



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



March 14, 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

**4TH SUNDAY
LENT**

Is there something to Lent that goes beyond our own spiritual house cleaning and spiritual refinement? Yes, there is! It has to do with listening and learning so that we can take up the task of the Gospel with greater clarity and fortitude. While the spiritual refocusing of Lent is necessary, the fruit of this Lenten conversion has much more to do with learning how we can be a better Church than it does about our eternal salvation. Salvation is a gift that flows out of God's unconditional Mercy and cannot be merited. The spiritual maturity we can experience as a result of our Lenten disciplines serves to reduce the anxiety and apprehension we may experience as messengers of good, but very challenging, and unsettling, news.

St. Oscar Romero said that, "a church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed, what gospel is that?" When we listen to those descriptive and provocative words, do they resonate with anything in our experience? As messengers of the Gospel, we are called to bring an unsettling message to the world. If our main concern is protecting our self-interests, then we are missing something huge! Many really struggle with being rejected, dismissed, or perceived as someone who is speaking out of turn. There is a counter cultural message that must be preached that clearly sides with the poor, marginalized, victimized, oppressed, neglected, disregarded, and lost souls throughout the world. There is a widespread misery among the peoples that is all too often allowed to fester with no one coming forward to offer a change or resolution.

The Church can speak to the needed structural changes that will allow people to earn just wages, feed their families and share abundantly and equally in the gifts of God's good earth. Such a vision is not some optimistic fairy tale, but the vision of the Creator himself. Lent reminds us, as St. Oscar Romero also states, that, "we are workers, not master builder, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own." We are not called to labor simply for the benefit of the here and now but of the "what is to come." Our myopic vision can be replaced by a more far reaching Lenten vision that is much greater and deeper in scope. As long as we are carrying the right blueprints with us and our thoughts extend beyond ourselves, then even the little things we do and the simplest prayer we utter go a long way. They give witness to our preference for the light of Christ and not the darkness of error and sin.

March 14, 4th Sunday of Lent

The Lord Calls: "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him." Are you being invited to share the mission of Jesus as a priest, deacon, or in the consecrated life? If God is calling you, talk to Fr. Art LaBaff, or Fr. Chris Carrara at ccarra-ra@rcdony.org / 315-393-2920, or Cathy Russell at crussell@rcdony.org / 315-393-2920.



MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY, March 13, Anticipated Vigil
4:00 (SM) Sarah Palumbo by Jack & Christine

SUNDAY, March 14, Fourth Sunday of Lent
9:00 (SM) Hans Wahl by the Farone family
11:00 (SJ) People of the Parishes

MONDAY, March 15
9:00 (SM) Veronica Bogenschutz by Mary Agatha, Ron, Terry, Sue, Peter, & family

TUESDAY, March 16
9:00 (SM) Giselle Rainville by Dc. Neil & Dee Fuller

WEDNESDAY, March 17
9:00 (SM) Bryson Anderson by Dc. Neil & Dee Fuller

THURSDAY, March 18
9:00 (SM) COMMUNION SERVICE

FRIDAY, March 19
9:00 (SM) Martha Heffernan by Toni & Barry Kukowski

SATURDAY, March 20, Anticipated Vigil
4:00 (SM) Leonard O'Brien by Art Gamble

SUNDAY, March 21, Fourth Sunday of Lent
9:00 (SM) Korleen Marshall by John & Catherine Healsip
11:00 (SJ) People of the Parishes

The Feast of St. Joseph is Friday, March 19. The obligation to abstain from eating meat on this day is removed as it is a feast day of the church.

God our Father,

You entrusted Joseph with the mission of being the foster father of Jesus, your Beloved Son. Faithful to this call, he remained strong in trials, full of tenderness and attentiveness, by taking care of the Child of the Promise and his mother Mary.

You call us to be like Saint Joseph, strong and courageous in difficult times, attentive to the needs of the people around us, and tender to those who suffer.

Help us listen to others. Inspire us with words of hope, which through your Father's heart reveal full love and mercy.

Keep us strong in faith, faithful in our commitments, confident in the face of the unknown, and joyful in welcoming life. Amen.

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.



St. James, Carthage, Parish Mission: March 21, 22, 23, and 24, 7pm each day. Additional presentation March 22, 23, and 24 after 9am Mass. Bill Wegner of Good News International will preach on "Dare to be Holy!" For more info call 315-493-3224.

Weekly Giving

Thank you for your continued support.

St. Mary's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 1,462.00	\$ 1,450.00
Plate	\$ 270.00	\$ 424.00

St. John's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 531.00	\$ 468.00
Plate	\$ 53.00	\$ 12.00

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 Memory of
Paul Bond
by Virginia Hurley*

A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,

During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you. Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life.

Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.

Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul, remind me of the grace and simplicity.

May this season be a grace-filled time to re-ignite my love for and faith in you. Amen

College Scholarship: Do you know a High School Senior who is Catholic and currently resides in the Diocese of Ogdensburg and is planning to attend a Catholic College or University in the Fall? The Mater Dei College Foundation offers a scholarship to a qualifying student going on to study liberal arts and sciences at a degree granting Catholic College or University. To request an application form, please email Valerie Mathews, Mater Dei Foundation Scholarship Chair at vmathews@rcdony.org. Application deadline is June 1.

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. Get your ticket by March 15 to be in all drawings. To join, volunteer, or for questions, contact Donna (315-778-8672), Tim (315-778-2484), or the parish office (315-686-3398).

Tips To Make Your Lent More Meaningful

Slow Down – Set aside 10 minutes a day for silent prayer or meditation. It will revitalize your body and your spirit.

Read a good book – You could choose the life of a saint, a spiritual how-to, an inspirational book or one of the pope's new books.

Be kind – Go out of your way to do something nice for someone else every day.

Deacon's Corner

by Dc. Gary Frank

I have been contemplating on the subject of my Deacon's Corner this week, but the past few days have changed all that.

Two years ago our parishes of St. Mary's and St. John's lost a wonderful young woman in Lucy Reff who was working and studying in the medical field. She was destined to accomplish good and positive things. But all that came to an end when she had a traumatic medical emergency that she would not survive.

That brings me to March 4 when Peyton Morse who was attending the Fire Academy in Montour Falls, suffered a medical emergency, and as of this writing is in critical but stable condition with an uncertain outcome. Peyton also wants to do nothing more than to serve his fellow man.

I, like many of you, have shed my tears for Lucy and asked why. I've done the same for Peyton, and asked God for a positive outcome. In both cases I've gone to my private place and shouted at God asking why. People have often said to me, you can't shout at God and my response is always the same...why not? Anger is a normal human emotion and for me, if I leave it pent up inside it can take over all my other emotions, but letting it out, shedding my tears and dealing with my emotions helps me see things with a clear head. Faith, for me, isn't magic that solves all my problems, it's an inner peace and strength that I can call on to help me through those times when I don't have the answers, when I'm confused and don't know which way to turn.

All of us were born into this world to know, love, and serve God. In the Gospel of John 3:16, we find God's promise to us "for God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays 2-3pm
during Lent

at St. Mary's Church

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



Did You Know...

by Judy Pearson

St. Joseph's Day

St. Joseph's Day, March 19, is the principal feast day of St. Joseph; it has the rank of a solemnity in the Catholic Church. It is the Patronal Feast day for Poland and Canada and all named Joseph, variations of Joseph, religious institutions, schools and parishes bearing his name, and carpenters. It is also Father's Day in some Catholic countries, namely Spain, Portugal and Italy.

March 19 was dedicated to St. Joseph in several Western calendars by the 10th century and established in Rome by 1479. Pope Pius V extended it to the entire Roman Rite in 1570.

It is observed as a Solemnity of a Saint even during Lent. It is one of the few times during Lent the Gloria may be said or sung, the vesture is changed from the purple/violet of Lent to white or gold, the Collect and the Eucharistic Prayer's Preface and other prayers are from the Solemnity, not Lent; the hymns joyful, the Creed is said. The Alleluia is absent.

The rank of a solemnity and all Sundays are of the highest rank, so if St. Joseph's Day falls on Friday in Lent, abstinence is not obligatory on this feast. From the Code of Canon Law 1251: Abstinence from meat, or from some other food as determined by the Episcopal Conference, is to be observed on all Fridays, **unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday.** There is no fasting or abstaining ever required on Sundays or solemnities. So it will be a truly special day.

On this day, we celebrate an age-old Italian Tradition...*tavola di San Giuseppe*...St. Joseph Table or Altar. This celebration dates back to the Middle Ages, when Sicily underwent a drought that threatened a massive famine. The people prayed to their patron saint, Joseph, to bring them rain. In exchange, they promised to honor St. Joseph with a proper banquet. St. Joseph interceded to God who answered their prayers and in return, they feasted on local foods.

There are three tiers of tables representing the Trinity and the three members of the Holy Family...Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The dishes are varied, traditionally meatless, and include fava beans, the sustaining food during the drought and now considered a "lucky bean."

The St. Joseph's table tradition was brought to the United States by the late 19th/early 20th century by Sicilian immigrants. Due to COVID, we may not have St. Joseph's Table in church, but one can prepare a similar one at home to honor his special day. The custom is to wear red on St. Joseph's Day.



Stations of the Cross

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

Our second collection this weekend is for Peter's Pence and Catholic Relief Services. Peter's Pence provides funds for Pope Francis to help those on the margins of society like victims of war, oppression, and natural disaster. Catholic Relief Services helps Catholic agencies provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to those most in need here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support today's collection.

Parish Nurse Course: Mercy Care for the Adirondacks will offer the Westberg Institute's Foundations of Faith Community Nursing (Parish Nursing) Course at St. Marguerite D'Youville Academy in Ogdensburg on April 9/10, 16/17, 30 and May 1 at 1-5pm on Fridays and 8:30am-5pm on Saturdays. Open to RNs or others interested in health ministry in their church or community. If you are a registered nurse with a desire to help people live a healthy, faith-filled life, you may wish to serve your own faith community or others as a volunteer parish nurse. Please contact Sister Catherine Cummings at 518-523-5582 or ccummings@adkmercy.org with questions or to register. The course is offered free of charge to nurses of all faiths. Pre-registration and all six days of classes are required. Covid guidelines will be observed.

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.

The annual *North Country Catholic* subscription campaign continues. 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.

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