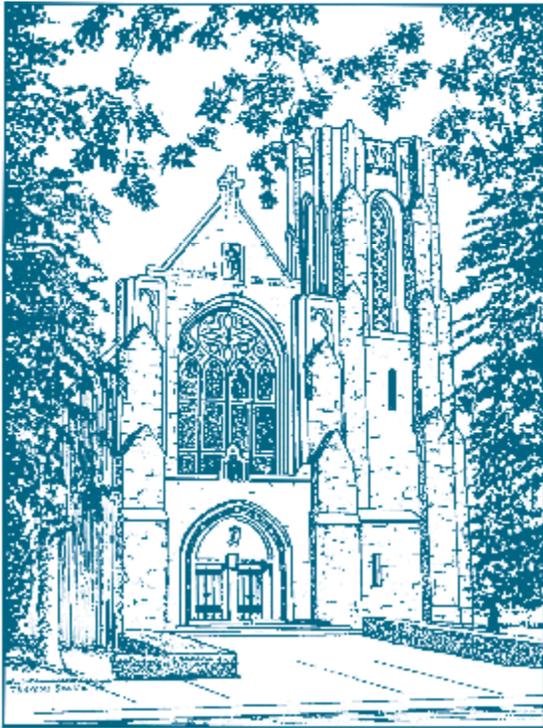


Roman Catholic Community of Hudson Falls / Kingsbury St. Mary's / St. Paul's

11 Wall Street Hudson Falls, New York 12839-1364



MISSION STATEMENT

"We the Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary's/St. Paul's located in Hudson Falls recognize our Baptismal call to holiness and to participate in the mission of Christ. Though different as individuals, we are one as a parish family - each member vitally important. We accept ownership of our parish and pledge, as the people of God with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to work collaboratively with one another, sharing our time, talents and treasure to help build the Kingdom of God."

[Revised: October 2001]

LITURGIES

Weekend

Saturday Evening Vigil 5:15PM

Sunday Morning 8:30AM

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE
WORD WILL NOT BE OFFERED
FOR NOW**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Weekdays – 8:30AM to Noon
1:00 to 4:30PM

Phone (518) 747-4823

Fax (518) 747-2265

PARISH STAFF AND VOLUNTEER LEADERS

Rev. Thomas Babiuch (518) 747-0095 tbabiuch@hotmail.com
Pastor

Deacon William F. Bazinet (518) 792-3718

Patty Fitzgerald (518) 747-4823 smspsecretary@yahoo.com
Office Manager / Secretary

Abigail Herlihy (518) 832-9274 aherlihysmsspsj@hotmail.com
*Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry
Confirmation Program Coordinator*

Richard J. Houle and Kimberly R. Rivers
Trustees

Elaine Altizio
Choir Director and Organist

Salvatore DeMonico
Custodian

Inquiries for St. Mary's Cemetery, Burgoyne Avenue, Fort
Edward – email – cemetery.on.burgoyne@gmail.com

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Robert Bayle
Finance Council Chair

Carol Walkup
Pastoral Council Chair

Sharon Karwoski
Rosary Altar Society President

David Rothermel
Ushers Association President

HOMEBOUND

If you become homebound or are aware of someone who is, please call Patty Fitzgerald.

CEMETERIES

Questions about our cemeteries should be directed to Patty Fitzgerald.

NEW PARISHIONERS

WELCOME! Please complete a Parish Census Form which may be found in the Church or obtained in the Parish Office.

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation – Please call 518-747-4823 to schedule for an appointment.

Marriage - Couples should meet with the Pastor at least six months prior to their anticipated marriage date.

Baptism - Parents who wish to have their children baptized should call Patty Fitzgerald.

WELCOME

We would like to welcome all those to St. Mary's/St. Paul's Church. To those of you who are joining us after an absence or for the first time, we are truly glad to see you. We hope that you will consider being a permanent part of our parish family. We hope you enjoy your visit and look forward to seeing you again. From all of us, WELCOME HOME!!!

BLESS YOUR HOUSE FOR THE EPIPHANY

Please take a complimentary vial of Holy Water, a piece of chalk and a prayer for blessing of your house for the Epiphany. These items are located at each of the two side entrances of the church doors.

It is traditional to bless homes as the New Year begins. On the Solemnity of the Epiphany we bless the church and you can do this as well to your home. Sprinkle the entrance of the door with holy water and each room of your home if you like and inscribe above the door in chalk the first two numbers of the year 20 + C + M + B + the last two numbers of the year (so this year would be "20 + C + M + B + 21").

The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also represent the Latin words "*Christus mansionem benedicat*" which means "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs symbolize the cross and the 20 and the 21 represent the year, 2021.

A PRAYER FOR A GOOD YEAR

Heavenly Father, help us remember that the jerk who cut us off in traffic last night is a single mother who worked nine hours that day and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry, and spend a few precious moments with her children.

Help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't make change correctly is a worried 19-year old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for next semester.

Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking bum, begging for money in the same spot ever day (who really ought to get a job!) is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment, knowing that, based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together.

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that, of all the gifts you give us, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear. Open our hearts not to just those who are close to us, but to all humanity. Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive, show patience, empathy and love.

P.S. Working for God on earth doesn't pay much...but His retirement plan is out of this world.

"True love does not come by finding the perfect person, but by learning to see an imperfect person perfectly."



Please pray for Richard Foran, Edmund Sipowicz, Jonathan Stone, James Sullivan and all who have recently passed away. Please keep in your prayers all who are ill, in the hospital or recuperating: Ayla Adams, Kathy Allen, Karen Anderson, Ryan Anderson, Mark and Kay Babson, Natalie Bazinet, Stephen Davis, Brian DeMell, Mark and Venita Duffany, Grace Fallacaro, Patty Fitzgerald, Elizabeth (Liz) Kennedy, Linda Kennedy, Rev. Joseph Manerowski, Julia Madonna-Morris, Jonathan Palmer, Thomas E. Seymour and Gabrielle Vaughan.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

"Where is that thing?" mumbled Bob as he searched frantically on his dimly lit desk for the current electric bill. "I know I put it right on top of these papers this morning!" Growing in frustration and bordering on anger, he flies stuff around, moves books and opines why simple tasks need to be so hard. Enter his wife, who calmly says, "Maybe it would help if you put the light on, dear." The desk light goes on and lo and behold, there is the electric bill right where Bob left it earlier. All it took was a little light!

We stubbornly refuse to turn on the lights! Either we are distracted, determined, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Or perhaps, we fail to do the obvious. We would rather live our lives with the dimmest of lights or even in total darkness. Why are we afraid to do something so that we can actually see? It might help us to find quicker and better answers to problems, the meaning of life, relationships, happiness, and what the ultimate truth is. Yet, we stumble along, moving things from one side to the other, getting angry, feeling cheated, being unsettled, resigning ourselves to the agony of defeat once again.

"And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was." The light has come into the world in the person of Jesus Christ! We no longer have to fumble in the darkness. We have been gifted with the illumination we need to see our way through things and find what we really are looking for. All these years later, however, so many are still reluctant to accept him. Perhaps they are unconvinced, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Everyone has their own reason for not wanting to turn on the switch.

But there are so many answers to so many of our problems in this humble Child of Nazareth. A simple birth teaches us about God's tender wedded relationship with humanity. It speaks to the expanse of God's salvation across the globe, and the incarnate Divine wonders and blessings that are a part of our life moment to moment. It calls us to understand the design of world order God intended as found in the Beatitudes, the sacredness of every human life and all of creation and the meaning of things we struggle with most, like suffering and death. We have a lot of Good News to share, not just with a privileged few but with the entire world. All races and creeds can receive God's healing word. God continues to manifest himself even now! Use the light to find what you are really looking for!



WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY: (January 3)
Bring A Friend to Church

WISE MEN SEE GOD IN THE SIMPLE THINGS

If you're on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace."

There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God's and Herod's. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn't entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which.

After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn't say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort — rest and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey.

But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I'll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod's charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe.

The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it's enough to remember this: God's plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let's have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

JESUS AS THE CENTER OF OUR LIFE

- *Summary:* by making Jesus the center of our life we find strength to overcome adversity; compassion to serve; inspiration to grow; and an example of how to truly live. Jesus invites us to live a God-centered life.
- *Provocative Propositions:*
 - We find Jesus as a source of strength, compassion and inspiration.
 - When we listen to our inner voice that calls us to serve we know we are following Jesus.
 - Jesus is there both to help us, and to inspire us to reach out to others.
 - Jesus is present to us when we enter into community with others.
 - We experience Jesus in both our personal, spiritual relationship and friendship with Him.
 - Jesus brightens our life with his presence in children, nature, and good times.



FAITH FORMATION INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT

Check out our Faith Formation Instagram account: smsphf

PARISH APP

Just a reminder that the Church of St. Mary's/St. Paul's has their own Parish App for iPhones and Android Smartphones. This allows us to better communicate with you throughout the week and to keep you updated with relevant parish news or updates. It provides daily Mass readings, Catholic news, prayers, reminders, our bulletins and much more. It is a great resource for you. To download our parish app, there are myParish App cards available on the tables at each of the two side entrances of the church doors. Text App to **88202** to download our parish app. Download **myparishapp.com**. Select our Parish after opening.

CEMETERIES ARE CLOSED FOR THE WINTER

St. Mary's Cemetery and St. Paul's Cemeteries will close for the winter season on Monday, December 28, 2020.

CHASTISEMENT VS. PUNISHMENT

Question: What is the difference between a chastisement and a punishment?

Answer: The distinction between chastisement and punishment is, in many ways, a subtle one, but which is still relevant in our Catholic tradition.

First, chastisement is a concept that is grounded in Sacred Scripture. Here, we see chastisement as a response by God to people's actions that is intended to teach a lesson. As St. John Paul II observed, "chastisement appears to be ... a kind of divine pedagogy, in which the last word is reserved to mercy: He scourges and then shows mercy, casts down to the depths of the nether world, and he brings up from the great abyss" (Tobit 13:2). The idea here is that in order to capture our attention or to highlight how we have not lived out our covenant-relationship with God as we should, there are times when God uses events in life to draw us back to the quality of relationship or faith that we should have.

The concept of punishment, however, has a different sense. The Catechism of the Church observes that punishment is the consequence of a damaging action that "has the primary aim of redressing the disorder" and to protect the community and the common good from further damage or harm (see no. 2266). Although we always hope that someone who is being punished for a crime or some other harmful action will learn from their actions, punishment isn't necessarily intended to teach a lesson in the same way that a chastisement is.

Ultimately, how we make the distinction between chastisement and punishment is a matter of discernment. As with almost everything in life, our experiences can be an opportunity for grace — or for something less — depending on how open we are to recognizing the movement of God's Spirit within them.

JANUARY 3, 2021



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY: **(JANUARY 2)**

5:15PM **HEATHER ANN DALY** by: Mom, Dad and Family
MARYELLEN MARGARET CREVISON AND
AGNES CECILIA LEWIS
by: Chuck and Paula Crevison

SUNDAY: **(JANUARY 3)**

8:30AM **DR. RICHARD T. HOGAN (B-DAY)**
by: Wife and Children
FRANK AND PEG DOYLE
by: Mike and Michele Cronin
MARGARET "PEGGY" LEOMBRUNO
by: Theresa Hogan
SHIRLEY HOULE
by: Husband - Richard and Children

NEXT SATURDAY: **(JANUARY 9)**

5:15PM **THOMAS AND CAROL MAILLE AND THOMAS**
"TR" REMSEN by: Remsen and Maille Family
LAWRENCE LEVISON (1ST ANNIV.)
by: Wife - Marjorie Levison
ASHLEY FAZIO (B-DAY) by: Nicholson Family
BEVERLY BRENNAN by: Sister - Joyce Massiano

NEXT SUNDAY: **(JANUARY 10)**

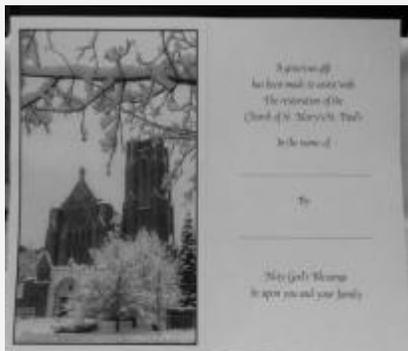
8:30AM **ROSE HODGKINS**
by: Michelle and Edward Hodgkins
BERNARD AND MABEL CRONIN
by: Mike and Michele Cronin
MARGARET "PEGGY" LEOMBRUNO
by: Mike and Michele Cronin
PHILIP T. MOORE by: Lee and Norma Potvin
SHIRLEY HOULE
by: Husband - Richard and Children

HONORING LOVED ONES/ GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

A gift to the Restoration Fund is an excellent way to honor a faith-filled life. It's not just for people who have died, but for those people that continue to live their lives grounded in faith. Consider a gift to the Restoration Fund in honor or tribute to these lives well-lived. There are beautiful cards (Christmas and Spring Season) available to purchase at the rectory. Donation of \$25.00 or more are welcome for each card.



(Front of the card)



(Inside of the card)



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

Readings for the week of January 3, 2021

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Sunday: | Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12 |
| Monday: | 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/ Mt 4:12-17, 23-25 |
| Tuesday: | 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/ Mk 6:34-44 |
| Wednesday: | 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/ Mk 6:45-52 |
| Thursday: | 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a |
| Friday: | 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/ Lk 5:12-16 |
| Saturday: | 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30 |
| Next Sunday: | Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/ Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3])/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11 |

LIGHTER SIDE

Are there HMOs in Heaven?

A doctor, a nurse, and the top executive of an HMO died and were in line together at the pearly gates. St. Peter asked each one what good they had done in their lives.

The doctor said, “I have devoted my life to the sick and needy and have had a part in caring for and healing thousands of people.”

St. Peter replied, “That’s great. Go ahead into heaven.”

The nurse chimed in, “I have supported the doctor and his patients my entire life as an adult, have taken time to explain things to patients, and have helped them lead healthy lives.”

“Wonderful,” says St. Peter. “Please proceed in with the doctor.”

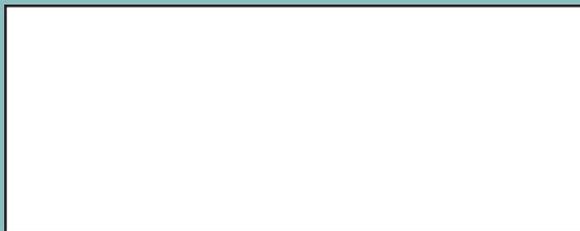
Then the executive said, “I was the president of a very large health maintenance organization. I was responsible for the healthcare of millions of people all over the country.”

St. Peter says, “Oh, I see. Please go on in...but you can only stay two nights!”

SPECIAL PRAYER FOR OUR TROOPS

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

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