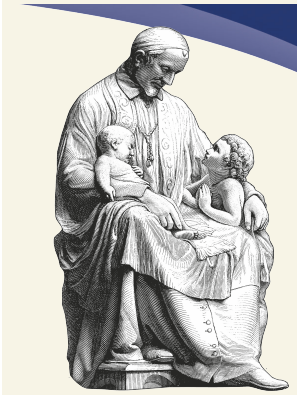

ST. VINCENT de PAUL PARISH

St. Vincent de Paul Parish is a welcoming, caring Catholic family guided by the Holy Spirit. We are nourished by Word, Sacrament and each other. Our members strive to be faithful stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us. We proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by supporting the lifelong spiritual growth of our parish family and by reaching out to serve the needy in the spirit of our patron saint".

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ST. LEO WORSHIP SITE
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RECTORY OFFICE: 1040 CAYUGA DRIVE, NF NY 14304
283-2715 (Mon./Thurs. 9am-3pm)
Parish Website: www.svdparish.org
Facebook: St. Vincent de Paul Parish— Niagara Falls

PASTOR

Very Reverend Robert S. Hughson, VF
Parochial Vicar...Reverend Mario Racho
Deacon David Augustyniak
Deacon Christopher Privitera

Office Manager
(Bulletin/Hall Rental)
Caroline Privitera.....**283-2715 x 200**
(carepc@roadrunner.com)

Bookkeeper: Maxine Menshon..283-2715 x 206

Director of Faith Formation
Sr. Joanne Suranni .....297-5010 x 202
Faith Formation Office Manager
Maxine Menshon .....297-5010 x 200
RCIA/BAPTISM
Call the Rectory ……..……..283-2715 x 200
Director of Music Ministry
Jeffrey Jeckovich 283-3618
Maintenance:
St. Leo Site: Mark Chudy: 297-5010
Prince of Peace Site: Bill Kline 283-1455x 206

Faith Formation Office/Ministry Center Office
2748 Military Road • 297-5010 • Fax: 297-4648

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Emergency Food/Assistance 957-7146

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Catholicacademyofniagarafalls.com

Letters of Recommendations: To receive a letter of recommendation to be a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation, it will be gladly given to *registered* parishioners **(for at least 3 months)**, who are active, supporting members of our parish who regularly attend Sunday Mass and have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion, Confirmation, and if married, has done so in conformity with the laws of the Church.

MASS INTENTIONS

IN THE CHURCH, PLEASE SIT ONLY WHERE THERE IS BLUE TAPE, WHICH IS THE REQUIRED 6 FEET APART.

- **All Weekend Masses are held in POP Church**
- **8:30am Weekday Masses are held in POP Church—Streamed online**
  12:15pm Weekday Mass held in Chapel
- **Confessions are heard at Prince of Peace Church site on Saturday's, from 3:15pm/3:45pm.**

Saturday, February 20—First Sunday of Lent
4:00 PM (P) Mike D'Amico (3rd B-Day in Heaven) by Wife Tina & Family
5:30 PM (P) Sonny Amendola by Mom, sister Maria & Family

Sunday, February 21—First Sunday of Lent
9:00 AM (P) George Faddoul by Wife, children and grandchildren
11:30 AM (P) John Strangis by Wife

Monday, February 22—The Chair of St. Peter the apostle
8:30 AM (Church) Anna Casale by Judi Nolan Powell Family
12:15 PM (Chapel) Walter Bissett by Kathleen Mayer

Tuesday, February 23—Lenten Weekday
8:30 AM (Church) Michael Bonesky by Albert & Diane Chaviano
12:15 PM (Chapel) Sarah DeMiglio by Theresa Meranto

Wednesday, February 24—Lenten Weekday
8:30 AM (Church) Anthony Maiorana (B-Day Remb) by Daughters
12:15 PM (Church) All Soul's Intentions

Thursday, February 25—Lenten Weekday
8:30 AM (Church) Dominick Bettino (B-Day Remb) by Daughter
12:15 PM (Chapel) All Soul's Intentions

Friday, February 26—Lenten Weekday
8:30 AM (Church) Vincent Fontana (11th Anniv) by Uncle
12:15 PM (Chapel) Mary King (1 year Anniv) by Pat Nolan Family
1:30 PM (Church) **Stations of the Cross** (with school children)
6:00 PM (Church) **Stations of the Cross**

Saturday, February 27—Second Sunday of Lent
4:00 PM (P) Gordon Kanous by Gloria
5:30 PM (P) John Risio (B-Day Remb) by Family

Sunday, February 28— Second Sunday of Lent
9:00 AM (P) Dec. Members of Aramini Family by Family
11:30 AM (P) Catherine Rajczak by Family

THIS WEEK'S TABERNCLE CANDLES BURN FOR

POP Church Candle:
SVDP PARISH FAMILY
POP Chapel Candle:
SVDP PARISH FAMILY
St. Leo Site Candle:
SVDP PARISH FAMILY

SECOND COLLECTION:
Black and Indian Missions

Parish Groups (Due to Covid, some groups may not be meeting. Call for more info.)

Baptism Sessions:
Rectory: 283-2715 x 200

Bereavement Meals:
Rectory: 283-2715 x 200

Bereavement/Grief Support:
Maria Stevenson: 297-1816

Catholic Men's Group:
Bob LaBarbera: 297-1057

Legion of Mary:
Fred Curcione: 297-2489

Parish Events:
Vicky C.: 417-5109 / Dorothy S.: 297-5927

Prayer Chain:
Pat Stanley: 297-2224

Pre-Cana—Marriage Prep:
Deacon Chris and Caroline Privitera
283-2715 x 200

Pro-Life:
Barb Skowronski: 731-9072

Spiritual Life:
Maria Stevenson: 297-1816
(Parish Nurse Health Care Ministry)

Ushers:
Rectory: 283-2715 x 200

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Your continuing generosity is greatly appreciated. It is because of your support that our St. Vincent de Paul Society food pantry is able to continue to feed the many needy families in our area. We would appreciate donations of the following non-perishable foods:

Canned green beans, canned peaches, canned pears, applesauce.

If you know of anyone in need of food, please call our pantry at 957-7146. ***Monetary donations are always gratefully accepted***. Please mail to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Society, attn: Treasurer, 1040 Cayuga Drive, Niagara Falls, NY 14304, and our food barrels are located at both parish sites for non-perishable food donations. GOD BLESS YOU for all you do to help these families.

(The Poor Box is the Bread Box for the Poor)

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

February 21, 2021 1st Sunday of Lent

St. Oscar Romero said, "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." These powerful words provide the perfect framework for a conversion oriented Lenten experience. God is giving us this Lenten sign to stop being concerned about what you have and focus on who you are. This requires that we create a desert space and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence. It is all so wonderfully simple on the one hand and so incredibly challenging on the other. The message is simple: love God, neighbor, and self. Those simple words make great sense, but we struggle translating them into reality. Our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness all anchor us to the "idol of the self," keeping us mired in our compulsive need for self-aggrandizement. It's not about us!

God vowed, long ago, to nurture, sustain and protect the relationship He has with His people. He called us into being, nurtures us in being, and sustains us in being. Without the Loving Divine Presence, all life would cease. Once we slow down a bit and clear away some of the clutter, we can see how the journey of our life is unfolding. We can see what brings us in and out of tune with God's love and how we can better imitate God's loving fidelity in our relationship with Him. In short, we will see our myopic short sightedness and figure out how we can better share the Divine Fire within with others. Lent isn't just about giving stuff up for forty days and indulging again at Easter. We need to push things much farther and wrestle with the question of how we can be more. "Being more" means becoming more fully alive and in touch with the holiness of life and the divinity that lives in and empowers all beings and things. It is realizing that the "quality" of our presence is crucial to being an effective witness and herald of God's unconditional love.

The illusion we have bought into causes us to believe that the wrong things and systems matter. We tirelessly fight to keep things the way they are, to return to the former ways of doing things or restore some nostalgic fantasy memory of "life in the good old days." Lent isn't about maintaining what we have or returning to something that is gone. It's about becoming something new. It's about being more focused, centered, convicted, and grounded so that we can be a person who truly loves and treasures being made in the image of God. The secret to Gospel living is not found in accumulating anything for ourselves, even merit points for heaven. Gospel living means learning how to live with less so that others can live with more. The thought of permanently giving something up makes us feel uncomfortable. Truth often does. *lpi*

LENTEN CONFESSIONS

There will be several priests available to hear confessions on the following date:

* **March 24th**: **<u>Prince of Peace Church</u>**: 4:30pm –6:30pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Will be held at Prince of Peace Church every Friday of Lent at **1:30pm and 6pm**, beginning on **Friday, February 19th**.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
HOPE for all seasons

When you are troubled, we are hope. Are you struggling with hybrid learning, trying to work remotely, having a hard time with the seemingly endless grey that is WNY in winter? If you are experiencing mental health, familial or marital problems we can help. Catholic Charities offers several different types of support including: marriage counseling, individual psychotherapy, family and group therapy, substance abuse treatment, Diocesan counseling for church ministers, children's clinics, and individual, children and family counseling. To find out more, visit ccwny.org and click the "Counseling & Mental Health" tab under Services on the right-hand side.

To begin the referral process, call 716-895-1033. If you are located outside of Erie County, call your local Catholic Charities office for counseling or go to ccwny.org/counseling for information and contact number. HOPE for All Seasons.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK *Throughout history God has given His people signs. Our season of Lent offers us God's sign that it is time to stop the ordinary routines of our lives, create some desert space, and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence*. We are asked to unplug from our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness to clear the slate and take stock in who we have become. We are asked to remember the ancient sign of God's covenant with humanity in which He vowed to nurture, sustain, and protect the relationship He has with His people. Once we slow down a bit and clear away some of the clutter, we can see how the journey of our life is unfolding.

We can see what brings us in and out of tune with God's love and how we can better imitate God's loving fidelity in our relationship with Him. Even though some good solid self-denial is the order of the day, greater happiness and wholeness will be the fruit of our labors. Pleasant journey through the desert!

Fish Fry / Shrimp Dinner on **March 12** from 4-6 pm at Our Lady of Czestochowa, 57 Center Ave., North Tonawanda. Dinner includes: fish / shrimp, potato salad, coleslaw, tartar/cocktail sauce, bread & butter. Pre-sale / take-out only. Tickets available in the Ministry Center during regular business hours. Call 716-693-3822 for more information and ticket pricing.

Drive-thru Spaghetti Dinner on **March 14** from 11:30 am-2:30 pm at Our Lady of Pompeii Parish, 129 Laverack Ave., Lancaster. Dinner includes spaghetti, 2 meatballs, salad and Italian bread. Pre-sale only; tickets available at the parish office during business hours.

Monthly Themes for the Year of St. Joseph

February – Joseph Most Chaste

Chaste love requires that one wills the good to another without taking the other to oneself as one's own. To Joseph was entrusted the Divine Child and His fairest Mother. Chaste in body but also in heart, Joseph loved freely which created the interior tranquility of order in the Holy Family.

March – Joseph Most Just

Joseph was first and foremost just unto God, rendering to Him what was His due. Since all things are due to God, Joseph was perfectly religious in prayer, in labor, and in love giving to God, even as an infant, the energy of his whole life.

Consecration to St. Joseph Starting February 15th

The Diocese of Buffalo will begin a 33 day Consecration to St. Joseph on ***Monday, February 15 that will continue through March 19***. This is to mark the 150th anniversary of St. Joseph being named 'Universal Patron of the Church" and Pope Francis call for a Year of St. Joseph, as well as Patron Saint of the Diocese of Buffalo, and named Cathedral.

Bishop Michael W. Fisher will celebrate Mass on the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Friday, March 19th at 12:10pm at St. Joseph Cathedral in Buffalo to conclude the consecration.

"As your new bishop and shepherd, I am encouraging all of the faithful of our diocese to join together with me in prayer during this very special period of consecration to St. Joseph," said Bishop Fisher. "St. Joseph provides a timeless example of faithfulness and trust in God, despite uncertainty and even unreasonable circumstances. We would do well to reflect on how his witness might inspire our own as we seek in our day and time to reveal Christ to our world." More information can be found at www.buffalodiocese.org/consecration-to-st-joseph. **(You can go to this website to print the 33 day Consecration)**

<u>What does it mean to consecrate yourself to St. Joseph?</u>

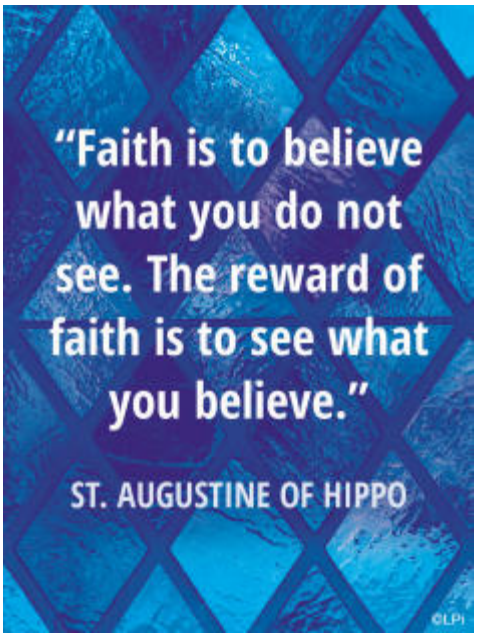
Well, it basically means that you acknowledge that he is your spiritual father, and you want to be like him. To show it, you entrust yourself entirely into his paternal care so that he can help you acquire his virtues and become holy. Total consecration to St. Joseph means you make a formal act of filial entrustment to your spiritual father so that he can take care of your spiritual well-being and lead you to God. The person who consecrates himself to St. Joseph wants to be as close to their spiritual father as possible, to the point of resembling him in virtue and holiness. Saint Joseph, in turn, will give those consecrated to him his undivided attention, protection, and guidance.

We will be holding a special Adoration on Friday, March 19th in POP Church, from 9am—11:30am.

NUGGETS OF FAITH

Q. Why did God create us male and female?

A. God, who is love and the archetype of community, created us male and female so that together we might be an image of His nature [Catechism 369-373, 383]. Men and women have absolutely the same dignity, but in the creative development of their masculinity and femininity they give expression to different aspects of God's perfection. God is not male or female but He has shown 'Himself' to be both fatherly (Lk 6:36) and motherly (Is 66:13). In the love of man and woman, especially in the community of marriage, in which man and woman become, 'one flesh' (Gen 2:24), people are privileged to sense something of the happiness of the union with God in which every one of us finds our ultimate wholeness.



Lifelong Faith Formation

Welcome Back!
This week, we welcome all of our Faith Formation Families and Students back to both in-person and remote learning for the spring semester. New lessons begin on ***Sunday, February 21*** and ***Thursday February 25*** for in-person learners. Remote lessons are sent out on Sundays. It's going to be wonderful to work with you again and to keep growing in our faith together.

Blessed Lent to All
The holy season of Lent began this past Wednesday as we received our sacred ashes. As we return for instruction this week, our children will be learning about the three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These three practices are wonderful helps to growth in the spiritual life and touchstones of transformation. May we all have a blessed Lent together.

Retreats for Grade 2 and 3 Students
On **Saturday, February 26, our Faith Formation Grade 2** students will be having their retreat from 10 AM until 11:30 AM in the parish center. Social distancing and wearing masks will be observed. First Reconciliation banners are due on that day. ***This retreat is required.***

On **Saturday, March 6, our Faith Formation Grade 3** students will be making their retreat for First Eucharist in the parish center from 10 AM until 11:30 AM. Social distancing and wearing masks will be observed. First Eucharist banners are due on that day. ***This retreat is required.***

Pickle Jar Challenge
This year our Faith Formation Classes will be participating in the Pickle Jar Challenge for Catholic Charities. We'll be trying to fill a pickle jar with change for those in need. Save your loose change and pennies and let's do our part and fill that jar!

Virtual Youth Conference
There still is time to sign up for the ***virtual diocesan youth conference***, "**Reconnecting" on February 26 and 27**. There will be two sessions each an hour and a half beginning at 7:00 PM each day. If you or a teen you know is interested, go to www.icyouthea.org. This website will give you the links for the meetings and information to register. Bishop Fisher will celebrate a livestreamed Mass for the youth of the diocese on Saturday, February 27 at 4:30 at St. Joseph Cathedral. Some teens from the parish will be attending in person. If you'd like to go and need a ride, contact Sr. Joanne.

To Our Dear Parishioners: Please pray for the success of the virtual youth conference, that our teens will be nourished and strengthened spiritually.

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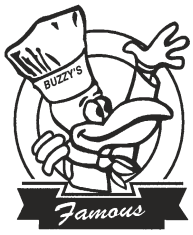

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