

Advent & Christmas



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The beautiful seasons of Advent and Christmas are opportunities for us to reflect on the coming of Jesus Christ. We celebrate the Word made flesh and dwelling among us, but we also anticipate in hope that Jesus Christ will come again in glory. As we maneuver between the first and second comings of Christ, we are reminded that the Church and her members must continually renew themselves. All of us need renewal, and true renewal is rooted in the Incarnation.

As the Road to Renewal in the Diocese of Buffalo progresses, the seasons we celebrate are an opportunity for us to focus on the nature of a family. Just as our Savior was born of the Virgin Mary, and became part of a family with St. Joseph, each of us are also part of a family. Our families take on many differing characteristics and are all unique, but each is called to be the center of our relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus as the center of the Holy Family was not exempt from the struggles of the world. Each member of the Holy Family had a role to play in salvation history. St. Joseph learned to trust, the Blessed Mother chose to say yes to God's plan, and Jesus had to be born into a family to save us.



Recently I shared that our parishes will be brought together into Families of Parishes. Each of our parishes will have a role to play in the new family structure as well. There will be new opportunities as well as new challenges that we will have to face together, but that is what family does. We journey together in faith with Jesus at the center.

My prayer is that our Renewal and the Families of Parishes model will introduce people to Jesus and save souls. This is the mission of the Church, the mission of our Families of Parishes and the goal we all strive for as we await the second coming of our Savior.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Michael W. Fisher
Bishop of Buffalo



Pilot Families of Parishes have been identified!

Pilot Family #1 (Family #9)

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Bowmansville
St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster
Our Lady of Pompeii, Lancaster
St. Philip the Apostle, Cheektowaga
Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Depew
St. Martha, Depew

Pilot Family #2 (Family #10)

St. John the Baptist, Lockport
All Saints, Lockport
Immaculate Conception, Ransomville
St. Brendan on the Lake, Newfane

Pilot Family #3 (Family #14)

St. Michael, Warsaw
St. Mary Immaculate, Pavilion
St. Isidore, Perry/Silver Springs

Pilot Family #4 (Family #20)

Assumption, Buffalo
Holy Spirit, Buffalo
St. Margaret, Buffalo
St. Mark, Buffalo
St. Rose of Lima, Buffalo
All Saints, Buffalo

Pilot Family #5 (Family #25)

Holy Name of Mary, Ellicottville
St. Philomena, Franklinville
Our Lady of Peace, Salamanca

Pilot Family #6 (Family #31)

St. Martin of Tours, Buffalo
St. Teresa, Buffalo
St. Thomas Aquinas, Buffalo
Our Lady of Charity, Buffalo

Timeline for 2022

January 2022

Activation of Pilot Families. As we begin with pilots, implementation teams will be working with pilot families to begin collaboration. The pilot period for parishes is 6 months between moving from the activation phase into the final inauguration phase.

Priest study day with Pastors from London, Ontario who have gone through Families of Parishes process.

April 2022

Pastors of Pilot Families are announced.

July 2022

The Pilot Families of Parishes are inaugurated and begin functioning as a family.

Did you know?

We are projecting 99 priests will be available to serve in 2030. Of those 99 priests, 66 will be under the age of 70. We currently have 161 parishes and 132 active Diocesan Priests. We are going to 36 Families of Parishes.

Please pray for Vocations!

