



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



May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Arthur J. LaBaff, Pastor

Phone: 315-686-3398

Deacon Neil Fuller, Pastoral Associate

Phone: 315-405-6910

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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

"Remain in my love," and, "I call you friends," are powerful words found in John's Gospel. Most of us probably have them committed to memory or have at least heard them proclaimed many times. They are words that can easily become trite and quickly glossed over without fully pondering and digesting their profound beauty. When we take the time to immerse ourselves in them, they can radically change our lives and our relationships. They can open up new doors of adventure and hold countless possibilities for meaning. The essence of love and friendship are things that can easily be taken for granted. They have always been there and are a significant part of our lives. Many would say that they could not live without love and friendship, and they put a great deal of care into preserving, deepening, and sustaining them. Love and friendship share a mutual relationship with each other that deserves more reflection.

Where does love come from? We can consider relationships that have not succeeded and conclude that they were somehow due to our "failures in love." In doing so, we assume that human beings are the ones responsible for love, its success, and also its failure. While our weakness, emotional composition, and sinfulness can easily impact our ability to love, its origin is not human. God is love. God is love's author and origin. When we love, it is God who loves in and through us. It is because of this divine closeness that Jesus is able to call us friends! It is not because of anything we have done but simply because of who we are. Realizing and contemplating this awesome reality becomes a game changer across the board. It gives us reason to clear the table of anything that can adversely affect the way we love so that we can open the door for its author to shine forth.

Coming upon this truth is what leads folks like St. Francis of Assisi to leave that which is comfortable and worldly and live a radical life. They relate with the love of God that radiates in and through all living things and appreciate their sacredness. It was having an intimate experience of God's love and friendship that propelled St. Francis and others to embrace simplicity, act nonviolently, pursue humility, love enemies, care for the earth, and open up avenues for true justice. Understanding this profound truth will also help us find peaceful solutions to world's problems, restore relationships with our sisters and brothers, bring the grace of loving stewardship to creation, and heal many wounds. Once we begin to see how wonderfully holy all of life really is, we discover joy. We lose our need for fear, develop a fierce fortitude, act prudently, and seek justice. There is great power in love because it comes from God. It will never fail. It also enjoys the company of two other friends who are eager to become our friends as well: faith and hope. These are just as important to have and to share.

Website: www.stmarysclayton.org

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

Phone: 315-686-3398

May 9, Sixth Sunday of Easter

The Lord Calls: "God sent His only Son into the world so that we might live through Him." Are you open to the call to be sent into the world as a priest, deacon, or consecrated religious, that others might live in Christ? If you are considering such a vocation, talk to Fr. Art LaBaff, or Fr. Chris Carrara at ccarra@rcdony.org / 315-393-2920, or Cathy Russell at crussell@rcdony.org / 315-393-2920.



MASS SCHEDULE:

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

MONDAY, May 10
9:00 (SM) Barbara Wessinger by Fran Lynch

TUESDAY, May 11
9:00 (SM) Chris Seib by Dave & Nancy Zanoni

WEDNESDAY, May 12
9:00 (SM) All Souls

THURSDAY, May 13
5:30 (SM) People of the Parishes

FRIDAY, May 14
9:00 (SM) Maureen Littlefield by Harry & Pati Bazinet

SATURDAY, May 15, Anticipated Vigil
4:00 (SM) Fred & Geraldine Weaver by the family

SUNDAY, May 16, Seventh Sunday of Easter
9:00 (SM) People of the Parishes
11:00 (SJ) Peyton Morse by St. John's Choir



*The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Mary's
is in Loving Memory of
Charles Arnold
by his daughters and grandchildren*



**Ascension of the Lord
Thursday, May 13**

Mass at 5:30pm at St. Mary's
(no 9am Mass this day)

So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs. (Mk 16:19-20)

Come, celebrate this Holy Day by attending Mass, receiving the Bread of Life, so to go forth to proclaim the Lord by your words and actions.



Confirmation will be celebrated on Tuesday, May 11 at 7pm at St. Cyril's Church in Clayton. Please pray for those being confirmed in their faith on this day.

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. 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.

Weekly Giving

Thank you for your continued support.

St. Mary's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 2,360.00	\$ 1,334.00
Plate	\$ 855.01	\$ 0.00

St. John's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 185.00	\$ 137.50
Plate	\$ 23.00	\$ 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.

From Fr. LaBaff:

Mother's Day is such a special time for all of us. Our minds, hearts and very being reminds us of the love we have for mothers. Thanks you for your many blessings and the gift that you are to us, your children. Here is a prayer of gratitude for our mothers:

Good and Gentle God, we pray in gratitude for our mothers and for all the women of theory who have joined with you in the wonder of bringing forth new life. You who became human through a woman, grant to all mothers the courage they need to face the uncertain future that life with children always brings. Give them the strength to live and to be loved in return, not perfectly, but humanly. Give them the faithful support of husband, family, and friends as they care for the physical and spiritual growth of their children. Give them joy and delight in their children to sustain them through the trials of motherhood. Most of all, give them the wisdom to turn to you for help when they need it most.



How does the Virgin Mary help the Church? After the Ascension of her Son, the Virgin Mary aided the beginning of the Church with her prayers. Even after her Assumption into heaven, she continues to intercede for her children, to be a model of faith and charity for all, and to exercise over them a salutary influence deriving from the superabundant merits of Christ. The faithful see in Mary an image and an anticipation of the resurrection that awaits them and they invoke her as advocate, helper, benefactress, and mediatrix. For further reading, see the Catechism of the Catholic Church: 965-970, 974-975.

Catholic Charities Mother's Day Appeal

Catholic Charities will be there for your family members, neighbors, and our community during and after this pandemic. We are working tirelessly to provide any and all support to our communities and we cannot do it without your help. Your gift helps provide:

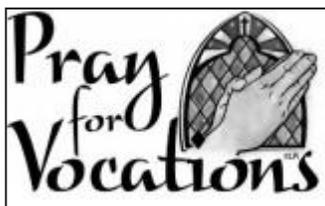
- \$75 = groceries for furloughed/low-income family
- \$150 = helping needy family during Covid
- \$500 = housing assistance for homeless individuals and/or veterans
- \$1,000+ = Support our overall mission and 2021 goals

Every donation dollar makes a difference. Your dollars make a difference. Please support the Catholic Charities Mother's Day Appeal.

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 Morristown at 6:00 pm May 20, 2021. For further information contact Deacon John Drollette at 518-726-0019 or jdrollette@rcdony.org



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 students 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.



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"No law can give me the right to do what is wrong."

- Pres. Abraham Lincoln



Did You Know...

by Judy Pearson

“Only God Can Make A Tree”

Most people will not recognize Joyce Kilmer by name, but will likely know his famous Arbor Day poem, “Trees.” Many young school children have memorized it, as I did in grade school. I find myself saying it as we walk on the Black River Trail surrounded by so many magnificent trees.

Trees

I think that I shall never see

A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the sweet earth's flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Most modern critics consider Kilmer's work naïve and saccharin. Yet the late John W. Donohue, SJ, writer and educator, wrote in 1993, that while “even mild academic critics turn into werewolves when they consider the popularity of ‘Trees’, which Kilmer wrote when he was 23, it is quite possibly the best-known American poem of this century.”

There are many other reasons to remember the poet and the poem. “This manifestly theistic work is that of a former atheist whose Christian faith and literary vocation were forged in the crucible of his daughter's losing battle with polio. ‘If what I now write is considered poetry’, he said, ‘then I became a poet in November 1913,’ which just happened to be the month and year in which Kilmer became a Catholic.” (Matt Malone SJ)

Just a few weeks after the United States entered WWI, Kilmer wrote his last words and enlisted in the army. He sailed to France with New York's Fighting 59th. He was killed in the Second Battle of the Marne at age 31.

“We should remember Joyce Kilmer not just on Arbor Day, but on Memorial Day as well. And if one day your child comes home from school, eager to recite the few lines of Kilmer's she learned that day, be sure to tell her the rest of the story; how this simple, faithful poet gave his life for God and country, in a country not his own, beneath trees that only God had made.” (Matt Malone, SJ)

Morning of Reflection
‘Putting Forgiveness into Practice’
Saturday, June 19, 9:45am—Noon

We all know from the Scriptures that we are called to forgive others and ourselves as well. We also know the challenge this call can be in our daily encounters. This reflection day will consider the dynamics of forgiveness, some obstacles often experienced in becoming a forgiving person, and some aids from our Catholic tradition. It includes presentations, time for personal prayer, and reflection with opportunities for sharing.

The presenter is Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ. Cost is free. Anyone is welcome to register at www.rcdony.org/reflection. A Zoom link will be emailed as date approaches.

Pray the Rosary for an end to Covid: A rosary initiative dedicating the month of May to prayer for an end to the coronavirus pandemic. “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. 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 seventh weekly drawing on April 30 are Bob Ingerson, Bob Heckmann, and Jim Pike. 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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