

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF SAINT MARY

Parish Office

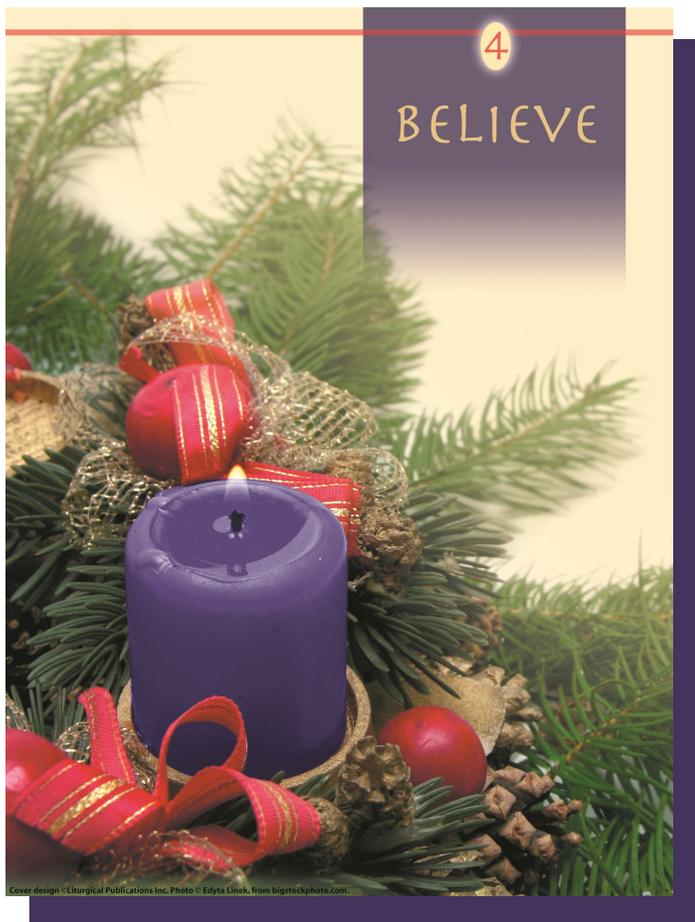
68 Court Street, Canton, New York 13617
PHONE: (315) 386-2543 • FAX: (315) 386-8870
www.cantontholics.com • catholicrectory@twcny.rr.com

St. Mary's School

2 Powers Street • (315) 386-3572 • stmarysc@twcny.rr.com • www.stmaryscantonny.com



Sacrament of Baptism – For Children to be Baptized, please call the Rectory to schedule a meeting.
Sacrament of Penance – Tuesday from 5:40pm until done, Saturday 3:45—4:45, pm and by appointment.
Marriage – Make arrangements with the Pastor at least six months in advance. Pre-Cana instruction is necessary.
Anointing of the Sick – Please advise the parish office of the serious illness or hospitalization of a parishioner.
Communion for shut-ins – Please notify the Rectory if anyone is unable to attend Sunday Mass regularly.
*** **New Parishioners** – Register at the Rectory at any time. ***



OUR SACRED PURPOSE:

*Christ-led,
Christ-fed,
and Hope-filled*

The Diocese of Ogdensburg joyfully invites the people of the North Country to the journey of faith through the proclamation of the Gospel, the celebration of the Eucharist and the Sacraments, and the loving service of neighbor.

PARISH STAFF

December 24, 2017

Rev. Bryan D. Stitt, Pastor • stittamdg@gmail.com

Mr. James M. Snell, Deacon • deaconsnell@gmail.com • (315)262-0491

Mr. Paul J. Schrems, Pastoral Associate for Administration • catholicrectory@twcny.rr.com

Mrs. Amanda Conklin, Campus Ministry • conklina@canton.edu or aconklin@stlawu.edu

Ms. Jamie Burns, Religious Education Coordinator • religioused66@twcny.rr.com

Ms. Terrienne Yanulavich, Child Safety & Victims' Assistance Coordinator: (518) 483-3261 terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com

Mrs. Michele Meyers, Principal • smsprincipal@twcny.rr.com

Mrs. Terry Feuka, Administrative Assistant • cantontholics@gmail.com

Gabriel Project • (315)244-8232 • Parish Nurse • (315)322-1836 • Surviving Spouse Group • (315)379-1650

Pastor's Corner

The 4th Week of Advent will come and go faster than the Little Drummer Boy can do "a Rump-a-tum-tum." So as we make our final preparations, I want to wish you all the happiest and holiest of Christmases.

As another tune of the season goes, "There's no place like home for the holidays." I'm so pleased that mine is with you.

—Fr. Bryan Stitt



Liturgical Ministers

(Lectors, Greeters, Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion)

We will be setting up the 2018 Jan. to June schedule.

Please let Terry know of any changes you would like

to make for that time (vacation, holidays, etc.). (315)386-3572

Those of you who signed up to begin these ministries, thank you for doing so. Our trainings will be held shortly.



Epiphany Novena

Please join us in a Novena (nine days of prayer) in preparation for the Epiphany—praying for the needs of our hearts and of the entire parish from Friday, Dec. 29 to Saturday, Jan. 6.

O Lady of the Epiphany, through your power, glory and love, show us your salvation – Jesus Christ.

As the shepherds of Bethlehem came to you long ago, we now come before you.

With Jesus Christ reigning in your arms, we also bow in awe.

O Queen and intimate friend, remember our poverty.

We beg you O tender Mother to hold our hands and listen closely to the desires and needs of our hearts.

Mary, please remember: [State your request...].

Through your powerful intercession obtain for us the beautiful manifestation of your Divine Son in the lives of those for whom we pray.

Mystical glorious woman crowned with stars, obtain the miracles and heavenly signs our dear ones need to find and embrace Jesus Christ, the King of Kings.

Mary, we promise to amend our lives, and implore you to reveal the treasures of your heart to us, your poor children, at this time. Amen.

Mass Schedule



After our two (2) anticipation Masses on Saturday, December 23rd for the 4th Sunday of Advent (5pm & 7pm) and only one Mass on Sunday, December the 24th at 9:00 am, we'll be setting out the flowers and lighting up the trees, garlands, and candles.

Christmas Masses

We start celebrating Christmas on Sunday evening this year. Our schedule will be: Christmas eve 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM, 10:00 PM

Christmas Day 9:00 AM.



CHRISTMAS

2017 Bishop's Fund Appeal



We're currently at (97%) **\$34,060** of our \$35,000 Bishop's Fund goal. And we have had **182** households participate out of our goal of 211. Wouldn't it be a great Christmas gift to our Bishop for us to reach our goal? If you would like to contribute, please contact the rectory. Thanks as always for your generous support.

Christmas Collection

The Diocese of Ogdensburg's Retirement Plan for Priests has long been supported by parish contributions from its annual Christmas Collection. Currently 40 retired priests, and 8 active priests age 70 and older, are expected to receive pension benefits of \$892,000 in 2017-18. Also 100% of the cost of health insurance premiums for retired priests is paid by the Plan. Say thank you to your pastor and all priests of the diocese through a generous contribution to our Christmas Collection.

From the Diocesan Office of Family Life



Surviving Divorce features twelve video presentations that cover topics such as shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, and annulment and remarriage. This program is for the newly separate and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. It will help them find answers to their questions, restore their hope, and begin authentic healing.

The twelve-week program begins on **January 25th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at St. Mary's Church in Canton** and will meet weekly in the sacristy. The cost of the program for participants includes the *Surviving Divorce Personal Guide* and all program materials is \$25. For more information or to register, please call Steve Taglia at 315-393-2920 or go to <http://www.rcdony.org/family-life/surviving-divorce-support-group.html>.

Campus Corner

Many blessings on your exams, and have a great winter break! See you next year!



**Annual Epiphany
(Little Christmas)
Open House**
at St. Mary's Rectory
Sunday, January 8th, 2017
After the 11:15 Mass to 3 pm
All are invited to come and share
in some final Christmas cheer and
goodies!

EPIPHANY



Proposed Mass time change

The following was announced by Fr. Stitt last week.

It is printed here for further consideration.



Ever since Fr. Todd left last month, I've spoken with many of you of the need to change the Mass schedule here at St. Mary's. I've been encouraged by a number of you to do so sooner than later.

Three Masses on a Sunday is too many. (According to Canon Law, a priest is supposed to offer Mass once a day, he is permitted to celebrate two for a just cause. And three should only be offered out of "pastoral necessity." Considering the numbers of people in the pews, it is hard to say that there is a pastoral necessity here in Canton.

On top of that, we look to the ways that our neighboring parishes in the North Country are having to cut back, we realize that we have been spoiled to have so many options for so long in our little parish.

I'm leaning towards eliminating the 11:15 Mass. Thus the current consideration is that we would maintain the 5:00 on Saturday, the 9:00 on Sunday, and the 5:00 pm on Sunday.

Over the past months we have been keeping track of the numbers of Mass-goers. 11:15 is our smallest congregation. Couple this with the fact that as the Diocesan Director of Worship, I will continue to have obligations at Masses with the Bishop on multiple Sunday afternoons that would make it impossible for me to offer Mass during the 11:15 time slot. I want to hear from you.

Thank you to those of you who have shared your insights with me already. Please keep them coming. I plan to make a decision in the first weeks of January.

Principal's Corner

What a beautiful Christmas pageant we had! From our oldest to very youngest students, everyone participated and gave glory to God through their voices and actions. **A special thanks to Mrs. Ellie Beauvais and to all of our teachers and staff.**

On Wednesday morning, five of our students who were chosen due to their outstanding art work, traveled to Ogdensburg to admire the Bishop's Christmas tree with its display of student-made ornaments. While there we enjoyed a wonderful breakfast buffet, visited with Bishop LaValley, and even got to meet the visiting Bishop from Syria.



Christmas Recess has begun!

Classes will resume January 2, 2018.



The Parish Office will close at the end of business on Friday, Dec. 22nd and reopen on January 2nd at 8am.

There will be limited holiday office hours on Dec. 29 from 8 am to Noon.

This is to give our parish staff the opportunity to spend time with family and friends this Christmas season.



BINGO is held Monday night at 7pm
30 Miner Street Bring a Friend!
There will be NO Bingo Christmas Day
Please join us on New Year's day for
another fun-filled night of bingo



Dear Jesus, Divine Physician and Healer of the sick, we turn to you in this time of illness. O dearest comforter of the troubled, alleviate our worry and sorrow with your gentle love, and grant us the grace and strength to accept this burden. Dear God, we place our worries in your hands. We place our sick under your care and humbly ask that you restore your servant to health again. Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge your will and know that whatever you do, you do for the love of us. Amen.

Shirley Ames	Lori Ashley	Jean Baycura
John Bessette	Keith (Sam) Bisonette	Sarah Bogart
Timothy Bogart	Sue Briggs	Camille Brown
Donald "Joe" Burnham	Shirley Burns	David Butler
Peggy Cashman	Jana & Jeremy Cassler	Joan Clarke
Steve Connelly	Jenny Cook	Scarlett Friot
Debbie Gainey	Gordon C. Gladden	Jeri Gorman
Mike Gorman	Darren Greenwood	Patricia Hayden
Ginny & Butch Hotzler	Garrett Hughes	Eugenia Jusiak
Barbara Kelly	Dan Kinsley	Irene Krencesk
Shirley LaMendola	Danny Law	Chubby LeRoux
Laura Lombard	Leward and Betty Lucia	Arlene Maroney
Paul Marsh	Margaret McDonald	Stephanie McKeel
Eric Mende	Barbara Moritz	Joel Rivera
Eric Roach	Matilda Mary Smith	Cheryl Sopos
John Steiger	Karen Stever	Natalie teRiele
Ethel Thomas	Dorie Thompson	Linda Trill
Lynn Watson	Jeffrey White	Meggan Whiteford
Eric Whitmarsh		



The church Sanctuary Lamp will burn
this week in memory of
Mike Maroney
By Lita Maroney
*If you desire to have the Vigil Lamp lit for a loved one or for your
intention, please contact the Rectory.*

Schedule

December 23, 24, and 25, 2017

Sat. 5:00 pm

Lectors: Brad Mintener
Eucharist: Sandra Bartlett, Michael Christy,
Brenda Sanderson
Altar Servers: Gabe Ballard
Greeter: (need)

Sat. 7:00 pm

Lectors: Please stop into the Sacristy to volunteer.
Eucharist: Please stop into the Sacristy to volunteer.
Altar Servers: Please stop into the Sacristy to volunteer.
Greeter: Please stop into the Sacristy to volunteer.

Sun. 9:00 am 4th Sunday of Advent

Lector: Norma Jean Lapoint, Virginia Burwell
Eucharist: Pam Neal, Shelly Roiger, Cheryl Curry,
Helen Dominy
Altar Servers: Zadok Roiger, Joseph Roiger
Greeter: Maureen Howard

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

See the volunteer list in sacristy or at doors of the church

December 30 and December 31, 2017

Sat. 5:00 pm

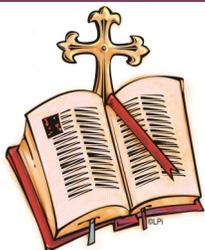
Lectors: Edd White, Lusa Guccione
Eucharist: Cathie O'Horo, Bernie Proulx, (need), (need)
Altar Servers: (need)
Greeter: (need)

Sun. 9:00 am

Lectors: Frank Palumbo, Cheryl Curry
Eucharist: Jen Palumbo, Paul Schrems, Mel Schrems,
Barb teRiele
Altar Servers: Gavin Thompson
Greeter: (need)

Sun. 11:15 am

Lectors: George Trejos
Eucharist: Rebecca Trejos, Don Rasmussen
Altar Server: Madison Hoy, Ava Hoy
Greeter: (need)



Readings for Sunday December 24:

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3,
4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Readings for Sunday December 31:

Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/
Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a] or Ps 128:1-2,
3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-
21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

MASS & PARISH SCHEDULE

Monday, Dec. 25: 9:00 am Mass	<i>The Nativity of the Lord</i> The Deceased Members of the Stitt Family by Fr. Stitt
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Tuesday, Dec. 26: 4:00 pm 5:40 pm+	St. Stephen, The First Martyr <u>No Mass today</u> Holy Hour for Vocations in private No Confessions offered
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Wednesday, Dec. 27: 8:10 am	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist Peter & Myra Poste by the Estate
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Thursday, Dec. 28: 5:10 pm Mass	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs Deceased members of the Ball & Trejos Families by Becky & George Trejos
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Friday, Dec. 29: 8:10 am Mass	Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord/St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr Elizabeth Raymond by Patricia Callahan
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Saturday, Dec. 30: 3:45-4:45 pm 5:00 pm Mass	Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord <u>No Morning Mass</u> Confessions Vigil: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Bill Beauvais by Susie & Eric Pellegrino
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Sunday, Dec. 31: 9:00 am Mass 11:15 am Mass 5:00 pm Mass	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Margaret Brown by the Estate For the People of the Parish Helen Wilson by the Wilson Family



The Chapel Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for

Mick Harrington

by
His Family

If you desire to have the Vigil Lamp lit in memory of your loved one or for you intention, please contact the Rectory.

Week of December 9th & 10th	2016	2017
Envelopes	\$5,945.50	\$6,655.00
Plate	\$890.00	\$824.00
Children's Envelopes		\$8.75
Religious Retirement		\$430.00
Adopt-a-Student	\$100.00	\$100.00
Church & Community		\$10.00
Catholic Relief Services		\$22.44
All Saints		\$20.00
Total	\$6,935.50	\$8,070.19

*Thank you for your support and generosity each and every week!
Please continue to remember how important your weekly offering is to the life of our parish!*