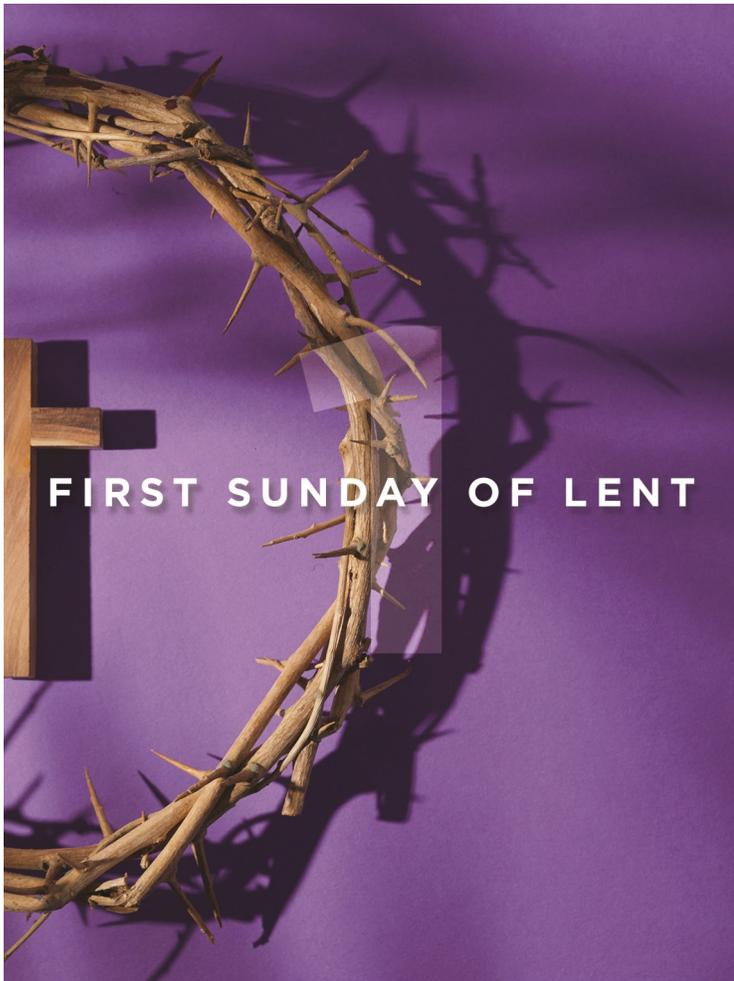


Welcome to St. Mary's Church, Clayton & the Catholic Community of Alexandria, Alexandria Bay



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 26, 2023

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 www.stcyrils.org

Parish Office

Phone: 315-686-3398
Maribeth McFadden, Secretary
email: claytonsec@rcdony.org
Mail Address: 521 James Street, Clayton, NY 13624
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Religious Education

St. Mary's: Jennifer Barton 315-686-2638
email: claytondre@rcdony.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

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

Prayer Line

315-686-3970 or smsjprayerline@gmail.com

*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, February 25, Anticipated Vigil

4:00 (SM) Jean Marie Brenner by Megan Klosner

5:30 (SC) Maria Nunn Beshaw by her cousins

SUNDAY, February 26, 1st Sunday of Lent

9:00 (SM) People of the Parishes

9:30 (SC) Dean Honeywell by Richard Kavanaugh & family

MONDAY, February 27

8:00 (SC) Harry Granger

9:00 (SM) Miriam Bowes by Dc. Bernie Slate

TUESDAY, February 28

9:00 (SM) John Durand by Dc. Bernie Slate

5:15 (SC) Barbara Draper by Deborah & Dwayne Trickey

WEDNESDAY, March 1

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

5:30 (SM) Fred LaClair by Marcia O'Neill

THURSDAY, March 2

9:00 (SM) Anthony Winter by Toni & Barry Kukowski

5:15 (SC) Vince Hartman by Bob & Cindy Nelson

FRIDAY, March 3

8:00 (SC) Faithful Departed

9:00 (SM) Lawrence Williams by John & Dorothy Hostovich

SATURDAY, March 4, Anticipated Vigil

4:00 (SM) Peyton Morse by David & Lynette Robinson

5:30 (SC) Dorothy Beach by Dc. Bernie Slate

SUNDAY, March 5, 2nd Sunday of Lent

9:00 (SM) People of the Parishes

9:30 (SC) Those who have no one to pray for them by Two Parishioners

Each one of us has a personal and unique relationship with God. For this relationship to grow and flourish, we have to spend quality time alone with him, just the two of us.

—Fr. John Bartunek, *A Quiet Place*

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

February 26, 1st Sunday of Lent

Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days of prayer and fasting. Are you open to being led by the Holy Spirit into the state in life God has prepared for you? If you are considering a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, contact Fr. Art LaBaff, Fr. Chris Carrara at ccarra@rcdony.org / 315-393-2920, or Sister Mary Eamon Lyng at elyng@rcdony.org / 315-393-2920, ext. 1345.



Birthday Card Shower: St. Cyril's parishioner, Shirley Irwin will celebrate her 90th birthday on March 3rd. Help her celebrate with a birthday card. Her family is hoping she will receive a 'shower' of at least 90 cards. You can mail a card to Shirley Irwin, 1005 Ira East Woods Avenue, Grapevine, TX 76051.

Weekly Giving

Thank you for your continued support.

<u>St. Mary's</u>	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 1,346.19	\$ 692.00
Plate	\$ 344.00	\$ 331.00
Fuel	\$ 10.00	\$ 1.00
Respect Life	\$ 25.00	

<u>Alexandria</u>	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 903.00	\$ 974.00
Plate	\$ 254.00	\$ 814.00
Electronic	\$ 593.22	\$ 385.00
Total	\$ 1,750.22	
Fuel	\$ 170.00	Fuel Goal
Fuel to Date	\$ 16,815.13	\$33,010.00
Tower	\$ 400.00	
Memorial Donations	\$ 300.00	
East & Central Europe	\$ 170.00	

Donate on-line. It's quick and easy. Scan the code below to go to the parishes' giving page.



St. Mary's Church
Clayton



Catholic Community
of Alexandria

From the Parish Life Coordinator:

Today, in the midst of a cold dreary winter season, God calls us to see ourselves as we really are – our strengths and our virtues, our flaws and our sins. A time to see where are we tempted to deviate from our call to discipleship. As we allow ourselves to be vulnerable before God, we see ourselves in the clear light of a winter sunrise. And like Jesus, we look to the word of God for our nourishment on this journey – a word of mercy, forgiveness, and reconciliation. No matter how deep our guilt or shame, God's unconditional love is so much deeper.

As we enter this season of Lent, a time to anticipate Jesus' death on a cross and His resurrection, let us take some time to reflect on our faith by removing some of the distractions that obstruct Jesus' light and to take advantage of the sacramentals, and presentations being offered during this most holy season.

**St. Mary's
Booster Club**

The next dinner will be May 20. Tickets are now available. Tickets are \$15 and enter you in 10 weekly drawings of \$30, \$20, and \$15 and three \$100 drawings. To join, volunteer, or for questions, contact Donna (778-8672), Tim (778-2484), or the parish office (686-3398).

Deacon's Corner

by Dc. Bernie Slate

Have you ever noticed that we often cling to things as they've always been? A company gets stuck in a rut, thinking "But this is the way we've always done it." Or a married couple struggles and finds themselves yearning for the way things used to be when they were dating or first married. Or a parish resists changes and stymies growth. But God never wants us to settle into a routine way of thinking or acting that is based in laziness or nostalgia or even fear. God is always nudging us forward into new experiences of grace.

The ancient Hebrew people cried out in the desert to Moses, "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt?" They were jubilant when they were released from Egypt, grateful their slavery was coming to an end. But now they are thirsty and tired and confused, and they lash out at Moses. They don't know what lies ahead or when they will settle to begin whatever new life is to come.

When we are in similar situations of anxiety about the future, we too wonder what's next and whether we can hold out. We may doubt God's presence and look for someone to blame when things don't fall into place easily. We need some kind of reassurance to keep us steadfast. For the people of Israel, the reassurance came in the form of water from a rock. The daily support of those who love us or the offer of assistance from an unlikely source can feel like water from a rock in the middle of a desert.

John's Gospel 4:5-42 offers us a similar lesson, but we might need some background to see the parallel. The scene revolves around Jesus and an unnamed woman at a well in Samaria, a portion of Israel between the regions of Galilee and Judea. It was a place largely avoided by most faithful Jews, so much so that Jewish travelers usually crossed the Jordan River and skirted the Samaritan area rather than travel through it. By the time of Jesus, the rift between the Jews and Samaritans was at least five centuries old, a feud stemming from the time of the Babylonian exile, when those Jews left behind in Israel intermingled and intermarried with foreign occupiers. So that simple encounter between Jesus and a Samaritan woman would have raised all kinds of red flags.

The woman recognizes Jesus as a prophet and proceeds to remind him of the insurmountable differences between their people. The Samaritans worshipped at Mount Gerizim, a place honored by Moses centuries earlier, while the Jews worshipped on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, a place honored by King David and constructed by his son Solomon. She's basically informing Jesus that Samaritans will continue their worship and Jews theirs. But Jesus is having none of that and points to a new way: "the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on the mountain nor in Jerusalem, true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth." Neither side will "win" the ages-old argument, but both sides can be victorious in this messianic age.

"It's the way it has always been done" is not an argument to be made in the face of what Jesus offers. It didn't work in ancient times, and it doesn't work now. Let us give Jesus our fears, our nostalgia, and our laziness and see what new things he has in store.

The North Country Catholic annual subscription campaign begins next weekend. The paper features regular messages from Bishop LaValley, authoritative information about what the church teaches on the issues that you face in 21st-century life, and inspiring stories about people living out their faith here in the North Country. Please place your subscription envelope in the collection basket or mail a check for \$27 to the *North Country Catholic*, PO Box 106, Canajoharie, NY, 13317. Another option is to “Go green” and receive your *NCC* through email every Monday. If interested, write your email address on the envelope.

Parish Mission at Cape Vincent and Chaumont: Fr. Ray Diesbourg, MSC, will be lead a Parish Mission during Lent on *Life's Healing Journey*. There will be 5 presentations, one each for the 5 weeks of Lent, on the Wednesdays of March. The topics will be offered at 11:30am at All Saints Church in Chaumont and repeated at 7:00pm in Cape Vincent at St. Vincent of Paul Church. Free to attend.

Defibrillator and First Aid: Have you ever wondered about our automated external defibrillator (AED) or what to do in case of an emergency? All parishioners will have an opportunity to learn about the AED, first aid, and CPR demonstrated by Pam Jones, EMT at St. Mary's on Saturday, February 25th after the 4pm Mass. Please take this opportunity to join us. If you have questions, please contact Parish Nurse Jennifer Lucia at 513-304-2264.

Religious Ed News:

St. Mary's Parish

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

Classes will resume for K-7 on March 11. Enjoy the break. A great resource for Catholic families during Lent is Holy Heroes Lenten Adventure. There are daily activities that arrive in your inbox which include videos, worksheets, recipes and crafts. My family has enjoyed participating for years. Sign up here at <http://lentenadventure.com>

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.

St. Cyril's Lenten Soup Suppers

Beginning March 2nd, St. Cyril's will add Soup Suppers to their Thursdays. Attend Mass at 5:15pm, followed by Soup Supper, followed by Stations of the Cross.

St. Mary's Lenten Soup Suppers: Wednesdays of Lent. Mass at 5:30pm followed by the Soup Supper. Feed body and soul! Here are the dates, sponsor groups, and contact persons. Your help is needed to provide food or work. If you would like to help, please contact the person listed for the week.

March 1: Lay Ministry, Dc. Neil Fuller

March 8: Knit for Kids, Dee Fuller

March 15: Men's Group, Scott Beeles

March 22: Women's Group, Jennifer Lucia

March 29: K of C, Chris Woodley

April 5: Religious Ed, Jenny Barton

Stations of the Cross during Lent



Thursdays after 5:15pm Mass
and Soup Supper at St. Cyril's,
Alexandria Bay

Fridays at 7pm
at St. Mary's Church, Clayton

Lenten Workshop on "*The Universal Call to Holiness*": This is an excellent two-evening video presentation offered by Dr. Petroc Willey, Theology Professor from the Franciscan Catechetical Institute of Steubenville. Monday and Tuesday, March 6 and 7 from 6:30-8pm at St. Mary's Parish Center. Monday and Tuesday, March 27 and 28 from 6:30-8pm at St. Cyril's Parish Hall. All are invited and encouraged to attend. This program is also appropriate for our teens. Please join us for fellowship and refreshments. We hope to see many of you there.

Music Ministry Notes:

St. Mary's, Clayton

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.