



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



March 21, 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



Any good teacher or parent will tell you that once a lesson is really learned it doesn't need to be taught again. When we internalize things we have learned, they become a part of who we are and influence how we perceive and interact with our world. The same is true for the law God has written upon our hearts. Once humanity learns this lesson, we will simply know it to be true and act accordingly. Sometimes, it is hard to get people to learn the lessons they need to learn. They are often distracted, disinterested, conflicted, misdirected, or just too stubborn and unable or unwilling to see what is right before their eyes. Understanding that God is in a loving and committed relationship with those fashioned and formed in God's own image, seems like such a simple lesson to learn. But history and experience has proven that it is not.

We struggle with faith, especially when that faith asks us to learn something very particular about ourselves. We must, like a grain of wheat, fall to the ground and die. Because God's DNA is at the very core of who we are, there are specific pearls of wisdom that must be acquired before we can live a full life. One very powerful lesson is that it is not the task of the world to tell us who we are and what has meaning, but God. For many, death is not an opportunity for greater life but a permanent ending to the life they have known. Jesus knew every dimension to what it means to be fully human because he was! He knows the joys, limitations, sorrows, frustrations, wonders, suffering, opportunities, and joys of the human experience. Jesus can teach us a wealth of knowledge and life's lessons from his example, especially obedience.

When we accept the law God has placed in our hearts and gain wisdom from it, then when we suffer we learn to listen more attentively to the Voice behind that law. We naturally flee to our Creator for inspiration, consolation, hope, direction, and comfort as we navigate through this time of darkness. We will not need to run from it, subdue it, fight it, or be overcome by it because we will know, having internalized this profound lesson before, that God will bring new life. God's law is love and love never fails. Even in the moments of Jesus' deepest despair, he glorified the name of his Father. What he learned allowed him to put everything in perspective and be obedient to the tender, loving Voice that echoed within. As Lent quickly winds down, may we learn the same! Then, may we gain the fortitude and wisdom to help others see what is right before their eyes.

Website: www.stmarysclayton.org

Address: 521 James Street, Clayton, NY 13624

Phone: 315-686-3398

March 21, 5th Sunday of Lent

The Lord Calls: "He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him." The gift of a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life requires an obedient response through prayer and action. 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, 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 Heaslip

11:00 (SJ) People of the Parishes

MONDAY, March 22

9:00 (SM) Scott Rockoff & John Corrigan by Karen Rockoff

TUESDAY, March 23

9:00 (SM) Jerry Lantier by Bernie & Margie Miller

WEDNESDAY, March 24

9:00 (SM) James & Camilla O'Brien by Leonard O'Brien

THURSDAY, March 25

9:00 (SM) COMMUNION SERVICE

FRIDAY, March 26

9:00 (SM) Robert Burns by Sally Russell & family

SATURDAY, March 27, Anticipated Vigil

4:00 (SM) LouAnne Drake by Dc. Bernie Slate

SUNDAY, March 28, Palm Sunday of the Passion

9:00 (SM) People of the Parishes

11:00 (SJ) Marcus Nellis by Ann Duffany & family

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 24th to be included in the Easter bulletin.

Summer Camp Guggenheim

registration is now open for 2021.

Although camp may look a bit different because of the anticipated COVID protocols, we feel that it will still be a wonderful experience for all. Visit www.rcdony.org/youth/camp for more details. Contact Tom Semeraro, Director for the Office of Youth Ministry with inquiries at 315-393-2920 ext. 1415.

Camp Guggenheim is Hiring

Medical Director: Must be 18 years or older, a practicing Catholic, certified NYS LPN, EMT, or NYS RN. We are interested in hiring a certified nurse for the full 7 weeks or weekly partial employment. A great opportunity to spend time in the beautiful outdoors, and engage vibrant young people as they journey in faith.

Camp Counselor: High school graduate, 18 years or older, have a minimum of one year of college or workforce experience and have participated in a counselor training program [e.g. Teen Vision] or worked as a camp counselor in a youth leadership position. Applicant should be a practicing Catholic who is willing to share faith with young people.

Summer Camp Guggenheim is a 7 week overnight youth camp that runs from June 17 to August 6. For more info, contact Tom Semeraro, Director of Youth Ministry at tsemeraro@rcdony.org or 1-315-393-2920 ext. 1415. Apply at www.rcdony.org/youth/camp.

Weekly Giving

Thank you for your continued support.

St. Mary's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 1,334.00	\$ 1,507.00
Plate	\$ 214.00	\$ 482.37

St. John's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 499.00	\$ 384.00
Plate	\$ 20.00	\$ 9.00

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.

From Fr. LaBaff:

Holy Week is almost upon us. Like last year we are faced with the pandemic restrictions and regulations about masks and distancing. This is still the reality. Many of us have received the virus shots. We are anxious to see many more vaccinated. There is room for us in the church and parish center and I would love to see more in our safe and sanitized church.

Our readings today are filled with anticipation. The days are coming, the hour has come, Jesus says in the Gospel. The new covenant that God promised is made in the "hour" of Jesus—in His Death, Resurrection, and Ascension to the Father's right hand.

The prophets said this new covenant would return Israel's exiled tribes from the ends of the world. Jesus predicted His passion would gather the dispersed children of God. But today Jesus promises to draw to Himself not only Israelites, but all men and women.

We read in the Gospels that He offers himself to the Father on the Cross. Where He has gone, we can follow—if we let Him lead us. To follow Jesus means hating our sins and selfishness. It means trusting in the Father's will, the law He has written in our hearts. Jesus' "hour" continues in the Eucharist, where we join our sacrifices to His, giving God our lives in reverence and obedience—confident He will raise us up to bear fruits of holiness.

Plan now to set aside some time to prepare for Holy Week. Make a visit to the church for 9am daily Mass or anytime during the day for a visit with Jesus in the Tabernacle.

Have you considered receiving the Sacrament of God's Love and Mercy – Reconciliation/Confession? God wants to forgive you any and all sins, for which you may be responsible.

In the mail this week you will receive the Holy Week Schedule for St. Mary's and St. John's.

The Women's Prayer Group will meet immediately after 9am Mass at St Mary's on Sunday April 18. We will pray the rosary and offer intentions and spend a short time sharing our faith. Everyone is invited to join us. For questions, call Jennifer Lucia at 513-304-2264.

Chrism Mass: Bishop LaValley along with the clergy, consecrated religious, seminarians and deacon candidates will celebrate the Chrism Mass on Tuesday, March 30, at 1:00pm at St. Mary's Cathedral. At the Chrism Mass, the priests are invited to join the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley in the renewal of their priestly commitment and for the Blessing of the Holy Oils, and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all the churches of the Diocese symbolizing that we are one family in Christ. Due to the COVID-19, safe distancing guidelines seating capacity is limited. We encourage the lay faithful to join us via livestream at www.rcdony.org/livemass.

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 today! Drawings have begun. To join, volunteer, or for questions, contact Donna (315-778-8672), Tim (315-778-2484), or the parish office (315-686-3398).

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

Year of St. Joseph

On December 8, 2020, Pope Francis proclaimed a “Year of St. Joseph” ending on December 8, 2021. In his Apostolic Letter, *Patris corde*, he describes St. Joseph as a “beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.”

The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* during the COVID-19 pandemic, which he said helps us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people...those not in the limelight but who offer hope and exercise patience every day, resembling St. Joseph, the silent man who goes unnoticed, “a daily, discreet and hidden presence.” Yet he played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

Pope Francis used these words to describe St. Joseph: tender, beloved, obedient, creatively courageous, an example of love. One who teaches the value, dignity, and joy of work. A father “in the shadows” while he centered on Mary and Jesus.

Pope Francis reveals in this letter that every day for over 40 years, following Lauds (Morning Prayer), he has “recited a prayer to St. Joseph taken from a 19th Century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary.” He notes that this prayer expresses devotion and trust, yet poses “a certain challenge to St. Joseph” in its closing words, “My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power.”

At the conclusion of his Letter, he adds another prayer to St. Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

*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.*

(Adapted from Vatican News; Dec. 8, 2020)

Drive-Thru Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, March 27, 4-7pm

Clayton Fire Station, Graves Street

Cost is \$10 for spaghetti & meatballs, bread, salad, and dessert. Proceeds to assist the family of Peyton Morse. Hosted by LaFargeville, Clayton, & Alexandria Bay Fire Departments.



Stations of the Cross

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

A bill to legalize physician-assisted suicide has been introduced in the State Assembly, not the Senate but may be any day. There are fatal flaws in this assisted suicide legislation. Proponents of the so-called “Medical Aid-in-Dying Act” (A.4321 of the 2021-2022 NYS Legislative Session) argue that it contains safeguards which protect vulnerable patients. Yet a close examination of the bill’s language reveals inadequate protections for patients most at risk of abuse, and lower medical standards than elsewhere in the Public Health Law. The bill lacks transparency and accountability, and contains extremely weak conscience protections for both health care professionals and health care institutions. In short, it is unsafe for all involved. Contact your state representatives and tell them to vote against this bill.

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.

Explore Your Faith: The Diocese of Ogdensburg is running an online Alpha starting April 5 from 6:30pm-8pm via Zoom. A computer with a mic/camera or a smart phone is needed. Alpha is a place to explore the Christian faith with others. It’s a series of conversations focused on the questions of life, faith, and meaning. Each session includes a time to connect with others, hear a talk on some element of faith, and then a chance for people to share their own questions and perspectives with the group. Register at <https://www.rcdony.org/alpha>. For more info, contact Marika, Office of Evangelization at mdonders@rcdony.org.

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