

# The Lower Niagara River Catholic Community

February 11, 2024 - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



## St. Raphael RC Parish

*Located in Historic DeVeaux*

3840 Macklem Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305

Phone: 716-282-5583

Fax: 716-282-0453

OFFICE HOURS:

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri

**Mass Times:** Daily (M-S) @ 8:00 a.m.

Saturday Vigil @ 4:00 p.m.

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m.

## St. Peter RC Parish

*St. Peter Worship Site*

*Located in Historic Lewiston*

620 Center Street, Lewiston, NY 14092

Phone: 716-754-4118

Fax: 716-754-4141

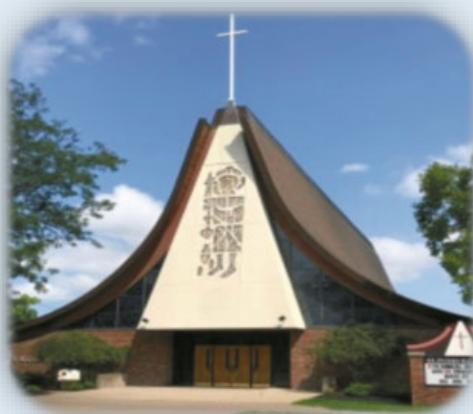
OFFICE HOURS:

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Mon - Fri

**Mass Times:** Daily (M,T,W,F,S) @ 7:30 a.m.,

School Mass Friday @ 9:00 a.m.

Saturday Vigil @ 4:30 p.m.; Sunday @ 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.



## St. Peter RC Parish

*St. Bernard Worship Site*

*Located in Historic Youngstown*

218 Hinman Street, Youngstown, NY 14174

**Mass Times:** Thursday Evening @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday @ 11:30 a.m.

Family Website: <https://www.stpeterlewiston.org>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Raphael-Religious-Education-and-YouthGroup/295817033799175>

## WELCOME TO THE LOWER NIAGARA RIVER CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Lower Niagara River Catholic Community dedicates itself to continuing the mission of Jesus Christ. We welcome all people with love and invite them to help us build the Kingdom of God in this community. If you would like to become a member of one of our parishes, registration forms are available by calling the rectory office or may be found online.

## PRAYER LIST:

**Please remember those who are ill in your prayers:**

Jim Allen, Christina Armington, Mary Ruth Baumler, Marybeth Perreault Brault, Nancy Burns, The Boeck Family, Jeffrey Driscoll, Gracie Gormley, The Heinz Family, Sarah Kunz, Gordon W. Frank LaGreca, JoAnn M., The Moore Family, Joseph Rizzo, Linda Romeo, Frank Sandonato, Carrie Trunzo, Vicky Wlock

Susan Amico, Sherry Anthony, Gina Appoloney, Anne Aquino, Steve Armstrong, Fran Bieniek, Philip Bodkin, Griffin Burtch, Patty Burtch, Mike Cali, Bernice DeFazio, Patricia DeRosa, Margaret Dineen, Andrea Dinieri, Jake Dionne, Derrick Donovan, Tom Dorgan, Dawn Duffy, Justin Duffy, Sean Equils, Marie Evans, William Evans, Ron Gawel, Sara Gleason, Frank A. Granto, Joey Jacob, Gary Kitcho, Tom Klinger, Roseanna Kyler, Vivian LeBlanc, Christopher Leone, Jennifer Leone, James Leung, Michele Lis, Ronald London, Shirley Lucchetti, Jane Macri, Michele Martin, Patricia McCarthy, Bob McDonnell, Harold Mendez, John C. Merino, Claudia Minney, Emelita Mordini, Jennifer Mott, Rev. David Munios, Joseph Nanna, Nancy Neubauer, Christopher Niver, Lucy Novak, Shirley Noworyta, Janet Otis, Patty Page, Otto Redanz, Norma Ruggerio, Alicia Rung, Abigail Schuster, Howard Seal, Eileen Simmers, Frank Smith, Norm Suess, Kathy Torosian, Tom Torosian, Marie Yarussi, Michele Yarussi.

*Heavenly Father, we pray that You will lay your healing Hands upon all those who are sick. We beg You to have compassion on all those who are suffering so that they may be delivered from their circumstances. In Jesus, we pray. Amen*

**Please keep our military members in your prayers:**

Jon Abbott, Daniel Bibin, Nicholas Deweese, Mike King, Jackson Krebs, Zachary Krebs, Sean O'Brien, Chris Romero, Richard Schultz, Thomas Schultz, Preston Seaver, and D.J. Virtuoso.

*For a name or intention to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the rectory.*

### **Eucharistic Minister Training**

There will be a training for new Eucharistic Ministers on Saturday, **February 17** at 9:30 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Parish in Ransomville. If you are interested, download the application at <https://www.buffalodiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/EM-Application-2023.pdf>

## SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION



**Baptism:** Celebrated Sundays at 1:00 p.m. or by appointment. For the parents, a required preparation session is held monthly. Godparents must be in good standing in the Catholic Church. Please call the parish office for further information and to schedule.

**Confirmation:** Celebrated annually with the Bishop. Please call the Director of Faith Formation to begin sacramental preparation.

**Eucharist:** Celebrated daily. See the next page for the Mass schedule and for information regarding upcoming Holy Days of Obligation. \*Low-gluten hosts are available during all Masses at St. Peter's for those who are in need of it for health reasons. Please present yourself to the priest presider in his line for Holy Communion at the time of distribution with your request.

**Reconciliation:** Celebrated weekly on Saturdays at 3:15 p.m. at St. Raphael's, on Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. at St. Peter's, on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at St. Bernard's or by appointment.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Celebrated upon request - we are happy to visit you with Communion, Confession or to offer the Sacrament of Anointing in your home, hospital or healthcare facility. Also celebrated after the Last Thursday Mass of the calendar month at St. Bernard's and the Last Saturday Morning Mass of the calendar month at St. Raphael's.

**Marriages & Convalidation of Marriage:** Call the office and meet with one of the clergy to begin making arrangements for the celebration of your wedding, at least 6 months in advance of the proposed date.

**Holy Orders:** Is God calling you or someone you know to be a deacon or priest? For more information, call Fr. David Baker, the Director for Vocations of the Diocese at 716-847-5535.

**Letters of Recommendation:** Gladly given to parishioners registered at least three months who have received the Sacraments of Initiation, practice their faith regularly, and support the parish.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA):** If you are thinking about becoming Catholic, are an adult who would like to be confirmed or if you have questions about making a sacrament, reach out to Deacon John Philips.

## DEVOTIONS



**Eucharistic Adoration:** First Friday of every month at St. Peter's following 9:00 a.m. Mass until 8:00 p.m. with Family Adoration at 6:00 p.m.

*“Could you not stay awake and pray for one hour”*

**St. Peter's Parish Prayer Group:** St. Peter's offers a prayer group focused on fostering the faith of its members through prayer intentions for our Church, world, and community. The group meets for 20-25 minutes at St. Peter's on Mondays after morning Mass and again at 7:00 p.m.



**Daily Rosary at St. Raphael after morning Mass.**

*“Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with you.”*

**ST. PETER PARISH  
LEWISTON & YOUNGSTOWN (B)**

**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, February 10**

4:30 p.m.: Parishioners

**Sunday, February 11**

8:00 a.m.: Josephine & Felice Tulumieri

10:00 a.m.: Robert Marra by Michael & Laura Marra

11:30 a.m.: (B) Helen Murray by Barb Tewsley

**Monday, February 12**

7:30 a.m.: In thanksgiving for Sr. M. Grace Dike, SCGR by the St. Peter Bereavement Group

**Tuesday, February 13**

7:30 a.m.: Adeline Alongi by M/M Joseph Cecconi

**Wednesday, February 14 Ash Wednesday**

7:30 a.m.: Guido, Rochelle & Vincenette Losasso by MaryBeth Swift

9:00 a.m.: Margaret & Peter Stecko by Daughter, Darlene

12:00 p.m.: (B) Rose Muto by Bill & Rita Geiben

7:00 p.m.: Peter Castiglione by Family

**Thursday, February 15 (B)**

7:00 p.m.: All Souls

**Friday, February 16**

7:30 a.m.: Kevin Stack by M/M Joseph Cecconi

**Saturday, February 17**

7:30 a.m.: All Souls

4:30 p.m.: Special Intentions by Bill & Annette Taczak

**Sunday, February 18**

8:00 a.m.: Rose Anne Duffin Concannon by Mike & Laura Marra

10:00 a.m.: Mary Rolle by Children

11:30 a.m.: (B) Florence Gregorski by Ted & Bernadine Kania

Please call the rectory to schedule Masses for your deceased loved ones or special intentions. The customary Mass offering is \$15.00. Parishioners will be able to reserve 3 weekend Masses and 12 daily Masses each year.

\*Sponsor the Sanctuary Lamp with your intention from Sunday through Saturday for a donation of \$5.00.

**MINISTRY SCHEUDLE**

**Saturday, February 17**

**4:30 p.m. Mass**

Lector: Bill Berard

Eucharistic Ministers: Connie Locey, Barb Rottaris, Judy Penzotti, Cecilia Byrne, Lynette Leone

Altar Servers: Bridget Mietus, Alexis O'Leary

**Sunday, February 18**

**8:00 a.m. Mass**

Lector: Jan Mathews

Eucharistic Ministers: Shirley Berrigan, Carl Capolupo, Bernie Franjoine, June Helfrich, Mary Pyle

Altar Servers: Volunteer

**10:00 a.m. Mass**

Lector: Steve Chanderbhan

Eucharistic Ministers: Natasha D'Lima, Shannon

Philbrick, Jerry Castiglione, Maureen Castiglione

Altar Servers: Noelle Allen, Philip Allen, Julian Jenoscheck

**11:30 a.m. Mass**

Lector: Jeff Baumler

Eucharistic Ministers: Debbie Baumler, Rita Rolfe, Barbara Tewsley, Mary Moretti

**ST. RAPHAEL PARISH  
NIAGARA FALLS**

**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, February 10**

4:00 p.m.: Charles & Doris Mohr by Family

**Sunday, February 11**

10:00 a.m.: Mario Yarussi by Family

**Monday, February 12**

8:00 a.m.: Arthur Brophy by Gail Crooks

**Tuesday, February 13**

8:00 a.m.: Stella & Francis Curry by Mary Lou Curry

**Wednesday, February 14 Ash Wednesday**

8:00 a.m.: Nancy Ann Thorne by Estate

12:00 p.m.: Yarussi & Riccelli Families

7:00 p.m.: Frank & Beverly Birmingham by Family

**Thursday, February 15**

8:00 a.m.: Parishioners

**Friday, February 16**

8:00 a.m.: All Mothers—Living & Deceased

**Saturday, February 17**

8:00 a.m.: All Fathers—Living & Deceased

4:00 p.m.: Brian O'Donnell by Family

**Sunday, February 18**

10:00 a.m.: McDonnell & Gavazzi Families

Please call the rectory to schedule Masses for your deceased loved ones or special intentions. There are many weekdays available. The customary Mass offering is \$15.00.

*The Sanctuary Candle is offered for the McDonnell & Gavazzi Families*

The Sanctuary Lamp is lit for the published intention from Sunday through Saturday. A \$5.00 donation may be placed in an envelope with the intention request and put into the collection basket.

**MINISTRY SCHEUDLE**

**Ash Wednesday, February 14**

**8:00 a.m. Mass**

Lector: John Attanasio

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary May

Altar Servers: Mary Kay Jordan

**12:00 p.m. Mass**

Lector: Maria Gleason

Eucharistic Ministers: Elaine Abersold

Altar Servers: Volunteer

**7:00 p.m. Mass**

Lector: Paul Birmingham

Eucharistic Ministers: David Kinney, Denise Siford

Altar Servers: Jackson Phillips

**Saturday, February 17**

**4:00 p.m. Mass**

Lector: Cynthia Bianco

Eucharistic Ministers: Denise Siford, **Volunteer**

Altar Servers: Ella Birmingham, Evan Birmingham

**Sunday, February 18**

**10:00 a.m. Mass**

Lector: Leonora Heembrock

Eucharistic Ministers: Barbara Avila-Shah, James Phillips

Altar Servers: Jarett Phillips

## PARISH STAFF

### Clergy

Rev. Luke P. Uebler II, Pastor  
[frluke@stpeterlewiston.org](mailto:frluke@stpeterlewiston.org)

Rev. Daniel Young, Senior Parochial Vicar  
[frdan@stpeterlewiston.org](mailto:frdan@stpeterlewiston.org)

Deacon David Augustyniak, Deacon  
[deacondave247@gmail.com](mailto:deacondave247@gmail.com)

Deacon John Phillips, Deacon  
[johnepl4304@yahoo.com](mailto:johnepl4304@yahoo.com)

### School

Janet Larson, Principal St. Peter School  
[jlarson@stpeterrc.org](mailto:jlarson@stpeterrc.org)

Barbara McNamara  
[bmcnamara@stpeterrc.org](mailto:bmcnamara@stpeterrc.org)

### Faith Formation

Dianne Wysocki, Director of Faith Formation  
[redirector@stpeterlewiston.org](mailto:redirector@stpeterlewiston.org)

Maria Gleason, Faith Formation Coordinator  
[srpreledmg@gmail.com](mailto:srpreledmg@gmail.com)

### Administration

Maxine Menshon, Business Manager  
[finance@stpeterlewiston.org](mailto:finance@stpeterlewiston.org)

MaryBeth Carroll, St. Peter Secretary  
[secretary@stpeterlewiston.org](mailto:secretary@stpeterlewiston.org)

Patricia Birmingham, St. Raphael Secretary  
[st.rafaelreparish@gmail.com](mailto:st.rafaelreparish@gmail.com)

Barbara Malinowski, Parish Nurse  
 716-754-4068

Joseph Conti, St. Peter Trustee

William Taczak, St. Peter Trustee

Kevin O'Brien, St. Raphael Trustee

Philip Mohr, St. Raphael Trustee

### Maintenance

John Scozzafava, Maintenance

Morgan Riddlebarger, Custodian

### Music

Brad Wingert, Music Director St. Peter

Julie Arlotta, Musician, St. Raphael

Thomas Torosian, Musician, St. Raphael

#### **Your Stewardship Counts**

Thank you for using the envelope system. By doing so, you help us better minister to you and your family. Please use your envelopes regularly; regardless of the donation.

Online giving is an easy way to support our parish without having to remember envelopes, if you are visiting, or away. It can be set automatically to contribute weekly, monthly, or one time.

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

Can you believe we are about to start the season of Lent?!?! It always sneaks up on us so fast as these winter months go by in a blur. I've always found that many people find the season of Lent to be a personally meaningful time as they take the opportunity to spiritually reengage, recommit, reconnect, reinvigorate, rediscover, reaffirm, reestablish, rejuvenate, respond, reconcile, rehabilitate, refresh, reset, retreat, renew ...

All of us know a share in the brokenness of this world and need to re: \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank here) every once in awhile in order to get ourselves back on track to where we'd like to be. Indeed, God Himself leads us in this opportunity. The Gospel, the Good News, is that God understands this about us, accepts us for who we are and yet wants so much more for you and me. God knows the persons we can yet become, and God will give us the grace to get there. As ashes are imposed on our foreheads this Ash Wednesday, we hear the words, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel," marking our program for Lent. It is a program of repentance (literally: "a turning around") to resurrection ultimately celebrated in the Easter Season to come. What great hope for us, a hope that can be found nowhere else!

Come and re: \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank here) with God and us here in the Lower Niagara River Catholic Community! You'll see a list of happenings here in a handout with the bulletin to help you do exactly that - opportunities for Mass, for Stations of the Cross, for Quiet Prayer in our churches, for Faith Sharing, for Faith Formation and reflection, for Reconciliation, for personal practices of Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving, and there are many other opportunities besides. Know that you are always welcome here. We exist to serve you, to help you grow in discipleship, to accompany you together on this journey to encounter Jesus Christ, who alone can re: \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank here) your life.

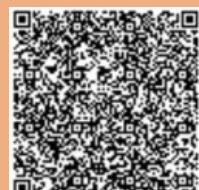
Peace  
 Fr. Luke



## **ST. PETER PARISH INCOME**

### **Parish Income ~ February 3 & 4, 2024**

Weekly collection.....	\$	8991.65
Monthly.....	\$	1564.00
Online.....	\$	2266.00
SVdP.....	\$	100.00
<b>Total Collection.....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>12921.65</b>
Diocesan collections.....	\$	31.00

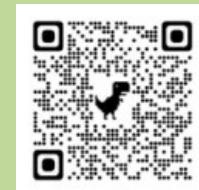


Scan the QR code above for St. Peter or the QR Code below for St. Raphael

## **ST. RAPHAEL PARISH INCOME**

### **Parish Income ~ February 3 & 4, 2024**

Weekly & holyday collections.....	\$	4157.00
Online giving.....	\$	236.17
Candles.....	\$	30.00
Fuel/utilities.....	\$	75.00
Painting project.....	\$	700.00
<b>Total Collection.....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5198.17</b>
Diocesan collections.....	\$	45.00



## MINISTRIES AND HAPPENINGS

### **Heart 2 Heart Ministry**

If you are alone, widowed, homebound, or would just like to hear a friendly voice, call Maggie at 716-405-5055 and arrange for telephone calls at your convenience.

### **Communion to the Sick & Homebound**

If you are homebound or sick and you would like to receive Holy Communion from one of our Eucharistic Ministers, please contact the rectory and have your name put on the visitation list.

### **Prayers for the Dying**

Members of the Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy Cenacle will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for anyone seriously ill or dying. Call 716-297-2738 to request prayers.

### **Children's Liturgy of the Word**

Children's Liturgy of the Word will be available the first and third weekend of every month at 10:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Peter site.

### **Rosary Altar Society**

The Rosary Altar Society meets at the St. Bernard school building next to the church at 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

### **St. Vincent de Paul Society**

The St. Vincent de Paul Society meets in the St. Peter School Library at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month.

### **St. Raphael Parish Food Pantry**

To request emergency food or to register for holiday food baskets, call the Parish Food Pantry at 716-284-4036. Non-perishable food items may be placed in the designated bins near the main St. Raphael church doors.

### **Knights of Columbus**

Knights of Columbus Council 247 meets in the St. Raphael rectory on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Contact Steven Armstrong, Grand Knight or David Kinney, Treasurer, for more information about how to become a Knight.

### **Boy Scout Troop 816**

The Boy Scouts meet on Monday evenings in the St. Raphael Parish Hall. Contact Robert Dusher at 716-946-7494 or email [robert.dusher@gmail.com](mailto:robert.dusher@gmail.com) for more information about scouting.

### **Ministry Contact Persons—**

**Pro-Life**      Paul Birmingham (Raphael)

### **Bereavement Coordinators:**

MaryBeth Carroll (Peter)

Kathleen Florence (Raphael)

### **Fundraising Committee (Raphael)**

Linda Brundage

Mary Lou Curry

### **Seven Sisters Apostolate**

There is a new women's prayer group which will offer prayers for our parish priests in the form of Holy Hours using the simple structure of the Seven Sisters Apostolate, an international ministry. Want to learn more? Contact Susan Mietus 716-949-4117. [sevensistersapostolate.org](http://sevensistersapostolate.org)

## **FEBRUARY 11, 2024** **SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

### **Open Our Hearts Small Group Faith Sharing**

Two opportunities to discuss the weekend Scripture readings will be offered on Tuesdays during Lent. Fr. Luke will lead one group at 1:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Rectory and James Phillips will lead a second group at 6:30 p.m. at St. Raphael Parish. Groups will begin meeting on **February 13**.

### **Stations of the Cross**

Stations of the Cross will be offered each Friday during Lent at St. Raphael Parish at 4:30 p.m. (7:00 p.m. on Good Friday). St. Bernard's will host Stations of the Cross on February 16, March 1, 15 & 29 at 7:00 p.m. St. Peter's will pray the Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m. on February 23, March 8, & 22 and at noon on Good Friday. Special prayer experiences will be offered at St. Peter's on selected dates. See the schedule for more information. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will precede the Stations at St. Peter's and St. Bernard's at 6:15 p.m.

### **Ash Wednesday Retreat**

January 31st is the final pre-registration deadline for the Ash Wednesday Retreat Day at Stella Niagara's Center of Renewal Retreat Conference Center. Ash Wednesday Retreat Day will be **February 14** from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to include distribution of ashes and lunch. Call 716-754-7376, ext. 1 for more details and to pre-register.

### **Sacred Heart Villa Meat Raffle**

Sacred Heart Villa will sponsor a Meat Raffle to benefit the school on Friday, **February 23** at the Frontier Fire Hall, 2176 Liberty Drive, Niagara Falls, NY 14304. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Admission is \$15 which includes unlimited pop. **No tickets sold at the door.** Get your tickets by calling Sister Maryann at 716-344-6266 or SHV at 716-284-8273 or email SHV at [fundraising@shvilla.org](mailto:fundraising@shvilla.org).

### **Evening Prayer for Lent~The Wounds of Christ**

There will be an evening of prayer, music and reflection focusing on the Wounds of Christ at St. Raphael Parish on Monday, **February 26** at 7:00 p.m. in the church. Everyone is invited. Use this time to prepare your hearts for our Lord's complete sacrifice.

\*If you would like to present a reading, please contact Patricia in the St. Raphael rectory or sign up on the sheet in the sacristy.

### **Optimistic-Realism: Aim for More in 2024**

Nancy P. Askins, PhD, Executive Director at Stella Niagara's Center of Renewal Retreat Conference Center will offer a mini-retreat on Tuesday, **February 27** from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to include dinner. Call 716-754-7376, ext. 1 for more details and to pre-register by February 13.

### **The Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Fr. Luke Uebler will present a reflection on the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday, **March 6** at 7:00 p.m. at St. Peter's. Everyone is welcome.

## FAITH FORMATION NEWS

### ST. PETER

Lewiston Site (SP)/Youngstown Site (SB)

Dianne Wysocki, Director-Faith Formation  
redirector@stpeterlewiston.org

#### Monthly Calendar:

**February 11** SB Classroom 1 grades 1-5 (10:15 a.m.)  
Topic: Christian Living  
SB Classroom 2 grades 6-8 (10:15 a.m.)  
Topic: Catholic Church

**February 17** SB Special Needs Class (9:00 a.m.)

**February 25** HS 9 & 10 (6-7 p.m.—SP)

**February 26** St. Peter grades 6-8 (6-7 p.m.)

### ST. RAPHAEL

Maria Gleason, Faith Formation Coordinator  
716-282-2944  
srpreledmg@gmail.com

**Classes are from 10:45 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. on Sunday**

#### Monthly Calendar:

**February 11** Regular class  
Decision Point—grades 9 & 10

**February 18** Regular class/President's Day Weekend

**February 25** Regular class  
Stations of the Cross w/families—10:00 a.m.

**March 3** Regular class

**March 10** Regular class  
Confirmation Candidates introduced and participate at 10:00 a.m. Mass

### ST. PETER'S R.C. SCHOOL Grades Pre-K 3 to 8

**1040 North Sixth Street**

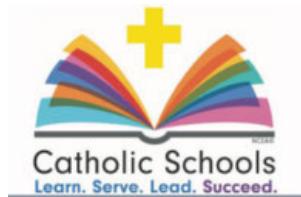
**Lewiston, NY 14092**

**Phone: 716-754-4470**

**Fax: 716-754-0167**

**Email: office@stpeterrc.org**

**Website: stpeterrc.org**



Not only will you receive a quality education at St. Peter's R. C. School, but you will be able to enjoy many extra programs and groups including: Robotics Club, Chorus, Drama, Stage Crew, Varsity Girls Basketball, Varsity Boys Basketball and more. Call the school for more information and a tour.



Ashes will be distributed during all the Masses on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

#### Mass Schedule:

7:30 a.m.	St. Peter
8:00 a.m.	St. Raphael
12:00 noon	St. Raphael & St. Bernard
7:00 p.m.	St. Peter & St. Raphael

### ***St. Raphael Church Painting Project***

Thank you to everyone who pledged to the St. Raphael parish drive to paint and revitalize the church. We met our goal and will begin to make plans to move forward with the work. More information will be sent to the participants regarding the Parish Acknowledgement Plaque. Thank you again for your generosity and faithfulness!

### **Welcome**

St. Peter R. C. Parish is pleased to welcome the following new families into our faith community:

Grant, Renee & Chloe Johnston  
Andrew, Karla & Hunter Ruhlm



### ***The Liturgy of the Day***

As we approach Ash Wednesday and the season of repentance and penitence, we hear how Jesus responded to a man who was considered unclean, both physically and spiritually. Over the following forty days, we will approach our Lord as sinners, in need of forgiveness, in need of being "made clean." May Jesus' response to the leper in today's Gospel assure us of His love and mercy for us despite our failings, despite our sinfulness.

**Scripture Reflection:** The leper in today's Gospel recognized Jesus for more than a healer, for a healer could only cure an illness. The leper, recall, specifically asked to be made clean. He wanted God's punishment to be removed. He wanted the barrier between him and the community to be removed. Jesus removed that barrier the moment He touched him, bridging the gap between community and outcast, even before healing him. In touching the man, Jesus would have been considered to have made Himself impure. But far from making Himself less than whole, He is making the community whole by restoring the leper to it.

**Pastoral Patterns, World Library Publications, Winter 2023-2024**



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Steve Fuller, Parishioner

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**William Berard  
Attorney/Parishioner**

345 Buffalo Ave., Niagara Falls NY

(716) 285-3288

[wberard@berardlaw.com](mailto:wberard@berardlaw.com)

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Winklhofer

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