



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



**May 2, 2021**

**Fifth 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](mailto:pastoralassociate@stmarysclayton.org)

**Deacon Assistants**

Gary A. Frank

Bruce Daugherty

**Parish Office**

Maribeth McFadden, Secretary

**email:** [reception@stmarysclayton.org](mailto: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:** [religiouse@stmarysclayton.org](mailto:religiouse@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](mailto:smsjprayerline@gmail.com)

"Spiraling out of control," is a phrase that can easily describe the current display of human existence. In addition to the violence, unrest, uneasiness, and turmoil that are common elements of our daily news, other essential pieces are misplaced or missing. Many lack an objective center around which to order and structure their lives or a clear set of definable goals or mores to act as guideposts and life directives. It appears that "feelings" have become a "new god" and traditional structures and ideals set aside. It is almost as if history only shows that we got this whole thing wrong and many are determined to finally set things right. The real truth, however, is that while wrongs and errors are certainly a part of our often-checkered past, it is hardly the case that all was wrong. It is not our task to rewrite the history of our lives, but to learn from mistakes that were made, and preserve the perennial wisdom at the root of our successes. Learning is an essential part of being human.

The question becomes, however, from whom do we learn? Some have such a hard time placing God in that position, but that is precisely where God needs to be. God is the Master Teacher from whom all of humanity learns and gets its cues. It is in and through this relationship with the Gardener of Life that we are fashioned and pruned into the people we are intended to be and can be. It is only in God that we are able to find our best selves. Sadly, many think that religion too, as well as history in general, has also gotten all this wrong. Yet, our resurrection faith tells us differently. We are reminded, today especially, that we are meant to remain in Christ as Christ remains in us. We are also reminded that Jesus, the Incarnate God, is the vine upon which we grow, the branches that flow from the source of God's life.

Giving up our will to God's can be a painful endeavor. It is not easy to set our own desires and wants aside and allow God to step in and direct and guide our growth. But this is the only way to prevent deadly weeds from overtaking us and bringing us to a place of self-destruction. God's commandments are the very guideposts and benchmarks we need, yet many seek to remove them from all public view because they appear to limit self-expression and suppress what is considered by many to be "human freedom." They are the only way we can find freedom, however. And, until we learn this fundamental lesson, we will continue to spiral out of control, never really knowing who we are, what our potential can be or how life really can be lived. We will not know peace.

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

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

**Phone:** 315-686-3398

**May 2, Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**The Lord Calls:** "Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." Are you being called to love the Lord and His people as a priest, deacon, sister, or brother? Love demands truth and action. If you are considering such a vocation, talk to Fr. Art LaBaff, or Fr. Chris Carrara at [ccarrara@rcdony.org](mailto:ccarrara@rcdony.org) / 315-393-2920, or Cathy Russell at [crussell@rcdony.org](mailto:crussell@rcdony.org) / 315-393-2920.

***Christ is Risen!***  
***Alleluia!***

**MASS SCHEDULE:****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

**MONDAY, May 3**

9:00 (SM) COMMUNION SERVICE

**TUESDAY, May 4**

9:00 (SM) Peyton Morse by the Robinson family

**WEDNESDAY, May 5**

9:00 (SM) Harry Bazinet by Don & Cynthia Cwyner

**THURSDAY, May 6**

9:00 (SM) Peyton Morse by Tim & Donna Orvis

**FRIDAY, May 7**

9:00 (SM) Intentions of St. Mary's & St. John's Prayer Ministry

**SATURDAY, May 8, Anticipated Vigil**

4:00 (SM) Caryl Bushnell by Toni & Barry Kukowski

**SUNDAY, May 9, Sixth Sunday of Easter**

9:00 (SM) People of the Parishes

11:00 (SJ) Anthony & Marcelyn Wood by Barbara Robinson

*"We must remember God  
more often than we draw breath."*

- Saint Gregory of Nazianzus

**Egypt and the Great Nile Cruise:** 11 Days - November 8 - 18, 2021 with Fr. Don Robinson. \$3499 from New York (Air/Land tour price is \$2899 plus \$600 gov't taxes/airline surcharges). For more info, contact Fr. Don Robinson at [donrob4@twcny.rr.com](mailto:donrob4@twcny.rr.com) or 315-493-3224.

**Italy Pilgrimage** featuring the Passion Play of Oberammergau, Rome, Assisi, Florence, Venice, Innsbruck, Munich. May 23-June 2, 2022 with Fr. Don Robinson. \$4266 from New York (Air/Land tour price is \$3721 plus \$545 gov't taxes/airline surcharges). For more info, contact Fr. Don Robinson at [donrob4@twcny.rr.com](mailto:donrob4@twcny.rr.com) or 315-493-3224.

**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.

**"Life is not fair, but we must endeavor to make it so."** - Matthew Kelly, *A Call to Joy*



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**Weekly Giving**

*Thank you for your continued support.*

St. Mary's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 731.00	\$ 1,334.00
Plate	\$ 483.00	\$ 0.00

St. John's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 357.00	\$ 137.50
Plate	\$ 60.50	\$ 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.

## From the Bishop:

Dear Friends in Christ:

As faithful disciples of Christ and as a Church in action, we work together to respond to those in need and offer guidance through quality services designed to respect the dignity of each person. Inspired by the Gospel, the many programs and services that are offered by Catholic Charities throughout our diocese, focus on building a just and compassionate society that embraces the gifts given to us by Christ.

Especially today, when the North Country is facing the almost unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the response of our diocese and by Catholic Charities to the poor and underprivileged has become critically important. With unemployment and daily poverty reaching more deeply into our North Country communities, our charitable response needs to be greater than ever.

As always, Catholic Charities depends on your financial support to continue reaching out to those who need our help. As your Bishop and chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities, I ask you to please consider making a generous gift to this wonderful organization that extends Jesus' love and concern, particularly for those in need.

The *Mother's Day Annual Appeal* for Catholic Charities will take place in all of our parishes on the weekend of May 9, 2021. Let us continue to **Give Help** and **Create Hope** for the many families of the North Country that we serve as we continue the work of Christ on earth.

Gratefully yours in Christ,  
Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg

## 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.

**The Deacon Formation Department** will hold information meetings for men interested in the ministry. The next class will be seated in the fall of this year. Sessions will be at St. Anthony's in Watertown, May 11, 2021 at 6:00 pm; St. Peter's in Plattsburgh May 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm and at Our Lady of Grace in Morris-town at 6:00 pm May 20, 2021. For further information contact Deacon John Drollette at 518-726-0019 or [jdrollette@rcdony.org](mailto:jdrollette@rcdony.org)

## Did You Know...

*by Judy Pearson*

### **National Arbor Day**

Arbor Day is typically celebrated on the last Friday in April in the United States: this year, on April 30. But the actual day is not as important as how we should admire the beauty and importance of trees, and be assured that we always have trees around us.

Arbor, from the Latin, literally translates to “tree.” Arbor Day is a day that celebrates the planting, upkeep, and preservation of trees. Although Arbor Day may not have the same “clout” as Valentine’s Day or even Earth Day, it has a history with strong roots that branched out across multiple nations.

The origins of Arbor Day date back to the early 1870s in Nebraska City. Julius Sterling Morton, a journalist and his wife Caroline moved to Nebraska in 1854. They purchased 160 acres and planted a wide variety of trees and shrubs in a flat stretch of desolate land. As editor of the state’s first newspaper, Morton shared his knowledge and love for trees and their importance.

On January 7, 1872, he proposed a day that would encourage Nebraskans to plant trees. The event was originally called “Sylvan Day” in reference to forest trees, but Morton convinced everyone that the day should reflect appreciation of ALL trees, so it became Arbor Day. The first Arbor Day on April 10, 1872 was a huge success and approximately a million trees were planted.

The tradition spread and by 1885 it became an official state holiday. The date was April 22, chosen because the weather was good for planting...and it was Morton’s birthday!

On April 15, 1907, President Teddy Roosevelt issued an Arbor Day Proclamation to the School Children of the United States, saying:

“It is well that you should celebrate your Arbor Day thoughtfully, for within your lifetime the nation’s need of trees will become serious. We of an older generation can get along with what we have, though with growing hardship; but in your full manhood and womanhood you will want what nature once so bountifully supplied and man so thoughtlessly destroyed; and because of that want you will reproach us, not for what we have used, but for what we have wasted.”

In 1970, Arbor Day became recognized nationwide in line with Earth Day events thanks to the efforts of President Richard Nixon.

### **From Fr. LaBaff:**

I am home and recovering very well. Thank you for your prayers, cards, and concern. I have enough prepared food on hand to last a very long time. And it is all very good! I am grateful for your concern.

I return to the doctor's office on Monday and expect a very good result.

We are entering the month of May. I want to encourage you to pray the ROSARY. The month of May is dedicated to Mary and the rosary is a very fruitful prayer.

Give praise to the Lord for He is Good and His love is everlasting!

**Pray the Rosary for an end to Covid:** The Vatican has announced a rosary initiative dedicating the month of May to prayer for an end to the coronavirus pandemic. The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization said April 21st that "for the deep desire of the Holy Father, the month of May will be dedicated to a prayer marathon with the theme 'Prayer to God went up incessantly from the whole Church.'" The world's Catholic shrines will be involved in a special way as promoters of the rosary among Catholics, taking turns leading a daily live-streamed rosary at 12 p.m. EST. Pope Francis opens the month of prayer on May 1, asking for Mary's intercession. All are encouraged to pray the rosary for this intention especially during May. (excerpts from the *National Catholic Register*)



**St. Mary's Booster Club:** Winners of the sixth weekly drawing on April 23 are Richard Comins, Richard Comins, and Toni Kukowski. 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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