## Bulletin Announcements

**Week before the collection — December 5/6, 2026**
Our sisters have cared for generations. Now it's our turn to care for them. Throughout northwestern Pennsylvania, religious sisters have played an extraordinary role in the life of our Church. They have educated our children, cared for our families, served those in need and devoted their lives to prayer and ministry. Many of these faithful women now face the challenges of aging, while their religious communities work to meet increasing healthcare and retirement costs. Next weekend's Retirement Fund for Religious collection is an opportunity to thank them for all they have given to our communities. Please prayerfully consider making a gift through your parish collection or online at https://www.eriercd.org/rfr.html.

**Week of the collection — December 12/13, 2026**
They have spent their lives caring for us. Now they need our care. From classrooms and hospitals to parishes and outreach ministries, religious sisters have helped shape the Catholic Church throughout the Diocese of Erie. Their dedication has touched countless lives across our 13 counties, often through decades of service with little financial compensation. Today, many religious communities face growing expenses as they care for their aging members. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide essential healthcare, housing and daily living support for elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests, including those in our region. Please give generously through your parish collection or online at https://www.eriercd.org/rfr.html.

**Week after the collection — December 19/20, 2026**
Thank you for caring for those who have cared for us. Your generosity to the Retirement Fund for Religious is a beautiful expression of gratitude for the women and men who have dedicated their lives to serving Christ and his Church. Here in northwestern Pennsylvania, religious sisters have left a lasting legacy of faith, education, compassion and service. Your support helps religious communities provide the care and dignity their aging members deserve. Thank you for honoring their lifelong commitment and helping care for those who have given so much to our Church and communities. Learn more at https://www.eriercd.org/rfr.html.

**Parish Appeal/Pulpit Announcement — December 12/13, 2026**

Today's special collection supports the Retirement Fund for Religious, helping care for elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving Christ and his Church. Here in the Diocese of Erie, generations of Catholics have been blessed by the faithful service of religious sisters who have taught in our schools, cared for the sick, ministered to those in need and strengthened communities throughout northwestern Pennsylvania. Many served for decades with little or no pay, and their religious communities now face increasing costs for their care. Your generosity helps provide essential support for aging religious, including communities here in our region. Please give generously in gratitude for their lifetime of service. Gifts may be made through the parish collection or online at www.ErieRCD.org/RFR.html.

**Mass Resources**

December 12–13, 2026 — Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)
Readings: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 / 1 Thes 5:16-24 / Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

**Talking Points**

- ✓ Religious sisters have been an essential part of the Catholic Church in northwestern Pennsylvania for generations, dedicating their lives to education, healthcare, prayer and service to those in need.
- ✓ Throughout the Diocese of Erie's 13 counties, sisters have helped shape our Catholic schools, hospitals, parishes and communities. Their impact continues to be felt by generations of families.
- ✓ Many of these women served faithfully for decades with little or no financial compensation, choosing lives of service rather than personal financial security.
- ✓ Today, aging religious sisters and their communities face increasing costs for healthcare, medications, housing and daily living needs.
- ✓ The Retirement Fund for Religious helps eligible religious communities across the country, including those in our region, provide essential care for their senior members.
- ✓ More than 21,000 elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests nationwide benefit from the generosity of those who support this important collection.
- ✓ For many Catholics in northwestern Pennsylvania, religious sisters were their teachers, mentors, caregivers and spiritual guides. Supporting this collection is a meaningful way to honor those personal connections.
- ✓ These are the women who cared for us, educated us, prayed for us and helped shape our faith. Now we have an opportunity to care for them.
- ✓ The Diocese of Erie joins Catholics across the country in supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious collection on December 12–13, 2026.
- ✓ Gifts may be made through parish collections or online through the Diocese of Erie at SupportTheSisters.org.