

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

**January 1, 2023**

**Mary, Mother of God**



**MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

And Mary kept all these things,  
reflecting on them in her heart. - Lk 2:19

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD, ©LPI

**Weekend Masses**

**St. Mary's, Clayton**  
Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.  
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

**St. Cyril's, Alexandria Bay**  
Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.  
Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

**St. Francis Xavier, Redwood**  
Memorial Weekend to Columbus Day  
**Tabernacle, Thousand Island Park**  
July 2 to September 4

**Deacon Neil Fuller**  
Pastoral Life Coordinator  
Phone: 315-405-6910  
email: nfuller@rcdony.org

**Rev. Arthur J. LaBaff**  
Sacramental Minister

**Rev. Douglas G. Comstock**  
Pastor Emeritus

**Deacon Assistants**

Bruce Daugherty                      Bernie Slate  
Gary Frank                              Joel Walentuk

**Websites:**

[www.stmarysclayton.org](http://www.stmarysclayton.org)

**Parish Office**

Phone: 315-686-3398

Maribeth McFadden, Secretary  
email: [claytonsec@rcdony.org](mailto:claytonsec@rcdony.org)

**Mailing Address:** 521 James Street,  
Clayton, NY 13624

**Office Hours:** Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm

**Buildings/Grounds & Cemeteries**

Jason Montondo

Call the Parish Office 315-686-3398

**Religious Education**

**St. Mary's:** Jennifer Barton 315-686-2638  
email: [claytondre@rcdony.org](mailto:claytondre@rcdony.org)

**St. Cyril's:** Trina Henry 315-482-2252  
email: [thenry2252@gmail.com](mailto:thenry2252@gmail.com)

**Weekday & Holy Day Masses**

See page 2 or call the Parish Office

**Reconciliation**

3:00–3:30pm Saturdays at St. Mary's  
Saturdays after 5:30pm Mass at St. Cyril's  
and by appointment

**First Friday Holy Hour**

after 9:00 a.m. Mass on the first  
Friday of the month at St. Mary's

*No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church;  
No matter what your current family or marital situation;  
No matter what your past or present religious affiliation;  
No matter what your own personal history, age, background, race, or color;  
No matter what your own self-image or esteem;  
You are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved, and respected  
at St. Mary's, St. Cyril's, and St. Francis Xavier Catholic Churches.*

# MASS SCHEDULE



## SATURDAY, December 31, Anticipated Vigil

4:00 (SM) Chester D. Burns by Cab & Jan Burns & family

5:30 (SC) Ginny Garza by Penny Kernehan

## SUNDAY, January 1, Mary, Mother of God

9:00 (SM) People of the Parishes

9:30 (SC) Joe Ojiba by his wife, Carol

## MONDAY, January 2

8:00 (SC) John Bellman by Mark Wolf

9:00 (SM) David Brabant by his family

## TUESDAY, January 3

8:00 (SC) Don & Blanche Melisko

9:00 (SM) Dominic Lynch, Sr. by Fran Lynch

## WEDNESDAY, January 4

8:00 (SC) James Pickard by his wife, Ann Marie

9:00 (SM) Edward L. LaRue, Jr. by Betsy & Jim Mostrom & Hesler family

## THURSDAY, January 5

8:00 (SC) Peggy Gove by Mike & Barb Bresnahan

9:00 (SM) Liturgy of the Word with Communion

## FRIDAY, January 6

8:00 (SC) Faithful Departed

9:00 (SM) Liturgy of the Word with Communion

## SATURDAY, January 7, Anticipated Vigil

4:00 (SM) Al O'Neill by Marcia & family

5:30 (SC) Kalman & Pauline Acs by Debra & Dwayne Trickey

## SUNDAY, January 8, Epiphany of the Lord

9:00 (SM) Patricia & William Streets by their daughter

9:30 (SC) Dominic Giordano by Tim & Dianne Kring

### Reconciliation

3:00–3:30pm Saturdays at St. Mary's  
Saturdays 4:45-5:15 at St. Cyril's  
and by appointment at either parish

**Catechism In A Year** podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz will begin January 1, 2023. Free on all streaming devices. Learn your faith in an easy way. For more info and to sign up, visit [www.ascensionpress.com](http://www.ascensionpress.com).

## January 1, Mary, Mother of God

"God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts." Do you feel the Spirit of Jesus prompting you to love and serve Him as a priest, deacon, or in the consecrated life? Contact Fr. Art LaBaff, Fr. Chris Carrara at [ccarrara@rcdony.org](mailto:ccarrara@rcdony.org) / 315-393-2920, or Sister Mary Eamon Lyng at [elyng@rcdony.org](mailto:elyng@rcdony.org) / 315-393-2920, ext. 1345.

**2023 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.



## Weekly Giving

*Thank you for your continued support.*

**December 18, 2022**

<u>St. Mary's</u>	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 4,379.17	\$ 3,850.18
Plate	\$ 431.00	\$ 296.07
Fuel	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,008.00
Flower Memorials	\$ 70.00	
Christmas	\$ 100.00	
Retirement for Religious	\$ 31.00	

<u>Alexandria</u>	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 2,072.00	\$ 1,209.00
Plate	\$ 170.00	\$ 100.00
Electronic	\$ 603.22	\$ 300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,845.22</b>	
Fuel	\$ 2,197.00	Fuel Goal
<b>Fuel to Date</b>	<b>\$ 14,678.86</b>	<b>\$33,010.00</b>
Flower Memorials	\$ 97.00	
Religious Retirement	\$ 70.00	
Christmas	\$ 605.00	
Tower	\$ 100.00	

Please consider electronic giving...a safe and consistent way to support your parish.

Sign up at [www.stmarysclayton.org](http://www.stmarysclayton.org) or [www.stcyrils.org](http://www.stcyrils.org) or contact the parish office.

**From the Parish Life Coordinator:**

This weekend we begin a new year according to the secular calendar. And even though much of the rest of the world has begun tearing down the Christmas decorations, the Church continues to celebrate the Christmas season. The Gospel for this Feast of Mary, Mother of God is the account of the shepherds traveling to Bethlehem to give homage to the Child Jesus.

How did the shepherds know where to find the child Jesus? In those days, there was no GPS system to guide them on their trip. However, the shepherds did have a brilliant star to lead them to Jesus. After worshipping the Child Jesus, the shepherds departed and spread "the good news that a child had been born." Interestingly enough, no one questioned the shepherds' announcement; rather, everyone who heard the announcement were filled with joy and amazement.

One of the most profound statements in this Gospel is: "Mary kept all these things in her heart and pondered them." What is in your heart that you ponder? It may be an event, occasion, or encounter that brought you great joy. Or perhaps you may reflect on a difficulty or challenge in your life. In today's fast-paced world, we need to choose to deliberately ponder and reflect on our lives. Pondering is not always easy. When we are hurting or feeling alone, the last thing we may want to do is to reflect on our pain or loss. It may be more comfortable to simply numb the pain. Yet God invites us to ponder our gifts, our joys, and our sorrows.

At various times Mary experienced a gamut of emotions in her life: from great joy to confusion as well as great sorrow or loss. Mary deeply experienced the joys and sorrows that life holds. Pray to Mary; her presence and strength may gift us with a peace that will calm our hearts and our minds.

**St. Mary's Booster Club:** Drawing winners for the 3rd drawing on December 23 are Diane Morinigo, Patricia Zicari, and Richard Comins. Tickets are still available. Please return your ticket(s) as drawings have begun. The dinner is February 11, 2023. To join, volunteer, or for questions, contact Donna (778-8672), Tim (778-2484), or the parish office (686-3398).

**Deacon's Corner**

by Dc. Neil Fuller

This Christmas was certainly not like any other Christmas. For most of us, we hunkered down at home and listened to the wind blow and anxiously awaited an end to the Christmas Blizzard of 2022. No one was able to get out and many of us spent the day alone. But I guess the most difficult thing was, we were not able to attend Mass. I never in my life would have believed Christmas Mass would be canceled. Canceling Mass for our parishes was a decision made by me along with the advice of our two resident priests. It was a decision not made lightly and in the end we believed it was in the best interest of everyone to cancel our Christmas celebration. First and foremost, there was a travel ban in effect throughout Jefferson County and it would have been irresponsible to encourage people to leave the safety of their homes to attend Mass. It was a great disappointment to many of us who prepared for this celebration.

In a way, it was a lesson in humility, despite our grandiose plans we are subject to God's will. He gave us a day to reflect on the birth of our savior, to appreciate how fortunate we are to be warm and safe. He gave us time to appreciate our public servants who opened their facilities to those stranded due to the weather, for opening up our roads and restoring our power. He makes us grateful for the ability to have Mass when conditions are more favorable and to be with our families and friends to enjoy sharing a meal and exchanging gifts. How appreciative I was to be home with my wife as we prayed together during a televised Christmas Mass celebrated by our Bishop Terry LaValley. His homily was so beautiful and appreciated. And finally, I heard from so many of you on Christmas Day through phone calls, texts, messenger, and emails. It was so wonderful to celebrate with you.

Thank You and May God Bless You in the New Year.

**Lay all care** for the future, confidently, in God's hands, and allow yourself to be led by him entirely, as a child would. Then you can be sure not to lose your way.

—**St. Edith Stein (Teresa Benedicta of the Cross)** from the book *Communion with Christ*

**“With us” is the gift God gave us on the first Christmas.** He wants us to know how much he loves us. Here are just some of the situations in which God is with us, according to his Word:

**When we’re afraid:** *“Be strong and of good courage; be not frightened, neither be dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”* – Joshua 1:9

**When we’re in trouble:** *“Be strong and of good courage, do not fear or be in dread of them: for it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.”* – Deuteronomy 31:6

**When we feel abandoned or weak:** *“I have chosen you and not cast you off; fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”* – Isaiah 41:9b-10

**When we’re persecuted:** *“The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has cast out your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear evil no more.”* – Zephaniah 3:15

**When we’re sad or near death:** *“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.”* – Psalm 23:4

Not only does he promise to be with us, **we can’t get away from him and no one and nothing can get between us!**

*“Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend to heaven, thou art there! If I make my bed in Sheol, thou art there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there thy hand shall lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.”* – Psalm 139:7-10

*“For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* – Romans 8:38-39

*“I am with you always, to the close of the age”* Jesus told his disciples in Matthew 28:20. And he has said, *“I will never leave you nor forsake you!”* (Dt 31:8)

May we always experience God’s presence in a very special way.

## **Mass Time Changes for St. Cyril's**

On the Sundays of January 15, 22, and 29, the Mass at St. Cyril's will be at 10:30am...and not at 9:30am.

Please make note of this and share this information with others who attend.

**2022 Donations:** Tax rules require that donations to your parish for 2022 be received by December 31. Donations received January 1 or after will be applied to the 2023 tax year. Letters acknowledging your 2022 donations will be mailed by January 31 by bulk mail. *Bulk mail is not forwarded to your winter address.*

### **Religious Ed News:**

#### **St. Mary's Parish**

Jenny Barton 315-686-2638  
e-mail: claytondre@rcdony.org

Classes resume January 8. Wishing you a Blessed Christmas Season and a Happy New Year!

#### **Catholic Community of Alexandria**

Trina Henry 315-482-2252  
e-mail: thenry2252@gmail.com

Religious Ed is a home-study program. If you have questions, please contact me.

### **Music Ministry Notes:**

#### **St. Mary's, Clayton**

It seems like the end of one year and the beginning of a new year is a good time to appreciate our blessings. So at this time I would like to say thank you to all those who help make the music ministry so wonderful. Your voices, your support and encouragement, and your faithfulness to enhancing our liturgies with your gift of music is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

If interested in sharing your voice, contact Corrine Willis at corrinefwillis@gmail.com or 315-221-3689.

#### **St. Cyril's, Alexandria Bay**

The St. Cyril's Choir gathers at 8:45 for practice before 9:30 Mass. For questions, contact Becky Rose at 315-778-8419 or becky.a.rose@gmail.com.