

Church Bulletin Announcements – April 20, 2026

Catholic Charities bulletin messages for upcoming weekends:

May 16-17: When a fire destroyed her apartment, Jen, a single mother of two, was left to rebuild from scratch. Catholic Charities was there to help. From providing household items to finding her family clothing, the staff and volunteers were there with open arms to help during this stressful and uncertain time. Today, Jen and her children are in a new home and doing well. She credits the support she received from Catholic Charities with helping her family move forward with dignity and HOPE. Your gift to **Appeal 2026** helps make stories like this, and so many others, possible. Please give today by visiting www.ccnny.org/donate. **Appeal 2026** is ongoing through June 30.

May 23-24: In addition to supporting Catholic Charities, Appeal 2026 also benefits the Fund for the Faith. Established in 1937 by Bishop John Duffy, the Fund for the Faith originated out of a concern for those in need of spiritual comfort due to hardships of the Great Depression. Today, the Fund for the Faith continues to provide that same spiritual nourishment throughout our Diocese. Proceeds provide ministry support services that are instrumental to the vitality of our faith experience and enable us to more effectively spread the Gospel message of Christ's love. Support **Appeal 2026** by visiting www.ccnny.org/donate.

May 30-31: When Neza came to Catholic Charities, she was overwhelmed. She was raising three children on her own, and the phone seemed to ring nonstop with calls from school about behavior concerns. Each call left her feeling more helpless. Meanwhile, one of her daughters was in constant pain from severe dental decay, needing urgent surgery that felt completely out of reach. Through Catholic Charities, Neza found a safe place to land. Rather than handing her a list and sending her on her way, the staff walked with Neza every step of the way. They sat beside her at school meetings. They helped her make the phone calls she was afraid to make. They worked with her to build small, steady routines at home. And when the medical system felt like a maze, they walked it with her until her daughter was finally wheeled into surgery and came out free of pain. Today, Neza stands more confident and empowered. Her children are doing better in school, her daughter is no longer in pain, and the family is equipped with the tools to continue moving forward on their own. Your support of **Appeal 2026** helps families like Neza's. Give the gift of HOPE today by visiting www.ccnny.org/donate.

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center's Spiritual Care Department is looking for Eucharistic Ministers to distribute communion to patients on Mondays and Fridays of the week. If you are interested and have a couple of hours on a Monday or Friday and would like to volunteer, contact Dr. Melody Rutherford, Director of Spiritual Care, at 716-845-1300, ext. 1839.

Camp Turner isn't just a summer getaway, it's a place where faith comes alive in the hearts of young people. Rooted in a Christ-centered mission, it has offered meaningful opportunities to encounter God through nature, community, and shared experiences for more than 100 years. Here, campers unplug from their phones and dive into classic camp fun like nature walks, horseback riding, bicycling, arts and crafts, and archery. The best part? Each moment is designed to nurture both spirit and character. At Camp Turner, faith is woven into every moment. With the support of dedicated mentors and a welcoming community, campers are encouraged to live their faith with joy and authenticity. It's where adventure and spirituality meet, leaving a lasting impact far beyond summer. Register today – summer sessions are filling up – at www.campturner.org or by calling 716-354-4555.

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. Our next weekend in the area is scheduled for May. Our last weekend had a wait list, so please don't wait – call us today. For more information, call 716-474-9371 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org. All calls are confidential and preregistration is required.

Las Voces de El Salvador Film Series on Tuesday, April 21 at 6:00 p.m. at Canisius University, Old Main, Room 102, 2001 Main St., Buffalo. Featuring *Roses In December* (1982), a poignant documentary that tells the story of Jean Donovan, a young American Lay Missionary who, along with 3 Catholic Nuns, was brutally murdered in El Salvador in 1980 during the Civil War.

Canisius Conversation Series – Israel-Palestine Peacebuilding: Challenges & Opportunities with Ezzledeen Masri and Iky Salinas from PeaceWorks On Campus – on Thursday, April 23 at 4:00 p.m. at Canisius University, Andrew Bouwhuis Library Learning Center, 2001 Main St., Buffalo.

Meat Raffle on Saturday, April 25 at Blessed Sacrament Parish Center, 263 Claremont Ave., Tonawanda. Doors open at 5:00 p.m.; first spin at 6:00 p.m. 21+ event. Admission \$12 per person, includes beer, beverages, popcorn. Bring your own snacks. Winners choice grand finale and 50/50 raffles. Big prizes including a chest freezer and gas grill. Tickets available after Masses at our South Central Office (1085 Englewood Ave., Tonawanda).

Come and venerate the relics of St. Peregrine, St. Simon Stock, St. Rita of Cascia and St. Philip Neri on Saturday, May 2 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church & Diocesan Shrine, 5337 Genesee St., Bowmansville. This special time for veneration will be right after the 8:00 a.m. First Saturday Mass as requested by Our Blessed Mother to Sr. Lucia to practice the 5 First Saturdays in reparation for sins committed against her Immaculate Conception.

Till Death Do Us Part Ministry on May 5, May 19, June 2, June 16, July 7, July 21, August 4 and August 18 from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Center of Renewal at Stella

Niagara, 4421 Lower River Rd., Stella Niagara. Facing challenges you never envisioned after losing your husband? This series is for you! Testimonies, discussions, devotions and encouragement through the Lord's help. Gain support and a prayer partner while thinking and doing for others. Cost: \$10 per session or 2 sessions in same month for \$15. Lunch optional for an additional \$13 per lunch. For more information or to RSVP, visit www.stellaniagararetreats.org or call 716-754-7376.

Renewal Conference: May 15-16 at St. Stanislaus, 212 Townsend St., Buffalo. This year's theme, *"Hope. Healing. Hospitality."*, invites us to reflect on how the Lord restores our hearts, renews our communities, and calls us to welcome others with Christ-like love. We are honored to welcome keynote speaker, Julianne Stanz, along with a variety of breakout sessions. Lunch will be provided each day. Cost: \$75 for both days or \$45 for Friday or Saturday. Open to all parishioners and ministry leaders. To register, visit <https://roadtorenewal.org/renewal-conference>. Registration deadline: May 4.



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Holy Spirit Novena, Apostles Relics & Pentecostal Vigil Mass. Sacred Heart Church & Diocesan Shrine in Bowmansville welcomes you to attend daily (during the week) Mass at 8:00 a.m. with a Novena from May 15-23 to the Holy Spirit. The relics of the Apostles that were in the upper room will be available for veneration, with a Pentecostal Vigil Mass on Saturday, May 23 which will begin at 4:00 p.m. Come join us and glorify God as we pray to the Holy Spirit to renew the Church!

Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience on Sunday, May 17 at 1:30 p.m. at St. Adalbert Basilica, 212 Stanislaus St., Buffalo. In 1858, the Mother of God appeared 18 times to Bernadette Soubirous in the grotto cave in Lourdes, France. Lourdes became well known and is well loved as a holy place of pilgrimage, prayer, peace and healing. Millions of people from all over the world have traveled to Lourdes each year. Now Lourdes comes to us! With the grace of a plenary indulgence, this interactive, prayerful experience "transports" us to the Grotto in Lourdes through projected imagery, an in-person guide, actual pieces of the grotto rock and Lourdes water. The rosary and Eucharistic blessing are sacred parts of this profound experience. Come and experience the peace and healing of Lourdes without the international travel. Invite your family, children, and friends. Our Lady extends her invitation to all! For more information, call 716-997-9983.

Musical Evening of Reflection: "Come Holy Spirit! Fill the Hearts of Your Faithful and Renew the Face of the Earth" presented by Msgr. Paul Litwin on Tuesday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m. at Christ the King Church, 30 Lamarck Dr., Snyder.

Pentecostal Vigil Extended Mass on Saturday, May 23 from 4:00-6:30 p.m. at Sacred Herat of Jesus Diocesan Shrine, 5337 Genesee St., Bowmansville. Join Mary and the Apostles in the upper room as they await the Holy Spirit as we host this hidden gem of

the Catholic liturgy for Pentecost in place of the regularly scheduled Saturday Vigil Mass. The history of this extended Mass stretches back to the early Church.

****** Next newsletter will be published on May 4, 2026. ******