WELCOME TO THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, BALLSTON SPA, & ST. MARY'S MISSION, GALWAY

~ Fr. Francis R. Vivacqua, Pastor ~

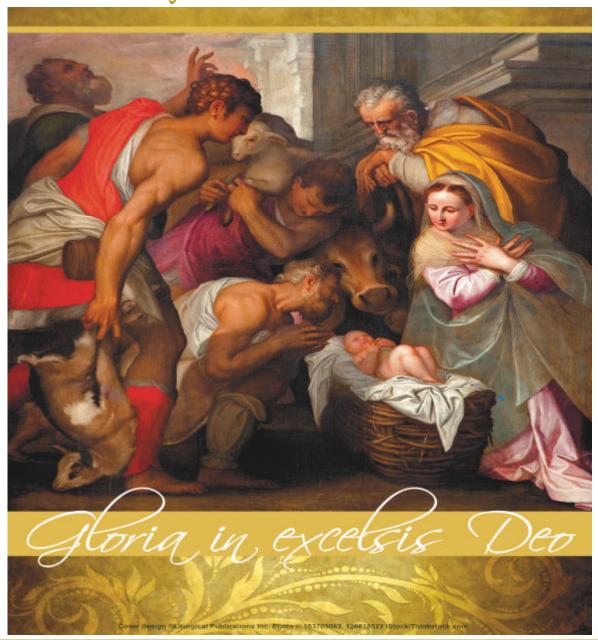


Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 23rd

The **Fourth Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Peace with the "Angel's Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

The Christmas Mass schedule is available at the website: https://stmarysballstonspa.org/

The Nativity of the Lord — December 25th





MONDAY – December 24, (Vigil—The Nativity of the Lord) 4:00 PM Church + Ron Campbell, & reg. by Family

John & Jeff Melna

School + Charles Braim req. by Wife + Special Intentions of req. by Friend

Eduard & Lisa Mueller & Family

+ Virginia Barron req. by Children

TUESDAY – December 25, (The Nativity of the Lord)

8:30 AM + Pro Populo **10:30 AM** + Laura Mand

7:30 PM

+ Laura Mangino req. by Mohr Family

+ Irene & Arthur Thayer, req. by Family Frank & Annabell Chamberlain,

& Bill Miller
12:00 PM + Alberta O'B

+ Alberta O'Brien req. by Family

+ Elaine McElroy req. by Husband, Sam

WEDNESDAY- December 26, (St. Stephen)

7:45 AM + Bart Calamanco req. by Mary Anne

+ John Postlethwaite req. by Kelli, Sandy, & Jenny

THURSDAY- December 27, (St. John)

7:45 AM + Karen Gentiluomo req. by Husband & Family

FRIDAY - December 28, (The Holy Innocents)

7:45 AM + Robert J. Welch req. by Family

+ Mary Bogue req. by Mary Beth & Sarah

SATURDAY-December 29, (Vigil - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph)

4:00 PM + Joseph Walsh & req. by Marlene Fr. Broderick

+ Special Intentions of Catherine Tommarello req. by Joyce Broswski

SUNDAY – December 30, (The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph)

8:30 AM + Pro Populo

+ Dawn Colangelo req. by Husband, Jack

10:30 AM + Carol Saso req. by Farrell Family + David James req. by Lisa Benanto

12:00 PM + Robert Flatley req. by Family

+ James Peter Constantine req. by Connors Family

ALTAR SERVERS

SAT., Dec. 29 4:00 PM

Sean Rudolph, Lauren Rudolph

SUN., Dec. 30 8:30 AM

Veronica Higgins, Catherine Higgins

> 10:30 AM Cole Walker, Jack Walker

12 NOON Eli Sutton



Liturgical Ministers

SAT., Dec. 29

4:00 PM, Lector: Donna Kessler E.M.: Mary Anne Starnes, Terri Smith, Sue Van Patten, Frank Haskell, Herb Peters

SUN., Dec. 30

8:30 AM, L: Ted Hercamp E.M.: Caesar Taormina, Marilyn Hogan, Kathy Catman, Joyce Richards, Bruce Richards

10:30 AM, L: Bob Van Alstine E.M.: Ed Foy,

Crystal Kenneally, Karen Van Alstine, Ruth Fazio, Jason Buczek

12:00 PM, L: Christine O'Connell E.M.: Len Smith, Larry Lexa, Dorothy Lexa, Ann Quinn, Christine O'Connell

Choir: 10:30 AM Sundays Contemporary Music Group: 12 Noon

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24th:
4:00 PM at Church with the
Contemporary Choir
4:00 PM at School with the Children's Choir
5:30 PM in Galway
7:30 PM Candlelight Vigil Mass with
Choir's Carols beginning at 6:45 PM

Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25th: 8:30 AM, 9:30 AM (Galway), 10:30 AM, 12:00 Noon

Sunday, Dec. 30th Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph: 8:30 AM, 9:30 AM (Galway), 10:30 AM, 12:00 Noon

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God:
Vigil Mass, Monday, December 31st
at 4:00 PM in Ballston Spa
Tuesday, January 1st
at 10:00 AM in Ballston Spa
(Holy Day of Obligation)



4th Sunday of Advent

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the Infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." (8194)-42

ENRICH YOUR FAITH



Novena to
Miraculous Medal,
Tuesdays at 5:30 pm,
followed by Mass.



Our Lady of Peace Prayer Group

will meet on Tues., 1/8, at St. Mary's Church, 6:30 pm - 8:15 pm. All are welcome!



<u>Eucharistic Adoration & Evening Prayer</u> will resume on Monday, January 14.

Miracles from Heaven Friday, January 4th at 6:00 PM in the St. Mary's School Auditorium

Please join us for this true story of the Beam family who experiences a medical miracle that leaves medical specialists mystified, the family restored and their community inspired.



Snacks will be served at Intermission.

For more information on this event, please contact Ann McCauley at 518--885-7411



Medjugorje 2019

Experience the beauty and peace of this simple and blessed village.
Join Fr. Vivacqua
April 29-May 9 on the special Pilgrimage to
Medjugorje. Fliers available at the church entrances.
More info to follow. Limited space available.
Deadline is
Feb. 28.

St. Mary's School

The children of St. Mary's have been preparing for Christmas during the weeks of Advent. Each of the classes listed various ways we can prepare for the coming of Jesus. These ideas became part of our very own giant Advent calendar. Each day our fifth graders lead us in a prayer reflection and suggested a kind act or a virtue we could all work on. Before we left for Christmas break, we gathered together in our prayer corner for a beautiful prayer service.



Merry Christmas to all from our Small School with a Big Heart!



The sacrificial offering for Sunday, Dec. 16, will be noted in the Sunday, Dec. 30 bulletin.



St. Mary's Women's Book Club

will have their next meeting at St. Mary's School on Mon., Jan. 14 at 6:30.

All women interested in attending should read, *Whisper* by Mark Batterson. Have you ever wondered if God was talking to you? Batterson teaches you how to hear the whispers of God. "The question isn't whether God is speaking to you, the question is what does he have to say to you?" Join us in a lively discussion, snacks are provided. Questions? Call either Mary Ann at 858-7589 or Nancy at 857-3927. We would love to have more members.

"Inseparable" - The marriage of a pastor to his church, like the groom and bride, form a family. Each vocation has its demands and gifts. God blesses each as wisdom unfolds. The book, "Inseparable," by Catholic Answers is great reading (shop catholic.com online). Life is a gift, and needs help at this time in our country. This week is full of ups and downs--keep focusing on Life.



Ladies of Charity, Saratoga Hoffman Car Wash Fundraiser



The fastest and easiest way for us to sell these car wash tickets is online at our custom home page on the Helping Hands website: http://www.hoffmanhelpinghands.com/ fundraisers/LadiesofCharitySaratogaChapter

Regina Caeli Academy 2019 Upcoming Admissions Events

Join our exciting mission to form the next generation of Catholics! Regina Caeli Academy provides a classical, hybrid education in the Catholic tradition. Pre K3-12th grade students attend Socratic, hands-on classes two days a week and homeschool on the remaining days. Mark your calendar for our upcoming events:

- January Open House: Mon, Jan 21 at 9:30 am. Event includes a tour, classroom observation, and Q&A; children welcome!
- **High School Information Session:** Mon. Jan 21 at 11 am. You CAN homeschool high school! Event includes a short presentation and Q&A; children welcome!
- **RSVP to** Imparisi.alb@rcanybrid.org or call (845) 379-0680, 201 Ten Broeck St. Scotia (Located inside Scotia United

For more information about our parish, please check out our website at:

stmarysballstonspa.org.

St. Mary's Mission, GALWAY, NY



♦ December 23, Sun., Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:30 am + Dorena Caselli Lawler

req. by Lawler Family

+ Charles III & Matthew Hanna req. by Hanna Family

+ Michael George Rosenzweig req. by Palmer Family

- December 24, Mon., Vigil: The Nativity of the Lord
- December 25, Tues., The Nativity of the Lord
- ◆ December 30, Sun., The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

9:30 am + Maurice Mallev

reg. by LoSasso Family + John & Barbara Czernicki Rosenzweig reg. by Children & Grandchildren

The second collection next Sunday is for Parish improvements. Please be as generous as you have been in the past.

After mass today we will be decorating the Church for Christmas. Please plan on helping with this task. In the past many volunteers helped and the decorating went very fast and efficiently. Let's make this year the same.

St. Mary's Community Service



Thank you to all who baked cookies, assisted with the Faith Formation cookie decorating and purchased cookies. Your donations and time are greatly appreciated.

Please keep in mind that making baby Afghans for Birthright is an ongoing parish project. Any completed Afghans may be placed in the Food Pantry boxes at each entrance.



Faith Formation: St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas lived in early 300's in what is now Turkey. As a child, he had a great love for God that led him to pray often and study hard. He eventually became a priest and an abbot of a monastery and spent his life helping the poor and innocent. Most notably, there was a man who had 3 daughters but no dowry for their marriage. The man had planned to sell the daughters into slavery until Nicholas, in the dark of night, flung bags of gold into the man's window for their dowry. He had saved these girls' lives! St. Nicholas never expected anything in return for his loving deeds; he knew that loving God meant helping others.



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PLEASE JOIN US AFTER OUR 9:30 am MASS IN THE SOCIAL HALL for COFFEE, DONUTS, & FELLOWSHIP.







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