

## 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. March 2025 Homily Helps available at: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/learn/resources/>.

## CHURCH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Catholic Charities bulletin messages for upcoming weekends:

**March 1-2: Help for all, help from all.** For more than 100 years, **Catholic Charities** has been a beacon of HOPE in the community – ready to assist all who turn to us. Whether it's addressing an immediate and urgent need like food, clothing, or prescription medication, or it's getting a young adult back on track through counseling or education, Catholic Charities is here and ready to help. But because we help all, *we rely on all*. Your donation to the **2025 Appeal** helps us ensure that we can continue to be here, ready to help. Just like our clients count on us, we count on you! Give today at [www.ccwny.org/donate](http://www.ccwny.org/donate) or text HOPE4WNY to 44321.

**March 8-9: Spring isn't the only thing on its way! Catholic Charities HOPE Day 2025 is coming!** Our annual Appeal's one-day "above and beyond" 24-hour fundraising effort is moving up this year and will be held on Wednesday, March 19. Be sure to follow us at [www.ccwny.org](http://www.ccwny.org) and on our Facebook and Instagram pages for more details on how you can contribute, help spread the word, and track our progress on HOPE day!

**March 15-16: HOPE Day is this Wednesday! Catholic Charities annual Appeal's one-day "above and beyond" fundraising effort is Wednesday, March 19.** Last year, donors gave \$434,778 in just 24 hours! Be sure to follow us at [www.ccwny.org](http://www.ccwny.org) and on our Facebook and Instagram pages for details on how you can contribute or help spread the word this Wednesday, and to track our progress on HOPE Day!

**Music at St. Louis presents Jay Dref, Tenor** on Sunday, February 23 at 5 pm at St. Louis Church, 35 Edward St., Buffalo. Sacred and secular songs of Schubert, Tosti, Donizetti, Morricone and others. Free-will offering. Join us for a lovely hour of great music.

**Evil Today: The Reality of the Demonic**, presented by Deacon Thomas Labelle, on Friday, February 28 at 7 pm at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1029 Delaware Ave., Buffalo. Deacon Labelle will discuss the concept of evil and the demonic. This lecture will blend elements of faith, psychology, and cultural narratives as it presents the reality of the demonic and the devil's existence in our world today. Reception follows lecture. Free-will donation appreciation. To reserve your free ticket, contact Michael Pitek at 716-480-8313 or [michael@thepitekgroup.com](mailto:michael@thepitekgroup.com).

**Canisius University Little Theatre presents *Little Women*** on March 6 at 8 pm, March 7 at 8 pm, March 8 at 2 pm & 8 pm at the Montante Cultural Center at Canisius University, Buffalo. Free admission. Doors open a half hour before each performance.

**“Music and Memories” – A Service to Remember Those We Love**, sponsored by Catholic Cemeteries. The service will feature songs that will inspire and uplift you as we remember those we have loved. Guest speaker, beautiful music, poems, scripture and other pieces will be interspersed throughout the program. Locations include Mount Olivet Cemetery Resurrection Chapel Mausoleum, 4000 Elmwood Ave., Kenmore on Saturday, March 8 at 2 pm and Holy Cross Cemetery Chapel Mausoleum, 2900 South Park Ave., Lackawanna on Thursday, March 13 at 6:30 pm. Call Marianne at 716-873-6500 for reservations. Please indicate which location. RSVP needed by February 27 to have your loved ones name included in the program.

**St. Joseph's Table** on Saturday, March 8 at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, 4125 Union Rd., Cheektowaga. Mass at 4 pm, followed by procession to the School of Two Hearts (next to the Chapel) where dinner is served. Come to Mass and the dinner, or just come for the dinner at 5:15 pm. Enjoy music and a traditional meatless dinner that includes: lentil soup, fennel & orange salad, pasta, fish, frittatas, Italian desserts, wine, pop, water, coffee and tea. 50/50 split and basket raffles. Tickets are \$30 for one; \$55 per couple; \$15 ages 11-17; kids 10 and under free. Pre-sale only; RSVP by March 2. For tickets contact [office.theschooloftwohearts@gmail.com](mailto:office.theschooloftwohearts@gmail.com).

**Come one and all to St. Gregory the Great Lenten Retreat – March 10-12.** Re-ignite a love of our Lord through lively praise and worship music, inspirational talks and personal encounters with our Eucharistic Lord in Adoration. St. Gregory the Great Parish and Elevated Parish Missions is hosting this 3-night Lenten Retreat. Each night begins at 6:30 pm in the church located at 200 St. Gregory Ct., Williamsville. All are welcome! We promise this is a great way to start your Lent.

**“The Famous & Forgotten Women of the Bible,”** a five-week Bible study course presented by Deacon William Hynes, will be held at Blessed Sacrament Church, in St. Joseph's Hall, 1029 Delaware Ave., Buffalo. The classes will be held on Wednesdays from 6:30-8 pm and will run from March 12-April 9. The course is open to all interested and will be offered live, in-person, as well as virtually available via Zoom. While some of the women of the Bible are very well known – Mary, Eve and Sarah for example – many others have not received the attention they deserve. Whole books of the Bible, like Esther, Ruth and Judith, extol the contributions of extraordinary women. Dozens of other women punctuate Sacred Scripture. Join us as we highlight the famous, and the forgotten, women in the Bible. Participants are asked to provide their own Bible. Registration is required; however, there are no fees involved. To register, contact Lizza Buckley at 716-939-3483 or [eabuckley@msn.com](mailto:eabuckley@msn.com).

**“The Transformative Power of the Eucharist.”** Christ the King’s Adoration Committee will present it’s annual “Cabin Fever” event: “The Transformative Power of the Eucharist,” presented by Fr. Moses on Thursday, March 13 at 7 pm at Christ the King, 30 Lamarck Dr., Snyder.

**Magnificat Ministry to Catholic Women** on March 15 from 9:30 am-12:10 pm at Joseph’s Country Manor, 275 Columbia Ave., Depew. Begin your Lenten journey in a Spirit-filled way. Join us for a morning of prayer, testimony, praise and a shared meal. Guest speaker, Cecilia Crawford (Rochester chapter), will share the powerful ways in which the Holy Spirit has transformed and supported her as He continues to guide her through the trials in her family life. Registration is absolutely necessary by March 1. Register online at [www.magnificat-ministry.net/](http://www.magnificat-ministry.net/), click on “Chapters,” select “NY,” and then “Buffalo.” For cost and additional details, call Maureen at 716-683-2290.

**A Musical Evening of Reflection – “The Path to Hope and Healing...Seeking God, Finding God, Resting in God.”** All are welcome for a Lenten musical evening of reflection led by Msgr. Paul Litwin on Tuesday, March 18 at 7 pm at Christ the King Church, 30 Lamarck Dr., Snyder.

**Retreat Opportunities at Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua.**

- Lenten Book Read (in-person or online) on Mondays from March 10-April 14
  - Women’s Lenten Retreat on March 22 from 8:30 am-3:30 pm; presented by Marie Mozzi
  - Lenten Retreat (open to men & women) from March 28-30, with Fr. Roc O’Connor, SJ
- For further information, visit [www.notredameretreat.org](http://www.notredameretreat.org), email [staff@notredameretreat.org](mailto:staff@notredameretreat.org) or call 585-394-5700.

**“Rebuild My Church.”** Join us on Thursday, March 20 at 6:30 pm as Our Lady Help of Christians welcomes one of the world’s most popular saints, Francis of Assisi, in a live theatrical performance entitled “Rebuild My Church.” Experience the power of a personal encounter with Christ and St. Francis through this one-man multi-media event. This inspiring dramatic performance brings this well-known saint to life. Accompany Francis on his journey as he recounts his transformative life: a well to do fun-loving youth, a soldier, touched by suffering, called by God, and transformed by the poor and beggars of his time. See how the son of a wealthy merchant gave up everything for the sake of Christ. Discover how his life touched millions of people with his simple and humble approach amidst an affluent society. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this free event. Our Lady Help of Christians is located at 4125 Union Rd., Cheektowaga.

**Lenten Mission** from March 30-April 5 at St. John Paul II Parish, 2052 Lakeview Rd., Lake View. This year’s theme is “Building a Community in Christ.” Each evening offers dynamic speakers, prayer, fellowship, and faith sharing to accompany you on your journey through Lent, strengthen your faith and relationship with God. Mission is free and open to everyone. Register on our website at [www.lakeshorecatholicfc.org/lenten-mission](http://www.lakeshorecatholicfc.org/lenten-mission) or by calling the office at 716-780-7020. Established in 1989, Mission has brought hundreds of people closer to Christ and His Church. Be a part of a spiritual journey like nothing else.

**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://www.helpourmarriage.org>. Next weekend is April 4-6. All calls are confidential and preregistration is required.

**In the Footsteps of St. Paul – a Pilgrimage to Greece & Turkey** led by Fr. Stephen Soares & Fr Mark Tibai from September 1-11. Package includes: round trip airfare, 4-day cruise, Catholic tour guide, 4-star hotels, all breakfasts and most dinners, daily Mass, gratuities, all admission fees. If you have any questions or would like further information, call Sara Edwards at 504-258-7282 or Fr. Soares at 716-680-2685.

### **ENCLOSURES**

1. Prayer for Our Priests and Deacons – consider including this prayer in your bulletin as a way to support and uplift our priests and deacons in prayer

## Prayer for Our Priests and Deacons

Heavenly Father,

We lift up to You the priests and deacons of the Diocese of Buffalo, who have dedicated their lives to serving You and Your people. As they walk the *Road to Renewal*, grant them strength in times of uncertainty, wisdom in moments of challenge, and peace in the face of change.

Fill their hearts with courage, patience, and unwavering faith. May they be guided by the Holy Spirit, rooted in Your love, and sustained by the prayers of the faithful. Help them to shepherd with compassion, lead with humility, and trust in Your divine plan.

Through the intercession of **Mary, Mother of Vocations**, may they be renewed in their calling and inspired by her example of trust and surrender. May she wrap them in her mantle of love and intercede for them before Your throne, so they may always find strength, joy, and perseverance in their ministry.

Bless their ministry, Lord, and renew their spirit each day. May they always find joy in their vocation and be strengthened by Your grace."

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

