

# Historic St. Mary's Church

Capitol Hill—Albany, New York



“BLESSED ARE YOU  
AMONG WOMEN, AND  
BLESSED IS THE  
FRUIT OF YOUR  
WOMB.” - LK 1:42

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

## RECTORY HOURS AND CONTACT NUMBER:

Mon-Thurs : 8:30 am– 4:00 pm, Fri : 8:30 am– 1:00 pm  
(518) 462-4254

## WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday - 8:00, 10:30am , 12:30 pm (Latin) (suspended temporarily)

## DAILY MASSES:

7:00 a.m., (Mon, Wed and Fri)

## HOLY HOUR

Thursdays - 6:30-7:30pm

## CONFESSIONS:

Saturday from 3:15 to 3:45 p.m.

## BAPTISMS:

Infant baptisms are scheduled on the first and third Sundays of the month after masses. Please call the Rectory for details and scheduling.

## MARRIAGE:

Arrangements made 6-8 months in advance and prior to scheduling a reception. Please call the Rectory for details and scheduling.

[www.hist-stmarys.org](http://www.hist-stmarys.org)

Facebook: *Historic St. Mary's Church*

## HISTORIC ST. MARY'S STAFF:

### PASTOR:

Rev. Michael Flannery

### WEEKEND ASSOCIATES:

Rev. John L Moyna  
Rev. Julian Davies

### DEACONS:

Walter Ayres  
Aaron Tremblay

### TRUSTEES:

Joanne Maloy  
Mary Nash

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Holly Hayes (Holly.Hayes@rcda.org)

### VOCALIST/SACRISTAN:

John Rodier (518-466-1405)

### OUTREACH: Food Pantry, Next to New Shop

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Sr. Mary Ellen Owens, RSM 518-462-4357

### OUTREACH: Sick, hospitalized and homebound

Marion Zrelak– Call the Parish Office for Info.

### BUILDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

James Elacqua

# Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



**SATURDAY, December 18**

4:00PM † Angelina & George Abraham by Judy Abraham  
 † Carol L. Bibby by daughters, Kim, Kathleen & Kelly  
 † Linda McGlynn by Anne & Mike Cronin

**SUNDAY, December 19**

8:00AM † Hugh & Margaret Hopkins by the Memole Family  
 10:30AM † Jack Graber, Sr by Jack & Karen Graber  
 † Vincent Nicotina by Margaret Coffey Nicotina  
 † Mr. & Mrs. Charles J. Anderson by son, Charles & Karen Anderson

**MONDAY, December 20**

7:00AM † Celebrant's Interntion

**WEDNESDAY, December 22**

7:00AM † Dominick Ercolano by By The Family

**FRIDAY, December 24**

7:00AM NO MASS  
 4:00PM † Carol McHenry by The Family  
 † Salvatore & Angela Rappoccio & Rocco Russo by The Family  
 † Bonnie Sheedy by The Family  
 7:30PM † Raeann Dinardi McElveen by The Dinardi Family  
 † Catherine E Provost, Genevieve Geiss, James Martin and Theresa Benamati by The Family

**SATURDAY, December 25**

8:00AM † John Whalen by Family and Friends  
 † John & Leanora Coonan by The Family  
 Intentions of Fr. Flannery by Friends  
 10:30AM † Rex Thrasher by Jack & Karen Graber  
 † Joseph Ercolano by By The Family  
 † Anthony & Joyce Bonacquisto by Joe Bonacquisto  
 NO MASS  
 4:00PM NO MASS

**SUNDAY, December 26**

8:00AM † Rose Patterson by The Family  
 † JJ Finnerty by The Emminger Family  
 10:30AM † Alexander Bakowski by Urszula Pulkotycki

**BE A PRAYER PARTNER WITH POPE FRANCIS**

For those who have made the commitment to pray every day for the monthly intentions of Our Holy Father, Pope Francis: For December he asks that we pray for **Catechists**: Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

Have you considered giving alternate Christmas gifts this year? It can show your loved ones you care about them AND those less fortunate! Here are two websites that offer great fair trade gift ideas! [www.MercyCorps.org](http://www.MercyCorps.org) and [www.serrv.org](http://www.serrv.org).

**ALBANY DIOCESAN CEMETERIES**

The Christmas Decoration Program will again be offered by Albany Diocesan Cemeteries. Blankets and wreaths will be made to decorate graves and vases for mausoleums. For more information please call (518) 463-0134.

**IRA DISTRIBUTIONS**

This is the time of the year when many people take distributions from their IRA Accounts, often with an eye to making to charitable organizations. Please keep Historic St Mary's in mind



**A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

Christmas is only a few days away. To prepare for this monumental moment we are taken back a number of months to the beginning of Mary's pregnancy. No sooner does she learn from the Angel Gabriel that she will "conceive in [her] womb and bear a son who shall

be named Jesus" than Mary travels in haste to visit her pregnant relative Elizabeth.

We recognize what a creative decision Mary made when she decided to visit Elizabeth. With such a precious treasure living and growing in her own womb, Mary had every reason to take the best care of herself right there at home. As much as Mary may have preferred to stay in the safety and seclusion of her Nazareth neighborhood and home, the growing child in her womb had other plans.

To put it as simply as possible, today's story of Mary and Jesus' visit to Elizabeth and her womb-child is meant to establish the following quality of Christianity: It is **OUTGOING!**

Jesus confirmed this quality when he came out of his heavenly home and the security of the Blessed Trinity and came into the world. His arrival is wonderfully and powerfully announced in our Second Reading: "When Christ came into the world, he said: 'Behold, I come to do your will, O God.'"

And come Jesus did! A prominent theme of Luke's gospel has been the travel theme. Even though early on the crowds who followed him "tried to prevent Jesus from leaving them," he made it clear that he was on the go when he said, "To the other towns also I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom, because for this purpose I have been sent."

In just a couple of days it will be Christmas. It is more a matter of Christmas coming to us. Jesus comes again at Christmas to catch us up in his coming and to renew the *outgoing* spirit of our faith, hope and love. Christmas is our challenge to forget and forego our fear of becoming an involved Christian/Catholic and to be filled with the same energy and enthusiasm of our Christ of Christmas. He had come to do God's will.

Go with Jesus to do what Jesus did – to help and heal, to give, forgive and give thanks, to live and to love our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love others as we love ourselves.

**CHURCH PROJECTS UPDATE**

The exterior painting has been concluded. All of the window trim and doors around the exterior of the church and rectory have been repainted. The painters will return in the Spring to repaint the cornices. Lights in the church high ceiling have been replaced with LED bulbs. Each new bulb uses only 80 watts compared with the previous bulbs which used 500 watts. Lastly, the masonry restoration has concluded for the season. So far, restoration at the sidewalk level on Lodge and Pine streets has been completed, as well as repointing of brick and stone, caulking and sealant work. The remaining masonry work will resume in Spring.

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**Christmas Eve – December 24th**

**St. Mary's 4:00pm & 7:30pm**  
**Vietnamese Mass 7:00pm (Sacred Heart)**

**Christmas Day – December 25<sup>th</sup>**

**St Mary's 8:00am & 10:30am**  
*No 4:00 pm Vigil Mass on Saturday (Christmas Day)*  
**Sacred Heart 9:00am**

**ESCAPE CONSUMERISM IN ADVENT**  
**BUILD A SPIRITUAL CHRISTMAS CRIB**

The following directions show you how to build a spiritual crib in your heart for Jesus. Each day read the thought indicated and make your heart a worthy crib for Jesus on Christmas Day!

**December 18 - Cobwebs**

Clean the cobwebs from your spiritual crib. Diligently remove from your heart every aspect of selfishness or self-centeredness. My Jesus, I want to please you in all I do today.

**December 19 - Manager**

Fix the best warmest corner of your heart for the manger of Jesus. You will do so by sharing with others what you like most in the line of comfort and amusement – or my sharing your many talents with others. Jesus, may I be more like you.

**December 20 - Fire**

Take care to have the crib of your heart warmed by a cozy fire. Be grateful to God for the love he has shown us in becoming human; behave with grateful respect toward one another. Jesus, how can I return your love; how can I show my gratitude to you?

**December 21 - Hay**

Supply the manger of your heart with hay, by overcoming all feelings of pride, anger or envy. Jesus, teach me to know and correct my greatest faults.

**December 22 – Light**

Also provide your manger with sufficient light. Be neat and orderly about yourself, keep everything in place in your room and home. Bring the light of joy to those you meet. Dear Jesus, Who brought light – let me bring light.

**December 23 – Swaddling Clothes**

Prepare these for the Divine Infant by doing what you can to share warm winter clothing with those who are in need. Jesus, let me love you more and more.

**December 24 – Blankets**

Provide the manger in your heart with soft warm blankets. Avoid harsh and angry words; be kind and gentle to all. Jesus, help me to be meek and humble like You.

**CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS**

Soon we gather together as a Parish Family on Christmas, let us pause in gratitude to Almighty God, our Blessed Mother and, especially, to all of you who have done so much for Saint Mary's during the past year. For all of your kindness and generosity throughout the past year we offer our sincere thanks and a special prayer that God will bless you!!

**CURRENT COVID PROTOCOLS**

The Diocese recently issued new recommendations from the Bishop's Office that state: "Regrettably, several of the counties of our diocese are experiencing a substantial uptick in COVID cases. Out of an abundance of caution, and consistent with CDC recommendations, our parishes may want to consider re-instating masking protocols. At the Pastoral Center (Bishop's Office) we are asking all personnel to wear a mask upon entering the building, in all common areas, and when social distancing is not possible, regardless of one's vaccination status. We further encourage all to do their part to stop the spread by washing their hands frequently, sanitize their workspace regularly and social distance when possible."

**Respectfully, we ask that all follow the recommendations of the Diocese that strongly recommend and encourage the wearing of face masks (by all—including those who have been fully vaccinated) whenever we are inside church. In addition, we encourage the use of hand sanitizers and ask that all continue to follow the directions of the ushers. The church continues to be completely sanitized after each mass in order to provide a safe environment.**

Unless you are arriving with a group or are part of a family we ask that you choose your seating in order to maintain a respectful distance from others. When possible, try to maintain a safe distance by leaving an empty pew between groups. Ushers will be glad to assist you in locating appropriate seating (this may include seats upstairs).



**BISHOP'S APPEAL 2021-2022**

The Diocese is revamping the annual Bishop's Appeal with a new name and a new logo. In addition the annual campaign now begins in the Fall each year and conclude in June 2022. In the coming week you will receive a appeal request as we begin another campaign to reach our \$110,000 assessment. Call Holly for information. Be sure to mention Historic St. Marys when donating!

**SENIOR PROGRAM AT ST. MARY'S**

**Please call our Parish Office if you know of a Parishioner who is sick, hospitalized or has moved to an assisted living facility or nursing home so that we might reach out during the holidays as well as keep them in prayer**

**Welcome New Parishioners!**

Please complete and drop in the collection basket or mail to the Rectory Office:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: **New registration** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address change** \_\_\_\_\_

Feel free to call the Rectory office at (518) 462-4254 with any questions.



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