

Church Bulletin Announcements – January 20, 2025

Catholic Charities bulletin messages for upcoming weekends:

January 25-26: When someone comes to Catholic Charities, it's because they often have nowhere else to turn. And when they come to us, we work hard to ensure their needs are met. Whether it's through helping a client navigate applications and resources, connecting them to additional supports, or simply being a comforting ear to listen, our staff aims to serve and find solutions. One senior director said, "Our employees don't realize they go above and beyond because it's typical work for them." When you support the annual Appeal, you support these efforts of taking care of those in our community. **We help all; we need help from all.** Give today at www.ccnny.org/donate or text HOPE4WNY to 44321.

February 1-2: St. Vincent de Paul is the Catholic Charities Appeal 2025 patron saint. As the patron saint of charity, St. Vincent de Paul said, "Charity is the cement that binds communities to God and persons to one another. We should help and support one another and strive for peace and union among ourselves." Supporting the annual Appeal is a quick way to support those in need in our community, and to see the face of God in those we serve. Please give today at www.ccnny.org/donate or text HOPE4WNY to 44321. **St. Vincent de Paul, pray for us!**

February 8-9: Support – with a smile! John often turns to Catholic Charities for essential support like food and clothing. He shared that every time he reaches out, the staff is not only professional, but also genuinely caring and always ready to help with a smile. It's this kindness and commitment that makes a real difference in John's life. Your support of the Appeal ensures that John and others like him continue to receive the help and HOPE they need. Please give at www.ccnny.org/donate or text HOPE4WNY to 44321.

Vigil for Life Mass on Thursday, January 23 at 6 pm at St. Christopher Church, 2660 Niagara Falls Blvd., Tonawanda. After Mass at 7 pm is a Witness to Life Talk, followed by Eucharistic Adoration until 9 pm. Baby item collection will take place to benefit the St. Gianna Molla Centers and Mother Teresa Home. Priests and Deacons are invited to vest with diocesan vestments and stoles. If vesting, RSVP to the Family Office at 716-692-2660. Sponsored by Family #18 – Roman Catholic Community of the Tonawandas.

Can You Lead About Leviathan with a Hook? Is God's Power Limitless, and Can a Being with Limitless Power Do Anything? A lecture by Dr. Josh Merlo on January 28 at 6 pm at UB Newman Center, 495 Skinnersville Rd., Amherst. Within the Catholic tradition, God is understood to be omnipotent; that is, his power is understood to be perfect and without limit. What this means, however, has been debated since the earliest days of the Church. Can an omnipotent being do something contradictory, like make a rock so big it couldn't lift it? Can a perfectly powerful being commit an imperfect action,

like lie? Can an unlimitedly powerful being do anything, even if doing so would conflict with being perfectly wise or perfectly just? Come discuss these questions in this next installment of the UB Newman Center's Lonergan Lecture series.

World Day of Consecrated Life 2025 is on February 2. Over 425 sisters and about 100 order priests and brothers minister to the people of God in our Diocese through prayer, presence and direct service. As they continue their ministry to you, they ask for your prayerful support for them.

Upcoming dates at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, 1023 Swann Rd., Youngstown. Blessing of the Throats on February 3. Ash Wednesday on March 5. Palm Sunday Buffet Brunch on April 13. During the Lenten Season, Our Lady's Rosary Makers of The Fatima Shrine will be having a Kid's Coloring Contest. The contest begins March 5; all coloring pages must be handed in by April 11 and prizes given out on April 13. Also, if you would like to be a Rosary Maker or know someone who would, we would love to train you and help you get started. You can be part of the group at the Shrine or an annex at your parish. For more information, call 716-754-7489.

The WNY Classical Consortium is hosting a Classical Education Information Night for school administrators and parents on February 6 from 7-8:30 pm at SS. Peter & Paul Catholic School, 5480 Main St., Williamsville. Six organizations will exhibit and share information on how Classical Education can enhance your student's education. Learn more about what a Classical Education looks like both in a traditional school setting and a homeschool setting. Discover how the lost tools of grammar, logic, rhetoric, and Socratic discussions perfect students' ability to relate to others and think critically. Visit <https://cabuffalo.org/> or call Barb Courtney at 716-674-8101, ext. 103.

The Great Winter Bash on Saturday, February 8 at St. Leo the Great Parish Center, 885 Sweet Home Rd., Amherst. Doors open at 6 pm. Your \$100 ticket admits 2 guests and entry into our Grand Prize Drawings valued at \$12,500. Enjoy a variety of premium appetizers and our selection of beer and wine. Special auction items will be online to view prior to the Bash. Premium Gift Basket Raffle, Lottery Tree & many more surprises throughout the evening. Tickets available online at <http://www.stleothegreatamherst.com/events>. Questions? Call the parish office at 716-835-8905.

Before Cana, the Marriage Preparation Program of the Beloved Disciples of Christ the Lord Family of Parishes, will be held on Saturday, February 15 from 9:30 am-5:30 pm at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, 2 St. Mary's Hill, Lancaster. Before Cana is a requirement prior to marriage in the Catholic Church. Cost is \$90 and lunch is included. Mass at one of the family parishes will conclude the day. To register, go to <https://bdclfamily.com/pre-cana/>. For more information, contact St. Mary's at 716-683-6445 or Deacon John Owczarczak at 716-683-3269.

Meat Raffle on Saturday, February 22 at St. Leo the Great Parish Center, 885 Sweet Home Rd., Amherst. Doors open at 6 pm. Admission is \$10 pre-sale/\$15 at the door/\$70 for a table of 8 (advance purchase required). Ticket includes beer, wine, pop, and water. Bring your own snacks. Lottery Tree, 50/50, Gift Basket Raffle, Special Raffle Item, & much more. Tickets available online at <http://www.stleothegreatamherst.com/events>. Questions? Call the parish office at 716-835-8905.

The Rosary in a Year Podcast. The Legion of Mary encourages everyone to check out the new Rosary in a Year, the #1 podcast in the world. In Ascension Press' Rosary in a Year podcase, Fr. Mark-Mary Ames, CFR, guides listeners in a step-by-step journey that will change the way you pray. By starting small and adding on over time, listeners will find themselves falling more in love with this powerful Marian devotion, becoming a source of grace for the whole world. The podcase is free. Once you get started, keep in mind that you are also welcome to join your local Legion of Mary in reciting the Rosary. We have meetings throughout the week at different locations in our diocese. Contact Irene at 716-908-3741 or Tom at 716-834-9872 for more information. Visit. www.ascensionpress.com/pages/the-rosary-in-a-year-podcast.

Retrouvaille. Thinking about separation or divorce? Is your marriage or that of a relative or friend heading for divorce? Retrouvaille is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages. For more information, call 716-474-9371 or visit <https://helpourmarriage.org/>. Next weekend is April 4-6. All calls are confidential and pre-registration is required.

***** Next newsletter will be published on February 3, 2025. *****