

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.

International Exhibition: Miracles of the Eucharist Across the World created by Blessed Carlo Acutis. In light of the National Eucharistic Revival 2022-2024, make plans to share this exhibit with your parish. The mystery of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist can be challenging to fully embrace as human beings. “I believe; help my unbelief!” Mark 9:24. We have 27 panels (24” x 36”) describing Eucharistic miracles spanning the globe available to be exhibited in your parish at no cost. We will set it up and take it down in your parish hall or church. If interested, contact Mary Cygan at mary.jp.cygan@gmail.com. Sponsored by Morning Star Family Holy Hour and Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, Olean.

CHURCH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bulletin message for weekend of February 18-19: Venerable Nelson H. Baker, patron of Catholic Charities Appeal 2023, was known as The Priest of the Poor. His dedication to serving those who were destitute and most in need turned into a legacy of compassion, charity and love for our neighbors in need. Today, Catholic Charities is honored to carry on his legacy of care to our neighbors in need. Each day, we provide help and HOPE to those who come to us – the mother fleeing an unsafe situation for her and her children, the teenager seeking comfort and counseling, the newcomer looking for a fresh start. Your donation to the Appeal makes all of this, and more, possible. Please give today at www.cwny.org/donate or text **GIVEHOPE23** to 44321 today.

Bulletin message for weekend of February 25-26: In addition to supporting Catholic Charities, **Appeal 2023** also benefits the **Fund for the Faith**. Established in 1937 by Bishop John Duffy out of concern for those in need of spiritual comfort due to hardships of the Great Depression, the Fund for the Faith continues to provide spiritual nourishment throughout our Diocese today. Proceeds provide ministry support services that are instrumental to the vitality of our faith experience and enable us to more effectively spread the Gospel message of Christ’s love. **Support Catholic Charities and the Fund for the Faith** by visiting www.cwny.org/donate or text **GIVEHOPE23** to 44321 today.

Bulletin message for weekend of March 4-5: There is still time to participate in **Catholic Charities’ HOPE for the 100th: Personal Care Items Drive**. From now until March 24, we’re asking the community to collect donations of new and unopened toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, lotion. Items collected will be given to individuals and families in need across our eight counties. To sign up your parish or school, email Jewell Eason, Catholic Charities Events & Administrative Associate, at jewell.eason@cwny.org. **Appeal 2023 is ongoing.** Make a contribution today at www.cwny.org/donate or text **GIVEHOPE23** to 44321 today.

Bulletin message for March: All of us are consumers. Do you know the slave footprint that exists in the chain of work that it takes to create many of the products and food that we consume? **US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking**, 7575 Grand River Rd., Suite 109, Brighton, MI 48114; sistersagainstrafficking.org.

Todos somos consumidores. ¿Conoces la huella esclava que existe en la cadena de trabajo que lleva crear muchos de los productos y alimentos que consumimos? **US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking**, 7575 Grand River Rd., Suite 109, Brighton, MI 48114; sistersagainstrafficking.org.

Tuition Assistance for Private Grammar Schools Now Available. The BISON Children Scholarship Fund provides tuition assistance to economically eligible children in grades K-8. New families can now apply for scholarships for the 2023-24 school year. To start the process, families can complete a pre-application form online at <http://bisonfund.com/our-scholarships>. If selected in our lottery drawing, the scholarships can be used at any private grammar school in WNY. The deadline to apply is March 15. The average scholarship is \$1,560 and the maximum award is \$2,500. For more information, contact Cindy at 716-854-0869, ext. 1 or cmcdonald@bisonfund.com.

National Marriage Week and World Marriage Day. The upcoming observances of **National Marriage Week (February 7-14)** and **World Marriage Day (February 12)** are opportunities to focus on building a culture of life and love by supporting and promoting marriage and the family. The USCCB Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth offers many resources. The theme for 2023 is "Marriage...one flesh, given and received." Resources are available at <https://www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-life-ministries/national-marriage-week>.

Mary's Mantle at Home Retreat and Consecration from February 7 to March 25 at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, 57 Center Ave., North Tonawanda. Join us for a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth. Inspired by the 46 stars found on the mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe, participants will be offered a one-minute reflection for 46 days on various virtues that help us reflect a likeness to Our Lord, while pledging to pray the rosary each day for one of the participants. For more details, contact Sister Jacinta at 716-692-0276 or olcparishevent@gmail.com.

Catholic Singles Mingle. St. Valentine's Day Celebration for Adults in their 30s and 40s on Friday, February 10 at 6:30 pm at Lafayette Brewing Company, 391 Washington St., Buffalo. Join us for an evening of hot chocolate and fellowship by the fireplace to benefit the Mother Teresa Home. For more details, visit <https://www.buffalodiocese.org/events/catholic-singles-mingle/>.

7 Secrets of Confession on Monday afternoons from 1:30-2:30 pm and also Monday evenings from 6:30-7:30 pm - for six weeks - starting February 13 at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, 57 Center Ave., North Tonawanda. Confession is more than "going to the dry cleaners," it's "an encounter with Jesus, who waits for us as we are." Explore the "hidden" truths of this encounter with Jesus. This six week book study offers thought-provoking ideas for personal reflection, down to earth questions, meaningful challenges and more. Books will be provided. If interested in participating, contact Sister Jacinta at 716-692-0276 or olcparishevent@gmail.com.

St. Andrew's Thrift Shop Winter Sale on February 14, 16 & 18 from 11 am-4 pm. All general merchandise sold for 50% off regular price; also discounted is clothing, shoes, purses, DVDs, CDs and books. St. Andrew Thrift Shop is located at 111 Crocker St., Sloan. For more information, call 716-892-0425.

Meat Raffle on Saturday, February 18 at St. Leo the Great Parish, 885 Sweet Home Rd., Amherst. Doors open at 6 pm; raffle starts at 7 pm. Ticket includes beer, wine, pop, water. Tickets available online at www.stleothegreatamherst.com. Any questions, call 716-835-8905.

Mardi Gras. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Buffalo's Old First Ward celebrates Mardi Gras on Saturday, February 18 from 6-10 pm at the Bison City Rod & Gun Club, 511 Ohio St., Buffalo. This pre-Lenten celebration features authentic New Orleans food, live music and raffles. For information, call Roxanne Casey at 716-536-1216.

Patriotic Rosary on Monday, February 20 at 7 pm at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 64 Center Ave., North Tonawanda. As we ask God's blessing individually on each state, we would love families and individuals of all ages to join us. This event will include prayers, singing and benediction.

Lenten Fish Fry on February 24 from 4-6:30 pm at St. Pius X Faith Community, 1700 N. French Rd., Getzville. The dinner, provided by Krolick's, includes beer battered haddock with tartar sauce, potato salad, coleslaw, and roll with butter. Dine-in or take-out. Pre-sale tickets available at the parish office, after weekend Masses; walk-ins welcome. For more information, visit <https://www.stpiusxgetzville.org/> or call the parish office at 716-688-9143.

Signs of Faith, Faith of Signs – a three-session Lenten Retreat to be held on the Sundays of February 26, March 5 and March 12 at St. Andrew Church Hall, Crocker & Reiman Sts., Sloan. Join us after the 11 am Mass for lunch and retreat; led by Deacon Ted Pijacki. In the Gospels we see people coming to believe in the Spiritual teachings of Jesus because of the various signs that they witnessed. In the 2000 years since Jesus lived, what are some of the signs that may bring people in our contemporary world to believe in what Jesus taught his disciples? To reserve your spot for any or all of the days, call the parish office at 716-892-0425.

Spiritual Events at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, North Tonawanda:

- **Sacred Heart Canticle** – a women's prayer/study group – on the third Wednesday of the month from 6:30-8 pm; includes prayer, spiritual enrichment and sharing.
- **Weekly Bible Study** every Tuesday at 1 pm. We will follow the "Bible of the Year" podcast of Fr. Michael Schmitz. At each session Scripture chapters will be given along with some helpful insights.
- **St. Joseph Holy Hour** every Wednesday from 7-8 pm (except on the third Wednesday of the month when it will be held from 1-2 pm). We will honor St. Joseph and seek his intercession for our families, parish and nation.
- **Prayer for the World Holy Hour** every Tuesday from 7-8 pm; includes song, reflection, adoration and petitions offered for our families, community, country and the Church.

For questions on the above events, contact Sister Jacinta at 716-692-0276.

Magnificat Ministry to Women presents a Lenten Day of Reflection on March 11 from 9 am-2:30 pm at M Hotel, 2040 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga; breakfast bar and lunch included. Presenter will be Donna Cori, who has shared her voice from coast to coast on EWTN, Catholic radio and at Catholic conferences for over 24 years. Donna will include her personal testimony, original songs and heart touching Way of the Cross video. Pre-registration is required. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/magnificatbuffalo> or call Christine Holden at 716-759-8135.

"Seussical Kids" is a summer theater camp for youngsters ages 8-15 from July 17-August 4 at Cardinal O'Hara High School, 39 O'Hara Rd., Tonawanda. The camp will take place from 9 am-3 pm daily. Working with theater professionals, the camp will end with 2 live performances on the Cardinal O'Hara stage. For more information and cost, email Thomas Wilkie at twilkie@cardinalohara.com or call 716-695-2600, ext. 357.

Pilgrimage to Ireland. Travel to Ireland, the "Land of Saints & Scholars," from October 19-27 with Fr. Paul Seil, Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Take in the beauty, culture and faith of the Emerald Isle in Galway, Killarney, Dublin and more. Limited openings for the group are available. For complete information and to register, call Kathy-Jo at Travel Outlet, 716-675-1190.

Stress in Your Marriage? Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated or angry in their marriage and don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. The next local weekend is March 10-12. For more information, call 716-474-9371 or visit <https://www.helpourmarriage.org/>. All calls are confidential and preregistration is required.

Word of Life – February 12: “Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together.”

Palabra de Vida – Febrero 12: “El amor matrimonial se distingue de cualquier otro amor en el mundo. Por su naturaleza, el amor del esposo y de la esposa es tan completo, tan ordenado a una vida completa de comunión con Dios y del uno con el otro, que están juntos.”

Word of Life – February 19: “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 19: “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 más sobrellevan la 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.

ENCLOSURES

(none)