

The
BREAD OF LIFE
 CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
 Family Newsletter

Family Newsletter | Issue No. 7

May 2026 | Spring 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 Friends in Christ,

We celebrate the great Feast of Pentecost on Sunday, May 24th. This Feast not only celebrates the Holy Spirit coming upon the Apostles but also our receiving of the Holy Spirit at our baptism and confirmation. Let us pray for each other to follow the Holy Spirit.

In his book, *Invitation To Acts: A Commentary on the Acts of the Apostles*, Robert Karris describes the Pentecost experience: “Exploring this passage (Acts 2:1-13) is like viewing a brilliant sunset. Colors crowd in upon one another with such rapidity, leaping across the length of the spectrum, exploding, and dissipating, that it is difficult to secure a vantage point from which to appreciate the beauty of the sunset in its entirety.” I believe that

this also describes every time we encounter the Holy Spirit. Just as it is so easy to miss the beauty of a sunrise or sunset, we can also miss the actions of the Holy Spirit. God’s actions are seldom big and flashy. God prefers simple and lasting effects. When you look at the Gospels, most of Jesus' actions are simple. Look to the crucifixion, most people saw it as just another criminal dying. Yet that action saved the world and gave us eternal life. When you examine the Resurrection encounters, you notice the simplicity of an empty tomb, a walk on the road to Emmaus, a catch of fish, and eating fish with His disciples. These are all ordinary actions but reveal the risen Lord Jesus.

As a way of preparing for the celebration of Pentecost, I am asking you to focus on the Holy Spirit. Every day, ask the Holy Spirit to show you His presence in your life, the lives of those you care about, and in the world. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord. The fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Ask for the ability to allow the gifts and fruits to be active in your life, especially in difficult times when making challenging decisions. Write down any experiences you have of the Holy Spirit, no matter how small it may seem. Sometimes the smallest things in life have the greatest effects.

Lord Jesus, by Your death and resurrection, You have enabled all of us to share in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We ask You in Your tremendous love for us to once again pour out the Holy Spirit upon us and our Diocese.

In Easter peace,
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.

If you’d like **to share photos** from upcoming Family Events for possible inclusion in our next Newsletter, please **email Melinda at Communications@saintbenedicts.com**

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

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



Please visit our family website!

Check it out!



www.BreadofLifeCatholicCommunity.org



Summer 2026 Calendar



First Eucharist Celebrations

Ss. Peter & Paul

Sat, May 2 at 4:30 PM,
Sun, May 3 at 11:30 AM

Infant of Prague

Sun, May 3 at 10:30 AM

Christ the King

Sun, May 3 at Noon

St. Benedict/St Leo the Great

Sat, May 9 at 5:00 PM, St. Benedict
Sun, May 10 at 10:00 AM, St. Benedict
Sun, May 17 at 11:00 AM, St. Leo the Great

Golf Tournaments

Christ the King Saturday, June 6, Diamond Hawk
St. Leo the Great Saturday, June 13, Dande Farms
St. Benedict School Friday, July 10, Details to Come

Anniversaries

Infant of Prague 80th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, June 6, from 4 to 10 PM

Christ the King 100th Anniversary

Anniversary date: Thursday, June 11
Centennial Mass & Luncheon: Sunday, Oct. 18, at 10:00 AM

Ss. Peter & Paul 190th Anniversary - Bells Concert

Monday, July 13 at 7 PM

May

Mother's Day Sunday, May 10

Bread of Life Family Praying for Vocations

Tuesday, May 12, at 6:30 PM, St. Aloysius

The Solemnity of the Ascension

Thursday, May 14 See Website for Mass Schedule

Dare to Dream

Saturday, May 16 at 6 PM, St. Benedict

Musical Evening of Reflection: Come Holy Spirit

Tuesday, May 19 from 7 - 8:15 PM, Christ the King

Book Club: Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus by Fr. Michael Gaitley

Wednesdays, May 20, 27, June 6 & 10
at 6:30 PM, Christ the King

Pentecost Sunday, May 24

Memorial Day Monday, May 25

Ecumenical Service

Tuesday, May 26, at 6:30 PM, St. Benedict

Trinity Sunday Sunday, May 31

More:

June

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

Saturday, June 7

Graduations, Congratulations!

Christ the King - June 10 & June 17

St. Benedict - June 11 & June 16

Ss. Peter & Paul - June 18

July

Independence Day

Saturday, July 4



August

August daily Gift Card Giveaway-St. Aloysius

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday, August 15

Vacation Bible School

Open to all Bread of Life Catholic Community
Contact Pam at Faithformation@ctksnyder.com
Monday, July 13 to Friday, July 17
9 AM - 12 Noon, Christ the King

Picnics, Fests & Feasts

St. Aloysius Strawberry Fest

Tuesday, June 23, Mass at 7 PM, Fest to follow

St. Aloysius Summer Fest

Sunday, June 28, From Noon to 5 PM

Ss. Peter & Paul Feast Day

Monday, June 29, at 7 PM

St. Benedict Feast Day Celebration

Sunday, July 12, at 11 AM

St. Aloysius Route 33 Concert in Parking Lot

Tuesday, July 21, at 6 PM

St. Aloysius Outdoor Mass and Picnic

Sunday, July 26, time TBD

Infant of Prague Summer Fest

Friday, August 28, from 5 to 11 PM

Saturday, August 29, from Noon to 11 PM

St. Benedict Parish Picnic & Outdoor Mass

Saturday, August 1 at 5 PM

St. Leo the Great Parish Picnic

Saturday, August 8 at 4 PM



Bread of Life Catholic Community Pillars Update

As part of our continuation of offering updates on our six Bread of Life Family Pillars, this issue highlights our Spiritual Life and InReach/OutReach Pillars. You may also check the Pillars and Plan tab on our family website for more information as it becomes available, www.BreadofLifeCatholicCommunity.org.

Spiritual Life Pillar works hand in hand with Liturgy to help bring us closer to God through retreats, book clubs, devotions, and other activities. This Pillar works closely with the Liturgy and Forming Disciples Pillars.

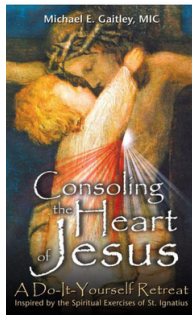
2026 Goals

Increase opportunities for spiritual growth by offering three or four substantial events per calendar year. These events might include a Marian-themed retreat and coordinating the Consecration of our Nation to the Sacred Heart as per the USCCB recommendation for the 250th Anniversary in the USA.

So far, to focus on Consecration to the Sacred Heart, a book club is planned, using Fr. Michael Gaitley's *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*, at Christ the King Church, 6:30 P.M., on Wednesdays May 20, 27, June 3 and 10. A Marian Retreat and a Lewiston Fatima Shrine visit are also being planned.

BOOK CLUB

Presented by the Spiritual Life Pillar of the Bread of Life Catholic Community
All are Welcome!



Push on with us to higher levels of devotion and spirituality....

Join us for this 'Book Club' Spiritual Retreat

Guided by Rick Paolini from WLOF

**Christ the King Church
Chapel Meeting Room
Enter at the horseshoe door
716-839-1430**



Wednesdays: May 20, May 27, June 3, June 10

30 Books will be available on May 20. If possible, a \$5 donation for the book would be appreciated, payable at the book club session.

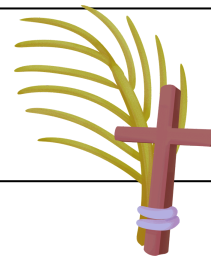
InReach/OutReach Pillar responds to the spiritual and physical needs of others, both inside and outside our parishes. It coordinates our ongoing Family evangelization programs. Works closely with all Pillars.

2026 Goals

1. Establish a Family Bereavement & Grief Ministry to provide support to those experiencing grief and loss.
2. Expand Hospitality/Welcome Ministries with welcome phone calls, orientations, and tours. Provide "welcome" services during Hospitality, such as inquiries about registrations, sacraments, faith formation, ministry volunteers, and Mass cards.
3. Assist the Family Nurse Ministry Team in reestablishment to provide emotional, spiritual, and life support.
4. Hold an outreach Family Wide Day of Service.
5. Offer an evangelization program in fall 2026.
6. Reenergize coordinated outreach to nursing homes, assisted living facilities, senior facilities and the homebound with Eucharist, prayer services, and visitation that were stopped during COVID.

So far this year, the Pillar enlisted volunteers for the Family's St. Joseph's Table, hosted by Infant of Prague, and held an orientation for the new Grief Ministry at Christ the King. They also formed a subgroup to formalize procedures for Home Visits and distribution of Eucharist to those in senior centers. They are discussing the Evangelization goal for 2026 to generate ideas on how to support those who come into the Church through OCIA. Ideas for our 2026 Evangelization program were discussed.

A look at Lent In Our Family



MAKING PRAYERS MORE POWERFUL SERIES WITH FR. DAVID AT ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA



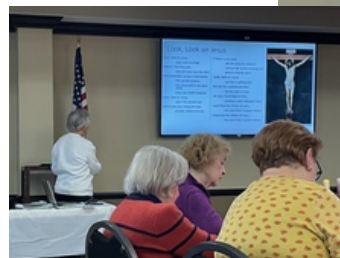
ENCOUNTERING JESUS THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW - SCRIPTURE SERIES LED BY FR. MOSES, AT SS. PETER & PAUL



ASH WEDNESDAY AT ST. BENEDICT



WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT LED BY SR. LOUISE ALFF OSF, AT ST. LEO THE GREAT



EXPERIENCING CHRIST THROUGH THE SUNDAY GOSPELS WITH FR. DAVID, AT ST LEO THE GREAT



Prayer Shawl Ministries Across Our Family

Submitted by Joan Banas

A **Prayer Shawl** is a physical manifestation of our love and care for those in need of solace and prayer. In difficult times, it can be the embodiment of God's love, like a warm Jesus-Hug! Each shawl is knitted or crocheted with a prayerful intent for future blessings on whoever receives it. After they're made, the shawls are blessed by a priest.

Prayer shawls are free of charge and can be found in many of our parish offices. You may take one for someone in bereavement, physical pain and suffering, spiritual need, or emotional desperation. You may take one for yourself as well! A time of special joy and thanksgiving, or a prayer fulfilled, can also be commemorated with a shawl.

Across our parishes, Prayer Shawl Ministries take different forms. Some gather regularly in small groups, while others contribute by creating shawls at home and bringing them to their parish when finished. However you choose to participate, all are welcome! We'd love to have you join us in a ministry that truly clothes the naked in body and soul.

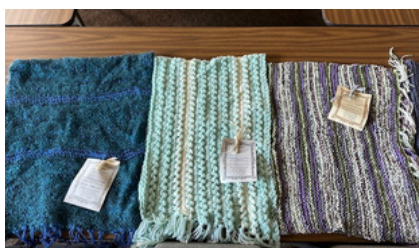
*May this shawl
be a sign of God's
loving, healing presence.*

*May it warm you
when you are weary*

*May it encourage you
when you are discouraged.*

*May it assure you of
God's care and comfort.*

*May it remind you that
you are surrounded by
the prayers of others.*



Christ the King Parish's Prayer Shawl Ministry has been in existence for over twenty years! The office has plenty of blessed prayer shawls available, free to those in need. Donations are accepted, but not expected. Meetings were paused during COVID, so prayer shawls are made at home. If you are interested in making prayer shawls, you can drop them off at the office. If you are interested in gathering with other active knitters, please call the rectory at (716) 839-1430. We would love to bring you and other knitters together!

At **St. Leo the Great Parish**, the "Prayer Shawl Plus Ministry" also knits and crochets for homeless veterans, Hearts for the Homeless, Response to Love, and the Sunshine Pantry. They make scarves, blankets, hats, dish towels...the sky's the limit! They meet twice a month for fellowship, welcoming all skill levels and happily teaching those who want to learn. Those unable to attend daytime meetings may still participate from home and even receive yarn deliveries. Yarn donations are always appreciated. Please consider joining! Contact Joan Banas through the St. Leo office at 716-835-8905.



At **Ss. Peter & Paul Parish**, their group meets every first Tuesday of the month from September to June, at 6:30 p.m. in the school's Reading Room. Those who participate often find comfort, joy, and less stress in their own lives. If you would like to help, you may join the group to create and pray with others, or you may elect to work and pray in the privacy of your own home. Just show up to one of our meetings or call the parish office at 716-632-2559. Free-will donations are accepted for necessary supplies.



St. Benedict Parish Ministry of C.A.R.E., started by Kathy Halliday, makes Prayer Squares and Pocket Hugs, featured in Newsletter issue No. 6. Kathy also creates prayer shawls from fleece fabric, and trimmed with crocheted edging. Ministry of C.A.R.E. members, Lucie and Hank, are mindful and attentive to ensure that any parishioner needing a Prayer Shawl receives one. The Prayer Shawls are also provided to any child baptized at St. Benedict Church. Call the office 716-834-1041 and the Ministry of C.A.R.E. will provide you with a Prayer Shawl if needed, or call if you are interested in joining. There are many ways you can participate! All are Welcome!

St. Aloysius Parish currently sends their prayer shawls to their parishioners who are patients in local hospitals. If you would like to contribute to making prayer shawls for St. Aloysius, please call the office at 716-833-1715.

Infant of Prague Parish does not have a currently active Prayer Shawl Ministry, but welcomes anyone interested in starting one or donating shawls. Please contact the office if you are interested at 716-634-3660.

If you feel called to give, create, or simply share in this ministry, consider reaching out to your parish office. Whether you knit, crochet, donate, or distribute, your participation becomes part of a larger prayer—one that wraps others in comfort, hope, and God's love.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults, Call to Ministry & Faith

Looking for a Way to Share Your Faith? Consider Becoming an OCIA Sponsor!

The number of adults asking to become Catholic is growing rapidly, and our Family of Parishes is in need of practicing Catholics willing to witness their faith and accompany those in this process as a sponsor. This important ministry entails attending one of the OCIA dismissals at least once a month on a Saturday evening or a Sunday, or checking in on the candidate assigned to you at least once a month, and attending the rites to which your candidate is called.

If you feel you could contribute to this ministry and would enjoy doing so, please call Deacon John Coughlin at 516-330-4892 to register for a meeting to be held in late May, to allow you to explore this ministry with those who have sponsored candidates in the past.



Want to Explore Becoming Catholic?

Want to Complete Your Sacraments of Initiation (Communion/Confirmation)?



Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA, previously RCIA):

The Bread of Life Family of Parishes provides spiritual formation appropriate to each person’s needs. Explore our OCIA programs:

- For non-Catholics and unbaptized adults, a process to explore Catholicism and how our Catholic community follows Christ.
- For Catholic Adults who have not completed their sacraments, a process that leads to the reception of Communion and/or Confirmation.

If you or someone you know is interested in our programs for adults to explore becoming Catholic or completing initiation into the Catholic community by receiving Communion and/or Confirmation, contact Deacon John Coughlin at jfc_115218@yahoo.com or 516-330-4892. We will get you started!



Photos of the Easter Vigil at St. Benedict Church, with our Family’s OCIA Candidates and their Sponsors. We had a total of 8 candidates! Four were baptized, received the Holy Eucharist, and confirmed, and four were brought into full communion, receiving the Holy Eucharist and Confirmation.

The First Church to Bear the Name “Christ the King” Celebrates its 100th Anniversary!

The History of Christ the King Parish, Snyder N.Y.

Written by Tilar Clark

Christ the King Parish



Christ the King Parish was founded on May 8, 1926, and was legally incorporated on June 11, 1926, when the Most Rev. William Turner, D.D., Bishop of Buffalo, appointed Rev. Henry A. Mooney as pastor of a new parish to be established in the rapidly expanding suburban community of Snyder, N.Y. This new Church would be the first in the world to bear the title of “Christ the King,” the new feast of “Jesus Christ, King” having been instituted by Pope Pius XI on December 11, 1925, in the document Quas Primas. In the beginning, an arrangement was made for the use of the former Amherst District 18 School building for Church purposes. The first services were held on June 13, 1926. Christ the King was modeled after Old World Abbeys and Churches, reminiscent of limestone-faced churches of Ireland, featuring a medieval altar design (the work of esteemed ecclesiologist Carl Strong) and Class A relic (Sacred Particle from the Bones of Saint Francis of Assisi). The new home of the parish at the corner of Main St. and Lamarck Dr. was completed just days before the great stock market crash in the fall of 1929. On Sunday (October 27, 1929 feast of Christ the King), the structure was dedicated to the glory and service of God.



Christ the King School

Since 1929 Christ the King has provided elementary-level education. School classes were originally held in what is now the lower Church, with the class of 1934 as its first graduating students. The end of World War II would bring Snyder a renewed affluence with an increase in population and a corresponding need for school facilities. The adjoining land was acquired in 1950 for the expanded rectory, school facilities, and recreation center. Finished in 1952, the school currently holds Pre-K3 through 8th grade classes, featuring various programs including Religious Education, Music & Arts, Sports, and more. With its Middle States accredited curriculum and A+ school rating from Niche.com, Christ the King School continues to prepare its students for excellence through Catholic education.



Adoration Chapel at Christ the King

Eucharistic Adoration began at Christ the King on Friday, November 4, 1994, from 12 noon with recitation of the rosary. Adoration followed until approximately 6:45 pm, with Benediction at this time ending at 7 pm. From November 4th, 1994, until May 5, 2000, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continued on First Fridays. The Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 would see the formation of The Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Society with 38 members. For over 25 years, the society and parishioners have prayed diligently to fill every hour of every day with an adorer. Ever since its first day of dedication on June 2, 2000, which held a constant stream of over 400 adorers, the dedicated Chapel room has provided a beautiful and serene setting for parishioners and visitors alike to reflect and pray.

The History of Christ the King Parish, Continued

The Present and the Future

Christ the King has been blessed with a long history of inspiring Pastors. Those who have most recently served as pastor include, Msgr. James Lichtenthal (1992-2007), Fr. John Gaglione (2007-2018), and Msgr. Paul Litwin (2018-2023). Since the implementation of diocesan restructuring on July 1, 2023, Fr. David Bellittiere serves as the current pastor of Christ the King, along with the other five parishes in our family of parishes. The experience of Covid-19 in 2020 prompted many technological innovations in many of our parishes. At Christ the King, live-streaming of liturgies continues as a wonderful service to the homebound, and a comfort to bereaved families whose members live far away and cannot be present for the Funeral Mass of their deceased loved one.



Christ the King has always had a strong outreach ministry to the poor, particularly through our dedicated St. Vincent de Paul Society ministry. Food, clothing, and other necessities are continually being collected for distribution to those in need.

Christ the King Parish is a beautifully vibrant community with a stable Catholic population base, multi-generational families, and strong sacramental participation. Prayerful liturgies, a strong school, and various devotional opportunities, make this parish well poised for the future as we move forward to celebrate our centennial over the next three years. Join us and “Come and Meet Christ in One Another.”

The Opening Mass for our Centennial will be on Sunday, October 18, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The Bishop will preside over the Mass, which kicks-off three years of celebratory events. A luncheon will follow. More details coming soon!

Photo Credit: Mike Wesolowski

Christ the King students in the 47th Annual Basketball Tournament!

The girls and boys basketball teams of Christ the King played in the 47th Annual Basketball Tournament! The tournament includes divisions from 4th-8th grade, girls and boys, and included 24 teams from all over Western New York.

The Girls Varsity team won the championship, and the Boys Varsity came in 2nd place! A job well done by both teams! Congratulations to the teams and coaches!



Lenten Meal Times

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



Penance with Soup Supper at St. Aloysius

A Penance Service and Soup Supper of the Bread of Life Catholic Community was held at St. Aloysius Church. Our priests served as Confessors at the Penance Service, and the women and men of St. Al's took care of all the details of setting up, making the 10 varieties of delicious homemade soups, serving, clean-up and hospitality for the Lenten soups and bread meal. Our sister church, St. Leo the Great, donated soup to us. We express our thanks to all who joined us in this wonderful way to continue our family community. As is St. Al's custom, the leftover soup was taken to the Response to Love Center.



Fish Fry at Christ the King



Thank you to everyone who helped make our fish fry at Christ the King a success! Thank you John and Nancy Nimmo for chairing the event and 8th graders for helping too! Most of all, thank YOU for purchasing dinners!

Young at Heart at St. Leo the Great

The Young at Heart Senior Group held its 4th Annual St. Joseph's Table Potluck Luncheon at St. Leo the Great. Thank You to all who contributed, including Amici Ristorante for 2 trays of Baked Ziti(Yummy!), Costanzo's Bakery for delicious dinner rolls for each table, Imperial Pizza donated 4 Party Pizzas (including anchovies), Wegman's Alberta donated a \$200 gift card to buy butter lambs, fruit, Fava beans, and other items for the St. Joseph's Table altar. Donations totaling \$144 were given to our St. Vincent Food Pantry! Viva San Giuseppe!





Fish Fry at St. Leo the Great



St. Joseph's Table at Infant of Prague



Meet Deacon Steve Czarnecki

Submitted By Patricia Herweg

Deacon Steve Czarnecki grew up in Hamburg with an older sister and his parents, Andrew, a chemical engineer, and Kathleen, a stay-at-home mom.

Deacon Steve holds an MBA and is the Commercial Credit Officer for M&T, where he has worked for 35 years. He has been married to his wife, Tracy for 17 years. They both love listening to live music and traveling domestically. Their favorite spot is Key West, where they spent their honeymoon. Deacon Steve loves his mom's cooking, which she still does. When out and about, his favorite food is anything Thai.

Becoming a Deacon is a five-year program of study, prayer and discernment. Steve was from the last class to graduate from Christ the King Seminary in 2020. Candidates spend one year in inquiry discerning their call to diaconate ministry, and then spend four years taking graduate courses for a Master's degree in Pastoral Ministry. Steve's wife, Tracy, supported him throughout the five-year program and encouraged him each year to continue pursuing his calling.

Every deacon is called to serve at the altar at Masses as well as serving a Ministry of Charity. For many years, Deacon Steve has volunteered at The Little Portion Friary, a homeless shelter that serves men and women. The Friary provides meals, shelter, and social services to help homeless individuals find employment and permanent housing. It also provides residents with an address they can use when applying for jobs. Through this ministry of charity, Deacon Steve has learned that homelessness is often misunderstood. Many of the people he meets have no family or support system and must face life entirely on their own. Over the years, he has met doctors, lawyers, engineers, and other professionals who have fallen through the cracks simply because they had no one to help them when they needed it most. His ministry at the Friary reminds him daily of the importance of offering dignity, support, and compassion to those who feel forgotten.

Deacon Steve is a blessing to so many and is currently assigned to Christ the King parish, but enjoys helping where he is needed in the Bread of Life Catholic Community.



St. Aloysius Gonzaga and Friends Movie Matinee

On March 15th, St. Al's had a movie matinee in the School Cafeteria. The Feature Film was The King of Kings (2025). Popcorn and Pizza were served. We had 31 adults and children attend this special event. Many wonderful comments from happy parishioners were received!



Saint's Corner *By Carol Mathner*

Saint Anne, the Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Feast day July 26



Statue at CTK, of St. Anne with Virgin Mary as a Child

St. Anne (or Hannah in Hebrew) is the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary. What we know about her is not mentioned in the Biblical text we use, but rather information on St. Anne and her husband, St. Joachim, comes from apocryphal literature. These documents resurfaced in the 13th century, and it was then that St. Anne became the most popular saint. We hear the story of a rich and pious couple, Anne and Joachim, who were childless, living in Nazareth. On a feast day, Joachim presented himself to make a sacrifice in the temple, but since he was childless, he was turned away by certain priests. He then went into the mountains to make his plea to God for a child. Anne learned why Joachim didn't return home, and she too prayed and pleaded with God to take away the cause of her sterility. She promised to dedicate the child to the service of God.

Their prayers were heard, and an angel came to both of them to announce that Anne would have a child blessed by all the world. She gave birth to a girl, calling her Miriam (Mary). They dedicated her at the temple where she grew up in the faith of God.

It is said that relics of St Anne were brought from the Holy Land to Constantinople in 710 AD. There was also a report that her body was brought to an area of what is now France by Jesus' friend Lazarus.

St. Anne is the patroness of women in labor. She is represented as holding the Blessed Virgin Mary on her lap, who in turn is holding her child Jesus in her arms. She is also the patroness of miners, as Christ is compared to gold and Mary to silver.

Ss. Peter & Paul Faith Formation in Action

The Ss. Peter & Paul Faith Formation families have been busy helping the littlest to the oldest in need.

On Saturday, March 21 some of our families got together at Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build beds for children. They sanded, used power tools to assemble the bed frame, and dipped the finished wood in a vinegar bath.

On Tuesday, March 24 another group of our families got together to create Easter Care Bunny Baskets for those who are in Assisted Living facilities. These Easter Care Bunny Baskets included small bottles of hand cream, slipper socks with grippers, large print puzzle books, eggs filled with assorted candies and a decorated Easter card.



Thank you to everyone who participated. There was such a successful turnout for both service projects. Great job, everyone!!!!



FLOWER POWER

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.

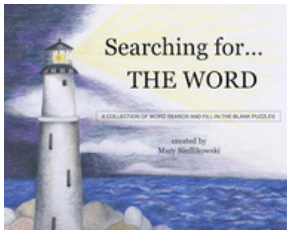
- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|--------------------|
| BUTTERCUP | EASTER LILY | LILY OF THE VALLEY |
| CARNATION | GARDENIA | MAGNOLIA |
| CHRYSANTHEMUM | GLADIOLA | MARIGOLD |
| CROCUS | HIBISCUS | PANSY |
| DAFFODIL | HYACINTH | PETUNIA |
| DAHLIA | HYDRANGEA | POINSETTIA |
| DAISY | IRIS | ROSE |
| DELPHINIUM | LARKSPUR | SNAPDRAGON |
| | LILAC | SUNFLOWER |
| | | VIOLET |
| | | ZINNIA |



Answer: Sirach 1:16, 23 NAB

Enjoying these puzzles?

Order a book of 100 puzzles for \$20! To order for pick up, delivery, or shipment, email Mary at art143mary@gmail.com



_____ , _____

_____ , _____

_____ . _____

_____ , _____

_____ .

Fear of the Lord, Wonder and Awe

Written by Fr. David Bellittiere

In Baptism and Confirmation, we have received the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The seventh gift, Fear of the Lord, is also known as Wonder and Awe. In *Our Sunday Visitor's Catholic Encyclopedia*, Fear of the Lord is described as "that experience and knowledge of God as utterly holy, totally other, incomprehensible, absolute almighty, all-powerful, all-knowing an absolute majestic. This experience leads to a detestation of sin, principally due to a deeper awareness of how offensive sin is to God's perfect love, justice, and care for us. The experience also leads to deep consolation and love for God and 'neighbor,' resulting in deep praise, worship, and adoration of God, which themselves become grace-filled moments of joyful life with God here on earth."

Years ago, I was hiking with a group of friends up a mountain. We reached the top and were awe-filled and praised God. If we slow down and become totally present in the moment, we will again be amazed at the simple beauties around us, as pointing us to the deeper reality that Jesus is Emmanuel, the God who loves to surprise us with His love and wonderful blessings.

What can you do to help yourself and others experience Wonder and Awe?

St. Benedict School Play, Well Done!

St. Benedict's amazing 8th-grade play, Beauty and the Beast. They did an amazing job! Congratulations 8th graders!! Next stop, Graduation!



Infant of Prague's Feel the Spirit 5k road race 2026

The annual Feel the Spirit 5k road race with a wonderful afterparty was held at Infant of Prague's Henesey Hall. The weather was perfect, and we had runners of all ages – 199 registered and 180 finishers at this year's race. Over 40 volunteers helped with registration, food, bar, basket raffle, and course control, just to name a few! Almost 500 hot dogs and 200 bunny dogs (par-boiled, marinated, and grilled carrots) were served. The basket raffle raised over \$1,700, and the bake sale made over \$400. Mike & Mandy Music played to a packed room again this year. The runners love them! Over 80 awards were given out to overall finishers, Masters, Grand Masters, and 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners in 32 age group categories (16 Male and 16 Female). Thank you to all those who volunteered and participated!





Happy 100TH Birthday Celebration for the Kleins!

Submitted by Robert Freeman



There are not many times in life you get to celebrate and honor another's 100th birthday. Even less common is to celebrate two special people turning 100 at the same time! That opportunity came to Saints Peter and Paul (SSPP) on the weekend of April 11-12, 2026. George Klein, born April 11, 1926, has always joked that he fell in love "with an older woman," ...his very own wife of 80 years, Corrine Klein, born the day before, April 10, 1926. They both are pillars of our Parish and forever tied to the evangelizing mission of Saints Peter and Paul.

Corrine Owens moved to Williamsville when she was in second grade and attended SSPP, where she made her First Holy Communion in May 1933. She attended Neumann High School (the current SSPP school). George attended Canisius High School, but transferred to Neumann High for his sophomore year, where he met the love of his life, Corrine Owens. Together, they graduated from Neumann in 1944.

After graduation, at the height of the Second World War, George enlisted in the military. He and Corrine continued to correspond. Clearly, not even the tragedy of war could separate the love between them. George served in the Navy and obtained the rank of Radioman 3rd Class. He served honorably in the bloody Second Philippine Campaign of 1944-1945.

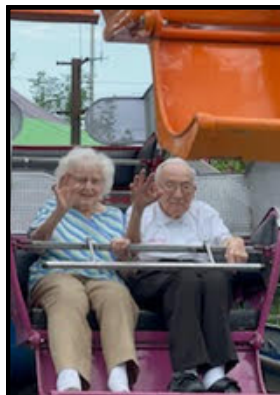
Returning home from the war, George and Corrine finally married on September 14, 1946, at SSPP Church. They had four sons: Gregory, Geoffrey, Richard, and Robert. George worked as a warehouse manager at Wickwire Spencer Steel for around 10 years, sold bottled glass at Airco, and then worked at Fred Roneker's Men's Store in the Village. Corrine managed "Klein's Religious Store" and worked at the St. Francis Home.

They found themselves immersed in ministry life and were long-time Catholic Youth Organization leaders. They were both awarded the Pro Deo Et. Juventute (For God and Youth) Award in 1969 for their leadership and service to Catholic youth. They served on the Parish Council, as Eucharistic Ministers, and sang in the choir (Deacon George is known for his exquisite taste and ear for good and bad vocals... especially when it comes to some of our Pastors over the years!). George was involved with the St. John Neumann Council of the Knights of Columbus and served through the Society of St. Vincent DePaul. Corrine became something of a fixture at St. Ann's Sodality, where she frequently led the charge on Parish fundraising and social life efforts.



Pictured above, George & Corrine's 4 sons. To the left, Deacon George's ordination

On September 20, 1992, George was officially ordained a Deacon at SSPP. First, he studied for four years at the seminary in East Aurora, and an additional year learning the rules and regulations of the Diaconate vocation. Corrine also attended classes with the other wives. Deacon George served under three pastors: Msgr. David Gallivan, Father Jim O'Connor, and Father Jerry Kopec. At his peak, Deacon George was humbled by the opportunity to visit and distribute Holy Communion to eight different nursing homes EVERY week!



Celebrating the Kleins, Continued

For those of us who know Deacon George and Corrine, we know their devotion to their family, which now includes six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. We also know their service to our Parish and Diocese. But what jumps out most when we think of them is their enduring sense of humor, positivity, and zest for life.

So, for their 100th birthday celebration, we extend a heartfelt thank you and congratulations to a remarkable couple who continue to inspire all who meet them. We thank them for their years of service to our Parish and Diocese, as well as for the friendship they have extended to all they encounter in our Parish. SSPP has perhaps found no greater servants, and the blessing is ours to have this centennial couple to celebrate. We wish them both a very happy birthday!

In honor of their birthdays, the St. John Neumann Guild of Ss. Peter and Paul hosted a gathering after Mass in the Neumann Rooms.



Pope Leo provided three separate proclamations in honor of the Klein's birthdays, service to Diocese/SSPP, and wedding anniversary.

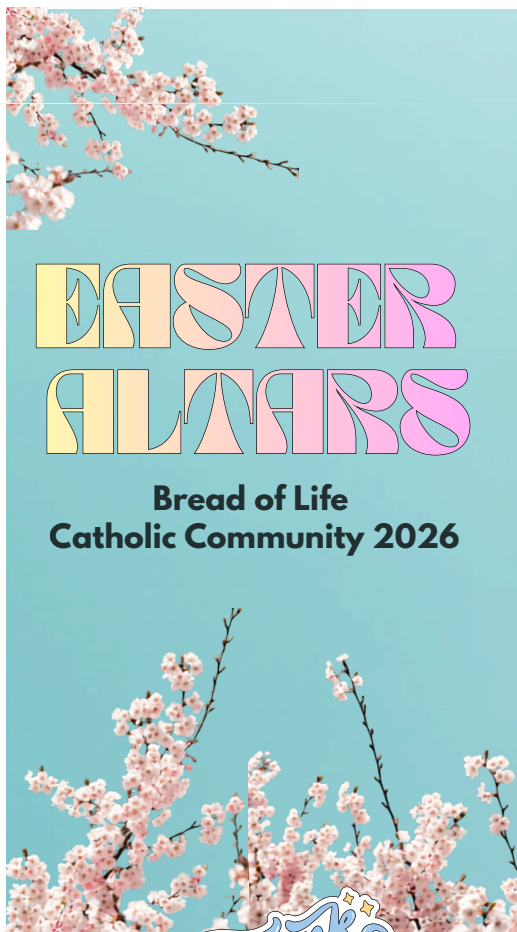


"The Holy Father Leo XIV cordially imparts the requested Apostolic Blessing to George and Corrine Klein on the occasion of their 80th Wedding Anniversary, invoking through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary an abundance of divine graces."

Holy Thursday

This Holy Thursday, families from our community gathered together at St. Leo the Great for a Shared Supper. Then, each parish held a beautiful Holy Thursday Mass, including the Washing of Feet. The Oil of the Sick, Oil of Catechumens, and Sacred Chrism blessed by the Bishop were also presented.





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