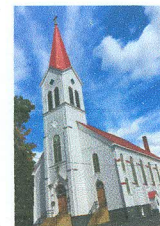


# St. Stephen's Parish

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

Email: [fststephens@twcny.rr.com](mailto:fststephens@twcny.rr.com) New Website: [www.ststephenscroghan.org](http://www.ststephenscroghan.org)

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

**December 19, 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.	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
Mon.	Dec.	20	8:15 AM	The People of the Parish
Tues.	Dec.	21	8:15 AM	Bonnie Branagan by Pauline Murphy & family
Wed.	Dec.	22	8:15 AM	Missy & Nic Fregoe
Thur.	Dec.	23	8:15 AM	Nancy Jackson by Doris Dundon
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Dec.</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
			<b>6:00 PM</b>	<i>St. Francis of Solanus</i>
			<b>8:00 PM</b>	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Dec.</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Sun.	Dec.	26	8:30 AM	Edna & Carl Ritz by The Family
			5:00 PM	The People of the Parish

**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.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We draw to a close this season of expectation, this season of preparation and this season of waiting! For three weeks we have been anticipating the day we celebrate the Lord's birth which we find mirrored in the words of the Scriptures this weekend.

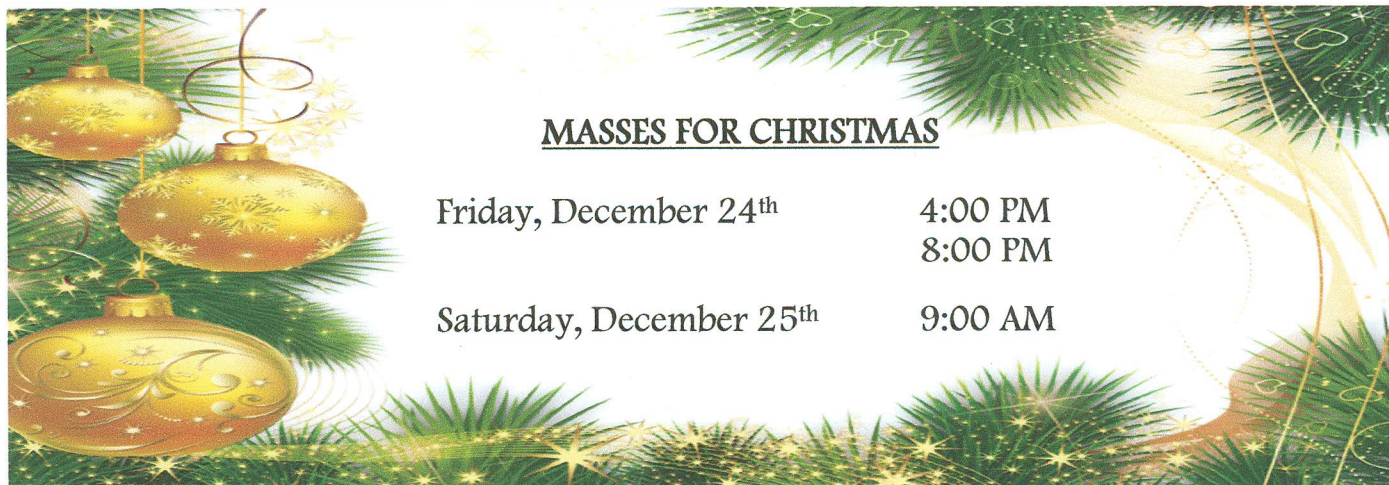
We break from all the hustle and bustle that threaten to overwhelm the true meaning of this holy event and share in the joy of Mary and Elizabeth, two mothers expecting their first child.

In the book of Micah who lived eight centuries before Christ we learn Jesus, the long expected savior will come from the little town of Bethlehem. St Luke tells the story of Mary visiting Elizabeth who is filled with the Holy Spirit as we ponder how God will continue to be revealed in our lives in unexpected ways

## MASSSES FOR CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00 PM  
8:00 PM

Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM





# A BLESSED PAST – A FAITHFUL FUTURE

## CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY THANKS

As of Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 126 parishioners and friends of St Stephen's Parish have donated \$333,870 in pledge or cash gifts.

This is a wonderful expression of the generosity of these donors as we meet the "first" part of our three/five year goal to reduce the Parish debt. Our second goal is \$500,000 in five years!!

Many parishioners have not yet responded to the letters of appeal, and we hope their response will be coming soon!

Sincere thanks to all who have contributed to this appeal God bless all people of our parish and their families and friends.

*Father Don*

### ADVENT RECONCILIATION (PENANCE) SERVICES

December 19<sup>th</sup> - St. Mary's, C'Ville - 2pm  
St. Martin's, Port Leyden - 4 pm

**The Diocese of Ogdensburg's Retirement Plan for Priest** has long been supported by a percentage of parish contributions from its annual Christmas collection. This Christmas, the diocese requests contribution of 75% of the Christmas collection to support the Plan, with the parish keeping the balance.

Currently 40 retired priests, and 12 active priests are 70 and older, are expected to receive pension benefits of \$1,020,000 in 2021-22. Also 100% of the cost of health insurance of premiums for retired priests, estimated at \$250,000 this fiscal year, is paid by the Plan. Contribution not only supports current retirees but will also help provide for the retirement needs of priests who will retire in the future.

Say thank you to your pastor and all priests of the diocese through a generous contribution to our Christmas collection.

### YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE PARISH

Regular Collection 12/12/21 : \$ 3,800.00

Needed to meet Budget: \$ 4,476.00

Restoration: \$ 905.00

Religious Retirement: \$ 1,271.00

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

### MASS FOR HOLY FAMILY

Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup> 8:30 AM  
5:00 PM

### MASS FOR SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup> 5:00 PM  
Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup> 8:30 AM

### MASS FOR FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup> 5:00 PM  
Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> 8:30 AM

### Faith Formation

- ❖ There will be **No Classes on Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>**  
(Sorry for the misprint on the class schedule)
- ❖ **Christmas Eve Mass...** we look forward to a small pageant and singing by all the children
- ❖ **Letters to Baby** – please remember letters can be written and placed in the box at the back of church right up to Christmas Day
  - *Dear Baby Jesus,*  
*We are very blessed that you were born so we can celebrate Christmas. It's my favorite time of the year because we get to celebrate all of our family traditions and remember everything we are thankful for. Happy Birthday Baby Jesus!*
  - *Dear Baby Jesus,*  
*What do you get on your birthday for presents?*
  - *Dear Baby Jesus,*  
*Thank you for my life. I love you!*
- ❖ **Confirmation Candidates** will gather after the Saturday, 5:00 Mass for dinner and formation. This week's theme: "Why Do I Have to Go to Mass?"