

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Diocesan Office of Faith Formation invites all Catechetical Leaders to populate the electronic **DRE Pictorial Directory**. The deadline for completing this project is December 1. This electronic directory will assist our formation leaders in networking with fellow DREs within their parish of families, by aiding to foster a spirit of cooperation, by assisting DREs to build mentor relationships, and to help in sharing best practices within the Forming Disciples framework! DRE's can access the Pictorial Directory at the following link: <https://app.spreadsheets.com/forms/O81VICxnSM6lvudFg1TJnwgSTSD8pdQV-xSW-gUL8hxAisvyNh3LQm2ak4f20OU1XA>. Thank you for your cooperation in this important endeavor! May God continue to bless you!

CHURCH BULLETINS

Bulletin message for weekend of November 26-27: Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on our blessings and express gratitude for each and every one. We would be remiss, then, if we did not express our sincere thanks to you, our Catholic Charities supporters. Whether your support is through donations – either monetary or in-kind – or spiritual through prayer or through the gift of your time by volunteering, we are so grateful. Your generous support allows us to be a beacon of HOPE to those who come to us in times of need. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you!

Bulletin message for weekend of December 3-4: Do you need assistance with Christmas gifts for your children or teens? We can help. Catholic Charities is a member of the WNY Holiday Partnership and can assist with gifts for your child or children ages 0-18. To receive a referral for the Christmas program, call 716-856-4494 or visit our Central Intake Office at 525 Washington St., Buffalo.

Bulletin message for weekend of December 10-11: Doing some Christmas shopping through Amazon? Shop with AmazonSmile and select Catholic Charities to receive 0.5 percent of your total purchase – at no cost to you! It's an easy way to support the more than 125,000 Western New Yorkers we serve. For more information, visit www.smile.amazon.com/about. Thank you for your support!

Parish Nursing Position: St. Benedict and St. Leo the Great are looking for a full-time nurse to coordinate and supervise a joint parish nursing ministry. Position requires an individual who is a graduate of an approved school of nursing, and experience in nursing. The position will provide wholistic health services to the individuals affiliated with the assigned faith communities, identifying the health needs of the parishioners; providing interventions to the members; offering health education and promotional materials; supervising parish volunteers in health-related activities. If interested in more information or to apply for the position, email office@stleothegreatamherst.com. Deadline for applying is November 23.

Annual Festival of Lights at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, 1023 Swann Rd. (Rt. 18E), Lewiston. Lights will be on November 19-27 from 5-9 pm. From November 28-December 18 lights are on only Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 5-9 pm. From December 19-January 1 lights on from 5-9 pm. Come see 15 acres of spectacular Christmas lights, including a 9-foot tall outdoor illuminated Nativity scene and a life-size Fontanini Nativity scene in the Basilica. Closed on Christmas and New Year's Day and closing at 2 pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Admission and parking are free. Groups welcome; reservations appreciated. For scheduled hours of the Office, Gift Shop and Cafeteria, call 716-754-7489 or email office@fatimashrine.com.

"On the Armor of God" Advent Retreat at St. Anthony of Padua, 160 Court St., Buffalo with Fr. Sean Kopczynski, MSJB. Intro to the retreat begins Sunday, November 27 with 9 am traditional Latin Mass. Weekday retreat talks on Monday-Thursday, November 28 to December 1st, starting with a traditional Latin Mass at 6 pm; retreat talks follow at 7 pm in the Mother Cabrini Social Center. Confessions will be heard at 5:15 pm before Mass and after the conference. This is a beautiful and meaningful way to prepare yourself for Advent and Christmas.

International Nativity Display. Our Lady of Fatima Shrine will be hosting Father Roy Herberger's International Nativity Display during the Shrine's annual Festival of Lights. The exhibit, featuring over 300 nativity sets from around the world, will be on display starting December 2 from 5-9 pm in Fatima Hall. For a complete schedule, visit www.fatimashrine.com, call 716-754-7489 or email office@fatimashrine.com. Admission is free to the exhibit and Festival, with ample free parking and all wheelchair accessible. Fatima Shrine is located at 1023 Swann Rd. (off Rt. 18E), Lewiston.

Buffalo Choral Arts Society presents **"Angels Sing!"**, a concert of traditional Christmas music with both familiar and new arrangements, on Friday, December 2 at 7:30 pm at St. Amelia Church, 2999 Eggert Rd., Tonawanda and on Sunday, December 4 at 3 pm at St. Joseph Cathedral, 50 Franklin St., Buffalo. For further information and tickets, call 716-775-7664 or visit <https://buffalochoralarts.org/>.

Taizé Prayer Service for Advent on Sunday, December 4 at 5 pm at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1029 Delaware Ave., Buffalo. In our very busy world, and especially during the holiday season, it can be difficult to set aside time to be quiet and to be present to the Lord. You are invited to spend 60 minutes in an evening of meditative prayer. The prayer service is characterized by repetitive, mantra-like songs, prayerful silence, and short scriptural readings. These elements guide the focus of the Prayer Service that is held in a candle-lit environment. Free, off-street parking in the Catholic Academy of West Buffalo lot. For reservations or questions, contact Michael Pitek at michael@thepitekgroup.com or 716-480-8313.

Christmas Bake Sale, hosted by the Fatima Shrine Bakers Guild, from Friday, December 9-Sunday, December 11 at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, 1023 Swann Rd. (off Rt. 18E), Lewiston. Friday's bake sale runs from 12-7 pm; Saturday and Sunday hours are 10 am-7 pm. Come celebrate a festive day and let us do your Christmas baking for you! For more information, call 716-754-7489 or email office@fatimashrine.com.

Breakfast with Santa on December 11 from 8:30 am-12:30 pm at St. Leo the Great Parish Center, 885 Sweet Home Rd., Amherst. Breakfast includes eggs, ham, sausage, potatoes, fruit, pastries, and refreshment. Silver dollar pancakes with chocolate chips included for the kids. Giveaway from Santa! Tickets available online at <https://stleothegreatamherst.com/> or at the parish office. No phone orders. For questions, call 716-835-8905.

Buffalo Niagara Concert Band in concert on Wednesday, December 14 at 7:30 pm at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, 1023 Swann Rd. (off Rt. 18E), Lewiston. This fantastic concert band will perform a program of Christmas and classical favorites in the beautifully decorated National Shrine Basilica. Free parking and admission; handicap accessible. Festival lights on until 9 pm. Gift shop and Office are open until 7 pm. For full schedule of lights, store and cafeteria hours, visit www.fatimashrine.com or call 716-754-7489 or email office@fatimashrine.com.

Advent Service of Lessons & Carols, sponsored by the Catholic Medical Association of Buffalo, on Saturday, December 17 at 7 pm at Infant of Prague Church, 921 Cleveland Dr., Cheektowaga. Music provided by St. John Paul II Schola Cantorum, directed by Steve Quebral; works by Bach, Victoria, Gabrieli, Hassler, Rheinberger and others will be performed. Lessons and Carols is a service of scripture readings and sung responses that tell the story of salvation from the fall of man in the Garden of Eden to the coming of the Messiah in Bethlehem. Light refreshments served in Henesey Hall following the service. A free-will offering accepted to support the charitable endeavors of the Catholic Medical Association of Buffalo. For more information, contact the choir by email at JP2Schola@gmail.com or follow them on Facebook and Instagram @JP2Schola.

Inclusive Christmas Mass on Wednesday, December 28 at 7 pm at St. Bernadette Parish, 5930 S. Abbott Rd., Orchard Park. Fr. Joe Wolf, celebrant, will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 6 pm. The Mass will be interpreted in American Sign Language and will be live-streamed on St. Bernadette's Facebook page. After Mass, a reception will be held in the Parish Ministry Center. The Mass offers a shorter, less crowded worship setting, allowing for freedom of movement as needed. The lighting will be dimmer, the music soothing and low gluten hosts will be available. This event is sponsored by Open Doors Ministry which advocates for the inclusion of people with disabilities into the life of the parish. St. Bernadette Church is wheelchair accessible. Questions may be directed to Sharon Urbaniak at 716-648-1720, ext. 3 or sharonu@saintbopny.org.

ENCLOSURES

(none)