



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



April 18, 2021

Third 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

We often act out of ignorance. Armed with the best of intentions, we think we are seeing clearly and correctly, but we are not. We don't always understand the full meaning of things and only perceive part of the truth. Hence, our judgments and actions can be impaired by myopic, incomplete, or erroneous perceptions. The meaning of life, understanding of human experience, and negotiating life's challenges can all become skewed without proper understanding and vision. The resurrection of Christ is the corrective to our incomplete and limited view of life. Looking at things with the eyes of faith brings a depth of clarity and understanding to how we see God, ourselves, others, and the world.

Even the disciples struggled with their limited understanding and ignorant perceptions. It was only when Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures that their eyes were opened. It was their "aha" moment when everything clicked. We all want the substance of our lives to come together, make sense, and have meaning. This is easier to achieve when things are going positively and life is good. It is when suffering, disappointment, death, hardship, and injustice enter the picture that things can become unsettled and disoriented. Our faith in the goodness and love of God is tested. We tend to shift our focus on these difficult and challenging moments and do not see them within the greater picture of how God intends life to unfold. We can gain, from the passion and resurrection of Christ, the clear vision we need in order to move away from ignorance to enlightenment.

We need our "aha" moment when everything comes together and clicks. It can come in a fleeting instant when we feel totally connected with God, where we find ourselves, others, and all of creation. It is a moment when all is right and good, regardless of how difficult our journey. Our "aha" moment assures us that God is here, right with us, in us, and around us bringing us a gift and blessing we can receive nowhere else: peace. In those brief sacramental encounters when we are lifted up out of ourselves and centered, we can hear God say, "peace be with you," and we feel secure. It's all okay. The resurrected Christ has the power to bring this gift to us. Some people, as they are facing their deaths, remark about this peace. When looking into the window of eternity, they experience a depth of joy and are amazed at God's goodness and closeness. We are called to be witnesses to this Good News.

Website: www.stmarysclayton.org

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

Phone: 315-686-3398

April 18, Third Sunday of Easter

The Lord Calls: "Now by this we may be sure that we know Him, if we obey His commandments." Jesus wants to make Himself known to you through the vocation He chooses for you. Will you obey His call to the priesthood or consecrated life? 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, 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

MONDAY, April 19
9:00 (SM) COMMUNION SERVICE

TUESDAY, April 20
9:00 (SM) COMMUNION SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, April 21
9:00 (SM) COMMUNION SERVICE

THURSDAY, April 22
9:00 (SM) COMMUNION SERVICE

FRIDAY, April 23
9:00 (SM) COMMUNION SERVICE

SATURDAY, April 24, Anticipated Vigil
4:00 (SM) Lucy Reff by Jim & Janet Wiley

SUNDAY, April 25, Fourth Sunday of Easter
9:00 (SM) People of the Parishes
11:00 (SJ) Peyton Morse by Calvin & Patricia Sands

The best way to express our love for God is by spending time with Him, talking to Him. In other words, praying. So in the quest to love God, prayer necessarily comes first. - Jeanette Flood from her book *Eight Ways of Loving God*

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.

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.

Clayton Food Pantry
315-767-1220
claytonfoodpantry@gmail.com

What does the Catechism of the Catholic Church say about right to life?: The inalienable right to life of every human individual from the first moment of conception is a constitutive element of civil society and its legislation. When the State (i.e. government) does not place its power at the service of the rights of all and in particular of the more vulnerable, including unborn children, the very foundations of a State based on law are undermined. *Further reading: CCC 2273-2274*

Weekly Giving

Thank you for your continued support.

St. Mary's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 2,308.00	\$ 1,473.00
Plate	\$ 446.50	\$ 0.00
<i>March Electronic Giving: \$ 4,757.10</i>		

St. John's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 760.00	\$ 677.00
Plate	\$ 59.00	\$ 9.00
<i>March Electronic Giving: \$ 408.00</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:

Thank you for your participation in our beautiful Easter services. It was wonderful to see so many being able to return the church after such a long absence. With so many being vaccinated, many feel safer in retuning to worship. We still observe distancing and sanitizing at all services.

I want to express gratitude to those who cleaned, polished, and sanitized for our Easter Celebration. It was encouraging to have lectors returning and the beauty of our small choir. I am grateful to our deacons and their wives who have ministered so faithfully during Lent and the Tridium. They were here every day to serve the community.

This week everyone received a letter explaining the changes that we will face on July 1st. I know some of the pain that you are suffering with these changes. The Eucharist will still be celebrated, and this is essential to our faith and spiritual life. Changes yes, but the same Lord and Savior that we celebrate and are nourished by in the Eucharist.

This Monday, the 19th, I will have another surgery with a full knee replacement at St. Joseph's in Syracuse with Dr Greenky. Please remember me in your prayers.

"Abortion and racism are both symptoms of a fundamental human error. The error is thinking that when someone stands in the way of our wants, we can justify getting that person out of our lives. Abortion and racism stem from the same poisonous root, selfishness."

Alveda King

Priesthood Discernment: High School Juniors and older men are invited to join Fr. Marty Cline and Fr. Howard Venette as they livestream from St. Bernard's, Saranac Lake, to discuss vocation discernment and the Priesthood...with you! Sunday, April 18, 3-4pm on the YouTube Channel "Ogdensburg Fishers Club". Participants can be "almost" live by forwarding comments and questions to ogdiscern@gmail.com during the broadcast. Please use this email for more info.

Our Church — Our Future

The Diocesan plan for the future has designated that St. Mary's Church, Clayton and the Catholic Community of Alexandria will be sharing one priest. St. John's Church, LaFargeville will become an Oratory.

What is an Oratory? Our Diocese says "Oratory status designates a church that is no longer a parish or mission and which no longer has regularly scheduled services. An oratory is the responsibility of the local parish."

Care of the people, property, and records of St. John's Oratory will be done by St. Mary's Church. The people will be parishioners of St. Mary's. The records will be kept at St. Mary's. And the property, including St. John's Cemetery, will be the responsibility of St. Mary's. As parishioners of St. Mary's, it will be important for us to be present, to participate in the life of St. Mary's, and to have a voice in the decisions made concerning St. Mary's Parish and St. John's Oratory.

The new Oratory usually keeps that status for a term of 5 years. At that time the status can be reassessed.

What does this mean for the people of St. John's? With oratory status, there will not be regular Masses at St. John's. We will be parishioners of St. Mary's.

We will grieve. Certainly St. John's parishioners will feel the loss of our faith "home". For many it is the only church we have attended for many years where we, our parents, our grandparents, our children, and our grandchildren celebrated the sacraments. Certainly, it will take a bit to feel comfortable in a different parish and to make new "faith friends".

First and foremost, we must continue to celebrate the Eucharist for that is what is important! We are fortunate to have already had opportunities to celebrate Masses and socialize with the people of St. Mary's—the Lenten Mass and Soup Supper is an example. Our young people come together for First Communion and Confirmation prep, the sacrament of Confirmation, Youth activities, and the Mystery Players.

Did You Know...

by Judy Pearson

Easter Quotes to Inspire Hope and Renewal

Easter is so much more than decorating Easter eggs and devouring chocolate bunnies. Easter is a Liturgical Season of the Church. These inspiring and uplifting messages about new life and fresh starts capture the spirit of our beautiful springtime. They remind us there is much for which to be joyful this time of year. Here are a few quotes to brighten your day...

"The great gift of Easter is hope." – *Basil Hume, English Roman Catholic Bishop*

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song." - *Pope John Paul II*

"It's not about the bunny; it's about the Lamb." - *Unknown*

"God is love and he has defeated evil." - *Pope Francis*

"Let the resurrection joy lift us from loneliness and weakness and despair to strength and beauty and happiness"- *Floyd W. Tomkins, Episcopal American Deacon*

"By grace we are saved through faith."- *Kevin DeYoung, Christ Covenant Church*

"We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our existence." - *Pope Francis*

"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime." -*Martin Luther King Jr*

"Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal, and new life." – *Janine di Giovanni, Author*

"Easter spells out beauty, the rare beauty of new life." – *S.D. Gordon, Author & Evangelical Lay Minister*

"'Twas Easter-Sunday. The full-blossomed trees filled all the air with fragrance and with joy." – *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

"A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act." – *Mahatma Gandhi*

"Blessed are those who have not seen and have yet believed." – *John 20:29*

"The very first Easter taught us this: that life never ends and love never dies." – *Kate McGahan, Author & Hospice Counselor*

(Adapted from articles in [Country Living.com](http://CountryLiving.com) by [Town & Country.com](http://Town&Country.com).)

St. Joseph As Our Spiritual Guide: Presented by the Commissioned Lay Ministry Association of Jefferson and Lewis Deaneries. Please join us for this special presentation by Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ - Reflecting on St. Joseph as Our Spiritual Guide. This event takes place on April 28 at St. Anthony's Church, Watertown beginning with Mass at 6pm. Register online at rcdony.org/clm-event or contact Jeannie Grizzuto for more information at jgrizzuto@rcdony.org



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.

Planned Giving: You may want to make a major gift to your parish. Why not consider real estate...this is called a life estate gift. This simply means that you give a piece of real estate, such as your residence, to your parish, obtain a charitable income tax deduction, and retain the right to live there as long as you want. This arrangement removes the property from your estate and relieves your executor from having to dispose of your home at your death. Contact Scott Lalone at the Diocese at 315-393-2920 or email slalonde@rcdony.org for further information.

St. Mary's Booster Club: Winners of the third weekly drawing on April 9 are Joe Orobona, Diane Hayes, and Ed Higgins. 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).

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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