

# the bridge

news and views for the Our Lady of Charity community

volume 34, number 10

December 2016

## upcoming events

### **December 4, 2016**

*St. Ambrose  
Discipleship Mass 10 am  
Family Faith Stations  
11:00 am to 1:00 pm*

### **December 8, 2016**

*Feast of the Immaculate  
Conception*

### **December 9, 2016**

*Christmas decorating  
outside Holy Family  
6:00 pm  
Outside St. Ambrose  
7:30 pm*

### **December 10 & 17, 2016**

*Maguire Hall  
Advent Activities for  
Children - 9:30 - 1130*

### **December 13, 2016**

*St. Ambrose  
Advent Penance Service  
7:00 pm*

### **December 18, 2016**

*Bambinelli Sunday - all  
Masses - bring baby  
Jesus from your manger*

### **December 21 2016**

*Holy Family  
"Leave the Light On" -  
Reconciliation*

## **The View from a Pew**

*By Steve Banko*

“Are you ready yet?” “Are you all set?” “Have you finished?”

These are just a few of various forms of the same question that we will be asking each other for the next few weeks. Those questions will all have to do with shopping for gifts, for food, for decorations, and for all the other accoutrements of the Christmas holiday. The lead-up to Christmas is a whirlwind of activity mostly dealing with the trappings of the holiday.

We all need take a few minutes from the frenetic activity, though, and pose those same questions to ourselves not in the context of the external aspects of the holiday but rather in the true meaning of Christmas. Are we ready? Have we finished? Are we prepared to accept the greatest demonstration of love the world has ever known? That’s what our Advent season is really about; not making mass attacks on the malls, but creating that quiet, sincere, calming space in our hearts that will make way for the coming of Christ into our world.

There is so little surface activity that is calming about Christmas. That’s why we need to step back from the craziness and be the kind of people Jesus knew we could be. Too often though, we are a far cry from the Christian example. Our society and our world has been wracked with war, with suffering, with hatreds both new and ancient. We talk a great game about being Christians but spend a lot more time denigrating those who aren’t. We erect barriers between us when we need more gateways. We get so caught up in the commercial side of Christmas that we too often ignore the reality of it. It was a simple birth in a less than simple setting of a child destined to radically change the world. That change did not occur as the result of conquest. It was not rooted in financial success. It did not come through the force of arms. It came to the world the way this miraculous babe entered the world – quietly, calmly, simply. Jesus changed the world through the power of His message that we should love God and one another. He didn’t say love God and those identical to us. He didn’t say God and those who rest under the same flag. He

*Continued on page 2*

didn't say God and a certain part of the world. He said love one another and when we stumbled on definitions He gave us examples in parables and in His teaching as to just who our neighbors were. And yet, we still don't get it. It is almost as though we get wrapped up in the secular aspects of the holiday to avoid coming to terms with who we have been and what we have done for the past year.

We live in a world that is over communicated and yet so under informed. Too many times, our chosen method of communication is limited to ideas and ideals we subscribe to without concern for differing opinions. We become ideologically isolated in the midst of the most incredible communication tools the world has ever known. In that context, it is too easy to shun those not like us; to widened the divides, and reinforced stereotypes. The rhetoric in today's mass media is so acrimonious that we have virtually ceased to exist as one people. Instead, we are "us" and "them" with no quarter given and none received. Is it any wonder, then, that bullying is so prevalent in our lives? It's easy to pick on someone not exactly like you when all the messages you receive fortify the "us vs. them" mentality.

So let's vow to take a few minutes of everyday to reflect on what Christmas really means: in our lives and in our world. Think about the message of Christ; the simple, all-encompassing call to love one another. I know it's not easy. I know the pain that self-reflection can cause. But I know that if we can't do it at Christmas, when can we do it? If we can't open our arms to accept the Savior of the World, who can we embrace? If we can't honor His presence with the simple gift of our hearts and minds, what can we give?

## The Spirit of Christmas

By Ann DiFlavio

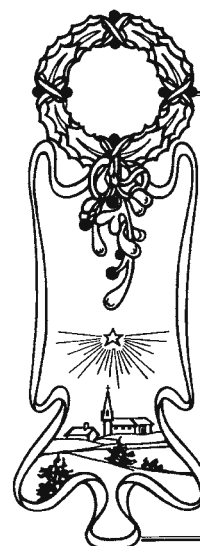
Once again the season of Christmas was ushered in on Black Friday, and then followed by a barrage of commercials telling us what the perfect gift is and how to get it. We were inundated with ads of Santa Clause selling everything from toys to cars. Somewhere out there was the true meaning of Christmas and I found it in my own backyard.

I made Christmas cutout cookies with my great granddaughter, and was rewarded with a beaming smile from her as the cookies took shape; the gift of sharing time.

Our religious department began the period of Advent with many activities in preparation for the coming of Jesus. Both adults and children participated and the spirit of Christmas was alive.

I looked out my window and watched my neighbors next door – three generations – all working together in doing yard work. I saw a sense of family and a spirit of love.

Yes, the spirit of Christmas is alive. We just need to open our hearts and do something that makes you smile. Put fun to the top of your Christmas list and smile, smile, smile.



### We Wish You All

A glad and peaceful  
Christmastide  
With all its memories sweet;  
May hope and love and  
joy be yours  
With kindly friends to greet;  
The echo of the angel's song,  
The star's clear guiding light,  
The Christ child in your  
heart and home,  
To make this  
Christmas bright.



**DIOCESE OF BUFFALO PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT**

For Period September 1, 2015

To August 31, 2016

Parish Code:

**0415**

EXPENDITURES		ACTUAL	BUDGET
SECTION VII.		CURRENT YEAR	NEXT YEAR
<b>SALARIES AND PAYROLL COSTS:</b>			
306	Regular Clergy (Salary only)	28,422.06	break out car allowance
307	Extra Clergy	8,550.00	
307.1	Other Religious Personnel	14,841.84	
310	Regular Help (Gross Wages)	159,677.77	
311	Extra Help	600.00	
316	Payroll Taxes (Employer FICA only)	12,842.97	
321.8	Other	118,176.91	
Total Salaries and Payroll Costs		343,610.65	-
<b>SECTION VIII.</b>			
<b>SUPPLIES:</b>			
357.1	Votive Candles	2,653.38	
323	Other	27,650.35	
Total Supplies		29,703.73	-
<b>SECTION IX.</b>			
359.9	Total Printing	18,646.97	
<b>SECTION X.</b>			
<b>UTILITIES:</b>			
338.1	Gas	12,815.58	
338.2	Electric	7,769.93	
335	Telephone	4,352.76	
339.9	Other	9,148.16	
Total Utilities		34,086.43	-
<b>SECTION XI.</b>			
<b>OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>			
301	Diocesan Assessment	75,025.00	
370	Subsidy to Elementary School (See Note 1)	-	
370.1	Diocesan School Assessment	109,506.04	
376.8	Merged Parish Expenses	45,604.33	
376.9	Other	131,292.83	
Total Other Operating Expenses		362,230.20	-
<b>SECTION XII.</b>			
387.9	TOTAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH FORMATION	63,748.74	
<b>SECTION XIII.</b>			
388	TOTAL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	17,436.88	
Total Operating Expenses C.		\$ 868,913.60	\$ -
<b>SECTION XIV.</b>			
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES: (See Note 2)</b>			
378	Real Estate Purchases	-	
360	New Buildings & Extensions	-	
350.1	Remodeling	41,104.00	
350.2	Repair & Renovation	27,587.96	
332	Equipment & Furnishings	121,663.70	
Total Capital Expenditures D.		190,355.66	
<b>SECTION XV.</b>			
<b>REDUCTION IN DEBT:</b>			
Principal Payments on Debt:			
	Mortgages	-	
	Notes	-	
Total Reduction in Debt E.		-	
TOTAL CASH EXPENDITURES (C + D + E)		\$ 1,059,269.26	
TOTAL BUDGETED CASH FLOW (A-C)		88,168.88	

(revised 8/16)

*Note 1:*  
This amount should equal the amount reported on the Elementary School report (i.e. account #400 - Parish Subsidy).

*Note 2:*  
Please attach listing of all projects costing \$10,000 or more, and indicate whether Bishop's approval was received.

**Wayside**  
**Family Restaurant**  
**2301 South Park Ave.**  
*Serving Homestyle*  
*Specials Daily*  
*Breakfast, Lunch & Supper*  
*Your Host...*  
**Dennis Spinelli**  
**10% Senior Discount on Dinners**  
**826-2279**

**DAVE'S**  
**Service Center**  
**Auto Repairs of All Types**  
**- Foreign & Domestic**

**826-8390**  
**2365 South Park Ave.**

**Day & Night**   
**Plumbing Co. LLC**

**SEWER & DRAIN CLEANING**  
**SPECIALIST**

Water Heaters • Water Services  
 Sold, Installed and Repaired  
**824-4408**



**DIocese OF BUFFALO PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT**

Church of: Our Lady of Charity Parish

Parish Code: 0415

**RECEIPTS**

SECTION I.		ACTUAL	BUDGET
REGULAR:		CURRENT YEAR	NEXT YEAR
201	Sunday and Holyday Collections:	\$ 593,517.03	\$ -
206.2	Other:	3,216.00	-
Total Regular Receipts		596,733.03	-
SECTION II.			
AUXILIARY:			
221	Votive Candles (Specify if net)	2,352.00	-
233	Rent	18,540.00	-
231	Interest & Other Investment Income	23,638.57	-
228	Lawn Fetes, Dinners, & Other Fund-Raisers (net)	37,637.62	-
227	Bingo (net)	-	-
222.2	Church Societies (net)	2,092.71	-
234	Donations for use of Property (Goodwill)	4,300.00	-
227.2	Bell Jar (net)	-	-
228.1	Raffles (net)	14,768.00	-
208.5	Pre-School / After-School Programs (Parishes Without Parish School)(net)	-	-
208.3	Other	47,407.79	-
Total Auxiliary Receipts		151,236.09	-
SECTION III.			
EXTRAORDINARY:			
204	Parish Drives	30,039.93	-
204.1	Approved Capital Campaigns (approval documentation required)	-	-
205	Donations, Bequests	15,893.71	-
239.4	Insurance Reimbursements	15,970.00	-
239.5	Merged Parish Income	87,232.48	-
239.2	Other	29,987.76	-
Total Extraordinary Receipts		179,123.88	-
SECTION IV.			
240	TOTAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH FORMATION	8,755.00	-
SECTION V.			
250	TOTAL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	21,223.68	-
Total Operating Receipts A.		957,072.48	-
SECTION VI.			
INCREASE IN DEBT:			
Increase in Debt (describe)		-	-
TOTAL INCREASE IN DEBT B.		-	-
Total Cash Receipts: (A + B)		\$ 957,072.48	\$ -

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*"Ask the Families we have served..."*

**Quarterly Report  
Hunger Bowl  
6/1/16 thru 8/31/16**

<b>Amount Still Remaining in Hunger Bowl as of: 5/31/2016</b>	<b>\$114.00</b>
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>	
Deposit of July 2016	\$2,175.00
Deposit of August 2016	<u>\$811.00</u>
Total Deposit	\$2,986.00
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	
Amount sent out from Hunger Bowl	
Consolata Missionaries	\$200.00
Miss. Oblates of Mary Imm.	\$200.00
Jesuit Intern. Missions	\$200.00
Mercy Mission	\$200.00
Rev. David Farrell (CofHC)	\$200.00
Sisters of Mercy	\$200.00
Sr. Marian Baumler	\$200.00
Los Ninos- Via International	\$200.00
Timau Missions - Kenya E. Africa	\$200.00
	<b>\$1,800.00</b>
<b>Amount Remaining in Hunger Bowl as of 8/31/16</b>	<b>\$1,300.00</b>
Amount collected from December 1976- August 2016	<b>\$501,406.53</b>

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**Quarterly Report Renovation Fund  
For Keeping Our Parish Buildings Beautiful  
*June 1, 2016- August 31, 2016***

Our Parish Building and Grounds Committee has prioritized some capital expenditures that we need to plan for. Donations to the Renovation Fund will help us to plan for:

**St. Agatha's:**

1. Renovate entrances in church-school building.

**Holy Family:**

1. Clean choir loft

**St. Ambrose:**

1. Replacement of windows in classrooms (\$10,000.00 per classroom)

<b>Opening Balance In Account As Of 5/31/16</b>	<b>\$4,885.80</b>
<b>Deposits</b>	<b>\$9,832.25</b>
<b>Withdrawals*</b>	<b>\$5,123.20</b>
<b>Balance In Renovation Account As Of 8/31/16</b>	<b>\$9,594.85</b>

\*Recent improvements that have been done and paid for through our Renovation: Keep Our Buildings Beautiful Fund.

## Monthly Money Minutes

By Amy Jo Lauber

*Certified Financial Planner™ Professional and president of  
Lauber Financial Planning*

“What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.” 1 Corinthians 2:12

We all want to be loved and accepted, but many of us will settle for money.

This swapping of rewards may push us to work hard to earn more money and, therefore (we assume), earn respect and admiration (which can feel a lot like love and acceptance).

There is nothing wrong with earning money and certainly working hard has its own benefits, but keep your efforts in perspective.

You are a child of the Most High; you are already loved and accepted by the One that matters most.

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## Sing Out for the Season

It is Advent and we are preparing to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Now is the perfect time to join your voice with ours and give our growing choir a try! Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the choir loft at Holy Family Worship site. If you can sing in the shower or the car, you can sing in the choir! Contact Brian Meyer at Music@OLCP.com for more info.

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## Irish Sweepstakes New this year

*Christmas Drawing - Friday, December 23 - \$100*  
*Snowflake Drawing - Friday, January 20 - \$200*  
*Shamrock Drawing - February 11 - \$450*

## Thank You Notes

Our parishioners' generosity has been recognized this month by Sister Patricia Vertrano on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy working in Peru.

Sister Marian Baumer of the Sisters of St. Mary Namur is grateful for our donation that supports their nutritional centers in the Congo.

Sister Johnice sends her thanks for the baby shower gifts collected for the Response to Love Center. She was also grateful for the monetary donations received.

Sister Margaret O'Donnell was thankful for the donations to help the work in the Mercy Missions in the Philippines. "Your generosity spreads love around the world."



*Merry  
Christmas!*

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## the bridge

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