

# WESTERN NEW YORK CATHOLIC



Preparing to  
reopen  
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JUNE 2020



## Congratulations! Class of 2020

*see pages 11-18*

# Demand Justice

The horrifying death of George Floyd exposes the sensitive state of racial relations and the volatility of our current climate for social unrest. This merits our utmost efforts as a community to advocate for justice in this case and to be a voice of calm and reason in the ongoing conversion that must ensue to repair the damaged roots and heal the hurt that systemic racism breeds on our society.

Everyone saw the incident of Monday, May 25, vividly on camera. Minneapolis police grounded an unarmed and handcuffed black man, one officer kneeling him on the neck. It soon went viral, as we learned the man was begging for air, and subsequently died. Protests ensued locally and soon erupted in cities throughout the country. By week's end, different groups assembled, often very closely gathered, some becoming confrontational, with dangerous conditions involving fires, rock throwing, looting and destruction of property, reminiscent of the racial unrest which took to the streets in the '60s.

With all of the tensions and anxieties already engendered by COVID-19 and the often mercurial responses to it, as well as the experience of so many who know the reality of racism and its vestiges on a daily basis, the George Floyd incident became a spark igniting a perfect storm, a confluence of expressions of frustration, anger and outrage about many inequitable conditions of a social, economic, political and racial nature. Almost as disconcerting, however, even frightening, has been the wholly inadequate response of many public authorities and law enforcement officials, charged to maintain order, ensuring the orderly exercise of the right to assemble, and keeping persons and their property safe.

A persistent theme, replayed throughout the viral crises we have been facing, is a hesitation to respond in timely and reasonable ways to what seems so obvious to the eye. It may be that our minds do not process what our eyes can see when we do not want to believe what we are seeing – because it upends our idea of what we think reality ought to be.

We see this in the evolution even of “the science” in the COVID-19 drama. At first, the thought that a virus spreading in China would even become a problem for Americans at home was ridiculed, even by some public authorities. Prominent civil officials actually encouraged more socializing. Barely a

## From the Apostolic Administrator

By  
**BISHOP EDWARD B. SCHARFENBERGER**

month later the tables turned completely. First masks were said to be useless, even harmful for curtailing the spread of disease. Now we cannot enter a building without them. From the earliest cases, as the pandemic was taking hold, we were seeing its disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable – the aging, the ailing, the poor – while younger populations were not nearly so susceptible, or even symptomatic. Yet as we closed schools and offices, in some states like New York, nursing homes were forced to accept the infected. Again, missing the obvious, slow to act on what was in plain sight.

This has done little to sustain confidence in those we expect to protect us. Thank God stories have not been lacking about extraordinary acts of generosity and heroism from first responders, health care providers and ordinary people. Many police and public officials have maintained outstanding professionalism. Though we have seen some of the worst, we have also seen some of the best of humanity. The skepticism or distrust of some “officials,” however, may have stoked a certain sense of independence, an essential component of the American spirit, and a drive to step boldly forward.

No doubt this impulse to take to the streets and to stand up with a righteous indignation for justice is sparking so many to become vocal for George Floyd. But now we are left wondering, in the face of the civil discord that has exploded around us, how this cause could so quickly have led to social upheaval, which does no honor to the decedent or to our best selves.

Scratch the surface and we see that racism and its vestiges persist. America's “original sin,” as it has been called, must be not only acknowledged but vigorously resisted and corrected. Yes, the use of excessive force by some police is intolerable and must be addressed, especially as, racially and ethnically, it is systemically applied differently. Overcoming this continues to challenge us all, as the American bishops exhorted us 18 months ago in their

pastoral letter, “Open Wide Our Hearts.” In a recent statement, USCCB committee heads reiterated, “for people of color some interactions with police can be fraught with fear and even danger. People of good conscience must never turn a blind eye when citizens are being deprived of their human dignity and even their lives. Indifference is not an option. As bishops, we unequivocally state that racism is a life issue.”

In the current crisis, however, the manner of response of public officials cannot be dismissed as an insignificant factor. Was there ever any doubt about what we all saw in that viral video? Then why did it take so long to remove the offending officers and finally place one of them under arrest? Recall that, before the violence escalated, protesters were simply demanding justice, for the most part, peacefully. Why did it take five days to respond? Why this and similar delays in other cases with apprehension of law officials acting violently against someone offering no resistance?

Meanwhile as protests became more chaotic, why did so many local officials delay in sending in police to protect against criminal activity? Delaying has only made their job more difficult and opened the door for opportunists with other goals in mind than seeking justice for the slain man or ordered due process. Why did it take so long to figure out the difference between law-abiding citizens protesting and criminal behavior?

Seeing is believing, it is often said. But it seems at times we get the order reversed – that we are seeing more of what we want to believe, or maybe believing what we are afraid to see. Time to start trusting our eyes – and consciences – more.

This may be extremely difficult when captions, headlines and chyrons themselves pretend to summarize what a particular devised graphic appears to be messaging. A gas station or even a precinct on fire is interposed with scenes of store looters, masked teenagers on a curbside with signs reading “no justice, no peace,” and men throwing rocks at police in riot gear. It may not always be clear how near or far from each other these incidents may be happening – on the same block, within the same ward, or even in the same city. Often everything is lumped together as if all neighborhoods and cities are being destroyed and burned to the ground by a single, seething kettle of anger and frustration that is now boiling over.





ROBERT NICKELBERG/GETTY IMAGES

Protesters gather during a rally against the death of Minneapolis man George Floyd at the hands of police on May 29 in Foley Square in the Manhattan borough of New York City. Floyd’s death was captured on video that went viral of the incident.

The temptation is to conflate everyone on the street or within the focus of the camera into one. Implying that protesters, looters, rioters, incendiaries and law enforcement confronters are the same does an injustice to citizens who need to express their legitimate frustration and outrage not only at the most recent incident of police violence, but also the demonstrable racial and class-based inequities in our law enforcement.

The media, too, plays a big part, tending to flock to the most dramatic images, which then become Instagram memes characterizing an entire uprising from people with very legitimate concerns as violent or chaotic. We cannot lose, in the heat of passion and in frustration over the incompetence of some public officials, our focus on the injustices in our law enforcement systems. Nor can we turn a blind eye to those who exploit a human tragedy such as this for personal, political or ideological motives.

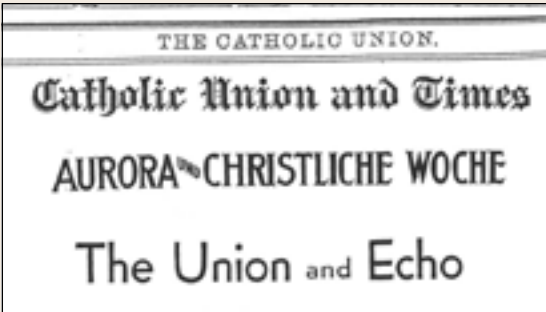
It is not enough just to decry injustice, or

even to pray and sympathize with those who suffer from an everyday experience of being treated as inferior or unworthy because of their racial or ethnic identities. As people of faith we believe that God wants everyone to be saved, and that every human being is created in the image and likeness of God.

We count on our public officials to create and maintain conditions where people can express their views publicly and peacefully. We expect our media to report and not just to dramatize. And we urge swift response to the injustices and unlawful actions, especially those we clearly see.

Justice delayed is justice denied. In this, everyone must play a part. If history teaches us anything, it is that the man with his head held to the ground could have been you or your brother. Where the police power of the State is not subject to restraint and the rule of equal treatment under the law, that man, black or white, could be you or me, Christian, Muslim or Jew. In pursuit of justice, all must ante up.

In this Issue



Western New York Catholic to stop production of newspaper; move to online format.  
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ON THE COVER

Mt. St. Mary’s of Lancaster class of 2020 graduate, Riley Malicki, is all smiles during her graduation at the Transit Drive-in.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

June 10, 2020 for the July issue.

# Churches prepare to reopen with new guidelines in place

By **PATRICK J. BUECHI**  
Staff Reporter

When President Trump declared houses of worship to be “essential,” the first question everybody had was, “When will my parish open?” The simple answer is, when the pastor says so.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo agreed to let churches open in New York state on June 6, tweeting, “The metrics and health data across the state are very positive. Taking that into account, churches, mosques and temples can reopen with 25 percent occupancy and with social distancing as part of Phase 2. This starts immediately for regions in Phase 2.”

Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger immediately announced that any parish in the Diocese of Buffalo that is prepared to offer public liturgies, while maintaining the safety protocols detailed in the diocesan guidelines in place due to the ongoing COVID-19 threat, may do so. The decision to reopen is solely at the discretion of the pastor. In addition, because many priests serving in parishes throughout the diocese are themselves vulnerable, those priests may choose to (and are encouraged to) opt out of presiding if they have concerns about their personal health

and safety. In those cases, a local parish may join with another local parish for public liturgies.

The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in place. All who are especially vulnerable or simply uncomfortable attending a public liturgy are encouraged to remain at home and view Mass via livestreams, which will continue in local parishes.

For livestream information, visit the Live Stream Masses page at [www.buffalodiocese.org/livestreams](http://www.buffalodiocese.org/livestreams).

The Diocese of Buffalo has assembled a COVID-19 task force, led by Father Sean Paul Fleming, director of Worship for the diocese. The team has been working to implement the new diocesan guidelines, making sure they comply with state guidelines and those published by the Center for Disease Control that call for limiting exposure risk to older staff and those with medical conditions, having soap and hand sanitizer on the premises, and encouraging use of masks or other cloth face coverings. Other suggestions include rescheduling services so the premises may be adequately cleaned and limiting gatherings to no more than 10 people.

“We’re trying to follow the state



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

St. John the Baptist Parish maintenance workers Bryan Mertz and Matt Krygier disinfect pews at the Kenmore church. When parishes are allowed to fully open, parishioners will be asked to practice social distancing and wear face masks to protect themselves and those around them.

guidelines, but we’re also trying to be even more cautious, more patient, just because we realize Masses of 10 people or less are not a practical thing and not really a goal, so we’re trying to maintain livestreaming and all those other things that have helped us,” explained Father Fleming.

The guidelines include the use of hand sanitizers, the cleaning of pews after Mass, distribution of the Eucharist, and handling of the sacrament of reconciliation. The task force is also organizing a FAQ to answer some of the questions they received from pastors and parish administrators. Father Fleming wants to “help the pastors hit the ground running.” The full list can be found at [www.buffalodiocese.org/guidance-reopening](http://www.buffalodiocese.org/guidance-reopening).

“A primary concern for me is the faith of our people,” Father Fleming said. “I’ve heard from so many of them, especially when President Trump had deemed faith as essential. I think he is right. Faith is essential. But I think we have to have some discernment to remember we have a moral obligation and responsibility to our people for their safety, for their health.”

Eileen Warner, director of

pastoral ministry at St. Amelia’s, is using the Tonawanda parish as a guide for the diocesan playbook. “You’d be surprised how comprehensive this needs to be,” she said.

St. Amelia’s will be sending out letters to let parishioners know what to expect when they return to church. Parishioners must wear masks and might have to wait in line to enter the church. Ushers and Eucharistic ministers will have to undergo training on new procedures, such as how to deliver Communion – Host only, dropped into the open hand of the parishioner.

“We have to let all of our ushers know what is expected. We’re going to have a whole new path for how people come to Communion, not to have greeters at the front door who would bottleneck things, but have someone directing them where to go. We’re putting masking tape down on the carpet with arrows, saying, ‘For Communion follow the red tape or the blue tape.’ We’ll probably have someone MC when people walk in, reminding people, ‘Please move forward,’” Warner said. “So, Communion lines might take a little longer, but people are so excited

See *Faithful* page 5



COURTESY OF TOM HENNINGER

People gather in the parking lot of St. Gabriel Church for a socially distant Mass.



# Impact of the coronavirus could increase those in need

**BALTIMORE** — Amid a global food crisis — made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic — Catholic Relief Services launched a new campaign aimed at engaging Catholic communities across the United States to support efforts that address global hunger.

“Lead the Way on Hunger,” kicked off May 14 and is a multiyear effort that calls on supporters to take action through fundraising, advocacy and public awareness-raising activities, including via social media.

“The shadow pandemic of worsening hunger is playing out in some of the world’s most vulnerable countries,” said Sean Callahan, CRS’ president and CEO. “Now is the time for us to lead the way forward to ensure that these communities have the support they need to make it through this crisis and beyond.”

As a result of widespread restrictions on movement, disruptions to supply chains, and soaring food prices, the pandemic is making it even more difficult for already vulnerable families to access basic necessities. According to the World Food Program, the coronavirus pandemic could increase the number of people suffering from acute hunger by 130 million people. What’s more, it’s estimated that currently, the number of children facing a lifetime of developmental challenges caused by malnutrition exceeds 149 million — more than twice the number of all children in the United States.

“If we don’t provide adequate food to children now, it will impact them for the rest of their lives,” Callahan said. “The welfare of the next generation hangs in the balance.”

On May 14, Pope Francis invited religions across the world to unite in prayer and fasting for the end of the pandemic. During the event, he talked about the secondary impacts of COVID-19. “In the first four months of this year, 3.7 million people died of hunger.

There is the pandemic of hunger,” the pope said.

As part of the “Lead the Way on Hunger” campaign, CRS is calling on Catholics and others in the U.S. to write to members of their Congressional delegations to advocate for specific bills that help improve food security in poor and vulnerable communities overseas. That includes asking for an additional \$12 billion in foreign assistance funding in the next emergency COVID-19 bill. In addition, CRS is urging supporters to spread the word about the campaign through social media and use of the hashtag #LeadNow.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which governs CRS, called on Catholics to join in prayer May 24 at noon in recognition of the “Lead the Way on Hunger” campaign. During a virtual campaign press event, Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of St. Paul and Minneapolis, a member of CRS’ board of directors, spoke in support of this effort.

“At this critical time, CRS’ ‘Lead the Way on Hunger’ campaign is an important expression of our Church’s steadfast commitment to global solidarity, to working for the common good, and to the upholding of human dignity,” he said. “Our brothers and sisters around the globe are counting on us. We believe that each life, no matter how vulnerable, is precious.”

Beyond CRS’ hunger campaign, the organization is building a growing network of CRS chapters across the country. With other partnering Catholic high schools, universities, parishes and dioceses, CRS chapters are also engaging in advocacy and fundraising activities on global poverty issues.

In reference to the growing movement, Callahan said, “We believe that engaging in these kinds of activities are ways for all Americans to stand in solidarity with their brothers and sisters overseas during the COVID-19 global pandemic and beyond.”

A Catholic Relief Services Chapter is being established in the Diocese of Buffalo to advance the lifesaving mission to end global poverty and suffering through meaningful action.

The goal of CRS Chapters is to equip and empower volunteers to become champions for the mission of global solidarity, champions for the families and communities that CRS serves, and to lead the way to a more just and peaceful world, inspired by the Gospel call. Members encourage elected officials and the media to highlight and support this lifesaving work, and mobilize the essential resources to aid in these efforts. New nationwide chapters will be composed of students, families, individuals and others.

CRS Chapters have two major elements — advocacy and chapter giving. Chapters will engage in advocacy by developing relationships with their members of Congress, visiting their members’ offices, writing letters to the editor and op-eds to raise the profile of pivotal issues like forced migration and malnutrition. Chapters will also seize the opportunity to put their faith into action through giving activities that will make a significant impact on peoples’ lives. It is key that while working to effect systemic change we also address the immediate needs of those around the world.

The Buffalo Diocese has already gathered about 12 leaders and is still inviting others to the initial Chapter Launch on June 23. These leaders are lay and clergy, from urban suburban and rural parishes, and bring a broad variety of experiences in working for justice and charity.

After the launch, participants will be trained and attend monthly informational meetings and organize actions on behalf of the issue of hunger.

## Faithful remain hopeful as reopening continues to happen

*From page 5*

to get back to Communion, I think they’ll be patient.”

Missalettes that are handled by many people will be removed from churches. The CDC suggests using prayer and song guides that can be disposed of after Mass. With four Masses a weekend at St. Amelia’s, that’s a lot of printing for a one-time use. Warner is looking into using projection screens to display readings.

Singing, which involves deep inhaling and exhaling that forces droplets farther than the social distance safe zone of six feet will be limited to only a cantor and organist

without choirs.

The task force is also looking at safely holding reconciliation. A confessional would need to be wiped clean after each penitent. Father Fleming is considering using St. Joseph Cathedral’s chapel to offer a safe distance between priest and penitent. Some priests are doing it outdoors.

“One of the things I suggested putting in the COVID guidelines was to remind people in a pastoral way that the penitential rite at Mass is truly asking for forgiveness for our sins. So forgiveness of venial sins can happen at the penitential rite,” said Warner.

St. Amelia’s has received much positive response to the livestreamed Masses that began before the pandemic and will continue after, for the homebound parishioners.

“We did phone calls to the parishioners, more so to our senior population, because we thought some of them might not be online and might feel more out of touch. Across the board, everyone said what a Godsend the livestream has been,” Warner revealed.

The Tonawanda church has been open for private prayer, and holds a Holy Hour and rosary every weekday, allowing people to wander in, separate out, and be there for prayer.

The parish has also encouraged people to have a domestic church; to pray and watch Mass as a family. “We encourage people to make a prayer space in their home; something that reminds you of church. Families are the domestic Church,” Warner said.

Looking back at the past two months and ahead towards the future of the Buffalo Church, Warner remains hopeful. “It’s kind of a reset button in our lives. People who may have taken Mass and Church for granted are longing for it now. Once we have that desire, we might have a stronger and deeper appreciation for Eucharist, which is a beautiful thing for our Church.”

# St. John's 200 Club 4 Life still continues to minister

BY PAMELA TURTON  
St. John the Baptist, Alden

In 1993, I attended World Youth Day in Denver as the youth minister from St. John the Baptist, Alden, traveling with the Diocese of Buffalo. We took six youths including my oldest son, Allen. We celebrated two Masses with Pope John Paul II, one at Mile High Stadium, the other overnight at the State Park. Truly amazing. While there, I experienced the Miracle of the Sun twice and many times since then. The whole experience was life altering. The pope's consistent message was to celebrate life – born and unborn.

Returning home remaining in prayer about what does his message mean to us? Where do we go from here? Soon after I received a Holy Spirit dream and a plan began to start a pro-life youth group involving faith, fun and food.

In 1994, St. John's Youth for Life was instituted. Ran by youth as a club with officers, I served as moderator. The group was wholeheartedly supported by our parish, especially our Holy Name Society. There were 30-40 members during most active time. We were looking for a fundraiser to help us purchase a big screen projector to show pro-life and family movies. We had been borrowing the public schools – a liability – and it would serve the parish. Back then they cost \$3,000. Here's how the 200 Club started.

Brainstorming with Allen Jr., my father-in-law mentored my husband, Al, and I how St. Mary Parish in Swormville ran a 200 Club for many years. We were able to modify their format and with our specific pro-life platform, again received tremendous parish support.

In 1996, St. John's 200 Club 4 Life was commissioned by our pastor at the time, Father Fred Ingalls, but also always supportive of youth and pro-life activities that we handled.

With a beautiful Mass and brunch we commissioned 12 collector couples, split up 200 tickets each selling for \$50 ( We just upped it last year to \$60.) The club was born and the projector purchased. The format has remained basically the same along with our Mission Statement:

"St. John the Baptist 200 Club 4 Life is a parish family community that is committed to nurturing and sustaining God's precious gift of Life. We support our youth and parish pro-life activities. Central to this endeavor is the promotion of the culture of life from conception to natural death."

Moving into our 24th year, Al and I are stepping down as club coordinators and gratefully give the care of the St. John's Youth



COURTESY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Cemetery of the Innocents at St. John the Baptist Parish, Alden.

Fund, sponsored by the St. John's 200 Club, into the very capable hands of Patrick and Marlene Bartram, Marlene Ertel was an original Youth 4 Life member and officer. They're fabulous pro-life parents who step up the teach their children and support our youth. Other collector team members are volunteering their time to pitch in where needed. We have such incredible blessed people in our parish. This particular group of young parents are just amazing. I am blessed to know them. We will continue volunteering as Respect Life leaders always.

St. John's Youth 4 Life/200 Club Youth Fund annual activities include Life Chain, Cemetery of Innocents, Pro-Life Pretzel Project, helping sponsor 30-plus pilgrims to the March for Life in Washington, D.C., National Pro-Life T-shirt Week, and support for youth ministries and the annual diocesan youth convention.

We also support Feet to the Street Rosary Novena, SJS graduates Pro-Life awards, \$500. Tuition assistance Friends of St. John's, Baptism Gift Bags, Pro-Life Medium contest recommend this educational experience for all families, NYS Right to Life, Mother's and Father's Day Baby Shower, for St. Gianna Molla Outreach, and the Norm Geiger Memorial Garden.

Our dinner dance has blossomed into a fabulous parish friends social event beyond our wildest dreams. Our first accommodating venue was the Lancaster Knights of Columbus.

Every year at dinner we recognize dynamite pro-life youth and adults. This year we were planning to recognize Cheryl Calire for so many reasons.

This year things have changed beyond belief worldwide. The COVID-19 pandemic has paused so much including banquet halls, therefore in Cheryl's name our club is donating \$500 to the Mother Teresa Home and St. Gianna Molla Pregnancy Outreach Center in Buffalo.

We are so grateful for everything Cheryl does for our pro-life community and all those who need help, regardless of race, color or creed, 24/7 along with great assistant Miriam Escalante. You are both so wonderful!

The St. John's 200 Club ticket is a \$60 donation. All monies go to St. John's Youth Fund. Tickets include 51 weekly \$25 drawings, this year backing up to May 9 until the last Saturday in April 2021. The dinner/dance is scheduled for Saturday, May 1, 2021, at Ripa's. Bigger money drawings at dinner include two \$500, two \$250, three \$100, four \$50. Tickets also include one dinner, ticket holders may bring a guest for an additional \$30 dinner ticket. All tickets are non-transferable.

This year of the pandemic has really proved our viability. We were very concerned about ticket sales, especially without the dinner. Most encouragingly, the great majority renewed because we believe our parish and friends really understand the significance of being pro-life.



# Western New York Catholic to become a digital publication

The Western New York Catholic newspaper has brought the news of the Diocese of Buffalo into the homes of the faithful for over 150 years. In 1871, the Catholic Union and Times began publication under Buffalo's second bishop, Stephen Ryan, CM. The paper changed its name in 1964 to the Magnificat and then became the Western New York Catholic in 1981. During that time the stories and news of the Catholic faithful filled the pages. In 2018, the Western New York Catholic received the honor of top Catholic publication in North America from the Catholic Press Association. The staff at the WNYC is dedicated to bringing the same award-winning coverage of Catholic life; news, features, personality profiles and inspiring photography that our loyal readership have come to expect, but delivered more conveniently. On tablets, desktop and laptop computers, and phones.

The new change will take place in September 2020, when the

Western New York Catholic will cease being printed in its current physical form. The stories and the images of life in the eight-county diocese will still be told, but they will reside on the newspaper's website, [wnycatholic.org](http://wnycatholic.org)

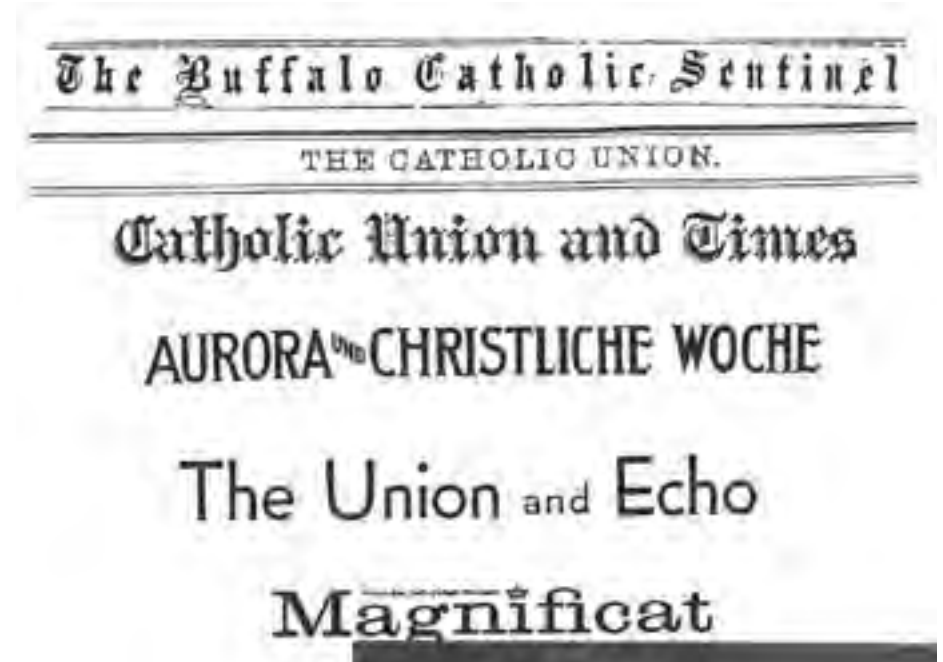
The decision to stop publication was made several months ago, before the diocesan restructuring or the COVID-19 crisis. With people choosing to get their news online and the decline in print advertising the move to cancel the publication will save the diocese around \$130,000 a year in printing costs.

Over the summer the staff of the Office of Communications will be developing a refreshing new look for the Western New York Catholic and will produce a publication biweekly that can be downloaded and printed. Pastors and parish administrators can print the issue for those in their community who do not have access to the internet.

A strategy for online advertising

is being developed and will be rolled out before July. Subscribers of the print publication will be

given an opportunity to sign up for email notifications when new content is made available.



WNYCATHOLIC FILE PHOTO

Some of the mastheads of Catholic papers through the years in the Diocese of Buffalo.

## God answered Sister MaryMcCarrick's prayer, with a phone call

**BY PATRICK MCPARTLAND**  
Managing Editor

Sister Mary McCarrick, OSF, asked God to guide her on how she could continue to help through her ministry. God answered with a phone call.

Sister Mary is the former diocesan director of Catholic Charities of Buffalo and served in that position from 2010 through 2018. After her retirement from Catholic Charities, she served locally as provincial minister of the Stella Niagara community and served nationally as chair of the research committee of the Franciscan Federation.

Sister thought her future would be one of facilitating retreats and spiritual direction, but when the COVID-19 pandemic began

to take hold, Sister Mary called Mount St. Mary's Catholic Hospital and nursing home in Lewiston to see if she could help. She was turned down because the facilities couldn't take any volunteers.

After being turned down, Sister Mary wondered how she could continue to serve. She began to end her personal prayer time by saying, "God, show me how you want me to serve your people." On the Feast of the Annunciation Sister Mary ended her personal prayer with the same request. This time her cell phone rang.

The caller was Bishop Edward Scharfenburger, apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Buffalo. "Very few people have my cell phone number," Sister Mary said.

Sister had never met the bishop. "I wouldn't have known him if I had run into him at Tops," she said.

Bishop Scharfenburger asked Sister Mary if she could do something for the diocese and serve as chief operating officer of the Diocese of Buffalo. "It was the farthest thing from my mind. I didn't know they were looking for anybody," Sister Mary said.

The Diocese of Buffalo has never had a single person operate as COO. Prior to the creation of the position, one person had the role vicar general, moderator of the curia and COO. Currently, Father Walter Szczesny serves as moderator of the curia, and Msgr. Sal Manganello serves as vicar general with Father Peter Karalus.



Sister Mary will be responsible for creating and implementing an even more consultative process among priests, professional staff, Diocesan councils, and lay women and men to ensure broad input in the development and implementation of strategic priorities and initiatives. Sister Mary will also be overseeing all administrative functions of diocesan departments to ensure that each contributes to

the advancement diocesan priorities which should be primarily directed to the support of parishes.

Sister Mary is well aware that she is starting her new responsibilities at a pivotal time. "I'm coming into a position at a time of considerable stress," she said.

With reorganization under Chapter 11, a 25 percent reduction in Catholic Center staff, and the COVID-19 pandemic creating a significant reduction in parish contributions, Sister Mary still sees the diocese moving forward.

"We are moving ahead with faith in God, the people of God in Western New York," she said, "to continue to enliven the church and its ministry to the people of Western New York."

## COMMENTARY

# We may never again get a chance like this - let's not squander it!

While to a certain degree returning to “business as usual” will not likely happen, that does not mean the vast majority of those who hold most of the world’s wealth and power will not use every advantage at their disposal in trying to hold onto broken, corrupt, unjust systems – what St. John Paul II called “structures of sin” – which feed their greed while starving the morally just aspirations of the world’s poor and vulnerable.

And so, what should each follower of Jesus do?

We should sincerely pray for the spiritual conversion of the rich and powerful. And we should oppose them!

We need to put on the nonviolent fight of our lives to ensure that we don’t sleepwalk ourselves right back into a morally sick “normal.”

Old habits die hard, both individually and structurally. After the coronavirus pandemic, the sinful structures of raw profit-centered capitalism and death-dealing militarism will surely continue marching on; crushing underfoot



## Making a Difference

By  
TONY MAGLIANO

the poor, vulnerable and the planet itself unless we humbly admit our significant personal indifference, repent and strive to transform ourselves and these structures of sin.

Pope Francis, in his recent homily on Divine Mercy Sunday, warned that as the world looks forward to the eventual recovery from the pandemic, “there is a danger that we will forget those who are left behind. The risk is that we may then be struck by an even worse virus, that of selfish indifference. A virus spread by the thought that life is better if it is better for me. It begins there and ends up selecting one person over another, discarding the poor, and sacrificing those left behind on the altar of progress.”

The Holy Father continued, “The

present pandemic, however, reminds us that there are no differences or borders between those who suffer. We are all frail, all equal, all precious. May we be profoundly shaken by what is happening all around us. The time has come to eliminate inequalities, to heal the injustice that is undermining the health of the entire human family” (see: <https://bit.ly/2yWKH6P>).

In every parish, diocese, civic, academic, business, labor and social forum we need to start dialoguing, planning and organizing ways to build structures and systems that work for everyone – from the moment of conception to natural death – where no one gets left behind and everyone has a seat at the table.

And we need to develop strategies on how best to influence and pressure government and corporate leaders (e.g. boycotts, divestment) to put the common good and the care of the planet as their top priorities – not power and profit (see: <https://gofossilfree.org/divestment/what-is-fossil-fuel-divestment/>).

All of this can easily tempt each

of us to feel overwhelmed.

But it is essential not to allow ourselves to become overwhelmed. It’s not all up to you and me. The Holy Spirit is with us. Each of us in our own personal sphere of influence (e.g. family, friends, parish, workplace, social media, lobbying) can make a difference.

In their courageous 1983 pastoral letter on war and peace titled “The Challenge of Peace: God’s Promise and Our Response,” the U.S. Catholic bishops wrote: “Let us have the courage to believe in the bright future and in a God who wills it for us – not a perfect world, but a better one. The perfect world, we Christians believe, is beyond the horizon, in an endless eternity where God will be all in all. But a better world is here for human hands and hearts and minds to make.”

*Tony Magliano is an internationally syndicated Catholic social justice and peace columnist. He is available to speak at diocesan or parish gatherings. He can be reached at [tmag6@comcast.net](mailto:tmag6@comcast.net).*

# Life in the Upper Room, a paradigm for the pandemic

By divine design, the Feast of Pentecost occurred on May 31, the point of transition to a new month and a gradual return to a sense of normal on the tails of the coronavirus global pandemic. After three months of the New York pause, we have been not unlike Mary and the apostles gathered in fear in the Upper Room, living fearfully and waiting for healing and a burst of divine love and energy to catapult us out of the misery we have all faced on a variety of levels.

As we move through the month of June and a new normal begins to evolve, let’s consider how the experience of pandemic was an Upper Room experience for all of us. The limitations of the pandemic have made our homes upper room, a school of learning characterized by uncertainty.

The Upper Room is of great



## Called to Abundant Life

By  
SR. JOANNE  
SURANNI

significance in Scripture, the life of Jesus and the Church. Located in Jerusalem, also known as the Cenacle, the Upper Room is considered by sacred tradition to be the place where the apostles stayed, prepared the Passover meal, and celebrated the Last Supper with Jesus.

According to the Gospel of John, it was in the Upper Room that Jesus washed the feet of the disciples during the Last Supper, giving them a pattern of loving service to embody in their own lives. Here Jesus reflected loving

friendship to his followers and called for life in union with Him and the Father. Although the doors were locked, Jesus entered the Upper Room on Easter evening and revealed His risen presence to the Apostles. Fearing persecution, the Upper Room was the place where the disciples and Mary sheltered in place before Pentecost.

The experience of sheltering in place has been our experience with social distancing, quarantine and having to take all kinds of protective measures to safeguard our health. This has made our homes an upper room and made us aware of the pain that is within and around us. The loss and sickness of loved ones, shortages of basic items, the loss of jobs and uncertainty of how to get through this pandemic have placed many at their wits end. The restlessness, anxiety and anger that we have all experienced have given

us quarantine fatigue. Its onset has led us to the question, “When will this end?”

With the arrival of summer, our upper room experience is gradually coming to an end. There is still time to enter the sacred upper rooms within our homes. Here we can have a real experience of Christ. In the weeks ahead, during the phases of reopening, the events that occurred in the Upper Room bid us to remember that we can do what was done there. Our upper rooms are places to model with gentleness the love and service of Jesus Christ and to experience the risen presence of Christ penetrating our hearts with the message of resurrection. Finally, our upper rooms are the place to receive God’s Holy Spirit. Hungry for the Bread of Life, we are soon to emerge from our upper room. In the gatherings to come, let’s set the world on fire.



# Global pandemic and solidarity - an examen of conscience

We have entered a period of response to the pandemic now when there is a great deal of discussion about which social policies are appropriate going forward. Should we open businesses? Which ones? Should we wear masks or not? Should we maintain social distancing? Which activities should still be banned? When and under what conditions should we reopen churches?

Each of us is called upon to form our consciences with regard to any of these policies and actions, and to make our insights known to those around us and, if appropriate, to local, state and national governments.

However, as in all other moral situations, we cannot rely on political perspectives or even “practical” thinking to drive our decision-making. When we are making judgments of conscience on the balance between individual freedoms and social safety policies, we are compelled, as Catholics, to see every issue and every proposal through the eyes of our faith. Like it or not, as disciples we are obligated to follow the gospel values that have been

taught and practiced by our Lord Jesus.

Certainly, there is nothing in the Gospels – or any of Scripture for that matter – that speaks directly to a global pandemic and national and local government response. To inform our conscience, then, we have to turn to the teaching of the Church and our Catholic Social Teaching principles. Even then there is no specific teaching that directly informs the specifics of this situation, but there are some principles that can guide our thinking. I offer the following as a sort of “examen of conscience” on what approaches are most aligned with our Catholic faith:

Towards the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pontifical Academy of Life issued a document entitled, “Global Pandemic and Universal Brotherhood.” Among many other observations, the paper had this insight:

“There are no individual acts without social consequences ... Reckless or foolish behavior, which seemingly affects only ourselves, becomes a threat to all who are exposed to the risk of contagion, perhaps



## Justice Perspective

BY  
DEACON DON  
WEIGEL

without even affecting the actor. In this way we learn how everyone’s safety depends on everyone else’s.”

When does our behavior or our demand for opening businesses, schools and churches become “reckless or foolish behavior”?

2. Catholic Social Teaching also recognizes that with rights come responsibilities – the two are always joined:

“Hence, to claim one’s rights and ignore one’s duties, or only half fulfill them, is like building a house with one hand and tearing it down with the other” (St. John XXIII, “Peace on Earth”).

Are we more focused on our rights than on our responsibilities? If we insist on removing restrictions to

ensure our rights, what are our duties, then?

3. The Church also emphasizes our focus on the “common good,” with preferential treatment for those most vulnerable:

“While the common good embraces all, those who are weak, vulnerable, and most in need deserve preferential concern. A basic moral test for our society is how we treat the most vulnerable in our midst” (Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship).

Are we making decisions based on putting the most vulnerable first in our thinking, or are we setting their needs aside in favor of other concerns?

These are choices and conclusions that, to a great extent, we have not had to deal with before, but we may have to deal with again. We are obligated to create our decision-making model based on the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching, and to make all other concerns and perspectives secondary.

*Deacon Don Weigel is the diocesan director of Catholic Relief Services and can be reached at [deacondon@gmail.com](mailto:deacondon@gmail.com).*

## Amber Alert: 12-year-old Boy Missing

As I write this (May 8) the New York State Police have issued an Amber Alert for a 9-year-old missing boy, Gustavo, probably kidnapped. The alert features the boy’s name, hair and eye colors, and what he is wearing. All were asked to be on the look-out for him. Thankfully, he was found safe.

The Vatican II teachings on reading and interpreting scripture emphasize that one should be aware of the historical situation described in the verses as well as the experiences of the persons of that time, both in the story, and in the gospel’s audience.

The fifth joyful mystery of the rosary is the “Finding in the Temple.” I have often thought this episode might be split between the sorrowful and the joyful mysteries. One finds the story in Luke 2:41-52; the passage concerns an adolescent Jesus. Much can be said on this story. Here we reflect only on what missing a 12-year-old son would mean to parents of his time.

Most know the story: Joseph, Mary

and Jesus were in Jerusalem for the Passover feast. On returning home to Nazareth, Mary and Joseph travel a full day before noticing that Jesus is not among the others in the caravan. Frantically, they return to Jerusalem searching for Jesus, no such thing as an Amber Alert in those days. Joseph and Mary find Jesus among the teachers in the temple. The text does not tell us, but one can only imagine the relief and joy of Mary and Joseph. Mary asks Jesus where he has been and Jesus responds asking, “Didn’t you know I must be about my Father’s business/house?” Then he returned home with them.

For an understanding of what the loss of Jesus would mean to his parents and the early Christians, it is important to know the death-rate of children at that time. Socio-historical writers tell us that of those who survived infancy, nearly a third were dead by age 6, 60 percent by their mid-teens, and 75 percent by their mid-20s. In 1990,



## Pondering with God’s Word

BY  
SR. MARION  
MOESER

archaeologists excavated the burial tomb of the High Priest Caiaphas and found the remains of about 60 persons. There were 10 remains of those under one year of age, 16 of those aged 2 to 5, and 14 of those 6 to 12. That is, there were remains of 40 persons 12 or younger, amounting to two-thirds of the remains.

Traveling in a group protected pilgrims from harm by highway robbers or even Samaritans; a child missing along the journey could be in serious jeopardy. Finally, more than half of families during child rearing years were broken having lost one or both parents. In this episode, Jesus

is obviously fortunate to have both parents alive and to have been well-cared for having reached the age of 12 – no mean accomplishment for Mary and Joseph.

No wonder then that when Joseph and Mary found Jesus they were “utterly astonished.” Mary chides: “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been terribly worried and searching for you?” Mary expresses the appropriate concerns of any parent in this situation. The text says nothing about the joy of Mary and Joseph on finding Jesus; we have to interpret any such joy based on human experiences.

The artist Louis Glanzman has a rendition of Martha of Bethany, sister of Lazarus, as a first century Jewish woman standing with her hands on her hips in a confrontational stance. I use this picture in class when discussing the missing Jesus and also in presentations on Mary and Joseph of Nazareth.

# Bishop names new Director of Worship and other appointments

Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger, apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Buffalo, has appointed Deacon Richard R. Stachura temporary pastoral administrator, effective May 2, and Father Michael Uebler will serve as priest moderator at St. Mary Parish, Swormville.

Father Sean Paul Fleming has been appointed rector of St. Joseph Cathedral with the additional duties as director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Buffalo. This appointment is effective May 1 for a term of six years.

Father Donald Watkins became the parochial vicar at St. Christopher Parish in Tonawanda on June 1, for a term of three years. Ordained in 2019, he spent his first year of ministry at St. Joseph Cathedral.

Father James Waite, currently the pastor of St. John the Baptist, Lockport, took on the additional responsibility as canonical administrator of DeSales Catholic School, Lockport. This is a three-year term effective May 19.

Father Jerome Kopec will take on the role of administrator of St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Cheektowaga effective July 1, for a term of six years. He has been pastor of SS. Peter & Paul, Williamsville.

Bishop Scharfenberger has also appointed Father Martin F. Gallagher as temporary

administrator of Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Cheektowaga, effective June 1. Father Gallagher has been serving at St. Stephen Parish in Grand Island.

Effective July 1, Father Richard Jędrzejewski will retire from the role as pastor of Assumption Parish, Buffalo.

Father Jay McGinnis will retire from St. Pius X Parish in Getzville on Aug. 9.

Father David J. Borowiak has retired as pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Parish effective April 27 and will reside at the Msgr. John J. Conniff Priest Retirement Home in Depew.

Father Paul L. Varuvel, a former faculty of Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, retired June 1.

Father Robert Schober, chaplain at Kenmore Mercy Hospital, will also retire, effective June 15.

Appointments recently announced are (top row left to right) Deacon Richard R. Stachura, Father Michael Uebler, Father Sean Paul Fleming, (second row left to right) Father Donald Watkins, Father James Waite, Father Jerome Kopec, (third row left to right) Father Martin Gallagher, Father Richard Jędrzejewski, Father Jay McGinnis, (bottom row left to right) Father David Borowiak, Father Paul Varuvel and Father Robert Schober.



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On behalf of our entire Diocese of Buffalo,

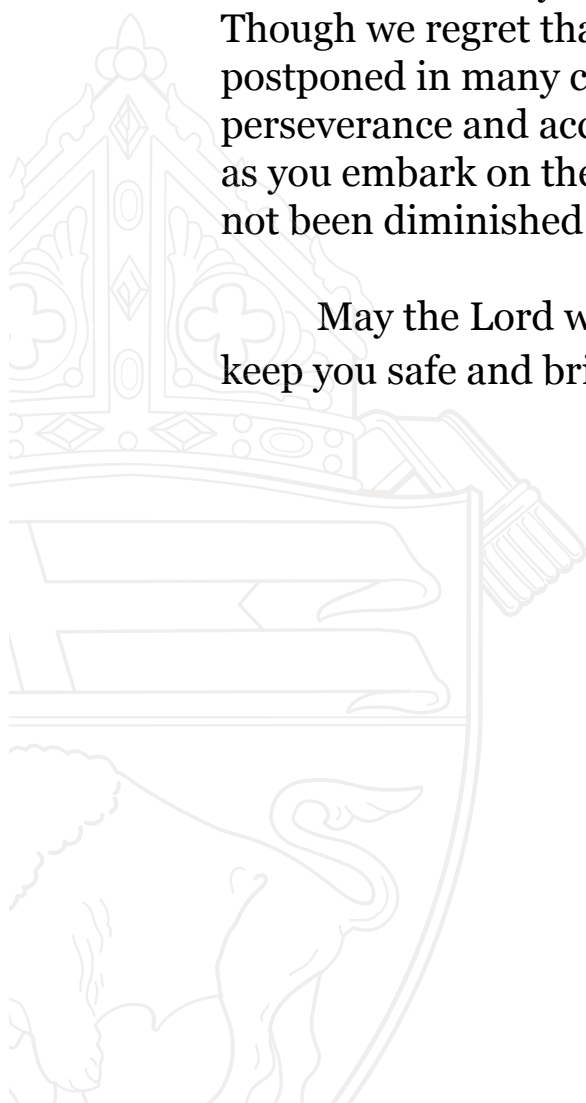
I join with the many parents, grandparents, sisters and brothers - your loving and devoted family and friends - in congratulating you, our 2020 Graduates! Though we regret that the celebrations you had looked forward to have been postponed in many cases, know that we celebrate you and honor all your hard work, perseverance and accomplishment. Our pride in you and the hope you instill in us as you embark on the next phase of your journey to maturity and achievement, has not been diminished or obscured in any way by our need to remain apart.

May the Lord who is with us always and in every place continue to guide you, keep you safe and bring to fulfillment the good and holy work he has begun in you!

In friendship and constant admiration,

*+Edward B. Schaeferberger*

Bishop Ed



# Amid social distancing, St. Mary's give graduates big send off

By **PATRICK J. BUECHI**  
Staff Reporter

St. Mary's High School held its 2020 graduation in a big way. By big, we're talking 60-foot-wide movie screens. The Lancaster high school was able to gather for graduation by prerecording the commencement speeches as well as tributes to the senior students, then playing the movie at the drive-in.

The 112 graduates and their families parked in theater one of the Transit Drive-In to watch "2020: a Graduation Story" on May 28. They saw flashing photos of the graduates from babies though senior year. The film, just as the regular graduations, had an introduction, prayer and commencement speeches. The film closed with cap and gown pictures and narration highlighting the scholastic achievements of the grads. Ironically, the second feature was "Ferris Bueller's Day Off."

"This has never been done," explained Keith Junik, dean of Academics for St. Mary's. "In the video I say, these kids genuinely are unique. Everyone talks about Generation Z and uniqueness. They are unique in that this has never been done before and may never be done again."

The St. Mary's staff wanted to give its students an opportunity

to gather together one last time. The school, like many others, as had to cancel much loved senior moments, such as the prom, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"We looked at a bunch of different options to try and recreate a scenario that is steeped in tradition, but also really involves a group," explained Junik. "It's about coming together as a group. The idea was floated about the drive-in and it took off from there."

"I wanted to keep things in a timely fashion," added Kevin Kelleher, head of school for St. Mary's. "It's been a long time since the kids had something to look forward to. Even though we can't really be together in a sense because of some social distancing, we truly are together."

Daniel May, senior class president for the Class of 2020, will miss the family atmosphere he found at St. Mary's.

"In every Catholic school, you're going to get that special feeling. But, I'd say St. Mary's is a little above that. It's cliché – the family atmosphere. But at St. Mary's, that's what we're all about. I made the best friends of my life here. I made the best memories. I'm thankful I was able to go to this school," he said. "This past year has been better than the last three combined. We ended kind of short because of the virus, but I think the big thing that kept us all in it was



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

St. Mary's of Lancaster class of 2020 graduate Rachel Pokornowski is all smiles as the class celebrates their graduation at the Transit Drive-In.

our family atmosphere. We lost our prom. We lost our Spirit Week. We lost our Baccalaureate Mass. But, the constant communication with all of us is what kept us in this."

Kelleher, who greeted families as the drove into the Lockport-based drive-in, called the past few months interesting and frustrating, but thinks the school handled the chaos well, giving gratitude to Junik for organizing the staff early on.

"Certainly interesting as far as having to do a lot of things on

the fly," he said. "Everything we did was built on a set of rules we were getting from government entities and it was changing so fast it was getting a little frustrating as we'd make a decision then think, 'I would have done something different if I waited a day.' But, from a school perspective, it's been great. Our kids dove in with the distance learning. Our staff and faculty have been nothing short of amazing. Aside from missing the kids a heck of a lot and missing each other, we've done OK."



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

St. Mary's of Lancaster class of 2020 celebrates their graduation at the Transit Drive-In.



# A message for the Class of 2020

Dear Catholic school graduates,

In my greeting, I intentionally refer to you as “Catholic” graduates because I want to emphasize the role of faith throughout your educational experience in our Catholic schools. Regardless of whether you are Catholic or a member of another denomination, faith was a vital part of your education.

You don’t need me to point out that your graduation year has been full of unforeseen challenges that none of us could ever have imagined when you started school in September. You and your families have been living these challenges every day for months now. I’m sure that you

have feelings of disappointment that the traditional events usually planned in our schools for the final months of the school year cannot take place. Of course the absence of the pomp and circumstance of the graduation ceremony and the family parties of celebration are particularly missed.

Though there certainly are disappointments, the crisis you are experiencing this year has also become a part (if unwelcome) of your education. You have learned and we as adults have been reminded how fragile life truly is. We all get so busy living life it is easy to forget that we are not really in control of all that can affect us. The crisis caused us to all pause in our daily lives and hopefully reflect

on what is important – our faith, our families and our health. If we value these, the years ahead will see us through whatever lies ahead.

Unexpectedly, each of you has had to grow up just a little faster this year. You are wiser for it and what you have learned will make the world a little better for all of us. I expect great things from the Class of 2020 for you truly know what is important and that is the best education anyone could ever have.

Congratulations Class of 2020!

Dr. Michael C. LaFever

Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
for Western New York



Dr. Michael LaFever

## Samuel Zalacca retires after 46-year career in education

SNYDER — The students at Christ the King School will miss their long time principal, Samuel Zalacca, when he retires in June. He has been with the school since 2011. Prior to joining the school, he was at Our Mother of Sorrows School in Greece and St. Joseph School in Batavia for 11 years each. Over his 46-year career as an educator, he has received many awards. Most recently, he was presented with the Light the Night for Catholic Education award from the Catholic School Administrators Association of New York State.

When he started at the school nine years ago, his first order of business was to improve the technology available to the teachers and students. He took the school to the next level by making it a STREAM (science, technology, religion, engineering, arts and math) School that also emphasizes weekly STREAM Academies for all students. He also instituted the successful hot lunch program currently in place and brought back the annual school musical.

This past year, Zalacca led the effort to achieve accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools.

The process to become accredited is long and intense. It requires that every stakeholder in the school analyze their procedures to identify where the most impactful improvements can be made.

During retirement, Zalacca will focus on other areas of his involvement with the church. He is the parish organist at Our Lady of Mercy in LeRoy. As a member of the Historical Society in that town, one of his favorite tasks is giving tours of the Jell-O Factory as a docent. He is an active member of the Knights of Columbus and of the Church Musician Guild of the Diocese of Buffalo.

Zalacca’s exuberant character will be especially missed. During school, he could be seen dressed as Johnny Appleseed one day, and running down the hall to announce that the leprechauns had tinkered with a classroom on the next. The students, staff, teachers and families all wish him well in retirement.

Maria Wangler, the current vice principal, will be named principal for the upcoming school year. Wangler has been an educator for 30 years and has been with CTK for 12 years. She received



WNYCATHOLIC FILE PHOTO

Principal Samuel Zalacca (left) retires in June after 46 years as an educator. Vice Principal Maria Wangler will be principal for the upcoming year.

her education at Buffalo State College, University at Buffalo and Canisius College. She stated, “I am an educator that molds young students into lifelong learners. Learning is something that happens and is built upon daily.

I have a vested interest in seeing my students succeed.” Wangler has been vice principal since 2017. Having taught at several grade levels, she is looking forward to bringing her experience and enthusiasm to her new role.



# ‘We believe in you’ was theme at Mt. St. Mary Academy

KENMORE — Mount St. Mary Academy held a farewell driving tour through campus for the Class of 2020 on May 31. The senior class was honored as they and their families took a final turn around the high school grounds in their graduation gowns. Graduates were able to leave their cars for a formal portrait in the grotto in front of the school. Each graduate received gifts and well wishes from the faculty, staff and administration.

“This class of 2020 are some of the most resilient and creative young women to have crossed the halls of Mount St. Mary Academy,” said Principal Katherine Spillman.

A recording of the Class of 2020 Baccalaureate Mass celebrated by Msgr. Francis Weldgen in the school chapel was made available to the class and the public on Saturday, May 30. The original date off the Mass.

While it was not the end of their senior year they envisioned, Spillman said, “They have done it with spirit, courage and with smiles on their faces.”

The class of 2020 has earned a reported total of \$15,344,144 in scholarships, with an average of \$264,553.69 per student. The young women will be moving on to local universities, colleges across the country, and one so far as Ireland.

The official 89th commencement exercises for the Class of 2020 has been postponed until Aug. 2 and will be held in the school’s auditorium, barring any continuing public health concerns or local restrictions. Ashley

Masci, has been named Class of 2020 valedictorian and Elizabeth Hertz has been named salutatorian.

Masci earned a 100.01 average over her four years at Mount St. Mary and will attend Harvard University to study molecular and cellular biology. With that education, Masci plans to be a microbiologist or biomedical researcher. In 2019, Masci received the Harvard Prize Book Award.

Hertz earned a 99.17 average during her schooling at Mount St. Mary and has signed a National Letter of Intent to attend Canisius College and join the rowing team. There, she will double major in accounting and accounting information systems on her path to becoming a CPA.



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

On May 31, Mount St. Mary Academy in Kenmore celebrated its 64 graduating seniors with a final driving parade around campus with their families. Faculty, staff, coaches and trustees gathered at a distance to cheer on the Class of 2020.



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mount St. Mary Academy’s Elizabeth Suchan (right), coordinator of admissions, directs graduate Julia Bauer (left) where to stand to have her picture taken.



# O'Hara seniors gather for parking lot graduation

By **PATRICK J. BUECHI**  
Staff Reporter

The Cardinal O'Hara High School community is so proud of its graduating seniors that the coronavirus could not stand in the way of honoring them with a proper send off. As enclosed spaces and tight quarters are not viable options during a pandemic, the 2020 graduation ceremony took place out in the open, in the O'Hara parking lot on May 27 with everyone wearing official Cardinal O'Hara masks.

"We're able to do a regular graduation ceremony to some extent, but everyone will have to remain in their cars," explained Renee Orr, director of advancement for the Tonawanda high school, shortly before the event. "The kids won't be able to process in completely, but they will be able to walk across the stage. The valedictorian and salutatorian will be able to give their speeches."

The procedure for receiving their diplomas had a unique twist. Students waited in their cars during the speeches, then gathered 10 at a time, standing six feet apart, before taking the stage one at a time. Each student crossed the stage, picked up their diploma from a table, then exited for pictures, before returning to their car. Congratulatory handshakes had to be left out of the mix and car horns honking replaced applause.

The school could not hold its usual baccalaureate Mass the day before graduation, so an awards ceremony was included with the graduation ceremony. Each student had their awards read as he or she walked across the stage.

"Since, we only want one (student on stage) at a time to keep them distanced, we have a little time to do that," explained Orr.

Valedictorian Diana Dolan spoke of the unusual circumstances caused by the pandemic including the abrupt closing of school, as she addressed her teachers and classmates.

"Senior year has finally come and gone as it does for high schoolers all across the nation every year, but this time it is done so in a way, no one could have possibly expected. Lectures turned to Zoom calls. Classrooms became our bedrooms. And life as we knew it had been transformed as never before. No, this is not the ideal closing to our high school career, but it is our own. As Mrs. Wance has said so many times before, 'We can't change what has happened.'"

Dolan continued, "I can say with certainty that I am grateful for the way O'Hara has been there for our class every step of the way during these circumstances. The outpour of support from the amazing teachers and fellow students here is truly something hard to find anywhere else."

"My four years at O'Hara consisted of several standout moments, and almost all of them happened because of the tremendous teachers and staff. Every teacher brought something unique to my day that left me with endless opportunities."

During her four years at O'Hara, Dolan discovered she had a passion for performing in dance, choir and drama.

"The experience of being part of a dance group, chorus, or cast is something I would never trade. It taught me so much about confidence in myself and the importance of working together as a whole. Maybe performing arts was not your thing, but I encourage you to look at any passion you explore during high school and ask yourself, what have you learn from it and how can you take that into the next chapter of your life," she said.

She thanked her teachers and friends, then closed her speech with the Cardinal O'Hara catchphrase, "That's the way it goes at the O."

The coronavirus pandemic threw the entire world for a loop beginning in March. Businesses were temporarily closed, workers were furloughed, and students had to learn from online classes. O'Hara students were able to follow their regular class

schedule through virtual instruction because the faculty prepared early.

"We were really ready to go before this started," said Orr. "Our principal, Mary Holzerland, a couple weeks before the lockdown happened said, this is a potential thing that could happen. So, the two weeks leading up to the shutdown of our school, the teachers all got trained on Zoom. Our students also got trained on Zoom and Google classrooms. O'Hara was ahead of the game for this."

As well as the canceled baccalaureate Mass, the school has not yet held its prom. There is still discussion of holding something later this summer. Spring sports were canceled, but the school still hopes to perform the school musical.

"Our fundraising events really took a hit because we weren't able to have them," Orr said.



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cardinal O'Hara class of 2020 salutatorian Alyssa Harrington walks the stage in the parking lot of the school during the 56th annual commencement ceremony.



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students, parents and faculty participate in the 56th annual Cardinal O'Hara Commencement Ceremony. Held in the school's parking lot due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, students collected their diplomas as families honked their horns in affirmation of a job well done. The class of 2020 will have the distinction of graduation during a historic time in world history.



# St. Joe's hosts drive through graduation celebration

KENMORE – St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute hosted a socially-distant graduation celebration for the 157 members of the Class of 2020 and their families.

Caps and gowns were delivered personally on May 12 by members of the St. Joe's faculty and staff to the senior students at their homes. Each box included the student's cap and gown, honors society memorabilia, as well as other special items, including small gifts from the St. Joe's Alumni Association and Parents' Guild.

On May 14, the school hosted a "drive through" celebration and the students wore their cap and gown as they drove through the rear parking lot of the school with their families. They were met by bagpipes, music, signs and cheers as they were celebrated by the faculty, staff and board of trustees.

Later that night a pre-recorded graduation video was emailed to all members of the Class of 2020 to engage in a class-wide "watch party" commemorating the day. The video will include elements traditional to a St. Joe's graduation ceremony, including speeches from the salutatorian and valedictorian, President Christopher Fulco, Principal Jim Spillman, and other special speakers, as well as the presentation of academic awards and recognition of every graduating senior.

"We are all so proud of not only our seniors' accomplishments over the last four years, but also the strength and grace with which they've endured the disappointment of their senior year being abruptly cut short," said Fulco. "We have been hard at work creating a special way to mark the seniors' original May 14 graduation date despite the circumstances we are all facing today."

St. Joe's is still hoping to hold a traditional graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020 where they will officially receive their diplomas and walk across a stage either this summer, in the fall, or whenever it is safe to gather as a large group.

"This is not the way we anticipated celebrating their achievements on May 14," says

Fulco, "but we look forward to seeing our beloved seniors in person, celebrating with them, and

recognizing their extraordinary mark on St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute."



PATRICK MCPARTLAND/MANAGING EDITOR

Math teacher Chuck Cook (left) and Biology teacher Matthew Hellerer celebrate the graduating seniors from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute as the school hosted a socially-distant graduation celebration.



PATRICK MCPARTLAND/MANAGING EDITOR

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute hosted a socially-distant graduation celebration for the 157 members of the Class of 2020 and their families.



# Canisius High School honors seniors on graduation day

On what would have been the day of the traditional commencement exercises at Canisius High School, May 21, Canisius instead hosted a drive-through parade on campus to celebrate its graduating seniors.

Seniors and their families were invited to decorate their vehicles and drive through the parking lot. Faculty and staff were on campus, spaced at least six feet apart, to wave and congratulate the seniors. Seniors and their families remained in their vehicles and stayed a safe distance from others.

The May 21 celebrations also included an online component. Senior awards will be announced throughout the day on the Canisius Twitter account, @CanisiusHS, and at canisiushigh.org. Among these honors are the Mr. Canisius award for the senior who, in the estimation of his peers, epitomizes all that Canisius stands for; the Midshipman Jeffrey R. Korn '79 Memorial Award for a senior who exemplifies outstanding moral character, academic achievement, leadership ability, and good sportsmanship; and the Philippe B. Piedad '93 Accolade Award for a senior whose quiet inner strength exemplifies the essence of the Canisius spirit through studies, athletics and service.

Families also received an invitation to view a video tribute to seniors produced by Canisius faculty.

"We know for so many of our seniors it is their greatest desire to graduate in our Scaccia Auditorium and walk across that stage. These



COURTESY OF CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL

Canisius High School graduating seniors parade passed the school as teachers, faculty and staff cheer them. The school held a drive by graduation on its Delaware Avenue campus on what would have been the school's actual graduation day, May 21.

efforts cannot replace that experience, nor can they fully demonstrate the support, love and gratitude we have for our seniors," said Canisius President Father David Ciancimino, SJ. "We felt it was important though to find a way to celebrate together now while respecting the need to remain a safe distance from each other. We look forward to seeing our graduates in person in the future. We don't know when

that will be yet, but it is important to recognize the mark these young men have made on Canisius."

Canisius is considering dates this summer for a more formal gathering for the Class of 2020. Those plans will be dictated by the guidelines for gatherings set by the state. The school is also planning a social event for the Class of 2020 during Thanksgiving weekend.



COURTESY OF CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL

Canisius faculty came out to congratulate the Class of 2020 after their graduation was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students drove past the school in cars to cheers and shouts of teachers, faculty and staff.



# Notre Dame Academy wins National Communicator Award

Notre Dame Academy received news that the video production club, Our Lady Media, has won a Communicator Award.

The eighth-grade student council of Notre Dame Academy approached the Our Lady Media video club with an idea to produce a video called "Kindness is Contagious." In the video, students show how an act of kindness can have a domino effect and spread quickly, easily and with joy.

Entered in the "Online Video – Student" category, Notre Dame Academy was in the company of Palm Beach Atlantic University and WayCam TV as winners of the Communicator Awards, Award of Distinction.

The Our Lady Media video production club is open to students in sixth and seventh grade. The students are trained as videographers and next school year will learn the fine art of video editing.

Previously, Our Lady Media has live streamed the Ribbon Mass and eighth-grade graduation via the school's YouTube Channel. The club has also produced a video for the Diocesan Catholic Education Dinner.

Plans for Our Lady Media video club include recording Masses to supply to area nursing homes, virtual field trips, and in-school announcements and activities.

"We are very proud of our students in the Our Lady Media video production club," said Tristan D'Angelo, principal at Notre Dame Academy. With over 6,000 entries received from across the U.S. and around the world, the Communicator Awards is the largest and most competitive awards program honoring creative excellence for communications professionals.

"It is thrilling to know our Catholic elementary school students are receiving real



COURTESY OF NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Notre Dame Academy's video production club, Our Lady Media wins Communicator Award for "Kindness is Contagious" video. Students show how an act of kindness can have a domino effect and spread quickly, easily and with joy.

world opportunities with this after school video club," said D'Angelo. "I am incredibly happy to be able to provide such a technology-based club for our students. To be able to win such a prestigious award validates that, armed with the proper education, Catholic elementary school students can do, and will do great things for our world."

The Communicator Awards is the leading international awards program honoring creative excellence for marketing and communications

professionals. This annual competition honors the best digital, mobile, audio, video and social content the industry has to offer. The Communicator Awards is widely recognized as one of the largest awards of its kind in the world, and is judged and curated by the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts, a "Who's Who" of acclaimed media, advertising, and marketing firms including: GE Digital, Spotify, Disney, Republica, Majestyk, Fast Company, Upstatement and many others.

# St. Joseph University School musical premiere at the Transit Drive-in

The name of this year's school musical, "Personal Best Equals Success," was created by St. Joseph University School music teacher Melody Calato. Students will record themselves in their specific role/scene and Calato will create the video. She also arranged for the drive-in premiere.

"It will be a musical movie for everyone to enjoy. My grandmother taught me that when there is a will there's a way and I thought this would be a great opportunity for the students to display their hard work and talents despite the recent events of COVID-19," said Calato.

The premiere will take place at the Transit Drive-in Theater, 6655 S. Transit Rd. in Lockport, on July 20 at 9 p.m. The musical will run for approximately 30 minutes. The eighth-grade student video will also play that night at the drive-in. [www.transitdrivein.com/history.htm](http://www.transitdrivein.com/history.htm)

"COVID-19 has been a challenge for students and teachers. One positive outcome has been the creative ways that St. Joseph University School teachers and students have achieved their academic goals," said Principal Mark Mattel.

"The fundamental goal is to offer a well rounded curriculum focusing on educating the whole child and to provide as many opportunities for students as possible. The Art, Music and Flight (gifted and talented program) curriculum fosters creativity and the out of the box thinking. The 'Personal Best Equals Success' musical, at the Transit Drive-in, is a fine example of this creative thinking," said Mattel.

St. Joseph University School is celebrating 170 years as a Catholic School in the Diocese of Buffalo, teaching pre-K through eighth-grade students.



COURTESY OF ST. JOSEPH UNIVERSITY PARISH

St. Joseph University School music teacher Melody Calato is recording and editing year's original musical.





Father Michael LaMarca blesses Neil Parmerter of North Java and his motorcycle. St. Michael Church, Warsaw, held its first motorcycle and bicycle blessing on May 23.

COURTESY OF ST. MICHAEL PARISH

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## Classic Country

On behalf of the Ramblin' Lou Family and our WXRL Family & Staff, we sincerely hope that you and your family are staying home, safe & well. And, when you're ready to travel, we're here for you. We can't wait to get back "On The Road Again!" Check our website at [wxrl.com](http://wxrl.com) for up-to-date information. Stay well, friends.

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Oct. 10-14	Greenbrier & Elkins - WV 2 Train-Amtrak & Durbin Rocket
Oct. 12-13	Thousand Islands/Boat Cruise/Ron & Nancy Onesong
Oct. 20-26	Memphis/Graceland/Nashville/Grand Ole Opry
Nov. 2-4	Amishlands Holiday-Lanc. PA "Queen Esther" & Christ. Show
Nov. 10-12	"Fest. of Lights"-Oglebay Pk/Wilson Lodge-Wheeling, WV
Nov. 27-Dec. 1	Nashv. Co. Christmas/Opryland Hotel/Grand Ole Opry

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St. Leo the Great

LIVESTREAM LINK: STLEOTHEGREATAMHERST.COM/ABOUT-ST-LEO-THE-GREAT/LIVE-FEED/

MONDAY-SATURDAY: 8:00 AM

SATURDAY: 4:00 PM

SUNDAY: 9:00 AM AND 11:00 AM

St. Gregory the Great

LIVESTREAM LINK: STGREGS.ORG/LIVESTREAM

DAILY: 7:00 AM, 8:00 AM AND NOON

SATURDAY: 4:00 PM AND 5:30 PM

SUNDAY: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM, & 4:30 PM

St. Martha Parish

LIVESTREAM LINK: STMARTHADEPEW.ORG/ABOUT-US/LIVESTREAM

DAILY: 8:15 AM

SATURDAY: 8:15 AM AND 4:30 PM

SUNDAY: 9:00 AM, 11:30 AM AND 7:00 PM

Our Lady of Pompeii RC Church

LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3EWkgwLNN8yAfLP-KOqLpsQ>

DAILY AT 10:00 AM

SS. Columba Brigid

LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://livestream.com/accounts/2315534>

SUNDAY: 9:00 AM (SPANISH) AND 11:00 AM

SATURDAY: 4:00 PM

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church

LIVESTREAM FEED: <https://nt-olc.org/live-stream/>

SATURDAY: 4:00 PM

SUNDAY: 8:30 AM AND 10:30 AM

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8 AM

St. Amelia Church

LIVESTREAM FEED: YOUTUBE CHANNEL

SUNDAY: 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM

SAT: 4:30 PM

Holy Family

LIVESTREAM LINK: <http://www.holyfamilyalbion.com/livestream.html>

DIRECT LINK: <https://livestream.com/accounts/13498042>

SUNDAY: 10:30 AM

Our Lady of Victory National Shrine & Basilica

LINKS: [OLVBASILICA.ORG](http://olvbasilica.org), YOUTUBE

EVERY SATURDAY ON ALL SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

St. John's

LIVESTREAM LINK: YOUTUBE CHANNEL

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8:00 AM, 12:10 PM

SATURDAY: 8:00 AM AND 5:00 PM

SUNDAY: 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM AND 12:00 PM

St. Bernadette

LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://www.facebook.com/saintbopny.org>

DAILY: 7:00 AM AND 11:30 AM

SATURDAY: 5:00 PM

SUNDAY 9:00 AM AND 8:05 PM

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church

LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://vimeo.com/user35440082>

WEEKDAYS: 9:00 AM

SATURDAY: 4:30 PM

SUNDAY: 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

Resurrection Parish

LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCLMpTL56T17RB-GlpwAFVWg>

SATURDAY: 4:00 PM, 5:30PM

SUNDAY: 7:30 AM AND 9:25 AM AND 11:30 AM

Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels

LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://www.facebook.com/BasilicaOlean>

MASS SONGS CAN BE ACCESSED ON: <https://smaolean.org/>

SATURDAY: 4:00 PM

SUNDAY: 11:00 AM

All Saints

LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://www.facebook.com/allsaintslockport/?ref=hl>

SUNDAY: 11:00 AM

St. Anthony of Padua (Latin Mass)

LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://bit.ly/3AW-0MxV>

DAILY: 6:00 PM

SUNDAY: 9:00 AM

St. Joseph University Parish

LIVESTREAM LINK: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1OBCC1G0ZWRF-M5oYO\\_CQnQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1OBCC1G0ZWRF-M5oYO_CQnQ)

SATURDAY: 4:00 PM

St. Francis of Assisi

LIVESTREAM FEED: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Francis-of-Assisi-Church-221506421196977/?ref=bookmarks>

DAILY: 8:00 AM

SATURDAY: 10:00 AM AND 4:00 PM

SUNDAY: 11:00 AM

St. Vincent de Paul Parish (Niagara Falls)

LIVESTREAM LINK: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/476277555253/>

WEEKDAYS: NOON

SUNDAY: 11:30 AM

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

LIVESTREAM LINKS: FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE

WEDNESDAY: 12 NOON

SUNDAY: 10:00 AM

Television Guide

Sunday

8:30 am

WNYO-TV

Antenna Ch 49

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EWTN

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Every Day

8:00am, Noon, 7:00pm and Midnight

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Batavia Ch 41

Jamestown Ch 50

Lockport Ch 10

Niagara Falls Ch 10

Olean Ch 35

C-Band

G1-11

Direct TV

370

Dish Network

261

Radio Schedule

Batavia	Mass (first Sunday of the month)	WBTA-AM (1490)	Sunday	10:30am
Buffalo	Father Justin Rosary Hour <a href="http://www.rosaryhour.net">www.rosaryhour.net</a>	WLOF-FM (101.7)	Sunday	7:00am
		CIAO-AM (530)	Saturday	8:00am
	Mass at St. Stanislaus The Ukrainian Catholic Hour	WXRL-AM (1300)	Sunday	3:00pm
		WLOF-FM (101.7)	Sunday	Noon
Dunkirk	Mass from Holy Trinity Church	WJOL-AM (1440)	Sunday	2:00pm
Hornell	Marian Hour Radio Rosary	WDOE-AM (1410)	Sunday	8:30am
Jamestown	Catholic News and Views	WLEA-AM (1480)	Sunday	7:00am
Wellsville	Crossroads	WJTN-AM (1240)	Sunday	7:00am
	Lift Your Heart	WLSV-AM (790)	Sunday	9:00am
		WLSV-AM (790)	Sunday	10:00am

WLOF-FM (101.7) Catholic programming 24 hours a day

SiriusXM

PRESS RELEASE

The Catholic Channel Sirius 129 XM 129



## Adoration

**Alden** — Adoration is held at St. John the Baptist Parish, 2021 Sandridge Rd., every Friday in the church at 7:30 a.m., followed by Mass with the schoolchildren at 8:30 a.m. First Friday Adoration 7:30 to 8:25 a.m., followed by Mass at 8:30 a.m. Resume Adoration from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., closing with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

**Arcade** — Adoration is held at St. Mary Parish, 417 West Main St., Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 585-492-5330

**Buffalo** — Exposition of the Holy Eucharist takes place at Corpus Christi Church, 199 Clark St., Wednesdays to Fridays with a 10 to 11:30 a.m. Mass, and the first Thursday of each month in the church from 7-10 p.m.

**Buffalo** — SS. Columba-Brigid Parish, 75 Hickory St., offers Eucharistic adoration every First Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Buffalo** — St. Michael Church, 651 Washington St., offers Eucharistic adoration at the Sacred Heart Shrine each day. Weekdays, 7:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., and Sundays from 12:45 to 5 p.m. Confessions weekdays from 11:30 a.m. to noon, and 4:30 to 5 p.m. On Saturdays, confessions will be heard from 11:30 a.m. to noon; 1 to 2 p.m.; and 3:30 to 5 p.m. Handicap accessible and on-site parking. [www.stmichael-buffalo.org](http://www.stmichael-buffalo.org).

**Buffalo** — St. Stanislaus Parish holds a Holy Hour with Eucharistic adoration every First Friday of April through December, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the church at 123 Townsend St.

**Canaseraga** — Eucharistic adoration takes place every Thursday at St. Mary Parish, 6 North St., with exposition at 10 a.m., followed by all day adoration and benediction at 7 p.m. Confession available from 6 to 7 p.m. First Friday exposition is at 9:30 a.m., after 9 a.m. Mass, followed by the rosary for life and silent adoration, with benediction concluding at 10:30 a.m.

**Depew** — Eucharistic adoration is held on the First Friday of every month at Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish, 496 Terrace Blvd., beginning with the 8 a.m. Mass and concluding at noon. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is recited at 11 a.m.

**Kenmore** — Eucharistic adoration is held in the St. John Neumann Chapel at St. John the Baptist Parish, Englewood and Belmont Avenue, Monday through Friday, 2 to 4 p.m.; Holy Hour Fridays, 1 to 2 p.m.; Holy Hour Sundays, 3 to 4 p.m.

**Lancaster** — Our Lady of Pompeii, 158 Laverack Ave., holds adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every First Friday from noon to 6 p.m. The Divine Mercy chaplet is prayed at 3 p.m.

**Lancaster** — St. Mary of the

Assumption holds Eucharistic adoration every First Friday from 12:30 to 5 p.m. at the church at 1 St. Mary's Hill (corner of N. Aurora St. and St. Joseph St.) 716-683-6445.

**North Tonawanda** — St. Jude the Apostle Parish, 800 Niagara Falls Blvd., holds Eucharistic adoration on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. 716-694-0540.

**North Tonawanda** — Our Lady of Czestochowa, 57 Center Ave. North Tonawanda 14120, every Tuesday From 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Adoration Room, in the Ministry Center.

**Orchard Park** — Eucharistic adoration takes place at Nativity of Our Lord Church, 43 Argyle Place, 24/7. 716-998-0593 or 716-662-9339.

**Orchard Park** — St. Bernadette Church, 5930 South Abbott Road, offers 24/7 Eucharistic adoration. Entry code needed after 3 p.m. Everyone welcome. 716-649-3090.

**Snyder** — The Perpetual Adoration Chapel at Christ the King Church, corner of Main Street and Lamarck Drive, is open to the public from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week, for anyone who wishes to spend time in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Enter the church through the door under the arch between the school and church.

**South Buffalo** — St. Martin of Tours Parish, 1140 Abbott Road, provides daily Eucharistic adoration 24/7. Anyone interested in being a weekly

adorer or a substitute, call Don Graham at 716-822-0283. A security code is needed from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.

**Tonawanda** — Night of Two Hearts, all night adoration, honoring the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, takes place at St. Amelia Church, 2999 Eggert Road, from 8 p.m. each First Friday of the month to 8 a.m. Saturday.

**Tonawanda** — Blessed Sacrament Church in the Town of Tonawanda, at 263 Claremont Ave., offers Eucharistic adoration in the Divine Mercy Chapel every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. until 6:10 p.m., followed by a Mass. 716-834-4282.

**West Seneca** — Queen of Heaven Parish, 4220 Seneca St., provides daily Eucharistic adoration 24/7. Anyone interested in being a weekly adoror or a substitute, call Nancy at 716-907-5368. Visitors are welcome. A security code is needed from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.

**Williamsville** — St. Gregory the Great Parish, 200 St. Gregory Court, offers adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 24/7. A security code is needed from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. 716-688-5678.

## Charismatic Prayer Meeting

**Buffalo/Black Rock** — A Charismatic prayer meeting, Prayer and Praise, will take place in the church hall at Assumption Parish, 435 Amherst St., (use the Peter Street entrance) every Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m.

**North Tonawanda** — A Charismatic prayer meeting takes place at St. Jude the Apostle Parish every Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

## Healing Mass

**Boston** — St. John the Baptist, 6895 Boston Cross Road, monthly Healing Mass, second Wednesday at 7 p.m. 716-941-3549.

## Pilgrimages

Experience the peace of Medjugorje Sept. 24-Oct. 4, 2021 with Father Robert Owczarczak. Call Carolanne 716-491-9431

## Prayer

Pray in Interior Silence through the Centering Prayer method "Be still and know that I am God" (PS. 46:10) [www.contemplativeoutreachbuffalo.com](http://www.contemplativeoutreachbuffalo.com)

## Retreat Center

Stella Niagara: Center of Renewal 10 miles north of Niagara Falls, NY via Niagara Scenic Parkway. [www.stellaniagararetreats.org](http://www.stellaniagararetreats.org). (716)754-7376.



*Do to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing requirements all events listed may be canceled or postponed. Please check the hosting parish or group to see when regular activities can re-start*

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### Sister Mary Fidelma Kakol, CSSF

Sister Mary Fidelma Kakol, 101, a Felician Sister for 83 years, died in the Blessed Mary Angela Convent, Buffalo, on May 11, 2020. The former Sophie Kakol was born Oct. 15, 1918, in Olean, where she was a member of Transfiguration Parish. She entered the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province of the Felician Sisters in Buffalo, on July 6, 1936, and professed perpetual vows on Aug. 12, 1944.

Sister Fidelma furthered her education at Medaille (then Mount St. Joseph Teachers) College, Buffalo, where she earned a bachelor of science degree in Education. She also held a master of science degree in education from State University of New York College at Buffalo.

Sister Fidelma began her teaching ministry as a kindergarten instructor at Our Lady of Czestochowa School, North Tonawanda, and also taught grades four through six in many Catholic elementary schools throughout the Diocese of Buffalo. In 1950, Sister Fidelma taught grades three and four at her home parish of Transfiguration. She returned to teach in Buffalo, and in 1957 was assigned to teach grade five at Transfiguration School in Rome. In 1958, Sister Fidelma served as assistant director of the novitiate at Holy Name of Mary Convent, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. At several places of ministry, she also served as organist.

Upon her return to the Buffalo



Diocese in 1959, she spent the next 16 years as a teacher at various schools, St. Amelia, Tonawanda; Queen of Martyrs, Cheektowaga; Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Buffalo; St. Andrew, Sloan, and St. John De LaSalle, Niagara

Falls. In 1968, while at Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary School, Buffalo, Sister Fidelma was also principal.

In 1975, Sister Fidelma became involved in parish ministry at St. John Kanty Parish, where she served for 12 years. From 1987-2003 she assisted at the Villa Maria Convent office as receptionist. She soon became the director of the convent office. She had a kind and approachable manner which contributed to comfortable communication with others.

In 2004, Sister Fidelma began serving as receptionist at St. Francis Residence Convent. Due to failing health, she became a patient in the Blessed Mary Angela Care Center in 2008.

Sister Fidelma is survived by her sisters, Sister Henriella Kakol, CSSF, and Rita King, as well as nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, the late John and Josephine (Gnas) Kakol and her brothers, Stanley and Joseph Kakol.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated for Sister Fidelma at a future date. Interment took place at St. Stanislaus Cemetery on May 13.

### Father William C. McGarry

Father William C. McGarry, pastor emeritus of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Niagara Falls, died on May 13, 2020, at the Our Lady of Peace Nursing Home in Lewiston.

Born in Carnegie, Pa., Father McGarry lived in Niagara Falls and graduated from Niagara University and Our Lady of Angels Seminary. He was ordained in 1959.

In his first year as a priest he served as assistant director of St. Vincent de Paul Camp and as an assistant at St. Joseph New Cathedral in Buffalo.

Later, Father McGarry served



at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Niagara Falls, starting in 1964 and moved to St. Joseph Parish, North Tonawanda in 1968.

In 1971, Father McGarry became a military chaplain and went on to hold the rank of lieutenant colonel.

He took on the responsibilities as temporary administrator of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Corfu, and St. Patrick, Crittenden, in 1991. In 1992, Father McGarry became pastor at Prince of Peace Parish in Niagara Falls. Later the parish would merge with St. Vincent de Paul and St. Leo parishes. He served the parish until



his retirement in 2001.

A funeral Mass was held for Father McGarry at St Vincent de Paul Parish's Prince of Peace

Worship Site in Niagara Falls and a public memorial will take place after the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted.

### Sister Mary Juanita Nowak, CSSF

Sister Mary Juanita Nowak, CSSF, 78, a Felician Sister for 60 years, died at Blessed Mary Angela Convent, Buffalo, on May 6, 2020. The former Barbara Nowak was born Feb. 2, 1942, in Buffalo, and was a member of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish. She entered the Buffalo Province of the Felician Sisters on June 28, 1959, and professed perpetual vows on Aug. 5, 1967.

After graduating from the Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy in Buffalo, she furthered her education at Villa Maria College of Buffalo where she earned an associate in applied science degree. She also held a bachelor of science degree in Education from Medaille (then Mount St. Joseph Teachers) College, Buffalo, an associate in applied science degree in Nursing from Trocaire College, Buffalo, a certificate for geriatric nurse practitioner and a specialist certificate for practitioners from State University of New York at Buffalo, a certificate for parish nursing and a New York state registered professional nurse license.

As a Felician, Sister Juanita was an elementary grade teacher for eight years. She also spent a year teaching General Science at Villa Maria Academy where she returned several times to instruct the students in Health courses. Though she felt she made a positive difference in the lives of her students, she pursued studies toward a nursing degree.



In August 1973, Sister Juanita was named director of nursing at Villa Maria Infirmary. For three years, she also worked as general duty nurse in the medical-surgical unit at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo. In order to be of more service to the sisters, she pursued studies and became a staff nurse practitioner in 1980. She served as director of nursing for 30 years.

Sister Juanita accepted the challenge of extending her nursing experience to that of parish nurse in January 2003 when she ministered at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Kenmore for three years. She later returned to assist as outreach director for eight years. Between these ministries, she assisted at Response to Love Center, St. Francis Residence Convent and as sacristan at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent.

Because of health issues, Sister Juanita became a patient in the Blessed Mary Angela Care Center in September 2013. In addition to praying for others, she was involved in MIDS data entry, hospitality and correspondence.

Sister Juanita is survived by her brother, Daniel, a niece and a nephew. She was predeceased by her parents, the late John and Mary (Tatko) Nowak.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated for Sister Juanita at a future date and interment will take place at St. Stanislaus Cemetery on May 8.

### Msgr Edward J. Scanlan

Msgr Edward J. Scanlan, a Priest for the Diocese of Buffalo for 67 years passed away on May 11, 2020. He was 92.

Born May 13, 1928, in Batavia, he attended St. Peter's Grammar School and LeRoy High School in LeRoy, NY.

He was ordained on May 30, 1953 and was assigned to San Juan, Porto Rico shortly after. He became the Apostolate for Puerto Ricans on May 29, 1954. He was a professor at Notre Dame High School, Assistant Director Spanish Apostolate for St. Lucy, Buffalo, Apostolate for Holy Name and St. John in Kenmore. In



1966, Father Scanlan was part of the Latin American Bureau in Washington D.C before serving as pastor for St. Bartholomew's, Buffalo, in 1971, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Niagara Falls, in 1975, and Moderator, First Saturday Society of Niagara Frontiers in 1987. He was appointed Prelate of Honor in 1993 before retiring on January 3, 1997.

Msgr. Scanlan requested a Mass at the Stella Niagara Chapel as his interment will be in the Stella Niagara Cemetery. A public memorial will take place after the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted.

### Father Francis Schimscheiner, OSFS

Father Francis Schimscheiner, OSFS, died peacefully in Toledo, on May 7, 2020, following a long illness. He was 83 years old.

Father Schimscheiner was born in Niagara Falls and upon graduation from Bishop Duffy High School, entered the Oblates of St. Francis deSales and was ordained a priest on

Feb. 6, 1965.

Father Schimscheiner spent many years teaching at DeSales Catholic High School and serving as pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Lockport. He also founded with Sister Helen Buscarino a food pantry which continues to serve the people of Lockport.

Funeral services will be private.

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# PROMISE TO PROTECT PLEDGE TO HEAL

**Working Together To Create A Safe Environment For Our Children**

## A PRAYER FOR HEALING VICTIMS OF ABUSE

*God of endless love,  
ever caring, ever strong,  
always present, always just:  
You gave your only Son  
to save us by his blood on the cross.*

*Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,  
join to your own suffering  
the pain of all who have been hurt  
in body, mind, and spirit  
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.*

*Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters  
who have been gravely harmed,  
and the cries of those who love them.  
Soothe their restless hearts with hope,  
steady their shaken spirits with faith.  
Grant them justice for their cause,  
enlightened by your truth.*

*Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,  
heal your people's wounds  
and transform brokenness into wholeness.  
Grant us the courage and wisdom,  
humility and grace, to act with justice.  
Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.  
Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace  
in justice. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.*

## PREVENTION MEASURES AND FOLLOW-UP

throughout the U.S.

**We train everyone to prevent and report abuse.**

2,531,872 adults trained 4,117,869 children trained

**We require background checks.**

2,515,411 background checks for clerics, employees and volunteers

**We report all allegations.**

100% of U.S. dioceses/epiarchies require allegations of sexual abuse  
to be reported to public authorities

**We work with law enforcement.**



## BELIEVE IN THE POSSIBILITY OF HELP AND HEALING: THERE IS HOPE.

Your local Victim Assistance Coordinator is available to help you or anyone who has been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church. We will listen to your needs and support you. We will help you make a formal complaint and arrange a personal meeting with the bishop, or his delegate, if desired. We encourage you to come forward and speak out.

**The Victim Assistance Coordinator  
for the Diocese of Buffalo:**

**Ms. Jacqueline Joy**  
Catholic Charities  
**Report Hotline (716) 895-3010**  
jacqueline.joy@ccwny.org

**To file a report of sexual misconduct by  
a U.S. bishop or eparch visit:**

ReportBishopAbuse.org  
**Calls can be placed to the national third-party hotline:  
(800) 276-1562**





*Blessed Mother Columbarium  
at Assumption Cemetery on Grand Island*



*Our Lady of the Rosary Columbarium  
at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Kenmore*

## Catholic Cemeteries

**Mount Olivet**  
Kenmore

**Holy Cross**  
Lackawanna

**Holy Sepulchre**  
Cheektowaga

**Gate of Heaven**  
Lewiston

**Assumption**  
Grand Island

**Queen of Heaven**  
Lockport

Representing  
**St. Adalbert**  
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## Considering Cremation?

The final expression of our faith as Catholics is the blessed and sacred burial in a Catholic Cemetery.  
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*Put your faith in us.*