

## 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.

**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. **February 2024 and March 2024 Homily Helps available at:** [February 2024 \(Cycle B\) | Catholic Climate Covenant](#); [March 2024 \(Cycle B\) | Catholic Climate Covenant](#).

**SAVE THE DATE: 2024 Bishop Smith Clergy Open** will be held on Monday, June 24. Flyer/registration form will be forthcoming. Mark your calendar! Any questions or to assist with this event, contact Deacon Tim Maloney at 716-812-2950.

## CHURCH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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 2024-25 school year. To start the process, families can complete a pre-application form online at <http://bisonfund.com/our-scholarships>. If selected in the lottery drawing, the scholarships can be used at any private grammar school in WNY. Deadline to apply is March 15. For more information, contact Cindy at 716-854-0869, ext. 1 or [cmcdonald@bisonfund.com](mailto:cmcdonald@bisonfund.com).

**Bulletin message for weekend of February 24-25: HOPE when you are troubled.** For Luke, the traditional education system was always a challenge. As someone who struggled with math, he felt unsure of his future. That all changed when he started the GED program at **Catholic Charities**. Luke said the staff helped him balance work and school, and within six months he obtained his high school diploma. The staff went above and beyond, he said, even helping him with financial aid and college applications. Last year, Luke graduated from Niagara County Community College and now works as a registered nurse at a local hospital. He has plans to continue his education and become a nurse practitioner or a certified registered nurse anesthetist. Your gift to **Appeal 2024** means that we can continue to help students like Luke achieve their goals. You can be part of someone's success story! Give today at [www.ccwny.org/donate](http://www.ccwny.org/donate) or text HOPE4WNY to 44321.

**Bulletin message for weekend of March 2-3: HOPE when you are homeless.** For Joseph, **Catholic Charities** was a reprieve against the troubles he was facing while homeless. "Your light was on. It was a miracle," he said, adding that he was beginning to lose hope. Joseph was able to get a warm meal, new

clothing, an hour to charge his phone and a day pass to a local shelter. The Catholic Charities employee who assisted Joseph that day said, "He was beyond pleased with the service he received. We didn't fix his entire life, but sometimes being here is all someone needs." **You can choose to be there for those in need, too.** Your gift to the **Appeal 2024** helps us continue to help people who turn to us when there is nowhere else to go. Give today at [www.ccwny.org/donation](http://www.ccwny.org/donation) or by texting HOPE4WNY to 44321.

**Bulletin message for March:** Pray for families who have to sell their children to be able to eat and for those who are tricked into sending their children with traffickers with the promise of education and a better life. **Alliance to End Human Trafficking** (founded and supported by US Catholic Sisters), 7575 Grand River Rd., Suite 109, Brighton, MI 48114; [sistersagainstrafficking.org](http://sistersagainstrafficking.org).

Oremos por las familias que tienen que vender a sus hijos para poder comer y por aquellos que son engañados para que envíen a sus hijos con traficantes con la promesa de educación y una mejor vida. **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](http://sistersagainstrafficking.org).

**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>.

**40 Days for Life** vigils beginning February 14 through March 24. Lives are saved when we pray outside an abortion mill...people of all faiths are called. Plan to spend an hour at Planned Parenthood, 15 Webster St., North Tonawanda (leader contact: Kristen Jorg, 231-286-8685) and Planned Parenthood, 750 Portage Rd., Niagara Falls (leader contact: pastor Bill Ruminas, 585-480-2034). Sign up online at [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com).

**Lenten Fish Fry** every Friday during Lent (February 16 – March 22) from 4-7 pm at St. Greg's Ministry Center, Maple Rd. (next to Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital), Amherst. Featuring fried or baked fish, French fries, coleslaw and roll. Pizza also available. For more information, call 716-688-5678. Sponsored by St. Greg's Knights of Columbus.

**Fields of Grace Family of Parishes Life in the Eucharist Retreat** on Saturdays from February 17 through March 16 from 10-11:30 am, with the option for Eucharistic Adoration afterward. First session on February 17 held at SS. Joachim & Anne, 50 East Main St., Attica. For more information, contact Sue at 716-937-6959.

**Before Cana (Pre-Cana) Marriage Preparation Class** on Saturday, February 24 from 9:30 am-5:30 pm at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish Center, 2 St. Mary's Hill, Lancaster. Class concludes with Mass at a Family Parish. To register, call 716-683-6445 or email [smc@stmarysonthehill.org](mailto:smc@stmarysonthehill.org).

**Psalms: The School of Prayer**, a four-week Bible Study class, will be held on Wednesdays from February 28 through March 20 from 6-7:30 pm at Blessed Sacrament Church (St. Joseph's Hall), 1029 Delaware Ave., Buffalo (also available virtually via Zoom). We hear the Psalms read or sung at every Mass between the first and second readings, but do we understand their significance? The course will explore how the words of the Psalms captivate the imagination and draw us into a deeply personal encounter with God. To enroll, contact Lizza Buckley at 716-939-3483 or [eabuckley@msn.com](mailto:eabuckley@msn.com).

**"Eucharistic Miracles of the World"** display – 36 remarkable easels designed by the possible future "patron saint of the internet," Blessed Carlos Acutis – from Wednesday, February 28 until Wednesday, March 20 from 9 am-3 pm at SS. Peter & Paul Church, 66 E. Main St., Hamburg. The displays will be located inside the Main St. entrance, in the Social Center hallway, and in St. Francis Chapel. Come see many examples around the globe over the last millennium, all physically documenting the Real Presence of our Lord in the Holy Eucharist.

**Lenten Fish Fry**, hosted by St. Margaret Parish, on March 1 from 4-7 pm at American Legion Post 1041, 533 Amherst St., Buffalo. Catered by BW's Smokin' Barrels Barbecue, dinner includes freshly cooked haddock, French fries, two sides, bread and dessert. Also available is a kid's meal of chicken fingers, French fries and dessert. Dine-in or take-out. Tickets on sale through February 26 at St. Margaret Church following Sunday 9:30 am Mass, at the rectory during normal business hours, as well as online at [www.stmargaretbuffalo.com](http://www.stmargaretbuffalo.com). Tickets may be available at the door. A basket raffle and 50/50 split will be offered. For more information, call St. Margaret's rectory at 716-876-5318. Proceeds to benefit repairs to St. Margaret's Parish.

**Saint Patrick's Networking Event – Adults 21+.** Connect with Catholic business professionals for an evening of networking and fellowship on Thursday, March 14 at 6 pm at Doc Sullivan's, 474 Abbott Rd., Buffalo. All proceeds benefit Young Adult Professionals (YAP), a community where young adults are accompanied and formed to become the next leaders of their workplaces, communities and parishes. For more information and to reserve your spot visit <http://yapbuffalo.com/networking-events/>.

**St. John Paul II Schola Cantorum will perform sacred choral works** at 2 events for Lent: **Stations of the Cross** followed by Adoration and Benediction on Friday, March 15 at 7 pm at St. Gregory the Great, 200 St. Gregory Ct., Williamsville; and **Tenebrae: A Lenten Service of Darkness** on Friday, March 22 at 7 pm at St. Paul, 33 Victoria Blvd., Kenmore. For more information, follow St. John Paul II Schola on Facebook and Instagram @JP2Schola or email [JP2Schola@gamil.com](mailto:JP2Schola@gamil.com).

**Magnificat Buffalo** invites you to share a meal, a morning of praise, prayer and fellowship on Saturday, March 16 from 9:45 am-12:10 pm at Joseph's Country Manor, 275 Columbia Ave., Depew. Elizabeth Galanti, a local Catholic therapist, will testify to the workings of the Holy Spirit in her life. Register online at [Magnificat Ministry \(magnificat-ministry.net\)](http://magnificat-ministry.net); click on "Chapters," then select NY, then Buffalo. Any questions, contact Maureen at 716-683-2290.

**OLV's 2024 Pilgrimage – Walking in the Footsteps of Venerable Nelson Baker** – April 30 to May 9. Travel to Paris and Rome, retracing and reliving the pilgrimage that changed Father Baker's life forever 150 years ago. If interested, contact Kim Kutera at 716-828-9648 or [kkutera@olvcharities.org](mailto:kkutera@olvcharities.org). Spaces limited.

### **ENCLOSURES**

(none)