



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



February 7, 2021

Fifth 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

If I only knew then what I know now, how different life would be. This sentiment, expressed in myriad ways, is found on every human being's lips at one point or another. Life may have brought us to a vulnerable place where we see some of the poor choices we made and the effects they are having. Perhaps we fell into some destructive and dysfunctional relationships or behaviors and are finding how they held us captive. Our zeal and passion for life may have drifted away and we are waking up to the reasons apathy has taken hold. Life can be hard. In fact, some would describe their lives as a drudgery. They walk through each day with an anxious unsettledness, wondering when their restlessness will cease. There is a temptation to believe that what I see is all I will get. Mortality and hopelessness await the dawn. If I could only have known what would come in the future, I could have made better choices and avoided all of this misery!

Really? While we can certainly give into weakness, sin, impulsiveness, and idiosyncrasies that cause us to stumble over ourselves, life is really a journey. If we don't make the mistake of wallowing in the mire of self-pity and realize the new life God is calling us to, then there are thrills, adventures, surprises, and soul-searching graces we can surely miss. We are not tethered to our past nor are we bound to the ills life can bring upon us. We are never hopeless or helpless. The problem is that our myopic vision only allows us to see the misery and misfortune that is before us, not the potential that can come from choosing healthier and more life-giving options. Jesus came that we might have fullness of life. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus' hand and let him help us to our feet.

We need to allow God into our pain and heal our past. We have to wrestle with our histories, agonize and search and cry out for the Divine healing we need to restore our faith, hope, and love. Job could not see how his story would end or trust the guidance of the God who called him. We live in that same blindness and suffer from the same lack of confidence. Once we allow ourselves to be touched by God's healing power, we begin to see that all of the pieces of our lives are necessary parts of a greater whole. Along the way of our lives, God uses our omissions and failures to create new things and possibilities. When doors close, others open and we can be amazed by the joyful and unexpected surprises we receive. Once we know the power of God's creative, healing, life-giving, forgiving, and dynamic presence, it is no wonder we want to put ourselves at the service of others and show them what life can be.

Website: www.stmarysclayton.org

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

Phone: 315-686-3398

February 7, 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Lord Calls: "Do everything for the glory of God." Your vocation is the call to give God glory in your very being. Today we pray for all those who have answered the call to consecrated life. Is He choosing you to be a religious priest, deacon, or consecrated religious. Do not be afraid! 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.



MASS SCHEDULE:

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

MONDAY, February 8

9:00 (SM) Harry Bazinet by Dianne Leavery & family

TUESDAY, February 9

9:00 (SM) Mike Geiss by Northern Regional Center for Independent Living

WEDNESDAY, February 10

9:00 (SM) Harry Bazinet by Dc. Neil & Dee Fuller

THURSDAY, February 11

9:00 (SM) COMMUNION SERVICE

FRIDAY, February 12

9:00 (SM) Nancy Hinerth by Barb Ierlan & family

SATURDAY, February 13, Anticipated Vigil

4:00 (SM) Veronica Bogenschutz by Dc. Bernie Slate

SUNDAY, February 14, 6th Sunday Ordinary Time

9:00 (SM) People of the Parishes

11:00 (SJ) Thomas Lawrence by Dc. Bernie Slate

"Children and unborn children should be protected by law and welcomed into life."

- President George W. Bush

The Marian Cenacle meets in St. Mary's Church on Wednesdays at 2pm. All are invited to join us in praying the rosary.

Apart from the Mass, the Holy Rosary is one of the most powerful and efficacious forms of prayer that we have.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend the Cenacle.

The Rosary is a time-tested and saint-proven way of entering deeply and intimately into the mysteries of Christ's life, and to unite ourselves to the most powerful prayers of the Blessed Mother.



St. Mary's Booster Club: Tickets are now available for the next Booster Club with dinner on May 22. The Booster Club is a fun, social activity that supports St. Mary's Parish. A \$15 ticket enters you in 10 weekly drawings of \$30, \$20, and \$15 and three \$100 drawings on the evening of the dinner. That's 33 drawings and dinner for \$15! If you are not already a member, please consider joining. 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).

Choosing not to forgive someone is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die.

Weekly Giving

Thank you for your continued support.

St. Mary's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 1,744.00	\$ 1,655.25
Plate	\$ 182.00	\$ 413.00

St. John's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 225.00	\$ 447.00
Plate	\$ 0.00	\$ 27.00

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.

Free National Catholic Men's Conference

Join thousands of Catholic Men from across the nation as we gather to explore the question of what does it mean to live out the Catholic Faith in everyday life. Whether you're a single man, a father, a husband, or grandfather, God has something to give to you at this event, and it just might change your life.

- Learn how to approach the challenges of our day with courage.
- Gain a clearer vision of God's plan for your life.
- Learn practical and immediately applicable steps to growing as a Catholic man.
- Learn how to be the spiritual leader in your home.

The conference is Friday-Sunday, February 19-21. Hear from more than 30 national presenters like Chris Stefanick, Matt Fradd, Fr. Larry Richards, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, MLB star Mark Teixeira, and more!

Register on your own, or plan a watch party with a small group at <https://go.virtualcatholicconference.com/NCMC2021>
This is going to be a powerful gathering.

Pro-life is still a winning strategy at the state level: As evident in the recently-released "Life List 2021" report from Americans United for Life, pro-life laws at the state level are still very much alive and thriving. AUL named Arkansas the most pro-life state, because it passed 10 pro-life laws in 2019, which were then allowed to go into effect following the 2020 *June Medical Services* Supreme Court ruling. There are many other examples of this state-level strategy, including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signing in the summer of 2020 a pro-life bill into law that requires minors receive parental consent before having an abortion. Pro-lifers expect this state-level trend will continue into 2021.

Have You Considered Commissioned Lay Ministry? You could become a Commissioned Lay Minister in your parish. A new Formation for Ministry class will be starting in the Fall. Pray and ask God if this would be right for you! Then speak to Fr. LaBaff.

Volunteers Needed: The Foster Grandparent Program's purpose is to provide opportunities for persons aged 55 and older, to provide person-to-person services in health, education, and the welfare of children ages 21 and below. Foster Grandparents are placed in a classroom setting with a child or children who are in need of emotional support, development of basic learning skills, to provide friendship, companionship, encouragement, individual attention, and unhurried help. The Foster Grandparent also receives a small non-taxable stipend bi-weekly that cannot be held against any current benefits you may already have and you also get paid mileage for your travel. Volunteers needed in Jefferson, Clinton, Essex, St. Lawrence, and Franklin Counties. For more info, contact MHoward@catholiccharities.org or 518-359-7688.

Celebrate World Day of Prayer For Consecrated Life this weekend, February 6-7. On this day we recognize the countless men and women who live consecrated life in various ways as well as their contributions to the growth of the Church. We especially pray for those men and women in our diocese who daily live the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience while belonging to a community and tirelessly working in ministry. Through their example of discipleship, may we be inspired to deeper communion with Christ and may there be an increase in vocations to the consecrated life. If you would like to speak with a religious priest, brother, sister or for info, contact Fr. Chris at ccarrara@rcdony.org, Cathy at crussell@rcdony.org or the Vocation Office 315-393-2920.

Prayer Ministry: Do you have a concern or petition that you wish to have others pray with you? You can call the *Prayer Line* at 315-285-5541 or send an email to smsjprayerline@gmail.com. You do not have to leave your name, just your request for prayer. If you would like to be one who prays for the intentions requested, just leave your name and telephone or email and you will be notified of prayers requested.

Did You Know...

by Judy Pearson

February...A Month of Love

February, the month of Love and Valentine's Day, is a time for remembering love and emphasizing its importance in our lives. As one author said, "this one little word has an enormous impact on our lives...the power to lift our spirits or send us into the depths of despair."

Love is a strong force, a great good in every way. Alone it can make our burdens light, and alone can make things equally pleasing and unpleasing.

Though Love is a basic human emotion, it is difficult to define. The Greeks actually use three forms of the word Love to describe it: Eros, Phileo and Agapao. Eros is the word for sexual attraction; Phileo for the love one feels for a relative or close friend ("brotherly love"). And Agapao is used in classical Greek literature to describe what we call "true love", reflecting the actions associated with the urgency and passion of Eros as well as the caring of Phileo. It is God's Love.

Love is heavily rooted in the character of God. We can love others because He first loved us...and He loves us unconditionally regardless of our behavior...what we have done or said. Love is mentioned anywhere from 300 to 551 times in the Bible, depending on the version, and occurs both in the Old and New Testaments in all the versions.

Love is a basic necessity in everyone's life. Everyone needs to be loved to live a proper and healthy life. Even tiny babies need love to grow. Babies left in hospitals or orphanages without the warmth of a tender embrace or loving touch do not thrive.

St. Augustine describes Love this way: Love...What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.

The columns of the next 3 weeks of February will focus on various aspects relating to love: Valentine's Day, Saints who were committed to Love and the greatest Love of all, the Love of God.



Happy Love Month

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



Abortion Pill Reversal: Chemical abortions, also known as medical abortions or abortion pills, occur when a woman takes two pills to end the life of her baby. It's tragic — and an abortion method that's on the rise and one the abortion industry is aggressively pushing. It might sound like a cause for despair, but here is where there's hope: Abortion pills can be reversed. An abortion-pill reversal, which uses progesterone, can save the life of the baby if the mother has not taken the second abortion pill. A growing number of women are becoming aware of this miraculous and innovative lifesaving technique. Pray that we continue to get the word out there and more children will be saved.

Prayer to St. Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
To you God entrusted his only Son;
In you Mary placed her trust;
With you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
Show yourself a father
And guide us in the path of life,
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
And defend us from every evil.

Amen.

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