

the bridge

news and views for the Our Lady of Charity community

volume 35, number 2

March 2017

upcoming events

March 4 - 12, 2017

Novena of Grace

March 8, 2017

Irish Sweepstakes

March 11 & 12, 2017

Lenten Food Drive

March 14, 2017

Holy Name - 7:00 pm

Maguire Hall

March 14, 2017

Rosary Altar 7:00 pm

McGuire Hall

March 22, 2017

Holy Name Society

Meat Raffle

Maguire Hall - 5:00 pm

The View from a Pew

By Steve Banko

Lent is upon us, that 40-day preparation for the solemnity and sacrifice of Holy Week and the righteous rejoicing of Easter. Everything I was taught about Lent in my prepubescent days was that it was a time of contraction. It was a time to stop, to deny, and to sacrifice. And so we did, for a time anyway. We went without candy or gum or pop or whatever else we could think of to give up. I could go a couple weeks at most in such denial. After that, it was pure guilt that I couldn't be more faithful to my promise to deny myself.

Now that I am old, I look at things a little differently. Instead of contracting, I think of Lent as a time of expansion; a time to extend myself beyond the normal bounds of everyday and try to expand my understanding of those whose beliefs might differ from mine; to extend my recognition that I might, in fact, just be my brother's keeper; that instead of denying myself, I should see that I might be able to make a difference in the condition of the world around me. I've come to believe that the Beatitudes carried as much, if not more, weight as the Ten Commandments and that our duty as Christians extends beyond the finite boundaries of "thou shalt not" and reaches into that place where we recognize that our faith asks us to embrace each other in the works of mercy, both corporal and spiritual.

Lent could be just the right time to reacquaint us with those works: to feed the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, to visit the sick and the imprisoned, to shelter the homeless and give alms to the poor. We are not always available to act on the corporal works but we can all recognize the duty of the spiritual works. We are called to pray for the living and the dead, to counsel (not judge) sinners, to educate the uninformed and comfort the sorrowful. The nuns made sure we could recite both sets of works but as we grew older, they often slipped into the deep recesses of our minds. In my case, they did so because they weren't easy. I didn't always recognize, much less honor, my obligation to live my faith. I wanted to say I was a Catholic but I didn't always live like one. But life is funny in that as I progressed

in life, I grew more aware of the responsibilities of Christianity. I saw the need in the world and role I might play in addressing those needs.

Several years ago, I was asked to write a speech for a notable civil rights leader seeking to drive community awareness into what everyone thought of as just another day off. My speech called for it to be a "day on;" a day when we all extended ourselves beyond of comfort level to feed, give drink, counsel, pray and in every way live the Gospels we've heard all our spiritual lives.

Lent can be such an awakening for us. It can be a time when we expand our belief and understanding of what it really means to follow Christ.

Thank You Notes

Sr. Mary Baumler sent of gratitude for our ongoing support for the Sisters of St. Mary's nutrition program in the Congo.

Our Lady of Charity received two thank you notes from recipients of gifts from the Giving Tree. Mary said our gift made her day. She was grateful for the pens and pencils and rosary. Tim appreciated our kindness and thoughtfulness for the package he was given.

Community Table

By: Ann Flaherty

The South Buffalo Ecumenical Association was formed some thirty years ago. It was one of the greatest committees I was involved in! We became friends with all our neighbor churches- Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran and more. Our committee met once a month at a different church. We started with a prayer service and then a luncheon meeting. Years ago we were not permitted to go in their churches and now we can pray with them. What a very beautiful experience!

The Community Table, located at the Baptist Church on Southside Parkway, was organized by the South Buffalo Ecumenical Association. Every year a fund-raiser is held for the Table at the Iron Workers Hall located at 196 Orchard Park Road in West Seneca and will run from 6:00 PM to midnight. This year will be the 26th event and will be held on Saturday April 1, 2017. The event will include music by volunteer bands, snacks and raffles. You're sure to meet someone there from South Buffalo! Hope to see you there!!



Happy St. Patrick's Day

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

Parish Council Perspective

By Elisa Church-Goupil

About twelve years ago, my husband, Dan, and I chose St. Ambrose as our South Buffalo parish. We were looking for a school for our son, who was soon to begin kindergarten, and we found the parish a warm, vibrant place that felt like home.

We arrived at a time of transition, just after the passing of Father Stanton. Father Lee had been named as the new pastor. Over time, there were more changes. The parish merged with Holy Family and St. Agatha and became Our Lady of Charity Parish. St. Ambrose school merged with St. Theresa and St. Martin's to become Ambrose Catholic Academy, one of three sites for the South Buffalo Catholic School.

Our son was in the last graduating class from Ambrose Catholic Academy. In 2013 the site closed, and many former Ambrose students joined Notre Dame Academy, the remaining South Buffalo Catholic site.

In the past year and a half, we've seen the retirement of Monsignor Lee, and arrival of Father Bryan. Through all this change, some gradual, some sudden, we've remained parishioners. This past year I became something I never expected, but thoroughly

enjoy. A friend asked me to consider becoming a member of OLCP parish council. I said yes.

Change is the only constant, it seems, and it is best to be proactive and create a vision which serves our faith community. In the last few months, the parish council has worked with Father Bryan to create a new vision statement. I've been honored to be a part of the process, to have a voice in guiding the parish into the future.

Since September, I've put names to faces I recognized from mass, but never realized belonged to parish council. It's been rewarding getting to know these people. Their faith and dedication has encouraged me to work on addressing common concerns. Participating in parish business with other parish council members has given me a sense of belonging to OLCP I've never experienced before.

Parish Council has made me see faith is something to be shared and nurtured, a greater treasure than buildings or traditions we may slavishly cling to. I credit parish council for letting me feel as comfortable at the Holy Family site as I've always been at the Ambrose site. I look forward to serving, growing, sharing, and doing my best to see our parish's future is bright.

 **LAUBER** FINANCIAL PLANNING *LIFE: Live Inspired. Financially Empowered.*

- Objective, professional, experienced financial advice
- Specializing in comprehensive and holistic financial planning, coaching and guidance
- No products offered or sold, so no conflicts of interest
- Fee-only (hourly, flat-fee, retainer); sliding scale fees available for spending plan/debt coaching

Amy Jo Lauber CFP®
 Certified Financial Planner™
 Lauber Financial Planning
 3976 Seneca Street, West Seneca, NY 14224
 (716) 430-1634
 ajlauber@lauberfinancialplanning.com

Nightengale Funeral Home

1884 South Park Avenue
822-4371

AFFORDABLE PRICES

CREMATION SERVICES

Price Guaranteed Pre-Plan Services
Nursing Home/Medicaid accounts

Family Owned and Operated Since 1926
Marty Nightengale - Licensed Manager

"Ask the Families we have served..."

Monthly Money Minutes

By Amy Jo Lauber

Certified Financial Planner™ Professional and president of
Lauber Financial Planning

*“Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.” ~
Proverbs 13:11*

Time is money’s good friend, and patience is the tool we most need to be good stewards of our money. When we lack patience, our lesser impulses can prompt us to make certain choices that will appear beneficial when in reality they are a trap. We all must learn to be vigilant and also to discern what choices will align with our goals and values.

Protect yourself from scammers by applying patience and discernment.

Student Honors - Second Quarter

Mount Mercy Academy

First Honors

- Julia Maria Acosta**
- Alyssa Lickfeld**
- Phoebe Palmisano**
- Kelly Thomas**

Second Honors

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Kayla Armbruster | Kathleen Ball |
| Fiona Danahy | Kate Haettich |
| Elizabeth Higgins | Elizabeth Lang |
| Erin Murphy | |

Merit Roll

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Brynn Covington | Reilly D Anthony |
| Madison Lauber | Roisin Lynch |
| Anastasia Sennett | Claire Termini |
| Grace Welsby | Eleanor Wilson |

Student Honors - Second Quarter

Bishop Timon St. Jude

First Honors with Distinction

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Trevor Brill | Brian Hilmey |
| Tyler Brill | Michael Klodzinski |
| John Hannon | Brandon Zakowski |
| Kiernan Higgins | |

First Honors

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Justin Bott | John Donahue |
| Jackson Dunn | Justin Higgins |
| Matthew Horrigan | Sean Jordan |
| Conor Kennedy | John Kline |
| Patrick Kline | Roger Marchione |
| Dillon Nelson | Ryan O'Keeffe |
| Thomas Sands | Owen Smardz |

Merit Roll

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Brendan Connors | William Daley |
| William Eberhardt | Ian Joseph |
| Michael Sands | Hayden Sawynsky |
| Kevin Sheehan | Joseph Snyder |
| Matthew Tytko | |



the bridge

Published by
Our Lady of Charity Parish Council
<http://ourladyofcharityparish.com>
65 Ridgewood Road
Buffalo, NY 14220
822-5962

Fr. Bryan Zielenieski, Moderator
Shirley Banko, Editor
submit articles to: sabanko@roadrunner.com

Staff

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Steve Banko | Pat Margerum |
| Amy Jo Lauber | |