



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



April 11, 2021

Second Sunday of Easter

Rev. Arthur J. LaBaff, Pastor

Phone: 315-686-3398

Deacon Neil Fuller, Pastoral Associate

Phone: 315-405-6910

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

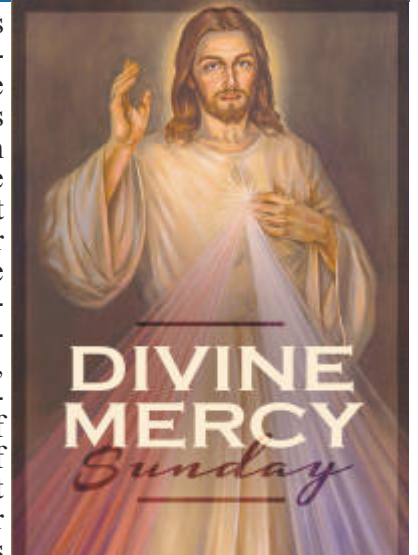
after 9:00 a.m. Mass on the first
Friday of the month at St. Mary's

Prayer Line

315-285-5541

smsjprayerline@gmail.com

What a wonderful joy fills us today as we ponder the inexhaustible mercy of God. "Mercy is the heart of God," Pope Francis tells us. The image of a heart has been used to point to the very life source of a person as it is the organ that allows life to flow through our veins and sustain us. Mercy is the heart of God. Imagine this dynamic, powerful, compassionate, piercing, embracing, loving, propelling, penetrating, absorbing, and enveloping, transforming presence of God flowing into the very depth of our souls. It is God's mercy that allows blood to flow through our veins. It is God's mercy that forms every atom of our being and leads us to what is true. God's mercy reveals all superficiality and falsehood, and lays bare all distortions, empty promises, weakness, and sin.



"Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope," Pope Francis continues. God's all forgiving, compassionate love is with us. When we finally believe and accept that Christ's resurrected transfigured presence resides with us, we then find within us a strong confidence to accept life's imperfections and disappointments and move on. Every day is a new adventure in new life. God leaves the past behind and opens doors to the future. It doesn't matter how many mistakes we made yesterday. All that matters is what we do tomorrow and what we learn along the way. It is so easy to remain tethered and mired in the past, but there is no need to do so. God is all about tomorrow and the work God has yet to do in our lives.

Mercy gives birth to hope. Hope for the greatest of sinners and hope for the worst of disasters. There is nothing God cannot do and nothing God cannot fashion. After all, everything we know and treasure was once nothing, and look what God did with the nothing God had! The resurrected Christ stands before us with nail marks in his wrists and wounds on his body as a testament that not even injustice, suffering, and death can trample over and destroy God's mercy. What have we to fear? Why do we keep ourselves from peace? Our lack of faith prevents us from going forward and fully receiving the holiness God desires to breathe upon us. Breathe in God's mercy, allow the wind of God's presence to kiss all of your sins and caress all of your fears. Exhale peace.

Website: www.stmarysclayton.org

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

Phone: 315-686-3398

April 11, Second Sunday of Easter

The Lord Calls: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you." Will you respond to God's call to be sent as priest, deacon, sister or brother who proclaims the truth and peace of Jesus Christ? 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, April 10, Vigil

4:00 (SM) Phil Bourque by Betty & Jim Hofman

SUNDAY, April 11, Divine Mercy Sunday

9:00 (SM) People of the Parishes

11:00 (SJ) Peyton Morse by Marcia O'Neill & family

MONDAY, April 12

9:00 (SM) Bud, Catherine, & Larry James by Dave & Nancy Zanoni

TUESDAY, April 13

9:00 (SM) Hilda Fuller by The Prestige Staff

WEDNESDAY, April 14

9:00 (SM) Sara Re by Joanne & Brian Bansbach

THURSDAY, April 15

9:00 (SM) COMMUNION SERVICE

FRIDAY, April 16

9:00 (SM) Christopher Lent by Mary Ann Hayes

SATURDAY, April 17, Anticipated Vigil

4:00 (SM) Donald & Mary Conan by the Weaver family

SUNDAY, April 18, Third Sunday of Easter

9:00 (SM) People of the Parishes

11:00 (SJ) Peyton Morse by Myrna Carter & Donna Dundon

St. Mary's is seeking a seasonal custodian for the church and cemetery. Position is available now. Contact the parish office at 315-686-3398.

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. There will be an informational meeting to learn more and ask questions:

**Tuesday, April 13 at 7pm
St. Mary's Parish Center**

The Diocesan Youth Rally is April 17, from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm for young people in grades 7 to 12 to "Zoom" into a fun, enriching, and engaging virtual rally centered on our theme, "Courage to Rise"- Answering God's call to love one another. There is no fee, but registration is required at www.rcdony.org/youth/rally.html. After you complete the registration form and "Photo/Video Release" form to receive instructions on how to access the Rally via a Zoom video link. All youth who register and participate will receive an activity/gift package in the mail. Bishop Terry R. LaValley will round out the event with a Q&A/ Discussion, and Blessing. Expect moments of laughter, music, prayer, reflection, a renewed Faith and the "Courage to Rise", answering the call to love one another. For more info, contact Tom Semeraro, tsemeraro@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920, ext 1415.


Weekly Giving

Thank you for your continued support.

St. Mary's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 2,220.00	\$ 1,060.00
Plate	\$ 631.07	\$ 462.00

St. John's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 700.00	\$ 412.00
Plate	\$ 39.00	\$ 0.00

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
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by Anne*



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St. John the Evangelist Church**

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From Fr. LaBaff:

To Members of our Parishes,

In these challenging times we are faced with many changes. With the help of God, we will be able to maintain a strong Catholic presence in our local communities with all the challenges that face us.

In a letter to me from Bishop LaValley dated March 19, 2021 he states that he accepted my request to retire as pastor of St. Mary's in Clayton and St. John the Evangelist in LaFargeville and that this will be effective July 1, 2021. Upon my retirement, St. Mary's Church in Clayton will be linked to The Catholic Community of Alexandria in Alexandria Bay. Father Comstock is also retiring.

The Bishop further states: In light of these new circumstances and due to there are not being a sufficient number of priests to appoint someone as pastor, I am appointing Deacon Neil J. Fuller as Interim Pastoral Life Coordinator for the pastoral configuration effective, July 1, 2021.

I will remain as Sacramental Minister/Supervisory Priest of the entire configuration as well as taking on a role of Sacramental Minister, i.e., celebrating those Sacraments reserved to an ordained priest.

Deacon Neil Fuller will be responsible for the day-to-day spiritual and financial administrations of the parishes. He will have the authority to handle all church finances. This is a new pastoral challenge for our parishes.

St. John the Evangelist Church in LaFargeville will be merged into St. Mary's Church in Clayton. St. John's Church in LaFargeville will be given the status of oratory. This merger is consistent with the Living Stones pastoral plan for the parishes.

There will be a new Mass schedule for St. Mary's and St. Cyril's. This will also allow for St. Francis Xavier Church in Redwood to be a Seasonal Church from Memorial Day until Columbus Day yearly because of the large number of participants attending from the Indian Lakes area.

From Memorial Day through Columbus Day:

Saturday Mass at St. Mary's 4:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass at St. Mary's 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Mass at T I Park (July-Labor Day) 8:00 a.m.

For the rest of the year:

Saturday Mass at St. Mary's 4:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass at St. Mary's 9:00 a.m.

Deacon's Corner by Dc. Bruce Daugherty

Sometimes I get behind in things that I have to do. So, in the house my wife will remind me. But, for church items, we have Maribeth who will let us know when things are behind, such as Deacon's Corner and other necessary items. In church, Father is the one that reminds me and other deacons what needs to be done and when and why.

Over the last few weeks, we have had funerals and Masses for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. We gather before Mass or services and go over what needs to be read or sung.

To me some of this is very stressful, making sure that we are on top of things. It was at the funeral service for Gerald Bristol that my wife said to Father Art after, "Father I don't know how you guys do it, day after day and year after year. This is hard." And Father's simple reply was "I don't either, even after 50 years."

As we see the changes coming in our churches, we need to thank those that have made our lives here much easier. Father, you have welcomed new people to be on the altar, in the church, and around the church with an open heart. We cannot begin to thank you enough for all that you have done for us. We have you to rely on and be there when we need you.

Maribeth, you run the office and much more. You have kept the books and the paperwork straight for years and we know when the audits are done, you will have 100% correct files and numbers. We cannot thank you enough for keeping things straight in the office and around the property.

Deacon Neil, although you are new at the job, Parish Administrator is not an easy job. So best of luck to you and know we are here to help when we can.

Now for the countless others that are here to say hello, great people, serve at meals, read at church, distribute communion, repair the church, sing at Mass, pray for others, teach the children, buy the suckers for the altar servers and so many others, I could go on for about 50 more lines.... thank you, for it is you that make these two little churches in Clayton and LaFargeville a community of FAMILY. I experienced it at the funeral for Gerald, funeral for Peyton, the services for the Holy Tridium.

Today the Mass talks about doubting Thomas, well I do not doubt this, we have one wonderful family and I am in awe of being a part of it. Thank you.

Religious Ed News from Jenny Barton

phone: 315-686-2638

e-mail: religioused@stmarysclayton.org

www.facebook.com/stjohnsreligioused

First Reconciliation: Please congratulate and pray for the following students who recently made their First Reconciliation:

St. John's

Michael Duffany Oliver VanPelt
Piper Walldroff

St. Mary's

Daniel Hudson Bridgette Johnson
Greyson Topa



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.

St. Mary's Booster Club: Winners of the third weekly drawing on April 2 are Cab Burns, Irene Orvis, and Bob Heckmann. Tickets are still available for the Booster Club with dinner on May 22. 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).

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. In conjunction with CAPM, Bishop LaValley will hold a special Healing Mass on Sunday, April 11 at 11:00am (Divine Mercy Sunday) held at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. Please plan to attend and pray for all victims/survivors of child abuse. All are welcome to attend. The Healing Mass will be "livestreamed" on the Diocesan YouTube channel. For more info, contact the Safe Environment Office at 315-393-2920.

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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