

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

Catholic Health is looking for compassionate, active volunteers 18+ at all hospital sites and skilled nursing facilities. We need friendly visitors, greeters and much more! Catholic Health LIFE center is also seeking senior companions. For more information, contact Lisa Carey at 716-862-1106 or visit our website: <https://www.chsbuffalo.org/volunteer>.

Diocese of Buffalo Sound Hub. “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth!” (Psalm 100) Did you know that beginning earlier this year, the Diocese of Buffalo has been hosting a podcast channel which provides news, special features, and even original audio plays? The Diocese of Buffalo Sound Hub features WNY Catholic Audio News, special segments (including a conversation with the Buffalo Bills’ current and retired Catholic chaplains, a Black Catholic History Month miniseries, and a one-on-one interview with Vatican Observatory director Brother Guy Consolmagno), and original “podplay” series including *Dinners with Our Founders*, and *Sister Justine’s Saint Tales*. There are also archived past podcasts from WNY Catholic Weekly. The content is crafted carefully by our communications department, led by team member and former longtime local radio news personality Michael Mroziak. Best of all, you can listen to and download all the content for FREE! Check out the Diocese of Buffalo Sound Hub at <https://Soundcloud.com/BuffaloDiocese>. You may also find the Sound Hub on Apple Podcasts and Spotify.

Bulletin message for weekend of December 16-17: Catholic Charities Kinship Caregiver Program is a resource for non-parents who may need support in stepping out of the relative role and into that of a parent. The program operates in Cattaraugus and Allegany counties and can help families locate resources in the community and offer personal assistance including case management, family counseling and parenting education. Catholic Charities also offers support groups for caregivers and for children, YMCA family memberships for those who participate in the group activities regularly, and youth

groups/family fun nights. There is no cost to participate in the program. For more information and eligibility requirements, call 716-372-0101 or visit www.ccwny.org.

Bulletin message for weekend of December 23-24: “The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.” (John 1:9) As we celebrate the joy of Christ’s birth and the true light he brought to the world, we hope your hearts and homes are filled with peace, happiness and love. **Merry Christmas from all of us at Catholic Charities!**

Bulletin message for January: How much do you know about human trafficking in your state? This crime operates in every state and could show up in your local community. Education is a key factor in reducing public ignorance. **Alliance to End Human Trafficking** (founded and supported by US Catholic Sisters), 7575 Grand River Rd., Suite 109, Brighton, MI 48114; sistersagainstrafficking.org.

¿Cuánto sabes sobre la trata de personas en tu estado? Este crimen opera en todos los estados y podría darse en tu comunidad. La educación es un factor clave para reducir la ignorancia pública. **La alianza para poner fin a la trata de personas** (fundada y apoyada por las Hermanas Católicas de los EE. UU.), 7575 Grand River Rd., Suite 109, Brighton, MI 48114; sistersagainstrafficking.org.

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. 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.

“Carols by Candlelight” on Friday, December 8 at 7:30 pm at St. Louis Church, 780 Main St., Buffalo. The *Women of St. Louis* are drawn from the St. Louis Choir’s soprano and alto sections. Together they will offer a program of lovely solo and ensemble carols for Advent and Christmas – all in the muted candlelight of St. Louis’ majestic nave. Please join us as we pause from the rush and the noise of the season to find the “comfort and joy” that comes with the evening’s stillness.

Winter Bazaar on Saturday, December 9 from 10:30 am-3 pm at Our Lady Help of Christians School Hall, 4125 Union Rd., Cheektowaga. Visit with Santa and his elves, gift bags for the little ones, Polish Christmas table, bake sale, basket raffle, Polish lunch available for purchase, complimentary beverages, kids craft table, music, and more! Also collecting warm socks, mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for the “Tree of Warmth” to be donated to St. Luke’s Mission of Mercy, as well as non-perishable food items for St. Josaphat’s food pantry.

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.

International Exhibition: Miracles of the Eucharist Across the World created by Blessed Carlo Acutis will be hosted by Immaculate Conception Church, 36 Maple Ave., Wellsville from December 14-19. The church will be open for viewing from 9 am-8 pm. There will be Adoration during the week and an Advent Penance Service on Monday, December 18 at 7 pm. Call the parish office for more information and Adoration times, 585-593-4843 #1. Check our facebook page: The Catholic Communities of South Eastern Allegany County or our website: <https://icc-ics.com/>.

A Festival Service of Lessons and Carols on Thursday, December 21 at 7 pm at St. Louis Church, 780 Main St., Buffalo. The St. Louis Choir leads us in this highly anticipated annual Event. *Lessons and Carols* traces, in scripture and song, the Nativity story as foretold by the Old Testament prophets and narrated by the Gospel writers. Come and share in the mystery and joy of the Nativity story.

Inclusive Christmas Mass. On Wednesday, December 27 at 7 pm, St. Bernadette welcomes individuals and families with special needs and their friends to an inclusive Christmas Mass. The wheelchair accessible church is located at 5930 South Abbott Rd., Orchard Park. Fr. Joe Wolf will be the celebrant. 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 available. This event is sponsored by 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 or sharonu@saintbopny.org.

Are you struggling to find community or wondering how as lay women we can help our church through this difficult time? FIAT 90 is a 90-day novena of sacrificing certain lifestyle habits and intentionally adding prayer into our life, alongside our sisters in Christ, growing together in community and relationship with Christ. The intention for the 90 days we will be praying specifically for our Priests, Leaders, and Parishes. The 90 days will be held from January 1 to March 31, the final day ending on Easter Sunday. FIAT90 is open to all women, in any stage of life. For those interested, email Lydia at info@fiat-90.com or visit www.fiat-90.com/buffalo.

March for Life 2024 – January 18-19. Make your reservation today! Bus departs on Thursday, January 18 at 5:30 am from Our Lady of Victory Charities, 780 Ridge Rd., Lackawanna. Bus deadline: to guarantee your seat on the bus, register and send payment by December 27 (money non-refundable if payment received after deadline). Hotel deadline: call the Washington Plaza (202-842-1300) by December 19 and mention *Buffalo Diocese*. For more information, visit <https://www.buffalodiocese.org/pro-life-services/>, email Pro-Lifeoffice@buffalodiocese.org or call 716-847-2205. If you are not able to attend the March for Life, please consider sponsoring anyone in need.

ENCLOSURES

(none)