



Diocese of Buffalo-Youth & Young Adult Ministry

## Upcoming Events

December 28th - 30th

[Winter Camp](#)

**2012**

### February

17th -19th

[60th Annual Diocesan Youth Convention](#)

19th [Parent Track](#)

April 3rd - 7th

[Young Christians at Work](#)

June 24th - 30th

[Christian Leadership Institute](#)

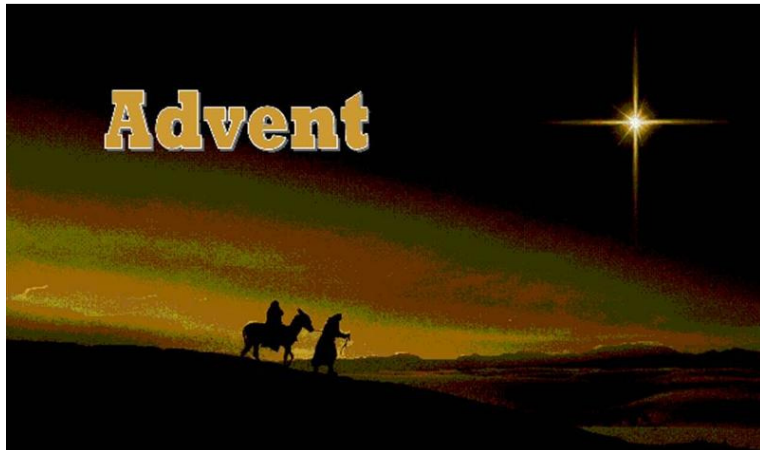
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### Diocesan/Parish Events January

14 [Moms Group](#)

23 [March for Life](#)

29th [Re @](#)



Greetings Colleague,

Advent blessings to you! I pray that these weeks of expectant waiting have brought you hope and peace and quiet moments of pondering.

Perhaps it's because I frequently have our [Youth Convention](#) on my mind, but during these days of Advent, I am struck by how our Convention theme connects with the themes of Advent. At our Convention in February, we will be celebrating the theme, "Turn the Page...Live His Story." During these days of Advent, we meet John the Baptist, who challenges us to repent and make ready the way of the Lord. He points the way forward and assures us that something, someone great is yet to come. Advent provides us a chance to "turn the page" in the story of our lives, to leave past sin, heartache and despair behind us and be open to God breaking into our lives in surprising ways to bring something unexpected.

Through the Incarnation, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus became human and lived our story. Now he invites us to return the favor and live His story. The scriptural narratives of Advent and Christmas offer us amazing role models of faith, and provide examples of ways to live His story. This Advent and Christmas season, I pray that these faithful role models will speak to us in new and powerful ways:

- Mary, who chose openness and acceptance, even though she felt unworthy.
- Joseph, who chose to trust, even though he may have felt confused.
- Elizabeth, who chose to believe the impossible and was able to recognize the presence of God in their midst.
- Zechariah, who needing some "prompting," but ultimately gave praise to God.
- Shepherds, who remind us that the Good News

Blessed John Paul II,  
Lakeview; 7:30

## March

16th-18th [Youth](#)  
[2000 March March](#)  
[16th-18th](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

must be shared first with the lowly.

- Magi, who search passionately for the One who will fulfill our holy longings.

How will this Christmas inspire you to "live His story" in the coming year?

May the remaining days of waiting in joyful hope bring you many blessings of Christmas love and peace!

Peace and blessings,

[Kathy Goller](#)

## 60th Annual Diocesan Youth Convention "Turn the Page . . . Live His Story"

**Will you join us at the largest gathering of Catholic youth in our diocese?** The 60th (yes - 60th!) Annual Diocesan Youth Convention will be held from **Friday, February 17 - Sunday, February 19, 2012** at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Buffalo.

### **Why Should You Attend? In the words of a teen...**

"I learned that it was OK to openly share my faith and that I wasn't the only teen who felt passionate about faith. I also learned more about myself and I realized all the potential I had within me to make this world more positive. Convention helped heal me because for the first time in my life I felt accepted for who I was and from then on I gained the courage to always be myself and to help others feel more comfortable with who they are."

[Convention Promo Video](#): Share this [video](#) with teens in your parish - either by showing it at a gathering or sending them the link! If you need a DVD of the video, please contact [Kathy Goller](#).

[Parish Preparation Resources](#): Looking for promotional ideas and other resources to help you share the news about the Convention? Find a [one page flyer](#), sample bulletin announcements, fundraising ideas and more...

[Are you New \(or New Again\) to the Convention?](#) Try the Convention for the first time (or the first time in at least 3 years), and the group leader comes for free! See the [coupon](#) below for details.

[Are you a Returning Parish looking to Save Money?](#) Recruit a new parish, and take \$100 off your bill! See the [coupon](#) below for details.

**Youth Talent Needed:** We will NOT be holding Casting Calls this year, so teens who would like an active role (MCs, sharing witness, leading prayer, acting, dancing, etc.) in the Convention should contact Jennifer Belock. Adults can also contact [Jennifer](#)



to nominate talented, faithful teens in your parish for these roles!

**Adult Volunteers Needed:** Do you have gifts to share in planning our Convention? Do you know someone who does? We need adults who have skills or interest in stage design, service projects, or creative activities to step forward to help with parts of the Convention. Contact [Jennifer Belock](#) for more details.

**Take Part in the Expo!** Is there an activity (social, service or creative) that your parish wants to lead at the Expo at the Convention? Contact [Jennifer Belock](#) to let her know your idea!

The menu of [Breakout Sessions](#) is now available!

**Save the Date - Convention Chaperone Meetings:** All adult and junior advisor chaperones must attend one of the following Chaperone Meetings

- **Thursday, January 19; 7-9 PM;** Catholic Center - 795 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14203
- **Saturday, January 21; 11 AM to 1 PM;** Holy Apostles Parish, Jamestown (SS. Peter & Paul site - 508 Cherry Street, Jamestown, NY 14701)

## Winter Camp at Camp Turner

The deadline to sign up for WinterCamp 2011 at Camp Turner in Allegany State Park is December 23.



**Don't** miss out on a great opportunity for your kids to attend camp! This is a three day, **OVERNIGHT** camping experience. Being only three **days its ideal for first time campers**. We plan on having a fantastic time with or without snow! Parents: wouldn't this be a nice three days to have your 7 - 16 year olds NOT bored and crawling your walls at home???

WinterCamp provides a great opportunity for your campers to: make new friends, keep their minds active, busy and involved over the school break, try some cool new activities, step back

from the busy world of home, and reconnect with the presence of God in nature.

Camp Turner invites boys and girls ages 7 - 16 to sign up for WinterCamp 2011! This overnight camp program is located in the beautiful Quaker Area of Allegany State Park and runs from Wednesday, December 28th at 10 am through Friday, December 30th at 6:00 pm. A round trip bus is available with stops in Hamburg and Williamsville. Visit [www.CampTurner.com](http://www.CampTurner.com) or call 716-354-4555 for details and registration information.

We have great activities planned like court hockey, lip balm making, winter nature hikes, and a DANCE! Hope to see you and your camper soon!

Camp Turner is not for profit (501C3) under the Catholic Diocese of Buffalo.

### **Youth Convention Musicians Needed!**

We need musicians with experience to play and singers who can blend their voices and lead our congregation for the closing Liturgy.

Interested? Contact [Bryan Zielenieski](mailto:Bryan.Zielenieski@dioceseofbuffalo.org) at call at 716-839-1430, ext. 220

Three Rehearsals and one sound check:

January 15, 2012

January 29, 2012

February 12, 2012

February 17, 2012

[Find out more ...](#)

## The North American Martyrs Trek

Have you ever tried to talk to someone about your faith? Maybe even try to get them to go to church with you? This is part of missionary work. This past July, I spent seven days in Algonquin Provincial Park in Canada canoeing and camping with seven Boy Scouts from the Greater Niagara Frontier Council. Just as the Missionaries probably did some 400 years ago, we had to work as a team, help each other the best we could, and try to keep our spirits up. For the rest of the article, [click here.](#)



## Idea for Confirmation Preparation

The Sacrament of Confirmation is an opportune time to reach the wider church community. Cheryl Zielen-Ersing at St. Joseph, Holland coordinates a lovely prayer component that invites members of the parish to select a rock with the name of the Confirmation candidates and pray for that person during the time of their formation. The rocks are returned and presented to the students as a reminder that they, as newly confirmed, are now another rock in the foundation on which our church is built. It is a simple, but powerful way to support the young people and invite them to be part of an ongoing ministry. The coordination and assembly of this prayer piece can easily be delegated to young people who have already been confirmed.

## Safe Environment

**Accounts to Be Suspended:** Please be aware that on December 31, 2011 the Diocese of Buffalo will once again be marking seriously delinquent Virtus accounts as "Suspended for Non-compliance." This will occur for any account that has been in existence for all of 2011 and which has not shown progress by reading any training bulletins during the entire year. Accounts that are suspended can update their personal information but all training is blocked from further access. Remember that ALL individuals who work with youth on a regular basis are required to read each of the monthly training bulletins and have a criminal background check conducted through the Diocese.



We **strongly recommend** that you run (or have your Local Safe Environment Coordinator run) a current master report for your ministry area and **check to be sure that ALL of the volunteers in your program are on the list, and that all are fully UP TO DATE with training bulletins.** Please communicate to any volunteers who have not read a training bulletin in 2011 that their account will be suspended if they do not get up to date by month's end. These individuals should no longer be allowed to work with youth until their accounts have been unsuspended and they return to full compliance with diocesan policies. If individuals with suspended accounts continue to work with youth in 2012, your parish will be out of compliance with diocesan policies.

## Ideas for Incorporating a Family / Parent Perspective

Consider these examples of how parishes (some in our diocese, some in other areas) are helping to build strong Catholic families:

- A parish in Columbus, OH that paired down the Strong Catholic Families Parent Session to a 20 minute homily that was presented at all liturgies along with a collection of Parent-to-Parish Forms, yielding some wonderful results
- A parish in Texas that hosts an annual faith rally for parents and teens in place of their regularly scheduled faith formation session.
- A parish in Cincinnati, OH that runs a popular 6-week "Family Night" program
- A parish in Buffalo that incorporates a "Parent/Youth" session into each level of their faith formation program
- A parish in Texas that hosts a two-day sacramental retreat for children and their parents



As you can see, the [Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth initiative](#) is much more than just "hosting a Parent Session." It is about promoting a vision and paradigm that can be implemented in MANY different ways, and it invites us all to think creatively about what will best serve the parents in OUR parish. [Contact Chris Hanley](#) in the Department of Lifelong Faith Formation to learn more.

## Rekindle the Spark in your Marriage

Catholic Charities' Marriage Counseling Center in Amherst is offering *10 Great Dates*, a fun, romantic, relationship-enriching program from January 6-March 15 with each session beginning at 6pm. The program is appropriate for all ages and stages of marriage and includes 10 classes and a copy of the book, *10 Great Dates*. For more



information or to register, call Catholic Charities Marriage Counseling Center at 716 839-4406 or visit <http://www.ccwny.org>, click on "news", then "events."

### **MOMS group coming this January**

Niagara Falls Catholic Moms (NFC Moms) is designed to support and affirm women in the many roles that we have in life as mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, friends. Moms of all ages and stages are welcome to participate in our monthly meetings the second Saturday of every month from 9:30 am to 11 am starting in January. Come for coffee, food, faith and fellowship! We are also looking for moms who will join our leadership team and help us with a variety of tasks in order to make this is a great first year for NFC Moms. If you can help, please contact Sarah at 716-216-4245. Sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul Parish.



If any parishes/youth programs have interest in participating in youth sports please contact [Andy Cammarata](#) at St. John the Baptistin Kenmore 716- 873-1122.



## March for Life

Join the [Office of Pro-Life Activities](#) from the Buffalo Diocese and hundreds of Catholics, as well as all people of good will, who will gather together to pray and publicly intercede on behalf of the unborn, their parents,



families, our communities, our nation and its leaders. We hope that this prayerful presence may open hearts, minds, souls to the fullness of the Gospel of Life in our lives and laws, healing the wounds of abortion. Seminarians, religious, and youth all seek sponsorships to attend this event and need your support.

## Youth 2000 NY: Experience the Power of His Presence

YOUTH 2000



St. Leo the Great Church in Amherst will be hosting a youth retreat for teens throughout our Diocese and beyond. All youth and young adults ages 15-30 are invited to a weekend of spiritual renewal, prayer, music and fellowship beginning Friday at 6:30 PM until Sunday at 2:00 PM. The festival will be led by the FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF THE RENEWAL. Participants may sleep over at St. Leo's or commute each day.

Early Bird Registration by February 1st: \$35  
Regular Registration Fee after February 1st: \$40

For registration forms call 835-8905 x 14 or go to [www.stleothegreatamherst.com](http://www.stleothegreatamherst.com).

**Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry**

795 Main Street

Buffalo, NY 14203

716-847-8789 (phone)

716-847-8797 (fax)

[youth@buffalocesce.org](mailto:youth@buffalocesce.org)

[www.dobyouth.org](http://www.dobyouth.org)

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"If Mary had wanted to appeal directly to our minds, she would have written a book instead of bearing a child."

Author Unknown

**How will your heart be affected this year by the coming of our Savior?**

**Group  
Leader  
Free!**

**Special Offer for Parishes New - or New Again - to the Convention!**

If your parish has never attended the Convention - or has not attended in the past 3 years - we're rolling out the Welcome Mat! Bring a group of at least 4 youth to the Convention, and the group leader registration is complimentary! (All registrations must be full weekend packages, and the group leader must share a room with one other adult. Group must be accompanied by at least two adults. Value \$177!

Offer Expires: 2/10/12

**Save  
\$100**

**Special Offer for Returing Parishes!**

Looking to save money on your Convention registration fees? Recruit another parish\* to attend that has never attended, or hasn't been in three years or more, and take \$100 off

your total bill!\*\*

\* Need suggestions or contact information for parishes to call? Contact Kathy Goller.

\*\*\$100 discount applies to each new parish recruited. Send us the name of each new parish that you recruit, and when that parish registers, we will enter a \$100 credit to your account.

**Offer Expires: 2/10/12**

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