

St. Padre Pio Parish

Roman Catholic Parish

Celebrating Eucharist:

Monday: 6:00 PM Elba site Tuesday: 8:00 AM Elba site 7:00 PM Wednesday: Oakfield site Thursday & Friday: 8:00 AM Oakfield site Saturday: 4:30 PM Oakfield site Sunday: 8:00 AM Oakfield site 10:00 AM Oakfield site

<u>Marriage</u>: Please contact the parish office at least six months in advance. Attendance at a pre-marriage sacramental program is required.

Baptism: Parents must attend a pre-baptismal class before having their child baptized. Please call the parish office for more information. **Baptisms in Elba will be held after 8am Mass only.**

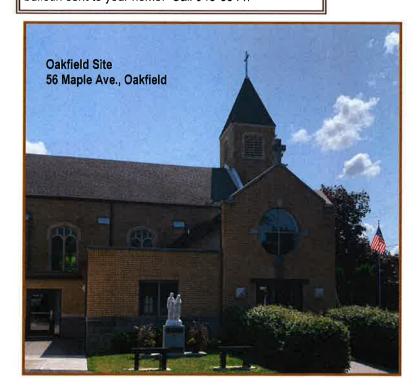
Anointing of the Sick: The Sacrament is offered on request. Please contact the church office for anointing.

Penance: The Sacrament is available on Saturdays 3:45 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in Oakfield. Feel free to make an appointment for another time if that is not convenient.

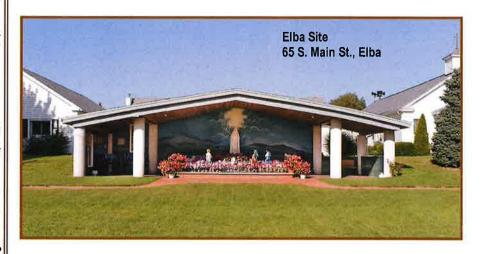
New Parishioners: In God's name, we welcome you. May you find friendship, peace and serenity in our loving Parish. If you are a visitor interested in joining our parish or the Catholic Faith, please call the parish office at 585-948-5344.

If you are returning after being away...Welcome home...

You can find our bulletin each week on our website: www.padrepiony.org or call the office if you need the bulletin sent to your home. Call 948-5344.



October 3, 2021 Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



Parish Office

56 Maple Ave. Oakfield NY 14125

Phone: 948-5344 Fax: 948-8239 www.padrepiony.org Monday— Friday 8am—12pm

Parish Staff

Rev. Thaddeus N. Bocianowski, Pastor

Paul C. Kulczyk, Deacon Email: jkoolchick@aol.com

Mary Ann Dorman, Faith Formation

Email: faith@padrepiony.org

Michael Riggs, Accompanist

Debbie Greene, Office Email: office@padrepiony.org

Parish Council President: Barb Hendershott

Board of Trustees: Jim Coffta

MaryAnn Dorman

MASS INTENTIONS FOR:

Sat Sun	10/2 10/3	OAK OAK OAK	9:00am 4:30pm 8:00am 10:00am	የ የ	Fr Ted-Private Mass Lawrence B George by Family Phi Monachino by Family Henryka Bocianowska by Chris & Dolores Palczewski
Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri	10/4 10/5 10/6 10/7 10/8	ELBA ELBA OAK OAK OAK	6:00pm 8:00am 7:00pm 8:00am 8:00am	የ የ የ	Lynn Hoffman by Paul Clark Terry Seweryniak by Dolores Starowitz Henryka Bocianowska by Alice Fagnan Caroline & Sandra Beach by Eugene Beach Teresa Squires by Family
Sat Sun	10/9 10/10	OAK OAK OAK	9:00am 4:30pm 8:00am 10:00am	ተ ተ	Fr Ted-Private Mass Chad Armbrewster, Birthday Anniv by Family Mary J. Klycek, Anniv by Dolores Starowitz Ruth Myers by Rob & Debbie Greene

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND PARISH

FOR THE WEEK of Sept 26, 2021

Amount Needed Each Week \$5,627.73 Regular Offering \$8,597.00

Difference \$2969.27

> Your stewardship of time, talent and treasure is truly appreciated!

This week's community-wide daily Rosary intention:

St Michael. St Raphael & St Gabriel



The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week at the Elba site In Memory of

Terry Seweryniak

By John, Pam, Sean & Matt Starowitz

With so many occurrences taking place in our troubled world today, praying the rosary is a powerful

expression of our devotion to Mary. Father Ted has given his blessing to restart recitation of the rosary before Mass on the First Saturday of each Month. We will begin on Saturday.

October 2, 2021 at 4:00 PM at the Oakfield site. Hope you can join us. Also, if anyone is interested in leading or coleading the rosary, kindly contact Linda Giambrone at 585-356 -5696. Thank you

The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week at the Oakfield site In Memory of



Michael A McDonald

By Valerie

Please note: The pump at the Cemetery on the Hill is currently out of service. Repairs are being addressed and in process.



Please remember in a special way, and pray for the repose of the soul of

Dustin Nemec

who passed away this week

Call to Vocations

Jesus taught many things in the Bible that are hard to accept, things our society would rather not listen to. How will you manage this precious commodity of grace? If God is calling you to a Church vocation, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 to start the conversation or visit

www.buffalovocations.org

Road to Renewal



The knotted rope symbolizes the struggles our Diocese is enduring. Our representatives were asked to take this knotted rope back to our parish, explain it, and place it in an area of significance for our parish. As we move through the Renewal, at various points we will be asked to undo a knot to symbolize the renewed life and hope of our Diocesan Renewal. Bishop Mike blessed the knotted ropes.

Knot Reflection

O God, Father of mercies, whose Only Begotten Son, as he hung upon the Cross, chose the Blessed Virgin Mary, his Mother to be our Mother also, grant, we pray, that with her loving help your Church may be more fruitful day by day and, exulting in the holiness of her children, may draw to her embrace all the families of the peoples.

We gather as a Diocese, asking Our Lady, Mother of the Church, Undoer of Knots to help us renew our Church.

KNOT OF ABUSE
KNOT OF INDIFFERENCE
KNOT OF MISTRUST
KNOT OF LACK OF FAITH
KNOT OF ISOLATION/INDIVIDUALISM

KNOT OF ABUSE

Jesus said, Let the children come to me! I am a young disciple and just received my first reconciliation. My life as a follower of Jesus is being formed and developed. I trust the leadership of the church, her Priests and Bishops to help me love Jesus. Unfortunately, some priests and leaders have broken the innocent trust of children like me. This abuse of innocence has created a knot of mistrust and hurt in our church. This knot is an obstacle to the love Jesus desires children like me to find in the church.

Mary, Undoer of Knots, pray for us.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be To The Father, and To The Son, and To The Holy Spirit. AMEN.

Lector Schedule:			
Saturday, 10/2 Sunday, 10/3	@Oak @Oak @Oak	4:30pm 8:00am 10:00am	Tim Tomczak JoAnne DeMare Linda DeVito
Saturday, 10/9 Sunday, 10/10	@Oak @Oak @Oak	4:30pm 8:00am 10:00am	Mindy Stempin Fred Klycek Chris Coffta
Saturday, 10/16 Sunday, 10/17	@Oak @Oak @Oak	4:30pm 8:00am 10:00am	Linda Giambrone Susie Zambito John Starowitz

Usher Schedule:			
Saturday, 10/2 Sunday, 10/3	@Oak @Oak @Oak	4:30pm 8:00am 10:00am	BGiambrone TMcKenrick JPalillo/RBarcomb
Saturday, 10/9 Sunday, 10/10	@Oak @Oak @Oak	4:30pm 8:00am 10:00am	TStempin/FPfalzer CZambito JZasowski/JBencic
Saturday, 10/16 Sunday, 10/17	@Oak @Oak @Oak	4:30pm 8:00am 10:00am	Ben Giambrone Tom Stempin SHarkness/JBencic

Greeter Schedule:			
Saturday, 10/2 Sunday, 10/3	_	4:30pm Maryann Conley/Elaine Forti 8:00am Chuck Zambito 10:00am Gordon & Nancy Bow	
Saturday, 10/9 Sunday, 10/10		4:30pm Rebecca Blew/Clayton Fry 8:00am Cindy Kowalik 10:00am Norma Day/Julie Fitch	
Saturday, 10/16 Sunday, 10/17	_	4:30pm Chuck Zambito 8:00am Jim Coffta 10:00am Gordon & Nancy Bow	

"PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE: Coming to America Soon?"
Join us on Monday, October 18, 2021 from 7-8 PM
in Our Lady of Pompeii Church, 158 Laverack Ave, Lancaster, NY
14086. Speaker: Rev. Robert Owczarczak. Refreshments follow!
Masks required. 716-683-6522 www.olpparish.com

Shank you to all our parishioners who have recently volunteered for ministries. We are still in need of more help, anyone interested in becoming a Lector, Usher or Greeter, please let Father Ted know at Mass or contact the office for more information. Your participation is important and what makes our parish vibrant and strong.



OUR PARISH CALENDAR AT A

		GLANCE
Sun	10/3	Gr K-1 Class 10am-11am
		Gr 2-3 Class 11am-Noon
		Gr 4-6 Class 11am-Noon
		Confirmation Class 11am-Noon
Sun	10/10	NO Faith Formation Classes
Mon	10/11	Men's Group Meeting, 7pm-
		Oakfield
Tues	10/12	A&R Meeting, 6:30pm-Elba
Sun	10/17	Gr K-1 Class 10am-11am
		Gr 2-3 Class 11am-Noon
		Gr 4-6 Class 11am-Noon
		Confirmation Class 11am-Noon
Sun	10/24	Gr K-1 Mass
		Gr 2-3 Sacrament Prep 9-10am
		Gr 4-6 Family Gathering 11am-
		Noon Class w/Parents
		Confirmation-No Class
Sun	10/31	Gr K-1 Class 11am-Noon
		Gr 2-3 Family Gathering 11am-
		Noon Class w/Parents
		Gr 4-6 Class 11am-Noon
		Confirmation Class 11am-Noon
Mon	11/8	Men's Group Meeting, 7pm-
		Oakfield
Tues	11/9	A&R Meeting, 6:30pm-Oakfield
Tues	11/16	Parish Council Meeting,
		7pm-Oakfield
Sat	12/4	Glimmer of Love, 4:30pm Mass-
6.7		Oakfield
Mon	12/13	Men's Group Meeting, 7pm- Oakfield
Tues	12/14	A&R Christmas Party, 6pm
Tues	3/8	A&R Meeting, 6:30pm
Tues	4/12	A&R Meeting, 6:30pm
		9, 111,

Faith Formation

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

THIS SUNDAY GOSPEL: Mark 10:2-16

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus teaches us that from the beginning of Creation, God made men and women to join together in love. All of us are social beings who are created for making bonds of love and friendship with one another. Those bonds become inseparable in marriage. This reality underlies the lifelong, faithful commitment the Church celebrates in the Sacrament of Matrimony.

EXPLORING the GOSPEL MESSAGE

In class this week, your child learned that welcoming others is a way to show respect, love, and concern. He or she' also learned that Jesus welcomed little children and blessed them. Another important lesson for the week was the Third Commandment- keeping Sunday holy. Share together ways that your family can keep Sunday holy.

Make a plan for some special ways you will celebrate next Sunday and keep it holy.

PRAY TOGETHER

After your weekly discussion, sit quietly together. Then have each member of the family say a prayer to the Holy Family-Jesus, Mary, and Joseph- to help all of you grow and flourish as a family that shows everlasting love.

GOSPEL TABLE TALK

- * Have a conversation about children throughout the world. Unfortunately there are so many children in this world who live with poverty, hunger, and violence.
- * Briefly discuss a few things your family and children have that not all children have access to (e.g., enough food, shelter, people who care about the, etc.).
 - * Pray for all children, especially those who are suffering in any way.



A note from St. Padre Pio Music Ministry

Please know that, although we are few in number, we are committed to provide music at all weekend Masses.

At the present time we are looking for people who can substitute, either instrumentally and/or vocally for those of us who are on vacation or have other duties to attend to, but we would be thrilled if you wanted to be more active in this ministry!

If you like to sing or play an instrument, won't you please consider joining us? Thank you!

Faith Formation

Masks are required for ALL students in church and in classes. Catechists and parents are also required to wear masks in the classroom setting and strongly encouraged to wear them in church due to the increased attendance at the 10am Mass per CDC Covid-19 regulations.

Contact Mary Ann Dorman with any questions or concerns.

Thank You everyone for making the

WACY Golf Tournament and Basket Raffle a success

We appreciate every prayer, donation and help we received. This tournament had unprecedented numbers of participants and donations. Most of all we thank our Lord God, for blessing to the ministry of WACY and His blessings on this day. It was a beautiful day in so many ways.





Mark Will, '85

Mark grew up in the Wheatville Church, has a twin brother Matthew who is also a Veterinarian in Alden. His parents Robert & Carol Will are members of St Padre Pio Parish today.

Mark Will leveraged the academic excellence that made him his class salutatorian, and the leadership and character that made him an Eagle Scout, to be a visible and leading veterinarian in New York's Capital District.

A Cornell alumnus who earned his DVM from Purdue in 1993, Mark settled in Gloversville, his wife's hometown, and in 1999, purchased the Glove City Animal Hospital, taking it from a single-doctor practice then, to a six-doctor practice, and opening a second location in 2020.

His volunteer leadership includes presidencies of the New York State Veterinary Society, Capital District Veterinary Society, Glove Cities Rotary Club, Fulton County YMCA, and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Fulton and Montgomery Counties, as well as involved active participation in each of those organizations. He is also an adult leader and committee member in his local Boy Scout district and council.

Mark is an avid hiker who has climbed at least 40 of the 46 Adirondack High Peaks. He lives with his wife and two children, and is proud of his bringing modern urban small animal medicine to a poor rural community, while contributing in innumerable other ways.



The Men's Group would like to thank Pat "Buns" Kelly and Leon "Tater" Halat for their donations of rolls and salt potatoes for our recent Chicken BBQ. Their donations were greatly appreciated and the rolls and salt potatoes were both delicious and enjoyed by all.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Annual Harvest Dinner, Sunday, October 17th, Noon – sold out, at the East Pembroke Social Hall, 8656 Church Street, E. Pembroke. Dinner will be take out only and includes roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, squash, beets, green beans, coleslaw, homemade desserts and more! Tickets are \$12 and will be sold at the door. Call (585) 599-4833 for more information.

ROSARY CRUSADE

Each year since 2007, Fatima America has held a Public Square Rosary Crusade - thousands of rosary rallies in cities all across the country. Groups simultaneously pray for our country and the world all across America!

America is suffering and it is urgent that we heed Our Lady's request and stop sinning if we hope to enjoy God's blessings. He will hear us if we pray through the intercession of His Blessed Mother. You are invited to be a part of the biggest Rosary Crusade in history

On Saturday, October 16th at Noon thousands of Catholics will pray the rosary to stop America's terrible moral decay. St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish will pray the Rosary in front of the Corfu Church along West Main Street. Please join us and pray for our Nation.

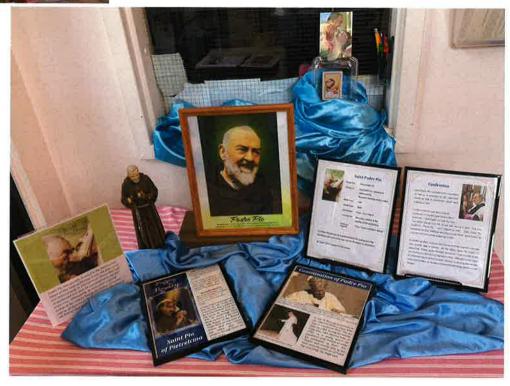




Special Thank you to Mr. Carl Pillo for the exposition of the Feast Day of St. Padre Pio, our patron.

Pray, Hope and Don't Worry

-Padre Pio



St. Padre Pio Parish Unapproved Council Minutes September 21, 2021, 7:00 pm, Oakfield site

We are a family answering the call of Jesus to be shepherds to his flock and to respond to his command: "Feed my Sheep."

Members in Attendance: Father Thaddeus Bocianowski, Reg Barcomb, Linda DeVito, Diane Fiorentino, Deb Greene, Mary Ann Dorman, Jim Coffta, Barb Hendershott, Mindy Stempin, Steve Harkness, Charles Zambito, Cindy Kowalik, Debbie Palone, Tom Elliot.

Members absent: Deacon Paul Kulczyk, Jackie Davis, Tim McKenrick, Frank Pfalzer (resigned). The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. by President, Barb Hendershott. The opening prayer was offered by Father Ted. Barb recognized new members, Jackie Davis and Tim McKenrick. Father thanked outgoing members, Barb Hendershott and Charles Zambito.

Minutes from the previous meeting: Motion to approve the minutes of May 11th, made by Cindy, seconded by Mindy. Motion carried.

Open Forum: Russell Joy spoke on the importance of the music at Mass and its liturgical connections. He cited a number of statistics showing both the decrease in Mass attendance and the belief in the presence of Christ in the Eucharist in the country. He believes that the music enhances the spirituality of the service. He is asking for a return of the choir and a leader for the music ministry. Father Ted said that at the present time when restrictions are in place for choirs and singing, there is no need for a director, but he expects that in the future we can return to having a full music program.

Organization and Committee Reports:

Altar and Rosary – Diane – Meeting held on Sept. 14th, next meeting Oct. 12th in Elba. Glimmer of Love Mass will be Dec. 4th, hope to have light refreshments afterwards. Plan to have a Rummage Sale next year.

Men's Group – Steve – The Chicken BBQ went very well, 400 dinners were sold. Had a lot of volunteers, so work was well divided. No upcoming events planned. Next meeting, Oct. 11, 7 pm in Oakfield.

Bereavement – Linda – Eileen is out of town this week, asked me to give report. The last luncheon was 2/27/20, Father has given permission to resume next month or when a luncheon is requested. Covid precautions will include asking unvaccinated volunteers to wear masks, and spacing our seating as best we can considering the size of the hall. The Finance Review Board met, we are in the black. Goal is to cover costs, but keep price as low as possible for parishioners. Surveys have been completed and teams are in place. Eileen has done a cost comparison of all our food items and other supplies, by going to all the local stores and researching online. After reviewing these items, we find we are able to keep the requested donation per person at \$3. That is with the family purchasing the meat. The handbook will be updated. A meeting of all team leaders is scheduled for next Tuesday, Sept. 28th, at 6:30.

Administration – Debbie – Mass intention book now available for scheduling 2022; donation continues to be \$15 for Masses, Bells, and Sanctuary Lamps. We will be receiving a \$1200 grant from Oregon Catholic Press (company we purchase missals and music materials from), as



a result of Bonnie Madden's application. In 2021, we got 7 new requests to join the parish. We received a \$8780 PPP loan in March and utilized the funds for staff salaries, as required; loan was then forgiven through the Small Business Administration. Long-time housekeeper, Nancy Finkney retired in August. Current cleaner, Tanya Patnode has accepted the additional duties. She is getting aclimated to the new areas, so if there are any problems, they should be brought to the attention of the office. Bonnie Madden also left in August. Attendance and contributions remain strong, parish remains stable in all accounts. We have added additional fraud protection to our accounts which is continuously monitored. We had several fraudulent checks cashed, but the bank reimbursed us, so no money was lost. Our Diocesan assessment was decreased by \$366.50 a month, it is adjusted each year. Several new ministers have come forward, but we still need Greeters, Lectors, and Ushers. The schedule is done by hand in 3 week blocks.

Faith Formation:

Mary Ann – The program began on Sept. 19^{th} with the 10 am Mass when the catechists and students were blessed. We have 45 students from 24 families. We have several new catechists joining those from previous years. K-1, Erika Ranlett and Jessica Brumsted; 2-3, Natalie Emerson and Grace Torrey; 4-6, Michelle Woodward and Stephanie Underhill; 7-8, John Palillo; 9-10 and 11, Mary Ann Dorman. New this year: (1)a monthly family gathering where students and parents participate in a creative activity to learn the Gospel message under the leadership of S. Underhill and daughter, Emma. (2) Confirmation class weekend service project/retreat (required), plan to clean and paint the pantry cupboard and floor. Provides a bonding activity for teens as they explore their faith together. Masks will be required during classes.

Stewardship:

Building and Grounds – Reg – Oakfield – Plans are still in place to repair the 4 louvers in the bell tower and replace the belfry window. Work will take place some time in 2022. Expect some costs to increase due to the increase in price of wood. The two trees in front of the church, one an evergreen and a maple will have to be removed. They have become too large, and scaffolding cannot be erected with them in place.

Painting entrance area in Oakfield – That work has been delayed, but will take place in February.

Air Conditioner on garage in Elba – Mindy – Concern for safety. Reg said he is working to have the conditioner removed, but first the freon needs to be legally removed by a licensed plumber.

Father Ted — Since we are having painting done, it has been suggested that we consider any other areas that should be done, such as the social hall. That added work will have to be considered by the Finance Council.

New Business:

Mass schedule – Father – Proposed Christmas schedule is Friday, 24th – 4 pm at Oakfield, 9 pm at Elba (no midnight mass) Saturday, 25th – either 10 am or 4:30 pm at Oakfield. Consensus of council is that 10 am is preferred.

Cindy – Concern expressed that no weekend Masses are currently scheduled for Elba site.



Father said the current plan is to begin the 8 am Mass at Elba at the beginning of Advent which is the end of November.

Road to Renewal – Cindy – Attended the Mass on August 29th at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Lewiston with Father Ted and Barb Harkness. The Mass was the official roll out of the process and the Commissioning of the Parish Renewal Representatives. Bishop Fisher spoke of the goals, resume the mission and ministry to the Gospel and help parishes work together to that end. Challenges and obstacles for the Diocese include: abuse, indifference, mistrust, lack of faith, and isolation/individualism. Each parish has a rope with knots representing those challenges, and as we work through the process, we hope to untie those knots. The day was very spiritually fulfilling. Father Ted showed them around the shrine and introduced them to the Bishop and several friends of his. A procession of the representatives and priests and recitation of the rosary occurred before Mass. Music was provided by a wonderful choir that included children.

Linda – Attended the Vicariate meeting on Sept. 20th with Diane F., Cindy, and Father Ted. Eileen Warner, from the Diocese, presented the structure and process that the families of parishes would address. The Vicariate includes 3 families, we are part of family 12, which includes St. Brigid, Resurrection, Ascension, Our Lady of Mercy, and Padre Pio. This is a draft proposal, but changing that assignment to a different family is a difficult process, unlikely of success. Our family met as a group and was asked to affirm the family grouping and select which of the 3 waves (start time) we wanted. We decided on the 3rd wave, because of the many difficulties faced by all parishes, and in particular our "family". Examples include: the relationship with the appointed "super pastor" to the other priests, the parish in Leroy has priests from an order, not the diocese, current collaboration is not present. Conclusion – the road to renewal is a rocky road.

Pastor's Comments:

Cemetery – Debbie – The committee met several times this summer. As a result, 54 gravesites were added behind the rectory and a new driveway installed to improve access to the west end graves. Upon approval of the Finance Committee and Father, 2 columbariums will be installed, one in each cemetery. Each holds 36 niches and each niches holds 2 cremains. Cost of each columbarium is \$22,200, that includes installation and delivery. Locations are behind the flagpole on the hill and east of the new driveway behind the rectory. The committee has developed a fee structure, rules/regulations regarding decorations, and lettering fees for the purchasers of the niches. Funding is provided by a 2019 memorial gift from the estate of Mr. Kenneth Motts, in memory of his wife, Jeane, in the amount of \$45,803. The foundations will be paid for from cemetery funds, costing around \$6780. Hope to have project completed by Memorial Day.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer:

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm. Father offered the closing prayer.

Next meeting: November 16, 2021, 7 pm, Oakfield. Agenda will include Election of Officers.

Respectively submitted, Linda DeVito, Secretary



OUR PARISH COMMUNITY PRAYS FOR:

The Sick or Homebound...

David Rupert Garth Swanson Richard Yunker

Pastor Linda Wurzbacher Ronald Hochmuth. Sr.

Father Martin Anna Fava Loretta Stratton Jim Joslin

Wayne Walker Mark Burhans Markie Rose Lewis

Donald & Gert Parker Charles Daniel Wheatley Florence Surdi Olivia Parmenter Landon August Coia

Dorothy Allen Donald Palone Bev Zambito Kay Weibel

Diane Stafford Susan Webster Jason Charsley Liam Boyle

Gerald Erion

James McClurg Steve Vincent Bill Palone Joanne Barcomb

Mike Day Paul Starowitz Ron Schultz Terry Watterson Nora Jean Reuben

Burke Markle Melissa Olsen Carlton Plummer Joanne Miano

George Samson Louise Hirsch Matt Yoder

Larry Simmons Jo-Ann Olsen Brad Mersereau John Torrev

Dawn King

Tony & Connie D'Aurizio

Joyce LoBello Joe & Nancy Jaszko

Sandra K Houseknecht Jodi Mitchell Leon Halat Sr. Kathy Cutitta

Annamarie & David Kuehnert Jack Houseknecht

Dominic Abramo Chloe Taddinio

Sally Olsen Ventura Carolyn Kawecka

Family in Need of Housing

Anthony Vallese

For all those who struggle in silence and those families facing difficulty who need our support.

To you, St Joseph, I go for help and protection.

Amen.





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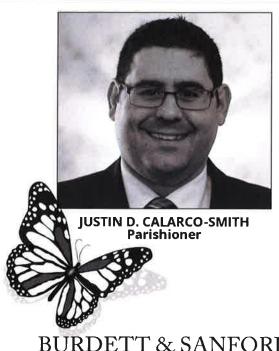
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And our Military...

Thomas Hoover Kevin Brinkman Matthew Black Benjamin De Mare John E O'Donnell Anthony Ohl Ben Olsen Patrick Malone Robert Tumminello Tony Black Paul Birch

Jonathan Stucko Bryon Kelsey Raymond Mikolajczyk, Jr. Joseph A Teresi III Gregory Honadle Nick Stucko Zachary Gibson Brandy Malone Thomas Hartley Shawn Cunningham

If you would like to have names added to this list, please contact Pauli Miano, pmiano@rochester.rr.com, 356-1561 or the parish office.



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NEW PARISHIONER FORM

It is a great joy to welcome new members to our parish community. If you are interested in joining our parish, please drop this form in the collection basket or return to the parish office-we will send you a registration form. Register as soon as possible. You won't want to miss all the programs, ministries and activities we have to offer.

Name	
Address	
City	Zip
Home Phone #	Cell #
Fmail	

Real Presence. Real Hope. Real Mission.

Dear Family of Faith,

The work of the Holy Spirit calls each of us to constant renewal in our lives. This time in our church calls for an awakening of that spirit of renewal. The Holy Spirit needs to enliven our mission and passion for the Gospel, to introduce people to Jesus Christ and to invite others to become Jesus' disciples. The saving work of the Gospel is foundational to who we are as Church and must be proclaimed boldly every day.

With trust and faith in the Lord, our Diocese is beginning a journey together known as the Road to Renewal. This Renewal will inspire us to be a more vibrant, relevant and healing church that responds to the mission of Jesus Christ. Our Families of Parishes will help us to see where we as church can strengthen our collaboration, enhance our mission, and empower our people. All of us are invited to participate in this renewal together!

As the Risen Jesus encountered the disciples on the Road to Emmaus and transformed their hearts to recognize him in the Breaking of the Bread, we trust that the same Jesus will encounter us on our Road to Renewal and transform not only our hearts, but our parishes and our Diocese as well.

Please pray for the success of our Road to Renewal, and may almighty God grant us the grace to renew our commitment and faithfulness to the mission of Jesus.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Mahal W Fisher

Most Rev. Michael W. Fisher
Bishop of Buffalo









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What is the Road to Renewal?

The Catholic Faithful, priests, deacons, religious, parish administrators, laity and school leaders of the Diocese of Buffalo are embarking on a journey to reinvigorate our Catholic communities, more fully optimize parish and diocesan resources, and increase the impact of our varied ministries throughout Western New York. Much as the disciples rediscovered the Lord – and had their hope renewed – while breaking bread together after walking with him on the long road to Emmaus, we are traveling together, supporting one another, facing our challenges and opportunities together, and seek a renewed spirit of purpose and solidarity, united by our common faith in the One who makes all things new.

Reflecting and relying on the guidance provided by the "The Pastoral Conversion of the Parish Community in the Service of the Evangelizing Mission of the Church," as issued in the summer of 2020 by the Congregation of the Clergy, we seek to reawaken in each of us, and collectively as a Family of Faith, the zeal to proclaim boldly the Gospel of Jesus Christ in keeping with our baptismal commitment and to serve those most vulnerable with renewed vigor and uncompromised devotion.

Throughout this journey that we now travel together, our guiding principles will be to **listen** and to learn; to be open and **transparent** about the challenges we face, and **collaborative** in determining solutions that will ultimately lead us to greater dependence on and **support** for one another, while renewing in each of us the zeal to proclaim Christ's Gospel of unconditional love and forgiveness.

How will this affect the lives of parishioners?

Parishioners will become part of a larger Family of Parishes that will share their pastor and lay leadership to increase access to Sacraments and ministries. Each parish retains its identity while benefitting from access to additional resources as they work together to strengthen and revitalize their faith communities, and outreach and evangelization efforts.

What is a Family of Parishes?

A Family of parishes will be a grouping of parishes that come together to form a Family. Each Family will contain 3 – 6 parishes, nearby worship sites, and local Catholic schools.

Will parishes close?

The goal of families of parishes is to strengthen parishes by sharing resources and personnel. There is <u>no plan</u> to close parishes!

Will this affect the finances of our Parish?

Each parish will maintain its own identity with its own name, trustees, and finance council. Therefore the assets and liabilities of a parish and the income of that parish belong to the individual parish.

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Core Areas of Renewal

As we look to the future we recognize the need for continued renewal among our parishes, our leaders, and the marginalized throughout Western New York. Therefore we look to engage with laity and clergy as we focus on the following core areas for renewal:

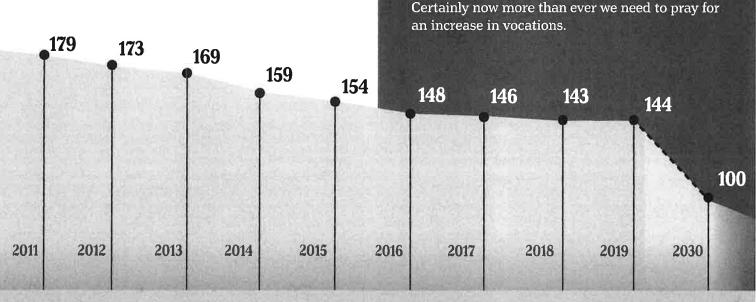
- Listen intentionally, and respond with opportunities for healing and wholeness for those who have been abused or wounded by the Church.
- Offer opportunities to revitalize our personal and communal spirituality, appreciation of the Real Presence in the Eucharist, and our sacramental celebrations.
- Re-engage parishioners in the life of the Church by volunteering in our parishes, outreach and service within our communities; and leadership roles within our faith communities.

Why now?

- Intentional outreach and evangelization with those who have left the Church or never felt welcomed and engaged in parish life, particularly our youth and young adults.
- Develop a sustainable model of leadership for our parishes and Catholic schools that will support vibrant and engaging communities where the faithful can celebrate community; and live out the mission of our Church to form disciples and live the Gospel.

Number of Active Diocesan Priests

2011 through 2030



The number of diocesan priests available to provide parish leadership and the Sacraments is declining. Diocesan statistical projections indicate that (barring unforeseen circumstances or premature deaths) by 2030 the Diocese will have 100 active diocesan priests to

serve 161 parishes. **Families of Parishes** seeks to utilize our priests as efficiently as possible and

engage the laity, rather than closing parishes.

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How can you stay informed?

VISIT

Log on to **RoadtoRenewal.org** for all information relating to the Road to Renewal in the Diocese of Buffalo. Find links to updates, resources and more.

PARTICIPATE

To attend upcoming Renewal events visit **RoadtoRenewal.org/Calendar**, or to add an event to the calendar please fill out the form located on the calendar webpage.

READ

The website resource page includes Renewal prayers and information. There, you can find presentations for pastors, administrators, Catholic school principals, and parish leaders. FAQ's for parish leaders are also included.

PRAY

Ask the Lord to help us listen, to forgive, and to pray with and for one another as we begin this process of renewal in the Diocese.

SUBSCRIBE

You can subscribe to the Diocesan YouTube channel to watch the latest updates. Go to YouTube.com and search "Buffalo Diocese." Click the red "subscribe" button and each video update will be delivered directly to your inbox.

