



St. Stephen's Parish

<http://www.ststephenscroghan.org/>

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July 23, 2023

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today, in two short parables, Jesus portrays the amazing power of the kingdom of God. The size of the mustard seed is contrasted with the astonishing spread of the kingdom as it grows to embrace countless people just as the uncounted number of birds come to rest in the fully grown bush.

The yeast that leavens the dough tells a similar story. A small amount can create enough bread to feed many. Both of these images remind us that each of us can be instruments of the kingdom of God. We may only be one person, yet our faith can affect an untold number of people. We are the seeds of God's embrace, the leaven of God's love in the world.



Your Support for The Parish

Adult Envelopes:	\$ 3,854.00
Plate:	\$ 523.00

Saturday, July 22 (5:00 pm)

Bernard Bush by Eleanor & Family

Sunday, July 23 (8:30 am)

Nicholas Ferguson, 1st Anniversary by Bob Buholtz

Monday, July 24 (No Mass)

Tuesday, July 25 (8:15 am)

Bernard Nortz by Wayne, Betty, & Denis Kuhl

Wednesday, July 26 (8:15 am)

Martha Jane Campany by St. Stephen's Rosary Society

Thursday, July 27 (8:15 am)

Jean Golden (Birthday) by Her Children

Friday, July 28 (8:15 am)

Tim Monnat by Barb & John Widrick

Saturday, July 29 (5:00 pm)

Deceased Members of the Maynard & Katherine Monnat Family by The Family

Sunday, July 30 (8:30 am)

Living and Deceased Members of the Clarence & Mary Briot Family by The Briot Reunion

Pray for the Sick

Marietta Virkler, Bill Meyer, Cindy Bush, Norma Monnat, Stephen Brownell, Brenda Buell, Linda Bush, Duane Schwendy, John Lashbrooks, and all ill at home, in the hospital, or nursing homes.

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly



Two years ago, Pope Francis established World Day to honor grandparents and the elderly each year on the fourth Sunday of July which is close to the Feast of St. Anne and St. Joachim, grandparents of Jesus. The Pope spoke of grandparents providing a younger generation a connection to generations who have passed away. We are called to value and heed the wisdom and experience of our elderly as we offer our gratitude and praise for their inspiration, guidance, and love.

Message From Bishop LaValley

Reorganization Case:

The Diocese of Ogdensburg filed a reorganization case under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. This difficult but necessary decision was made in response to the lawsuits filed against the diocese and parishes under the Child Victims Act, which permitted the filing of lawsuits alleging sexual abuse by members of the clergy, employees, or volunteers of the Church. Individual parishes are not included in the filing, and it is hoped that parish life will be minimally impacted by the reorganization. After extensive consultation and our experience in the state courts, it was decided that reorganization is the fairest and most efficient way to resolve the claims of victims. To fight each case individually would take years of litigation and would involve significant costs. Reorganization provides a forum in which the cases can be resolved in a more timely fashion. Reorganization is fair to the victims and provides the diocese the opportunity to continue its mission. You may find additional information on the diocesan website: <http://www.rcdony.org/reorganization>. May we be united in our resolve to reach out to victims of sexual abuse with compassion, and to renew our commitment to serve God and neighbor.

Natural Family Planning Awareness Week July 23-29



Each year the United States Catholic Conference sponsors NFP week to celebrate and reverence God's vision of human sexuality. Materials are available on tables in the church. Read more on the "usccb.org" website.



Vacation Bible School
August 7-11
9:30 am-Noon

Join us for "The Mystery of the Mass." There is still time to sign up. We welcome grades K-6 and love to have our older students assist. Please invite your friends! We will have singing, games, crafts, and snacks daily. On Friday, August 11th we will have Mass (11 am) and a cookout. Contact the Parish Office to sign up, make a donation, or volunteer to help.

A Prayer for Healing



Gentle Jesus, Shepherd of Peace,
Join to your own suffering
The pain of all who have been hurt
In body, mind and spirit
By those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear the cries of our sisters and brothers
Who have been gravely harmed,
And the cries of those who love them.
Soothe their restless hearts with hope and
Steady their shaken spirits with faith.

Grant them justice enlightened by your truth.
Holy Spirit, heal your people's wounds.
Grant us the courage and wisdom to act with justice.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.
Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace.

Look kindly on the Church of Ogdensburg.
Touch our hearts with humble trust in
Your constant care and loving Providence.

We ask this through Christ our Risen Lord.
Amen.