



# St. Stephen's Parish

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

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Trustees: Michele Nikitich & Lindsay Nortz  
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## December 21, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent

As we approach the festive day on which we may receive gifts and guests into our homes, we take a moment to recall that during this season of Advent we are called to prepare to receive Jesus into our hearts. Yes, we receive him in a most special way at Christmas, the day we celebrate the world receiving him in the flesh, but we also have the opportunity to receive him each and every day. Let us humbly ask God to prepare our hearts to receive him in the Eucharist here today.



### Saturday, December 20 (5:00 pm)

Donald Schwendy by Phyllis

### Sunday, December 21 (8:30 am)

Bill & Audrey Lyndaker by Patti Clemons

### Monday, December 22 (8:15 am)

Anniversary Missy & Nic Fregoe by Kathy Shippey & Family

### Tuesday, December 23 (8:15 am)

Carl Schack by Mom, Laurie, David & Dana

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

#### December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve

4:00 pm at St. Stephen's  
6:00 pm at St. Francis Solanus  
Masses for the People of the Parish

#### December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day

9:00 am at St. Stephen's  
Mass for the People of the Parish

### Friday, December 26 (No Mass)

### Saturday, December 27 (5:00 pm)

Charles, Bea & David Kloster by The Family

### Sunday, December 28 (8:30 am)

Lynn Kampnich by Don & Cindy Sauer

### Pray for the Sick

Steffany Peters, Bernice Ardison, Mary Knight, Bruce Tabolt, Bruce Chapman, Peter VerSchneider, Bill Gracey, Caitlin Taylor, Priscilla Boliver, Kristi Lehman Marques, Deb Hartshorn, Alice Moore, Julie Fuller, Venetha Houppert, Tom Pate, Casey Kloster, John Lashbrooks, and all ill at home, in the hospital, or nursing homes.

### Your Support for The Parish

Envelopes:	\$ 3,811.00
Plate:	\$ 805.00
Religious Retirement:	\$ 2,187.00

### SANCTUARY CANDLE



*The Sanctuary Candle is lit in  
memory of  
Carl Schack by His Family*

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There will not be religious education classes on Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> or Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Classes will resume on January 11<sup>th</sup>! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



## Christmas Mass Schedule

### Christmas Eve (December 24)

4:00 PM Christmas Anticipated  
Mass at St. Stephen's  
\*Children will participate in the Christmas  
Story as the Gospel is read.

6:00 PM Christmas Anticipated  
Mass at St. Francis Solanus

### Christmas Day (December 25)

9:00 AM at St. Stephen's



### Week Four: Love

The fourth week of Advent we remember the gift of Love we have in Christ. The light of the candles is meant to remind us of the love that God has for us. Jesus shows us God's perfect love. He is God's love in human form. The Bible says that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Let us pray: Loving God, we thank you for your gift of love-shown to us perfectly in Jesus Christ our Lord. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming by loving others as Christ loves us. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord. Amen

### CHRISTMAS PRAYER



Heavenly Father,

On this holy day, we rejoice in the gift of  
Your Son,

born in humility to bring us peace and  
salvation.

Fill our hearts with the light of His presence,  
that we may share His love with all we meet.

Bless our families, our parish, and our  
community,

and guide us to live in faith, hope, and charity  
throughout the coming year.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### CHRISTMAS COLLECTION



The Diocese of Ogdensburg's Retirement Plan for Priests has been long supported by a percentage of the contributions from the annual parish Christmas collection. This year 75% of the Christmas collection will be allocated to support the Plan, with the parish keeping the balance. There are over 30 retired priests and more than 10 active priests ages 70 and older, who are expected to receive pension benefits of one million dollars. In addition, 100% of the cost of health insurance premiums for retired priests are paid by the Plan. Our generous 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 priest of the diocese through a generous contribution to our Christmas Collection.