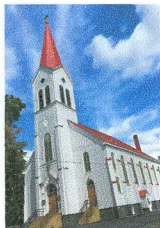


St. Stephen's Parish

9748 Main Street, PO Box 38, Croghan, New York 13327-0038
Email: fststephens@twcnny.rr.com New Website: www.ststephenscroghan.org
Telephone 315-346-6958 Fax 315-346-1200



Pastor: Rev. Donald J. Manfred
Deacon: Peter Wooschlager
Trustees: Susan Gydesen
Todd Grunert
Finance Council Chairperson: Robert Buholtz

December 12, 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.	Dec.	11	5:00 PM	Deceased member of the John & Christine Turck Family
Sun.	Dec.	12	8:30 AM	Bea, Tinker and David Kloster & Charlie Rice by The Family
Mon.	Dec.	13	8:15 AM	Kevin Boliver by Becky Walseman
Tues.	Dec.	14	8:15 AM	The People of the Parish
Wed.	Dec.	15	8:15 AM	John Tabolt by St. Stephen's Secular Franciscans
Thur.	Dec.	16	8:15 AM	David Ferguson by Marie and Children
Fri.	Dec.	17	8:15 AM	Mary Presler by St. Stephen's Rosary Society
Sat.	Dec.	18	5:00 PM	The People of the Parish
Sun.	Dec.	19	8:30 AM	Shirley Boliver LaTray & Beth Ann Meyer by Bruce Boliver Family

The Sanctuary Candle is lit in memory of Carl Ritz (24th Anniversary) by The Family

In Celebration of their 42nd Wedding Anniversary Luiz & Mirna Jimenez donated the flowers in the sanctuary and in front of the statues of Mary, our blessed Mother & Joseph.

Pray for the Sick: Theresa (Brownell) McCane, Robert Peters, 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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT- REJOICE SUNDAY

"Rejoice" Sunday begins the second half of this Advent season of preparation as we realize the Lord is already in our midst. While remembering our Lord's birth over two thousand years ago and looking forward to his coming again in glory, we prepare our hearts for his presence as we express the Good News of Christ's birth. Today we hear John the Baptist tell the crowds with joyous expectation the imminent coming of the long-awaited Savior. May our words and actions witness to the world the true meaning of Jesus' birth.

ADVENT REFLECTION "SEEING THE LIGHT"



Listening to the voice of love requires that we direct our minds and hearts toward that voice with all our attention. How can we do that? The most fruitful way is to take a simple prayer, a sentence or a word and slowly repeat it. We can use the Lord's Prayer, the Jesus Prayer, or any word that reminds us of God's love and put it in the center of our inner room, like a candle in a dark space. Then as long as we keep the candle in our dark room burning, we can return to that light and see clearly the presence of the One who offers us what we most desire. But that is not always a satisfying experience. Often we are so restless and so unable to find inner quietude that we can't wait to get busy again. Thus avoiding the confrontation with the chaotic state of our minds and hearts. Still, when we remain faithful to our discipline, even if it is only ten minutes a day, we gradually come to see - by the candlelight of our prayers- that there is a space within us where God dwells and where we are invited to dwell with God. Once we come to know that inner, holy place, a place more beautiful and precious than any place we can travel to, we want to be there and spiritually fed.

A BLESSED PAST – A FAITHFUL FUTURE

A BLESSED PAST - A FAITHFUL FUTURE -COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Last weekend Father Don gave a personal appeal asking all members of the parish to participate in the Debt Reduction Appeal campaign. Unfortunately the attendance at both weekend Masses was low and the response to this appeal for parishioners to make a commitment to the Debt Reduction campaign was disappointing. Another letter has been sent to those who have not responded to the first mailing.

All parishioners should have received a mailing which included an appeal to help reduce our debt. Envelopes with instructions for donating remain in the church seats for those who wish to make a contribution. We ask parishioners to consider making a pledge donation for the next three years. Your donation can be larger when it is given over a longer period of time. Spreading your contribution over three years also helps us provide for the payments the parish makes to the Diocese for our quarterly payments and interest on money borrowed. **THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING THIS APPEAL TO ASSIST YOUR PARISH!!!**

ADVENT RECONCILIATION (PENANCE) SERVICES

December 12th - St. Peter's, Lowville - 2 pm
December 13th - St. Stephen's, Croghan - 7pm
December 14th - St. James, Carthage - 7pm
December 19th - St. Mary's, C'Ville - 2pm
St. Martin's, Port Leyden - 4 pm

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS:

Second Collection Help aging religious, ~~E~~lderly Catholic Sisters, Brothers, and Religious Order Priests have offered their lives in service to others — educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to today's second collection.

YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE PARISH

Regular Collection 12/5/21 : \$ 4,450.00
Special Donation : \$ 6,197.00
Needed to meet Budget: \$ 4,476.00
Restoration: \$ 617.00
Fuel: \$ 1,347.00

**Thank you for faithful support
to St. Stephen's Parish**



Croghan Village Caroling

This Sunday, Dec. 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.

Congratulation to those who celebrated First Reconciliation:

Grayson Arndt, Shaelee Boliver, Declyn Brown,
Lucy Brown, Leighton Buell, Lincoln Eaton,
Reece Nikitch, Jackson Poquette, Jameson Terrillion,
Braelyn Walseman, Anderson Bush, Cole Cummings,
Ellen Edick, Peyton Kloster, Raeleigh Loomis,
Blake Lyndaker, Kaylan Ritz

Confirmation Candidates will meet Sunday evening 6:30-8:00 pm. This week's topic is:

"The Power and Purpose of the Sacraments".

Please pray for all of our Confirmation Candidates:

Jacob Boliver, Chase Brown, Nico Camporeale,
Charlie Clements, Sam Edick, Aliya Gracey,
Montana Grunert, Lydia Kloster,
Matthew Knight, Brayden Monnat, Adah Simpson,
Skyler Steiner, Braeden Terrillion