

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

Livestreaming Mass – Sundays - 10:00AM

www.rcda.org/livemass

Go onto the site and scroll down on the right side to find St. Joseph's Church in Fort Edward.

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

CEMETERIES

If you need to schedule burials or purchase cemetery plots for St. Mary's or St. Paul's cemeteries please call Patty Fitzgerald at the rectory.

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

Phone (518) 747-4823

Fax (518) 747-2265

PARISH STAFF

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 (aherlihysmepsj@hotmail.com)
*Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry
Confirmation Program Coordinator*

TRUSTEES

Andrew Daly and Ellen McCarthy

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Robert Bayle
Finance Council Chair

Carol Walkup
Pastoral Council Chair

Sharon Karwoski
Rosary Altar Society President

David Rothermel
Ushers Association President

SACRAMENTS

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

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.

HOMEBOUND

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

NEW PARISHIONERS

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

PICK-UP YOUR "LITTLE BLUE BOOK"

This year's editions of the "Little Blue Books" (2021-2022) are available in the baskets near the church doors for your Advent/Christmas spiritual enrichment. ONLY ONE PER ADULT PARISHIONER, PLEASE! Give yourself 6 MINUTES A DAY of quiet, and easy reading for the next 43 days – 27 days of the Advent season and 16 days of the Christmas season.

The key is the right-hand page where we'll reflect on a Gospel passage. This year, the "Little Blue Book" will use the Gospel passages assigned for the weekday Masses of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

2022 CHURCH CALENDARS

Please pick-up one of our 2022 church calendars that are available in the baskets near the church doors.

HOLY DAY MASS FOR THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

*December 8, - 12:10PM
St. Mary's/St. Paul's Church*

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS RESERVATION FORMS

To ensure that we meet guidelines for social distancing due to COVID-19, **reservations and assigned seating for the Christmas Eve Masses (5:30PM and 8:00PM) will be required.** No reservations are needed for the Christmas Day Mass – 12/25 – 8:30AM. Reservation forms are available on the tables at each of the two side entrances of the church doors. Please put your reservation forms in the wooden receptacle boxes that are located at the two side entrances of the church doors or you mail them to the rectory. PLEASE FILL OUT ONLY ONE RESERVATION FORM PER FAMILY – DO NOT DUPLICATE YOUR REQUEST.



2021 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

ST. MARY'S/ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

Friday, December 24 - (Christmas Eve)
5:30PM and 8:00PM

Saturday, December 25 - (Christmas Day)
8:30AM

Sunday, December 26 - (Sunday Mass)
8:30AM

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

Friday, December 24 - (Christmas Eve)
4:00PM and 10:00PM

Saturday, December 25 - (Christmas Day)
10:00AM

Sunday, December 26 - (Sunday Mass)
10:00AM



PLEASE PRAY FOR. . .

Elsie Paris and all who have recently passed away. Please keep in your prayers all who are ill, in the hospital or recuperating: Natalie Bazinet, Brian DeMell, Grace Fallacaro, Patty Fitzgerald, John Gordon, Rick Karwoski, Linda Kennedy and Julia Madonna-Morris.



TREE DECORATING PRAYER

Our Father, who gives us trees and all beautiful things, thank you for this tree. Help us to decorate it with excitement and joy in anticipation of Your Son's coming. Lead us not onto each other's toes, but help us realize how lucky we are to have one another, a tree and You.

Bless this tree, O Lord God, and let it fill us with the wonder and joy of Christmas, which is the gift of Your Son, Jesus to us. Amen.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES



Please use the special envelope in your monthly envelope packet to make your donation toward our Christmas Flower Fund. You may also place your gift in a plain envelope and drop it in the collection basket or at the parish office. Please include the names of your loved ones to be remembered and your name on the envelope. Please mark your intentions clearly so they may be printed in our bulletin. **The deadline for names to be placed in our bulletin will be Monday, December 27.**

GOD'S PERSONAL ASSISTANTS

If you have ever planned a large-scale event, whether it's a musical performance or a religious conference, you may have dealt with someone's personal assistant. Possibly this person would be a representative of the keynote speaker or the master of ceremonies for the local bishop; perhaps it's even the staffer of a local politician or the lackey of a well-known musical act.

Personal assistants are masters of stewardship — overseeing things in their boss' absence. They prepare the way. This person's job is to get everything ready for the person in charge, so that when he or she shows up — whoever he or she is — it's smooth sailing for them to do whatever it is they need to do: sing, speak, pray, mingle, what-have-you. It's usually a big job full of little things, a gig where attention to detail is key.

God is the guest of honor in our life, the keynote speaker, the main event. And what He wants — what He needs — to do is to change our hearts. Constantly, over, and over, and over again.

We are all His personal assistants in this endeavor. We need to prepare the way of the Lord, to make straight His paths. We need to make everything ready so that when He shows up — however He shows up, whether it's in the form of a neighbor in need or a burning bush right in front of us — everything is ready for Him to do His job.
Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



FAITH FORMATION /
YOUTH MINISTRY

2021-2022 FAITH FORMATION CLASSES **Grades (K-10) – 9:30-10:40AM (McManus Hall)**

* December 5, 12 and 19

TABLE GRACES FOR ADVENT AND PRAYER CARDS & HOLY WATER TO BLESS YOUR CRÉCHE

There are table graces for Advent and vials of Holy Water and prayer cards to Bless Your Crèche available on the tables located at each of the two side entrances of the church doors.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? – CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question: With Christmas fast approaching, can you give me some practical tips to prepare myself and my family that will help us stay grounded in what this holiday is really about? With all the commercialism, it's easy to stray.

Answer: Happy times and events bring fond memories and a renewed sense of love and kinship with others. The anticipation is half the joy of the event itself. The coming of the Lord is that kind of event that people have been looking forward to for generations with fervent hope and desire. It gave them strength and courage as they waited for the coming of the Lord.

We know that Christmas is rushed. Sales begin in August and carols blare long before the season begins. Everyone laments the commercial aspects of the season, but as Advent begins, do something to help you be more mindful of the Lord's coming. Use an Advent wreath, or enthrone the Bible prominently, or read the readings from the Bible assigned to each day. Postpone the tree and decorations until closer to Christmas. Establish new family rituals, customs and prayers that help remind everyone that we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Fasting, daily Mass, a special celebration of reconciliation, reaching out to those alienated from family or society, and visiting the homebound manifest the love of the Christ Child and the Holy Family. Resist the temptation to rush the season. In his own time and in his own way, God will come. Our task is simply to be watchful and ready.

MASKS MUST BE WORN AT OUR MASSES

Due to the rise in COVID, all parishioners are to bring and wear a mask during mass and if possible please bring your own bottle of hand sanitizer.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



SUNDAY: (December 5)
Faith Formation Classes for (Gr. K-10) in 9:30-10:40AM
McManus Hall

WEDNESDAY: (December 8)
Holy Day Mass in the Church 12:10PM

NEXT SUNDAY: (December 12)
Faith Formation Classes for (Gr. K-10) in 9:30-10:40AM
McManus Hall

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: How many sponsors are required for the Sacrament of Baptism?

Answer: Two

GOSPEL MEDITATION

St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. "You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when his hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, he chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, his head is covered with dew, with drops, when his body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, he is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, he will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for his coming, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him." When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort.

We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self-focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for his visit, we can hear God's gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Sometimes our darkness is so dark that it may seem unsurmountable. Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God's promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts' doors open. Sometimes, the only light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present.

We have to trust that God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and that humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome. God is not done. When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God's simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent season. God is knocking. Answer the door. You will see and understand life in ways you never thought possible before.

DECEMBER 5, 2021



SATURDAY: (DECEMBER 4)

5:15PM **HALL NIEMER (B-DAY)** by: Janice Niemer
GEORGETTE MORIN by: Sheri Francato & Family
CINDY AND RITA FRENCH by: Nicholson Family
OPAL SGAMBATI by: Bill and Cheryl Hogan
HELEN S. AND RICHARD J. MURPHY
by: Daughter - Mary Alice Murphy

SUNDAY: (DECEMBER 5)

8:30AM **RICHARD T. AND MARY DALTON HOGAN**
by: The Hogan Family
O'NEIL MADONNA by: Tresa Madonna and Family
DIANNE H. GRAHAM by: Dorothy and Connie
Regan and Patty and Eric Fitzgerald
PHILIP MONRIAN, III by: Barbara Ball and Family

WEDNESDAY: (DECEMBER 8) *Imm. Conception*

12:10PM **PEOPLE OF THE PARISH**

NEXT SATURDAY: (DECEMBER 11)

5:15PM **RUTH K. HOGAN (2ND ANNIV.)** by: Children
BEVERLY BRENNAN by: Sister - Joyce Massiano
GEORGETTE MORIN by: Sue and Rick Aubin
KATHY O'DONNELL (B-DAY) by: Kay Babson

NEXT SUNDAY: (DECEMBER 12)

8:30AM **SHIRLEY HOULE** by: Husband-Richard & Children
DIANNE H. GRAHAM by: Elizabeth Lennon
DAVID KIPP, JR. by: Barbara Ball

LIVE THE LITURGY – INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Sometimes, especially when life gets overwhelming and difficult, we can find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable. Wallowing in this uncomfortable darkness seems to be our norm and it's difficult to see a way out of, or through, this experience. If we listen carefully enough, we will hear God's voice calling out deep within, beckoning us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Faith tells us that God has already begun the creation of a good work in us and is with us, bringing it to completion, until Christ Jesus comes again. It is this light of God's glory for which we are asked to pave the way and straighten the paths of our lives so that it can shine. With all that life can ask of us and bring to us, it is our task to constantly discern what is of value. So that we do not get so weighed down by things that we no longer see, or feel, God's salvation.

SPECIAL CALENDAR DATES

Sunday, December 5, is Walter Disney's Birthday

Tuesday, December 7, is Pearl Harbor and Cotton Candy Day

Wednesday, December 8, is Brownie Day

Thursday, December 9, is Pastry, Christmas Card and Llama Day

Sunday, December 12, is Poinsettia Gingerbread House Day



“Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” - Lk 3:5-6

Readings for the week of December 5, 2021

Sunday:	Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
Monday:	Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [cf. Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/ Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/ Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday:	Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/ Lk 3:10-18

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading:

Baruch offers the captive Israelites in Babylon a vision of hope in which their broken relationship with God will be fully restored. What aspects of your relationship with God are in need of restoration?

Second Reading:

Paul offers an opening prayer of joy for the believers in the city of Philippi. As the season of Advent continues, what brings joy to your life?

Gospel:

With Luke placing the preaching and activities of John the Baptist in its historical and political context, he communicates the idea that God is acting in real, human history. What do you see as the power of this assertion?

SAINT OF THE WEEK – EXAMPLES OF OUR FAITH

St. Nicholas -| Feast Day December 6

St. Nicholas of Bari (March 15, 270 – December 6, 343), the bishop of Myra in the fourth century, is the saint that Santa Claus is modeled after. Known for his kindness and generosity to the poor, the story has it that St. Nicholas once tossed bags of gold through the open window of a poor man's house to help his daughters avoid a life of prostitution.

According to legend, the gold landed in stockings dangling on the corners of the beds, which is why many of us celebrate St. Nicholas Day by hanging stockings and filling them with candy, fruit, and small toys.

Not much else is known about this beloved saint, but regardless, his reputation as a generous man continues today.

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