



*Welcome to  
the Catholic Communities of  
St. Mary's, Clayton  
St. John's, LaFargeville*



**December 13, 2020**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**Rev. Arthur J. LaBaff, Pastor**

Phone: 315-686-3398

**Pastoral Associate**

Deacon Neil Fuller

**email:** [pastoralassociate@stmarysclayton.org](mailto:pastoralassociate@stmarysclayton.org)

**Deacon Assistants**

Gary A. Frank

Bruce Daugherty

**Parish Office**

Maribeth McFadden, Secretary

**email:** [reception@stmarysclayton.org](mailto:reception@stmarysclayton.org)

**Office Hours:** Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm

**Religious Education Office**

(Located in St. Mary's Parish Center)

Jennifer Barton 315-686-2638

**email:** [religioused@stmarysclayton.org](mailto:religioused@stmarysclayton.org)

**Buildings & Grounds  
& Cemeteries**

Call the Parish Office 315-686-3398

**St. Mary's Weekend Masses**

Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

**St. John's Weekend Masses**

Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

**Weekday & Holy Day Masses**

See page 2 or call the Parish Office

**Reconciliation**

3:00-3:30pm Saturday

in St. Mary's parish center

and by appointment

**First Friday Holy Hour**

after 9:00 a.m. Mass on the first  
Friday of the month at St. Mary's

**Prayer Line**

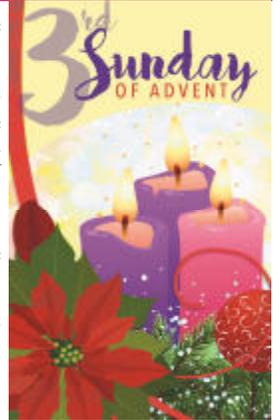
315-285-5541

[smsjprayerline@gmail.com](mailto:smsjprayerline@gmail.com)

Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Think of winning the Lotto. On this side of the winning ticket, it's all about the money, the new car, house, vacations, bank accounts, and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to the purchase of a ticket. Then, one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. Then one day, we wake up and realize that nothing has really changed, and I am not as satisfied as I thought I was or would be. I find myself living in my incompleteness and with my profound sorrow and grief. I did not find joy.

Glimpses of joy are possible but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. And, they are glimpses and do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment in memory. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something I create, manufacture or even acquire. It is not able to be purchased. It is a gift. My need for joy mirrors my need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who I am and desires a home within me. As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to my very soul and is given as gift by the God who loves me.

The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us, or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of my soul. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow.



**Website:** [www.stmarysclayton.org](http://www.stmarysclayton.org)

**Rectory & Parish Offices:** 521 James Street, Clayton, NY 13624

**Phone:** 315-686-3398

**December 13, 2020, 3rd Sunday of Advent**

**The Lord Calls:** "The One who calls you is faithful." Will you be faithful to His call? If God may be inviting you to be a priest, deacon, or consecrated religious, talk to Fr. Art LaBaff, or Fr. Chris Carrara at ccarrara@rcdony.org / 315-393-2920, or Cathy Russell at crussell@rcdony.org / 315-393-2920.

**ADVENT****HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.****MASS SCHEDULE:****SATURDAY, December 12, Anticipated Vigil**

4:00 (SM) People of the Parishes

**SUNDAY, December 13, 3rd Sunday of Advent**

9:00 (SM) Elmer Greey by Tom &amp; Cathy Harruff

11:00 (SJ) Intentions of Lisa Willard by David &amp; Lynette Robinson

**MONDAY, December 14**

9:00 (SM) Lucy Reff by Maureen Littlefield

**TUESDAY, December 15**

9:00 (SM) Michael Maser by Barb Ierlan &amp; family

**WEDNESDAY, December 16**

9:00 (SM) Edward Gratien by Jan &amp; Cab Burns &amp; family

**THURSDAY, December 17**

9:00 (SM) COMMUNION SERVICE

**FRIDAY, December 18**

9:00 (SM) Mike Geiss by Paul &amp; Mary Luck

**SATURDAY, December 19, Anticipated Vigil**

4:00 (SM) Nancy Tallman Wyatt by Dianne Leavery &amp; family

**SUNDAY, December 20, 4th Sunday of Advent**

9:00 (SM) David Brabant by his family

11:00 (SJ) People of the Parishes

**When you are on Facebook,** check out and LIKE "Catholic Communities of St. Mary's in Clayton & St. John's in LaFargeville".

**Retirement Fund for Religious** collection is this weekend, December 12/13. In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be as generous as your means allow.

**St. Mary's Booster Club:** Winners of the fourth weekly drawing on December 4 are Michelle Grybowski, Victor Leavery, and JB Kavanaugh. The dinner is Saturday, January 16, 2021. Don't miss out—get your ticket today! To join, volunteer, or for questions, contact Donna (315-778-8672), Tim (315-778-2484), or the parish office (315-686-3398).

**Now and at the Hour of Our Death***Catholic Guidance for End-of-Life Decision Making*

End-of-life decisions for ourselves and for our loved ones are among the most challenging we will ever face. Our Catholic faith offers comfort and practical guidance. Visit [www.CatholicEndofLife.org](http://www.CatholicEndofLife.org) to watch the video and read the New York State Bishops' document "Now and at the Hour of Our Death". Learn why the Church favors palliative medicine and comfort care, and why the Church opposes physician-assisted suicide. Learn your options.

**Food Pantry Contact Numbers:**

Clayton Food Pantry: 315-767-1220

Orleans Food Pantry: 315-658-4796



*The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Mary's  
is in Loving Memory of  
Leonard "Obie" O'Brien  
By Jim Decker*

"Isn't it interesting that all of those people who support the choice of abortion have already been born?"  
- Pres. Ronald Reagan

**From Fr. LaBaff:**

**Advent**

This weekend we light the rose candle in the Advent wreath to indicate rejoicing in the anticipation of the arrival of the Savior of the World – JESUS CHRIST.

We are faced with another time of preparation and it will be somewhat limited. Advent is traditionally a time to prepare for the birthday of the Christ Child. This year our preparation will be very different. Perhaps our sending and receiving of Christmas cards will be an opportunity to send special greetings and best wishes and prayers to our family and friends. A card from you may be very special to them.

While we may not be traveling alot over the holidays, we still will decorate our home and churches for the celebration of Christmas. It is a time to prepare. I want to suggest to you that you read the first and second chapter of St. Luke's Gospel as they pertain directly to the Annunciation and Birth of the Christ Child. A reading and praying over these chapters will keep us tuned to what Christmas is all about.

Our Christmas Mass schedule is different this year because of the Pandemic and distancing in our churches:

**St Mary's Church – Clayton**

**Christmas Eve 4 PM and 6:30 PM**

**St John's Church – LaFargeville**

**Christmas Day 9 AM in Parish Center**

**WWW.211CNY.ORG** is a website of assistance referrals for Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Lewis, Onondaga, and Oswego Counties. You can find information on community, social, and government services for food, housing, education, utilities, legal, health, substance abuse, and more.



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**Christmas Collection:** The Diocese of Ogdensburg's Retirement Plan for Priests has long been supported by a percentage of parish contributions from its annual Christmas collection. This Christmas, to help parishes with financial stress due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the diocese is reducing the contribution from 75% to 50% of the Christmas collection, with the parish keeping the balance. Currently 40 retired priests, and 11 active priests age 70 and older, are expected to receive pension benefits of \$970,000 in 2020-21. Also 100% of the cost of health insurance premiums for retired priests, estimated at \$220,000 this fiscal year, is paid by the Plan. Your generous contribution not only supports current retirees but will also help provide for the retirement needs of priests who will retire in the future. Say *thank you* to your pastor and all priests of the diocese through a generous contribution to our Christmas Collection.

**Comfort in Trouble Prayer:** God of all comfort, please bring comfort to me in my time of trouble. There is no circumstance beyond your power, no person beyond your love. I ask that I would know your comforting presence. Use me, Lord, to comfort others with the comfort I have received from you. May your peace overflow in my life and bless those around me. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

**Weekly Giving**

*Thank you for your continued support.*

St. Mary's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 2,282.00	\$ 1,519.30
Plate	\$ 189.00	\$ 723.00

St. John's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 770.00	\$ 593.00
Plate	\$ 14.00	\$ 42.00

Please consider electronic giving...a safe and consistent way to support your parish. Sign up at [www.stmarysclayton.org](http://www.stmarysclayton.org) or contact the parish office for more info.

## Did You Know...

by Judy Pearson

### The Mother Pelican-Sacrificial Love

Many works of Christian art include a pelican, often shown feeding her babies. An image of a mother pelican with her chicks is carved into the capital on top of a pillar at the Cenacle, the upper room on Mt. Zion in Jerusalem. Tradition holds that it was here that Jesus shared the Last Supper with His apostles and instituted the Eucharist. It is the only artwork in the entire room, a symbol for Jesus and the Eucharist.

The symbolism of the mother pelican feeding her babies is rooted in an ancient legend which actually preceded Christianity. The legend held that during times of famine, the mother pelican would strike her breast with her beak to feed the young with her blood to prevent them from starving. Some legends include that she, in turn, lost her own life to save the little ones. Thus, the legend was adopted by the early Christians to symbolize Christ who gave His life to save us. Jesus continues to feed us with His body and blood in the Holy Eucharist.

These traditions, along with others, are found in the *Physiologus*, an anonymous early Christian work of the second century which appeared in Alexandria, Egypt. Here, the legend of the pelican feeding her babies is a bit different. It is described as: The little pelicans strike their parents; the parents strike them back and kill them. But on the third day, the pelican strikes her side and pours blood over the dead babies, and they are revived and made well. It is, in essence, likened to the story of Easter.

The work was noted by St. Epiphanius, St. Basil, and St. Peter of Alexandria. It was popular in the Middle Ages and became the source for the symbols used in the various stone carvings and other artwork of that time, especially on the front of an altar. In early times, when tabernacles were sometimes suspended over the altar, they were shaped like pelicans.

The 6th verse of the hymn, "*Adoro te devote*", written by St. Thomas Aquinas reads:

"Like what tender tales tell of the Pelican /  
Bathe me, Jesus Lord, in what Thy Bosom ran /  
Blood that but one drop of has the power to win /  
All the world forgiveness of its world of sin."

The pelican, then, is a strong reminder of our Lord who suffered and died to give us eternal life, great sacrificial love. [Adapted & quoted from "The Symbolism of the Pelican" by Fr. William Saunders, *The Arlington Catholic Herald* 11/20/03]

## **The Light Is On For You**

*Celebration of the Sacrament of Penance*

**Sunday, December 20**

after 11am Mass at St. John's,  
1pm at St. Mary's, Clayton,  
3pm at St. Cyril's, Alexandria Bay

**Regular Confession Times:**

3-3:30pm every Saturday at St. Mary's,  
or phone the Rectory at 315-686-3398

## **Christmas Mass Schedule**

***Christmas Eve, December 24***

4pm & 6:30pm at St. Mary's, Clayton

***Christmas Day, December 25***

9am at St. John's, LaFargeville

***Mary Mother of God, January 1***

9am at St. Mary's, Clayton

**Follow Me: A time to pray and discern vocation.** On Sunday, December 13 at 2pm, there will be a Holy Hour for Vocations at St. Patrick's Church in Watertown. All are invited and encouraged to pray for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life. At 6:30pm there will be a virtual question and answer session on Zoom with Bishop LaValley, Sister Mary Gregory Munger, SSJ, and Seminarians on the topic of vocations. For more info, contact the Vocations Office at 315-393-2920.

**2021 Vocation Calendars** are available at the entrances of the churches and the parish office. These calendars are thoughtfully provided to you by Cummings Funeral Services. Be sure to take one for your use or for a friend or relative. A special thank you to the Cummings family for providing these calendars.

**2020 Donations:** Tax rules require that donations to your parish for 2020 be received by December 31. Donations received January 1 or after will be applied to the 2021 tax year. Letters acknowledging your 2020 donations will be mailed by January 31 by bulk mail. *Bulk mail is not forwarded to your winter address.*

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