

**ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, BALLSTON SPA,
& ST. MARY'S MISSION, GALWAY**

~ Fr. Francis R. Vivacqua, Pastor ~ Deacon Ronald Hogan

St. Mary's Church Ballston Spa

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St. Mary's Church website: <https://stmarysballstonspa.org/>

St. Mary's Church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysballstonspa>



19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. - Mt 14:28-29



MASS INTENTIONS

- MONDAY – August 10, (St. Lawrence)**
 + Robert J. Welch *req. by Family*
- TUESDAY – August 11, (St. Clare)**
 + Kenneth Cramer *req. by Family*
- WEDNESDAY – August 12, (Weekday)**
 + James W. Reagan
 + Peggy D'Onofrio *req. by Joan Joyner*
- THURSDAY – August 13, (Weekday)**
 + Angela Monaco *req. by George & Carolyn Hannah*
- FRIDAY – August 14, (St. Maximilian Kolbe)**
NO DAILY MASS
- SATURDAY – August 15, (Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time)**
4:00 PM + Barbara Petrolo *req. by Granddaughter, Rita*
 + Spec. Int. of Mary McNamara *req. by Bob & Maureen*
 + Sheila Arpei *req. by Brother-in-Law, Sam McElroy*
- SUNDAY – August 16, (Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time)**
8:00 AM + Pro Populo
 + Dawn Colangelo *req. by Husband, Jack*
- 10:00 AM** + Bill Smith *req. by Wife*
 + Cynthia Hakanson *req. by Our Lady of Peace Prayer Group*
- 12 Noon** + Paul & John Robens *req. by Catherine Robens*
 + Spec. Int. of Sr. Kitty Hanley *req. by Ann McCauley*

ST. MARY'S OPEN HOUSE

“And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3:17)



Written in the St. Mary's Centennial Celebration booklet is the following: *“The brick church that Father McDonough inspired has terra cotta trim and rests on a foundation 125 feet long x 68 feet; its 178 foot steeple is the highest in the village. Visitors within St. Mary's pleasing surroundings quickly sense a deep devotion of Our Lady. The central stained glass window above the high altar depicts the Blessed Virgin; a replica of Murillo's*

“Crowning of the Virgin”, placed by Ertlo, the original interior decorator, occupies the ceiling's upper most apex in front of the main altar.” This gorgeous piece of artwork has been restored and looks magnificent!

Prior to our first Eucharistic Celebration on Saturday, August 15th, The Feast of the Assumption, we would like to welcome you back to experience the freshly restored interior of St. Mary's Church. On **Sunday, August 9th**, we will be hosting an **Open House** for those wishing to see the restoration before the Holy Eucharist is brought back into the church. There will be two sessions, **8-10am and 12-2pm**. Please be attentive to social distancing and mask requirements. Please be mindful that **only the Handicap Ramp entrance** will be accessible/unlocked. Everyone must enter through this entrance for the time being. A freewill donation will be accepted during the Open House and there is also the opportunity to light a votive candle in front of the Blessed Mother. In addition, we will be offering a



crafted piece of St. Mary's floorboard, with a decorative plate, for a \$50 donation. Please come in and take a look at all the beautiful restorations to our paintings, stained glass windows, statues and worship place as a whole.



Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” Jesus said to Peter, “Come.” Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. During these past few months many of us may have felt as Peter did when he saw Jesus: scared, worried, doubtful. The awesome thing about Jesus is he is always inviting us to “Come.” In

times of distress Jesus welcomes us with compassion and love. St. Mary's is beginning to return to liturgical celebrations and everyone is filled with excitement. As with all parishes, our reopening is going to be a phased in process. St. Mary's goal is to assure the safety of everyone and we ask for the support of the community. During the past several months we have all been challenged to examine our patience and acceptance of new protocols and procedures, new mandates and guidelines. We may not understand everything that we have been asked to do, and that's okay, but our end result is to provide a safe worship space where we all feel comfortable.

As you are already aware, the size of gatherings has been a topic which has caused many to question protocols. I suggest you don't focus on the challenges, but allow every challenge to be an opportunity to become a loving disciple of Christ. Jesus never said that the road would be easy, but he did promise us his love and compassion. Any inconvenience we experience should be offered up to God, offered as thanksgiving that we are allowed to celebrate our faith in freedom. These next few weeks will probably not be smooth, but once you place yourself in front of the Blessed Sacrament, you'll receive the compassion of Christ.

We announced a while back that during the initial phase of our reopening, we will invite St. Mary's registered parishioners to be the first to ease into the new process of attending the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Eventually, we hope to open our church to everyone as we have been accustomed to doing so since the 1890s.

Recently a mailing was sent out about how we will begin the opening phase. I thought I'd highlight a few of the key points. (1) The celebration of Holy Mass will begin in the main church. The size of the church will provide us with the required space needed for social distancing. (2) Mass schedule: For proper cleaning purposes we had to adjust the schedule. Weekend Masses are as follows: Saturday Vigil-4:00pm, Sunday-8:00am, 10:00am, and 12noon. (3) Sunday obligation-this is still lifted during the pandemic. Each Mass is limited to 100 guests. Since the obligation is still lifted, people are encouraged to utilize all our Mass times during the week, Saturday-Thursday. Everyone will be required to use the Handicap Ramp Entrance for the time being. This is the only entrance to the building. (4) Pre-registration. We are asking for everyone's cooperation to pre-register for Mass. By doing so, this will provide us with a number of attendees and meet the requirements attesting that everyone is healthy. (5) Mask/Face covering. *Everyone is required to have their face covered at this time.* Upon entry of the church and until you exit, a mask must be worn. With the understanding that this may be a delicate issue, if you are uncomfortable wearing a covering or not comfortable around others, please continue to watch Mass on-line. As a parish family, we are placing our trust in each other and our hearts should be charitable. Please – anyone who is sick or has a temperature is asked to stay home. The safety of one is the safety of all.

Yours in Christ,
 Father Francis Vivacqua



August 15th is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary!

Mary was always a virgin, both in conceiving Jesus, giving birth to him, and remaining virgin ever after. God granted her this privilege to emphasize that this was a unique moment in history—the birth of Jesus who is the Son of God and the Son of Mary. The liturgy of the Church speaks of Mary as “ever virgin.”

In the early Church some denied this, arguing that the Gospels speak of the brothers and sisters of Jesus, and thus maintained that Mary did not remain a virgin after the birth of Jesus. But already in the fourth century, theologians pointed out that the Greek word for brother used in the New Testament can refer also to cousin. A second explanation was that these brothers and sisters were children of Joseph by a previous marriage. However, it is the constant teaching of the Church that Mary remained a virgin even after the birth of Jesus. In her virginity, Mary lived a life dedicated exclusively to her Son and his mission. Her example has been followed by some of Christ’s disciples who have lived lives of consecrated virginity and celibacy from apostolic times to the present.

In the mystery of her Assumption, Mary experiences immediately what we all experience eventually, a bodily resurrection like Christ’s own. “The Immaculate Virgin...when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of death” (CCC, no. 966, citing LG, no. 59).

Finally, in Mary we behold what the Church is already like during her pilgrimage of faith—and what the Church will become at the end of the journey. “Mary figured profoundly in the history of salvation and in a certain way unites and mirrors within herself the central truths of the faith” (LG, no. 65).

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Ballston Spa, NY

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www.smsbspa.org

Readings **Week**

Readings for the week of August 9

- Sunday:** God is present with us always. 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a/Ps 85/ Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33
- Monday:** Sacrificing and dying to self and others will bear much fruit. 2 Cor 9:6-10/Ps 112/Jn 12:24-26
- Tuesday:** Jesus invites us to trust in the Father’s love. Ez 2:8—3:4/Ps 119/Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14
- Wednesday:** We are incorporated into the body of Christ at our baptism. Ez 9:1-7; 10:18-22/Ps 113/Mt 18:15-20
- Thursday:** With God’s help, we can imitate his generosity in forgiveness. Ez 12:1-12/Ps 78/Mt 18:21—19:1
- Friday:** God’s love and mercy are always there for us if we live in faithful relationship with him. Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 or 16:59-63/Is 12/Mt 19:3-12
- Saturday:** Mary proclaims the greatness of the Lord. Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Ps 45/1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56
- Next Sunday:** God’s grace and mercy are promised to all. Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28

St. Mary’s Parish Census:

We continue with the imperative task of updating our parish database. A burdensome task, yet beneficial to all. Just a reminder, we have requested that all parishioners who registered with the parish prior to 2019, complete a Parish Registration form. We still have several hundred individuals/ families whose information is inaccurate and need to be updated. Again, it is essential that this information is current; updated to assist us in ministering to our large congregation. There are many reasons to register with our parish:

- ◆ A sense of belonging and identity in the St. Mary’s parish community and a commitment to practice your faith.
- ◆ Registration enables the staff and me to get to know you better, to welcome you and to minister to you.
- ◆ This is especially important during a time of crisis so that the pastoral staff can attend to your spiritual needs and the needs of your family.
- ◆ Registration helps you stay connected with St. Mary’s and helps our parish stay connected with you.
- ◆ Providing all of your contact information is important:

⇒ Email addresses are critical to provide families with timely communications regarding parish activities and emergency situations such as snow cancelations, closing of parish buildings, etc.

⇒ Birth dates are also important—during the pandemic we reached out to all our seniors and if we don’t have your date of birth, we aren’t aware you are a senior.

◆ If you use offertory envelopes or online giving, you will be able to receive a year-end statement of your donations for income tax purposes if you are registered.

◆ Registered active members are eligible for sponsor/ godparent validation.

In the first phase of resuming Masses, everyone will have to pre-register for Mass, as we are limited to 100 seats per Mass. We are conscious of the large crowds at our Masses in the past, and out of respect for current/active parishioners we will use our updated database for seating. Therefore, this information will be required as part of attendance at liturgy to meet the required criteria of re-opening.

Please access the registration form on the St. Mary’s website at <https://stmarysballstonspa.org/register-as-a-parishioner> and complete both front and back, and return by: dropping off at the parish office, mailing to the parish office, or by sending via email to ann.mccauley@rcda.org. If you do not have internet access, please call the office and we will gladly mail you a form to update your information. Thank you for your help with this important endeavor!

St. Mary's Church
147 Main Street
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
914-885-7441

Parish Registration Form
All information on this form is confidential and intended for internal use only.

PLEASE RETURN FORM BY MAIL, EMAIL TO: parish@stmarysballstonspa.org OR BY FAX TO 518-885-4883

Last Name: _____

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH COMMUNITY! Please print your responses. Fill out both sides.

M. First: _____ M.I.: _____ Last: _____ Cell: () _____
(The last name the family is registered under)

M. First: _____ M.I.: _____ Last: _____ Cell: () _____

Address: _____ Home phone: () _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: () _____

Mailing Address if different: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Email: _____
Preferred email for communications, we will never disclose your address, contact design and update of the address.

Secondary Email: _____

Is anyone in household and would they like to receive Communications or a Pastoral Visit? Yes No

Were you previously registered in another parish? Yes No

If yes, please name the parish: _____ Diocese: _____

Would You Like: Offertory Envelopes Yes No Online Giving Yes No
Bulletin/ Discern Newspaper Yes No

Signature of person completing this form: _____ Title: _____

Thank you for registering! We hope you will enjoy the list of our parish activities, groups and committees and consider sharing your time and talent with the community.

Household Member Information
Please only enter people who are presently residing at your household or who are temporarily away for college or military.

Adults	Married	Single	Divorced	Widowed	DOB	DOB	Discern Goals Y or N			Please ✓ if to be contacted along with other household members
							Discern	Discern	Discern	
First Name	ML	DOB	DOB	DOB	DOB	DOB	DOB	DOB	DOB	DOB

Dependent Children Living At Home

First Name	Last	DOB	DOB	DOB	DOB	Discern Goals Y or N			
						Discern	Discern	Discern	

Husband's Occupation: _____ Place of Employment: _____ Business Phone: _____
Wife's Occupation: _____ Place of Employment: _____ Business Phone: _____

No more envelopes

Set up a recurring online gift to St. Mary's

Enjoy the ease and convenience of online giving with your own donor account

The image illustrates a three-step process for setting up a recurring online gift. Step 1, 'Make a donation', shows a 'Monthly Recurring' button on a dark interface. Step 2, 'Create your account', shows a browser window with a 'Create a Donor Account' button highlighted. Step 3, 'Manage your gifts', shows a form with 'Amount' set to '\$ 200' and 'Frequency' set to 'Monthly'.

- 1**
Make a donation
To get started with online giving, just submit your first recurring gift.
Go to stmarysballstonspa.org/online-donations from your computer or mobile device and complete the donation form using a current email address and credit card/checking account. Be sure to set the gift type to recurring, complete the remaining information, submit, and presto! Your first gift is sent!
- 2**
Create your account
After you submit your first recurring gift, you will receive an email with instructions to create a donor account.
Follow the steps outlined in the email to create an account you can use to manage your recurring gift.
- 3**
Manage your gifts
Go to stmarysballstonspa.org/payments to log into your account anytime (and from any device) and securely manage your gifts.
You can change the date, frequency, and payment method for a recurring gift, as well as update your user information. Easily pause, cancel, or update your gift amount as needed.

St. Mary's online giving goal is to reach **50%** of the total giving. The online giving is currently at **34%** of the total giving. Thank you to all those who have registered for this easy way to give to St. Mary's. If you haven't already done so, please prayerfully consider how you can join with us in giving generously and regularly to support St. Mary's Church. We are thankful for the spirit of generosity that exists here at St. Mary's because of you. Thank you for living out the Gospel by supporting the ministries of the church.



**From Our Seminarian,
Nathaniel Resila**

When was THE moment? People, understandably, often want to know precisely when I heard the call to become a priest. Perhaps those of you who were called to the vocation of marriage and the family have received similar questions: When did you know you were called to marriage? When did you know which person was “the one”? Though some of you might be able to provide THE moment when your vocation became apparent—like Saint Paul being struck blind—I dare say that many of us hear the voice of God beckoning us much like the Prophet Elijah. In this way, we might speak of not simply one moment, but of many: God often speaks to us in the quiet, unheralded moments of our lives. Even for those of us who have been blessed with a specific miraculous act of God in our lives—just look at any of the miraculous healings discovered in a person’s canonization process—we still have to steadfastly adhere our lives to Christ. This is just as true in those moments when God’s voice comes to us like a radio baseball commentator—loud and clear—as it is when it seems much more muted.

Saint Paul laments to the Romans how many of his fellow Israelites did not accept Jesus Christ as their divine Lord and Savior. Paul is especially sorrowful because he and his fellow Jews were the inheritors of the great Covenant with God, the heirs to the great Patriarchs and Prophets and God’s chosen nation. They were sent to prepare the world for the Messiah but, as Paul painfully acknowledges, many wound up rejecting the One whom God had called them to announce to the world. Though they had been given much in the way of extraordinary “God-moments,” many sadly did not recognize Him when it mattered most. Similarly, Saint Peter certainly had his great “come on down, you’re on The Price is Right!” God-moment in Saint Matthew’s Gospel when he walked on water. No sooner does he experience this extraordinary moment of grace, though, than he loses his faith and falls into the sea! Though Jesus rescues him, He also rebukes Peter with the famous “O ye of little faith, why did you doubt?” line. If we do not actively seek to live our lives totally and completely conformed to Christ and His love in the ordinary, quiet moments of our lives, we will likely not know what to do when the grander moments come along! God wants to speak to and through us each moment, no matter how big or small, so that we can consistently choose Christ in the moments that matter most! May our Blessed Mother help us to courageously and joyfully receive her Divine Son always and everywhere, that we might become great saints and help others do likewise!



We thank you for your sacrificial offering of:

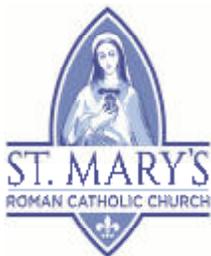
	August 2
Envelopes & Loose	\$ 6,804
On-line Giving	5,422
Total	\$12,226

To cover our weekly expenses, we need \$11,500.

Pope Francis composed a prayer to the Virgin Mary for protection of the world during the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic.

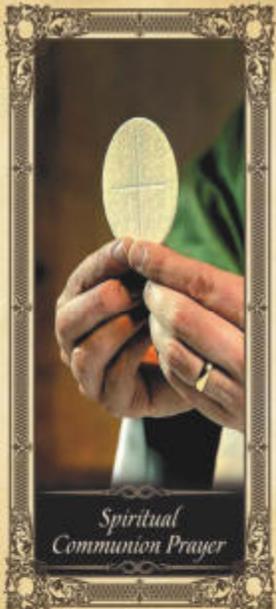
*O Mary, you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you,
Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part
in Jesus’ pain,
keeping your faith firm.
You, Salvation of the
Roman People,
know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy
and to feasting
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the
will of the Father
and to do as we are
told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself
our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.*

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



- Pastor**
Rev. Francis R. Vivacqua
- Deacon**
Ronald Hogan
ronald.hogan@rcda.org
- Pastoral Associate for Administration**
Mary Clarke
mary.clarke@rcda.org
- Pastoral Associate for Parish Life**
Ann McCauley
ann.mccauley@rcda.org
- Receptionist**
Maureen Pelletier
maureen.pelletier@rcda.org
- Youth Minister**
Jake Stomieroski
jake.stomieroski@rcda.org
- Director of Religious Education**
Vicki Schuette
vicki.schuette@rcda.org

**PARISH
STAFF**



**Spiritual
Communion Prayer**

My Jesus, I believe that
You are present in the
Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all
things, and I desire to
receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at
this moment receive You
sacramentally, come at
least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as
if You were already
there and unite myself
wholly to You.
Never permit me to be
separated from You.
Amen.

KE34669

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St. Mary's School prepares for reopening!

*"Give Thanks to the Lord, who is Good,
whose Love Endures Forever."
(1Chronicles 16:34)*

We are excited to welcome our students back to our school building! Our planning team is moving forward in accordance with guidance from the NYS Department of Health and NYSED Office of Non-public Schools to open St. Mary's School on site, in person, for a full schedule in September. We have considered the sizes of our classrooms and are looking at all available spaces in the school to ensure the proper safety measures as outlined in these documents are followed to keep our children and staff safe and healthy.

For those students who are not able to attend in person, or for families who are not comfortable with having their children return on site, we will have a remote learning option.

As always, all planning is done with the children's best interest in mind.



2020 –2021 Registration

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**Tuition assistance and Guardian Angel Scholarships are available for those who qualify.*

Our goal is to continue providing a strong faith-based education that celebrates each child in an environment that is safe for the physical and mental well-being of all. We have a team of teachers working to put together fun activities and themes to support the social-emotional aspects of learning and growing. New processes and procedures put in place will help us to do this and still maintain a kind, loving and nurturing atmosphere.

Our full reopening plan will be posted on our school website at : www.smsbspa.org

"Though your beginning was small, your future will flourish indeed." Job 8:7

Have you discerned offering your child a Catholic Education? Pray about it!

Enrolling now for 2020-2021 school year!

St. Mary's offers Tuition assistance, Diocesan grants and Guardian Angel Scholarships.

Call for a personal tour or stop by for more information!

518-885-7300 office@smsbspa.org
or visit www.smsbspa.org

Principal: Mrs. Lynn Fitzgerald

Our Mission: St. Mary's School provides a quality Catholic elementary education (Pre-school through Grade 5) guided by the Gospel's spirit of love within an atmosphere of academic excellence that nurtures the growth in holiness and wholeness for each child.



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