

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.

CHURCH BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Catholic Charities bulletin messages for upcoming weekends:

February 15-16: In addition to supporting Catholic Charities, Appeal 2025 also benefits the Fund for the Faith. Established in 1937 by Bishop John Duffy, the Fund for the Faith provides spiritual nourishment throughout the Diocese today. Proceeds provide ministry support services that are instrumental to the vitality of our faith experience, such as hospital chaplaincy, formation of priests and deacons, pro-life ministry, marriage prep and so much more. Support Catholic Charities and the Fund for the Faith by visiting www.ccwny.org/donate or text HOPE4WNY to 44321.

February 22-23: The importance of stretching a dollar is essential these days – and a charitable donation is no different! That’s why we’re happy to report that each dollar raised during the annual **Catholic Charities Appeal** leverages an additional \$5-6 of government support and contracts for Catholic Charities – meaning your gift goes five to six times as far. More funding means more services for those in need, which in turn builds stronger, healthier communities! Donate today at www.ccwny.org/donate or text HOPE4WNY to 44321.

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 2025-26 school year. To start the process, families can complete a quick pre-application form online at www.bisonfund.org. If selected in our lottery drawing, the scholarships can be used at any private grammar school in WNY. The deadline to apply is March 31. The maximum award is \$3,000. For more information, contact Cindy McDonald at 716-854-0869, ext. 1 or cmcdonald@bisonfund.org.

St. Gregory the Great Lenten Retreat. Come join us for three powerful nights of lively praise and worship music, inspirational talks and personal encounters with our Eucharistic Lord. Allow the Holy Spirit to touch your heart and move through you to make the world a better place. St. Gregory the Great Parish and Elevated Parish Missions is hosting a three-night Lenten Retreat, Monday, March 10 - Wednesday, March 12. 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.

Catholic Men's Conference of WNY will take place on March 29 at Cardinal O'Hara High School, 39 O'Hara Rd., Tonawanda. Feature speaker will be Fr. Larry Richards. Along with the speakers, confessions, adoration and breakout discussions will be offered. Priests that can be available to hear confessions between 11 am-1 pm are needed. Please call 716-868-5871.

Calling All St. Gregory the Great School Alumni. St. Gregory the Great School, Williamsville will hold an All-Class Reunion on June 13-14. The Alumni Association is asking all alumni to update their contact information on the alumni page of the school's website to receive details on the event. Go to <https://www.stgregsschool.org> and click on "Alumni" on the Campus Life tab at the top of the page. Email the Alumni Association at alumni@stgregsschool.org with any questions.

25th Anniversary of Priesthood Pilgrimage to Poland & Austria, led by Fr. Jozef Dudzik, from June 25 – July 5. The pilgrimage includes: 2 nights Warsaw, 4 nights Krakow, 1 night Zakopane in the Tatra Mountains, and 2 nights Vienna. Pilgrimage highlights include: Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine and Divine Mercy Shrine; tour Krakow's medieval main square with Wawel Castle and St. Mary Church; visit Wadowice, the hometown of Pope St. John Paul II and tour his childhood home and parish church; visit Fr. Jozef's hometown of Wilczyce for Mass and an included lunch; take a cable ride up to Gubalowka Mountain in Zakopane; celebrate Independence Day at a festive restaurant in Vienna; and so much more. For additional information, including a detailed itinerary, contact Sandra Smith at 716-866-6493 or smithsandrag@gmail.com.

Rediscover Your Marriage. Retrouvaille, a program for struggling married couples, simply means "rediscovery." The program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. Retrouvaille is for couples who want to make their marriages better. We can help couples in troubled marriages and couples with good marriages who believe their marriages can be better. The primary requirement is a willingness to work on your marriage. Both husband and wife are required to attend the weekend. The next weekend is scheduled for April 4-6. For more information, call Carol at 716-474-9371 or visit <https://www.helpourmarriage.org>.

Knights of Columbus Video Series – "Mission of the Family." Men and women, young and old, strengthen and grow in your faith for your families with 5 short videos produced by the Knights of Columbus called "Mission of the Family." The videos can be found on the Knights of Columbus website for free. Visit <https://kofc.org/en/campaigns/into-the-breach.html>. You can also find the original "Into the Breach" video series by scrolling down the webpage and under "categories," select "Into the Breach." This series is also free and is sure to help you grow in your faith.

The Rosary in a Year Podcast. The Legion of Mary encourages everyone to use the new, free Rosary in a Year podcast from Ascension Press. 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. Blessed Mother is always looking for prayer warriors to recite the rosary daily for her intentions. You can also join a local Legion of Mary group in reciting the Rosary as an auxiliary member. We have meetings throughout the week at different locations throughout our diocese. Contact Irene at 716-908-3741 for more information or to link up with a group near you. Visit www.ascensionpress.com/pages/the-rosary-in-a-year-podcast.

ENCLOSURES

1. Ladies of Charity First Communion Program - flyer

Ladies of Charity First Communion Program



The Ladies of Charity provides assistance to families in financial need, with a child making their First Communion. The program helps to purchase new outfits for their First Communion. See website for further information: <https://locbuffalony.org/>

If the Parish Faith Formation teacher/staff identifies a financial need for any of their First Communicants please:

- Email (**LOC@ccwny.org**) or call the office (716-895-4001) to nominate the family/families and provide the following information:
 - Name of Communicant
 - Parent/Guardian Name
 - Parent/Guardian Phone Number
 - Home Address
 - Communion Date
 - Parish Name
 - Parish Phone Number
 - Religion Instructor/Parish Contact
 - Religion Instructor/Parish Contact email address

All nominations will be considered, with approval by the Ladies of Charity. Upon approval, the Faith Formation teacher/staff will serve as liaison between the family and the Ladies of Charity.

Ladies of Charity, 1122 Broadway, Buffalo, NY 14212. Call 716-895-4001 with any questions.

