



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



**April 25, 2021**

**Fourth 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

Any builder worth his or her salt knows the value and importance of a cornerstone. Properly laying and securing this primary unit determines how the rest of the project unfolds and its success. Cornerstones are necessary elements not only of buildings but of lives as well. Many human beings conduct the business of their lives paying little attention to a grounding reference or starting point. Hence, what unfolds is a tapestry of relativism, with few anchors or guideposts and many impulsive choices. Some consider love to be their cornerstone. While this may sound attractive and useful, the pursuit of love without a simultaneous pursuit of its source can be shallow and self-focused. Just because a person chooses to do no harm and love others does not mean that they are living in truth and properly anchored to the real cornerstone.

Jesus is the true and authentic cornerstone and shepherd. It is only in following the Risen One as the way, the truth, and the life that we can move from being well grounded ethical people to properly focused moral ones. Proper conduct, a true sense of justice, wisdom, virtue, moral principles, faith, hope, and love will be difficult to find unless we listen to the right Voice. It is when we learn to listen to the voice of God that we begin our journey on the road to salvation. It is only the Good Shepherd, the authentic and solid cornerstone, who can guide us through life's questions and challenges and bring us to the safe and proper pasture.

A person's life only has meaning when the cornerstone is properly selected and set. Understanding themselves only as random acts of creation, existing without intent or purpose, will color their choices and influence their decisions. The foundation of their lives will be simply a matter of preference and choice, leaving benchmarks of growth and higher ideals optional to pursue. Whereas people who believe that they are fashioned and loved into existence by a God who purposely made them, have this incredible unconditional relationship at their source which has tremendous significance. Their allegiance is not to themselves but to their Creator. Life, then, is an adventure in search of this Creator God and a journey of self-discovery that seeks to unite their will to His. There is a cost. We have to give up our life in order to gain our life. As ironic as that sounds, it is true. It is only when we finally figure this out that the true cornerstone of our lives will be properly laid and we can, with God's help, get about the business of properly constructing a temple that endures.

**Website:** [www.stmarysclayton.org](http://www.stmarysclayton.org)

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

**Phone:** 315-686-3398

**April 25, Fourth Sunday of Easter  
World Day of Prayer for Vocations**

**The Lord Calls:** On this Good Shepherd Sunday we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life, especially for our diocese. Also, please consider praying for vocations or spiritually adopting a priest as a part of your daily prayers. If you are considering such a vocation, 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 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

**MONDAY, April 26**

9:00 (SM) COMMUNION SERVICE

**TUESDAY, April 27**

9:00 (SM) COMMUNION SERVICE

**WEDNESDAY, April 28**

9:00 (SM) COMMUNION SERVICE

**THURSDAY, April 29**

9:00 (SM) COMMUNION SERVICE

**FRIDAY, April 30**

9:00 (SM) COMMUNION SERVICE

**SATURDAY, May 1, Anticipated Vigil**

4:00 (SM) Timothy Bristol by the family

**SUNDAY, May 2, Fifth Sunday of Easter**

9:00 (SM) Sandy Hadfield by Dave & Nancy Zanoni

11:00 (SJ) Peyton Morse by Dc. Neil & Dee Fuller



**God has three answers to prayer:**

1. Yes!
2. Not right now.
3. Actually, I have a better idea.

**Raising Better Kids:** A 2018 Harvard University study of over 5,000 adolescents, who were followed for more than eight years (and controlled for many other variables), showed that those adolescents who attended at least weekly religious services and who prayed regularly—compared with those who never attended religious services—demonstrated greater life satisfaction, a stronger sense of mission, practiced more forgiveness, and volunteered far more. They also had lower probabilities of drug use, early sexual initiation, STIs, and abnormal Pap test results, as well as fewer lifetime sexual partners. (Study published 9/13/2018 in the American Journal of Epidemiology)

**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](http://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.

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

– **Philippians 4:4**

**Weekly Giving**

*Thank you for your continued support.*

St. Mary's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 1,086.00	\$ 1,472.00
Plate	\$ 404.00	\$ 0.00

St. John's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 697.00	\$ 677.00
Plate	\$ 57.00	\$ 0.00

Please consider electronic giving...a safe and consistent way to support your parish. Sign up at [www.stmarysclayton.org](http://www.stmarysclayton.org) or contact the parish office for more info.

**Deacon's Corner** by Dc. Neil Fuller

By now most of you are aware of the changes coming to our parish communities. I am very excited and honored to be appointed Parish Life Coordinator for St. Mary's in Clayton and the Catholic Community of Alexandria. My responsibility will include the day-to-day spiritual and financial administration of the parishes. Additionally, Fr. LaBaff has retired but will remain with us as Supervisory Priest of the parishes and will take on the role of Sacramental Minister. Fr. LaBaff and I will work together providing for the spiritual and temporal needs of the parish configuration. Fr. Comstock, who is also retiring will remain in residence in Alexandria Bay and will make himself available to celebrate Mass.

On a very sad note, St. John's in LaFargeville will be designated an Oratory and Mass will no longer be celebrated there. As deacon, I am assigned to St. John's as well as St. Mary's and I truly offer my condolences to my fellow parishioners at St. John's but as we merge our two parishes I welcome you as we become one. It is an end, but also a beginning of a new time. Bishop Terry LaValley will celebrate the final Mass at St. John's on June 20 at 11am.

Please know I pray for all of you every day and for your support as I begin this new ministry...I ask for your prayers as well...and may God Bless you all as we continue our journey together.

**"Care and Prepare: End of Life Education"**, a YouTube Video from NYS Catholic Conference. Kathleen Gallagher and Ed Mechmann discuss what our Church teaches regarding end-of-life decision making, broken into 4 components: Core Values, Ethical Principles, Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide, and Advance Directives. For more information, contact the Respect Life Office at [cminer@rcdony.org](mailto:cminer@rcdony.org)



"Any woman who has felt a baby stir inside her [and] any man who has seen the tiny heart pulsing on an ultrasound screen, knows that abortion is about ending a life."

- Karen Kissane

**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

### Earth Day

In 2016, Joe Paprocki, DMin, National Consultant for Faith Formation at Loyola Press, suggested ways to make the observance of Earth Day a truly Catholic experience. They are adapted for use here:

\* Give praise to our Creator. In the Nicene Creed, we say, "I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth." Pray the Creed.

\* Contemplate (rest in God's presence) to come to a deeper appreciation of finding God in all of creation. Pope John Paul II said, "Faced with the glory of the Trinity in creation, we must contemplate, sing, and rediscover awe."

\* Pray for those at risk from exposure to environmental hazards. Pray for future generations that they may benefit from a healthy environment.

\* Consider planting a vegetable garden to share with others. Create a "Mary Garden," a tradition going back to medieval times that dedicates the garden to the Blessed Virgin Mary and grows plants that bear her name.

\* Read what Scripture and Tradition have to say about ecology and the environment. (Gn 2:15; Lv 25:1-7; Mt 6:25-34; Ps24 1-2; Rom 1:20).

\* Read about the lives of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Kateri Tekakwitha. These two saints are the patron and patroness of ecology.

\* Learn ways to help your parish "go green." Don Beaulieu's article called "It's Easy Being Green" in *Salt of the Earth* outlines six ways to "help the parish develop a green streak."

\* Take the St. Francis Pledge to care for creation and the poor. The St. Francis Pledge, initiated by the Catholic Climate Covenant, is a solemn commitment made by Catholic individuals, groups, and institutions to honor God's creation and to serve those who are poor.

\* Make a donation to Catholic Relief Services, the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic community, promotes caring for the environment in the U.S. and abroad.

\* Read 'Laudato Si'. Pope Francis's encyclical on how we need to care for our common home and links it to our Catholic faith.

*Remember, Earth Day should be an ongoing celebration.*

**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](http://rcdony.org/clm-event) or contact Jeannie Grizzuto for more information at [jgrizzuto@rcdony.org](mailto:jgrizzuto@rcdony.org)

**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.

**Prayer Ministry:** Do you have a concern or petition that you wish to have others pray with you? You can call the *Prayer Line* at 315-285-5541 or send an email to [smsjprayerline@gmail.com](mailto:smsjprayerline@gmail.com). You do not have to leave your name, just your request for prayer. If you would like to be one who prays for the intentions requested, just leave your name and telephone or email and you will be notified of prayers requested.

**St. Mary's Booster Club:** Winners of the fifth weekly drawing on April 16 are Bev Morisey, Bev Morisey, and Mary Ellen Wallace. 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).

**Sign up for Catholic Action Network:** The Catholic Action Network (CAN), an arm of the NY State Catholic Conference, gives us a larger voice in the halls of government. Through email and social media alerts, CAN reaches tens of thousands of Catholics like you to provide educational updates on important issues being debated and provides tools to simplify contacting your elected officials. Sign up to receive email alerts at [www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org) and click on the "Join the Catholic Action Network" logo on the top right corner of the page.

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