



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

May 16, 2021

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: religiouised@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

Seventh Sunday of Easter

God remains where love remains. When a believer realizes without doubt that God is love, it is a powerful moment. Being able to place our resurrection trust in this fundamental truth allows us to experience God's presence in all of our experiences: the good and the bad, positive and negative, life enriching and destructive events we encounter. It is no wonder that St. Paul so accurately tells us that it is love that endures all things and lasts. How can God not endure or ever fade away? Because he is God, Jesus also guarded and protected his disciples as the endearing shepherd who always had their best interest at heart.

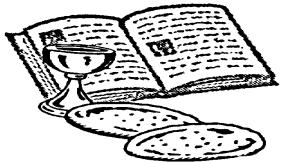
If we become too immersed in the world, we lose touch with these deeper realities. We can become so preoccupied with preserving what we have created or think that we need, forgetting that it is not building our city that really matters, but God's. Jesus clearly did not belong to the world and, by virtue of his resurrection, he tries to get us to understand that we do not either. The truth brings us to other worldly, more divine places and takes our eyes off of the concerns that often captivate our fears and storm our senses.

Life can easily erode our faith. Think of your life over the last couple of weeks. What challenged your faith and distracted your divine glance? Even being overly stimulated with technology and social media can erode our sense of confidence and cause us to forget who we really are. We need to distance ourselves from the world in order to experience the joy that Christ offers. The world will never like the word of God. It is too challenging and too perplexing. The world mistakenly believes that it can survive on its own. It is a mistaken judgment that may cost people a lot in the end. It is all so very simple: God remains when we love one another. If in all the business of our lives and all that each day brings, the good and the bad, we follow the call and path of love, we will walk with God. There is nothing to fear and anxiety finds no home.



May 16, Seventh Sunday of Easter

The Lord Calls: "Like Mary, all mothers bring life into the world in some way. As we pray for all mothers, let us pray for workers ready to bring life to the church as ordained or consecrated religious. 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, 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

MONDAY, May 17

9:00 (SM) Robert Platt, Jr. & Mary Magnon by the Moschelle family

TUESDAY, May 18

9:00 (SM) Bill & Chris Ierlan by the family

WEDNESDAY, May 19

9:00 (SM) Eleanor Kittle by Carolyn Wagner Ward & family

THURSDAY, May 20

9:00 (SM) COMMUNION SERVICE

FRIDAY, May 21

9:00 (SM) Michael Maser by Keith & Candi Kittle

SATURDAY, May 22, Anticipated Vigil

4:00 (SM) Harry Bazinet by John & Ann Dorr

SUNDAY, May 23, Pentecost Sunday

9:00 (SM) People of the Parishes

11:00 (SJ) Peyton Morse by Dc. Bernie Slate



*The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Mary's
is in Loving Memory of
Bruce Beattie
by Jim Decker*

The Holy Family Prayer

Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us unity, peace, and mutual love.

Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

Joseph, foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement and anxiety.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

Christians are not free to reject or rewrite the apostolic tradition. With it we stand and fight, or we fall. The irony is that contemporary history demonstrates clearly that the more quickly and radically Christian groups adopt the tenets of modernity, the more rapid the collapse.

— George Cardinal Pell
from his book *Prison Journal, Vol. II*

Weekly Giving

Thank you for your continued support.

St. Mary's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 1,398.15	\$ 2,685.00
Plate	\$ 928.67	\$ 0.00
<i>April Electronic Giving: \$ 4,095.00</i>		

St. John's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 545.00	\$ 578.00
Plate	\$ 24.00	\$ 0.00
<i>April Electronic Giving: \$ 418.00</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:

It was wonderful last Sunday to see so many familiar faces return from a winter away and from confinement at home because of the Pandemic. With so many of our people vaccinated, restriction have been modified by our state government. Please continue to wear your mask coming and going but when seated for the readings you can lower your mask. Please remember to maintain distancing when in line for Communion. We are now able to use missalettes. We are progressing as more people are being vaccinated.

Come Holy Spirit

On Tuesday evening, May 11, Bishop LaValley called the Holy Spirit upon our young adults who were asking for the Sacrament of Confirmation. They have been in a two-year program of preparation for this. Even in this Pandemic time they have continued their preparation under the direction of Mrs. Doreen Garrett, their catechist.



Those Confirmed are:

*Madelynn Jones
Cadence McCarthy
Jack Lamon
Connor Dillenback*

We offer our congratulations to those who have received the Holy Spirit. Next Sunday, we will celebrate the great Solemn Feast of Pentecost. This feast is the conclusion of the Easter Season which we have celebrated for 50 days.

The effect of Confirmation is a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit like that of Pentecost. This outpouring impresses on the soul an indelible character and produces a growth in the grace of Baptism. It roots the recipient more deeply in divine sonship/daughtership, binds him/her more firmly to Christ and to the Church, and reinvigorates the gifts of the Holy Spirit in his/her soul. It gives a special strength to witness to the Christian faith. (Further reading: Catechism of the Catholic Church 1302-1305, 1316-1317.)

Ordination to the Order of the Priesthood: Through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg will Ordain to the Order of Priesthood Deacon Matthew Stanley Conger, Deacon John Kennedy Ojuok, and Deacon Fernando Valdez Solomon, Jr. All are invited to join us live-stream at www.rcdony.org/ordination on Saturday, May 29 at 11am.

Students who study at Catholic schools do better in reading and math. The latest issue of the *Digest of Education Statistics*, published by the U.S. Department of Education, includes the average reading and math scores that fourth and eighth grade students achieved in the National Assessment of Educational Progress tests that were administered in 2019. Statistics showed that students who attended Catholic schools in 2019 tested better in mathematics and reading than students who attended public schools.

Catholic Home Mission Appeal: Today, over 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support of the Catholic Home Missions Appeal next weekend helps them meet faith formation and sacramental needs. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal to be taken up the weekend of May 22-23. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/home-missions.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, June 10, noon—5pm
at St. Mary's Parish Center

Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or go on-line to redcrossblood.org to schedule your appointment to donate. Use sponsor code: StMarysClayton. Appointments are encouraged and appreciated, but walk-ins are welcome. Free Red Cross T-shirt while supplies last! All June blood donors receive a voucher redeemable for one prepackaged pint of ice cream from Stewart's Shops.

Did You Know...

by Judy Pearson

God's Trail of Trees

Several years ago, Matthew Sleeth, MD, a former emergency room physician and chief of the hospital medical staff, resigned from his position to teach, preach, and write about faith and health and their relationship to the environment.

At the time, Sleeth was an atheist who thought that science and logic held the answers to life's problems, but he changed his beliefs after reading the Bible. This article is based partly on one of his newest books, *Reforesting Faith: What Trees Teach Us About the Nature of God and His Love for Us* (April 16, 2019).

Trees are the oldest living things on earth. There are trees today that were already ancient in the time of Christ. The Great Basin *Bristlecone* Pine has been deemed the oldest tree in existence, reaching an age of over 5,000 years old.

Trees are mentioned in the Bible more than any living thing other than God and people. There's a tree on the first page of Genesis, in the first Psalm, first page of the New Testament, and the last page of Revelation. The Bible begins and ends with the Tree of Life. In Christianity, the tree of life is symbolically seen as Jesus Christ; Revelation speaks of it as being on the side of the river with 12 kinds of fruit and leaves for the healing of the nations. Trees are a beautiful part of God's creation. Genesis 2:9 tells us that "the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow from the soil, every tree that was pleasing to look at and good for food."

Every major character in the Bible has a tree associated with it. In the Old Testament, there is Noah and the olive branch, Abraham under the oaks of Mamre; Moses barefoot in front of the burning bush. Joseph himself is referred to as a tree: "Joseph is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine near a spring, whose branches climb over a wall." (Genesis 49:22).

And in the New Testament: Zacchaeus climbs the Sycamore; the blind man sees people as if they were trees walking, the disciples gather on the Mount of Olives.

And, of course, Jesus took His last breaths nailed to a tree. Through the Lord's death, we are offered life. Through His sacrifice, our sins are forgiven.

None of this could have happened without a tree.

Let us Dream: Pope Francis in Laudato Si' stated: "I urgently appeal... for a new dialogue about how we are sharing the future of our planet." (LS#14). Join us for three evenings from 7-9pm via Zoom as we gather together with hope to help us as individuals and as communities to learn from God's earth how to be more sustainable and to move significantly forward with practical solutions to promote God's beautiful, sustainable world. Each evening will include prayer, music, stories, insight, and sharing as we commit to care for God's creation! This three-day event is co-sponsored by the Roman Dioceses of Syracuse and Ogdensburg.

Tuesday, May 25 with Dr. Gerry Cacioch, Catholic Climate Ambassador

Wednesday, May 26 with Dr. Curt Stager, Paul Smiths college. Opening Prayer by Bishop Doulas Lucia

Thursday, May 27 with Ms. Dina Fiorile. Opening Prayer by Bishop Terry LaValley.

Register online by May 23 at www.rcdony.org/dream. For more information, email Theresa at tmay@syrdio.org or Marika at mdonders@rcdony.org.

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. All are encouraged to pray the rosary for this intention especially during May.

Planned Giving: Consider a life estate gift. 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 removes the property from your estate and relieves your executor from having to dispose of your home at your death. Contact Scott Lalonde at the Diocese at 315-393-2920 or email slalonde@rcdony.org for further information.

St. Mary's Booster Club: Winners of the eighth weekly drawing on May 7 are Bob Ingerson, Jeff Hobb, and Susan Lauraine. 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).

Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.

Walter P Cummings, Parish Member
As A Family Owned Funeral Home,
We Treat Each Family As If They Were Our Own.
Integrity Compassion Dedication

320 John St., Clayton 315-686-5101 Established 1919

REFF DEVELOPMENT, INC.
(315) 767-1586

www.reffdevelopment.com

Custom Homebuilder

Fully Insured • References Available

Renovations • Decks

Additions • Island Work

Facility Located 3 Miles South of Clayton

WEATHER STOPPER SELF STORAGE

Unit sizes: 5x10, 10x10, 10x20

315-686-4392

email: lora@weatherstopper.net

Koffee Kove Restaurant

Weldon & Trimper Law Firm

119-125 Sherman St.,
Watertown, NY

**Paul D. Trimper &
Robert M. Weldon, Jr.**

(315) 788-2010 • Fax (315) 785-9264



1000 Islands River Rat Cheese
242 James St., Clayton, NY
315-686-2480
~ OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK ~

HOMEGROWN HANDCRAFTED

**VODKA - GIN
BOURBON
LIQUEUR
TOURS**



**BRUNCH
LUNCH
DINNER**

CHÂTEAU

TAKING IT UP A NOTCH • CLAYTON, NY

315-285-5224



1000 Island Ready Mix

"Serving the Area Since 1963"

38760 NYS Rt. 180
LaFargeville, NY

315-686-3203



686-3111

www.cerowagency.com

BARRY WILLIAM KUKOWSKI

GRI
Licensed Associate
Real Estate Broker

**315-486-0092 Cell
315.686.4000 Office**

Barrykukowskirealtor.com

712 James Street, Clayton, NY



Too Sick for Mass?

SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!

*Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered
right to your inbox!*

www.parishesonline.com



Clayton Shurfine



Fresh Deli/Bakery,
Custom Cut Meats
Fresh Produce!
Valero Gas!
Free Dock Pickup
and Drop-off!

503 State St.,
Clayton, NY 13624

315-686-3601

**AVAILABLE
FOR A LIMITED TIME**

**ADVERTISE YOUR
BUSINESS HERE**

Contact **Gary Zakrzewski** to place an ad today!
gzakrzewski@4LPi.com or **(800) 477-4574 x6413**

TRICIA'S RONDETTE

A Family Restaurant

OPEN DAILY MAY-OCTOBER • DINE IN & TAKE OUT

Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner • Daily Specials • View Our Menu Online At Rondette.com

40685 NYS RT 12, Clayton • 315-686-4760 • Tricia Bannister, Owner & Lifetime St. Mary's Parishioner



Ad info. 1-800-477-4574 • Publication Support 1-800-888-4574 • www.4LPi.com

St. Mary's, Clayton, NY

06-0098