church.

Above the main entrance of the church is a stained glass window of St. Teresa of Avila. She has bare feet because she was a discalced Carmelite, and she’s holding a book and pen because she is a Doctor of the Church.

When former pastor Msgr. Williamson was critically ill, the parishioners prayed daily to Venerable Nelson Baker for his recovery. Monsignor was able to recover from a six-week induced coma through Father Baker’s intercession. A pencil drawing of Father Baker is in the church.

www.stteresasofakron.com
Stop by to visit us and see for yourself the beautiful Gothic architecture, stained glass windows and painted murals. We feature several statues of Our Lord, His Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and many saints. Some of the statues in the altar and sanctuary are adorned with jeweled crystals. Outside in our churchyard, you will find almost life-sized statues of the Crucifix and Our Lady of Fatima. The statue jewels and outdoor statues were commissioned by Msgr. Leo J. Toomey during his tenure at St. Teresa Parish, 1947-1969.

St. Teresa of Avila parish celebrated 125 years in April of 2022.
St. Thomas Aquinas

Est. 1920

450 Abbott Rd. • Buffalo 14220

The church building is a Franciscan Umbrian-style with multi-colored crab orchard stone walls on the exterior. It has a red Spanish tile roof and an 11 foot *campanile* (bell tower) with a 9-foot gold-leafed Celtic cross. A covered cloister connects the church, tower, and rectory. There is a St. Joseph the Worker shrine outside.

Inside the church is a mosaic depicting the Blessed Sacrament surrounded by two angels and two saints: St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Bonaventure, poets of the Holy Eucharist.

Venerable Nelson Baker was the master of ceremonies for the laying of the cornerstone of St. Thomas Aquinas School on July 30, 1922. He blessed the church when it was built in 1920. He was Vicar General of the diocese at that time.

www.stthomasbuffalo.com

STAParishBuffalo
St. Timothy

Est. 1960

565 East Park Dr. • Tonawanda, NY 14150

On June 3, 1960, Bishop Joseph Burke appointed Rev. Joseph Jensen to establish a new parish in the Town of Tonawanda to be named St. Timothy. The first Mass was celebrated on June 26, 1960 in the Sheridan Parkside Administration Building. In the presence of 200 people, ground was broken for the new church on Palm Sunday, March 26, 1961. Progress was made during the summer months of 1961, and the first Mass in the new church was celebrated on October 29, the Feast of Christ the King. The parish hall was later transformed into St. Martha’s Chapel to accommodate an increased parish enrollment. In 2010, St. Timothy’s celebrated its golden jubilee, concluding with a Mass on October 2, 2010, with Bishop Kmiec as the main celebrant.

Stop by St. Timothy’s to view our Facet Glass window of St. Kateri Tekawitha, designed by Sandon Studio of Little Valley, NY.

www.sainttimothyparish.org

SPONSORED BY:

Lester H. Wedekindt Inc. Funeral Home
3290 Delaware Ave. Kenmore, NY 41217
(716) 877-7979 • lesterwedekindtfuneralhome.com
St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows

Est. 1925

5271 Clinton St. • Elma, NY 14059

The Stations of the Cross, located inside St. Gabriel, as well as several sculptures found outside around the property were created by Timothy Schmalz, a Canadian sculptor best known for his “Homeless Jesus” sculpture.

www.stgabeschurch.com
St. John the Baptist

Est. 1837

1085 Englewood Ave. • Kenmore, NY 14223

The chapel at St. John the Baptist has served as a reminder of the history of the parish dating back to the middle of the 19th century. Originally, the chapel was built as a log cabin by German Catholics, but in 1849, the log cabin structure was replaced by the current stone chapel. The chapel is also attached to a museum which provides a history of the community.
St. Joseph R.C. Church
*Est. 1898*

26 Erie St. • Gowanda, NY 14070

The stained-glass windows of this church tell the story of salvation as recounted in the Gospels. The scenes are simple, depicting principles being taught through their images. The windows were created by the Jean Barillet firm in Paris and installed in 1959.

www.sjcgowanda.org

St. Joseph’s Church, Gowanda, NY

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**SPONSORED BY:**

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21 West Main Street Gowanda, NY 14070
Walking into this church can be awe inspiring for anyone. Its architecture and stained glass helps to draw visitors into prayer. The spire—which serves as a focal point of the city’s skyline—is the highest open laced spire in the United States. For the church’s 175th anniversary, a significant restoration project was completed, which also led to the creation of a parish archive and museum.

www.stlouisrcchurch.org
St. Mark

Est. 1908

401 Woodward Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14214

This city church recently went through a total renovation. The project brought back the color and luster of its original beauty. Not only was the color of the artwork in the church restored, but a new altar was constructed and consecrated as part of the project. The community also has a K-8 school, which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary.

www.saintmarkbuffalo.com
St. Martin of Tours  
*Est. 1926*

1140 Abbott Rd. • Buffalo, NY 14220

St. Martin of Tours, located on Abbott Rd, was established on July 4, 1926 and has been a treasure to the area ever since.

Msgr. Vincent J. Becker was granted permission to establish a perpetual adoration chapel by Bishop Henry Mansell. The bishop attended a special Mass for the dedication of the chapel on May 17, 1999. The adoration chapel has its own separate entrance with a security code at the front of the church.

[Image of the adoration chapel]

www.stmartinbuffalo.com

stmartinbuffalo
During an enlargement of the church in 1889, bells were installed in the tower, and beautiful Tyrolean stained-glass windows were added. The bells were named “Mary, Joseph, and John” and remain in place today. The original stained-glass windows were replaced with 12 new ones in 1937. The new windows were designed and created in Innsbruck, Austria, and depict significant events in the lives of Jesus and Mary.

There is a monument next to the church that marks the site of the original St. Mary’s High School building—founded by St. John Neumann, and the first Catholic School in our diocese.

Fr. Baker’s St. John’s Protectory for Orphan and Wayward Boys was originally located on the property in the late 19th century before being moved to Lackawanna.
St. Vincent de Paul

*Est. 1850*

6441 Seneca St. (PO Box 290),
Springbrook 14140

St. Vincent’s started as a parish, but in 1894, it became a mission church of East Aurora. In 1919, it formally became a parish again. The present church was built in 1988. In 1999, the old church was demolished, and in 2001, the bell from the old church was added to the canopy of the present church.

There are two large stained glass windows in the back side walls of the church that depict various elements of creation. The dome inside the nave of the church symbolizes the dome of creation.

www.svdpspringbrook.com

svdpspringbrook
The church was recently renovated and incorporated these new sacred items into the design and appointments: Shrine of the Popes/Divine Mercy (5/22), Our Lady of Czestochowa icon (12/21), and altar and reliquary (12/21).

The Popes Shrine and Divine Mercy are in the back, on the left side of the church, and the reliquary is housed under the main altar. In the new reliquary are the bones of six saints: Maria Goretti, Francis Xavier Cabrini, and Padre Pio alongside Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska, Maximilian Kolbe, and Stanislaus Kostka, S.J

www.ascensionrcc.com

Ascension Roman Catholic Community

Ascension RC Parish@ascensionrcc

AscensionRomanCatholic

Ascension Roman Catholic Community
Mary Immaculate Parish

_Est. 2010_

_1865 (St. Mary, Pavilion);_
_1954 (Immaculate Conception, East Bethany)_

St. Mary
11095 St. Mary’s St.
Pavilion, NY 14525

Immaculate Conception
5865 Ellicott St. Rd.
East Bethany, NY 14054

Mary Immaculate Parish was formed in 2010 with the merger of St. Mary’s, Pavilion, NY, and Immaculate Conception, East Bethany, NY. The stained glass windows at St. Mary’s site date back 156 years and the stained glass windows at Immaculate Conception’s site are over 67 years old.

[www.ERRCC.org](http://www.ERRCC.org)

 ERRCCBuffalo (Eastern Rural Roman Catholic Community of the Diocese of Buffalo)
St. Padre Pio

Est. 1906 (St. Cecilia’s Church)
1946 (Our Lady of Fatima Church)

St. Cecilia’s
56 Maple Avenue
Oakfield, NY 14125

Our Lady of Fatima
65 South Main St.
Elba, NY 14058

This merged community in Genesee County has a couple of features that make a pilgrimage worth the trip. In Oakfield, in St. Cecilia’s Church, there is a stained-glass window of The Presentation. The window, located in the crying room of the church, was a gift from the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas and was presented to the parish as a remembrance of the Sisters’ 83 years of dedicated health care at St. Jerome Hospital in Batavia.

In Elba, at Our Lady of Fatima Church, there is an outdoor shrine for Our Lady of Fatima, which was the first in North America to be dedicated to our Blessed Mother under that title. The small stone placed at the feet of Our Lady is from the shrine in Portugal.

www.padrepiony.org

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(585) 344-1262
All Saints

Est. 2008

76 Church St. • Lockport, NY 14094

All Saints was formed in 2008 from the merger of St. Anthony, St. Joseph, St. Mary, and St. Patrick parishes. A new chapel was created inside the parish hall that includes elements of all four parishes. During the Civil War, the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur came to America and there made their first foundation at St. Patrick’s. Their ministry and values continue in All Saints’ community today.

www.allsaintslockport.org

allsaintslockport
Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Est. 2008
1413 Pine Ave. • Niagara Falls, NY 14301

The artwork found in this church surrounds visitors when they enter. The architecture of the church is complemented by the bold, realistic artwork presenting the life of St. Joseph, the Nativity, biblical stories from Creation to Moses. The artwork itself mirrors that of the Sistine Chapel.

www.holyfamilyrcchurch.org

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Parish

SPONSORED BY:
M.J. Colucci & Son Niagara Funeral Chapel
www.mjcoluccifuneralchapel.com
Our Lady of Czestochowa  
Est. 1903  

57 Center Ave. • North Tonawanda, NY 14210  
The stained glass windows of the church were installed in 1947. The windows depict scenes of our Blessed Mother’s life as well as history related to the icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa. The community also has a grotto, dedicated in 1965, which includes the Stations of the Cross and a peace garden dedicated to St. Francis.  

www.nt-olc.org  

Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish Community, North Tonawanda, NY
Located in the northern portion of the diocese and not far from historical Fort Niagara, this parish community is home to a beautiful historic church worth visiting. The community has a rich history and visitors will enjoy their visit to its campus.

www.saintpeterlewiston.org
St. Brendan on the Lake

Est. 2008

3455 Ewings Rd. • Newfane, NY 14108

This community is a merged community of St. Bridget (Newfane), St. Charles Borromeo (Olcott) and Our Lady of the Rosary (Wilson). In 2017, the sanctuary of the Newfane site was renovated to include mosaics of St. Brendan the Navigator, Divine Mercy, Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Bridget. The space was dedicated in 2018. Venerable Fr. Nelson Baker also presided at the dedication of St. Charles Borromeo in Olcott.

SPONSORED BY:
Rutland-Corwin Funeral Home, Inc.
2670 Main St, Newfane, NY 14108
(716) 778-7022
St. Peter R.C. Church  
*Est. 1847*

600 Center Street • Lewiston, NY

Visiting this church in Lewiston allows for the pilgrim to have a unique experience. While traditionally the windows of a church depict the life of Jesus, the windows of this church depict the life of St. Peter.

www.stpeterlewiston.org
St. Raphael

Est. 2008

1855 (Sacred Heart); 1930 (St. Teresa of the Infant Jesus)

3840 Macklem Ave. • Niagara Falls, NY 14305

When visiting this parish community in Niagara Falls, visitors have the opportunity to pray the outdoor Stations of the Cross located on the east side of the property. Inside the church, the round stained glass window above the altar was constructed from pieces of stained glass from the original church.

St. Raphael Religious Education and Youth Group

SPONSORED BY:

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(716) 285-6383 • draindocotor.ws
Holy Family

Est. 1852

106 South Main St. • Albion, NY 14411

In 2007, St. Joseph and St. Mary of the Assumption parishes merged to form Holy Family. The stained glass windows in the church are all Gothic in shape and design. There are three sizes: three very large, ten medium sized and, above those, ten smaller ones. There are also two about 20 feet up from the sanctuary floor. On the west side of the vestibule, three new stained glass windows were added to the baptistry with the 1952 renovation of the church.

holyfamilyalbion.com

HolyFamilyRCParish
St. Mary’s & St. Mark’s Church

*Est. 1863*

13 South Main Street • Holley, NY 14470

The parishioners of this community worked hard and put in many hours into the building of their church. This church in Holley is built of Medina sandstone, and it stands as a perfect monument to the skill, generosity, and faith of the Italian quarrymen and stonecutters. Of special interest is the beautiful triptych adorned with a 15th century crucifixion scene located behind the altar.

[www.stmarystmark.org](http://www.stmarystmark.org)

🔗 St. Mary - St. Mark Roman Catholic Church
SS. Joachim and Anne

*Est. 1857*

50 East Avenue · Attica, NY 14011

A replica of the Miraculous Crucifix of Limpias is over the main altar. This six-foot replica was donated to the parish in 1939.

The original Miraculous Crucifix was made in Spain in the late 1600s for the Church of St. Peter in Santander, Spain. Since 1919, over eight thousand people have seen Jesus’ eyes and head move on this crucifix. Bishop Sanchez de Castro, the Bishop of Santander, in whose diocese Limpias belongs, introduced a canonical process on July 18, 1920, in which Rome was notified of the miraculous cures and manifestations. One year and one day later, a plenary indulgence was granted for a period of seven years to all the faithful who visit the holy crucifix. Lord Jesus Crucified, have mercy on us.

www.ssjoachimanne.org
St. John Neumann

Est. 2008

St. Patrick’s (1838), St. Cecilia’s (1848),
St. Mary’s (1885), St. Nicholas’ (1891)

3854 Main Street (PO Box 9)
Strykersville, 14145

The St. John Neumann Catholic Community has two worship sites. The St. Cecilia worship site (991 Centerline Rd.) contains a cross that came from the New St. Joseph Cathedral in Buffalo. When St. John Neumann said home Masses, there was a specific table that he used. For many years, it was used for daily Masses in the chapel of St. Mary’s School.

St. John Neumann founded the St. Cecilia site and started the mission church in 1847. He first visited the area in 1837 and said Mass in the home of Peter George. The first baptism in Sheldon was recorded at SS. Peter and Paul, Williamsville (where St. John Neumann lived) on February 27, 1838.

www.sjnchurch.org

stjohnneumanncc
St. Michael

Est. 1858

171 North Main St. • Warsaw, NY 14569

The current church of St. Michael in Warsaw was built between 1887 and 1888 in an American Carpenter Gothic style. The interior of the church has seen renovations and updates in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Located in the sanctuary is a stained-glass window depicting St. Michael the Archangel. This window was fabricated in Oberammergau for the Pan-Am Exposition, celebrated in Buffalo in 1901.

www.errcc.org

ERRCCBuffalo (Eastern Rural Roman Catholic Community of the Diocese of Buffalo)
Photographs from across Western New York, the United States and world are available for purchase to decorate your home or office.

To see more photographs from Tom Burns visit tomburnsphoto.com