

The family has decided! Together with prayer, patience and voting we have a name!

**Family 16's name is:
Bread of Life Catholic Community**

Six Parishes One Mission Field:

Christ the King, Infant of Prague, St. Aloysius, St. Benedicts, St. Leo the Great, St Peter and Paul

Dear Parishioners and friends,

I am excited that we are launching the first of our many newsletters. A name is a very special gift. After God created all the animals, He brought them to Adam to name them. Once named a special bond was created between Adam and all of creation. Our family name is Bread of Life Catholic Community. As a family we find our identity in Jesus, the Bread of Life, and our unity in celebrating the Eucharist and service to others.

The word Lent means spring. This Lenten season is meant to be a time for spiritual renewal. A time to grow closer to Jesus Christ and each other. Please make a special effort to attend out Lenten Retreat and as many as possible other Lenten events.

May Jesus, the Good Shephard, lead us through this time of conversion to a place of peace and well being.

In Christ,

Fr. David Bellittiere - Pastor

Our family is full of wonderful people helping to serve each other and the community. As we merge we are building a foundation for our future. There are 6 pillars in the family that we will build off of.

Administration – This Pillar addresses the business components of how our parishes operate and looks at creating efficiencies that respond to the challenges of resources and personnel as we move forward.

Forming Disciples – This Pillar supports Faith Formations for parishioners of all ages, infants, children, teens, mid-life, and seniors.

In Reach/Out Reach – This pillar involves how we respond to the needs of other people, both in and outside the family of parishes, with specific outreach such as St Vincent de Paul, food pantries, etc. This pillar also focuses on serving those who have physical or spiritual needs.

Liturgy – Liturgy is the primary way in which we worship God. This pillar makes sure we have the very best worship taking place within our Family of parishes. Priority is to be given to the dignity of each celebration, focusing on good ministry, music, and participation.

Spiritual Life – Spiritual Life works hand in hand with Liturgy. This pillar focuses on fostering a relationship with Jesus Christ through para-liturgical experiences, retreats, devotions, and any activity within the family that will help bring people closer to Jesus.

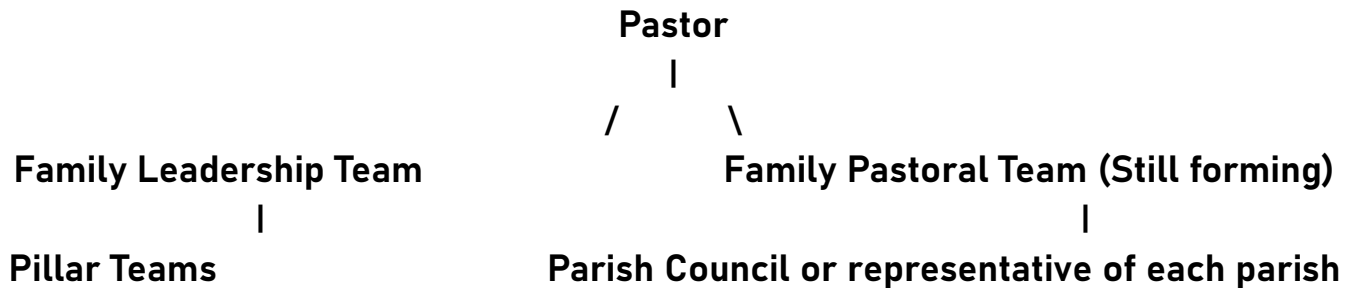
Stewardship – This Pillar looks at how we utilize time, talent, and treasure among our parishes for the good of our parishes and people. This includes coordinating the family fundraising schedule, determining how volunteers get involved in ministries between parishes within the family, and ways that people can get involved in the family.

Mike Bradley	(St. Benedict)
Scott DeRose	(Sts. Peter & Paul)
Brian Evers	(Christ the King)
Tom Gaulin	(St. Aloysius Gonzaga)
Patricia Herweg	(Sts. Peter & Paul)
Debbie Hoak	(Infant of Prague)
James Maher	(St. Benedict)
Patrick McGowan	(St. Leo the Great)
AnnMarie Thomas	(St. Aloysius Gonzaga)
Elizabeth Zurowski	(St. Aloysius Gonzaga)
Deacon Bob Warner	Family 16
Heather Danner	(Christ the King)
Casey Hanley	(Sts. Peter & Paul)
Fran Mackowiak	(Infant of Prague)
Pam Rankin	(Christ the King)
Roberta Spencer	(Sts. Peter and Paul)
William Tixier	(St. Benedict)
Carol Wojtkowski	(St. Leo the Great)

Jan Bell	(St. Leo the Great)
Camille Boczar	(Infant of Prague)
Joseph Butwin	(Christ the King)
Michelle DeRose	(Sts. Peter & Paul)
Giovanna Ferraina	(St. Leo the Great)
Cynthia Harder	(St. Aloysius Gonzaga)
Christa Harder-Stepien	(St. Aloysius Gonzaga)
Joanne Jarmusz	(Christ the King)
Tom Militello	(Infant of Prague)
Harold Murphy	(Christ the King)
Mary Nicholson	(Infant of Prague)
Andrew Pitisi	(St. Benedict /St Leo the Great)
Kate Ruminski	(St. Benedict)
Laurie Schlosser	(Sts. Peter & Paul)
Marcy Steiner	(St. Leo the Great)
Cathi Ullenbruch	(Christ the King)
Eileen Warner	(St. Leo the Great)
Robert Freeman	(Sts. Peter & Paul)
Cindy Havas	(Christ the King)
Melissa Herr	(St. Leo the Great)
Ken Kopacz	(Infant of Prague)
Kim Newton	(St. Leo the Great)
Paul O'Farrell	(St. Aloysius Gonzaga)
Sue Pelletterie	(Infant of Prague)
Bob Rybarczyk	(St. Aloysius Gonzaga)
Barb Wyse	(Infant of Prague)
Juliet Alfonso	(St. Leo the Great)
Joe Byrne	
Eduardo Cortes	(St. Leo the Great)
Gina Cutrona	(Sts. Peter & Paul)
Tony Deaville	(St. Leo the Great)
Kathy Gallson	(Christ the King)
Linda Gianturco	(St. Benedict)
Bill Hynes	(Family Deacon)
John Jerzewski	(Infant of Prague)
Marion Kopin	(St. Benedict)
Rosemary Metz	(Infant of Prague)
Rick Paolini	(Christ the King Church)
Patricia Sneck	(St. Aloysius Gonzaga)
Greg Abbott	(Christ the King)
Tina Boyd	(St. Aloysius Gonzaga)
Patricia Freeman	(Sts. Peter & Paul)
Joyce Grinewich	(Sts. Peter & Paul)
Katie Juhasz	(Christ the King)
Craig Kanalley	(St. Leo the Great)
Joyce Knoll	(St. Leo the Great)
Amy Morris	(St. Benedict)
Sharon Mulqueen	(St. Aloysius Gonzaga)
Shelly Reidy	(St. Benedict)
Allen Richter	(St. Aloysius Gonzaga)
Cathy Schultz	(Infant of Prague)
Brian Sintau	(Infant of Prague)



Family Organization



FAMILY 16 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor

Fr. David Bellittiere

Parochial Vicars

Msgr. Paul Litwin, Fr. Moses Ikuelogbon, Fr. Joseph Gatto

Deacons

Robert Warner, Steve Czarnecki, John Coughlin, Bill Hynes, Charlie Esposito, Brian Walkowiak

Pillar Leader or Representative

Amy Morris (B), Marcy Steiner (L), Matthew Georger (B), Scott DeRose (PP), Joseph Butwin (CK),
Cynthia Harder (A), Kerry Peek (IOP)


Mission Statement for Leadership Team:

The LT is a leadership body serving in communion with God, the Church, and the pastor to carry out the mission of Family Sixteen. The LT works in a collaborative and advisory way with the pastor. To set policies, and establish goals, objectives, and action plans. The LT will put forth its best efforts to discover and utilize the talents and abilities of parishioners for the benefit of the Family.

Family 16 Vision: Follow Jesus' example, be open to the Holy Spirit and be rooted in love.


Please Join us for the Family 16 Lenten Retreat

A Journey of the Heart



Thurs., March 20 <i>From Anger to Peace</i> Fr. Ronald Sajdak, Vicar Forane	Thurs., March 27 <i>From Resentment to Forgiveness</i> Sr. Louise Alff, OSF, Evangelization Consultant	Thurs., April 3 <i>From Brokenness to Wholeness</i> Kathy Goller, Catholic Life Coach	Thurs., April 10 <i>Christ - Lives in Me</i> Fr. Joseph Gatto, Senior Parochial Vicar
Location Saint Benedict	Location St. Aloysius	Location St. Aloysius	Location Infant of Prague

A Healing Service led by Fr. David Bellittiere will follow each presentation



Thursdays, From 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

A single act of love makes the soul return to life.

St. Maximilian Kolbe

We are ONE Family by Pat Herweg

My husband and I have been in this area for 51 years together, our whole married life. When writing this article, I thought of the one prayer of the faithful that tells us we are a family of parishes and what God has in our future we will accept as a family together. David and I have been members of St Al's, Infant of Prague, Christ the King, and SS. Peter and Paul, because as our family grew we moved to new locations in the area. Each parish was special to us. At St Al's we had our first child baptized. At Infant of Prague, we had our third child baptized. When the children grew up, we had them pick which parish they felt most comfortable in, and they chose Christ the King. After the children left home, we joined SS. Peter and Paul. SSPPP is special to my husband because he grew up in that parish; the Herweg boys graduated from that school, made their Sacraments there, and were altar boys.

A church is just a building, the people inside are what is important. In each parish on our journey, we found community, acceptance, and kindness. This was especially evident, when in 2022, our son got married in Tuscany, in a little Chapel on a farm. The bride's family was from Belgium. The priest could only speak Italian. As the Mass continued, and it came time for the Our Father, the priest, through an interpreter, asked each of us to say the Our Father in our native language. It was beautiful: Italian, English, French, Dutch voices all uniting together in our Lord's Prayer.

That is what I think of now as we formalize of Family of Parishes, many voices, coming together for Our Lord's Prayer. We are on a road together and what binds us is our faith and our commitment to God.

Points to Ponder by Brian Walkowiak

Throughout this new Liturgical year, we will focus on the story of Jesus as it is told to us by St. Luke. St. Luke was a companion of St. Paul who after his conversion carried the message of Jesus to the Gentile world. Those who never heard the Word of God. It was not a message that was always well received. Paul was often severely beaten for preaching the Word. It made sense he would have a physician as his companion. St. Luke likewise directs his gospel to the gentile world and also the Book of Acts which talks about how Jesus continued to work through the church, through his Spirit after his death, resurrection and ascension. As you can imagine Luke focuses on the healings of Jesus more than any other evangelist. He's telling us that there were afflictions and diseases that as a physician he couldn't cure. BUT Jesus could! The Gospel of Luke is often depicted as an ox with wings. A symbol coming from the Book of Revelation. It reminds of the strength of Jesus, his message of service, and our mission to bring that message to the world. In this year of healing and grace may St. Luke once again lead us closer to Jesus the Divine Physician who alone has the power to heal.

Saint Spotlight

Saint Marianne Cope (1838—1918)

Mother of Outcasts

Feast Day Jan 23rd

Barbara Koob was born in Germany. Came to USA with family at age 1. In 1862, at age 24 she entered the Sisters of St. Francis in Syracuse, NY. Over 21 years Barbara served as teacher, principal, mother superior, hospital founder, and administrator. In 1883, Mother Marianne, as Mother Provincial asked to go to Hawaii to care for the leper community. She was "hungry for the work". After 35 years caring for the community, she died at age 80 of leprosy.

"Try to accept what God is pleased to give you no matter how bitter—God wills it; it is the thought that will strengthen you and help you over the hard places if we wish to be true children of God" - Mother Marianne Cope



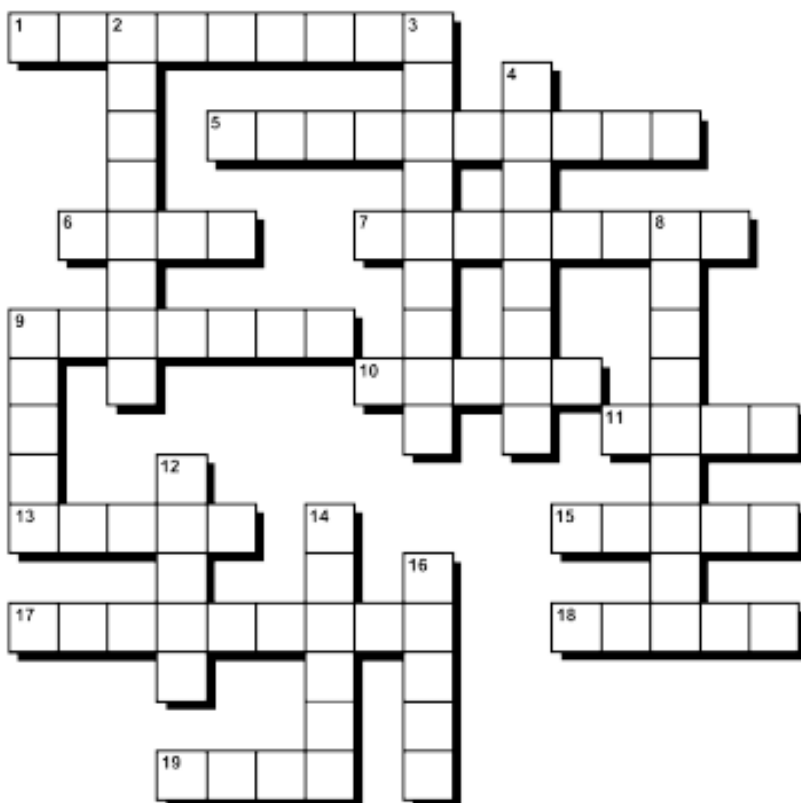
JESUS HEALS



Jesus healed people both physically and spiritually. He calls us to bring God's healing love into the world just as he did. After reading or reviewing chapter 12 of *The Catholic Connections Handbook*, complete the crossword.

ACROSS

1. This tax collector was spiritually healed by Jesus.
5. Jesus cured this blind man when he shouted out to Jesus to have mercy on him.
6. Jesus often cured the body to improve a person's ____.
7. Special signs of God's presence and power
9. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, and the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick are called the Sacraments of ____.
10. Jesus' miracles help people have ____ in him.
11. In Acts, the first Christians healed people in Jesus' ____.
13. In the Gospel of Mark, some people accused Jesus of getting his power from the ____.
15. Jesus' main work is to cure spiritual ____.
17. To restore our relationship with God and others
18. In Acts, this Apostle healed a lame man.
19. Jesus forgave the ____ of a paralyzed man.



DOWN

2. By the ____ works of mercy, we help others with their physical needs.
3. Giving advice or sympathy are examples of ____ works of mercy.
4. Jesus did not work miracles here because the people had too little faith.
8. One way we show our desire to be healed is through this sacrament.
9. This king wanted Jesus to perform a miracle as entertainment.
12. Jesus raised her son from the dead.
14. After being told his daughter had died, Jesus told this man to keep believing.
16. The works of ____ sum up some of the ways we can help heal others.



From a Shared History to a Shared Future by Rose Quebral

All of the parishes of our new Family 16 share a common history—one that binds us together to this day and guides us toward a common future. What is our common history? What are the roots of the Catholic church in Family 16?

The earliest recorded inhabitants of Western New York were Seneca Indians from the Iroquois Confederacy. In 1797, perhaps to profit somewhat from the inevitable surrender of their lands, the Senecas sold their territory, save 11 reservations. Three and a half million acres of that territory, including our area, were bought by the Holland Land Company. The company's surveyor, Joseph Ellicott, employed a Seneca, named White Seneca, to mark the "old Indian trail" through the purchase. This trail was the main route from Albany to Lake Erie—a portion of which is now Main Street in Amherst.

Small communities began to spring up along the newly surveyed old Indian Trail and the Surrounding area:

Williamsville, originally known as William's Mills, began in 1805 when Jonas Williams built 2 mills on opposite banks of the falls at Ellicott Creek at the old Indian trail.

In 1808, the first permanent settlement was made in what is now Cheektowaga, by Apollos Hitchcock, at Dick Road and Broadway Street. The original Seneca name for the area was "Jiikdowaageh", meaning "the place of the crab apple tree".

In 1818, the New York State Senate created the Town of Amherst, named for Sir Jeffrey Amherst, the commander in chief of British forces in America from 1759-1760.

The hamlet of Eggertsville began in 1831 when Christian Eggert settled at the corner of the old Indian trail and what is now Eggert Road and opened a store there.

The hamlet of Snyder began in 1837 after Michael Snyder built a store and multiple other businesses at the corner of the old Indian trail and what is now Harlem Road.

After the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, the area of Family 16 was booming with new immigrants. Starting in 1829, the bishop of New York sent two priests to Buffalo to tend to the Catholics in the farthest reaches of his diocese. It was soon evident that even more priests were needed in the sprawling mission area outside the City of Buffalo. In July of 1836, the bishop sent a young priest from Bohemia, whom he had ordained only three days prior, to Buffalo. That young priest was Father John Neumann, who was later canonized Saint John Neumann in 1977.

Father Neumann was assigned to the mission church in Williamsville. Centered around the Williamsville mission, Father Neumann served a flock of 300 families in the an area of 900 square miles. This territory would include all the area of Family 16—and then some—all the way to Niagara Falls to the north, Wyoming County to the south, and Batavia to the east!

We are the descendants of that same flock steadfastly tended to by Saint John Neumann. We share a common faith, a common history, and a common future. Let us Celebrate that commonality and Follow in Saint John Neumann's footsteps to be missionaries in our world and share the beauty of our faith with others.

Editor's Note: Stay tuned in future newsletters for the history of each parish in our family!



We want to hear from you. With the blending of parishes we understand there are many questions and concerns. Please feel free to email in your questions and we will feature a Q&A section in our future newsletters. You can submit your questions to family16@saintbenedicts.com.



Father Moses Oluwaseun Ikuelogbon

“I love being a priest, I celebrate Mass as if it were my first, my last and my only one”

Fr. Moses is #5 of 7 children. He is the first male born in his family. His middle name Oluwaseun means “Thank you Jesus”. Lago, Nigeria is his family home. He grew up in a middle-class household, his father a food broker and his mother a retail food broker. After many years of living in the city his family moved to the outskirts of the city and his father was able to farm and sell fresh produce he had grown.

Every morning at 5 am, his father rings the bell and everyone in the household, unless you are sick, gathers for morning prayer. His values come from family and from God.

One of his role models was the pastor at his church where Fr. Moses was an alter server. He spent 9 years studying at the St. Peter and Paul seminary in Ibadan, Nigeria. He took a course in Missionary Enterprise which led him to come to America, because he could speak English, and finish his priestly studies. He received a Masters in Divinity at Christ the King Seminary here and he was ordained a Priest in 2019 for the Diocese of Buffalo.

Fr. Moses first assignment was at St. Gregory the Great, for 3 years, and then he spent 18 months at Holy Name of Mary Parish in Ellicottville before coming to Saints Peter and Paul.

Fr. Moses loves music and likes to sing. He is very devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Maria Faustina, and St. Jude Thaddeus. Reading scripture helps his relationship with God.

On his Friday days off, he loves to play soccer but tennis is his first choice. He is also a runner. Running a course around the Village of Williamsville. What food he misses most from home is fufu (yummy, dough-like dish) served with a strong spicy vegetable soup. He takes his chicken wings extra HOT. Dipping them in Habanero sauce.

Thank you, Fr. Moses for letting me get to know you.
Respectfully submitted by Patricia Herweg.

With blending our parishes together, our newsletter will feature a get to know you interview with the clergy across our family. We hope you will find this section fun and informative as we help you better know your priests and deacons.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS CORNER

by Carol Mathner, Parish Nurse

What is the Best Treatment for a Headache?

First you need to identify the cause of your pain. Could be a secondary headache, caused by dehydration or illness. Drinking more fluid, rest and taking antibiotics if you have an infection can help. Treating the condition that causes your headache will help you.

But primary headaches are different. They can be treated at home with an over the counter pain medication. Although migraines are considered primary headaches, they are tougher to get rid of. Migraines are more common in women than men and brought on by triggers such as changes in weather, stress, alcohol consumption or poor diet.

Try one of the following methods to relieve primary headaches at home.

- * Over the counter pain relievers such as acetaminophen (Tylenol), aspirin, ibuprofen.
- * Use a heating pad or take a hot shower.
- * Practice yoga to relax neck muscles.
- * Take a short nap or lay down in a dark and peaceful room.

When these treatments don't work, then it is time to talk to your doctor.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						Mardi Gras Sock Hop 9 am at SSPP
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Heart Pillow Service 10:30 AM at SSPP			Ash Wednesday		Fish Fry 4pm at CTK & St Leo's Lenten Soup & Sandwich 5pm at IOP Lenten Stations of the Cross 7pm at IOP	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		Confirmation Class (10 th Grade) 6:30 PM at SSPP Creed & Prayer – Teens 6:30 PM at SSPP		Men of St Joseph 7PM at SSPP Cabin Fever Event 7PM at CTK	Fish Fry 4PM at St Leo's Stations of the Cross 7PM at SSPP	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		Monsignor's Music Program 7PM at CTK	St Joseph's Table 5:30 PM at IOP	From anger to peace 6:30 - 8 PM at St Ben's	Fish Fry 4PM at St Leo's Stations of the Cross 7PM at CTK	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Lenten Penance Service 3 PM at CTK			From resentment to forgiveness 6:30 – 8 PM at St Al's	Fish Fry 4PM St Leo's Stations of the Cross 7PM at SSPP	Meat Raffle at CTK
30	31					
Family 16 Confirmation Retreat 9:30 AM at IOP	Soup Supper 5 PM before Lenten Penance Service 6:30 PM at St Leo's	NOTE: Every Friday during Lent, Stations of the Cross will be at	St. Al's 8 AM, St. Ben's 4 PM & St. Leo's 7 PM			

Weekly Events:

SUNDAY MASS:

8 AM at Christ the King and St Benedicts
8:30 AM at Infant of Prague
9 AM at St Leo's
9:30 AM St Peter & Paul
10 AM at Christ the King, St Aloysius, and St Ben's
10:30 AM at Infant of Prague
11 AM at St Leo's
11:30 AM at St Peter & Paul
5 PM at St Al's

SUNDAY CLASSES and GROUPS:

8:45 AM Faith Formation class at Christ the King *
9 AM First Reconciliation at St Leo's *
9:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word at St Peter & Paul's
10 AM Children's Liturgy at St Leo's * (meets 4th Sunday of the month, except April which meets the 2nd Sunday).
10:30 AM Faith Formation at St Peter & Paul *
10:30 AM Confirmation class at St Peter & Paul's *
10:30 AM (after 10 am mass) Choir Practice at Christ the King
11 AM Children's Liturgy at St Ben's * (meets 3rd Sunday of the month, except April which is 4th Sunday)
7:30 PM Adult Basketball at St Peter & Paul's

MONDAY CLASSES and GROUPS:

8 AM The Miraculous Medal Novena at Christ the King
12:45 PM Medjugorje Prayer Group at St Peter & Paul's
5 PM Rosary (Upper Church) at Christ the King
6 PM Cub Scouts at St Peter & Paul's *
6 PM Rosary Altar Meeting (Rector) at St Ben's
6:45 PM John Paul II Schola Rehearsal at St Peter & Paul's
6:45 PM Faith Formation class at Christ the King *
7 PM St Vincent de Paul (Counting RM) at Christ the King
8:15 PM Men's Prayer Group (Upper RM) at Christ the King

TUESDAY CLASSES and GROUPS:

8 AM Rosary prayed for World Peace at Christ the King
9:30 AM Cause Of Joy: Mothers of Munchkins Group at St Peter & Paul's
10:30 AM Marian Movement of Priests at Infant of Prague
1 PM Adoration at St Al's
1:30 PM Medjugorje Prayer Group at St Peter & Paul's

6:30 PM AA Meeting at St Al's
6:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry (only 1st Tues of the month) at St Peter & Paul's
6:30 PM St Vincent DePaul at St Ben's
7 PM AA Meeting at Infant of Prague
7 PM Respect life at St Peter & Paul's

WEDNESDAY MASS:

5:00 PM Mass at Christ the King

WEDNESDAY CONFESSION:

5:30 PM Confession at Christ the King

WEDNESDAY CLASSES and GROUPS:

8 AM Cenacle of the Marian Movements of Priests at Christ the King
1 PM Adoration at St Al's
3:30 PM Choir Rehearsal at Infant of Prague
4 PM Lectio Prayer Group at St Ben's
6:30 PM Lockport Volleyball at St Peter & Paul's

THURSDAY CLASSES and GROUPS:

8 AM Rosary prayed for Life at Christ the King
10 AM AA Meeting at Infant of Prague
2:30 PM Bible study at St Peter & Paul's
3 PM Adoration at St Al's
6:30 PM Lockport Volleyball Club at St Peter & Paul's
7 PM Choir practice (Mason RM) at St Ben's
7 PM Choir practice at St Leo's

FRIDAY CLASSES and GROUPS:

8 AM Rosary prayed for World Peace at Christ the King
10 AM AA Meeting at Infant of Prague
7 PM Boy Scouts (Troop #470) at Infant of Prague *
7:30 PM Bingo at St Al's

SATURDAY MASS:

4 PM at Infant of Prague, St Leo's, & St Al's
4:30 PM Christ the King, St Peter & Paul's
5 PM St Ben's

SATURDAY CLASSES and GROUPS:

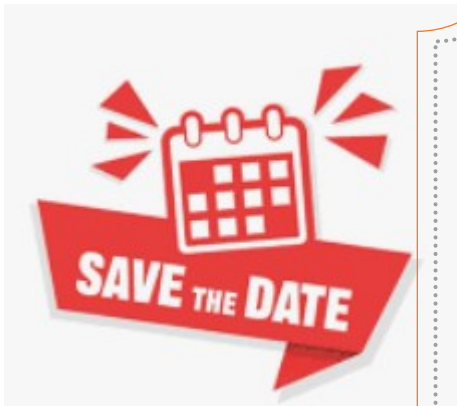
6 AM Exodus 90 at St Peter & Paul's *
8 AM Bible Study at St Peter & Paul's *
9 AM Just for Today at Infant of Prague *
10 AM Legion of Mary at Infant of Prague
10 AM St Vincent de Paul at St Peter & Paul's

SATURDAY CONFESSION:

3 PM at Infant of Prague
3:30 PM at St Peter & Paul's
4 PM at St Al's, St Ben's & Christ the King

* Classes or groups that have a sign-up. You must contact the parish/leader of the group before joining.

===Note classes are subject to date and time change. Please check with parish or leader to confirm meeting time. ===



Don't forget to look for upcoming events.

The family is celebrating Holy Week across the six parishes.

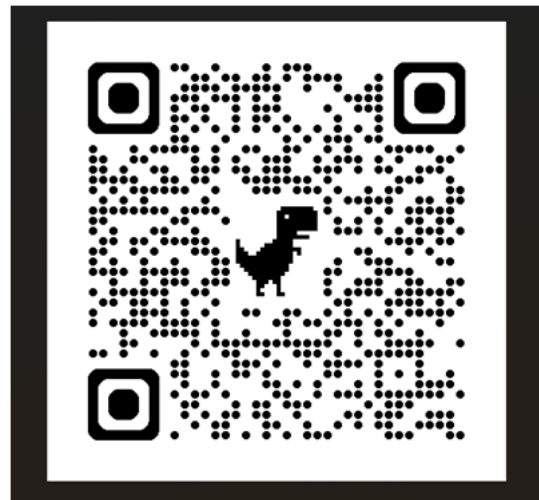
Holy Thursday April 17, 2025,

Good Friday April 18, 2025,

Holy Saturday April 19, 2025,

Easter Sunday April 20, 2025

If you would prefer to receive an email copy of the newsletter, scan the QR code and sign up today!



Are you full of new and creative ideas?
Do you have a pulse on your parish?
Maybe you enjoy writing, editing, photography or videography. Then the family wants you!

If you are interested in serving, or have suggestions for the newspaper please reach out to Priscilla at family16@saintbenedicts.com.

