

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 bi-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. **April 2023 Homily Helps available at:** <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/?tid=14>.

2023 Bishop Smith Clergy Open on Monday, June 26 at Terry Hills Golf Course, Batavia. Shotgun start at 12:30 pm. Flyer/registration form will be forthcoming. Mark your calendar!

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 March 18-19: Catholic Charities operates nine food pantry and outreach centers in Western New York – seven in Erie County (Central, East and South Buffalo, Getzville and Lackawanna) and one each in Allegany County in Wellsville, and in Cattaraugus County in Franklinville. Each location has emergency food pantry service and offers information and referrals to other needed services to those who are food insecure, free of charge. Your support of **Appeal 2023** helps ensure these vital basic necessities and programs are there when needed. Give today at www.cwny.org/donate or text GIVEHOPE23 to 44321.

Bulletin message for weekend of March 25-26: For Drake, turning to Catholic Charities was a matter of life or death. The 19-year-old college student was an insulin-dependent diabetic but couldn't

afford his medication. His mother told him to try Catholic Charities but he wasn't hopeful because he takes insulin 4 times daily and knew it would be an expensive ask. However, that all changed. A social worker was able to secure a grant to cover one month of insulin, filled out an application through the insulin manufacturer to get another month covered and a price reduction, and also got a discount at a local pharmacy. "Catholic Charities saved my life," he said. Your gift to **Appeal 2023** helps ensure that people like Drake can find HOPE when it matters most. Give today at www.ccwny.org/donate or text GIVEHOPE23 to 44321.

Bulletin message for weekend of April 1-2: Palm Sunday typically means we have reached the mid-point of our Annual Catholic Charities Appeal. Your support of the Appeal is vital in continuing our mission of being a beacon of HOPE to all those we serve. All told, your gifts helped us bring HOPE to more than 134,000 lives last year through Catholic Charities and helped the Diocese support spiritual care through the Fund for the Faith programs. If you have already donated, we offer our sincerest thanks on behalf of the children, individuals, and families we serve. If you have not yet given to **Appeal 2023**, now is a great time! Visit www.ccwny.org/donate or text GIVEHOPE23 to 44321. No gift is too small to make a tremendous impact right here in Western New York.

Bulletin message for April: Slavery is not a relic of the past. It is alive today and generates billions of dollars while at the same time ruining the lives of those involved. Learn more about human trafficking. **US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking**, 7575 Grand River Rd., Suite 109, Brighton, MI 48114; sistersagainstrafficking.org.

La esclavitud no es una reliquia del pasado. Está viva hoy y genera miles de millones de dólares mientras que al mismo tiempo arruina la vida de los involucrados. Obtenga más información sobre la trata de personas. **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.

Pierogi & Placek Sale and Basket Raffle on Sundays during Lent from 9:30am-12:30 pm at St. John Kanty Church, Swinburne & Brownell Sts., Buffalo. In addition, St. Adalbert's homemade Easter candy will also be available as well as tickets for a 50/50 Split the Pot raffle. Join us for 8:30 am Mass and then come to shop.

Lenten Evening of Reflection on Tuesday, March 21 at 6:30 pm at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 115 O'Connell Ave., Buffalo. Presenter: Eileen Warner – Retreat Director and trained Spiritual Director. Are you looking to grow deeper in your prayer life this Lent? Eileen will explore ways we can understand how God speaks to us in prayer and offer insights on ways to deepen our prayer lives and our relationship with Jesus this Lent.

Lenten Fish Fry on March 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.

St. Bernadette Parish welcomes families with special needs to an Inclusive Easter Mass on Wednesday, April 12 at 7 pm at the wheelchair accessible church, 5930 South Abbott Rd., Orchard Park. The Mass offers a shorter, less crowded worship setting allowing for people to move freely as

needed. The lighting will be dimmer, the music soothing and low gluten hosts will be available. Fr. Joseph Wolf, celebrant; Fr. Gerard Skrzyński will interpret the Mass through American Sign Language. Mass will be live-streamed on St. Bernadette's facebook page. This event is sponsored by the Open Doors Ministry which advocates for the inclusion of people with disabilities into the life of the parish. Questions may be directed to Sharon Urbaniak at 716-648-1720, ext. 3, sharonu@saintbopny.org or Paula Potteiger at 716-649-1051, cozmo3631@gmail.com.

Spring Craft Show on Saturday, April 22 from 9 am-2 pm at Cardinal O'Hara High School, 39 O'Hara Rd., Tonawanda. There will be more than 100 crafters and vendors. Proceeds from the fair will support Freshman Class activities. For more information, visit www.cardinalohara.com or call the school at 716-695-2600, ext. 312.

St. Gianna Pregnancy Outreach Center 12th Annual Banquet on Thursday, April 27 at 6 pm at Classics V, 2425 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst. Check-in begins at 5:30 pm. Opening remarks: Bishop Michael Fisher. Keynote Speaker: Toni McFadden, Author of "Redeemed: My Journey after Abortion." Special Guest: Honorable Shannon Filbert, First Woman Justice, Town of West Seneca. Make your reservation today by calling 716-847-2205, online at <https://www.buffalodiocese.org/st-gianna/> or email StGianna@buffalodiocese.org. Reservation deadline is April 17.

Spring Luncheon and Theme Basket Auction, sponsored by St. Benedict Rosary Altar Society, on Saturday, April 29 at Classics V, 2425 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst. Doors open at 11 am; lunch served at 12 pm. For reservations, contact Dolores Byron at 716-833-8030. Reservation deadline is April 21.

Young Catholic Families Resource Day on Saturday, May 20 from 9:00 am-12 pm at St. Amelia Church, 2999 Eggert Rd., Tonawanda. We will offer expert speakers on topics of raising a Catholic family while married/committed or single, and also education choices. Free babysitting will be available. For more information, please contact Kathy Waite at youngadults@stamelia.com.

Revive: A Night with Chris Stefanick on Wednesday, May 31 at 7 pm at St. Gregory the Great Church, 200 St. Gregory Ct., Williamsville. We are excited to bring Chris Stefanick, a dynamic speaker dedicated to reengaging a generation, to Western New York. Revive seeks to be an instrument for renewal of Catholic culture through annual events focusing on prayer, praise and engaging presenters who challenge and enrich our faith. For information or tickets, visit <https://buffalochestertonacademy.org/> or call 716-674-8101. This event part of the Revive Speaker Series presented by Chesterton Academy of Buffalo and Renew 716.

"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.

Dress for Success. Cardinal O'Hara High School has established a Success Closet to help students feel comfortable and confident while attending important events such as college, internship and job interviews. Items from donated clothes and shoes for male and female students may be borrowed from the closet and returned for future student use. Founded and coordinated by Kendra Ciezki, a licensed master social worker who works at Cardinal O'Hara, the closet is seeking business casual and professional clothing and shoes in all sizes that are either new or in good condition. Items may be dropped off at Cardinal O'Hara, 39 O'Hara Rd., Tonawanda or call 716-912-3517 to arrange for items to be picked up.

Help for Your Marriage? Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? **Retrouaille** helps couples through difficult times. For more information, call 716-474-9371 or visit <https://www.helpourmarriage.org/>. All calls are confidential.

Gun Violence in the US. On the First Friday of each month, the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur offer their 11:30 am Mass for an End to Gun Violence in our country. Everyone is invited to join us at St. Mary Center, 241 Lafayette Ave., Buffalo to pray for an end to this epidemic.

Word of Life-March 19: “To celebrate the Gospel of life means to celebrate the God of life, the God who gives life... In every child which is born and in every person who lives or dies we see the image of God’s glory. We celebrate this glory in every human being, a sign of the living God, an icon of Jesus Christ.”

Palabra de Vida-Marzo 19: “Celebrar el Evangelio de la vida significa celebrar el Dios de la vida, el Dios que da la vida... En cada niño que nace y en cada hombre que vive y que muere reconocemos la imagen de la gloria de Dios, gloria que celebramos en cada hombre, signo del Dios vivo, icono de Jesucristo.”

Word of Life-March 26: “There is an everyday heroism, made up of gestures of sharing, big or small, which build up an authentic culture of life... Part of this daily heroism is also the silent but effective and eloquent witness of all those ‘brave mothers who devote themselves to their own family without reserve, who suffer in giving birth to their children and who are ready to make any effort, to face any sacrifice, in order to pass on to them the best of themselves’... We thank you, heroic mothers, for your invincible love! We thank you for your intrepid trust in God and in his love. We thank you for the sacrifice of your life.”

Palabra de Vida-Marzo 26: “Está el heroísmo cotidiano, hecho de pequeños o grandes gestos de solidaridad que alimentan una auténtica cultura de la vida. ...A este heroísmo cotidiano pertenece el testimonio silencioso, pero a la vez fecundo y elocuente, de ‘todas las madres valientes, que se dedican sin reservas a su familia, que sufren al dar a luz a sus hijos, y luego están dispuestas a soportar cualquier esfuerzo, a afrontar cualquier sacrificio, para transmitirles lo mejor de sí mismas.’ ...Os damos las gracias, madres heroicas, por vuestro amor invencible. Os damos las gracias por la intrépida confianza en Dios y en su amor. Os damos las gracias por el sacrificio de vuestra vida.”

ENCLOSURES

1. **2024** Diocesan Collection Schedule

* = Priests and Deacons only

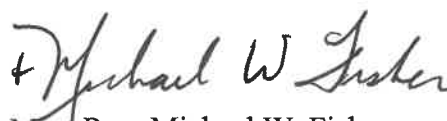
** = Diocesan Priests only

The schedule of **DIOCESAN COLLECTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2024** is as follows:

Catholic Relief Services (American BPS Overseas Relief)	January 27-28 (last weekend in January)	Diocese of Buffalo Lockbox Dept. 294 PO Box 8000 Buffalo, NY 14267
Church in Central and Eastern Europe & Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland	February 17-18	Diocese of Buffalo Lockbox Dept. 294
Black & Native Missions	March 2-3	Diocese of Buffalo Lockbox Dept. 294
Holy Land	March 29 – Good Friday	Diocese of Buffalo Lockbox Dept. 294
Catholic Home Mission Appeal (CHMA)	April 27-28 (last weekend in April)	Diocese of Buffalo Lockbox Dept. 294
Church in Latin America & Church in Africa	Sunday in May – Pastor’s Choice	Diocese of Buffalo Lockbox Dept. 294
Catholic Communication Campaign	June 8-9 (second Sunday in June)	Diocese of Buffalo Lockbox Dept. 294
Mission Cooperative Plan	Mid-June to Mid-July	Propagation of the Faith Lockbox Dept. 512 PO Box 8000 Buffalo, NY 14267
Peter’s Pence	Sunday in July – Pastor’s Choice	Diocese of Buffalo Lockbox Dept. 294
Retired Diocesan Priests’ Medical Benefits Fund	August 3-4	Diocese of Buffalo Lockbox Dept. 294
Catholic University	August 17-18	Diocese of Buffalo Lockbox Dept. 294
Seminarian & Diaconate Formation	Sunday in September – Pastor’s Choice	Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo 795 Main St. Buffalo, NY 14203
Respect Life Sunday for Moms & Babies	October 5-6 (first weekend in October)	Diocese of Buffalo Lockbox Dept. 294
World Mission Sunday	October 19-20	Propagation of the Faith Lockbox Dept. 512
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	November 23-24 (last weekend before Thanksgiving)	Catholic Charities 741 Delaware Ave. Buffalo, NY 14209
Religious Retirement Appeal	December 7-8	Diocese of Buffalo Lockbox Dept. 294

If any of these dates interferes with a parochial program, the collection should be taken on the nearest Sunday. Thank you for your cooperation and support for these important efforts.

Sincerely in Christ,


 Most Rev. Michael W. Fisher
 Bishop of Buffalo