



# CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. HENRY

## WELCOME TO ST. HENRY'S

We extend a warm welcome to all new members of our parish. We hope you will find our parish community a place where your faith life will grow. Please introduce yourself after one of the Masses and do not forget to register. You may register on-line or by calling the parish office at the number below.

**ST. HENRY'S CHURCH P.O. BOX 550  
AVERILL PARK, NY 12018**

**P: 518-674-3818**

**F: 518-674-1043**

**EMAIL: HENRYPARISH550@GMAIL.COM**

**WEB: WWW.STHENRYAVERILLPARK.COM**

### STAFF

Rev. Thomas F. Holmes, **Pastor**

TFVH426@aol.com

Deacon Robert Pasquarelli, **Pastoral Associate**

rpsquar@nycap.rr.com

Deacon Frank Lukovits, **Pastoral Associate**

fluko@taconic.net

Linda Banker, **Pastoral Associate for Pastoral Care**

Linda.Banker550@gmail.com

Kerin Banker, **Administrative Assistant**

henryparish550@gmail.com

Sarah Tripp, **Rel. Ed. Coordinator (Gr. Pre-K-12)**

sarah.tripp550@gmail.com

Duncan Cumming, **Music Director**

dcumming@albany.edu

### OFFICE HOURS

The parish office hours are:

**Monday—Thursday 9:00am—4:30pm**

**Friday 9:00am—2:00pm**

### STEWARDSHIP—TAKE A STEP

Our weekly donations need to average \$7500 to meet operating expenses. **E-Giving** is available online. Please contact the parish office to receive an email to help set it up .

### **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Instructional classes for parents prior to the Baptism of their children are held the first Tuesday of each month, 7:00pm, at St. Henry's Church. Please call the parish office to register for classes. Baptisms are celebrated on the second Sunday of the month during Mass and the fourth Sunday of the month following the 10:00am Mass.

### **SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION**

St. Henry's Sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation & First Communion will begin after completing at least (1) year of Faith Formation. This is the prerequisite to registration into the sacramental preparation classes. Participants will attend weekly classes, Mass and a retreat to further their faith education experience. For more information, please call the parish office.

### **SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

The Sacrament is conferred in Tenth grade. The diocese requires a two year preparation period. That takes place in grades 9 & 10 with a retreat and two day mandatory preparation.

### **SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY**

Arrangements for marriage should be made at least 6 months in advance. Kindly call the parish office for an appointment.

### MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil ..... 4:00pm  
Sunday ..... 8:00am and 10:00am  
Weekdays..... 8:30am

### NO MORNING MASS ON THURSDAY

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday .....3:00 - 3:30pm

**WEEKEND OF December 11 & 12**

**Attendance 316**

**Sunday Collection for December 3 & 4**

**\$13,960.00 Includes E-Giving**

**Sunday Collection for December 11 & 12**

**\$4,471.00 Includes E-Giving**





Dear St. Henry's Parishioners,

Once again, we celebrate Christmas as a faith community. Although this past year has been a challenge with the Co-Vid virus continuing to disrupt life as we have known it, we also can give thanks for things that have somewhat returned to semi-normal. As we celebrate the Word made Flesh at the Birth of Jesus into our World, let us be reminded that in Co-Vid life, God still loves us beyond measure. He loved us so much that he had his Son born into the world to redeem us. This Christmas may we take time to give thanks to God for the gifts that we have been graced with through our God, family, friends and fellow parishioners. I pray that all of you have a Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with many blessings from God and all those you know in this life.

**Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!**

**Peace,**

**Fr. Tom and Staff**

## WIN A DELL 15" LAP TOP COMPUTER



The Knights of Columbus is raffling off a new Dell 15" Lap Top Computer. Drawing will be January 22nd. Only 100 tickets are sold. Hurry and get yours today before they are all sold out.

## RESPECT LIFE

"Like every other human family, the Holy Family had to confront real and concrete challenges. Yet, 'in every situation, Joseph declared his own 'Fiat'. His 'yes' to the Lord meant that regardless of the hardship and personal sacrifice to himself, he consistently chose to put the needs of Mary and Jesus before his own. Joseph's devotion helps reveal to us our own call to show special care for the lives of those whom God has entrusted to us."

## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

### Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24

4:00 pm Mass with Children's Pageant

6:30 pm & 9:00 pm Mass

### Christmas Day, Saturday December 25

9:00 am Mass

**(NO 4:00 pm Vigil for Sunday)**

### Sunday, December 26

Masses 8:00 am & 10 :00 am

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & DONATION ENVELOPES

Envelopes are in the gathering area if you wish to make a donation for flowers or need a donation envelope for Christmas. If your gift is in memory of a loved one, please print their name clearly on the envelope.

## SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Please remember that if Averill Park Schools are closed or delayed due to inclement weather, St. Henry's will be closed and Mass will be canceled.

## CALENDAR APPRECIATION

Thank You, Tim Komdat at Perry Komdat Funeral Home for providing us with calendars for the New Year. Please be sure to pick one up. They are available in the Gathering Area.

## PARKING

Please **DO NOT** park in the parking lot across the street. It is not church property.

## WEGATHER DONOR MATCH PROGRAM

The holiday season is one of the largest giving seasons for our church. Our online giving provider, We Gather, is generously providing a donor match program to help us increase recurring giving. Online gifts help reduce costs and our time spent handling other forms of payment. For every first gift from a new recurring donor that is added between November 1 and December 31, 2021, WeGather will match that first gift, up to \$50. To be eligible for the matching gift, more than one installment must be set-up and the first recurring gift **must be transacted by December 31, 2021**. We appreciate your generosity and your support of our Church. We prayerfully ask that you consider helping us meet this goal by letting us help you to set up your recurring online gift today. Please contact the Parish office today at 518-674-3818 or at **518-419-1013 after hours** and we would be glad to help you.

## DEACON BOB'S CORNER

Christ Fulfills the Prophecies by [Mary M. McGlone](#)

In our four Christmas liturgies the Gospels give us Matthew's recount of Jesus' genealogy which explains where Jesus fits among the chosen people, John's Prologue which situates Jesus in cosmic history, and Luke's simple narrative about Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. (Mark doesn't give us Jesus' background at all.) With those approaches we have something for the biblical historian, the mystic and the people who love simple stories. Matthew's scholarly presentation offers the first of many explanations that Christ fulfills the prophecies about the Messiah. John takes us to the time before creation with his "In the beginning" and then tells the rest of the story with "and his own received him not." He finishes with God's ultimate offer to humankind, "To those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God." Luke gives us the best stories from which to construct our crèche sets. All he's missing are the Wise Men.

Because the shepherds loom so large in Luke's story it's worth looking to them for a perspective on the Nativity. Shepherds were among the least esteemed people of their day. Their profession demanded little more than someone who could stay awake most of the time, stop strays, and effectively aim a slingshot at dangerous creatures. Tied to a career that offered no Sabbath breaks, they couldn't observe the letter of the law and would hardly have been among those who could have read it. By reputation they were not overly committed to honesty and would have always appeared on the scene with a liberal dose of the fragrance of their flocks. All in all, they were about as different from the religious elites as anyone could be.

We can assume that the shepherds had no sophisticated presuppositions clouding their perspective. When it came to waiting for a savior they lacked a theological checklist by which to judge any contender. We are told that angels appeared to them, but the angels only whetted the shepherds' curiosity. Not that a sky full of angels would have been their daily fare, but that's not what convinced them. Following the angel's instructions, they went to Bethlehem to see for themselves.

They went looking for "a savior," the "Messiah and Lord." In Bethlehem they stooped down to gaze upon a newborn wrapped up like every other infant, with the singular distinction that this one was lying in a manger — just like the angel said he would be.

Our shepherds were the absolute opposite of cynics. Having heard that God was coming to them as a child born in the poorest circumstances imaginable, they thought that it was worth seeing for themselves. We don't know exactly what they believed. They never could have answered the questions necessary to receive confirmation, but they shamelessly told others what they had seen and heard. Uneducated and inarticulate as they must have been, they were the first evangelists.

The Gospel of Christmas invites us to reexamine our expectations. Where do we seek God? For thousands of years God has been in the habit of appearing among us in the most unobtrusive ways. Supernovas and skies full of music only to point us toward something much simpler, something we must be meek enough to learn about from the humble. We will have to stoop very low to perceive it.



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# Mass Intentions

**Monday, December 27**

8:30AM Art Mardon—John DeFrancisco

**Tuesday, December 28**

8:30AM All Souls in Purgatory

**Wednesday, December 29**

8:30AM Scott Baker—Denise Baker  
Helen Butler—Rita Evans

**Thursday, December 30**

8:30AM NO MASS

**Friday, December 31**

8:30 AM NO MASS

6:00pm For the People

**Saturday, January 1**

4:00 PM For the People

**Sunday, January 2**

8:00 AM Mary Joy Rapin—Mr. & Mrs Perreault and  
Mark Walsh and Family

10:00 AM Jennifer Schultz—Doreen Schultz

**Monday, January 3**

8:30AM For the People

**Tuesday, January 4**

8:30AM For the People

**Wednesday, January 5**

8:30 AM Clayton Mosher—Daughter

**Thursday, January 6**

10:00am NO MASS

**Friday, January 7**

8:30AM All Souls in Purgatory

**Saturday, January 8**

4:00 PM Arthur L. Mardon Jr.—John & Marilyn Reichard  
Paul Yonkers—John & Marilyn Reichard  
Michael Murin—The Murin Family  
John Kronau—Bette & Ken Teal

**Sunday, January 9**

8:00 AM Bill Rentz—Wife, Ann  
Walter E. Powers III—William Powers & Family

10:00 AM Andrea Scanu—Donna Tallman  
Michael Maloney—Family



## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Sat.—Sun 01/01 & 01/02

1. Isaiah 60:1-6
2. Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
3. Matthew 2:1-12

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Sat.—Sun 1/8 & 1/9

1. Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7 or Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
2. Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7 or Acts 10:34-38
3. Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Sat.—Sun 1/15 & 1/16

1. Isaiah 62:1-5
2. Corinthians 12:4-11
3. John 2:1-11



**Saturday, January 1**  
4:00pm

**Altar Servers**

**Lectors** Jean Chenette and Dave Helwig

**Counters**

**Sunday, January 2**  
8:00am

**Altar Servers**

**Lectors** Jim Colton and Bob Lutringer

**Counters**

10:00am

**Altar Servers**

**Lectors** Gretchen Schulz and Nancy Bush

**Counters**

**January**  
4:00pm

**Altar Servers**

**Lectors**

**Counters**

**Sunday, January**  
8:00am

**Altar Servers**

**Lectors**

**Counters**

10:00am

**Altar Servers**

**Lectors**

**Counters**

## Calendar of Events

Prayer Group meets every Tuesday 1:00pm in the Blue Room

Rosary Group meets every Tuesday 6:00pm in the Chapel

Mens Scripture Group meets every Wednesday at 7:00pm

**December 24th through January 2 The Parish office will be closed for the Christmas holidays.**



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