



Communique'

www.doy.org
144 West Wood Street
Youngstown, OH 44503-1081
330-744-8451 fax 330-742-6448

Volume 53

No. 3

March, 2021

CHANCERY OFFICE

SAFE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

1. Who needs to be compliant?
 - A. All active clergy, religious, seminarians, and persons in formation are required to be compliant.
 - B. All employees in parishes, schools, and institutions are required to be compliant regardless of their level of contact with children or vulnerable adults.
 - C. Any volunteer who has unsupervised access to a child or vulnerable adult, or who works directly with a child or vulnerable adult, or who is responsible for a child or vulnerable adult on behalf of the Diocese, must be compliant.

2. Compliance Requirements

- A. Signed Authorization & Verification and Acknowledgement Form submitted to local Compliance Officer.

All clergy, religious, seminarians, persons in formation, and employees, and those volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults, must review a paper or electronic copy of the *Safe Environment Policy* and sign the Authorization & Verification Form and Acknowledgement Form. A signed copy must be submitted to your parish, school, or institution Compliance Officer.

- B. Fingerprinting and Background Checks

All clergy, religious, seminarians, persons in formation, and employees, and those volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults, must obtain a BCI or BCI/FBI background check. **Background checks are only valid for five years and must be renewed to maintain compliance.** Any Webcheck location may be used and locations can be found at www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov.

Background check requirements and codes are included in this month's Communique attachments. Background checks **must** be sent directly to the Safe Environment Coordinator at the Diocese:

Catholic Diocese of Youngstown
 Attn: Safe Environment Office
 144 West Wood Street
 Youngstown, OH 44503

As of January 20, 2020, background checks completed on or after this date for other agencies, employers, dioceses, etc., are not valid for compliance in the Diocese of Youngstown unless a copy is also sent directly to the Safe Environment Coordinator by BCI&I.

C. VIRTUS Account and *VIRTUS Protecting God's Children* Class

All clergy, religious, seminarians, persons in formation, and employees, and those volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults, must create a VIRTUS account with the Diocese of Youngstown and complete the *VIRTUS Protecting God's Children* in-service class. Visit the Safe Environment page on the [diocesan website](#) for a schedule of VIRTUS in-service classes and to register in either English or Spanish. **Until the threat of covid-19 has subsided, individuals are permitted to take the VIRTUS course online.**

Child/Vulnerable Adult protection in-service courses from other agencies, employers, dioceses, Scouts, etc., are not valid for compliance in the Diocese of Youngstown.

3. Updating Information

Compliance Officers must submit updates for current and new employees and volunteers as they complete child protection compliance requirements on a Compliance Checklist. **A person is not compliant until the Safe Environment Coordinator receives a Compliance Checklist noting the dates that the requirements were fulfilled.** Visit the Safe Environment page on the [diocesan website](#) to find the Compliance Checklist.

4. Reporting Child/Vulnerable Adult Abuse

If you or someone you know has been abused at any time by a priest, deacon, religious, seminarian, person in formation, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Youngstown, or if you believe that abuse has occurred or is currently occurring, contact civil authorities and also Mr. Dominic Colucy, Safe Environment Coordinator/Victim Assistance Coordinator, (office) 330-744-8451 x293 or (response line) 330-718-1388.

Visit the Safe Environment page on the [diocesan website](#) to find our most up-to-date *Reporting Requirements and Procedures* in English and Spanish.

5. Questions or Concerns

For more information about the Diocese of Youngstown *Safe Environment Policy*, contact by mail: 144 W. Wood Street, Youngstown, OH 44503, phone: 330-744-8451 x293; fax: 330-744-5099; or e-mail: dcolucy@youngstowndiocese.org.

CATHOLIC TELEVISION NETWORK OF YOUNGSTOWN (CTNY)

1. Local Programming on the Ecumenical Television Channel:

Live stream ETC-Ecumenical Television Channel at doy.org/Media/ETC-TV Live Stream.

Live Stream from St. Columba Cathedral the Chrism Mass on Tuesday, March 30 at 10:30 a.m. Mass will rebroadcast on ETC-Ecumenical Television Channel on Tuesday, March 30 at 8:00 p.m. and Wednesday, March 31 at 10:00 a.m.

Chrism Mass will broadcast in Stark County on Thursday, April 1 at 10:00 p.m. on WIVM TV 39 and Spectrum Cable Channel 989. In Conneaut please check the Sunday bulletin.

2. Radio Programming Wineskins

Wineskins airs every Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on WKBN 570 AM in Youngstown, WRQX 600 AM in Salem at 7:30 a.m., WILB AM Canton 1060/WILB FM 89.5 Youngstown/WILB FM 94.5 Canton at 9:30 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Listen to *Wineskins* on the diocesan website by going to the “News and Media” bar, then, click on “Wineskins Audio Library.”

The Current Issue Segment will feature: March 7: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Sr. Jean Orsuto, HM, from Emmanuel Community Care Center; March 14: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Carla Hlavac; March 21: Rachel Hrbolich on Catholic Charities; and, March 28: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Deacon Chad Johnson.

Vince Pecchia, a member of St. Angela Merici Church in Youngstown, will tell us about the Saints celebrated this month: March 7: St. Frances of Rome; March 14: St. Joseph; March 21: St. Oscar Romero; and, March 28: St. Francis of Paola.

The Interview Segment will include: March 7: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Deacon Jesse McClain on Jewish-Christian Studies, Part I; March 14: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Deacon Jesse McClain, Part II; March 21: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Deacon Jesse McClain, Part III; and, March 28: Fr. Jim Korda speaks with Christa Blasko on Diocesan Cemeteries, Part I.

This month’s Music Segment is from the CD “What Wondrous Love” Songs for a Lenten Journey.

Sr. Mary McCormick, OSU, General Superior of the Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown, will give her reflections on the Sunday Scripture Readings: March 7: Third Sunday of Lent; March 14: Fourth Sunday of Lent; March 21: Fifth Sunday of Lent; and, March 28: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.

3. See the newest of CTNY Local Programming on the Internet by linking to doy.org and click “News and Media” bar, then click on “CTNY Gallery.” DVD copies of all local productions are available through CTNY for a nominal fee. Please contact us at CTNY at 330-533-2243.
4. For an ETC-Ecumenical Television Channel Schedule for spring 2021, please contact CTNY at 330-533-2243, or visit www.doy.org and go to the “News and Media” bar and click on the ETC-TV schedule.

5. Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/CTNYoungstown.

CANONICAL SERVICES

Tribunal In-Service Available

The Tribunal staff has made available an ongoing, in-service for pastors, associates, deacons, religious, directors of religious education, religious education coordinators and counselors in order to prepare them in facilitating pleas for nullity for persons within the community whose marriages have broken down and who may be seeking a second union recognized by the Church.

The in-service focuses on preparation of case histories, compilation of documents, witnesses and determining of the appropriate grounds of nullity. Covered also are other types of nullity procedures.

Size of the in-service is in small groups of between 8-12 participants and generally runs approximately two hours. The in-service is offered at either the offices of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Youngstown or at a parish in the Canton area.

Interested parties, who have not already registered or who need a “refresher” should call the Tribunal at (330) 744-8451, ext. 252, to have their names placed on the registrant list. You would then be contacted when there are at least eight registrants for a particular location.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES SERVICES

1. WARM HEARTS FOR WARM HOMES

Catholic Charities’ annual “Warm Hearts for Warm Homes” campaign was held the end of January. Funds raised by this important winter collection provides utility assistance during the cold winter months to families with children, working poor adults and older adults on fixed incomes.

Thank you to all of the parishes who took up a special collection in support of Warm Hearts for Warm Homes.

We are thankful of your continued support to Catholic Charities. Donations continue to be accepted and can be sent to: Catholic Charities, WH4WH, 144 West Wood Street, Youngstown, OH 44503.

For more information, contact Nikole Baringer at 330-744-8451, ext. 323 or nbaringer@youngstowndiocese.org.

2. CRS Rice Bowl

Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and malnutrition, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all.

For information or resources, visit <https://www.crsricebowl.org/>

Local Rice Bowl grants will be available in April 2021. More information to follow.

For more information regarding the local CRS Rice Bowl collection or the local Rice Bowl grants, contact Nikole Baringer at 330-744-8451, ext. 323 or nbaringer@youngstowndiocese.org with questions.

CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS SERVICES

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

1. Seminarian Posters and Prayer Cards

The new 2020-21 Seminarian Posters and Prayer Cards are in. Our seminarian interns should have already delivered them to all institutions. If you would like additional copies, please contact the vocations office: 330-744-8451 or by email at skopp@youngstowndiocese.org.

2. Vocation Director at Your Parish

Diocesan Vocation Director Fr. Scott Kopp is coordinating his calendar for high school and college visits and Masses. If you have a special youth ministry, parish, or vocational event, consider asking him to attend or speak. 330-744-8451 or by email at skopp@youngstowndiocese.org.

3. Come and See Weekends

All plans for seminary visits are still tentative as we work our way through the pandemic.

4. Seminarian Visits to Your School or Parish

As you make plans for the reopening of school in the fall or when things hopefully reopen fully in the Spring, please remember all of the seminarians we have currently studying in our diocese. They are all willing and available to come and speak at your parish or school. To schedule one, please contact Father Scott Kopp at 330-744-8451 or by email at skopp@youngstowndiocese.org.

5. Seminary Field Trips

Please remember that our diocese has an established relationship with St. Mary Seminary in Cleveland. Because of its close proximity to our diocese, consider taking a day for young men and women to have a field trip to St. Mary's. Children from 6th thru 12th grades can find out firsthand what life is like in a seminary. Depending on when your tour is arranged, we hope to have a Youngstown seminarian guide the tour. This is a great opportunity for kids in our Catholic schools, CCD programs and youth ministry programs. Hopefully there will be renewed opportunities for these visits at some point this new school year. For more information or to schedule a tour, please call the Vocation Office at 330-744-8451.

6. Vocation Intercessions and Bulletin Blurbs for March

Attached to the Communiqué are vocation intercessions and bulletin blurbs for the month of March. Please use these in your bulletins and at Mass to help promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life in your parish community and school.

7. Vocations Social Media

Website: www.doy.org/vocations

Facebook: [doyvocations](https://www.facebook.com/doyvocations)

The Facebook page includes weekly video interviews with our current seminarians sharing about their lives and experiences.

DEVELOPMENT/STEWARDSHIP

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP'S APPEAL

2021 Annual Bishop's Appeal

The Annual Bishop's Appeal Leadership Manual was emailed to all pastors, administrators, and parish leaders, as well as parish staff members on Monday, February 15 at 12:00 noon. Hard copies were also mailed to each parish on February 16. Parishes are reminded to follow the timeline for solicitation and reporting. In-pew solicitation envelopes were mailed to each parish just prior to Christmas.

Last year's donors will receive a letter from Bishop Bonnar at the end of February and those who did not donate last year will receive a letter from Bishop Bonnar at the beginning of March. A video ad for parishes to promote on their own digital platforms is currently in production. This will be shared with parishes and staff via email when it is available.

For more information, contact Luke Politsky at lpolitsky@youngstowndioocese.org or 330-744-8451 x298.

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT & STEWARDSHIP

1. NEW One-Time Gift Direct Mail Program

The Office of Development & Stewardship is pleased to offer a NEW program for parishes and schools to solicit one-time gifts through direct mail services to parishioners, donors, and friends. We develop the content (either a letter or a brochure), have them printed, and you tell us who to send them to! For more information, contact Luke Politsky at lpolitsky@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 x298.

2. Life & Estate Planning Seminars

NOW is the time to plan a Life & Estate Planning Seminar. End of life issues and estate planning are discussed in a one-hour presentation. Participants are encouraged to remember their parish, a Catholic school, or favorite Catholic cause in their plan. The seminar is FREE! For more information, contact Luke Politsky at lpolitsky@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 x298.

3. In-Pew Offertory Envelopes

Enhance your evangelization and stewardship efforts with custom in-pew offertory envelopes to welcome visitors and invite them to share their gifts with the parish. For more information, contact Luke Politsky at lpolitsky@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 x298.

4. Endowments with the Diocese of Youngstown Foundation

You are invited to *Leave a Legacy* for your parish, Catholic school, or Catholic ministry by establishing a perpetual endowment fund within the Diocese of Youngstown Foundation. The income from these funds is available to the designated parish, school, or ministry, and is restricted to the purpose(s) which the donors establish. For more information, contact Luke Politsky at lpolitsky@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 x298.

5. Increased Offertory Programs and Capital Campaigns

Contact us TODAY to plan a Parish Increased Offertory Program or Capital Campaign for 2021. For more information, contact Luke Politsky at lpolitsky@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 x298.

6. Stewardship Thoughts for parish bulletins are attached.

PASTORAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
--

OFFICE OF PRO-LIFE, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

1. Marriage Preparation Engaged Couple Retreat Day

The next diocesan-sponsored one-day marriage preparation retreat days for engaged couples will be held Saturdays, March 6 at St. Columba Cathedral Hall, Youngstown, and April 10 in the hall at the Basilica of St. John the Baptist, Canton. Reservations are required. Social distancing protocols will be followed. Registration information may be found at www.doy.org; go to the “Ministries” drop-down menu and press on “Pro-Life, Marriage & Family Life.”

For more information on these, and other opportunities for marriage preparation formation, contact dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451, ext.272.

2. FOCCUS Training & Refreshers

Item #3 of the Marriage Preparation Policy of the Diocese of Youngstown calls for “a pre-marriage inventory tool” such as FOCCUS (which is the most widely used in our diocese). FOCCUS is offering facilitator training on their Catholic edition via Zoom on the following dates and times:

- March 13 from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm;
- April 8 from Noon to 4:00 pm;
- May 8 from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm
- June 10, from Noon to 4:00 pm.

The cost is \$115 per individual (& spouse attends free) and includes one FOCCUS Manual and one REFOCCUS Manual and shipping.

Similarly, FOCCUS is offering “refresher training” via Zoom for those already certified as facilitators, on the following dates and times:

- March 9 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm
- April 6 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm
- May 4 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm
- June 8 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm

The cost is \$39 per individual (& spouse attends free) but does not include manuals.

For more information or to register contact FOCCUS at foccus@foccusinc.com or 877-883-5422.

Note: Training is also available in Spanish.

3. Wedding Anniversary Celebrations

Couples observing their 25th, 40th, 50th and over wedding anniversaries will be honored at a wedding anniversary celebration at St. Columba Cathedral on Sunday, June 13, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. The celebration includes Mass with Bishop Bonnar, renewal of marriage vows, and a personalized certificate for each couple.

A second anniversary celebration will take place at the Basilica of St. John the Baptist Church in Canton on Sunday, October 17, 2021; at 2:00 p.m. Registration information for the June celebration will be sent to parishes by the end of March.

As long as COVID-19 concerns persist, the celebration will be open only to the couples celebrating anniversaries, with no other family members or guests present. Also, there will be a limit on the number of couples that can be accommodated in the with proper social-distancing. Furthermore, when registering for the Wedding Anniversary Celebration couples may opt not to attend the Mass in person (but participate remotely via live-streaming) and request that their certificate be mailed to them. For more information contact 330-744-8451 ext.272 or dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org.

4. Intercessions for Life and Pro-Life Bulletin Briefs

Recommended intercessions and bulletin briefs for February 2020, prepared by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, may be found at <https://www.respectlife.org/word-of-life> and on the Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family Life page of www.doy.org.

5. Walking with Moms in Need

Pregnant and parenting moms in need are in our parishes and our neighborhoods. As Pope Francis reminds us, our parishes need to be “islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference.” Everyone in a parish community should know where to refer a pregnant woman in need.

We are encouraged to assess, expand, and communicate resources to pregnant moms and families in need. This nationwide effort entitled “Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service” is sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

To learn more about how your parish can take part in this effort contact our diocesan Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family at dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 ext. 272, or visit www.walkingwithmoms.com.

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1. Resources and Ideas for Evangelization and Faith Formation

Looking for new ways to promote evangelizing witness within the parish this Lent? Please visit the Office of Religious Education/Evangelization website at www.catechistcafe.weebly.com for information on Lent, Implementation of the RCIA, the year of Saint Joseph, the Year of the Family, and other Evangelization tools. The Lenten season will be leading our parishioners to new life in Christ, and we want to accompany all toward a more active participation in parish community.

2. Pastors Seeking New Personnel

Pastors hoping to hire new or additional Parish Ministers to serve Pastoral Ministry, Religious Education, Youth Ministry and Young Adult Ministry are invited to contact Barbara Walko for assistance.

The Office will prepare the posting for advertising, assist with screening applicants, recommend position descriptions and compensation. The Office supports academically prepared, personally suitable candidates for consideration.

3. Persons Seeking Positions in Lay Ecclesial Ministry

Persons wondering about serving in a parish as a Pastoral Minister, Director or Coordinator of Religious Education, Evangelization, Youth Ministry or Young Adult Ministry are asked to contact Barbara Walko for assistance. Academic, Administrative, and Personal qualifications will be explored with options to consider for further preparation. The call to serve the Church as a Lay Ecclesial Minister may be discerned, and mentoring is available.

4. Featured Books in the Diocesan Library

Margaret's First Holy Week. (electronic resource). Jon M. Sweeney; illustrated by Roy DeLeon. Paraclete Press, 2019. "The Pope's cat, Margaret, learns about Holy Week as the pope explains each day from Holy Thursday to Easter. The pope introduces Margaret to the Sistine Chapel, where they pray together."

Lent and Easter Wisdom from Thomas Merton: Daily Scripture and Prayers Together with Thomas Merton's Own Words. Compiled by Jonathan Montaldo. Liguori Publications, 2007. Let the words of Trappist monk Thomas Merton lead you through the holy season of Lent and into Easter. The author was known for his journaling skills. With that in mind, the daily format includes an explanation of one facet of the season, followed by Merton's writings, appropriate Scripture passages and a daily journal topic to encourage your own thoughts related to Lent and Easter.

Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles: Cloud of Witnesses. Dinah Chapman Simmons. Little Rock Scripture Study, 2018. This 3 session bible study for adults explores what the gospels tell us about Mary Magdalene, a committed disciple of Jesus during his public ministry and at the cross. She was the first to encounter the risen Lord on Easter morning. And she received his commission to be the apostle to the apostles. Through Dinah Chapman Simmons's reflections on these experiences, Mary Magdalene invites us into a deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus. Includes questions for group discussion.

St. Patrick's People: Irish and English Catholics in Early Ohio History. Lorle Porter; with Donald Schlegel, Kathy Kreppner Graham, Pearl Gallagher Reischman. New Concord Press, 2003. St. Patrick's People is a book rich with heritage, filled with human interest, and steeped in tradition. Dr. Porter has woven the threads of Catholicism throughout her skillful story-telling, providing detailed maps of areas pertinent to the tale. Over 60 photographs and illustrations enhance the 170-pages of text, a fascinating timeline shows the Catholic experience in England/Ireland and America, and several detailed family pedigrees provide a larger picture of the people in the stories.

5. Online Learning or Local Learning Group for Ministry and Theology Certificates and Degrees from Loyola University New Orleans
- A. You can earn a Bachelor’s Degree in Ministry and Theology from Loyola University New Orleans entirely **online**. The program requires two or more years of full-time work or volunteer experience for admission, allows students to transfer up to 90 credit hours of coursework from accredited colleges and universities, and requires 120 credits for completion. To learn more, visit <http://cnh.loyno.edu/lim/ba-ministry-and-theology> or email Joan Lawson, LIMEX liaison, at jlawson@youngstowndioocese.org. The ministry
 - B. A local learning group is currently forming to begin later this year for Master’s Degree or Certificate in Ministry and Theology from Loyola New Orleans. Many LIMEX graduates currently minister in Religious Education or Pastoral Ministry. This local program features a small group format in which participants meet for one day/evening per week for approximately 3 hours. The discussion-centered learning includes extensive reading assignments each week. To learn more, visit <http://cnh.loyno.edu/lim/study-options> or email Joan Lawson, LIMEX liaison, at jlawson@youngstowndioocese.org.
6. Religious Education Certification for Catechists and Teachers

A listing of the Religious Education Certification ONLINE Opportunities for Catechists and Teachers is available on Catechist Cafe. Core courses, general courses, parish-sponsored, college/university-hosted, and other regional organizations are included in the list of online and onsite sessions. Visit <https://catechistcafe.weebly.com/>, hover on “For Catechists” for “Catechist Courses.”

*Registration is available at Catechist Café for these diocesan **online** courses for the Easter season:*

Toward the Sunrise, GENERAL COURSE, 16 hours

April 5 – May 24, 2021

Online facilitator: Sister Therese Ann Rich, OSU

\$20 fee

Practicing & Teaching the Beatitudes, GENERAL COURSE, 10 hours

April 12 – May 17, 2021

Online facilitator: Joan Lawson

\$23 fee includes book

The Heart of Welcome, GENERAL COURSE, 6 hours

April 19 – May 10, 2021

Online facilitator: Carla Hlavac

\$20 fee includes book

7. Online Learning Centers

These online learning centers have Spring offerings. *Contact the Office of Religious Education for information about catechist certification hours for these and other courses, webinars, and other online catechist formation opportunities.*

Visit <https://catechistcafe.weebly.com/catechist-courses.html> for connections to these learning centers:

- The Boston College Crossroads online program is offering these courses that begin April 14:
 - Call to Conscience
 - Eucharist: The Heart of Catholic Life

- The University of Notre Dame Satellite Theological Program has 14 courses beginning on April 12, including these:
 - * Synoptic Gospels
 - * The Letters of Saint Paul
 - * Introduction to Sacramental Theology
 - * Cartas de San Pablo
 - * Sacramentos y Liturgia

- The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation from the University of Dayton has registration open now for 25 courses that begin on April 11, including these:
 - Echoes of Racism; Whispers of Healing
 - Emotional Intelligence and Its Impact on Faith Formation
 - Images of Jesus
 - Introduction to Prayer
 - Summary of Catholic Social Teaching

Check Catechist Café/For Catechists/Catechist Courses for FREE online learning opportunities from the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, McGrath Institute for Church Life, the Jewish-Christian Dialogue, and others.

OFFICE OF WORSHIP

1. Liturgical Directives for the Celebration of Mass during the Pandemic

The Liturgical Directives/Guidelines for the Resumption of Public Mass published in June 2020 remain in effect. Updates and revisions to the guidelines/directives will be issued as needed. Parishes are to follow any new directives and mandates issued by the Governor of Ohio or local officials within your jurisdiction. The wearing of face coverings for all in attendance at Mass is currently required.

2. Dispensation from the Obligation to attend Sunday Mass during the Pandemic

The Catholic faithful who reside in the Diocese of Youngstown and all other Catholics in the diocese and especially those who are sick, or at high risk of becoming sick continue to be dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice.

3. Lenten Season Regulations

The Season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021. All Catholic are encouraged to participate in the traditional Lenten practice of prayer, sacrifice, and almsgiving. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of **fast and abstinence** – one full meal and two smaller meals for persons 18 thru 59 years of age; no meat for persons 14 years and older. All Fridays during Lent are days of **abstinence** – no meat for persons 14 years and older. There is no obligation to fast during the weekdays of Lent; however voluntary acts of self-denial are encouraged.

4. The Light Is On For You ~ An Evening of Reconciliation – Canceled

“The Light is On for You” ~ An Evening of Reconciliation” usually held on the second Wednesday in Lent is canceled this year due to the pandemic. Parishes are asked to provide ample opportunities for the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation throughout the season of Lent following the current safe health protocols for the sacrament.

5. Chrism Mass – March 30, 2021

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on **Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.** in Saint Columba Cathedral. Due to safe health protocols and distancing the Chrism Mass will be closed to the public. Attendance will be limited to priests, deacons and a determined number of lay faithful from each deanery. Information will be sent soon to all clergy.

6. Easter Vigil – April 3, 2021 – Universal Diocesan Starting Time

The Easter Vigil will be on Saturday, April 3, 2021. The *Roman Missal* states that, *“the entire celebration of the Easter Vigil must take place during the night, so that it begins after nightfall...”* Furthermore, the Priest Policy Handbook states that the Easter Vigil *“is not to take place at the time of the ordinary anticipated Mass for Sunday,”* (cf. Faculties and Permissions, Section V, pg. 10). In the Diocese of Youngstown, sunset on April 3, 2021 will be at **7:51 p.m.** and the end of civil twilight will be at **8:19 p.m.** Three years ago a universal diocesan starting time for the Easter Vigil of 8:00 p.m. or later was instituted. This starting time respects the current liturgical guidelines and diocesan policy. Furthermore it makes the Easter Vigil distinctive from the ordinary anticipated Mass for Sunday and alleviates any confusion among parishes. **Therefore the Easter Vigil is not to begin before 8:00 p.m.** *Please note that because daylight savings time begins each year in early March, the recommended start time of Easter Vigil will never be before 8 p.m.*

7. Confirmation of Baptized Catholics at the Easter Vigil

Priests are reminded that the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults gives them the faculty to confirm catechumens and candidates at the Easter Vigil.

However, if there are persons who are baptized Catholic and completing their initiation at the Easter Vigil, the pastor must request permission of Bishop David J. Bonnar to confirm them. A letter of request stating the names of only those individuals who were **baptized Catholic** and who will be confirmed at the Easter Vigil should be sent to the Bishop's Office as soon as possible.

8. A Year of Saint Joseph

On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis released an Apostolic Letter about Saint Joseph and has declared a "Year of Saint Joseph" to be observed from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. The letter, *Patris corde* ("a Father's heart") was released on the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as patron of the Universal Church.

The Pope writes:

"After Mary, the Mother of God, no saint is mentioned more frequently in the papal magisterium than Joseph, her spouse. My predecessors reflected on the message contained in the limited information handed down by the Gospels in order to appreciate more fully his central role in the history of salvation. Blessed Pius IX declared him "Patron of the Catholic Church," Venerable Pius XII proposed him as "Patron of Workers" and Saint John Paul II as "Guardian of the Redeemer." Saint Joseph is universally invoked as the "patron of a happy death."

A full text of the letter can be found at:

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html. In the coming weeks, resources will be provided to celebrate this important year (when the liturgical day allows) and for use outside Mass.

9. Liturgical Directory

The Liturgical Directory contains valuable information about Liturgy Committees; liturgical minister formation guidelines; guidelines for the celebration of sacraments; music in liturgical celebrations; and art and architecture directives. The directory can be accessed and downloaded from the diocesan website by clicking on "Worship" under the "Ministries" tab.

OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

1. Mental Health First Aid (Youth) One-Day Training

Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. This 6 ½ hour training gives adults the skills they need to reach out and provide initial support to adolescents and transition aged youth (ages 12 -21) who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to the appropriate care. (Also applicable for serving adults, but will have some time focused on young people.)

Space is limited, pre-registration is required by March 28 for this FREE (\$170 value) training. Must live in or work in Ohio. Participants must have both audio and video technology.

More information can be found on the flier in the Attachments, and one can register at: <https://forms.gle/doHhEJnnc4PfyNqm8>

2. National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) 2021

The NFCYM has decided to move forward with plans for the November 18 – 20, 2021 NCYC in Indianapolis. Theme: Ablaze.

The NFCYM stated: NFCYM is working closely with officials of the city of Indianapolis and the Marion County, Indiana, health department to develop virus mitigation and response plans specifically for NCYC. Only with their approval will NFCYM open the doors to the 2021 NCYC. If you have previously participated, the 2021 NCYC will look and operate a little differently. What should be unmistakable in the experience is our commitment to the NCYC mission: to provide a distinctly Catholic environment in which participants are invited to encounter Christ, experience Church, and be empowered for discipleship.

There will be VIRTUAL options available. The in-person event will have limited capacity. Registration is now set to open in May. Look for information in April.

3. Parish Youth Ministry Report Forms were Due January 31- Last Call!

Parish Coordinators/Directors for Youth Ministry are reminded to complete and submit the annual Parish Youth Ministry Report posted at <http://youngstownoyyam.weebly.com/key-forms.html> ASAP as they were due January 31, 2021 for the 2020 year. This form, in addition to providing necessary information to the diocese, can be a useful tool for evaluating your current youth ministry efforts and to plan for the future. Thank you to those who have already submitted the report!

4. Eagle of the Cross Awards in progress

Thank you to each nominator for the Eagle of the Cross Awards program. Check back next month for the list of 2021 recipients.

ECUMENISM

Catholic-Lutheran *Gift of Lent* 2021 Scripture Reflections

The Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Commission invites Catholics and Lutherans to use the Lent 2021 Resources for Discussion and Reflection for personal or group prayer. You are welcome to reprint the copy ready edition of this ecumenical resource for praying the Sunday Readings Advent Cycle B. NEOS Lutheran Churches outside the geographical boundaries of the Diocese of Youngstown are welcome to use this resource. For more information, visit www.lccovenant.weebly.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK: CHALLENGE TO END HUNGER

In a grassroots effort to combat the food insecurity in our area, the Catholic Sisters in all of the NE counties of Ohio (Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana, Stark, Portage, Ashtabula) are inviting other faith-based organizations, schools and agencies to participate in a Food Insecurity Challenge for one week in March.

This *voluntary* initiative will be advertised in these counties in order to make a concerted effort to assist our neighbors in need. Several ways of participating are listed on the attached flyer. Please feel free to pass it along to other groups.

CATHOLIC EXPONENT

Publication dates and special sections for the Exponent are as follows: Feb. 19 – Spring Home Improvement/Retreats; March 5 – Credit Unions/Childcare; and March 19 – Healthcare.

The normal deadline for each issue is 12 days before the publication date. We try to get late information into the issue, but are sometimes limited by lack of available space.

Due to mail delivery schedules, some of our subscribers receive their papers on Saturday, Monday or even Tuesday rather than Friday. If you have a big event planned for the weekend the paper is published, we recommend submitting items for publication in the previous issue so that everyone will have the information in a timely manner.

The Exponent is your source for informative, reliable, and doctrinally sound news stories, features, and commentary – keeping you up to date on local events such as Lenten events and fish dinners.

To subscribe, call 330-744-5251 or email exposubscriptions@youngstowndiocese.org to request subscription information. Thank you for supporting your diocesan newspaper.

CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Catholic Mens Fellowship annual conference scheduled for Saturday March 20, 2021 has been postponed. Due to Covid restrictions and our concern for your health and safety we have postponed our March conference. As more details on the re-scheduled event become available, we will post on our website.

Virtual Catholic Man Night

Is it our responsibility to protect the vulnerable of society? Join the Catholic Men's Fellowship for the sixth "*virtual*" **Catholic Man Night**. The next "Man Night" is on **WEDNESDAY, March 10, 2021 @ 7:00 pm**. We will be presenting the fourth session in the Knights of Columbus "Into the Breach" series. These professionally produced videos focus on various aspects of authentic Catholic manhood. This next video is titled "***Life***". Come enjoy the discussion of this very contemporary issue.

The Man Night will be a "Zoom meeting" and last about an hour. Go to our website **CMFDOY.org** for the link to the meeting. You can attend via computer or phone; with or without video. See you on Wednesday, March 10th.

IN MEMORIAM

	<u>March</u>
<i>Rev. Patrick Conway, sP</i>	3/79
<i>Very Rev. Edwin P. Connolly, sP</i>	4/78
<i>Rev. Patrick Tierney</i>	5/75
<i>Rev. Richard Buchman</i>	5/81
<i>Rev. Leo F. Boppell, OP</i>	6/66
<i>Rev. William Slipski</i>	7/09
<i>Rev. John Babyak</i>	9/82
<i>Rev. James Stenson</i>	9/98
<i>Rev. John P. Turk</i>	9/00
<i>Rev. Bernard Schmalzried</i>	11/18
<i>Rev. Edward J. Neroda</i>	11/19
<i>Rev. Anthony P. Koval</i>	13/74
<i>Rev. Francis Snock</i>	13/08
<i>Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward Graham</i>	15/44
<i>Rt. Rev. Msgr. Louis Kazmirski</i>	15/64
<i>Rev. Albert Gaulrapp, CPPS</i>	16/67
<i>+MOST REV. EMMET M. WALSH</i>	16/68
<i>Rev. Robert P. Barrett</i>	17/03
<i>Rev. James J. Stevenson</i>	18/84
<i>Rev. William H. Hohman</i>	19/88
<i>Rev. Blaine Pierce</i>	19/05
<i>Rev. Thomas J. Downey</i>	20/66
<i>Rev. Thomas I. Bissler</i>	21/91
<i>Rev. James Zanni</i>	21/01
<i>Rev. Francis Beuke, CPPS</i>	22/54
<i>Rev. John T. Humphrey</i>	22/86
<i>Rev. Henry M. Gallagher</i>	23/91
<i>Rt. Rev. Msgr. Glenn W. Holdbrook</i>	23/92
<i>Rev. Msgr. Timothy E. Kenney</i>	23/03
<i>Rev. Joseph J. Tomacsh</i>	24/76
<i>Rev. William E. Gardiner</i>	25/61
<i>Rev. Msgr. Frederick Slaven</i>	25/11
<i>Rev. Kevin Coleman</i>	28/73
<i>Deacon James White</i>	28/14
<i>Rev. Fabian Frecker, OSB</i>	29/64
<i>Rev. Msgr. John Finnigan</i>	29/11