



GLORY
TO GOD
IN THE
HIGHEST
AND ON
EARTH
PEACE TO
THOSE
ON WHOM
HIS FAVOR
RESTS.

LUKE 2:14

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



WEDNESDAY, December 28

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

7:30PM † Bonnie Sheedy by The Family

† Raeann Dinardi McElveen by The Dinardi Family

† Sandra Fay Lasch by Mary & William Lenihan

† 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 The Family

† Anthony & Joyce Bonacquisto by Joe Bonacquisto

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

MONDAY, December 27

7:00AM † Marie Collins by The Family

WEDNESDAY, December 29

7:00AM † Jack Maloy by The Family

FRIDAY, December 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

7:00AM NO MASS

5:30PM † Annabelle Tyran by Richard McCarthy

† Anthony & Joyce Bonacquisto by Joe Bonacquisto

SATURDAY, January 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY

4:00PM † Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Scaringe by Son's

· Donna Burg (Living) by Anonymous

SUNDAY, January 2

8:00AM Celebrants Intention

10:30AM † Kim Sgroi by By The Family

† Mark Flahive by Jack & Karen Graber

† Ken Borden (1 yr. Anniv) by The Family



THE CENTER

To arrange the various figures in the nativity scene does not require a great amount of practice or expertise; children become quite skillful at it very quickly.

We cannot imagine the nativity scene without its centerpiece, the guest of honor, the Baby Jesus in the manger.

No, we could not imagine a nativity scene without the Baby Jesus, and rightly so. But how sad it is if we add Jesus to the nativity scene in our homes at Christmas and then fail to place him at the center of our lives all year long. We, who place the Christ Child in his crib at Christmas, must place Him in the center of our lives every day of the year. If we don't, we fail to honor Christ present in ourselves and in others.

To place Him at the center of our lives is to live with His presence in our hearts.

To place Jesus at the center of our lives is to become the song of the angels, "Gory to God in the highest, peace on earth to those on whom God's favor rests"

To place Jesus Christ at the center of our lives is to live temperately, justly and devoutly in this age, eager to do what is right and true and good, just as Jesus did.

To place Christ at the center of our lives is to embrace the grace and truth He brought us in His living and dying and rising as one of us.

To place Jesus at the center of our lives is to hear, really hear, God speaking to us in the beloved Son, speaking a message of good news, offering us salvation and peace both in this life and in eternal life.

To place Jesus Christ at the center of our lives is to welcome God's everlasting light and life in Him, so that we can live as the children of God.

To place Jesus at the center of our lives is to find ourselves at the center of God's love at Christmas and forever.

May you enjoy a most blessed and merry Christmas, and know throughout the Christmas season the love of God present in your lives.

THANK YOU THANK YOU

Just as we welcome the coming of our Savior into our hearts this Christmas we in St Mary Outreach want to thank you for all that you do to help us welcome Jesus in the people we meet each day in your Food Pantry, A special thank you is in order for our volunteers - those who staff the pantry each day, and those who respond to our emergency calls for help. Thank you for your donations. Remember - every dollar you donate to the Regional Food Bank on behalf of St Mary's purchases seven times the amount food we could purchase otherwise. (You can either mail a check directly to the Food Bank or drop a check made out to the Food Bank in our collection and it will be sent directly to the Food Bank.) Thank you and may you have a blessed New Year.

Sister Mary Ellen

Dear Parishioners,



During this season of Christmas, I would like to thank you for your cards and gifts and for your continued supportive prayers for me and my parents. Our parish must be rooted in a collaborative mission in which all members are called to take an active role in ministry. So I personally thank all of you who are active in so many different ways in our church, especially those volunteers who help in so many ways to keep the church open and sanitized during this pandemic. On behalf of the parish, we would like to thank Fr. Julian, Fr. Moyna, Fr. Provost, Deacon Walter, Deacon Aaron, Sr Mary Ellen, Holly Hayes, John Rodier and our staff for their leadership and ministry. May the light of Christmas stay with you throughout the New Year.

Fr Flannery

NEW YEARS MASS SCHEDULE

New Year's Eve – December 31st

St. Mary's 5:30pm

New Year's Day – January 1st

St Mary's 4:00PM



The Christmas Season

You probably know the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” Even though a radio station once proclaimed the twelve days of Christmas as those before December 25, Christians have always kept Christmas as a season from December 25 until January 6 (the traditional Epiphany). The church calendar today even extends the celebration until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord—the Sunday after Epiphany.

Here is what the church says about the season of Christmas: “Next to the yearly celebration of the paschal mystery [meaning the Triduum and Easter season], the church holds most sacred the memorial of Christ’s birth and early manifestations. This is the purpose of the Christmas season.”

More than just “Jesus’ birthday,” the Christmas season is a time for remembering and reveling in the nativity of Christ, the revelation of Christ to the Jewish shepherds, the revelation of Christ to the Gentile magi (that’s us!), Christ’s baptism by John in the Jordan, and Christ changing water into wine at the wedding “on the third day” (John 2:1) in Cana of Galilee. In all these saving events, we know that “the Word is made flesh and dwells among us.”

How can we keep Christmas not just as a day, but as a season? Keep the tree up (and watered!) and shining bright until the Baptism of the Lord. Sing carols and read the scriptures every day. Safely put candles around your creche: Use small glass votive candleholders, and place them away from the straw. You might also want to add a little water to the bottom of the glass before putting the candle in—an added precaution that will also help you clean the glass more easily. When you light the candles, sing or say the prayer of the angels: Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever. Amen.

ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE TRANSPORTATION

Join us at the March for Life Friday, January 21, 2022! Get your bus ticket ASAP! Contact the parish buses ASAP. Albany/Capital District contact Barbara Fraterrigo, pbfrat@hotmail.com; (518) 456-3998. South & West of the Capital. District contact Paul Wenner: paul.j.wenner@gmail.com; (607) 652-4055. If you need financial help with a bus ticket - contact the Knights of Columbus/Nick Wallace: 518-634-2028; cell: 518-649-5998; njwallace52@yahoo.com

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.

NEW DIOCESAN COVID PROTOCOLS

Having conferred with Fr. Flannery, we share the following: Our Bishop has issued a mandate requiring face masks be worn by everyone entering and attending mass at St. Mary’s. The Bishop states “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. 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 and Christmas season. This mandate is effective December 13, 2021 through January 15, 2022, at which time we will reassess its effectiveness based on public health conditions.”

Respectfully, we ask that all (over 2yrs old), including those who have been fully vaccinated to properly wear a mask 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.

At this time, we will not be checking vaccination status, reintroducing 6 foot social distancing or gathering of information for contact tracing. Therefore, the wearing of masks is that much more important to maintaining 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 and when receiving communion. Ushers will be glad to assist you in locating appropriate seating (this may include seats upstairs).

BISHOP’S APPEAL 2021-2022



Diocesan Appeal

The Diocese has revamped 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 weeks you will receive a appeal request from Fr Provost as we continue our campaign to reach our \$110,000 assessment. Call Holly for information. Be sure to mention Historic St. Marys when donating!

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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