



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



February 28, 2021

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

Website: www.stmarysclayton.org

Address: 521 James Street, Clayton, NY 13624

Phone: 315-686-3398



A pregnant woman was walking in the store and met an old friend. Her friend exclaimed, "You are absolutely beaming!" The new life God placed in her womb radiated throughout her body. It was brightly visible on her face and in her eyes. Transformation and change usually happen from the inside out. It is very rare that simply imposing structure from the outside does any good. Yes, it is true that routines and habits can change when things are done differently. But, for this change to last there has to be an interior renewal and metamorphosis as well. Simply regulating behavior and bringing someone into conformity with accepted protocols doesn't mean their heart and soul come with them.

Peter was a homeless man who lived in a very remote and rudimentary tent community. He was happy to make his daily trip to McDonald's and always welcomed a gift card or two so that he could buy some coffee and something to eat. A generous advocate worked to secure him an apartment in hopes of moving Peter out of his makeshift housing and into something safer. Peter finally got the grand tour of his new "digs," received his own key, remarked how wonderful the place was, closed the door behind him when they left and never returned. He preferred his tent. No matter how much things changed on the outside, Peter was happy where he was. A poignant lesson was learned that day.

How is your Lent going? By now you ought to have a sense of whether you're really "into it" this year and something transformational is happening. For many, it's only the stuff on the outside that changes for a few weeks and then they return to business as usual. For others, there are some real inner changes happening that are deepening their relationships with God, others, self, and creation. If we are serious about moving to a new place and radiating with the presence of new life and joy, then we have to clear the way to listen for God's call. Then, there is God's request to change things up a bit and order our lives differently. After realizing we have been called and given a mission, we have to trust that this is where we need to be. And then, after all of this hard work we are asked to act. The fruit that is revealed will indicate whether our journey is authentic. The brilliance of conversion will begin to shine on our faces as we contemplate the One to whom we are asked to listen.

February 28, 2nd Sunday of Lent

The Lord Calls: This is my beloved Son, hear him. Take some time to hear the beloved Son speaking to you. What does he say? If you think God is calling you, 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 27, Anticipated Vigil
4:00 (SM) Martha Weaver by the family

SUNDAY, February 28, Second Sunday of Lent
9:00 (SM) Harry Bazinet by Allison & Josh Kirk
11:00 (SJ) People of the Parishes

MONDAY, March 1
9:00 (SM) Frances Luck by Barry & Toni Kukowski

TUESDAY, March 2
9:00 (SM) Terry O'Sullivan by Joe & Rosemary Kehoe

WEDNESDAY, March 3
9:00 (SM) Harry Bazinet by Barb Ierlan & family

THURSDAY, March 4
9:00 (SM) COMMUNION SERVICE

FRIDAY, March 5
9:00 (SM) Intentions of St. Mary's & St. John's Prayer Ministry

SATURDAY, March 6, Anticipated Vigil
4:00 (SM) Harry Bazinet by Lars & Eileen Hauck

SUNDAY, March 7, Third Sunday of Lent
9:00 (SM) David Sheldon by Steve & Susan Nuber
11:00 (SJ) People of the Parishes



Easter Flower Memorials: Honor deceased loved ones by adding their name to our Easter Flower Memorials list to be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Flower envelopes are in your Sunday envelope sets or extras are located at the entrances to the churches. Names need to be submitted by March 18th to be included in the Easter bulletin.

The annual *North Country Catholic* subscription campaign begins. The paper features regular messages from Bishop LaValley, authoritative information about what the church teaches on the issues that you face in 21st century life and inspiring stories about people living out their faith. Please place your subscription envelope in the collection basket or mail a check for \$27 to the *North Country Catholic*, PO Box 106, Canajoharie, NY, 13317. Another option is to "go green" and receive your *NCC* through email every Monday. If interested, write your email address on the envelope.



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).

Weekly Giving

Thank you for your continued support.

St. Mary's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 2,342.00	\$ 1,012.35
Plate	\$ 233.00	\$ 405.00
<i>January Electronic Giving: \$ 4,285.00</i>		

St. John's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 280.00	\$ 892.00
Plate	\$ 2.00	\$ 45.00
<i>January Electronic Giving: \$ 473.00</i>		

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.

From Fr. LaBaff:

Lent is well underway! I am pleased to see more people returning the Church. We are keeping proper distancing and the church is sanitized after each liturgy. I am grateful to those who are sanitizing the church.

Stations of the Cross: On Friday at 7pm we walk with Jesus to Calvary. Consider joining us for this wonderful walk and journey.

Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday at 2pm to 3pm a gathering of the Cenacle meets each week. The Eucharist will be exposed for Adoration from 2-3pm also. This is a wonderful time to pray for the parish and our church family. This is open to everyone.

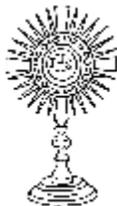
Commissioned Lay Ministers: Two of our parishioners are completing their preparation and will be commissioned in late June. We are seeking candidates for this Ministry. Have you considered Commissioned Lay Ministry? There will be an informational gathering in May to explain the program and answer any question that you might have. You can talk to Father LaBaff or Deacon Neil Fuller for more information. Your parish needs you!

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking a Diocesan Coordinator – Office of Parish Audit & Financial Support Services. Visit www.rcdony.org/information/employment.html for a full job description/requirements. Submit letter of interest, resume, and three professional references to: Human Resources Office, Diocese of Ogdensburg, P.O. Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or e-mail ksnover@rcdony.org. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

Eucharistic Adoration

**Wednesdays 2-3pm
during Lent
at St. Mary's Church**

**All are welcome to join the
Marian Cenacle in prayer at 2pm**



Deacon's Corner

by Dc. Neil Fuller

As many of you know, my mother died January 24th at age 91. She lived a long and productive life leaving behind her four children, several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and even a great-great grandchild.

She had been a widow for 24 years and managed for herself very well until she had a fall a few months ago that required her to be admitted to a nursing home, where she was very unhappy. Even though she received wonderful care, my mother wanted nothing more than to go home and see her family. We were unable to visit her because of the Covid-19 restrictions which made it harder for her and for her family.

Near the end my mother suffered greatly, and we were able to have her moved to the Hospice facility "Ellis Farm" where we could see her and be with her until she died. Because of her suffering we were grateful for the Lord's mercy.

I am overwhelmed by the outpouring of kindness from my "family" here at St. Mary's and St. John's. Your expressions of sympathy, the cards, the notes, the flowers, the Mass cards, the prayers, and the kind words are so appreciated. You are all such a blessing to us....

One young altar server wrote: "Deacon Neil, I am so sorry."

Many thanks to you all....

Secretary/Parish Coordinator Needed: Part-time position, 20-25 hours weekly, paid holidays, health care option. Person must have a friendly telephone personality, handle money and banking deposits. Must be familiar with Facebook and website upkeep, Microsoft Word, and Excel. Send resume to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, 320 West Lynde Street, Watertown, NY 13601.

Finance Director Needed: The Sisters of St. Joseph, is seeking a part-time Finance Director. Applicants should submit a letter of interest and resume to Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, Major Superior, Sisters of St. Joseph, 1425 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601 or to ssjcongr@yahoo.com. Applications and job description may be picked up at the reception desk at 1425 Washington Street.

Did You Know...

by Judy Pearson

The Greatest Love of All

We finish our month on Love with the greatest Love of all...the Love of God.

The whole Bible is a love story. It begins with God, and God is love. Before anything else existed, there was love between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. "I wish that where I am, they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world." (John 17:24)

Rev. Donald Cozzens, priest and writer in Shaker Heights, OH, says: "Jesus invites us to fall in love...with God, with others, with life itself. The great commandment is to just love...God, yourself, your neighbor, and all of creation. And when we love well, all seems to go well. We find ourselves living in harmony with the hidden presence of God. And without making a deliberate choice, we find ourselves growing in patience and kindness. We, almost without thinking, let go of our grudges, prejudices, and petty vanities."

"Over the years, I've learned to think of love as wanting what is best for others. If we want what is best for all of God's people, even our enemies, we can say we love them. But this kind of just love is ultimately God's gift... the greatest of spiritual gifts." [Quoted from *Give Us This Day*, Sept. '20]

Known as the Love Chapter, 1Corinthians 13:8 is one of the greatest reminders to us today of what real love looks like...and what it doesn't look like. Although we hear it many times at weddings or seen on cards often, it is worth reading over, quietly and slowly, so we don't lose its important message.

"Nothing is sweeter than love, nothing higher, nothing stronger, nothing larger, nothing more joyful, nothing fuller, nothing better in heaven or on earth; for love is born of God and can find its rest only in God above all He has created." [Excerpt from *The Imitation of Christ*, Thomas à Kempis]

"So faith, hope, love, remain, these three;
but the greatest of these is love."

1Corinthians13:13

The National Catholic Women's Conference (March 12-14) is a FREE virtual event for Catholic women of all ages. We will be exploring all the ways that we as women can be open to receive Christ's peace. Despite life's pressures, peace is possible! Register today at www.go.virtualcatholicconference.com/ncwc2021



Stations of the Cross

Fridays of Lent at 7pm
at St. Mary's Church

From the Bishop:

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

“*Head of the Holy Family.*” “*Pillar of Families.*” “*Spouse of the Mother of God.*” “*Foster father of the Son of God.*” While St. Joseph carries many titles, a number of those titles focus on family and family relationships. St. Joseph guided and protected Jesus and Mary through troubled and difficult times. It is fitting that we would turn to him for intercession for the protection of our marriages and families.

It also seems fitting that St. Joseph carries another title: “*Protector of Holy Church.*” We, as a Church, are the Body of Christ. We are called to be united. We are called to love one another. We are called to help each other when one of us is sick or struggling. Doesn't the Church sound an awful lot like a family?

That is why the *North Country Catholic* is inviting us as a diocese to “Experience Our Family of Faith” in its annual subscription campaign. As the pandemic has canceled or restructured many events and happenings, the *NCC* has been focused more than ever on telling the stories of the people who make up our diocesan family of faith.

Sharing our stories helps connect us as a diocesan family. Many miles separate us. A resident of Constableville in Lewis County may never meet a resident of Constable in Franklin County, but by sharing our stories and learning about one another, we can forge bonds that help us learn from each other, despite the miles of separation. Certainly, we are living in challenging times. The *NCC* has also been an effective way for me to communicate with Catholics around the diocese as we face each challenge that comes our way with Christ as our Guide.

This weekend, the annual *North Country Catholic* subscription campaign begins. I ask that every Catholic family subscribe to our family paper. If you are a current subscriber, thank you for renewing your subscription in this week's campaign. Why not consider obtaining a subscription as a gift for a family member? I invite those who do not currently subscribe to consider how important it is today to be an informed Catholic Christian and allow our diocesan newspaper to be a vehicle to help you and your families grow in faith.

I hope that you accept my invitation to welcome the *North Country Catholic* into your home and “Experience Our Family of Faith.” Thank you for your prayerful support.

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

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