The

BREAD OF LIFE

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Family Newsletter

Family Newsletter | Issue No. 8 **August 2026 | Summer Edition**

BREAD OF LIFE
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

SIX CHURCHES, ONE MISSION

ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA, ST. BENEDICT, CHRIST THE KING, INFANT OF PRAGUE,
ST. LEO THE GREAT, SS. PETER & PAUL

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Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Please read the section on pages three and four, entitled "Bread of Life Catholic Community Family Update", about all the ways we are strengthening the parishes in our Family.

The Gift of Blessings

As I look out over our Family of Parishes and larger community, I see beauty and confusion, blessings and judgments, anger and peace. What do you see? Christ is the divine healer, and from His hands many blessings flow. We need His healing and blessings.

As Christians, we need to bring that healing to others. I see this happening in simple ways. The Gospels ask us to be a source of blessings to others and fight the tendency to put others down or judge them. Blessings bring healing; judging brings brokenness and pain. How does one bless? Simply by wanting the best for the other person. Trying to encourage them, pointing out what they are doing right, offering a helping hand, offering a friendly greeting. These are just a few ways in which we say "you are important, I value you." Start by offering this encouragement to yourself. For things to be beautiful and wonderful, they do not need to be perfect. As a matter of fact, most people, moments, and situations are not perfect, but are special and wonderful. We are God's daughters and sons, and that is what makes us precious. Count your blessings, and you will know how much you are loved and cared for by Christ Jesus.

This fall, may all of us focus on giving thanks and being a blessing to those we meet. By our actions, may Christ's healing and blessings flow upon us and through us to our communities.

I would like to conclude with St. Ignatius of Loyola's Prayer for Generosity:

Lord, teach me to be generous,
to serve you as you deserve,
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labor and not to look for any reward,
save that of knowing that I do your holy will.

May Christ grant His peace and love to you, your loved ones, and all the members of our Community.

In Christ,
Fr. David Bellittiere

Our Family Newsletter: The purpose of our newsletter is to celebrate the life of our Bread of Life Catholic Community by sharing stories, milestones, and events that foster connection and joy. We encourage deeper participation in parish life through communication and invitations to gather. We extend a warm welcome to our family, our neighbors, and our friends.

For any of the following, please contact Melinda at Communications@saintbenedicts.com or call 716-834-1041

Sharing of Photos: Please send in your photos from upcoming Family Events for possible inclusion in our November Newsletter! We would love to include you in the next issue!

Need for Editors: The Newsletter Ministry needs editors! If you have experience editing and would like to join a ministry, please consider joining our team!

Ministry Spotlight & Article Ideas: We'd love to feature ministries from our Family in upcoming issues of the newsletter! If you're interested, please contact Melinda by September 1st to discuss your ministry and article ideas.

Please visit our family website!
www.BreadofLifeCatholicCommunity.org

Have the next newsletter emailed to you, and follow us on social media!

Scan the QR Code or go to linktr.ee/BreadofLifeCatholicCommunity



Fall 2026 Calendar



Blessing of the Backpacks

Ss. Peter & Paul: Sunday, September 6 at 9:30 AM
Christ the King: Sunday, September 13 at 10 AM
St. Benedict: Sunday, September 13 at 10 AM

Annual Blessing of Pets

Saturday, October 3
St. Benedict - 10 AM
St. Leo the Great - 11 AM
St. Aloysius Gonzaga - 12 PM
Ss. Peter & Paul - 1 PM
Christ the King - 6:30 PM

Monday, October 5
Infant of Prague -
6 PM with Rosary

Book Study

"A Biblical Walk Through the Mass" by Edward Sri, Hosted by Ss. Peter and Paul's Men of St. Joseph
Thursdays, October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 19
6:30 to 8 PM, SSPP Neumann Room

Alpha Series

Tuesday from September 15 to November 17
(No Meeting on Nov. 3)
6 to 7:30 PM at Infant of Prague, Door 3



Prayers and Reflections

Praying for Vocations Series
Thurs., September 17 at 6:30 PM, St. Benedict
Mon., October 19 at 6:30 PM, St. Leo the Great
Wed., November 4 at 6:30 PM, St. Aloysius Gonzaga

Musical Evening of Reflection:
Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tues., September 8 at 7 PM, Christ the King

Infant of Prague Mass on the Grass
Sat., September 12, at 4:00 PM

Veterans Day Prayer Service
Tues., November 10, at 9 AM, Christ the King

All Saints' Day November 1 **All Souls' Day** November 2

Thanksgiving Day Mass
Thurs., November 26, at 8 AM, Christ the King

More

August

Ss. Peter & Paul Anniversary Planning Meeting
Wed., Aug. 19, at 6:30 PM, Neumann Room
Infant of Prague Summer Fest
Fri., Aug. 28, from 5 to 11 PM
Sat., Aug. 29, from Noon to 11 PM

September

Christ the King's Fundraiser at RationAle's
Fri., Sept. 11 at 6 PM
Shred it! At Christ the King - Parking Lot
Sat., Sept. 12 from 10 to 11 AM
Chiavetta's Chicken and Mum Flower Sale
Sun., Sept. 20, from 11 AM to 2 PM, Christ the King
Youth Ministry Visioning Meeting
Thurs., Sept. 24, at 7 PM, Christ the King
St. Leo the Great Vendor & Craft Show
Sat., Sept. 26, from 9 AM to 2 PM
Meat Raffle
Sat., Sept. 26, Doors open at 6 PM, Infant of Prague
Movie & Pizza: "Cabrini"
Sun., Sept. 27, at 6:30 PM, St. Aloysius Gonzaga

October

"Diaper Drive" at Infant of Prague
Respect Life Month, October
Clothing Exchange at Ss. Peter & Paul
Sat., Oct. 3, from 9 AM to Noon in School Gym

October Continued

St. Ann's Sodality Kick-Off Breakfast Meeting
Sun., Oct. 4, at 10:30 AM, SSPP Neumann Room
FRANCIS: A New Oratorio-Hosted by SSPP's St. John Neumann Guild Sat., Oct. 10, at 7:30 PM at Kleinhans
St. Francis of Assisi and the Wolf : Children's Play
Sat., Oct. 17, SSPP School Gym, Time TBD
Meat Raffle
Sat., Oct. 17, Doors open at 6 PM, St Leo the Great
Spaghetti Dinner
Sun., Oct. 18, from 3 to 8 PM, St. Aloysius Gonzaga
Infant of Prague October Fest
Sat., Oct. 24, from 6 to 9:00 PM, IOP Henesey Hall
Christ the King 100th Anniversary Celebration
Centennial Mass & Luncheon,
Sun., Oct. 25, at 10:00 AM

November

St. Ann's Sodality Monthly Breakfast Meeting
Sun., Nov. 1, at 10:30 AM, SSPP Neumann Room
Ss. Peter & Paul Decorating Gym for Anniversary
Fri., Nov. 6, at 5:30 PM
Ss. Peter and Paul 190th Anniversary Celebration!
Sat., Nov. 7, Mass 4:30 PM; Dinner 6 PM School Gym
Meat Raffles - Sat., Nov. 14
St. Aloysius Gonzaga at 7:00 PM
Christ the King at 7:00 PM
First Sunday of Advent Nov. 29



Bread of Life Catholic Community Family Update

The Bread of Life Catholic Community has been working to strengthen our Family of Parishes. As one Body in Christ, we are called to work together, support one another, and share our gifts for the good of all. We have made meaningful progress on this effort and want to keep our parishioners informed about updates across our Family.

Welcome to our new Family Leadership!
Co-Directors of Operations: Marty Card, also Business Manager of St. Benedict Parish
Kelly Hebert, also Business Manager of Christ the King Parish
Family Bookkeeper: Sue Koprucki

Family Center: We're excited to share that a location for our new Family Center has been selected! Located at the former St. Benedict's Convent/Catholic Charities building, the Family Center will provide a central place for staff from across our Family of Parishes to collaborate, meet, and work together more effectively in serving our communities.

Parish offices will remain open for the time being, and parishioners may continue to call or visit their parish office for assistance, including requesting Mass cards and other parish needs. To begin, staff will gradually transition to the Family Center by working together there one day each week. The office is expected to be ready by the end of September and will also serve as Fr. David's primary office. Check the bulletin for any updates or changes.

Family Bulletin: This September, our individual parish bulletins will become one Family bulletin. This shared bulletin will allow parishioners to more easily discover opportunities for worship, fellowship, faith formation, and service taking place throughout our Family of Parishes. Whether it's a retreat, Bible study, shared meal, youth event, or volunteer opportunity, everyone will have a clearer picture of the options to participate in within our Family.

This change also encourages us to look beyond the walls of our own parish and recognize the gifts each community has to offer. By sharing our ministries, celebrations, and events, we strengthen our relationships and continue building a vibrant Family of Parishes where we support one another in faith.

We hope the new Family bulletin will become a valuable resource for every member of our community.

Family Faith Formation: To help us move towards a Family model, the Infant of Prague Director of Faith Formation, Fran Mackowiak, will also be leading Faith Formation at Ss. Peter & Paul, alongside Casey Hanley.

Anyone can be a part of our Faith Formation programs. To best support our parishes and parishioners, we encourage you to sign up for ANY Faith Formation Program within our Family. Programs are listed below, with more information on our website at www.breadoflifecatholiccommunity.org/faith-formation

- St. Benedict & St. Leo the Great - Generations of Faith – Once a month on a Sunday from 8:00 - 11:00 AM (including Mass), with special events throughout the year. Contact Andrew Pitisi at apitisi@saintbenedicts.com
- Infant of Prague & St. Aloysius - Family Faith Formation – Once a month on a Sunday from 8:30 - 11:00 AM (includes Mass). Contact Fran Mackowiak at infantofpraguedre@gmail.com
- Christ the King - Weekly Catechesis (drop-off), Sundays 8:45 - 9:45 AM (grades K - 5), Mondays 6:45 - 7:45 PM (grades 6 - 8), students in grades 9 & 10 should contact the Faith Formation office for information. Contact Pam Rankin at faithformation@ctksnyder.com
- Ss. Peter and Paul - Family Faith Formation, either online at home or in person, usually Sundays 10:30 - 11:30 AM. Contact Fran Mackowiak at dre@ssppchurch.com

Family Update Continued

Congratulations on Retirement! Thank you for all your hard work and for helping our communities grow in their faith! We would not be as strong as we are today without all your dedication:

- Roberta Spencer, Director of Faith Formation/Pastoral Associate of Ss. Peter & Paul
- Laurie Schlosser, Administrative Assistant for Faith Formation of Ss. Peter & Paul
- Dave Ehrke, Business Manager of St. Leo the Great
- Melissa Herr, Music Director of St. Leo the Great
- Gail Shepherd, Music Minister of Ss. Peter & Paul

We also thank Bob Rybarczyk for his service as interim Business Manager of S. Aloysius Gonzaga.

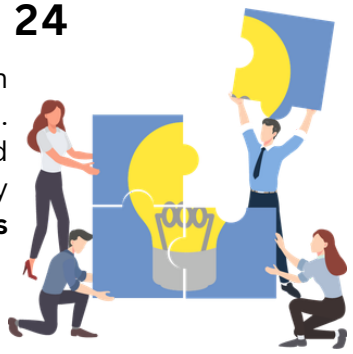
Welcome to the Team: Welcome to our new staff members! We are happy to have you!
Tom McGraw, new Business Manager of St. Aloysius Gonzaga
Elizabeth Sanderson, new Music Director of St. Leo the Great
Julie Arlotta, new Music Minister of Ss. Peter & Paul
Gina Cutrona, new Pastoral Associate of Ss. Peter & Paul

We also welcome and thank Fran Mackowiak for joining the Faith Formation team at Ss. Peter & Paul.

To Contact Fr. David:
Fr. David's only email address is Fr.bellittiere@saintbenedicts.com; other email addresses you might find are incorrect. His main office is currently at St. Benedict Church. If you do not want to write an email, you may call and leave a message at (716) 834-1041 ext. 305, and he will get back to you. Or, please reach out to your parish secretary; they will send a message and contact him directly on your behalf.

Youth Ministry Visioning Meeting September 24

Our Bread of Life Community invites you to brainstorm with us and share in building a vision for all that we can offer the youth of our Family of Parishes. We are looking to develop a well-rounded ministry program of engagement and outreach to our young people, and would value insights and ideas from any interested parishioners, parents, teens, and young adults. **Please plan to join us at Christ the King Church on Thursday, September 24th at 7:00 PM**



Alpha is Back!



Tuesday nights from September 15 to November 17 (no meeting on Nov. 3)
6 to 7:30 PM at Infant of Prague
(Use the parking lot next to the thruway, door number 3, handicap accessible)

Please join us for Alpha, a dynamic series that explores faith and fosters connections among those who attend. Come to one session, or come to all! Bring a friend and enjoy a safe space to talk about life's big questions.

- A safe, judgment-free space to discuss questions of life: "Is there more?" "Who is Jesus?"
- Open to all who are curious about the faith and wanting to deepen their understanding.
- 9-week experience, come to any session or come to all!
- Begins with a shared meal and a creative video presentation.
- Time for discussion and fellowship.

Let us know if you can make it and how many by scanning the QR code to the right or go to https://shorturl.at/F9kkZ

Strong Start to Praying for Vocations, Family Series!

Our Family's Series of Praying for Vocations continues! Our six parishes rotate hosting Adoration, praying the rosary, and Benediction each month. Our hour of prayer is then followed by light refreshments and fellowship. Thank you to all who have helped organize and to participants! All are welcome to join us for upcoming dates at each of our parishes!

St. Aloysius Gonzaga - *Submitted by Cynthia Harder*

The first in our Bread of Life Catholic Community Praying for Vocations Series was held in May at the St. Aloysius Gonzaga Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. A meditative rosary was prayed for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. We started with the song "Lord You Have Come to the Seashore" and then moved on to meditations on the Sorrowful Mysteries and on how a life of vocation to serve the Lord follows the path of Jesus' life. Thank you to Deacon Bob Warner, who read a Gospel and gave a lovely homily on vocations after the rosary. We then had benedictions and stayed for some great "family" conversations and interactions with one another while enjoying some finger foods.





Ss. Peter & Paul - *Submitted by Patrice Freeman*

In June, historic Saints Peter & Paul Church hosted, while also celebrating the feast day of Saints Peter & Paul. Each church in our Family sent two representatives to assist with the reflective readings accompanying a decade of the Joyful Mysteries. Guests from other nearby parishes, like St. John the Baptist in Kenmore, also joined.

Fr. Moses conducted Adoration & Benediction, read the Feast Day's Gospel, and delivered an inspiring homily based on these two remarkable saints and the role they played in our faith's foundation. His positive enthusiasm and insightfulness greatly enhanced our evening of prayerful reflection. Thank you, Fr. Moses! And thank you to our Music Ministry: Julie Arlotta's musical selections and the blending of voices truly captured our devotion for our Blessed Mother. Flutist Julie Tyczynski's Ava Maria touched us all as it echoed throughout SSPP, giving many a sense of chills.

The evening capped off with a sampling of goodies, wine, and even "St. Peter's fish," AKA Goldfish crackers! The Family's "cousins" were afforded the opportunity to enjoy each other's company. Thank you to all those who helped organize the event, and especially to SSPP's St. John Neumann Guild!







Christ the King Parish - In July, Joe Butwin, along with a team who assisted him, kindly hosted this evening, which centered on praying for loved ones who've fallen away from the faith and for vocations. A team of individuals from each of our parishes led decades of the rosary and reflection prayers. Deacon Bob Warner offered a heartfelt homily on vocations, and while acknowledging how heartbreaking it is to have a loved one away from the faith, he encouraged us to pray with hope and persistence, much like St. Monica did for her son St. Augustine. The evening closed with Benediction, followed by delicious refreshments and friendly conversation among the dozens of parishioners who attended.

Infant of Prague Parish just hosted this in August. Thank you to all who joined!

Upcoming:

- St. Benedict Parish will host on September 17th at 6:30 PM
- St. Leo the Great will host on October 19th at 6:30 PM
- St. Aloysius Gonzaga will host on November 4th at 6:30 PM

Anointing of the Sick Mass with Friends of St. Peregrine

Father David Bellittiere and the Friends of St. Peregrine held a Mass in June at Infant of Prague Church for all those seeking God's healing—especially those living with cancer or other serious illnesses, those in need of physical, emotional, or spiritual healing, and anyone wishing to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

St. Peregrine Laziosi, born in Forli, Italy in 1265, is the Patron Saint of Cancer. He developed an open sore on his leg, diagnosed as cancer. It became so serious that a surgeon decided to amputate his leg. The night before the surgery, Peregrine prayed before the image of the crucified Christ. When he awoke, the wound was healed, and his leg was saved. He lived another 20 years, died in 1345 at the age of 80, and was canonized in 1726.



Pictured below with the St. Peregrine statue is Fr. David Bellittiere with Karen Scalia and Lynne Scalia, two members of the Friends of St. Peregrine.



St. Ann's Sodality: Thank you and Welcome!

Established in 1892, St. Ann's Sodality is historic Saints Peter & Paul's oldest running ministry! Over the generations, countless hardworking women have contributed to the spiritual and service needs of the church founded by St. John Neumann.

On June 7th, St. Ann's Sodality graciously thanked the outgoing officers for their many years of devotion and leadership to the ministry. SSPP Parish thanked Debbie Napierala, Jeanne Hertel, and Maureen Stevens and wished them a much-deserved break! Former president Ellen DeWind installed the new leadership team of Patrice Freeman (President), Joanne Mendiola (VP), Margrit DiCamillo Voelkl (Secretary), and Patti Tammaro (Treasurer). Welcome new officers! We wish you success as you embark on your new role of guiding the St. Ann's Sodality into its soon-to-be 135th year of service to Saints Peter & Paul. The rich tradition continues!

We always welcome new members! All women of any age or ability are cordially invited to attend! We meet in SSPP's Neumann Room on the first Sunday of the month from October to June. Our members attend Sunday 9:30 Mass together, and meet immediately after for business & breakfast.





Pictured from left to right in first photo: Patrice Freeman, Joanne Mendiola, Margrit DiCamillo Voelkl, and Patti Tammaro.

Vacation Bible School: A Week of Unity, Service, and Faith

Submitted By Andrew Pitisi on Behalf of the Faith Formation Team

Anchored in faith, Vacation Bible School (VBS) does so much for so many people. Inevitably, it is always the hottest week of the year with odd weather, and this year did not change that, but Christ was surely present in the sixty-seven campers, fifty-five teen helpers, six adult leaders, three priests, and one deacon who experienced the week together. We all sang, danced, read bible verses, made crafts, played games, and ate snacks like only Christ was watching, and came to witness Christ in each other. The theme this year was the Marvelous Mystery: The Mass Comes Alive, where we learned about the order of the Mass and other interesting things about Mass that few really know.



Vacation Bible School, 2026, held at Christ the King Parish



For the directors, it is the ultimate week of service, giving freely of ourselves alongside others doing the same. The fifty-five teens who walked alongside us and the campers during this amazing week were simply magnificent; the perfect example of Pope Francis' call to accompany. They held hands, settled crying eyes, protected, and experienced all that VBS had to offer with the campers. They got silly but were responsible and had fun. They didn't worry about how they looked or if it was okay to have fun. They gave so freely and became true shepherds of the younger kids. It was beautiful to witness. These teens not only brought their energy but their love for Christ and Church, becoming the heart, hands, feet, eyes, and voice of Christ for the participants and adults.

Lastly, VBS is a sign of great unity, not just during that week, but the weeks and months leading up to the program. We Faith Formation leaders from across the Bread of Life Catholic Community came together to plan, populate, acquire materials, count and color-code jelly beans, and go over details for this most special week. VBS would not be possible without this unity, pure cooperation, and teamwork. It is an example of why we are better together and that the success of all makes a better one. Together we are able to properly staff, financially run, recruit volunteers, and make VBS the overwhelming success that it is.

Please say a prayer of thanksgiving for all the teens, campers, and adults who became one together this Vacation Bible School 2026, and pray that events like these become an example of family and strengthen all of us as we build up God's Kingdom.





8th Grade Graduations! *Submitted By Patricia Herweg*

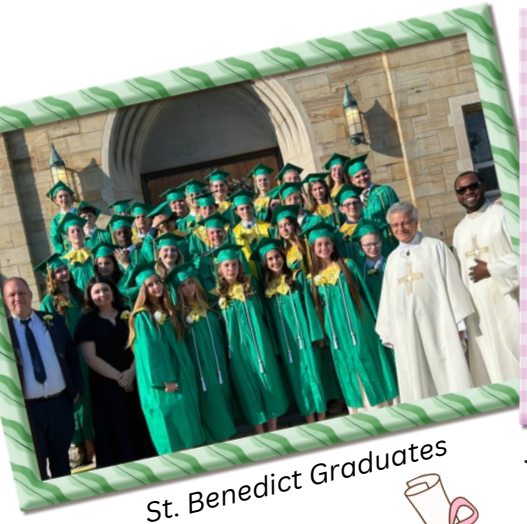
College, trade school, and working — those were the answers the 8th-grade graduates from Ss. Peter and Paul, St. Benedict, and Christ the King gave when asked about their future. Hearing 13- and 14-year-olds speak with such confidence and realistic expectations says a great deal about the excellent education they've received in our three Catholic schools.

Every student emphasized how important good grades are to securing admission to competitive high schools. Their focus, maturity, and sense of purpose reflect the values that both their families and our schools worked so hard to instill.

The graduates will certainly miss their friends, teachers, and familiar routines that have shaped their years at their respective schools. Many are proudly following in the footsteps of those who came before them as they chose their high schools, and all are looking forward to the new opportunities that await them.

Summer now stretches before them — a season of travel, sports camps, concerts, camping, and well-earned relaxation — a gentle pause before the next exciting phase of their lives begin.

Accomplishing their future plans with a strong work ethic, balanced with kindness, will be a wonderful tribute to the education received at Saints Peter and Paul, St. Benedict and Christ the King Schools.



St. Benedict Graduates



Ss. Peter & Paul Graduates



Christ the King Graduates



Special Gift from Galway Cathedral Comes to St. Leo the Great

An exquisitely embroidered linen cloth now drapes the new cremains table at St. Leo the Great Church, thanks to the generosity of the pastor and parishioners of Galway Cathedral in Ireland.

On a recent pilgrimage, Jan Bell, a St. Leo's sacristan, was on the lookout for an Irish linen cloth for the new table. Unsuccessful in her search, Jan had an idea after Sunday Mass in Galway Cathedral. She decided to ask Monsignor Peter Rabbitte, pastor, if he had any recommendations on where she might purchase one.

With warm Irish hospitality, Fr. Peter immediately invited Jan and fellow pilgrim Marcy Steiner into the sacristy, where he opened drawer after drawer of beautiful linen.

Upon finding the perfectly sized cloth, Fr. Peter insisted on gifting it to St. Leo's on behalf of everyone at Galway Cathedral, Ireland. How wonderful!



Jan Bell with Msgr. Peter Rabbitte holding the new Irish linen cloth



St. Leo the Great parishioners Jan Bell and Marcy Steiner outside of Galway Cathedral in Ireland

SUMMERTIME FUN!

Thank you to all who joined us! Please feel welcome to come to any of our upcoming Bread of Life Catholic Community events!





St. Leo the Great





Outdoor Mass & Picnic















St. Aloysius Gonzaga Strawberry Fest and Summerfest















Saints Peter and Paul School:

Why Families Are Choosing Classical Catholic Education at SSPP

Imagine your child studying the early nineteenth century in history while reading an age-appropriate version of Frankenstein. As students learn about the Industrial Revolution, they also discover how Mary Shelley's novel reflects the era's fascination with electricity, scientific discovery, and the wonder of the natural world. Rather than studying subjects separately, students see how history, literature, science, art, and faith fit together.

This is classical education at Saints Peter and Paul School.

Now entering its third year as a Classical Catholic school, Saints Peter and Paul is proud to be the first school in the Diocese of Buffalo to adopt a classical curriculum and the first Newman Guide Recommended School in the Diocese. Everything we teach is viewed through a Christ-centered lens.

Our curriculum follows a four-year history cycle from the Ancient World to the Modern Era, integrating literature, art, and music. Students build strong foundations in reading, writing, phonics, and mathematics through time-tested methods such as memorization, recitation, and imitation. They memorize Scripture, poetry, maps, and timelines, study Latin beginning in the elementary grades, write through the Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW), and develop critical thinking through Socratic discussion and informal logic.

As a minimal-screen school, we emphasize books, conversation, and hands-on learning. Our classrooms feature cozy literature corners, timeless works of art, and natural colors that create a peaceful learning environment. Students also explore God's creation through nature journaling, while our school-wide chess club develops strategy, patience, and perseverance. Our Catholic faith is woven into every school day as we celebrate the liturgical year and the feast days of the saints.

If you can imagine your child flourishing in this environment, visit www.ssppschool.com to learn more or schedule a tour. We are currently offering **Kindergarten tuition for just $2,500**, and financial aid is available for all grades because we never want cost to stand in the way of an outstanding Catholic education.

Newman Guide Recommended School!

Saints Peter & Paul School is proud to announce that we are the **first diocesan elementary school to be recommended by the Newman Guide.** This distinction affirms that all aspects of our school are faithfully rooted in Catholic teaching—from literature selections and curriculum to policies and even school plays.

Until recently, the Newman Guide recognized only colleges and universities, including institutions such as Franciscan University of Steubenville, Christendom College, and Ave Maria University. We are honored that this trusted standard of Catholic fidelity has now expanded to include K–12 schools, and we are especially excited to be the **first in our diocese** to receive this recognition.

This milestone reflects our deep commitment to providing an authentically Catholic education that forms both the minds and hearts of our students.

Come see what makes Saints Peter & Paul School a place where faith and excellence go hand in hand.



Two Bread of Life Catholic Community Schools Recognized Among Western New York's Best

The Bread of Life Catholic Community has much to celebrate!

In the 2026 *Buffalo Business First Schools* Guide, **both Christ the King School and Saint Benedict School were recognized as Western New York's All-Star A-Listers**, earning an A+ overall rating from Niche.

Only nine schools across Western New York received an A+ overall rating, and just three Catholic schools earned this distinction, making this an extraordinary achievement for our Family of Churches.

Christ the King School
Christ the King School has a long tradition of providing a faith-filled, academically strong education for students from preschool through Grade 8. Rooted in Catholic values, the school fosters academic excellence while helping students grow as compassionate leaders, critical thinkers, and disciples of Christ.

With a close-knit community, dedicated faculty, and a commitment to nurturing the whole child, Christ the King continues to prepare students for success in high school and beyond while inspiring them to live lives of faith and service.

Saint Benedict School
Located in Amherst, Saint Benedict School has been educating students in faith and academic excellence for more than 100 years. Serving children from PK3 through Grade 8, the school is committed to educating the whole child through rigorous academics, vibrant faith formation, leadership opportunities, athletics, fine arts, and service to others.

Saint Benedict strives to create an environment where every student is known, challenged, supported, and encouraged to discover the unique gifts God has given them. The school's mission is reflected not only in the classroom, but in the relationships built each day among students, families, faculty, and parish.

A Shared Mission
While each school has its own traditions and strengths, Christ the King School and Saint Benedict School share a common mission: providing an exceptional Catholic education where students are known, challenged academically, formed in their faith, and encouraged to serve others.

This recognition reflects what so many families already know. Parents consistently praise both schools for their caring faculty, welcoming communities, strong communication, and commitment to helping each child grow academically, spiritually, and personally.

Congratulations to the students, families, faculty, staff, administrators, and pastor of both school communities on this outstanding achievement. The Bread of Life Catholic Community is proud to celebrate two schools recognized among Western New York's All-Star A-Listers.

To learn more about our schools, visit:
Christ the King School
www.myctkschool.com

Saint Benedict School
www.stbenschool.org

A Look At Our Family Visit to Temple Beth Zion *Written By Deacon Bill Hynes*

Early in May, Fr. David and a number of parishioners from our Family of Parishes gathered for a tour of Temple Beth Zion. This was one way for us to enact the teaching of the Church, which declared:

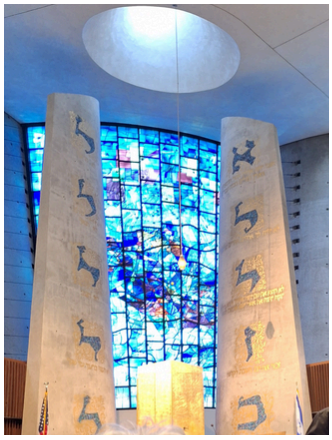
"Since the spiritual patrimony common to Christians and Jews is thus so great, this sacred synod wants to foster and recommend that mutual understanding and respect which is the fruit…of fraternal dialogues" (Nostra Aetate, 4).

The evening began with a video showing the local Jewish immigrant experience. The modern temple we see today was designed by Max Abramovitz, architect of the UN Headquarters and the Lincoln Center Campus, among other major commissions. The scalloped sides of Temple Beth Zion represent the hands of God holding His people. Its concrete walls are reminiscent of Buffalo's grain elevators.

The interior is bathed by beautiful blue light streaming through the stained-glass window of Ben Shahn. This massive modern window is above the Aron Kodesh, the cabinet containing the Torah scrolls. The Ner Tamid (eternal light) hung from the ceiling. Its similarity to the Catholic Sanctuary Lamp was not lost on those gathered. Two giant pillars bearing the first Hebrew letter of the individual Ten Commandments dominate the sanctuary.

After the tour of the main sanctuary, the artistic and historical artifacts of the Temple were viewed. These included valuable manuscripts, sacred scrolls, ritual items, paintings, and sculptures.

It was an evening full of local history, ancient traditions, beauty, and fellowship. A special thank you to all from our Bread of Life Family who joined us.



Sanctuary Pillars with Ten Commandments written in Hebrew (The first letter of each commandment in mosaic, followed by the rest of the text in gold leaf), with four symbolic animals: "Be bold as a leopard, light as an eagle, fleet as a deer, and mighty as a lion to do the will of your Father in Heaven".



Tallit - a fringed prayer shawl



Torah from Egypt in the 13th century. Written on deer skin, can be closed to protect it from the Egyptian desert.



Holy Ark with drawn curtains holds the Torahs



The Shofar – ram horn trumpet blown during the High Holy Days

Severely damaged Torah scroll that survived the catastrophe of Oct. 4th, 1961 fire at Temple Beth Zion in Buffalo



Photos with descriptions Submitted By Cynthia Harder

Reflections from the Recent Renewal Conference



If you missed this year's Renewal Conference, we've got you covered! The Conference was held over two days in May for those involved in parish ministry throughout the Diocese of Buffalo. The focus was on the healing presence of Christ and the call to be a people of hope and hospitality in our parishes and communities. Among the several Bread of Life Parishioners who attended, Cynthia Harder, Marcy Steiner, and Andrew Pitisi, shared their takeaways. They all said they left feeling hopeful and encouraged.

Keynote speaker, Julianne Stanz, Director of Outreach for Evangelization & Discipleship at Loyola Press, was engaging and inspiring. She spoke on the *New Vision for Parish Life* and *What Evangelizing Catechesis is All About*. Born in Ireland, she is now with the Green Bay, Wisconsin, Diocese, which recently underwent a Renewal Process. She spoke about how the process can take up to ten years. Andrew Pitisi noted that we are only about halfway there and knows that more change is to come. He left feeling optimistic, knowing that other dioceses have already gone through the process and are now seeing the benefits.



Julianne Stanz also spoke about the importance of prayer at all levels of the diocese and parish life. She encouraged her bishop to make Mass more spiritual and connective, and to have staff pray together as a team. When the staff and volunteers are connected in prayer for one another, we build a unified team, better able to heal and reach out. Marcy said she took away a better understanding of the importance of praying personally for each other with honesty and authenticity. Cynthia says, "It starts with me! We must always center on Christ and be witnesses of Jesus, and we must realize that the Holy Spirit is still guiding the Church. We must work together to create a welcoming atmosphere for everyone!"

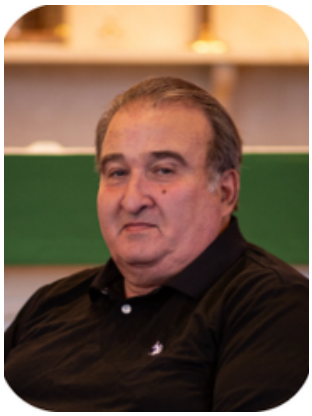


Another takeaway was the importance of meeting people where they are in their faith journey. Dan McCarty, Director of Development at Alpha, spoke about the Alpha program, an 11-week course that helps people explore the basics of the Christian faith and develop a deeper personal relationship with Jesus. It provides opportunities for people to ask questions in a safe space, and can help families grow in their faith together. Marcy said, "It's not about what the next hot program is…it's the importance of listening and really hearing people." Alpha is a tool to help us do that.

There were also several breakout sessions. Denise Góñez-Santos, with a background in Bilingual Education and from Holy Cross Church, presented on *How to Minister to Diverse Populations*. She spoke about how people of all different languages come to church because they love God, giving the feeling of a true Universal Church. Dan McCarthy also gave a breakout session on *Why Healing Still Matters*. Eric Figueroa, an evangelization leader, spoke on *Radical Hospitality, the Fastest Way to Change a Parish*. He told us how spirit-led hospitality can make people comfortable enough to explore their faith and lead to conversion. Those who attended left feeling inspired for what is to come, knowing that we have resources, support from other dioceses, and most especially renewed faith that the Holy Spirit is truly leading our Church and there is much hope for our future!

Meet Deacon Charlie Esposito

Submitted By Patricia Herweg



Deacon Charlie Esposito was born on the West Side of Buffalo but, from age two, grew up in Riverside at All Saints Parish as the oldest of three children. His Father, Charles, was in the grocery business, and his mom, Donna, was a stay at home mother. He was lucky enough to share a backyard fence with his grandparents. His mom is still very much involved in St. Timothy's parish in the Town of Tonawanda.

Charlie is a Knights of Columbus member, moving up the ranks since he was 18 years old. He has been active in the group for 50 years, holding many offices. As part of his state deputy position in the Knights, he has traveled extensively throughout New York.

Family life is very important to Deacon Charlie. He has been married to Patricia for 39 years and has two children. Date night finds them out to dinner with friends, but their special time together is spent watching movies streamed on TV. Patricia is the sauce maker of the family, his favorite meal. Charlie has been working in management his whole adult life, from hotels to digital media. He is currently the club manager for the Knights of Columbus.

Charlie also teaches Confirmation class at SS. Peter & Paul and used to work out of the Pastoral Care office at Millard Fillmore Hospital until it closed. His mentor is George Klein, who encouraged him to become a deacon. That led Charlie to the five-year Formation and Master's Degree program in Pastoral Ministry at Christ the King Seminary. Recently, Deacon Charlie was happy to honor his mentor by offering the homily at Mr. and Mrs. Klein's 100th Birthday Mass.

Ministry Of C.A.R.E. Pattern To Share!

Below is the crochet pattern for the popular "**Prayer Square**"! More details can be found on the Faith & Life Resource page on the Family website. Questions? **St. Benedict's Ministry of C.A.R.E.** or **Have Ewe Any Wool**, located on Main Street, would be happy to help! Interested in joining our Ministry! Call (716) 834-1041

Instructions: bo = 3 double crochet bobble stitch. Bobble stitches are worked on the wrong side of the project so they pop out on the right side.



Start: Chain 10
Row 1: Single crochet in 2nd chain from hook, single crochet to end of chain. Turn. (9)
Row 2: Chain 1, single crochet in each stitch to end of row. Turn. (9)
Row 3: Chain 1, 4 single crochet, bo, 4 single crochet. Turn. (9)
Row 4: Repeat Row 2. (9)
Row 5: Repeat Row 3. (9)
Row 6: Repeat Row 2. (9)
Row 7: Chain 1, 2 single crochet, bo, single crochet, bo, single crochet, bo, 2 single crochet. Turn. (9)
Row 8: Repeat Row 2. (9)
Row 9: Repeat Row 3. (9)
Row 10: Repeat Row 2. (9)
Row 11: Chain 1, single crochet in each stitch to end of row. Turn. (9)

Begin Border: Chain 1, rsc (reverse single crochet aka crab stitch) in each row down the side of the square, chain 1, rsc in last stitch. Continue to rsc around the edge, putting one rsc in each foundation chain, (rsc, chain 1, rsc) in each corner. When you get back to the beginning of the border, turn work and slip stitch to join. Fasten off with a slip stitch and weave in ends.

High Marks!

Created by Mary Siedlikowski

Directions: After you find all the words in the grid, place the remaining letters on the lines provided, working from left to right. The final solution will spell out a bible verse.

ACCOLADES
AWARD
BEST
BLUE RIBBON
BRONZE
CERTIFICATE
CHAMPION
CONGRATULATE
DEAN'S LIST
DIPLOMA
DISTINCTION
FIRST PLACE
GOLD
GREATEST
HERO
HONOR ROLL
LAUREL
MAGNA CUM LAUDE
MEDAL
MERIT
PRIZE
PROMOTION
RECOGNITION
RED RIBBON
SILVER
SINGLE OUT
STRONG
SUMMA CUM LAUDE
SUPERIOR
TOP QUALITY
TRIUMPH
TROPHY
VICTORIOUS
WINNER

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

Answer: Philippians 4:8 NAB

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Henesey Hall "Spruce-Up" at Infant of Prague *Written By Tim Zelasko*

It started as an idea two years ago. A group of about 30 parishioners decided that they would like to invest in a small capital improvement project. In January of 2026, it finally grew wings when Sabrina Casucci suggested that we fix up and paint Henesey Hall!

Fr. David was supportive but concerned that we may not get everything done that we wanted. Our ideas did seem a bit grand considering our budget. We answered that doing something is preferable to doing nothing. We planned to spend roughly two weeks getting the job done. We began on April 17th and didn't finish until June 2nd. Sometimes, that's what happens when you tell God your plans!

We began by rallying the troops (volunteers!), and we were happy that once again, so many of our parishioners showed up and worked many hours. About 15 of them returned day after day. We got rid of unused infrastructure and equipment, cleaned out storage space, and painted the entire hall. Our kitchen was completely cleaned and reorganized.

Here is where it got tricky. It was the late afternoon of our first day of work, and everyone was getting ready to quit for the day. The hall was really torn up at this point when Fr. David called. He let us know that our beloved Monsignor Caligiuri had passed away, and that the funeral would be at Infant of Prague along with the funeral breakfast - in HENESEY HALL!

While grieving our former Pastor, we worked a few more hours and made our plans to get the hall ready for the following Thursday's breakfast. Again, our incredible parishioners helped, and the funeral and breakfast were both beautiful, a fitting send-off to Msgr. Caliguiri.

We were amazed at the commitment that all our volunteers had for this project. I remember telling my wife I was blown away by everyone's dedication. She responded that we were building community with this project, and that these new and old friendships will continue for years to come. It was something that I hadn't planned for. The Holy Spirit was with us.

We worked for a total of seven weeks, and we ended up getting a lot more done than what we set out to do. This was more than just a project; it was a life-changing experience that we will be talking about for years to come. It was truly a labor of love and community.





We would be remiss if we didn't list all our new best friends...Not in any particular order. I apologize if I missed anyone:

Amy & Larry Snider, Carol Battista, Sue & Mike Maute, Sue & Dan Hatfield, Ellen Zelasko, Eileen Zelasko Bender, Brian Zelasko, Mike Greco, Brendan Fox, Denis Voytovich, Jamie Shanahan, Jack Szcepanski, Michele Andrzejewski, Matt Farinacci, Mark Pauly, Jason Baier, George Walsh, Ken Coyle, Tom Kropski, George Kirkpatrick, Mary & John Huber, Jessica & Ben Mitrovits, Chris Traynor, Cheryl Deth, Cathy Schultz.

Thank you to all the volunteers!

Henesey Hall Before and After Photos:





More Fun Times, With More to Come!



Actor and television host Mario Lopez visited Historic Ss. Peter and Paul Church!











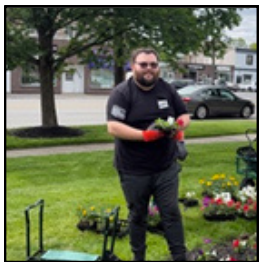


St. Benedict's Planting Day- Volunteers helped to garden and make the grounds beautiful!









Rain couldn't dampen the fun! When rain forced St. Aloysius Gonzaga's annual Party in the Parking Lot indoors, parishioners gathered in the school gym to enjoy an evening of food, fun, and fellowship.

Infant of Prague's 80th Anniverary Celebration!



















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