

Guide to Parish Life

How your parish can enrich you and how you can enrich your parish!

St. Amelia Church

September-October 2009

Vol. 14, No.5

Tonawanda, NY

I. PRAYER AND WORSHIP

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matt: 5:7)



Adoration. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed in the Church weekdays, Monday through Friday, from 7 to 8 a.m., and on Mondays, except holidays, all day from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Divine Mercy Chaplet is said at 3 p.m. during adoration. On the first Friday of each month, adoration begins at 8 p.m., and continues through the night until 8 a.m. Saturday.

Confession. The sacrament of Reconciliation is available Sunday morning from 8:30 to

8:50, and from 10:30 to 10:50; on Monday evening from 6:30 to 6:50, and on Saturday afternoon from 3:30 to 4:15. You may also call the Rectory at 836 0011 to schedule a time at your convenience.

Devotions. The Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal takes place on Monday evening at 7 p.m., preceded by the Rosary at 6:45, with Benediction following. The Rosary is also prayed daily following the 8:00 Mass. The Divine Mercy chaplet is prayed each Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Altar Servers. Boys and girls in Grade 6 or older are eligible for this ministry. Servers assist the priest at church services, serve as good role models for other children, and come closer to Jesus as they serve at His altar. For more information, contact Father Mark at 836 0011.



Children's Choir. The Children's Choir sings at the monthly Children's Mass, from September through June, and at special occasions. Rehearsals are held each month at 9:30, prior to the 11 a.m. Children's Mass. Membership is open to all children in grades 3-8. To find out more, please contact Jody Reeser at 836 2230, or jreeser@stameliaschool.org

Masses

Monday thru Friday: 6:30, 8:00, 10:30 A.M.
Saturday: 8:00 A.M., 4:30 P.M., 7:00 P.M.
Sunday 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 A.M.

Confessions

Sunday: 8:30 & 10:30 A.M.
Monday: 6:30 P.M.
Saturday 3:30 P.M.

Adult Choir. Members contribute their vocal talents to enhance the beauty and dignity of the 11 a.m. Sunday Mass September thru June and on special occasions. Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings at 7:30, except in summer. For more information contact Dan Fronckowiak, our music director, at 871 1556.



Eucharistic Ministers. These men and women assist the priest celebrant in the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass, serving perhaps twice a month, usually at the same Mass. Some also bring Communion to the sick and homebound after Mass. If you can serve in this role, please contact Pat Beutel at 832 0849.

Folk Group. These adults enjoy using their musical and vocal talents to praise God at Mass. The folk group plays at the 7:00 Saturday evening vigil Mass, except during summer. Practice takes place weekly on Tuesday evenings. New members are welcome. If you'd like more information, call Sharon Darisse at 838 4718.



Greeters. Men, women, or children are invited to spend 15 minutes before Mass on the weekends offering a warm smile and a friendly hello to people arriving at Church. If you can help, please contact Brain Ruh at 836 0011.

Lectors. Lectors proclaim the readings and the Prayer of the Faithful at weekday and weekend Masses. Weekend lectors usually serve once a month. To find out more, please call Lorraine Gulczewski at 836 5487.



Ministry of Praise. Parishioners provide spiritual support for the parish and the universal Church, by offering prayers and sacrifices at home. There are no meetings. A monthly newsletter suggests specific intentions and forms of prayer. To be added to the mailing list, please contact the Outreach Office at 832 2542.

Liturgy Committee. The Sacred Liturgy is both the source and the summit of all parish life and activity. This Committee oversees liturgical services and ministries, and seeks to ensure that all parish prayer and worship is reverent, meaningful, and effective. They also are responsible for decorating the church for the various liturgical seasons. The committee meets monthly. To learn more, please call Brain Ruh at 836 0011.

Prayer Group. The Precious Blood of Jesus Prayer Community gathers each Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Don Miller Hall for scripture sharing, songs of praise, shared prayer, and fellowship. Members support each other on their journey of faith. All are welcome. For further information, please get in touch with Jane Brown at 837 2679 or Harriette Hoebel at 835 5996.

Ushers. Men and women ushers are present before Mass to greet people as they arrive in Church. They help with seating, obtain gift-bearers for the Offertory procession, take up the collection, direct parishioners at communion time, and distribute bulletins at the end of Mass. Ushers generally serve at the same Mass each week. To learn more, please phone Tim Scanlon at 834 2431.

Psalm 151. Adult and youth members of this contemporary group sing and play at the 4:30 Vigil Mass on Saturdays from September through May, and also provide inspiring music for special occasions. Call Paul Peterangelo at 871 0525 for information.



Altar Care. Men and women contribute a half hour or so each week, on Monday and Friday following the 8:00 Mass, to care for the sacristy and sanctuary. If you can lend a hand, regular or occasionally, please contact Brian Ruh at 836 0011.

II. GROWTH AND EDUCATION

“But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold” (Matt. 13:23)

Adult Catechumenate (RCIA). This process is designed for adults who wish to become members of the Catholic Church, and for adult Catholics who wish to complete their initiation by receiving the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. Sessions take place following the Liturgy of the Word at the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass. Parishioners can help the candidates by serving as “Gospel Sharers”, that is, by reflecting on a given Sunday Gospel and sharing their thoughts with the candidates. Volunteers usually do this once a year. For information, contact Meg Kuntz at 694 0792 or JoAnn Long at 833 8882.

Baptismal Preparation. New parents who are preparing to present their child for baptism take part in a preliminary session, where veteran parents help them understand their role as the first educators of their children in the faith. This session is offered on a monthly basis, and new parents can register by calling the Rectory. Parents who would like to consider being part of this ministry can find out more by calling Brian Ruh at 836 0011.



Children’s Liturgy of the Word. At the 4:30 Saturday Vigil Mass, and on Sunday mornings at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses, children ages 4-11 are dismissed to the sacristy where they hear the assigned readings from the Children’s Lectionary, along with an explanation on their age level. Adult volunteers conduct the sessions. If you can lend a hand, as a presenter or a helper, please call Brian Ruh at 836 0011.

Children’s Catechumenate. Designed for older children who are preparing for Baptism, First Penance, and First Eucharist, this program takes place on Sunday mornings, following the Liturgy of the Word at the 9 a.m. Mass. To learn more, please contact Nancy Strychasz at 833 2330.

Coffee Hours. From time to time, the parish invites Sunday worshippers to the cafeteria after Mass for a presentation on a particular topic. Coffee and pastry is served, and the presenter speaks for a half hour. Then there is an intermission, when folks can leave, or stay an extra half hour for questions and answers.

Confirmation Preparation. After completing the curriculum for grades 9 and 10, in Catholic High School or in the parish program, eleventh graders take part in a series of six home sessions conducted by volunteer parents, in the fall. Service projects and a retreat experience complete the preparation process. Confirmation takes place in late November.



Elementary School. Since its inception in 1955, four thousand young men and women have graduated from St. Amelia School. We are the only school in New York State to boast these five “stars”: designated “excellent” by the Council on Private Education, named a National “Blue Ribbon” School of Excellence, certified as a New York State School of Excellence, named a National School of Character, and accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. The school’s 500+ pupils comprise students of varied religious backgrounds, including the Jewish and Hindu faiths. Generous financial aid is available. For more information, call the school at 836 2230, or visit online at www.stameliaschool.org.

Home School Association. This group of parents helps to facilitate close ties between the school and the home, for the benefit of the school children. The Association also provides financial assistance, and sponsors social events like skating parties, father-daughter dances, and similar activities for the enrichment of the children and their parents. If you'd like to learn more, please call the school at 836 2230.

Lending Library. The library, located in the Church narthex, provides books and videos for adults and children to take home and use at their leisure. The library is staffed by volunteers and is generally open after all the weekend Masses. Adjacent to the library is a display of pamphlets and audio CDs available for purchase.

Marriage Preparation Program. Couples preparing for marriage take part in our preparation program. The program is presented by married couples, and is offered periodically. Married couples who can share their experience of marriage with engaged couples are welcome to consider being part of this vital ministry. To find out more, please contact Ben and Heather Cooper at 807 7674.

Religious Education. Religion classes for pupils in public school are offered during the school year on Tuesday evenings from 6:15 to 7:30, and on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:45. Adult volunteer catechists conduct these sessions, often assisted by high school or college youth. Classes are limited to 18 children. Adults and young people who would like to help can call the Religious Education Office at 833 8647. Children in grades 4-9 also have the option of attending the Summer School of Religion, a 30-hour program offered for ten days in July. Summer classes are from 9 till noon, and are taught by professional teachers. The summer program includes a field trip, conferences with the priests, opportunities for confession, and celebration of liturgy.



Respect Life Committee. This committee works to combat what Pope John Paul II termed "the culture of death". It seeks ways and means to heighten our awareness of God's greatest gift - the gift of life. To learn more, please contact Father Mark at 836 0011.



Scripture Study. We explore various books of the bible using the DVD series of Bible Studies of Catholic teachers Jeff Cavins and Scott Hahn. Sessions are held on Thursdays from September thru May, in the Rectory meeting room from 10 till 11:30 a.m. New participants are welcome at any time. For more information, call Jane M. Brown at 837 2679 or Harriette Hoebel at 835 5996.

Vacation Bible School. Held the last week of July each year, VBS is a fun way for children from kindergarten through grade 5 to become better acquainted with Jesus and the Word of God. Sessions are held from 9 a.m. to noon, and include songs, games and crafts, and of course refreshments. High school students volunteer their time to help the program run smoothly. Call the Religious Education Office at 833 8647 for more information.



Women's Discussion Groups. Sponsored by the Bishop's Committee for Christian Home and Family, these groups are comprised of women who meet monthly and use a discussion guide provided by the diocese, to share their ideas and experiences, and to support each other in their vocation as Catholic wives and mothers. For information please contact Linda Byrnes at 836 9264.

III. CARING AND SHARING

“The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf” (1 Cor. 10: 16-17)

Alcoholics Anonymous. The Saturday night Freedom Group meeting is a place where anyone can come, to the cafeteria at 8:30 p.m., and learn about alcoholism. The meeting is open to all. AA also has closed meetings, at various time and places, and information about those meetings can be obtained at the Saturday night gathering.



Bingo Workers. Bingo revenues are a major source of financial support for our parochial school. Games are played on Monday and Wednesday nights at 7:40, and on Saturday afternoons at 1:00. Parishioners who can give some time to help keep our school strong can volunteer as Bingo workers, serving usually once a month. Please call the school at 836 2230 for details.



Book Club. The Book Club meets, usually once a month, in the Rectory Meeting Room, to discuss books of interest. Book selections are printed in the bulletin, along with dates for meetings. If you enjoy reading and like to talk about what you've read, this is for you. For

more information, contact Carol Tato at 837 9860 or Judy Ruhland at 833 4065.



Boy Scouts. Through the years thousands of young men and their families have been enriched by St. Amelia's scouting programs for boys. The Scouting program is comprised of hundreds of fun activities, all of them designed to advance the goals of character formation, citizenship training, and physical fitness. Boys in second grade are eligible to begin their scouting journey as Cub Scouts, and at age 11 become Boy Scouts. St.

Amelia's sponsors Pack 202 and Troop 202. For information on Cub Scouts, contact Rosalyn Southers at 876 3585, and to learn more about Boy Scouts, please call Michael Kuczma at 835 5174.



Card Flights. Couples who enjoy playing cards can join the St. Amelia Card Flights. It's a great way to meet fellow parishioners and make new friends. Couples meet in each other's homes once a month for an evening of cards. The entire group gets together once a year for a pot-luck supper, fellowship, and, of course, cards. To find out more, call Linda Byrnes at 836 2964.

Emmaus Men's Spirituality Group. Our objective is to foster growth in our personal relationships with Jesus by providing: inspirational and informative guest speakers and opportunities to share with other men our personal efforts to grow spiritually. A program is presented on the second Saturday of every month, in the Rectory meeting room, with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and prayer, a speaker, and discussion from 9:00 to 10:30. All men are welcome. Advance registration is not required. For more information, call Dick Rooney at 836 0021.

Golden Nuggets. One of our two groups for Senior Citizens, the Golden Nuggets meet twice a month, on the second and fourth Wednesday afternoon of each month in the cafeteria. Members are age 55 and older. The group provides social, spiritual, and leisure activities. For further details, please get in touch with Karl Reardon at 834 8399.



Girl Scouts. Girl Scouting offers young women a chance to develop their potential, make friends, share in community service, and better understand themselves and others.

Girls are eligible to become Brownie Scouts at age 6. Junior Scouts are ages 9 thru 11, and Senior Scouts 12 and older. To find out more please contact Peggy Kolber at 833 6233.

Holy Name Society. The society helps men meet their spiritual and social needs. A monthly evening meeting, on the first Tuesday, September through June, begins with prayer, and features a guest speaker on a topic of interest. A social hour follows the meeting. Members attend Mass as a group at 9 a.m. on the second Sunday of each month, and the Mass is followed by a continental breakfast in the cafeteria, to which all parishioners are welcome. The Society sponsors bowling and golf leagues, and hosts an annual Prime Rib Dinner, at which parishioners are recognized for noteworthy stewardship of talent, and awards are presented to outstanding altar servers. For information contact Jerry Achatz at 837 8402.

Ladies of Charity. Members undertake charitable projects, such as crafting items for the homebound; knitting, crocheting, or sewing items for needy infants, children, and the elderly; and making rosaries for use in our parish and in the missions. Many of our efforts are under the auspices of the diocesan Ladies of Charity programs, in particular, the Fresh Start Program, which aids women in setting up a new household. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month in the evening. You can find out more by phoning Karen Biesinger at 836 5574.

St. Amelia Senior Club. One of two parish groups for people 55 and older, the St. Amelia Senior Club provides social interaction, spiritual enrichment, and opportunities for travel. The Club meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month in the afternoon. To find out more, contact Doris Landgraf at 835 0127.



Health Ministry. A group of health care professionals and other interested parishioners provides a variety of programs focused on the interaction between physical health and spiritual life. One weekend a month, blood pressure screening is offered before and after some weekend Masses. Occasionally the group sponsors presentations on timely health issues. Health tips are printed in the weekly bulletin. To assist in this ministry, contact Peg Frandina at 695 7351.

Ministry to the Sick. We rely on family members to let us know when someone is hospitalized or ill at home. Contact Outreach office at 832 2542, or the Rectory at 836 0011. For emergencies, call the Rectory, anytime, day or night.

St. Vincent de Paul Society. Carrying on in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, the members of this society care for the sick and the poor. An extensive food pantry is maintained to provide emergency provisions for those in need. The society distributes food baskets at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. Working closely with the Parish Outreach Office, the society annually distributes \$50,000 worth of food. If you need help from the society, or if you'd like to learn more, please call the Rectory at 836 0011.



Outreach. The parish Outreach Office provides service of all kinds for people in need. Outreach offers food, clothing, and household goods for people in need, assists families at times of crisis or bereavement, and helps people with specific needs to locate and contact agencies that can help. Outreach also supports missionary work in places like Rwanda and Nicaragua. Visitation of people in hospitals, nursing homes, and at home is also part of the agenda of the Outreach Office. If you need the help of our Outreach office, or if you can lend a hand in helping others, please call 832 2542.

SAINT AMELIA PARISH MINISTERIAL STAFF



Msgr. Tom Maloney
Pastor



Fr. Mark Noonan
Parochial Vicar



Fr. Don Measer
Resident Priest



Sr. Helen Buscarino
Visitation Ministry



James Mulé
School Principal



Dan Fronckowiak
Music Director



John Ludwig
Business Manager



Judy Reitz
Outreach Director



Elaine Volker
Religious Ed. Director



Brian Ruh
Pastoral Associate



Kathy Waite
Youth Minister

The Ameliorator

bi-monthly newsletter from Saint Amelia Church

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The Ameliorator is the bi-monthly publication of Saint Amelia Church. We mail it to registered members of our parish. We also mail it to non-members who live in the geographical area served by our parish. We do this to keep our neighbors informed about who we are and what we are doing. If you do not wish to receive this publication, you can have your name deleted from our mailing list by simply calling our office at 836-0011.

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The Ameliorator

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Soccer Association. Close to 200 young boys and girls take part in a recreational soccer league each fall and spring. The league is open to all youth, ages 5-16, including those who are not parish members. Contact Jim Merigold for information on how your child can take part, or to volunteer to help. His phone number is 837 7007.

Travel Opportunities. Each year the parish sponsors a trip overseas. In the past, these "roamin' Catholics" have visited shrines at Lourdes, Compostella, Avila, Lisieux, Knock, and Fatima. They saw the world's only other Saint Amelia School in Belgium, and prayed at the beaches of Normandy. Group travel enables people to reap substantial savings, and enjoy the company of fellow Catholics. Watch the Ameliorator and the Parish bulletin for information on the next trip.

Youth Ministry (Junior High). Youngsters in Grades 6-8 take part in the "T-P-E Connection", a program named for the three things young people at this age love best: talking, playing, and eating. Talking includes guided group discussion on topics kids this age are thinking about. Playing involves supervised gym games like knock out, basketball and dodge ball. Eating means lots of pizza. And nachos. The TPE Connection happens twice a month on Sunday evenings. To learn how your pre-teen can get involved, or to volunteer to help, please contact Kathy Waite, our youth minister, at 834 5741 or stamelia youth@hotmail.com.

Youth Ministry (High School). The Parish Youth Board, comprised of high school students, provides activities for teenagers, including a Career Dinner, a monthly Sunday night "Fun Nite", a Lock-In, participation in the annual Diocesan Youth Convention, and an excursion to the annual Youth Conference in Steubenville, Ohio. The Youth Ministry Office also provides young people with copious opportunities to serve others. For further information, please call youth minister Kathy Waite at 834 5741, send an e-mail to stamelia youth@hotmail.com, or contact Kathleen Waite on Facebook.