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
185 Milton Ave. Ballston Spa, NY 12020
Phone: (518) 885-7411
Rel. Ed. 518-884-8479 Fax: (518) 885-6863
smballst@rcda.org

St. Mary's Mission Galway
C/O St. Mary's Ballston Spa
185 Milton Ave. Ballston Spa, NY 12020
Phone: (518) 885-7411
smballst@rcda.org

St. Mary's Church website: https://stmarysballstonspa.org/
St. Mary's Church Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/stmarysballstonspa

September 11th, 2022 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Together, Worshipping the Lord, Forming Disciples and Serving in the Name of Jesus

Established in 1867, Church Dedication Oct. 1897

MASS Intentions

MONDAY – Sept 12
The Most Holy Name of Mary
7:45 AM Special Int. Veterans, Firefighters, police officers, EMTs & first responders

TUESDAY – Sept. 13
St. John Chrysostom, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
5:30PM Special Int. St. Mary's Benefactors

WEDNESDAY– Sept. 14
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
7:45 AM + Robert Empie, Jr.
req. by Family
Special Int. Richard & Brianna Lebrecht
Special Int. Theresa O'Brien
req. by Gary O'Brien

THURSDAY – Sept. 15
Our Lady of Sorrows
7:45 AM + Victoria Gorman
req. by Family
+ Jacqueline Desmarais
req. by Husband, Jack

FRIDAY – Sept. 16
Sts. Cornelius, Pope and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs
No Mass

SATURDAY – Sept. 17

4:00 PM + Angelo and Eugenia Valenti
req. by Basil, Angelo, Mary, Betty
+ Rev. Peter Fiore, OFM
req. by The Lavigne Family
+ John and Marguerite Ciarmiello
req. by daughters

SUNDAY – September 18

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM + Robert Hohenstein
req. by Family

10:00 AM + Jimmy Pittochi
req. by wife
+ Rodger Reese
req. by Charlene Reese
Special Int. Michael & Malorie Pelletier
req. by Dad and Mom

12 Noon Pro Populo

We thank you for your sacrificial offering of:

	Sept. 4	Parish Improvements
Envelopes & Loose	$9,253	$8,335
On-line Giving	4,060	150
Total	**$13,313**	**$8,485**

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

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Since God created human beings, we have struggled to keep our focus on God. We wrestle with the question of "who is God" and foolishly believe some of God's job description can be better completed by us. We wander in different directions, lose our way, think that happiness can be found elsewhere and even construct golden calves to worship. Are we simply too independent or just blatantly stubborn? It's a good question to ask. Even with all of our silliness and distractions, God compassionately and patiently waits. He lets us assert our wills and knows that perhaps one day we will actually wake up and realize how lost we are.

"Since happiness is nothing other than the enjoyment of the highest good and since the highest good is above, no one can be made happy unless he rises above himself, not by an ascent of the body but of the heart. But we cannot rise above ourselves unless a higher power lifts us up … Divine aid is available to those who seek it from their hearts, humbly and devoutly; and this means to sigh for it in this valley of tears, through fervent prayer (St. Bonaveture)." One of the biggest human struggles is discerning what, exactly, is the highest good. We are ordered to achieve it but if we pursue it with clouded vision, we will never truly find it.

One of the greatest obstacles to God's power and love is a stubborn, closed heart of stone. When we are fiercely determined to set our sights elsewhere for happiness or simply ride the popular currents of the day, we will never satisfy the deep ache and longing within. We know that ache well. It is precisely why we scurry all over the place, attempting to find the next best thing to take away its pain. Nothing in the created world ever can or will. We continue our journey. One day, people may wake up and realize that they are grazing in the wrong pasture and putting themselves in harm's way. When this awakening occurs, it will be a most joyous day as we will see God's wide-open arms waiting to receive us. "Lead me, Lord, in your path, and I will enter in your truth. Let my heart rejoice that it may fear your name (St. Bonaventure)." ©LPi

Readings for the week of September 11, 2022

Sun.: There is much joy when the lost are found. Ex 32:7-11, 13-14/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19/1 Tm 1:12-17/ Lk 15:1-32 or 15:1-10

Mon.: Let us, like the centurion, trust the power of Jesus' word. 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33/Ps 40:7-10, 17/Lk 7:1-10

Tues.: We are called to discipleship, and given gifts to serve others. 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31/Ps 100:1-5/Lk 7:11-17

Wed.: The cross is transformed from a sign of death to one of healing and life. Nm 21:4-9/Ps 78:1-2, 34-38/ Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

Thurs.: With the help of God's grace, we are commissioned and equipped to spread the Gospel. 1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 28/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Fri.: Because Christ was raised from the dead, we have hope that we, too, shall be raised. 1 Cor 15:12-20/ Ps 17:1, 6-8 and 15/Lk 8:1-3

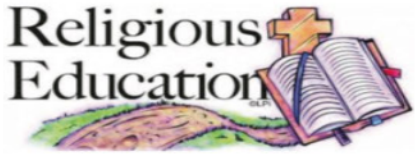
Sat.: Let us cultivate a generous and good heart. 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49/Ps 56:10-14/Lk 8:4-15

Sun.: The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones. Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-8/1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

Religious Education Class Registration

Sept. 13th 5:30-7:30pm

For registration information, please visit our website https://stmarysballstonspa.org/faith-formation.
You can register by sending forms and a copy of your child's Baptismal certificate to vicki.schuette@rcda.org. Please email Vicki or call 518-884-8479 with questions or if you are interested becoming a catechist in our program.



Attention Catechists and ALL Volunteers!

The weekend of **September 17 and & 18** is set aside for you!
Please plan on attending one of the Masses.
There will be a commissioning of Catechists and blessing of both Volunteers and Catechists.
Hospitality following each Mass

Please join us in showing our appreciation to Catechists and Volunteers for all that they do!

If you are interested in learning more about or volunteering for a particular ministry, please visit our website https://stmarysballstonspa.org/ and click: Ministries.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Consider giving someone in need of prayers and support a handwoven prayer shawl. The shawls are free of charge, donation greatly appreciated to help defray the cost of yarn. To request a prayer shawl, fill out a request form and you will be contacted when the shawl is ready for pick up. For more information contact Dianne Tarity (518) 369-5753 or Joan Ottaway (518) 309-4177.

We will begin Inquiry Sessions soon for those adults interested in joining the Catholic Church. For more information call Rebecca at the Parish Center at 518-885-7411

RCIA

Celebrating our Parish Family
Thank you St. Mary's Parishioners!

Reverend Francis Vivacqua invites you to the
125th Anniversary of the Church
and
155th Anniversary of the Parish

Friday, October 14, 2022
5:30-8 PM Celebration
Reception/Open House—wine and hors devours
in the School Gym and Cafeteria, Adults only, RSVP

Hospitality after all the Weekend Masses

Saturday, October 15, 2022 4PM Benefactors of St. Mary's Church

Sunday, October 16, 2022 8 AM Mass

Sunday, October 16, 2022 10 AM Mass of Thanksgiving

Sunday, October 16, 2022 12 Noon Mass Deceased Priests & Pastors

Monday, October 17, 2022 7:45 AM Mass Deceased parishioners

There is no right way to grieve but letting yourself grieve is always right.

St. Mary's Bereavement Support Group will be meeting in person

Oct. 4th 4-5PM

in the Parish Center.

This group will offer emotional and spiritual support for anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one through death. The group size will be limited to 8 people, to secure a spot please call the parish office at 518-885-7411.

Volunteers Needed for the Martha & Mary Ministry

The Martha and Mary Ministry reaches out to our parish family to provide spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Volunteers can serve from womb to tomb, whether it's support over the phone, visitation support, or prayer support, you can help grow the community that deepens our relationship with God. Modeling Martha and Mary, our volunteers work in pairs. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Mary Ann Sutton 518-858-7589

Join For Hospitality

Please join us for Hospitality after the 8AM and 10AM Mass, 1st and 3rd Sundays of the Month. We are looking for volunteers to help each week with set up, clean up and bringing snacks. Call the office at 518-885-7411 if this is something you are interested in helping with. We welcome all new parishioners who would like to join our community. If you have made the parish your spiritual home but have not yet registered, please do.

St Mary's Homebound Ministry

Dear Parish family, if you are unable to attend Mass (or know of someone who cannot) call St. Mary's Homebound Ministry to continue receiving the Most Holy Eucharist, and for spiritual care at your place of residence. We also need volunteers and EMEs. Call Caterina Lucke 518-836-1177 or email parishcaresmbs@gmail.com.

Join us for
Holy Hour —
Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Wed. Sept. 14th 6-7pm

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Enrich Your Faith

First Saturday Rosary Devotion
Saturday, October 1 at 3:00 pm

As we pray to the Mother of God and Our Mother in Heaven. We will be meditating on the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary. Mary promised us: "Whoever shall recite the Rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its sacred mysteries shall never be conquered by misfortune. God will not chastise him in His justice, he shall not perish by an unprovided death; if he be just he shall remain in the grace of God, and become worthy of eternal life."

Novena to Miraculous Medal and Holy Mass

Tuesdays at 5:30pm
Confession after Mass

Our Lady Queen of Peace Prayer Group

Meets every other Tuesday night after Mass — Sept. 20, and Oct. 4th, etc. The Rosary is our refuge and Mary, The Mother of God, is our help at all times of our lives. Sr. Lucia, a seer from the apparitions of Fatima, stated "there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary." *All are welcome!*

Message of Our Lady of Medjugorje: August 25, 2022

"Dear children! God permits me to be with you and to lead you on the way of peace, so that through personal peace, you build peace in the world. I am with you and intercede for you before my Son Jesus, that He may give you a strong faith and hope in a better future, which I desire to build up with you. You be courageous and do not be afraid, because God is with you. Thank you for having responded to my call."

St. Mary's Mission, Galway, NY

Sunday Mass 9:30 AM

MASS INTENTIONS

September 11th — + Renee Kolasa
req. by Bernie Clancy

September 4th — + Timothy Baumgartner
req. by Valenza Family

For Mass Intentions, please call the office.

We thank you for your sacrificial offering of:

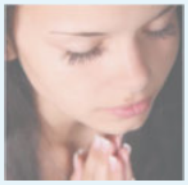
	Sept. 4	Parish Improvements
Envelopes & Loose	$961	$292
On-line Giving	40	0
Total	**$1,001**	**$292**

To cover our weekly expenses, we need $1,000.

Liturgy Lesson 60

Lead Us Not into Temptation

"Virtue is nothing without the trial of temptation, for there is no conflict without an enemy, no victory without strife." These powerful words of Pope St. Leo the Great help put into perspective this petition in the Our Father. God would never lead us into temptation we could not overcome. Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil, but He overcame his temptations. Pope Benedict XVI explains, "Thus, it is not only after [Jesus'] death, but already by his death and during his whole life, that Jesus "descends into hell," as it were, into the domain of our temptations and defeats, in order to take us by the hand and carry us upward." Jesus sets the example for us, as did Job in the Old Testament. Job was stripped of everything, his friends and possessions, yet he remained faithful to God. Pope Benedict XVI elaborates that what we are praying is, "I know that I need trials so that my nature can be purified. When you decide to send me these trials, when you give evil some room to maneuver, as you did with Job, then please remember that my strength goes only so far. Don't overestimate my capacity. Don't set too wide the boundaries within which I may be tempted, and be close to me with your protecting hand when it becomes too much for me."



Seven Sister Apostolate

One Holy Hour
One Priest
Each Week
One Heart of Prayer

"In strengthening the priest you strengthen the whole church… Strengthen the priest and you strengthen the whole foundation, you strengthen everything in the Church."
-Fr. Gerald Fitzgerald, S.P. Founder

For more information contact Mona Neubert at MNSaratoga@aol.com or visit www.sevensistersapostolate.org

Make a Difference—Become a Hospice Volunteer

Make friendly visits, provide companionship and practical support for Hospice patients and their families. The Community Hospice of Saratoga/Washington/ Amsterdam Counties have openings in our next volunteer training class. A virtual Volunteer Training will be held in October 2022. For more information about becoming a volunteer please call 518-581-0800 or email mreinhardt@communityhospice.org.

ST. MARY'S
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Office Hours Mon.-Fri. 9:00 am—3:00pm

Sacrament of Baptisms are held the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month after the 12PM Mass. Baptism Preparation Class for first-time parents is scheduled the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Please call the parish office at 518-885-7411. See the Baptism Register form on our website at www.stmarysballstonspa.org/baptism

Sacrament of Matrimony — To be considered a parishioner at St. Mary's you must be registered as a parishioner for at least one year, raised in the parish, or have parents or grandparents who are registered parishioners. Weddings must be booked a **minimum of six months** in advance for marriage prep purposes. Please call Allison at the parish center, 518-885-7411.

Mass Schedule
Mon. Wed. and Thurs. 7:45AM Tues. 5:30PM Sat. Vigil 4:00PM
Sunday 8:00AM, 10:00AM, 12:00Noon

Reconciliation (Confession)
Tues. after 5:30PM Mass & Saturday 3:00-3:45PM, or by appointment

PARISH STAFF

Pastor
Rev. Francis R. Vivacqua

Deacon
Ronald Hogan ronald.hogan@rcda.org

Administration
Pastoral Assoc. Admin/Accountant
Mary Clarke
mary.clarke@rcda.org

Administration
Eva Loucks
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Susan Spagnoletti
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Vicki Schuette
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Youth minister & family coordinator
Rebecca Cronin
rebecca.cronin@rcda.org

Director of Music
Allison Mendenhall
allison.mendenhall@rcda.org

St. Mary's Parish School
Lynn Fitzgerald, Principal
office@smsbspa.org

RCIA Coordinator
Jeff Fortman

Requesting A Mass Cards.
If you would like to request a Mass, stop in at the Parish Center or call the office at 518-885-7411 Mon.—Fri. 9am – 3pm, the offering is $15.00

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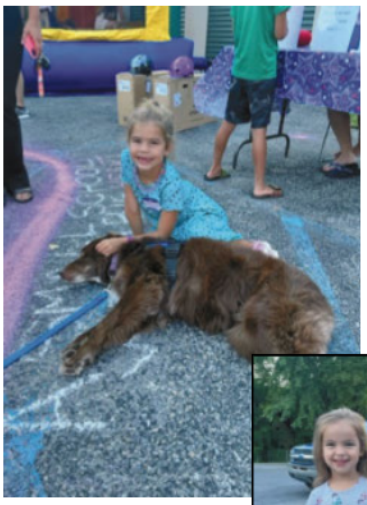
St. Mary's School

had a perfect night for Popsicles on the Playground! Families came out to celebrate the upcoming school year with a sweet treat, playground games, and a bouncy house. Mrs. Fitzgerald and Mr. Walsh personally tested the bounce house before everyone arrived! We also held a free raffle to give away two children's bikes and helmets! It was wonderful to see so many of our students, families, and teachers excited for the first day of school! We are praying for a wonderful new school year!



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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.

St. Mary's Parish website: stmarysballstonspa.org

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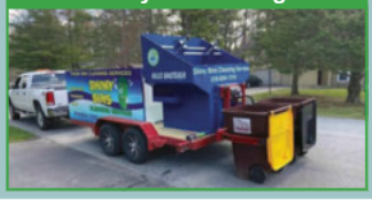

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