



Beloved Disciples
of
Christ the Lord

Roman Catholic Family of Parishes
bdclfamily.org

Family Magazine

April/May
2024

GROWTH

Renew



Meet Seamus McCarthy
of Our Lady of Pompeii Parish

Family Update

Grow with us...

To the *Beloved Disciples of Christ the Lord,*

We need your help!

The task of building our Family of Parishes is immense. To get six wonderful, vibrant Parishes to work together as one Family for the renewal of the Church in our part of Erie County is a complex undertaking. Some of the first steps were rather obvious. Having to deal with the reality that there would be three active priests, along with one technically retired priest who is just as active as he ever was, where previously there had been 6, forced us to make some painful, but necessary decisions on Mass schedules and other liturgical timetables.

Forming a Family Council representing all six communities using the framework given us by the Diocese was another apparent beginning action to take. There is much work to be done and after the evident initial projects, the work is becoming more complex. One of my favorite parts of building our Family has been getting to know the wonderful people who make up the backbone of each Parish. So many of these parochial leaders have stepped forward right from the start of the Road to Renewal in 2021. The task is so massive, however, that very quickly the original volunteers were overwhelmed with the volume of meetings and commitments that were necessary. Learning from that questionable beginning, we scaled back expectations and lengthened the timetable for the Family transition. Now we are taking up a new phase of building our Family. We need additional volunteers to staff the "Pillar Groups" that have already begun to operate.

A pillar is defined as a supporting column that helps a structure to hold together. The Diocese has proposed that there are 6 Pillar areas that demonstrate the vitality of a Family and the Parishes that make up that Family. A chart of those Pillars and the area of Parish life that each is concerned with is printed to the right. We need "fresh blood" to step forward and offer their time and expertise in these Pillar Group Committees to ensure that our Family can continue to grow.

We are especially in need of anyone with experience in Strategic Planning and Organizational Structure.

If you have the time to offer for no more than one meeting per month AND you are committed to see our entire Family grow, along with your individual Parish, feel free to fill out the form below and place it in any Parish in our Family's collection basket OR send it to: St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish, 496 Terrace Blvd., Depew, NY 14043.

Thank you for your support of our Family of Parishes. Please continue to pray for all of us involved in renewing our Church and building a stronger future.

Fr. Rich



Pillar Group Volunteer Form

Full Name: _____

Parish: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Pillar you would like to assist with (only ONE):

Liturgy

Administration

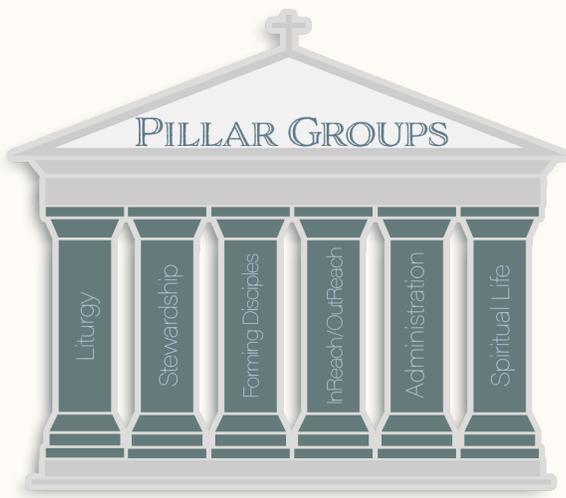
Stewardship

Forming Disciples

InReach/OutReach

Spirituality

*Fill out the form and place it in any Parish in our Family's collection basket OR mail it to:
St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish
496 Terrace Blvd., Depew, NY 14043*



The organizational process for the Road to Renewal breaks our Parish Life into six pillars. These pillars are what holds our community together. Some of the Pillars may be more visible than others, but each is extremely important to give our Family a firm foundation and ensure that every aspect of each Parish is taken into account and cared for.

Liturgy

This group deals with the Mass & Sacramental Scheduling

Stewardship

Encouraging volunteering, fundraising, and vocations

InReach/OutReach

Connecting with current, inactive, and new Parishioners, as well as the surrounding community

Administration

Working on making the business aspects of the Parish run in the most efficient and cost effective ways

Forming Disciples

Faith Formation for youth and Sacramental preparation

Spirituality

Handles the retreats, Adoration, Stations of the Cross, and other spiritual extras.

If you would like to volunteer for one of these Pillars, please see the form to the left.

*Beloved Disciples of Christ the Lord
Family of Parishes*

*Moderator:
Msgr. Richard Siepka*

*In Solidum:
Rev. Lukasz Kopala
Rev. Bart Lipiec*

*In Residence:
Rev. Paul Steller*

Would you like to join our writing staff?

Do you have a story to share?

*Send an email to: magazine@bdclfamily.org
or call 716-668-370 x 324 and leave a message*

This magazine is proudly printed locally.



We are proud to be able to celebrate our First Anniversary issue of our Family of Parishes Magazine! Thank you to all who have supported this publication in so many ways!

This magazine has been hailed as extremely informative and creates a warm, welcoming, community feeling.

Our magazine is sent to an average of 7,500 households every other month to reach our Active and Inactive Parishioners.

We currently have five advertisers and with more on the way! We are also now accepting Parishioner support to help keep costs low and limit need for outside advertising. This gives us more space to share our Family and Faith information. See the next page on how to donate!

Throughout this first year, we've started focusing on and sharing Family Council because reader feedback, had continual design upgrades with each issue, and shared Parish wins and individual Parishioner stories, including youth & young adult voices!

Interested in having your company noticed by over 7,000 families?

Send us an email at magazine@bdclfamily.org or call Lauren at 716-668-8370 ext. 210 to find out about our advertising options!

We are a self-produced magazine that is sent to the Bowmansville, Depew, Lancaster, & Cheektowaga areas.

What Does it Mean to be a Family?

By: Fr. Bart Lipiec,
Priest In Solidum



I have been reflecting on this question ever since we formed our Family of Parishes, the Beloved Disciples of Christ Our Lord. The image of a family is being used as an analogy as to how the six Parishes of our group would function. I think we all know from our own experiences that being a good family is not always easy, it requires an investment of time, attention and energy.

No family is perfect but we keep working at it.

There are no guidebooks that clearly give us a road map as to how a family addresses every situation it encounters, but the family gives us the essential structure for how we function as human beings in the larger culture. Within the context of family we find support in life's challenges, solace in disappointment, and strength in sadness.

In a real way that is how our Parishes within our Family should function - not in competition but in mutual support, working and praying together in the Lord. As we move together in a yet to be clear future, let us do it with the understanding that we do it together as a family.



Beloved Disciples
of *Christ the Lord*
Roman Catholic Family of Parishes
bdcfamily.org



Our Lady of Pompeii
Sat 3:30 pm

Sacred Heart of Jesus
Sat 3:00 - 3:45 pm

St. Martha
Sat before 5:00 pm Mass

St. Mary of the Assumption
Sat 6:00 - 6:30 pm

St. Philip the Apostle
Sat 3:30 - 4:00 pm

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta
Sat 3:00 - 3:30 pm

Confession

Our Lady of Pompeii
First Fridays: Noon - 6:00 pm

Sacred Heart of Jesus
First Fridays from 8:30 am - 8 pm

St. Martha
Monday - Friday: 9 am - 3 pm in the Chapel
First Fridays: 9 pm - Midnight in Church

St. Mary of the Assumption
First Fridays: 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta
Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Adoration
This may change for Holy Days and Holidays.



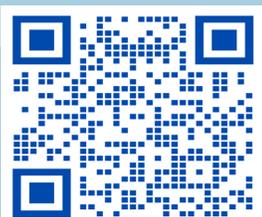
Support our
MAGAZINE

**ARE YOU ENJOYING OUR MAGAZINE?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IT CONTINUE?**

Our magazine runs on the support of our Parishes and Parishioners. Show your support by donating today to keep it going!

Scan the QR code below to donate by credit card or mail your donation to St. Philip the Apostle Parish (950 Losson Rd. Cheektowaga, NY 14227) with a note that your donation is for this publication.

We thank you for your support!



Beloved Disciples
of *Christ the Lord*
Roman Catholic Family of Parishes
bdcfamily.org

**FAMILY
Feast Days**



ST. PHILIP – MAY 3



SACRED HEART OF JESUS – JUNE 7, 2024



ST. MARTHA – JULY 29



ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

ASSUMPTION OF MARY – AUGUST 15



Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish

ST. MOTHER TERESA – SEPTEMBER 5



OUR LADY OF POMPEII – OCTOBER 7

Family Council Update



A report was made to remind the members that all of our Parishes are in good financial standing, without debts. This assists in solidifying the futures of each Parish for the foreseeable future. There was also a reminder that with more Families beginning their formation process, there may be further movement of clergy around the Diocese. As of right now, there will be no changes to our Family.

At their February meeting, two Family Council members were assigned to each of the six Pillar groups. These Pillars are what were used in the forming of our Family. The co-chairs from the Council will now work with the original and new Pillar members to continue to work on the goals that were originally outlined in the Renewal process and to work on new goals for our future. To learn more about the Pillar groups, see Fr. Rich's letter on the first page.

Parish Finance Managers have been meeting frequently to discuss how to best handle finances of each Parish and any bills for our Family of Parishes. This meeting is led by Fr. Bart, who reports their findings back to the Family Council. They will meet again in March.

The Secretaries of each Parish are also meeting once a quarter now to ensure that there is information sharing across all Parishes.

A Family Worship Committee is starting to meet which includes the music ministers and other important liturgy planning members from each Parish. This is to assist in sharing ideas and ensuring all our Parishes have the best liturgical experiences we can offer.

Have an idea or question for the Family Council?

Contact them via their email at:

familycouncil
@bdclfamily.org

or call and leave a message at
716-668-8370 x 325

Meet the Council Members

John Kochmanski

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta
InReach/OutReach Pillar



I am a Choir Member, Holy Name, and Ushers Society member at St. Mother Teresa's.

A prayer that means the most to me is the Anima Christi.

Since joining in 2022, I have enjoyed the opportunity to grow with my wife Marisa in unity with Christ and for our Faith to grow in unity here at our Parish.

I hope with the help of the Family Council we can all grow together and operate as one Family among our Parishes and allow all to be fed by Christ among us in all the works we do.



John Lewandowski
St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta
Forming Disciples Pillar

I am involved in our Parish as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, and a member in charge of our bingo (plus a brave soul who is a caller). I am also the Treasurer of our Holy Name Society.

My goal as a member of the Council is to help guide us through the difficulties that we face in the near term. Long term, I hope to help us rebuild our Faith community and become an even stronger entity as one Family.



Divine Mercy SUNDAY

Sunday, April 7

The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us – all of us and He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins and this feast celebrates the mercy God grants us through Jesus. The best way to remember the Divine Mercy message is through using ABC:

A - Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B - Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C - Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that all the graces of His mercy can only be received by our trust. The more we open the door of our hearts and lives to Him with trust, the more we can receive.

This message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy.

We celebrate the Sacred Heart of Jesus alone as a symbol of "God's boundless and passionate love for mankind." This feast always falls on the third Friday after Pentecost (June 7th this year). This is also where our Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish takes its name from and celebrates its Parish Feast Day on this special day, but both days are extremely special to this Parish in particular.

An indulgence is granted to the faithful who, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy, or who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. "Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!"). Those who attend the special Divine Mercy events and wish to be granted an indulgence must attend confession, receive the Eucharist, and pray for the intentions of the Pope.

Even though confessed and forgiven sins will not send a person to hell, consequences remain to be paid on earth or in purgatory. An indulgence frees the recipient from those consequences. Reception of an indulgence always springs from sincere repentance and the desire to live a holy life. An indulgence cannot be bought, nor can one be obtained by going through the motions without sincerity.

In our Family of Parishes, we will be hosting a special Divine Mercy afternoon, including Adoration, Confessions, the Chaplet and Mass at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish to assist you in achieving your indulgence. All are invited to join us in this special celebration!

Partially taken from: <https://www.thedivinemercy.org>

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Sunday, April 7th

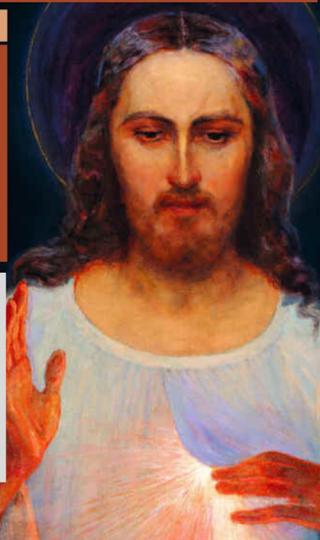
1PM- Eucharistic
Adoration & Confession
3PM- Divine Mercy
Chaplet & Benediction
3:15PM- Holy Mass

*Beloved Disciples
of Christ the Lord*
Roman Catholic Family of Parishes
bdcfamily.org

Held at:



SACRED HEART OF JESUS
PARISH & DIOCESAN SHRINE IN BOWMANSVILLE
5337 Genesee St. Bowmansville



Upcoming Family Events

- April 7** - Divine Mercy Sunday
BDCL - at Sacred Heart of Jesus
All are welcome to join us as we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. See to the left for details on the events for the day.
- April 9** - Pop-Up Chiavetta's Drive Thru Dinner
St. Philip the Apostle
Noon - 6 pm
Summer has come early again as St. Philip's hosts another Chiavetta's Dinner! More information can be found to the right.
- April 13** - Faith Understood
Sacred Heart of Jesus
5 pm
Come hear an ordinary man's journey to the Presence of God with speaker & author Paul Zucarelli. This is a free event.
- April 15** - "She Did It All" - Fr. Baker Story
Our Lady of Pompeii
6 pm - 8:30 pm
Come see Michael Sacilowski in his one-man theatrical performance. Free event.
- April 19** - Meat Raffle
St. Mary's Elementary School
Come try your luck and fill your freezer at our school fundraiser. See later in this issue for more details.
- April 20** - Basket Raffle
St. Philip the Apostle
11 am - 3 pm
Stop by and take a chance on winning one of over 100 theme baskets! More information can be found later in the magazine.
- April 20** - Meat Raffle
Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament School
Come try your luck and fill your freezer at our school fundraiser. See later in this issue for more details.
- April 29** - "The Matter of Life" Screening
BDCL - at St. Philip the Apostle
6 pm - 8:30 pm
Join the Family of Parishes Respect Life Committees for a special presentation. More information to the right.
- May** - Friday Rosary
Sacred Heart of Jesus
6:30 pm
Join us every Friday in May with your rosary to pray at our outdoor Shrine in honor of Mary. In case of rain, we will be in the Church.
- May 13** - "Christ in Me Arise" Outdoor Concert
Our Lady of Pompeii
6:15 pm - 8 pm
Dinner and an outdoor concert. Free will donations accepted. RSVP to dinner at 716-683-6522.

In our February/March Issue, there was an error that we would like to make a correction to. In the Wonderword, the Answer should have come out as, "Morning Has Broken." Instead, there was an incorrect letter that led the puzzle to read "Movning Has Broken." We apologize for this error.

Looking for an Outdoor Catholic Wedding?



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish & Diocesan Shrine

5337 Genesee Street Bowmansville, NY-716-683-2375- sheartshrine@gmail.com

CHIAVETTA'S

Pop-Up DRIVE-THRU DINNER

Tuesday, April 9
Noon - 6 pm

1/2 Chicken, 2 sides, roll & butter - \$15
1/2 Rack Ribs, 2 sides, roll & butter - \$18
Full Rack Ribs, 2 sides, roll & butter - \$29

*Side options given day of event
Cash or Credit Accepted
No tickets or reservations.



FEMINISTS CHOOSING LIFE OF NEW YORK PRESENTS

THE MATTER OF LIFE

A FILM THAT CLARIFIES THE MOST CONTENTIOUS ISSUE OF OUR DAY



Disclaimer: The Matter of Life film contains abortion related imagery, and descriptions of abortion procedures.
RECOMMENDED FOR ALL AGES 16+ AND PARENTAL ACCOMPANIMENT FOR AGES 16-17

MONDAY,
APRIL 29
6:00 - 8:30 PM

Refreshments Provided!
\$5 - Adult
\$2 - Student

Proceeds to Benefit St. Gianna Molla Pregnancy Outreach Centers

Followed by an FCLNY presentation on NYS Abortion policy & proposed NYS (anti) Equal Rights Amendment with Q&A

St. Philip the Apostle Parish
950 Losson Rd
Cheektowaga, NY 14227



RSVP by April 19
QUESTIONS: INFO@FCLNY.ORG

Register on Eventbrite!



Faith in Action

By: Seamus McCarthy



I am Seamus McCarthy, 21, of Our Lady of Pompeii Parish. I attended Our Lady of Pompeii school until it closed in 2014. After the closure, I was home schooled for the duration of middle school and for high school. Currently, I am attending Erie Community part-time.

My mother's side of the family has belonged to this Parish since it opened

in 1909, so when our family moved to Lancaster in the mid-2000s, it was only natural for us to join Pompeii. The thing I most enjoy about Our Lady of Pompeii is the people. From the generous, faithful Parishioners to the dedicated, caring staff... it is a joy to be on campus.

Through my teen years, I slowly drifted away from the Church. I was disenchanted with the institutional Church and certainly our Diocese surrounding the closure of Pompeii's school in 2014. The death of my grandmother in 2015 only accelerated things. Our family often went to Mass with my grandmother, and not having her to go with us made it easy to not take Faith as seriously and not go to Mass as a family. Especially after she passed, my Faith was lukewarm, and I didn't really care about it. I stopped going to Mass right after Easter of 2016 and returned right before Easter of 2022.

After six years away from the Faith, I was lost. My life was filled with unhappiness, anxiety, and despair, and I had no idea where to turn. I often pondered the meaning of life and whether there was a point to it all. Not knowing where to turn or what else to do, I decided to return to Church and to Pompeii.

To renew my Faith, I started by returning to Mass. I went to Mass for a couple weeks and knowing that I needed to go to Confession to receive Communion, I went to Confession before a daily Mass at Our Lady of Pompeii. It was the first



time I had gone to Confession in eight years, and it felt like a weight of infinite magnitude had been lifted off my shoulders. Receiving Jesus for the first time in years that day, all felt right in the world. After this, I decided to continue attending daily Mass.

From there, many devotions began. I started regularly praying the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. My favorite scripture verse is the Bread of Life discourse in John, Chapter 6. It helps me to reflect on the reality of the Real Presence, it reminds and encourages me to receive Jesus as often as possible, and in a state of grace.

Since returning to church, I have become involved in various ministries throughout the Parish. I am a Sacristan, and I serve at Masses. I run the Altar Server program and the Live Stream Ministry. I am also an EDGE Core Team Member and assist with a sandwich ministry run out of the Parish. I also work for our Parish, assisting wherever needed.

As I continued to attend Mass daily, I began to be overwhelmed by a sense of peace and happiness.

I would sit there during Mass and wonder if this was something I could do. These feelings, along with memories of the joyful, reverent examples put forth by two of my childhood priests, led me to begin the discernment process and deciding to work towards becoming a priest. It has opened so many doors for me thus far, and I can't wait to see what God has planned for me. I'm in the application process currently and if accepted, I would begin my Seminary studies in August.

My Faith keeps me grounded and focused on the things that matter. It helps me to place less importance on the many things of this world that are less important. I was blessed to be put in a position where I could build/rebuild my life, and honestly my day, around prayer. Having this foundation has been of special importance to me, especially when life gets difficult and/or chaotic.

As I continue my journey, please know of my prayers for you, along with our Priests and Parishes, during these changing times. Always trust in God's plan. Blessed Virgin Mary, pray for us!



DO YOU KNOW A FAMILY OR PARISHIONER WHO'S STORY SHOULD BE SHARED?



In the past issues we've asked the Parishes to suggest a Parishioner or Family to be featured in our magazine. But now we'd like to open it up to you, our readers to help us find the next stories to be shared.



If you would like to nominate a Family or Parishioner, please scan this QR code or send a note to St. Philip's Rectory with their name, your name, any contact information you may have, the Parish they are associated with, and what theme you are nominating them for.

UPCOMING MAGAZINE THEMES:
OPENNESS
WORSHIP
TRUST
HOPE

UNCONDITIONALLY

Finding Jesus in the Eucharist
A 2-DAY PARISH MISSION

MARCH 11 & 12



Presentation By
Catholic Inspirational
Speaker & Author
Greg Wasinski



A wonderful way to not only connect personally, but collectively with the Eucharist and Christ, this mission brought approximately 300 of our Parishioners together for two nights during Lent.

With a mixture of ages and members from each of our Family Parishes, this truly was a community and Faith building event with the mission portion in St. Philip's Church and then fellowship afterwards in their Parish Center.

**Thank you to all who volunteered for this evening,
baked a wide variety of goodies, and especially to those who joined us!**

**Orthodontists**
Associates of WNY

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in Our Community!*



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(716) 648-1461 | 4031 Legion Drive

LANCASTER

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ORCHARD PARK

(716) 662-7060 | 6590 E Quaker Street

DUNKIRK

(716) 366-0600 | 415 Main Street

EAST AURORA

(716) 652-1411 | 221 Main Street

NIAGRA FALLS

(716) 731-3031 | 2103 Sawyer Drive



2 St. Mary's Hill
Lancaster, NY 14086

716-683-2112
www.smeschool.com

Facebook & Instagram:
@StMarysElementarySchool

Greetings BDCL Family,

Recently, I have spent much of my time during the school day working and meeting with our middle school students. These productive conversations keep lines of communication open, which helps everyone be better and continue to grow into the best version of ourselves. Partnering and working together helps everyone better!

When speaking with some 6th graders, it was mentioned that our school has seen a lot of growth in our recent past, and, as a result, we need to respond to the needs of our increased student population by offering more extracurricular opportunities. I share this conversation to demonstrate the maturity of some of our middle school students - and to exemplify what the results of engaging in open, transparent communication can yield.

In addition to our traditional clubs, this year we have made an effort to participate in more Diocesan events - such as bowling, the spelling bee, and the math competition. Also, some teachers from our PK team have begun our Garden Club. In the near future, we will see raised gardens filled with dirt and new life, as students in K-8 work with our teachers to learn some gardening basics as they develop their green thumbs.

Additionally, our older students have taken on leadership roles to help establish and grow our pillar system, which will continue to grow into a program that continues to offer our school so much and countless benefits! We never want to be complacent and will be returning or establishing additional clubs this spring, while also planning for more extracurriculars next year.

SME is returning a Chess Club. We expect a mix of experienced players and those looking to learn the rules and how to play. We hope to hold tournaments in the future and name a seasonal Chess Club champion! Similarly, interested students will gather socially for our Board Game Club! We will hopefully host regular gatherings for our students who enjoy playing board games to gather together and play friendly games. Our students shared how much they enjoy spending time at SME - this is an opportunity for them to make and grow friendships.

By the end of this academic year, we will return or establish: a Video Game Club, Book Club, Cooking Club, Dance Lab, and First Aid and Safety Club. By speaking with our students and listening to their incredible ideas, we were able to learn how to meet their needs and partner in growing SME. Looking forward to next year, we are working to build our STEM offerings, including a Technology/Engineering Club, a Robotics Club, and Maker Faire.

If you are interested in learning more about our flourishing school and offerings, please message me at olejniczak@smeschool.com.

With enthusiasm and optimism, I look forward to growing SME with all of you,
Mr. Glenn Olejniczak



Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament

We commit ourselves to strengthen the Church for the next generation by educating the whole child - academically, spiritually, physically and emotionally - through a faith-based learning environment. We value all students and acknowledge their unique gifts, while challenging them to be creative and critical thinkers who integrate faith, moral leadership and compassionate service. We aim to guide the children of today to become the Catholic citizens of tomorrow.

- **Affordable Tuition at a fraction of the cost of Daycare!**

- **Established Curriculum, Field Trips!**

- **Certified, Caring Teachers**

- **Safe, Nurturing Environment**

- **Strong Sense of Community**

- **Full Day Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4**

- **Daily classes in; Spanish, Technology, Art, Physical Education, Music and Library**

- **Suzuki Strings beginning in Kindergarten**

- **Extended Day - After School Program**

For any questions or to set up a tour, please contact us at;

(716)685-2544
info@school.olbsdepew.org

OUR LADY OF POMPEII

129 Laverack Ave. Lancaster
Saturday | 4:30 pm
Sunday | 10:00 am, 11:30 am
No Weekday Mass

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

5337 Genesee St. Bowmansville
Saturday | 4:00 pm
Sunday | 8:30 am
Weekdays | 8:00 am

ST. MARTHA

10 French Rd. Depew
Saturday | 5:00 pm
Sunday | 8:00 am, 10:00 am
Weekdays | 8:15 am

ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

1 St. Mary's Hill Lancaster
Saturday | 7:00 pm
Sunday | 10:00 am, Noon
Weekdays | Noon

ST. MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA

496 Terrace Blvd. Depew
Saturday | 4:00 pm
Sunday | 8:30 am
No Weekday Mass

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE

950 Losson Rd. Cheektowaga
Saturday | 4:30 pm
Sunday | 9:00 am, 11:00 am
Mon. - Thurs. | 9:00 am Fridays | Noon



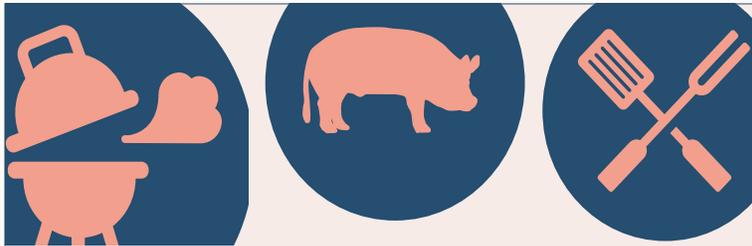
Service Project

By: Debbie Pirog

For the past two years, the Confirmation students from St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Our Lady of Pompeii Parishes have come together to work on a service project that supports an organization within the Diocese.

This year, our 10th grade Confirmation students along with our 7th, 8th, and 9th graders from these Parishes made chocolate covered pretzels and Oreos and sold them after Mass on the weekend of February 11th and 12th.

The students raised over \$500 and all the proceeds were given to God's Family, a Faith Formation program for adults and children with disabilities. God's Family started 18 years ago and is still so necessary as it ministers to those families with members with special physical, cognitive, or emotional needs. The sessions are held at St. Philip the Apostle Parish, but are open to all within the Diocese of Buffalo.



ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY HSA MEAT RAFFLE

FRIDAY APRIL 19

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM
FIRST SPIN AT 7:00 PM

2 St. Mary's Hill
Lancaster, NY
CONTACT JACKIE: 716-578-4780

COST: \$10 PER TICKET

RESERVE A TABLE OF 8 FOR \$70

ADMISSION INCLUDES: BEER, POP, WATER, PIZZA

THIS IS A 21 AND OVER EVENT.
NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL WILL BE ALLOWED.

50/50
CHEST FREEZER FULL OF MEAT
BASKET RAFFLE

Our Lady of Fatima

Monthly Mass & Rosary Processions at the Shrine

"I ask of you..."

Come to Pray & Hear Our Lady's Messages

May 13th @ 6:30PM

1st Apparition

June 13th @ 6:30PM

2nd Apparition

July 13th @ 6:30PM

3rd Apparition

August 13th @ 6:30PM

4th Apparition

September 13th @ 6:30PM

5th Apparition

October 13th @ 6:30PM

Final Apparition

Candlelight Mass and
Reception Immediately

Following in our Parish Center



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish & Diocesan Shrine
5337 Genesee Street Bowmansville NY 14026 716-683-2375

HOLY COW!!!

IT'S A MEAT RAFFLE!

WHEN: SATURDAY APRIL 20, 2024 DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM
1ST DRAWING AT 7:00PM

HOSTED BY: OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL

WHERE: OLBS GYM 20 FRENCH ROAD DEPEW, NY 14043

TICKETS: \$10 OR \$70 FOR A TABLE OF 8

MUST BE AT LEAST
21 YEARS OLD

INCLUDES: BEER, WINE, & POP

Bring a cooler
with snacks

Bring singles

WIN!!
GIFT BASKET RAFFLES
50/50 SPLIT CLUB



Two ways to purchase:

Contact: Catherine PLAY@school.olbsdepew.org
OR

Call the Main office at 716-685-2544

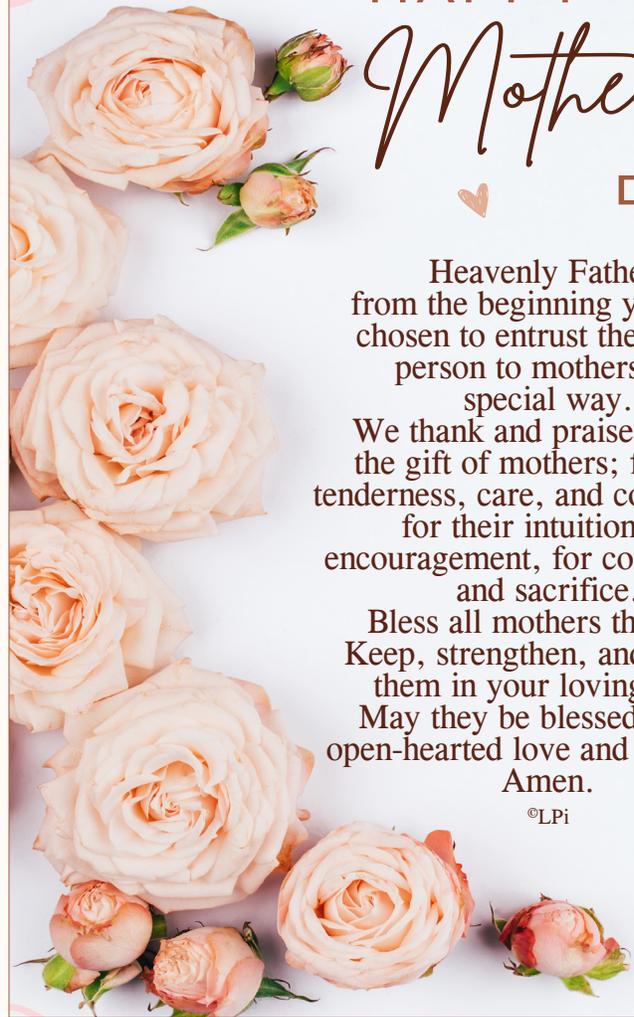
HAPPY Mother's DAY

Heavenly Father,
from the beginning you have
chosen to entrust the human
person to mothers in a
special way.

We thank and praise you for
the gift of mothers; for their
tenderness, care, and compassion,
for their intuition and
encouragement, for commitment
and sacrifice.

Bless all mothers this day.
Keep, strengthen, and refresh
them in your loving care.
May they be blessed by our
open-hearted love and gratitude.
Amen.

©LPi



**5202 Transit Rd.
Depew, NY 14043**

716-685-2800

Annual Basket Raffle

Presented by the
Ladies Club of
St. Philip the Apostle



**Saturday, April 20, 2024
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

St. Philip the Apostle Parish Center, 950 Lossen Rd, Cheektowaga, NY

over **100** baskets



SPECIAL RAFFLE for a chance to win an overnight package
at Salvatore's Grand Hotel, including dinner & breakfast

**TICKETS.. \$5 for a sheet of 25 chances
or 5 sheets for \$20 (125 chances)**

If you would like to make a donation, please
call Cindy Pronti at 716-713-3254

**Refreshments will be
available to purchase**



LENTE M



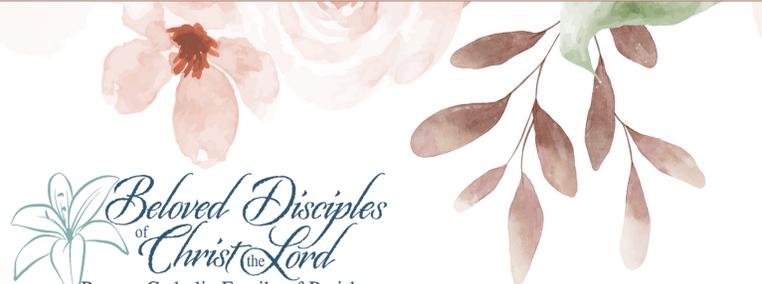
FISH FRY

St. Martha Parish
United in Spirit & Faith

FUNDRAISER TO
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*Photos:
 Catherine Glaub*



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 of *Christ the Lord*
 Roman Catholic Family of Parishes
 bdcfamily.org

*Photos:
 Ray Milkowski Sr.*

Before Cana (Pre-Cana) Marriage Preparation Class Saturday, February 24, 2024



We were blessed to have seven couples join us in this special preparation for their upcoming weddings in our Parishes!

Congratulations to these couples and thank you for letting us be a part of your special moment!



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With 31 teams across 23 sports, four performance opportunities throughout the year, and dozens of clubs and student-run organizations, there is always something going on after school for students to join in on the fun.

Men's Sports:

Football • Basketball • Baseball • Soccer • Track & Field • Cross Country • Indoor Track • Hockey • Wrestling • Lacrosse • Golf

Women's Sports:

Basketball • Soccer • Volleyball • Hockey • Cross Country • Track & Field • Cheer • Lacrosse • Wrestling • Softball • Tennis • Indoor Track

Performance Opportunities:

Lancer Cabaret • Fall Play • Spring Musical • Evening of Fine Arts

Clubs & Student Organizations:

Art Club • Campus Ministry • Dance Club • Donate Life Club • Environmental Club • Film Club • Girls Club • Glee Club • Handbell Ensemble • The Marian Gazette • Modern Band • Mock Trial • National Honor Society • Praise Band • Retreat Peer Ministry • Science Olympiad • Student Senate • Tech Crew • Yearbook

At St. Mary's High School, all of our students are able to carve out their own space and bond with fellow students who meet them wherever they're at, whether that's on a team, on the stage, in the classroom, or just in the hallways. Our talented team of faculty, staff, coaches, and directors help to foster safe spaces for our students to learn, practice, and grow... together.

All seventh graders can sign up to take the Practice Entrance Exam with at St. Mary's on Saturday, April 13th, to begin their St. Mary's journey. Students who take the Practice Entrance Exam have proven to score higher on the actual exam in the Fall.



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Music Meditation

By: Sue Loniewski

**“Holy God, we praise thy name;
Lord of all, we bow before thee!
All on earth thy scepter claim,
All in heav’n above adore thee;
Infinite, thy vast domain, Everlasting is thy reign.
Infinite, thy vast domain, Everlasting is thy reign.”**

Don’t you find yourself singing along in your head as you read the lyrics? I know that I do. What a beautiful reverent hymn this is. We often sing this during a guided Holy Hour or at weekend Masses in praise and adoration of our God!

This hymn was first published in 1774 by Ignaz Franz, a German Catholic priest. It is based on the 4th century Latin hymn “Te Deum” (‘Thee, God, we praise’). As a result of German immigration in the 19th century, this hymn became popular and was translated into English by an American Catholic priest, Clarence Walworth.

I love lyrics that can be prayed with or without the music. That might sound strange to some people but consider this. If you’re sitting at Eucharistic Adoration or perhaps waiting for Mass to begin, pick up a hymnal and read the words as a prayer. They can really bring your mind to focus.

**“Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit, Three we name thee;
While in essence only one,
Undivided God we claim thee;
And adoring, bend the knee, While we own the mystery.
And adoring, bend the knee, While we own the mystery.”**

Just praying the words helps you to come closer to God. And singing the words? St. Augustine said that singing was praying twice. And if you’re worried about the quality of your voice? Just remember that this is between you and God and he wants you to *make a joyful noise*. (Psalm 98:4)

We want to hear your *thoughts*

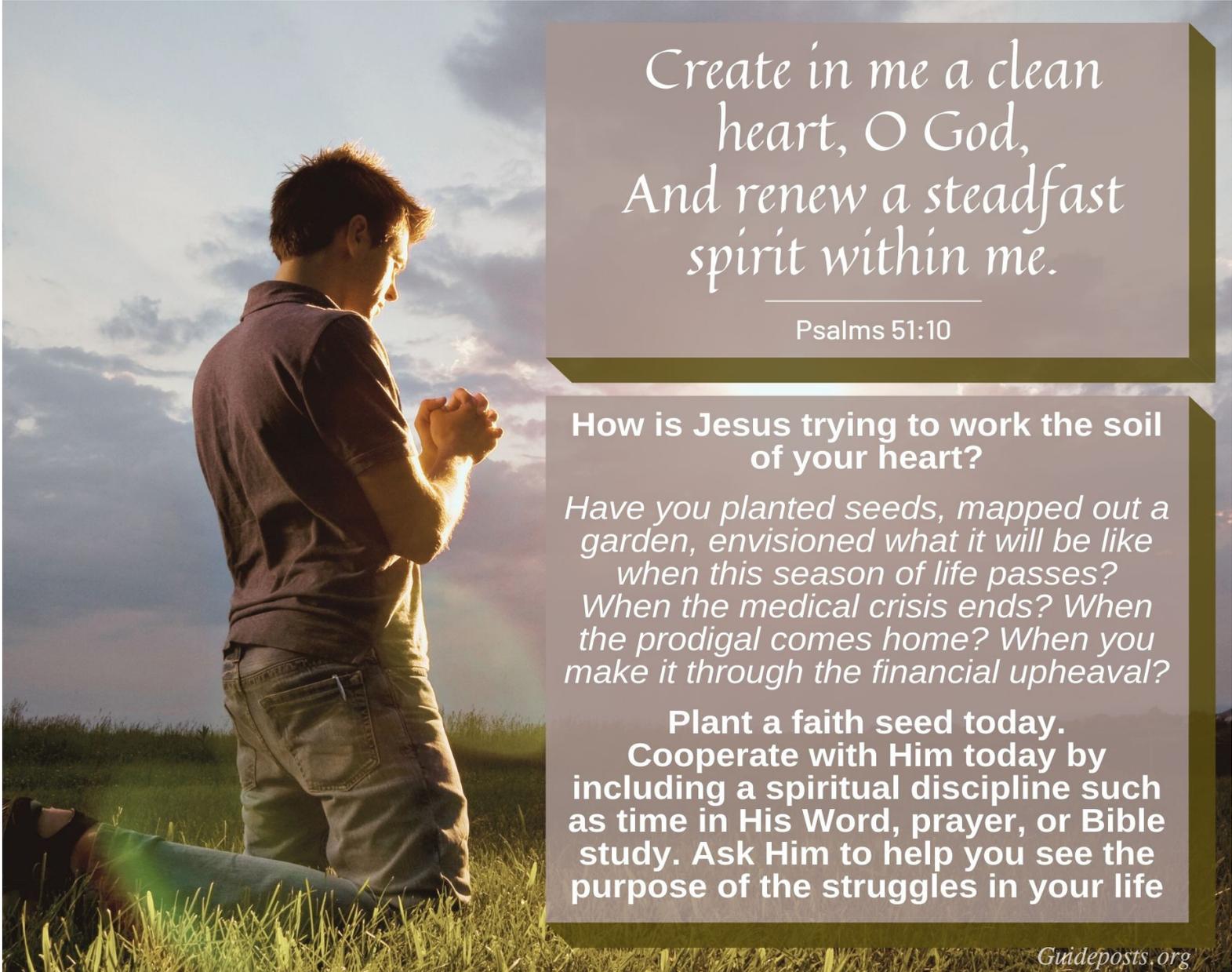
Please take a minute and fill out our online survey to give us your suggestions and input on our magazine.

We thank you in for helping us improve this magazine to serve you better!



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Create in me a clean
heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast
spirit within me.

—
Psalms 51:10

**How is Jesus trying to work the soil
of your heart?**

Have you planted seeds, mapped out a garden, envisioned what it will be like when this season of life passes? When the medical crisis ends? When the prodigal comes home? When you make it through the financial upheaval?

**Plant a faith seed today.
Cooperate with Him today by
including a spiritual discipline such
as time in His Word, prayer, or Bible
study. Ask Him to help you see the
purpose of the struggles in your life**