

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

CHURCH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Western New York Catholic remains the place for diocesan news. We can be found at www.WNYCatholic.org with new stories about the parishes, schools, Road to Renewal, Catholic Charities, life issues, and Bishop Fisher. Did you hear about the group that attended World Youth Day in Lisbon? Read it on www.WNYCatholic.org. Want to know about the first days of the new school year? Read it on www.WNYCatholic.org. What does it feel like to be the spiritual counsel for the Buffalo Bills? Read it on www.WNYCatholic.org. Let us know what is happening in your school, parish and family. Email pbuechi@buffalodiocese.org.

Bulletin message for weekend of November 25-26: Do you need help with gifts for your children and teens this Christmas? Catholic Charities is, once again, a participating nonprofit with the WNY Holiday Partnership, which provides Christmas gifts for families in need. Catholic Charities, in collaboration with the Ladies of Charity, is able to provide toys, books, games or puzzles, and a new pair of gloves and winter hat for children ages 0-18. Interested parents or guardians can sign up for the program November 27 – December 12 by visiting our Central Intake office at 525 Washington St., Buffalo or by calling 716-856-4494 for a referral. The program is also accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys for infants and children and new, unwrapped gifts suitable for teenagers, such as small denomination gift cards, fleece blankets, sports equipment (soccer balls, footballs, basketballs), perfume and cologne sets, hoodies or sweatshirts, hair styling tools, and movie tickets. Donations can be brought to Ladies of Charity, 1122 Broadway, Buffalo, Monday through Friday between 10 am-2 pm.

Bulletin message for weekend of December 2-3: This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent – a time for reflection and for opening our hearts to compassion, love, and light. Put this into action by holding a personal care items drive for those in need! Whether the drive is just within your household or in your parish, school or place of business, it can make a profound impact as many Catholic Charities offices offer toiletries to individuals and families in need. Gifts like shampoo, soap or toothbrushes may seem like a small gesture, but to someone who has been going without, they make a big difference! To schedule a time to drop off your donation, please call your local Catholic Charities office.

Bulletin message for weekend of December 9-10: Has a return to the classroom been on your mind? Round out the year by enrolling in our HSE/GED prep classes. Catholic Charities Department of Education & Workforce staff guide and support individuals in Erie County who are out of school and want to improve their employability with services like high school equivalency prep, math and/or reading

remediation, job readiness skills training, financial literacy training and more. To begin the process or find out more, call 716-893-3500.

St. Gregory the Great Craft Show on Friday, November 24 from 10 am-4 pm and Saturday, November 25 from 10 am-3 pm. Offering 140+ hand-made crafters in 2 buildings, you will find the hand-made, unique gift you are searching for. Parking is free. A special feature this year is the AM&As window displays available for viewing. For more information, call 716-688-5678 ext. 424 or email craftshow@stgregs.org.

Catholic Diocese Cemeteries Candlelight Remembrance Services on Saturday, December 2 at 2 pm at Mount Olivet Cemetery, 4000 Elmwood Ave., Kenmore or Sunday, December 3 at 2 pm at Holy Cross Cemetery, 2900 South Park Ave., Lackawanna. The holiday season is filled with memories of times spent with those we love. When they are no longer with us, those memories become a precious gift. This spiritually uplifting service is filled with music, scripture, prayers and healing words from the Chaplains at the Pastoral Care Department at Hospice Buffalo. Bring an ornament in memory of your loved one or take one that is provided to hang on the tree. Reserve your spot by calling Mount Olivet at 716-873-6500 or Holy Cross at 716-823-1197.

Pierogi & Placek Sale, Christmas Chocolates and Basket Raffle on December 2-3 in St. John Kanty Rectory, 101 Swinburne St., Buffalo. Saturday hours are 12-3 pm; Sunday hours are 10 am-1 pm. Also available: Oplatek for your Christmas Eve celebration. We also invite you to join us for Mass on Sunday at 10:15 am. Further information at <http://www.saintjohnkanty.com/>.

Experience the Saint John's Bible at OLV National Shrine & Basilica and be inspired! The Heritage Edition of the Saint John's Bible, a one-of-a-kind exhibit, will be on display at OLV National Shrine and Basilica between December 3 – January 7. A special community kick-off with Dr. John Ross, executive director of the Saint John's Bible Heritage Program, will be at OLV Basilica to discuss the masterpiece's amazing story on Sunday, December 3 from 1-2 pm. All are welcome to visit the Basilica to be inspired and enriched by this artistic masterpiece. For Saint John's Bible event information and special programming, visit www.olvbasilica.org/bible.

Breakfast with Santa on December 10 from 9 am-12 pm at St. Leo the Great Parish Center, 885 Sweet Home Rd., Amherst. Breakfast includes pancakes, eggs, ham, sausage, potatoes, fruit and refreshment; pancakes with chocolate chips included for the kids. Giveaway from Santa! Tickets available on our website at <https://stleothegreatamherst.com/events/category/st-leos-event/> or at the parish office; no phone orders please. For more information, call 716-835-8905.

The St. John Paul II Schola Cantorum will be presenting 3 performances during the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons. 1) **Advent Service of Lessons & Carols** will be presented on Sunday, December 17 at 2 pm at SS. Peter & Paul Church, 5480 Main St., Williamsville. 2) **Solemn Advent Vespers with Choral Meditations for Advent** will be prayed on Monday, December 18 at 7 pm at St. Teresa Church, 1974 Seneca St., Buffalo. 3) **Concert of Choral Treasurers of Advent and Christmas** will be performed on Wednesday, December 27 at 7 pm at St. Margaret Church, 1395 Hertel Ave., Buffalo. This concert will be a singalong of traditional Christmas carols followed by refreshments. All these events are free and open to the public. Free-will offerings will be accepted to support the ministries of the host parishes. For more information on St. John Paul II Schola Cantorum, contact the choir by email at JP2Schola@gmail.com or follow them on Facebook and Instagram @JP@Schola.

"Who Is Jesus?" A talk presented by Sister Shawn Czyzycki on Saturday, December 18 at 1 pm at St. Gregory the Great Gathering Rooms, 200 St. Gregory Ct., Williamsville. To make a reservation, call Jo Pierino at 716-688-5678, ext. 301.

ENCLOSURES

(none)