

St. Stephen's Parish

9748 Main Street, PO Box 38, Croghan, New York 13327-0038

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Telephone 315-346-6958 Fax 315-346-1200



Pastor: Rev. Donald J. Manfred

Deacon: Peter Woolschlager

Trustees: Susan Gydesen

Todd Grunert

Finance Council Chairperson: Robert Buholtz

November 28, 2021

Reconciliation (Penance): Saturday 4:15 -4:45 PM

Marriages: Six months' notice

Baptisms: By Appointment. Godparents must be confirmed and practicing Catholics.

Mass Intentions This Week

Sat.	Nov.	27	5:00 PM	Allyn & Doris Turck by The Family
Sun.	Nov.	28	8:30 AM	Philip Widrick by Bruce & Patty Flint
Mon.	Nov.	29	11:30 AM	FUNERAL - Susan (Campeau) Weaver
Tues.	Nov.	30	8:15 AM	People of the Parish
Wed.	Dec.	1	8:15 AM	Ellon Grunert by Tony & Brenda Tabolt
Thur.	Dec.	2	8:15 AM	Brenda Ann Buholtz
Fri.	Dec.	3	8:15 AM	Living & Deceased Members of St. Stephen's Rosary Society
Sat.	Dec.	4	5:00 PM	Lucus Anthony Knight By Mom, Dad, Dillon. Matthew & Emily
Sun.	Dec.	5	8:30 AM	Maurice & Agnes Golden & Elmer & Jean Golden

*Sanctuary Candle lit in memory of Lucas Anthony Knight
by Mom, Dad, Dillon, Matthew & Emily*

Pray for the Sick: Robert Peters, Kathy Widrick, Jeanne Merry, William (Bill) Davoy Jr., Bernard Ardison, Elizabeth Tabolt Jasinski, Jeff Bruckman, and all ill at home, in the hospital or nursing homes. (The sick that wish to be remembered in prayer will be included on this list only if they agree to have their names included or family members specifically request this). Please call to have a name included on this list.

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent is a time to prepare for the coning of the Lord whom we portray as a precious infant in the manger at the end of this season. However, there are two more arrivals of our Lord to contemplate during Advent which are often overlooked. One day Jesus will come again in glory when the world ends and he will bring a day of judgment upon the world.

Jesus gives us a glimpse of this in today's Gospel when he will come personally to each one of us into our hearts and our lives as we embrace him as our Savior. The readings of today's Mass are the fulfillment of God's promise in the first reading to the Chosen People and Jeremiah. St. Paul invites us to prepare for Jesus' coming by acting out of love for one another.

May the words of these scriptures help us prepare during this holy season of hope for the coming of our Savior.



Due to continuing "Covid 19" concerns our parish's **"GIVING TREE"** will continue the same as last year. We are asking for Gift Cards/Certificates or monetary donations.

If you know of anyone from our community who may need help or a little Christmas joy to brighten their day, please contact the Office (315-346-6958).

All names are kept in confidence. Our parish Giving Tree serves the communities of Belfort, Beaver Falls, Castorland, Croghan, Indian River and New Bremen regardless of religious affiliation. Donations may be placed in the collection basket or left at the parish office.

Croghan Village Caroling - Sunday December 12th All are invited to Christmas Caroling on Main Street to spread joy and cheer while meeting our neighbors. Dress warmly and come ready to sing. Candles and printed lyrics will be provided. After we finish caroling, we will return to the church for hot chocolate and cookies. **We will head out at 5:15 pm so please arrive by 5 pm** at in front of St. Stephen's Church. Bring your friends and family and get ready to spread some Christmas Cheer!

A BLESSED PAST – A FAITHFUL FUTURE

Over the past several weeks we have been preparing for a major debt reduction appeal. As we know the Renovation/Restoration project undertaken five years ago resulted in a very successful response by the people of St Stephen's parish. However, the parish had to borrow a large sum of money from the diocese. To date over half of the debt has been paid, but over \$900,000 remains at the present time.

This weekend we will review the goal of this financial appeal. You have already received more information in the mail about the campaign with an attractive brochure and pledge card. Please reflect on the information and consider how you can support our campaign. Next weekend, as an entire parish, we will spend a few minutes making our pledge. Our hope is to have every family make a pledge to the campaign. Together we will continue maintain our beautiful church as a place of comfort and worship for our parish.

A GUIDE TO GIVING - As we pray together and reflect on the level of the gift we will consider making to the Debt Reduction Appeal, please know that no one can tell us what to give. Many ask for a guideline to help make a decision as to what our gift may be. Therefore, a "Guideline to Giving" was included in the letters and brochures sent to all parishioners over the past couple of weeks. Another copy of this information will be distributed this weekend at the Masses and comments will be offered by two parishioners and Father Don.

SIGNS AND SYMBOLS OF THE ADVENT SEASON

The Advent wreath with four candles symbolizing the four weeks of Advent and invites us to reflect on God's gifts of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.



First Sunday of Advent - Advent is a family time to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Son of God. We spend time and money preparing our homes for Christmas. Advent is a time to be with one another as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' birth. Imagine that your family has been told that the Christ Child will visit your home in 22 days.

Faith Formation Upcoming Dates

Sun. Nov. 28 - No religion classes

Sun. Dec. 5 - The Tree That Tells a Story

The children will decorate the tree at the start of class time. Everyone is welcome!

YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE PARISH

Collection 11/21/21 : \$ 3,388.00

Needed to meet Budget: \$ 4,476.00

Restoration: \$ 610.00

Campaign for Human Development : \$ 883.00

Thank you for faithful support

A Decision of Faith

A decision to contribute to the campaign is a very important one for you and your family. Below are some questions to reflect on as you prayerfully consider your gift amount.

Is your pledge given through love and gratitude to God? Is it a way you are acknowledging all the ways that God has blessed you?

Does your pledge stretch your faith by lifting you beyond your comfort levels? Is it requiring you to step out in faith and place your trust in God?

Is there a sense of purpose and a spirit of joy in your giving rather than a sense of obligation?

Are you able to see the thousands of people in future generations that your gift will provide for?

Consider how your support could serve as a loving witness that could inspire those around you, both in your own personal community and your parish community.