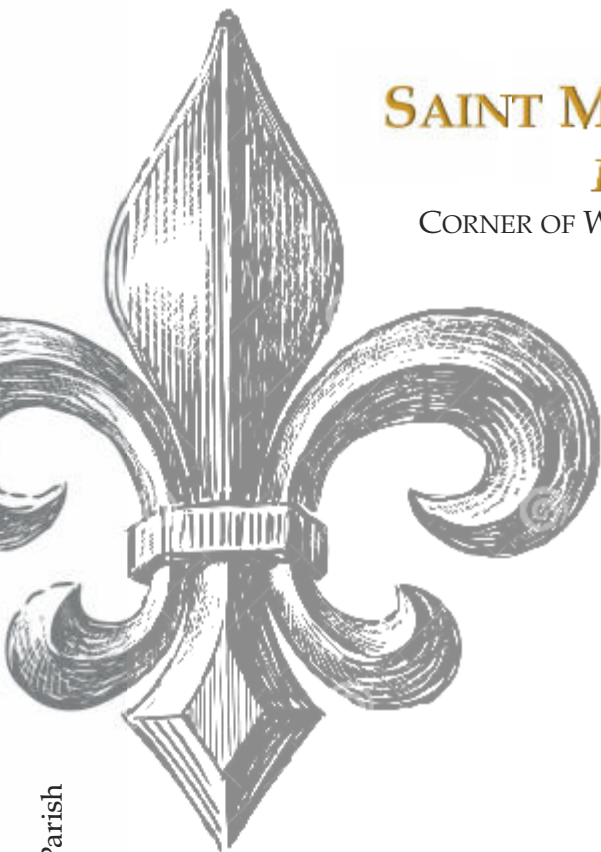


*"To feed, care & connect"*

The Mission Statement of Saint Mary's Parish



## SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE "CITY OF THE HILLS"

CORNER OF WALNUT AND ELM STREETS, ONEONTA, NEW YORK  
WWW.SMCCONEONTA.ORG – 607.432.3920  
FACEBOOK.COM/STMARYSONEONTA

### *Welcome...*

*From wherever you have traveled or have been led on your spiritual journey, we, the Catholic community of Oneonta, are glad that you are among us. We invite you make yourself at home and consider joining in our Christian way of life, worship and service.*

*Students of Hartwick and SUNY Oneonta, welcome! We encourage you to participate and volunteer in all liturgical and service ministries while you are among us*

### *We are home to...*

- ◆ Saint Mary's Newman Catholic Community
  - ◆ Knights of Columbus – Council 4989
  - ◆ Boy Scouts of America – Troop 23



**MASK PROTOCOLS:** Diocese follows Governor's Directives

Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany—13 December 2021

Governor Kathy Hochul on Dec. 10 announced a statewide mandate requiring face masks to be worn by everyone in all indoor public places unless businesses or venues have implemented a COVID-19 vaccine requirement. Since a vaccine verification requirement would be difficult, if not impossible, for churches to implement, *we believe the mask mandate is the most efficient option for parishes of the Diocese of Albany to remain compliant.* While we realize that this may not be convenient or comfortable, *we want to do all we can to ensure the safety of those who celebrate, assist at, and attend Mass* throughout the remainder of the Advent season and the Christmas season that is just around the corner. We thank you for all you have done and continue to do to keep our people safe. **The mandate, as issued by the New York State Department of Health, is effective today, December 13, 2021, through January 15, 2022,** at which time the state will reassess its effectiveness based on COVID-related public health conditions.

Mass Schedule for Christmas Feasts

**The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God [Holy Day]**

Saturday, 1 January 2022

10:00am / NO Vigil Mass for Sunday

**Solemnity of the Epiphany [The Lord's Day]**

Sunday, 2 January 2022

8:30am & 10:30am

**Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord [The Lord's Day]**

Saturday, 8 January 2022

5:00pm Vigil

Sunday, 9 January 2022

10:30am

**Thank You!**

**HOLIDAY BAZAAR** Thank you for supporting the holiday decorations bazaar held by the Rosary Society for Jail Ministry of Otsego County. Your donations filled 10 tables! We raised \$300. A special thank you to all who helped to make a child's celebration of the Birth of Christ joyful.

Our Sacramental Life

**Sacrament of the Eucharist**

***The Lord's Day (Sunday)***

10:30 am,

Vigil Mass—Saturday at 5:00 pm

**Holy Days** as announced in the bulletin.

**Sacrament of Baptism**

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

Adult baptism is the norm for initiation into the Catholic Faith.

This is accomplished through a process of inquiry, prayer, instruction and introduction to the Christian Life. Please see Fr. David and/or Mel Sperti in regard to beginning the process.

**Infant Baptism**

The Church continues to baptize infants, entrusting their growth in prayer and formation in the faith to parents. Parents who wish to seek Baptism for their children should contact a parish priest.

**Reception into Communion**

Baptized Christians from other denominations who desire to come into communion with the Catholic Church do so through a process of inquiry, prayer and preparation for reception and the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. Please see Fr. David and/or Kate Johnston in regard to beginning the process.

**Sacrament of Confirmation**

Usually celebrated at the 10<sup>th</sup> grade level through participation in the Faith Formation process of the parish. Anyone who has not received the gifts of the Holy Spirit and desires to receive the Sacrament should make their request to Fr. David and/or Kate Johnston at 432-3920

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

- By appointment
- Seasonal Communal Celebrations

**Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick**

The Sacrament should be requested for anyone who is seriously sick in the hospital, healthcare facility or home. Volunteers visit Fox Hospital, Fox Nursing Home, Chestnut Park Nursing and Rehabilitation, Robynwood Adult Home, and Hampshire House weekly. If you have family members in another area facility please notify the parish office.



St. Mary's Parish office will be closed on Friday, December 31, in celebration of New Year's Eve.



# LITURGICAL LIFE

## RESPONDING *to the Call*

### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

#### Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

##### All in the Family

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

### PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



### WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

#### Question:

I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

#### Answer:

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.



December 25, 2021—January 2, 2022

- SATURDAY 25 December 2021**  
**10:30 am** Christmas Day  
*Pro Populo*
- SUNDAY 26 December 2021**  
**8:30 am & 10:30 am** Feast of the Holy Family  
*Pro Populo*
- MONDAY 27 December 2021**  
**8:30 am** Ange Richards  
 By Alex & Monica
- FRIDAY 31 December 2021**  
**8:30 am** Anthony Chicorelli  
 By Nancy Hogan
- SATURDAY 1 January 2022**  
**10:00 am** Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
*Pro Populo*
- SUNDAY 2 January 2022**  
**8:30 am & 10:30 am** Epiphany of the Lord  
*Pro Populo*

**Spiritual Direction**

The role of the Catholic Spiritual Director is to assist an individual on their personal path of spiritual growth. A spiritual director listens and offers insight to assist an individual to discern the unique way God is calling them to live a life of faith in Jesus Christ and to recognize the promptings and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

For people seeking such spiritual companionship and discernment, contact:

**Spiritual Director, Cindy Korb,**  
 Website: [www.cindykorb.com](http://www.cindykorb.com); Email: [listeningpresence518@gmail.com](mailto:listeningpresence518@gmail.com); Phone: 607.267.0539

**Spiritual Director, Diane DeDominicis,**  
 Email addresses: [Diane@SMCCOneonta.org](mailto:Diane@SMCCOneonta.org) or [pondsideretrievers@gmail.com](mailto:pondsideretrievers@gmail.com)

The Consultation Center of the Albany Roman Catholic Diocese, offers information about spiritual direction on their website which includes a listing of trained spiritual directors.

Website: [www.consultationcenteralbany.org](http://www.consultationcenteralbany.org) See the upper menu under Spiritual Direction.

*Prayer corner.....*

We ask that you remember in your prayers, the following persons who are ill: *Mary Antonucci, Michelle Lee, Kathleen Genzardi, Anna Spencer, Marlies Kneis, Norrie Beken, Ana Vendemmia, Sharon Wilsey O'Donnell, Linda Burch, Alberto Marcos and Victor Chicorelli*

We pray for the men and women of our parish and community who are serving in the military.

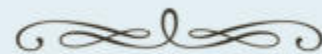
We remember in prayer all priests of the Albany Diocese.

Let us remember those who have died, especially the members of our families and parish community.

*(Names will remain on the prayer list for four weeks, and then removed unless notified by family-thank you)*

**Pastoral Staff**

- Rev. David Wm. Mickiewicz, *Pastor*  
 Paul Cerosaletti, *Deacon*  
 Kathleen Neuer, *Administration*  
 Diane DeDominicis & Sandi Milavec  
*Administrative Assistants*  
 Trish Dukes, *Financial Assistant*  
 Carmel Ann Sperti, *Pastoral Care*  
 Linda Burns, *Food Ministry Coordinator*  
 Kate Johnston,  
*Faith Formation Coordinator*  
 Amy Cerosaletti, *Faith Formation Assistant*  
 Matthew Houle, *Campus Ministry*  
 Bob Goss, *Buildings and Grounds*



**Stewardship Report**

Our total Parish Budget for the year.....**\$605,673.00**  
 Less projected Other Income.....**\$253,673.00**  
*(this includes investment income, grants, other donations)*  
 Amount needed from collections (annually)....**\$352,000.00**  
 Needed from the collection weekly.....**\$6,769.23**

**Collection for December 11 & 12, 2021.....\$5,426.00**  
**Christ@ Your Table for December 11 & 12.....\$2,035.00**  
**Christmas Gift for December 11-12, 2021.....\$3,900.00**  
**Electronic Giving for December 6-12, 2021.....\$431.00**

## Community Warming Station



**Overnight Accommodation  
at 189 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY  
Seven days a week  
5:30 PM to 7:30 AM  
For men and women (18+ years old)**

**Open Dates:** Monday, November 1, 2021  
through Sunday, April 10, 2022 with trained staff

***Homelessness is not a choice, but  
rather a journey that many find  
themselves in. -Asa Don Brown***

### ***How can YOU help?***

**Tell others** -- friends, family, and organizations that you belong to -- about homelessness and this project.

**Shop for items on our wish list:** We ask for all individually portioned food items. Only non-refrigerated items please. Items may be dropped off at Oneonta Warming Station (189 Chestnut Street, Oneonta) any day starting November 1st between 5:00 and 9:00 pm or mornings between 7:00 and 8:00 am. Items can also be dropped off at Catholic Charities during business hours and should be clearly marked "Warming Station".

**Key items on our WISH LIST:** Bottled water, Cup of Soup, Mac and cheese, beef stew, fruit cups, applesauce, granola bars, Pop Tarts, trail mix, chips, nuts, raisins, bulk coffee, sugar packets, hot chocolate packets, plastic utensils, paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, hot cups, napkins....

**Questions? Want a copy of the "wish list"?** Contact Catholic Charities at (607) 432-0061

**Follow us on Facebook** at <https://www.facebook.com/oneontawarmingstation/>  
Or contact Mel Sperti at 607-432-3920 ext. 202 for more information on this project.

## ST. STEPHEN | FEAST DAY DECEMBER 26

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.



Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow. ©LPi

You will find at the entrances of the church and on the back tables a new booklet entitled ***Encouraged by so great a cloud of witnesses.*** This is a companion booklet to ***A Self-Guided Tour. Encouraged,*** taking its title from the Letter to the Hebrews, guides you to all the images of the saints in our church. Written for a parent, grandparent or guardian to walk around with their children, thus accessible to everyone, ***Encouraged*** tells the stories of the saints in the stained glass, statuary & paintings / icons.

So...I invite you to take some time at various times and leisurely walk through our church and *encounter...*



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Les Grummons, Funeral Director and Parishioner

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Sat - 4pm - 10pm  
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Sharon Wilsey O'Donnell



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