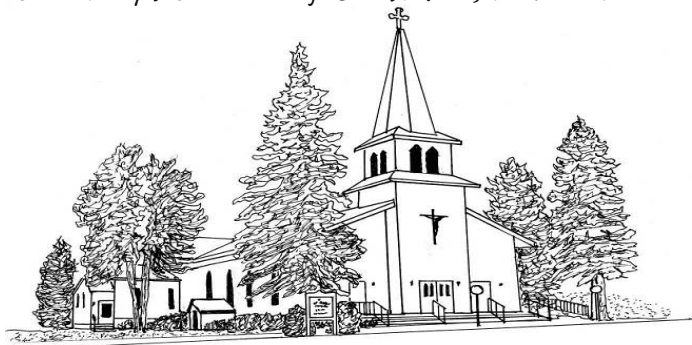


The Roman Catholic Communities of

St. Mary's Church of Brushton, New York & St. Augustine's Church of North Bangor, New York



Staff

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Rev. Raymond J. Moreau

office@stmarysbrushton.org

Priest-in-Residence

Rev. Alan J. Lamica

Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Dianne Russell

Director of Christian Formation

St. Mary's &

St. Augustine's

Mrs. Judy King

St. Mary's Bookkeeper

Mrs. Sheila LaRock

Priest Residence

1347 Washington St.

Brushton, New York, 12916

Voice & fax (518)529-7433

St. Augustine's

2472 State Route 11

North Bangor, New York 12966

Voice & fax (518)483-6674

staugustine6674@gmail.com

MONDAY DEC. 26 ST. STEPHEN

9:00 AM SM: Bernard Richards, 2nd. Anniv. By Wife, Cyndie

TUESDAY DEC. 27 ST. JOHN

9:00 AM SA: Ralph Haineault by Barry & Heather White

WEDNESDAY DEC. 28 THE HOLY INNOCENTS

9:00 AM SM: Buck Marshall by Linda Aubrey

THURSDAY DEC. 29 5th DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF the LORD

9:00 AM SA: James Benware by Carol & Mark Lavoie

SAT. DEC. 31 VIGIL SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

4:00 PM SA: Aloney & Valda Martin & Deceased Family by the Family

5:30 pm SM: People of the Parish

SUNDAY JAN. 1 SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

9:00 AM SA: Fred Tavernia by Pat & Tina Crowley

11:00AM SM: Buck Marshall by Craig Jesmer



Sanctuary Candles burn in memory this week for:

SA: For The Safety of Our Troops

SM: For James & Marian Ledwith & Brady Frazier by Mary Martin

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.

Matthew 5:14

Website:

www.staugustinesandstmarys.org

ST. MARY'S ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY

Open 1 - 3PM & 6:30-7:30PM

2nd and 4th Mondays of the month

SHUT-INS

Do you know of someone who is not able to go to Mass on Sunday, because of *weather or sickness*? Please call Dianne Russell at 529-7474 or Dick Hurteau at 483-1832 for someone to bring Holy Communion on a weekly or monthly basis.

Sacrament of Baptism: Infants: contact the parish office before or soon after birth. Adults: inquire about the RCIA

Sacrament of Penance: Saturdays 2:45-3:00 p.m. St. Mary's; 3:30-3:45 St. Augustine. You may also contact Fr. Ray

Sacrament of the Sick: Contact Fr. Ray in advance of surgery or as soon as possible when serious illness occurs

Sacrament of Marriage: Contact the parish office at least 6 months prior to the proposed wedding date to begin prep

TO REPORT ABUSE: If you have a complaint or suspect misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees, or volunteers, contact the Diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator Terrienne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Service of Northern New York, 413 Ryan Road, Churubusco, NY 12923, Phone: (518) 483-3261.

E-mail: terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Or call Fr. James Seymour, Episcopal Vicar for clergy at 315-393-2920.

FROM FR. RAY:

"Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way..." (Matthew 1:18).

Many generations after God promised a Messiah, a young girl named Mary conceived a child by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, the young man to whom she was betrothed, was told by an angel that the child she would bear was God's Son, Jesus.

God's power and blessing worked through common lives to bring forth Jesus the Messiah. Joseph and Mary, ordinary young adults nurtured by the generations before them, were open to God's extraordinary activity in their lives. They were common people whose willing hearts and courage powerfully proclaimed the Good News of the one who would save his people from their sins.

Countless generations later, you and I are called to proclaim the Good News of Emmanuel, "God with us. Our neighborhoods, our communities, and our world are filled with those who long to know Jesus' love and saving presence in their lives. God uses us in all our ordinariness and sinfulness to bring forth the promise and light of Christ's love and salvation.

This Christmas, may the Holy Spirit give you faith, courage, and a willing heart as you take part in God's ongoing miracle. May you know the joy and awe that comes from bearing Christ's creative and redeeming love to the world.

Merry Christmas,
Fr. Ray

ALL ARE WELCOME...

A special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, "it's complicated," gay, filthy rich, dirt poor, or no hablo Ingles. There is a place for you if you are over 60 but not grown up yet or a teenager growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, Bills fans and NY Giant fans, starving artists, tree-huggers, those in recovery, and those who are still addicted. We welcome you if you sing like Pavarotti or can't carry a note in a bucket. You are welcome here if you're just browsing, just got bored, just woke up, or just got out of jail.

We don't care if it is your first time at church or whether you've been to Church more times than the pope. We welcome you if you are having problems or are feeling overwhelmed or if you don't like "organized religion." If you are looking for a fresh start, a fresh cup of coffee, or a hug from a new friend there is a place for you here. We welcome those who are wearing "church clothes" and those who are wearing their only clothes. We are so glad to see those who are linked, pierced, or both, those who could use a prayer right now, those who haven't been to church since Aunt Carol's funeral, and those who got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We welcome seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts and jaded cynics, the lost, the found...and YOU!

COLLECTION:

December 17/18

**DUE TO HOLIDAY AND EARLY BULLETIN
INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE.**

Will be listed next week

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Judy King, Director of Religious Formation

Phone: 483-6209

Sunday, Jan. 22 & 29

Grades K to 8: 10:15am — 11:45am

St. Mary's Parish Center, Brushton

Sunday Jan. 22 & 29

Confirmation Student Classes

St. Augustine Rectory 6:15—8:15 p.m.

2017 CALENDARS

The 2017 calendars are now available at the entrance of our churches. In the past the parish assumed the cost of providing a religious calendar for the people of our churches. Last year Jamie Sienkiewicz of Flint Funeral Home in Moira started to generously provide us with our yearly calendars. A special note of thanks to Jamie and the staff of Flint Funeral Home for providing us with such beautiful Catholic calendars again this year.

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord. At the time of his birth, few took notice. After all it was just a child born to a poor young woman, nothing extraordinary. And yet, Angels announced his birth to stunned shepherds out in the field. This seemingly insignificant baby boy would change the world by opening heaven for all who would follow him. This truly is the GOOD NEWS! Let us shout it from the rooftops, and invite all to come meet their Lord and Savior this Christmas season.

HOSPICE OF THE NORTH COUNTRY

Hospice continues to have a ongoing search for members of the community who are willing to volunteer to visit patients. If you can help please call Jessica Dumas at 518-483-3200 for more information. You never know when you may be on the receiving end. Thank you.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

What gift do you want for your children this Christmas? When we contemplate the beauties of this earth from which Jesus took on flesh, we need to ask ourselves an important question. What will the world that we leave behind be like for our children's children? How can our love for God, our families, and our neighbors near and far be reflected in the ways that we treat the earth where God "pitched his tent" "to be one with us?"



YOUTH BUSES FOR LIFE: High School Pilgrimage to the Washington, DC March for Life.

Three coach buses will travel to the March for Life in Washington, DC from Thursday January 26 through Saturday January 28, 2016. Pickup locations include: Massena, Canton, Gouverneur, Watertown and Schroon Lake. The cost of \$150 includes transportation, hotel, breakfast, dinner & shirt. Registration opens October 1st. www.rcdony.org/pro-life for registration forms. For more information contact the Respect Life Office, Colleen Miner at cminer@rcdony.org.

THE LORD CALLS

A child is born for us; a son is given to us! Such good news deserves to be heard. Who will proclaim the tidings of great joy in the world? If God is calling you, talk to Fr. Ray or Fr. Doug Lucia at (315) 3586-2543/dlucia@rcdony.org or Fr. Tom Higman at (518) 594-3907/thigman@rcdony.org or Cathy Russell, the Diocesan Vocation Coordinator at (315) 393-2920, ext. 1450/crussell@rcdony.org. See us also on Facebook or at www.myvocation.net.

PLANNED GIVING

Benefits of Giving Wisely

Did you know there are creative ways to support our Parish? Ways in which our Parish, you and your love ones all benefit at the same time? Such giving techniques are called "planned gifts," because with thoughtful planning, you create win-win solutions for you and the Parish. For further information, contact Scott Lalone, Executive Director of Development/Foundation at the Diocese of Ogdensburg at 315-393-2920 or slalone@rcdony.org.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR PRIEST RETIREMENT

The Diocese of Ogdensburg's Retirement Plan for Priests has long been supported by parish contributions from its annual Christmas Collection. Currently 38 retired priests, and 9 active priests age 70 and older, are expected to receive pension benefits of \$860,000 in 2016-17. Also 100% of the cost of health insurance premiums for retired priests is paid by the Plan. Your generous contribution not only supports current retirees but will also help provide for the retirement needs of priests who will retire in the future. Say thank you to your pastor and all priests of the diocese through a generous contribution to our Christmas Collection.

Readings for the Week of December 25, 2016

Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31/Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124/Mt 2:13-18
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96/Lk 2:22-35
Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128/
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96/Jn 1:1-18
Next Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

LETTER FROM BISHOP LAVALLEY

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

St. Luke writes: "*And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn*" (Luke 1:7). This poor couple's God was born in a manger because there was no room for him in the inn.

Today, there is no room in our hearts for so many—the unborn, the poor, the alcoholic, those suffering from mental illness, the unemployed, the underemployed, the persecuted, the victim of unjust discrimination, the elderly, the addict, the lonely, the forgotten, the imprisoned, the abused, the terror-stricken refugee. So many women, men and children are hurting. They are members of our families. Our parish census visits reminded us that they are our neighbors. They are us!

As we have concluded a truly graced-filled Jubilee Year of Mercy, we enter this Christmas Season grateful for the blessings bestowed, but also keenly aware of our Christian duty to be the hands and merciful heart of Christ to those who currently warrant scarce attention from us. This Christmas, let you and me resolve, inspired by our own personal encounter with Jesus Christ, to see His Face in our sisters and brothers who we so often neglect. We yearn to make room in our hearts and in our lives for the hurting. Their human dignity demands it. Our Christian dignity impels us.

We pray that the beautiful acts of generosity that so characterize the Christmas Season, will be transformed from seasonal gestures of charity to lifelong acts of justice and mercy. Such personal transformation will give tangible evidence of the fruitfulness of the Jubilee of Mercy. *Christ-led, Christ-fed, and Hope-filled*, we can do great things in Christ Jesus, the Savior whose birth we celebrate with such joy and gratitude. Our God's unconditional love and boundless mercy became flesh and bones in the Person of Jesus Christ so that we might touch and see God's compassion for every one of us.

In so many ways, the Diocese of Ogdensburg has been especially blessed this year. As your shepherd, I am deeply grateful and continue to feel so privileged to lead the faithful of our North Country. In my pastoral visits, I continue to see such Mercy in Motion in our communities.

May the Christ Child bring you and your loved ones the Gift of Love, the Blessing of Hope and the Promise of Peace. A blessed Christmas and joy-filled New Year!


Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley

Bishop of Ogdensburg

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