

*John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1.29)*

## Parish Week † Sunday, 18 Jan. 2026

### Saturday, 17 Jan. / St. Anthony, *abbot*

8.00 am Mass: † Caroline Bastiampillai (family)

5.00 pm Mass: † Camila Maulion (Corine)

### SUNDAY, 18 JAN. / 2-A

■ *Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati*

■ *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins*

9.00 am Mass: † Jack Hickey (Helen Hillier)

10.30 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving 45<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary,  
Emilio & Aurora (Go family)

12.00 pm Mass: † Klein family (Teresa Zator)

7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

### Monday, 19 Jan.

8.00 am Mass: † Caroline Bastiampillai (family)

9.30 am ► St. Albert School Mass

12.30 pm St. Maria Goretti School Mass

7.00 pm Mass: † Luz Martelle (Ed Parayno family)

7.30 pm 1<sup>st</sup>. Communion Family Info Nite (A)

### Tuesday, 20 Jan. / St. Sebastian, *martyr*

8.00 am Mass: † Cyril Bastiampillai (family)

7.00 pm Mass: Int. 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
Capt. Flavian & Yasmin D'Souza (Lillian)

7.30 pm 1<sup>st</sup>. Communion Family Info Nite (B)

### Wednesday, 21 Jan. / St. Agnes, *virgin & martyr*

8.00 am Mass: Int. Bernard D'Cunha (Esme)

### Thursday, 22 Jan.

8.00 am Mass: † Albin & Pascalina Gomes (family)

### Friday, 23 Jan.

8.00 am Mass: † Gabriel, Francis & George Gomes (family)

### Saturday, 24 Jan. / St. Francis de Sales, *bishop & doctor*

8.00 am Mass: † Amir Adatia (Valerie)

5.00 pm Mass: † Oliver Abella (George & Rey)  
- RCIA Early Initiation Commissioning and  
Certificate distribution

### SUNDAY, 25 JAN. / 3-A

■ *Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo*

■ *2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Maintenance*

9.00 am Mass: † Caroline Bastiampillai (family)

10.30 am Mass: Int. D'Souza family

11.30 am Catholic Women's League

12.00 pm Mass: † Rose Rosali (Villnueva family)

7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

## Focus on the Word

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Isaiah 49.3-6; 1 Corinthians 1.1-3; John 1.29-34

*Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and bestow your peace on our times. Amen.*

## Pray for the Deceased

**The 16 victims of the explosives factory explosion in Tennessee.**



### A Special Gift RCIA POT LUCK

We thank **Corine Maulion** for organizing and preparing much of the food for the RCIA Pot Luck Supper on 14 June 2025. God bless you and your trusty team of helpers for a wonderful evening.

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18 -25 January

*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling. (Ephesians 4:4)*

The WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY invites all Christians to draw on our shared heritage and enter more deeply into the faith that unites us. This year, the prayers and reflections for this Week have been prepared by the Armenian Apostolic Church.

## The Knights of Columbus

### Upcoming events



The Knights of Columbus are a Catholic men's fraternal organization that support the spiritual growth of its members through charity and service. Please support their 50/50 Draw, and the sale of Treats to prepare for our 2026 *ShareLife* campaign.

## COMING UP

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31 Jan.	Wedding: Ylagan & Bermas (1 pm)
2 Feb.	Infant Baptism Parent-Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
8 Feb.	<b>Marriage Sunday</b>
9 Feb.	Confirmation Family Information Night [A] (7 pm)
10 Feb.	Confirmation Family Information Night [B] (7 pm)
11 Feb.	<b>Our Lady of Lourdes; World Day of Prayer for the Sick;</b> Mass for All The Sick (7 pm)

18 Feb.	<b>Ash Wednesday;</b> - <i>Lent</i> begins; Day of Fast and Abstinence; - Parish Mass (8.00 am); - St. Maria Goretti School Liturgy (9.00 am); - ► St. Albert School Liturgy (1.00 pm); - Parish Mass (7.00 pm)
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21 Feb.	Lectors' Social (1.00 pm)
22 Feb.	► RCIA Rite of Election (St. Barnabas Church) 2.30 pm



[Above:] The 1<sup>st</sup> Communion class of Holy Family Parish, Gaza, Palestine, 7 January 2024, with their Parish Priests and the Nuns who taught them.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation, 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Information Meetings

Parents with children enrolled as Candidates for

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION  
are invited to attend one of two Information Meetings:

FOR ST. ALBERT AND ST. MARIA GORETTI SCHOOLS:  
**Monday or Tuesday - 19 or 20 January**

Mass will be celebrated at 7.00 pm, and the *meeting* will follow immediately in the Church.

This invitation is extended to all families who have:

- ☐ Children in Grade 2 in our Catholic Schools;
- ☐ Children in private and public schools who are enrolled in our Saturday Sacramental Preparation classes.

We also welcome:

- ☐ Families with children enrolled in Catholic schools in Grade 3 or above, and who have not yet received these Sacraments;
- ☐ Families with children in private and public schools who are new to our parish and would like prepare for these Sacraments.

Families with students ready to prepare as Candidates for:

## CONFIRMATION

are invited to attend one of two Information Meetings:

**Monday or Tuesday - 9 or 10 February**

Mass will be celebrated at 7.00 pm, and the *meeting* will follow immediately in the Church.

## Saturday Confirmation Classes *begin 7 February*

Classes will begin on Saturday, 7 February 2026, for students who are not in our Parish schools and who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is the Sacrament that completes our Christian Initiation. Wilma and Lillian will be the instructors.

The classes begin at 10.00 am, and last 1 hour. Formal registration will be conducted on 7 February, and a calendar for the series will be provided. For information, call: **Wilma**, 416-884-0311; or **Lillian**, 647-909-6425.

## The Sacrament of Baptism

*Congratulations* to the newest members of our Church, born again in water and the Spirit as brothers & sisters of Jesus:

23 August

**Jacob Gabriel Arcigal**  
**Kio Christopher Kai Petalver Hayward**  
**Noah Elijah Joson**  
**Nathalie Grace Medrano**  
**Syncere Kwame Addo Nadie**  
**Mac Riley Pajar**  
**Ethan Michael Renales**  
**Raimie Elina Russell**

1 September

**Nasaiah Taddese**

6 September

**Amirie Julia Terrenal Biscocho**  
**Penelope Isabella Jones**  
**Lourie Vihan Sumondong**  
**Zuko Vincent Vilan**

13 September

**Celine Eloise Barbero**

20 September

**Tobias Zyon Javelosa**

27 September

**Ysobelle Einez Campo**

28 September

**Athena Gallardo Pingaron**

## RCIA, RCIC

*Rites of Christian Initiation  
of Adults & Children*



The RCIA meets Friday evenings at 7.30 pm; the next meetings are on 16 & 23 January. The RCIC meets Saturday mornings; the next meetings are on 17 & 24 January.

The *Rite of Commissioning* and *distribution of Certificates* for Neophytes from the Early Initiation Rite (22 November) will be held at the 5.00 pm Mass on 24 January.

## Stewardship

2025 Receipts, 2026 Envelopes

Soon, the Charitable *Tax Receipts* for all recorded donations last year will be in the Vestibule, for pick up after Mass.

Many thanks to all our faithful parishioners for your generous support of our wonderful parish through your weekly stewardship! This is an act of honour to God, our Creator.





## Romans 14

- 17 The kingdom of God is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- 19 Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.
- 22 The faith that you have, have as your own conviction before God.



Sunrise, 1 January 2026



# Fr. Charlie Amico, 1928 – 2023

## *Former professor, St. Augustine Seminary*

Fr. Charles R. Amico always knew he would be a priest. He said, “At a very early age I would ‘practice’ saying Mass at home, and even at times put on a makeshift clerical collar.”

The longest serving priest in the Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y., he died 14 Nov. 2023 in Lackawanna. He was 95. Father Amico was ordained 21 Dec. 1952 at the Pontifical Urban University in Rome, Italy, where he studied for seven years in its *Propaganda Fide* College. For more than 60 years, he was a professor of philosophy, theology and homiletics at St. John Vianney and Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, and at seminaries in Trinidad and Toronto.

He was the fifth of six children of Alfonso Amico, a cement mason, and Italian community leader Josephine Giovino Amico, who arrived in Buffalo from Mussomeli, Sicily.

He was one of four in his family who took up religious vocations. Two older cousins became priests, as did his younger brother, Monsignor Richard S. Amico, pastor emeritus of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Niagara Falls. Devoted to his family, he and his brother offered the Invocation and Benediction in 1974 when their older brother Michael A. Amico was sworn in for his second term as Erie County sheriff. For many years, they officiated together at numerous special occasions.

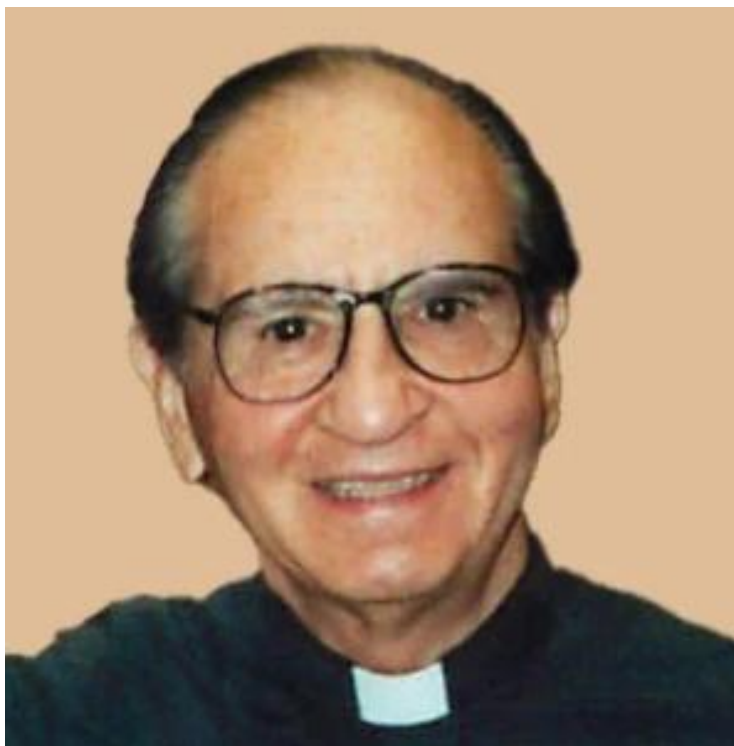
“He would make sure to be at his nieces’ and nephews’ and cousins’ family events: baptisms, confirmations, weddings and funerals,” his nephew Michael Ervolina said. He was president of his graduating 8<sup>th</sup>-grade class at St. Louis School in 1941, and president of his senior class at the Little Seminary of St. Joseph and the Little Flower in 1945. After one year of college classes there, he was invited to Rome and studied with seminarians from more than 30 nations.

Festive decorations and a procession of horses greeted him as he came with his parents to celebrate his first Solemn Mass on Christmas Day 1952 in his father’s parish in Sicily. He often said, “If the Pope himself had visited Mussomeli, the welcome could not have been more solemn.”

He completed his studies in 1953 and toured Italy with his younger brother, serving Mass for Padre Pio and receiving his blessing.

In August 1954, he celebrated his first Mass in his own home church, Holy Cross in Buffalo. Delivering the sermon was Father Pius A. Benincasa, later auxiliary bishop of Buffalo, who had trained him as an Altar Server. For the next 5 years, he was a parish assistant at three churches, was a chaplain for the Christian Family Movement and directed a parish religious instruction program for 1,000 students.

In 1959, he accompanied Bishop Joseph A. Burke for an audience with Pope John XXIII, and then returned to the Pontifical Urban University to receive licentiate in philosophy and theology and two doctorates.



After teaching for a year at Buffalo’s Minor Seminary, he became a member of the first faculty at St. John Vianney Seminary when it opened in 1961. For years, he conducted the annual solemn novena at Our Lady of Victory Basilica in Lackawanna each evening leading up to Christmas Eve.

In 1968, Father Amico was assigned as an assistant at St. Joseph Parish in Niagara Falls. He then returned to teaching at the seminary of St. John Vianney in Tunapuna, Trinidad. In 1972, he became a professor of theology at St. Augustine Seminary, Toronto, and taught at the University of Toronto. He started and directed the first training program for permanent deacons in Canada.

He was recalled to East Aurora in 1990 to teach systematic theology at what had become Christ the King Seminary. He became professor emeritus in 2005, but didn’t fully retire until 2018. Considered the patriarch of the *Mussomelesi* in the U.S., he developed and promoted the annual feast of Our Lady of Miracles of Mussomeli, which he first attended when he was two. He was principal celebrant at its Mass for the last time in September 2023.

Former student Brandon Young wrote that he was “a gifted speaker, a voracious reader, a brilliant intellectual known for his unassuming wisdom, holiness of life, and gentleness.” He also offered Mass daily at Bishop Head Residence in Lackawanna, where he lived with other retired priests.

His brothers Michael and Richard died in 2015 and 2017, respectively. He was predeceased in 2002 by another brother, Dr. Joseph S., a noted oral surgeon, and in 2015 by a sister, Grayce Arena, a co-founder of Valu Home Centers.

Bishop Michael W. Fisher celebrated a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Buffalo.

*May he rest in peace. Amen.*



*Above: Bishop Vincent Nguyen, Deacon Robert Kinghorn, Deacon Bill Daly, Archbishop Larry Saldanha.*

## Deacon William Daly

*24 March 1944 – 3 December 2025*

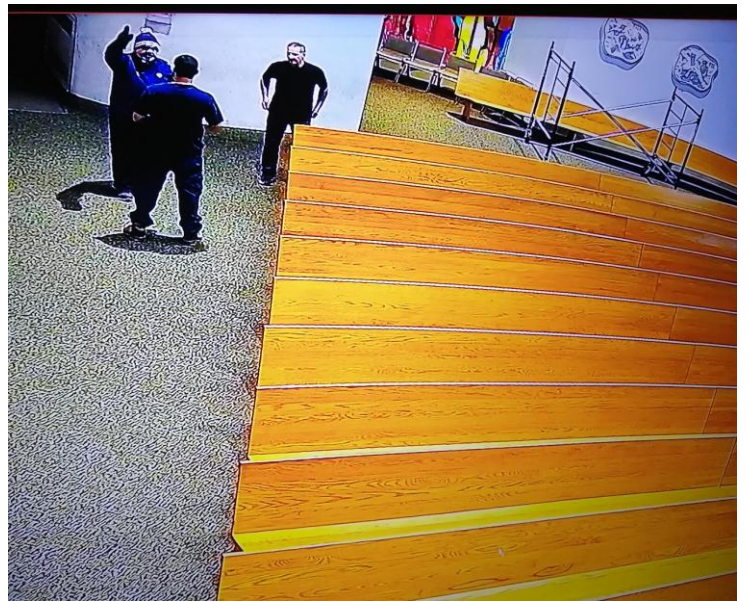
Deacon William Daly, an ordained servant of the Toronto Archdiocese since 1981, returned to the Lord on 3 December 2025. In steadfast faith, he proclaimed the Gospel, served God's people, and witnessed to Christ's love in word and deed. May our merciful Lord welcome His faithful servant into the fullness of eternal life in His Kingdom of light and peace, where there is no more pain, and only the joy of God's presence.

We also pray that the Holy Spirit may bring comfort and strength to his family and to all who mourn. May the peace of Christ, which surpasses all understanding, remain with the parishioners of Annunciation and Precious Blood and all other communities he served in the course of his ministry.

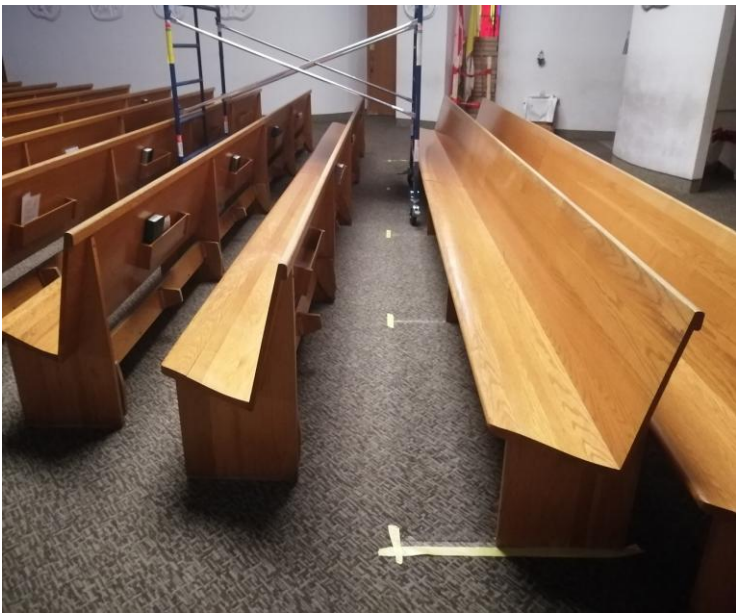
Deacon Bill was extremely helpful to the Office Team at St. Maria Goretti Parish in 2008, when the data base that he helped to develop for Churches in the Toronto Archdiocese, called "*Parish Tools*," was undergoing significant upgrades. He provided personal training.

Deacon Bill's funeral Mass was celebrated on 6 Dec. 2025 at Annunciation Parish.





LIGHTING UPGRADE. Materials delivered and installation work begins, 12 January.







*Above: Carmelo Romano at his Baptism, 3 January.*

*Below: Gabriel and Kamiyeah, in the RCIC;  
Antonio and Marilyn at the Children's Nativity Scene.*

