



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



January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rev. Arthur J. LaBaff, Pastor

Phone: 315-686-3398

Pastoral Associate

Deacon Neil Fuller

email: pastoralassociate@stmarysclayton.org

Deacon Assistants

Gary A. Frank

Bruce Daugherty

Parish Office

Maribeth McFadden, Secretary

email: 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

**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

Most of us are quiet people who desire to live a good and holy life, promote the values and mission of the Gospel as best we can and desire to one day inherit the surprise of life eternal God promises to us. We are not trail blazers. We are simple people who want to do the simple things of life well. But there are others who left a more profound impact along the way of the paths they walked. Folks like Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Thomas Merton, Gandhi, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and many others left lasting impacts and legacies. Like Moses, they show us by word and deed who God is and what integrity and a purpose driven life look like. They show us how to be holy. We need Moses people like these to give us inspiration, hope, and an example of holy living.

We do not need to do what they did or even mirror their relationship with God. Each one of us is God's special creation, with a purpose and soul known only to us. We need to learn how to open up and bring, without compromise, our soul-ness to life. We know when someone is authentic and centered because they always point to truth, even though they struggle and sin themselves, and they embody an unspoken timeless wisdom that just sounds and feels right. Jesus taught with this same type of authority and it astonished many who listened. We do not need to move mountains, advance a cause, write books, or become notable. All we have to do is become credible witnesses of the faith we profess. Moses people can teach us how to do this.

St. Oscar Romero was an amazing man and a Moses figure for sure. He saw God in the burning bush and brought the flame of Gospel faith to the poorest of the poor, challenging the evils of the society in which he lived. He was tireless and persistent. He must have gotten very close to the problem because it cost him his life. He suspected it would. St. Romero said, "When we leave Mass, we ought to go out the way Moses descended Mt Sinai: with his face shining, with his heart brave and strong to face the world's difficulties." We can learn from this wisdom. If we allow the power of the Mass to truly transform us, we will leave that holy encounter changed. Our face will shine, and we will have courage. We can then bring what we have received to life's challenges. That sounds doable, doesn't it? Because of the example of our simple holiness, people will be amazed.

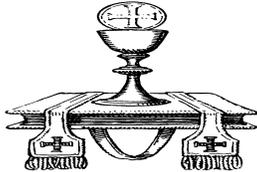
Website: www.stmarysclayton.org

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

Phone: 315-686-3398

January 31, 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Lord Calls: "Everyone is searching for You." If your search for the Lord is leading you to a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate, or consecrated life, talk to Fr. Art LaBaff, or Fr. Chris Carrara at ccarrara@rcdony.org / 315-393-2920, or Cathy Russell at crusell@rcdony.org / 315-393-2920.



MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY, January 30, Anticipated Vigil

4:00 ((SM) Daniel & Sarah Weaver by their family

SUNDAY, January 31, 4th Sunday Ordinary Time

9:00 (SM) Hans Wahl by Lars & Eileen Hauck

11:00 (SJ) People of the Parishes

MONDAY, February 1

9:00 (SM) COMMUNION SERVICE

TUESDAY, February 2

9:00 (SM) COMMUNION SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, February 3

9:00 (SM) Maureen Littlefield by Toni & Barry Kulkowski

THURSDAY, February 4

9:00 (SM) Harry Bazinet by Breck & Louise Hart

FRIDAY, February 5

9:00 (SM) St. Mary's & St. John's Prayer Ministry Intentions

SATURDAY, February 6, Anticipated Vigil

4:00 (SM) Jeannie Locke by Lars & Eileen Hauck

SUNDAY, February 7, 5th Sunday Ordinary Time

9:00 (SM) People of the Parishes

11:00 (SJ) Dora Berkman by Dc. Bernie Slate

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy burdened, and I will give you rest (Mt 11:28). Heaven knows how laborious our life is, yours and mine, and how heavy the burdens we must carry. But do we think of Christ as helping us to bear them? He wants our company. Do we want his?

- Frank Sheed from *Christ in Eclipse*

There exist an interdependence and a hierarchy among creatures as willed by God. At the same time, there is also a unity and solidarity among creatures since all have the same Creator, are loved by him, and are ordered to his glory. Respecting the laws inscribed in creation and the relations which derive from the nature of things is, therefore, a principle of wisdom and a foundation for morality. *CCC 342, 354*

The Gospel of John: A virtual adult faith formation study for Lent. Beginning February 5 at 1pm for eight Fridays via Zoom. This is your opportunity to encounter and deepen your relationship with Jesus through the miraculous stories of those who encountered him face to face. Cost is \$13 for a workbook. Deadline to register at www.catholicwatertown.org/adult-faith-formation is January 25. For more info, contact Deacon Kevin Mastellon at kmastellon@spwatn.org.

Weekly Giving

Thank you for your continued support.

St. Mary's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 1,116.00	\$ 1,469.00
Plate	\$ 212.00	\$ 469.15

St. John's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 580.00	\$ 505.00
Plate	\$ 23.00	\$ 78.00

Please consider electronic giving...a safe and consistent way to support your parish. Sign up at www.stmarysclayton.org or contact the parish office for more info.



The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Mary's is in Loving Honor of John & Catherine Heaslip upon their 65th Wedding Anniversary by Toni & Barry, Mary & Jimmy

Deacon's Corner

by Dr. Gary Frank

Have you ever been a long way from home and had a medical issue? Well, I had one that started a week ago last Thursday. It began with what was a small toothache and by later Friday had become an issue large enough that I needed to find a dentist. A local friend recommended one.

The dentist found, after taking an X-ray and doing an exam, that I needed a root canal. So with referral in hand, the next day the second dentist initiated a root canal but found the tooth fractured to the point of being only marginal at best of a good result. He finished the root canal to relieve the pain and again with a referral in hand scheduled another appointment with an oral surgeon for removal of the tooth the next week.

Both of these dentists were most gracious and kind showing great empathy for an out-of-towner with a problem, to the extent that the dentist that did the root canal called me at 9:15pm the evening of the procedure to see how I was doing and gave me his personal phone number in case I needed anything. To often we (me) fail to recognize the compassion another may have because we expect immediate results for OUR problem or issue when in fact we fail to see what others do for us because it doesn't fit our narrative.

So you might say what has this got to do with faith or even God. Well, I think sometimes when we look for a quick solution or answer to a problem, kind of like me wanting a quick solution to a tooth problem. The answer isn't always quick and easy, but as usual we want what we want...NOW...not later.

That journey to the answers that we seek in our faith, isn't always the direct route that we had hoped for, or prayed for. I see faith, at least for me, as a continuous journey. It's sometimes a struggle. Often I question and even in spite of myself Jesus leads me, sometimes reluctantly, down the path of love and healing and sometimes he puts a dentist or two there to help me down the path.

Who has God put in your path to help you along your journey?

Embracing Holy Days

Catholics often think of holy days primarily in terms of obligation and imposition, but shouldn't we see them first as graced times to mark a special mystery of our faith and an opportunity to renew and enrich our faith.

A holy day is an important feast of Our Lord, Our Lady, or the saints that Catholics are morally obliged to observe by participating in the celebration of the Eucharist. These days have been made solemnities, much like a Sunday in terms of festivity and observance, because of their significance for the Catholic faith. In coming together as a community of faith for the celebration of the Eucharist, we declare the importance of the feast in the life of the Church.

Today in the United States, six holy days of obligation are observed: the Immaculate Conception (December 8); the Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas); Mary, Mother of God (January 1); the Ascension of Our Lord (40 days following Easter); the Assumption of Mary (August 15); and All Saints (November 1).

Why does the Church go to so much trouble to observe these special days? Because the events they commemorate are so important to the life of Christians. Just as Easter, and indeed every Sunday, calls us to celebrate the glorious resurrection of Christ, these other festival days invite us to meditate deeply on other significant events in the life of Our Lord and Our Lady that lie at the heart of our Catholic faith. In observing these days faithfully, we come to appreciate more fully the meaning of the birth of Christ and His ascension into heaven, and the immaculate conception of Mary and her assumption into heaven. Other holy days commemorate additional significant truths of the faith. The solemnity of Mary, Mother of God not only reminds us that Our Lady was greatly honored to be the mother of Our Lord. It also affirms that Jesus Christ is fully God as well as fully man. Through the feast of All Saints, we have the chance to strengthen our communion with our elder brothers and sisters in the faith who are now in heaven and praying for us.

We can rest assured that a faithful observance of holy days offers rich rewards for our growth in holiness when we regard them as opportunities to grow closer to God and to honor Him. - *Condensed from an article by Brother John M. Samaha for SimplyCatholic.com*

Did You Know...

by Judy Pearson

Quotes On Peace By Catholic Saints

As we conclude this first month of 2021, let us keep PEACE in our hearts and in our actions. The following are quotes from saints in both ancient and modern times. [Adapted from: The Catholic Read, 12/20/12]

Peace begins with a smile. --St. Mother Teresa

Be at peace with your own soul, then heaven and earth will be at peace with you. --St. Jerome

Who except God can give you peace? Has the world ever been able to satisfy the heart? --St. Gerard Majella

From humility of heart proceed serenity of mind, gentleness of conduct, interior peace, and every good. --St. Paul of the Cross

Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset. --St. Francis de Sales

He who is humble easily obeys everyone, fears to offend anyone, is at peace with everyone, is kind with all. --St. Thomas of Villanova

A great means to preserve continual peace and tranquility of soul is to receive everything from the hands of God, both great and small, and in whatever way it comes. --St. Dorotheus

Opting for peace does not mean a passive acquiescence to evil or compromise of principle. It demands an active struggle against hatred, oppression and disunity, but not by using methods of violence. Building peace requires creative and courageous action. --Pope St. John Paul II

While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart. --St. Francis of Assisi

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other. --St. Mother Teresa

Let us go forward in peace, our eyes upon heaven, the only one goal of our labors. --St. Therese of Lisieux

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.



Feed Your Soul with Prayer this Lent!

Nothing will transform your life so completely, absolutely, and forever like really learning how to pray.

That's why this year's BEST LENT EVER journeys through Matthew Kelly's latest book, "I Heard God Laugh: A Practical Guide to Life's Essential Daily Habit".

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 17, and continuing through all 40 days of Lent, you will receive a daily email with a short video to help you reconnect with yourself and your God. If you choose to throw yourself into this experience, we promise you that you will be surprised by what God can do in your life with just an email, a short video, and an open heart.

So this year, have your best Lent ever! Sign up today at www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent/best-lent-ever.html



In the 2020 cycle, 18 new pro-life women were elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Out of these 18 women, 10 have flipped seats that were formerly held by pro-abortion U.S. representatives. Now a record number of 29 pro-life women will serve in the U.S. House of Representatives in the new Congress, more than doubling the previous record.

HOPE—St. Mary's and St. John's Substance Abuse Ministry. If you or a loved one suffer from the ravages of drug or alcohol abuse, perhaps we can help. Email stmarysclaytonsam@gmail.com or call 315-783-5268.

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terri-anne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955, terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com, phone 518-651-2267 days and 518-569-0612 evenings; or Fr. Chris Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org, phone 315-393-2920 ext. 1340.

If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

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