

*Welcome to St. Mary's Church, Clayton
& the Catholic Community of Alexandria, Alexandria Bay*



January 2, 2022

Epiphany of the Lord

Deacon Neil Fuller

Pastoral Life Coordinator

Phone: 315-405-6910

email: pastoralassociate@stmarysclayton.org

Rev. Arthur J. LaBaff

Sacramental Minister

St. Mary's Rectory: 315-686-3398

Rev. Douglas G. Comstock

Pastor Emeritus

St. Cyril's Rectory: 315-482-2670

Deacon Assistants

Bruce Daugherty
Gary Frank

Bernie Slate
Joel Walentuk

Parish Office

Maribeth McFadden, Secretary

email: reception@stmarysclayton.org

Mailing Address: 521 James Street, Clayton, NY 13624

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm

Religious Education

St. Mary's: Jennifer Barton 315-686-2638

email: religioused@stmarysclayton.org

St. Cyril's: Trina Henry 315-482-2252

email: thenry2252@gmail.com

Buildings/Grounds & Cemeteries, Jason Montondo

Call the Parish Office 315-686-3398

Websites:

www.stmarysclayton.org

www.stcyrils.org

MASS SCHEDULE:



SATURDAY, January 1

10:00 (SC) All of Our Parishioners
4:00 (SM) People of the Parishes

SUNDAY, January 2, Epiphany of the Lord

9:00 (SM) Rick Gifford by the People of St. John's
10:30 (SC) John Durand by John & Patty Kendall & family

MONDAY, January 3

8:00 (SC) Sally Palumbo by Kathy & Tony Folino
9:00 (SM) Communion Service

TUESDAY, January 4

8:00 (SC) Don & Blanche Melisko
9:00 (SM) Communion Service

WEDNESDAY, January 5

8:00 (SC) Harrison George by the Estate of Emma George
9:00 (SM) Leonard O'Brien by Jim Titus

THURSDAY, January 6

8:00 (SC) James Picard by his wife, Ann Marie
9:00 (SM) Karen Hungerford by Dianne Leavery & family

FRIDAY, January 7

8:00 (SC) Faithful Departed
9:00 (SM) Veronica Bogenschutz by Harv & Sherry Hurley

SATURDAY, January 8

4:00 (SM) People of the Parishes
5:30 (SC) Tom Bradley by Jeanne Snow & family

SUNDAY, January 9, Baptism of the Lord

9:00 (SM) Patricia & William Streets by their daughter
10:30 (SC) Guilio Rubino by Peg & Dan Wallo

St. Mary's Booster Club: Winners of the second weekly drawing on December 17 are Mary Natali, Maria Schueler, and Diane Morinigo. Tickets are still available for this Booster Club. Ticket cost is \$15 which enters you in weekly drawings and the dinner on February 12. The Booster Club is a fun, social event that supports St. Mary's parish. To join, volunteer, or for questions, contact Donna (778-8672), Tim (778-2484), or the parish office (686-3398).

January 2, Epiphany of the Lord

The Lord Calls: "Opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts." Are you beginning to see your life as a gift to be given to the Lord as a priest, deacon, religious sister or brother? Talk to Fr. Art LaBaff, Fr. Chris Carrara at ccarrara@rcdony.org / 315-393-2920, or Sister Mary Eamon Lyng at elyng@rcdony.org / 315-393-2920, ext. 1345.

*Our soul is waiting for the Lord,
The Lord is our help and our shield.
In him do our hearts find joy. (Ps 33:20-21)*

2021 Donations: Tax rules require that donations to your parish for 2021 be received by December 31. Donations received January 1 or after will be applied to the 2022 tax year. Letters acknowledging your 2021 donations will be mailed by January 31 by bulk mail. *Bulk mail is not forwarded to your winter address.*

Weekly Giving

Thank you for your continued support.

| <u>St. Mary's</u> | This Year | Last Year |
|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Envelopes | \$ 3,850.18 | \$ 1,837.00 |
| Plate | \$ 296.07 | \$ 276.00 |
| Fuel | \$ 22.00 | \$ 1,085.00 |
| Religious Retirement | \$ 155.00 | |
| Christmas | \$ 605.00 | |
| <i>November Electronic Giving:</i> | | <i>\$ 4,688.00</i> |

| <u>Alexandria</u> | This Year | Last Year |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Envelopes | \$ 1,209.00 | |
| Plate | 100.00 | |
| Electronic | 289.32 | |
| Total | \$ 1,598.32 | \$ 5,255.59 |
| Fuel | \$ 360.00 | Fuel Goal |
| Fuel to Date | \$ 16,731.65 | \$19,357.00 |
| Tower | \$ 550.00 | |
| Immaculate Conception | \$ 249.00 | |
| Christmas | \$ 1,535.00 | |
| Religious Retirement | \$ 190.00 | |
| Christmas Flowers | \$ 125.00 | |

Please consider electronic giving...a safe and consistent way to support your parish.
Sign up at www.stmarysclayton.org or www.stcyrils.org or contact the parish office.

From the Parish Life Coordinator:

We are extremely blessed by those who are willing to share their time and talent. Many thanks to those who decorated our churches, to our music ministers, liturgical ministers, our deacons, and especially our priests, Fr. Comstock and Fr. LaBaff.

I would also like to thank Bob and Angie Meeks for donating hay for the Nativity scene at St. Mary's and for the assistance of Reimann's Department Store.

Please know I wish you all a very Merry Christmas Season and a Happy New Year..."Behold, our Savior has been born, He is Christ and Lord".

Did You Know that after Conception?

- 18 days a baby's heart begins to beat;
- 43 days brain coordinates movement;
- 7 weeks a baby can hiccup;
- 8 weeks organs can function;
- 9 weeks has permanent, individual fingerprints;
- 10 weeks can feel pain;
- 12 weeks a baby can smile, suck their thumb, and make a fist.

Over 2 million couples wait to adopt – including children of all races and those with special needs. Any textbook will confirm what every doctor knows: Life Begins At Conception.

Pray and work for an end to abortion.

Pray to the angel God has appointed to guard you when you are tempted. Only important people in this world get bodyguards, but each of us is so important to God that He has given each of us a Heavenly soul-guard.

Peter Kreeft

2022 Calendars are available at the entrances of our churches for you or a loved one. The calendars at St. Cyril's are thoughtfully provided to you by Costello Funeral Service. The calendars at St. Mary's are thoughtfully provided by Cummings Funeral Services. Thank you to the Costello and Cummings families.

Deacon's Corner

by Dc. Joel Walentuk

After Mass one day this past month a parishioner asked if I may bless his gift. It was a plaque that mounts on a door post that read, "God's Blessings Rest upon this House and all who Dwell within; May all who enter, too be Blessed." I was happy to oblige.

It is The Epiphany of the Lord today! We Catholics have a tradition that dates back centuries. On this feast day we may bless our own homes by taking blessed chalk and writing above the door entrance.

20 C + M + B 22

This blessing signifies a Christ filled home for those who dwell and those who visit. "C," "M," and "B" represents the three Wise Men, Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar who visited Jesus' home over two thousand years ago. The numbers, 20 and 22, represent the year of our Lord.

The following prayer may be said when performing this blessing:

Let us pray. Oh Lord, Almighty God, bless this house that it may become a shelter of health, charity, humility, goodness, obedience to the commandments and thanksgiving to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Upon this house and those who dwell there, may your blessing remain forever through Christ our Lord.

Please consider blessing your homes this year and carry on the tradition. We have blessed chalk in the vestibule of St. Cyril's.

May God bless and keep you strong in your faith, hope and love.

Peace is that deep, interior stillness that tells you that no matter what kind of catastrophe might be happening in your life or in the world, everything is going to be OK.—Dr. Gregory Bottaro, *The Mindful Catholic*

Our Gifts to the Lord: The twelfth century abbot and bishop Saint Bruno of Segni would reflect in a sermon for the Epiphany, "We offer the Lord gold when we shine in his sight with the light of heavenly wisdom. We offer him frankincense when we send up pure prayer before him, and myrrh when, mortifying our flesh with its vices and passions by self-control, we carry the cross behind Jesus."

The Office of New Evangelization will be running a new Brown-bag Chat starting Wednesday, January 5 from noon-1pm via Zoom. We will use the Revive Parishes Series by Bishop Andrew Cozzens on *The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church*. We anticipate running the series in seven sessions where we will watch a video together via zoom and then have an informal discussion. To join, sign up at www.rcdony.org/brownbag. For more information, contact Marika Donders at mdonders@rcdony.org

Religious Ed News

St. Mary's, Clayton

Jenny Barton 315-686-2638

e-mail: religioused@stmarysclayton.org

K-3 classes will meet on January 9th after 9am Mass.

Catholic Community of Alexandria

Trina Henry 315-482-2252

e-mail: thenry2252@gmail.com

Grades 1 through 6 will meet next on Sunday, January 9th after 10:30 Mass in St. Cyril's Church hall to review student progress, answer your questions, and hand out the next month's materials.

Pre-requisites for Sacramental Preparation
(First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation)

1. The child should be baptized.
2. The child and parents should be attending Mass regularly.
3. The child is expected to be registered and regularly participating in religious education classes in both the current and previous years and will continue to attend after receiving the sacrament.

The Work of Christmas Begins

When the carols have been stilled,
When the star-topped tree is taken down,
When family and friends are gone home,
When we are back to our schedules

The work of Christmas begins:

- To welcome the refugee,
- To heal a broken planet,
- To feed the hungry,
- To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear,
- To share our gifts,
- To seek justice and peace for all people,
- To bring Christ's light to the world.

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

St. Cyril's

5pm Friday, Dec 31
10am Saturday, Jan 1

St. Mary's

4pm Friday, Dec 31

January 2 Weekend Masses

St. Cyril's

No Anticipated Mass
10:30am Sunday, Jan 2

St. Mary's

4pm Saturday, Jan 1
9am Sunday, Jan 2

The Holy Family Prayer

Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us unity, peace, and mutual love.

Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

Joseph, foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement and anxiety.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

Music Ministry Notes:

St. Mary's, Clayton

If you are interested in joining the choir, contact Corrine Willis at corrinewillis@gmail.com or 315-221-3689.

St. Cyril's, Alexandria Bay

The St. Cyril's Choir gathers at 9:45 for practice before 10:30 Mass. We love new members. For questions, contact Becky Rose at becky.a.rose@gmail.com or 315-778-8419.

Thank you for wearing a mask! Current New York State regulations require all person over 2 years of age to wear a mask in public places, including worship sites, *regardless of vaccination status*. Extra masks and hand sanitizers are available at church entrances.

