



Beloved Disciples
of
Christ the Lord

Roman Catholic Family of Parishes
bdclfamily.org

Family Magazine

June/July
2024

GROWTH

Openness



Meet the Goss Family
of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish

Family Update

Grow with us...

To the *Beloved Disciples of Christ the Lord*,

It is incredible how time has seemed to speed up. Since the institution of our Family of Parishes model, the workload for our Parish priests has increased significantly and that pace seemed to have sped up the overall pace of life. Weeks fly by and in the midst of that intensified velocity, I often wonder if our Parishes are still able to deal with the important day-to-day needs of the good people of our 6 Parish communities. **We have recently had some major successes.** We have just completed an extremely successful year of Faith Formation as our individual programs have blended together near seamlessly and as a result of our expanded offerings, enrollment went up 20%. More of our young people have been given the opportunity to grow in their Faith, and that is most encouraging as we travel this Road to Renewal. There have been other successes as well, such as the wonderful St. Joseph's Table held in March that saw over 200 people gather together to honor the Foster Father of Jesus.

With fewer priests assigned to our Parishes, one concern has been the challenge to ensure that our ministry to the sick is able to reach anyone in need. We have improved our emergency contact lines to make sure that Parishioners can reach a priest if they or a member of their family are in need of anointing and prayers. This is still a difficult task. Since the passage of HIPAA laws in 1996, hospitals are no longer contacting Parishes when people are hospitalized. The COVID Pandemic made hospital visits even more daunting.

If you are ever hospitalized and wish to be visited by a priest of our Family, it is your responsibility (most likely through a family member) to notify your Parish to arrange a visit. Also, remember that most hospitals (especially our fine Catholic hospitals) have a Pastoral Care Department to help take care of their patients' spiritual needs on site. It is not always necessary for someone from the Parish to visit, because the well-trained, professional Pastoral Care staff has already cared for the patient.

Even after 60 years since the Second Vatican Council ended, the Church has still not made our people comfortable with the great gift of the Sacrament of the Sick. No longer referred to as Extreme Unction (or Last Rites), ***this Sacrament should be offered to anyone facing illness and should not be delayed until one's health situation becomes serious.***

Please do not wait until your loved one is in grave condition before calling for a priest.

With the fewer number of priests available, it may not be possible to find one at that time. ***If you have a family member in the hospital, call your Parish during regular business hours to put in your request for a visit from a priest.*** This should not be put off until the last possible moment. I know I find the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick to be a great personal satisfaction for me AND an immense source of God's Grace and comfort for the one who is ill. Our priests will respond as soon as possible. Sometimes it is still necessary to assure our older Parishioners that ***a priest coming to anoint them is not necessarily a sign of the end of life.*** The more we accept that belief, the easier it will be for us, all to find comfort in the Sacrament whenever we might need it.

We who are part of the Beloved Disciples of Christ the Lord are committed to maintaining a high standard of spiritual and sacramental service to the People of God. Even in the days of a diminishing number of priests, we strive to make spiritual care of the sick a priority. With our assistance, we will continue to bring the healing power of Christ to all in need.

Fr. Rich



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!



Our Lady of Pompeii

129 Laverack Ave. | Lancaster
olpparish.com

No Weekday Mass

Sat 4:30 pm | Sun 10 am, 11:30 am

Confessions: Sat 3:30 pm

Adoration: First Fridays Noon - 6 pm

Sacred Heart of Jesus

5337 Genesee St. | Bowmansville
sacredheartshrine.org

Weekdays 8:00 am

Sat 4:00 pm | Sun 8:30 am

Confessions: Sat 3:00 - 3:45 pm

Adoration: First Fridays 8:30 am - 8 pm

St. Martha

10 French Rd. | Depew
stmarthadepew.org

Weekdays 8:15 am

Sat 5:00 pm | Sun 8 am, 10 am

Confessions: Sat before 5 pm Mass

Adoration: Mon - Fri 9 am - 3 pm (Chapel)

First Fridays 9 pm - Midnight (Church)

St. Mary of the Assumption

1 St. Mary's Hill | Lancaster
stmarysonthehill.org

Weekdays Noon

Sat 7:00 pm | Sun 10 am, Noon

Confessions: Sat 6 - 6:30 pm

Adoration: First Fridays 12:30 - 2:30 pm

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

496 Terrace Blvd. | Depew
blessedmotherteresaparishdepew.org

No Weekday Mass

Sat 4:00 pm | Sun 8:30 am

Confessions: Sat 3 - 3:30 pm

Adoration: Tuesdays 7 - 8 pm

St. Philip the Apostle

950 Losson Rd. | Cheektowaga
spaparish.org

Mon - Thurs 9 am

Fri Noon

Sat 4:30 pm | Sun 9 am, 11 am

Confessions: Sat 3:30 - 4 pm

Adoration: Last Tues (May - Oct) 6:30 - 7:30 pm

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.



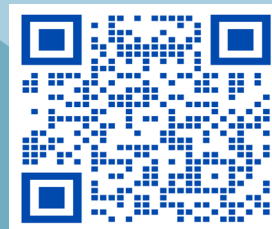
Support our **MAGAZINE**

**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!



**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.*

St. Martha was from Bethany, a village not too far from Jerusalem. She was the sister of Lazarus and Mary. Often considered diligent and meticulous, she had quite the journey of Faith.

We hear of St. Martha three separate times in the Gospels. In St. Luke's Gospel, we hear the story of how she showed her anxiety and worry as she asked Jesus to tell her sister, Mary, to help her in serving. Jesus then responds that Mary is only doing what He asked, to follow and listen to Him. This story is meant to serve as a guide for us to understand how important the balance of our work and spiritual lives is. One is just as important as the other and both help us grow individually, as well as closer to God. With everything that worries and distracts us, with all we must do in our day-to-day, we cannot forget to spend time with God, and this story of St. Martha is the perfect reminder of that.

The second and third stories are found in the Gospel of St. John. The second story deals with the death of Lazarus and shows us how far St. Martha came in her Faith journey. In her conversation with Jesus, she shows great Faith and courage by saying that she knows her brother will rise on the last day and that Jesus is the Son of God. No doubt or hesitation. This is the moment that Jesus reminds us that He is the Resurrection and the Life, and that *"everyone who believes in me will never die."*
Jn 11:26

The third story sums up who St. Martha truly is. This is the story about how Mary anoints Jesus with expensive perfume. During the setting of the scene, there is one sentence about St. Martha. Simply stated, it says, "Martha served." In this story she takes back her original role, but in a happier, more at ease way. She shows us the way to live a truly Christian life balanced in Faith and service to others and reminds us that especially when in service, we do not need to be noticed or rewarded.

The liturgical memorial of St. Martha was begun by the Franciscans in 1262, who celebrated her feast on July 29th.

Saint Martha,
 help us to overcome our distractions and worries to listen closely to the Word and carry God with us throughout our day, taking time to spend time in His presence. Give us the strength to be open to putting our needs aside to serve others with wholehearted happiness. Continue to remind us to be courageous in our Faith and to constantly grow closer to Jesus and the Father.
St. Martha, pray for us!
Amen.

St. Martha

Feast Day: July 29

Patron Saint of:
 Housewives
 Waiters
 Cooks
 Travelers
 Hospitality
 Generosity



Unscramble these words relating to St. Martha:

- veers _____
- tyhtlioaspi _____
- esyrgenoit _____
- harmat _____
- nejroyu _____
- worg _____
- rnela _____
- caenlab _____

Answers are below.

St. Martha's

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 1-5TH

(NO SCHOOL JULY 4TH)

Camp Firelight
A SUMMER CAMP Psalms 96:3
 ADVENTURE WITH GOD

9:30am-12pm

Entering Pre-K4 to
 entering 4th grade

\$20 a child
 \$30 per family

Questions: vbs@stmarthadepew.org

Answers: serve, hospitality, generosity, Martha, journey, grow, learn, balance

Family Council Update



At the April meeting of our Family Council:

- Past events led by the Family were reviewed:
 - Holy Week saw increased attendance at every Parish
 - The Lenten Mission held by the Family was attended by over 300 people each night
 - St. Joseph's Table was attended by over 200 Family Parishioners (see later in the magazine for pictures)
- Family Deacons will begin to rotate through the Family Parishes just like the priests do to allow each Parish the chance to get to know them as well.
- The Council members were reminded that beginning in June, reports on each Pillar will be given at each meeting.
- An invitation was made to Council members that there are monthly Fatima Processions at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish on the 13th of each month from May to October. See later in this issue for times.

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

Brian Wild
 Our Lady of Pompeii
Spiritual Pillar



"I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME"
 JOHN 14:6

I am currently a member of our Holy Name Society and a Funeral Mass Server for our Parish.

I have been at Our Lady of Pompeii since Kindergarten.

The hope for the Family Council is to bring more people back to Church to live their Faith with our Family of Parishes.



Annette Wargo
 Our Lady of Pompeii
Stewardship Pillar

I am currently a Trustee, a member of the Finance Council and the Pastoral Advisory Board. I've served as our Parish's representative on the Eastern Erie Lay Vicariate and as a member of several committees, including: Welcoming/Open Arms, Stewardship and church decorating.

I grew up in St. Amelia's Parish and joined OLP when I married 20 years ago. I am an accountant with 40 years of professional experience.

By participating in the Family Council, my goals are to represent the Parishioners of our Family-- to listen and present their concerns and to bring information back to Parishioners. In addition, I look forward to utilizing my financial experience to help identify, recommend and implement sound financial practices and to ensure good stewardship of financial resources, enabling us to continue carrying out the mission of the church—serving and making disciples.

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

Faith in Action

By: Lauren Binder



The Goss Family has been a fixture of the St. Mother Teresa Parish for the past 28 years. Bill and Mary Goss met in 1988 while working at Pilot Field during high school. They married in 1996 and had two boys, Joshua and Jacob.

Bill has worked for Moog for 16 years in the Defense Design & Drafting area and Mary works for a consulting firm, utilizing her degree in Manufacturing Engineering.

Joshua earned his Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Technology and has started his career, while Jacob will be starting his third year at Daemen College in the Fall with the hopes of becoming a Dentist.

The Goss Family has always been very involved. Mary went through the RCIA program in 1999. The family was a part of the children's ministry until the boys aged out. Mary has been a member of the Ladies Sodality and Bill is a member of the Holy Name Society and an Usher. Josh has set up the "Soup-er Bowl" canned soup drive for the past five years and Jake frequently assists with the fish fry dinners, among other things. Both Josh and Jake have also been awarded the Bishop's Altar Server Award.



While they have been very linked to their Parish, they have found it extremely challenging adapting to the new Family of Parishes changes, especially finding the balance of attending Masses that fit in their schedule and staying connected to the people of the Parish.

"We liked going to the 11 am Mass as a family, seeing familiar faces and listening to the folk band." Mary stated. "Now without that Mass, we have lost this tradition, and it really hurts."

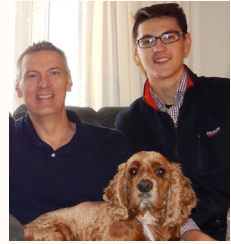
Though they are willing to go to other Parishes in our Family, when they do, they tend to feel disconnected from their home Parish. A common issue that has echoed across the Family of Parishes.

Despite these difficulties, the Goss family has found ways of achieving this new balance. They have been open to attending Family of Parishes events and trying new Faith experiences that they never felt connected to or if they were "religious enough" for, such as Eucharistic Adoration.

"The changes have been hard but instead of giving up we keep looking for the inspiration to deepen our Faith."

Mary added, "We made it a point to attend Mass at each Church in our Family, we attended the Lenten Retreat, the live theatrical performance about Fr. Baker (a favorite role model for the family), enjoyed the St. Joseph's Table, and viewed the 'Eucharistic Miracles of the World' display."

Attending events at other Parishes that are sponsored by our Family of Parishes offers us all the opportunity to learn how to grow together through being open to the changes and make new connections to build a new community.



Together we can strengthen all our Parishes and ensure that our BDCL Family will be here to serve not only our Parishioners, but the larger community for many years to come.

"We'll be ok as long as we keep looking for opportunities to enrich our Faith to help us through this turbulent time."

The Feast of The Body & Blood of Christ

Corpus Christi June 2

at the end of the 10:00 am Mass

Join us as we process through the St. Mary's property to celebrate and share with the world our love for the Body & Blood of Christ!

*Please note that this will be along hills and uneven ground.



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



ST. MARY
OF THE
ASSUMPTION

1 St. Mary's Hill | Lancaster
stmarysonthehill.org



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

716-685-2800

Upcoming Family Events

June 1 & 2, 8 & 9 - Rest in Heavenly Peace Collection
St. Martha

Support our fundraiser for this special organization that assists children in the Buffalo area have a safe, comfortable place to sleep. Donations can be made digitally on their website: shpbeds.org or by sending your donation to St. Martha's to be included in their collection.

June 2 - Feast of the Body & Blood of Christ
10:00 am Mass

St. Mary of the Assumption

Join us as we process through the St. Mary's property to celebrate and share with the world our love for the Body & Blood of Christ. Please note that this will be along hills an uneven ground.

June 7 - The Most Sacred Heart Feast Day
Sacred Heart of Jesus

We will be celebrating our Feast Day with many prayer opportunities! See later in this issue for more information.

June 11 - Chiavetta's Drive-Thru Dinner
St. Philip the Apostle

Join us once again for a drive-thru Chiavetta's dinner! More information below.

July 1-5 - Vacation Bible School
St. Martha

See the information on the page with information on St. Martha for this VBS.

July 18 - Lancaster Steel Band
St. Martha

Concert will be held from 6 - 7:45 pm.

July 29 - Aug 2 - Vacation Bible School
St. Mary of the Assumption

See later in this issue for more information.

13th of the Month - Fatima Mass, Rosary, & Procession
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

Join us on the 13th of every month from May to October as we do as Our Lady of Fatima asked and celebrate Mass, say the rosary, and share our Faith with the world. See to the left for more info.



Are you an adult (18+) who is baptized & received First Eucharist in the Catholic Church but never received the Sacrament of Confirmation?

We are offering an opportunity for anyone in our Family of Parishes to complete this sacramental process for Confirmation and full membership in the Church.

**The 5-week course will be held on
September 15, 22, 29, October 6 & 13
at 11 AM for 1 hour.**

To register or for more information, please contact St. Mary's Faith Formation Office at 716-683-8564.

This Confirmation class is for adults (over 18 & out of High School) who have received the Sacraments of Baptism & Holy Eucharist but have not been Confirmed. These sacramental preparation classes will review the fundamentals of our Catholic faith to better form our understanding of what it means to live as emboldened witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The process will also assist candidates for Confirmation in being active and faithful Catholics with the firm practice of attending Mass every weekend and Holy Days of Obligation.




Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish & Diocesan Shrine

THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

PARISH FEAST DAY & FIRST FRIDAY

Friday, June 7th- All in Our Outdoor Shrine



8:00AM MASS

8:30AM-5:30PM ALL DAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
in our consecrated outdoor altar in our Shrine.

5:30PM-6:30PM HOLY HOUR OF REPARATION
Litany to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Eucharistic Procession.

6:30PM SOLEMNITY MASS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS
Msgr. Richard Siepka main celebrant,
Fr. Lukasz Kopala concelebrating.

Reception to follow with cake and coffee in the Cafeteria courtesy of the Garden Ministry!
All services will be celebrated in the Shrine, weather permitting.




Msgr. Richard Siepka Rev. Lukasz Kopala

5337 Genesee Street Bowmansville, NY 14026 716-683-2375

Have you ever felt called to be a

Eucharistic Minister?

Extra Ordinary Minister of the Eucharist

All our Parishes are currently accepting applications for those interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister!

Please contact your Parish Rectory for a sign up form to begin the acceptance process. Forms will be returned to the Parish to complete and submit.

Eucharistic Minister training will now be done by the Diocese of Buffalo Office of Worship. Classes will be held when there are enough people enrolled. You will be contacted by the Diocese with more information on the classes.




CHIAVETTA'S

DRIVE-THRU DINNER

**Tuesday, June 11
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.



THE APOSTLE
Roman Catholic Community
950 Lossan Rd., Cheektowaga
spaparish.org



Regardless of whether you've been away for years or just started struggling with your Faith moments ago, the true reality of God's gifts of love, compassion, mercy, and grace is that they are always available to you. Being there for and with God, choosing to be open to and embrace these gifts as a part of your every day, brings them to life in us. While these gifts are freely given and available to us all, we must work at our connection to Him to continue to respect and honor these gifts.

But what does that look like?

Although God is all powerful, He is also very personal and longs for a relationship with each of us. Just like we make time for our family, friends, health, and hobbies, we need to make time to spend with God too. He doesn't ask for much of us other than the opportunity to spend time together. Time with Him opens our hearts and minds to the knowledge that there is more to life than just us and our concerns.

Below are some easy ways to work on this connection with God:

At Mass – When we are at Mass, are we there to spend time with God and praise Him for all He has done or do we get distracted by something else? This is a special time when we not only can be in His Presence, but also have Him physically become a part of us.

Adoration – This is a way to spend time physically with Him in the Presence of the Eucharist. Whether it's a few minutes or hours, Adoration gives you that physical quiet space to focus on time with Him.

Contemplative Prayer & Meditation – This is easy to carry with you. You can do it anywhere, anytime, for any amount of time, and any reason. It can be structured or just you talking to God. Need some help? Try using a Christian meditation app like Hallow or Abide, finding a daily prayer (see the Laudate app), or the rosary. These can give you guidance and structure, while still offering you quiet space. If structured prayer does not work for you, just talk to God using your own words. That's prayer too!

Bible Study or Discussion Groups – These help you connect with others and talk through your connection with God.

Finding a mentor or starting Spiritual Direction – Sometimes we need other's perspectives to help us see the ways that God is working in our lives and what it means. Often, these are great places to start.

Use a quote – Sit and contemplate for a minute or two, possibly throughout the day, on a Psalm or quote from a theologian. Consider even writing in a journal what you think about the quote. *Hint – there's no right or wrong answer!*

Volunteering – This helps connect you not only to others, but to God within them, and use the talents that God gave you.

Prayer helps you:

Focus more on God and spend time with Him

Brings a sense of calm and peace, freeing you from anxiety and quieting your mind

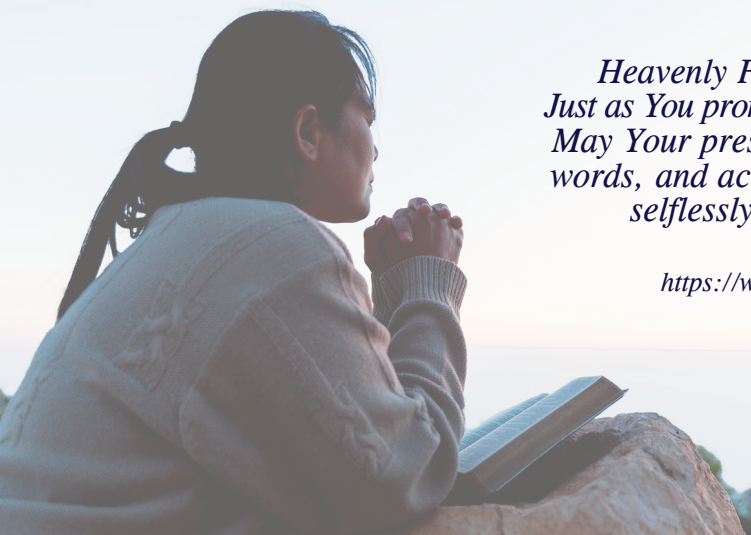
Makes you more receptive to other paths for you and the world around you

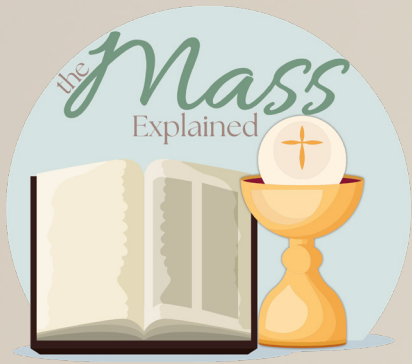
Shows you the bright spots or good things, even amidst the darkness

Remember that God is always with us, everywhere and at all times

Heavenly Father, today I invite You to dwell within my heart. Just as You promised, I open the door of my heart and ask You to come in. May Your presence transform me from within, guiding my thoughts, words, and actions. Help me to love as You love and to serve others selflessly. Thank You for making Your home in my heart. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

<https://www.bibleversesnow.com/opening-your-heart-to-god-prayer/>





What is the Catholic Mass?

The Catholic Mass is the central act of worship in the Catholic Church. It is a sacred ritual that commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with his disciples and the offering of his body and blood. The Mass is not just a simple gathering, but a profound encounter with the divine. It consists of two main parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

One of the things we as Catholics learn at the beginning of our journey of Faith, especially around our First Communion, is the importance of the Mass and what happens during it. But, as we grow older, even though we might attend frequently, we replace that knowledge with other day-to-day information.

Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: “The Eucharist is the memorial of Christ’s Passover... not merely the recollection of past events.... In the liturgical celebration of these events, they become in a certain way present and real” (Nos. 1362-63).

Frequently, those who convert to Catholicism or those that have a great change in their Faith do so because of growing deeper in their understanding of the Mass. So, to help us all continue to grow as a Family and individually in our Faith, let’s take a look at the Mass in a new series. Breaking it down into its parts and offering insight into why this celebration is so essential to our Faith, covering topics like: What is the Mass and why do we celebrate it? Why do we have the opening prayers? Why do we have particular readings? What happens during Consecration? What items are used during Mass? What do the colors that we use mean? What keeps people away from this special celebration?

This means that every time we celebrate Mass, we hear the Word of God through the Scriptures and encounter Christ, who is present there with us in the Eucharist. Mass gives us a way to connect directly with God.

The Importance of the Catholic Mass

The Catholic Mass allows us to enter into communion with God. It provides a space for worship, reflection, and spiritual nourishment. It is through the Mass that we believe we receive the grace of Christ. The Mass is a source of spiritual strength, enlightenment, and a means of growing closer to God. The “source and summit of,” or the reason for and best way for us to connect with, our Faith and God.

To begin, it is best to understand what the Mass is and why we celebrate it the way we do.

The Structure of the Catholic Mass

The Catholic Mass follows a structured format that has evolved over centuries. It begins with the introductory rites, followed by the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and concludes with the concluding rites. Each part has its own distinct elements and rituals that contribute to the overall worship experience that will be explored through the upcoming issues of this magazine.

Parts taken from: <https://practicalcatholicliving.com/understanding-the-catholic-mass/>

C	R	E	A	T	O	R	E	A	D	I	N	G
O	H	O	T	S	E	C	O	N	D	R	O	L
M	E	R	I	R	E	H	T	A	F	S	I	O
M	A	C	I	V	E	C	A	E	P	H	T	R
U	R	G	A	S	A	A	M	E	N	V	C	I
N	T	N	E	R	T	S	L	M	H	I	E	A
I	S	I	B	A	G	I	F	T	O	R	R	L
O	N	T	E	S	S	E	L	B	S	G	R	M
N	E	E	L	M	E	R	C	Y	T	I	U	I
D	T	E	I	S	N	O	S	D	S	N	S	G
E	T	R	E	E	C	U	P	T	E	M	E	H
L	O	G	V	B	R	E	A	D	S	A	R	T
A	G	A	E	Y	H	T	R	O	W	R	T	Y
E	E	F	I	L	H	O	M	I	L	Y	I	H
H	B	S	S	E	N	E	V	I	G	R	O	F

Wonderword

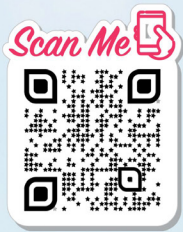
— — — — —
 AMEN, ALMIGHTY, BEGOTTEN, BELIEVE, BLESS, BREAD, CHRIST, COMMUNION, CREATOR, CUP, DEATH, FATHER, FIRST, GLORIA, FORGIVENESS, GIFT, GOSPEL, GRACE, GREETING, HOST, HEARTS, HEALED, HEAVEN, HOMILY, LIFE, LORD, MERCY, PEACE, READING, RESURRECTION, SAVIOR, SECOND, SON, VIRGIN MARY, WORTHY



**K-10TH GRADE
2024-2025
SCHOOL YEAR**

Faith Formation
Registration **NOW OPEN**

**STUDENTS WHO ATTEND A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN GRADES K-10 NEED TO BE ENROLLED IN FAITH FORMATION CLASSES TO PREPARE TO RECEIVE THEIR SACRAMENTS.*



Scan the QR code to the left or head on to our Family website to sign up!

Please contact your Faith Formation Office with questions or to get a paper form.

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US!



BISHOP'S ALTAR SERVER AWARD

Congratulations



to Eva Triplet & Carson Komasara of St. Philip the Apostle Parish & Makayla Durkin of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish who, along with Altar Servers from around the Diocese of Buffalo, were honored at a special Mass on April 27th at St. Joseph Cathedral.

Thank you all for your continued service and may God continue to watch over and protect them and their families.



Makayla



Carson & Eva

Discover the Pillars of SME

so much more than just a school



**Social
Responsibility**



**Spiritual
Growth**



**Academic
Excellence**



Join Our School Family
Now Enrolling Pre-K 3 & 4
and K-3



A Brighter World One Child at a Time
PRE-K 3 - GRADE 3



Kindergarten leading
mass in song



Pre-K 3 learning about
firetrucks and fire safety
from the Depew Fire Dept.



Grades K-2 on a field trip to
the AKG Art Museum

FIRST HOLY *Communions*

Congratulations to all those in our
Family of Parishes who received their
First Communion this year! May you carry God
with you always and spend time with Him often!



2023-2024

Family of Parishes Faith Formation Closing Mass

April 26, 2024



MAXIMUM SECURITY

PROTECTING WHAT YOU VALUE MOST!

Residential/Commercial

716-628-5111

maximumsecurityservicesinc.com

300 International Dr. Ste. 100
Williamsville

PROTECT YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS FROM THE PALM OF YOUR HAND

- ✔ Security Systems
- ✔ Video Surveillance
- ✔ Medical Alarms



Security you can trust with over 20 years experience.

THE MATTER OF LIFE

A FILM THAT CLARIFIES THE MOST CONTENTIOUS ISSUE OF OUR DAY



Family of Parishes Respect Life Committee
with Feminists Choosing Life of New York
April 29, 2024



Thank you to the over 70 Parishioners from across the Family who joined us for this special movie screening and talkback!

\$100 OFF
new installation of a
new security system

With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Expires 3.1.25

6 MONTHS FREE
monitoring
new customers with existing systems that switch to Maximum Security for Alarm Monitoring

With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Expires 3.1.25

Licensed by NYS
Dept. of State Lic
12000067984

Before Cana

Marriage Preparation Class

Saturday, July 20, 2024
9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish Center
2 St. Mary's Hill, Lancaster

Class Concludes with Mass at a Family Parish

Before Cana is a Buffalo Diocese requirement prior to marriage in the Catholic Church.

To register for Before Cana, complete the registration form located at stmarysonthehill.org and return to St. Mary's Rectory.

For more information, please contact
St. Mary's at 716-683-6445 or
Deacon John Owczarczak at 716-683-3269.



ST. MARY
OF THE
ASSUMPTION



Music Meditation

By: Sue Loniewski



*"O God, You search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me.
Ever the maker and keeper of my days."*

Have you ever had a song stuck in your head? A song that plays and plays like an endless loop?

Recently, I was a chaperone to high school students on a religious pilgrimage to Italy. This song ("O God, You Search Me") kept playing in my head while we explored the history of our Church.

This hymn was written by one of my favorite hymn composers, Bernadette Farrell. It is based on Psalm 139. She also wrote "Christ, Be Our Light."

Italy is the keeper of so much of our ancient history. You can physically see the bones of St Peter. You can visit the Colosseum where so many martyrs were killed. You can climb on your knees the steps that Jesus walked (The Holy Stairs). Even the restaurants are sometimes built where you can see walls that date back to the early centuries of Christianity.

It's not surprising that we can become a little overwhelmed. You can really feel your smallness. In the sacrifices of saints and martyrs, all of my petty complaints were just that...petty and small. However, it wasn't just that. It was also a feeling of littleness. Of being a pebble in a vast ocean. I have to confess that I felt like a big nothing at times. I know my faults. Well... at least some of them. I wished that I was better. Holier. I was in a lot of pain from walking so my sense of seeing the humanity in people was not so good. I had discovered how easy it was to be critical when you're not feeling well. A priest told me that everyday you have to choose between loving people and being critical. You can't do both at the same time. Jesus wants us to love first. I felt bad about letting God down.

And yet this hymn kept playing over and over in my mind.

*"O God, you search me and you know me...
Ever the maker and keeper of my days."*

God already knows our faults, our weaknesses. I'm amazed how he loves us in spite of it all. He is walking us through life, step by step. "Ever the maker and keeper of my days."

Everyone returns with a different perspective. Each time that you go to Italy, you learn something new. This trip was no different. It continues to give me so much to think about.

If you have a chance, check out the rest of the verses. They're beautiful.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

The Sacrament of the Sick can be administered to any member of the Faithful in any state of illness.

It is not just for those near death.

It is also not limited to only physical illnesses.

HOW TO ASK FOR THIS SACRAMENT

This Sacrament can be requested at any time by contacting your Parish Rectory Staff and asking for a visit from a priest. To ensure that a visit can be made, please make a request well in advance. This should be offered to anyone facing illness and should not be delayed until the health situation becomes serious.

WHAT IF MY LOVED ONE IS IN THE HOSPITAL?

Most hospitals (especially our Catholic hospitals) have a Pastoral Care Department to help take care of their patients' spiritual needs on site. It is not always necessary for someone from the Parish to visit, because the well-trained, professional Pastoral Care staff has already cared for the patient. Feel free to ask a nurse or aide at the Facility.



If there is an emergent need for a Priest, please call your Parish Rectory and use the Emergency Line

St. Mary's High School 2024 Summer Camps



Girls Basketball

Aug 12-16 / 9am-12pm / \$150

Boys Basketball

July 29-Aug 2 / 9am-12pm / \$150

Girls Middle School Volleyball

July 22-26 / 9am-12pm / \$175

Girls High School Volleyball

August 5-9 / 9am-12pm / \$190

Girls Soccer

August 19-22 / 9am-1pm / \$175-\$200

Boys Soccer

August 19-22 / 5:30-7:30pm / \$100

Register at smhlancers.org or scan the code above

A Summer of Learning, Growth, and Fun Awaits
at St. Mary's High School

June and July might be a quiet time for most schools,
but the Summer months are as busy as ever at St. Mary's High School.

A slate of summer sports camps runs throughout all of July and August.

These camps are conducted by highly-respected coaching staffs and assisted by outstanding student athletes. Your child will learn skills and techniques in a supportive, encouraging environment designed to build confidence, as well as a competitive edge. Whether it's in soccer, basketball, or volleyball, young athletes in Grades 3-8 will learn so much and have a whole lot of fun while they do it! They'll be asking to come back year after year.

Your performers aren't left out either!

St. Mary's also plays host to Performing Arts Camps for students of all ages.
Join us June 24th - July 18th for Anastasia the Musical (ages 13-18)
or July 22nd - August 15th for Willy Wonka Jr. (ages 6-12).

Come join us this Summer at St. Mary's High School!

SAINT JOSEPH'S DAY

Table



Approximately 160 Parishioners from across our Family joined in the fun of celebrating St. Joseph's Day together (March 19th) at St. Mary of the Assumption.



April 7, 2024
BDCL Family of Parishes at
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish



Upcoming KDG - 5th Grade Students!

\$25 per child
\$40 per family

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

St. Mary of the Assumption

July 29-August 2, 2024

6:00-8:00 pm

*Closing Mass on 8/3/24 @ 7:00 pm



Registration Deadline: July 15th!

Contact: Becky Hoag, Director of Faith Formation
becky@stmarysonthehill.org / 716-683-8564

PAUL A.
KLOC *Timeless Service*

BLOSSOM CHAPELS, INC.

Serving Western New York for over 50 years

4680 Clinton Street
West Seneca, NY 14224

(716) 668-5666

www.klocfuneralhome.com



Christopher C. Kloc

Locally Owned
Homelike Atmosphere
Pre-planned
Funeral Arrangements
Cremations



Beloved Disciples of Christ the Lord
Roman Catholic Family of Parishes
496 Terrace Blvd.
Depew, NY 14043

Non Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Buffalo, NY
Permit No. 639

happy 4th  of july

INDEPENDENCE DAY

In This Issue:

- Letter from the Moderator
- Who is St. Martha?
- Family Council Updates
& Meet the Our Lady of Pompeii Representatives
- Faith in Action: The Goss Family of
St. Mother Teresa Parish
- Upcoming Parish Events
- Pictures from Past BDCL Family Events
- Open Hearts: Connecting in Prayer
- The Mass: A new series explaining the Mass
and how to connect to it better
- Updates from our Family of Parishes Schools
- Music Meditation

God, giver of all good gifts, Help us to be thankful for rest and food, and remember that, in all we do or say, you are with us, here this day. We are thankful for all you do and for everything you have given us. But above all we are thankful for our freedoms and the ability to protect others' freedom. We are free because of you. We ask for your continued blessing on all your creation. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.