

*Seventh Sunday of Easter*

*May 24, 2020*

Jesus prayed to the Father for all those whom the Father had given him. He asked the Father to remember them, for Jesus was glorified in them, and they really belong to the Father.

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ALL PUBLIC MASSES IN THE  
DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG  
ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

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**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Donnie Hicks, Gerald Arno, Tina Marie Lapan, Pauline Sriver, Mary Baker, Morris (Buster) Roberts.

We keep the names on the sick list for a couple of months and then remove them, unless we hear otherwise.

**Nursing Homes:** Lucien Rodier, Rose Moore, Doris Deso, Gerry Hayes.

**Please pray for all of our Military** including: Maritza St. John-Lester, Avery Trombley, Shawn LaFontaine.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE MAY 23 - 30**

In Loving Memory of Catherine Gooley by  
Carolyn & Dave Engle

**VIGIL CANDLE MAY 23 - 30**

(St. Ann) In Loving Memory of Myrtle Gooley  
by daughter Carolyn & husband Dave

**WHEN VISITING OUR CHURCH Please use  
Sanitizer Upon Entrance & Exit!**

**FYI....Please note that the Parish Office is only open on a limited basis during the Covid-19 Pandemic: Monday through Friday 8:30 - 12:45pm. If you must make a visit in person, it would be best to call first. You may also take advantage of the drop box located on the rectory porch. It is checked multiple times on a daily basis.**

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**REMEMBER: the Church is available for prayer Monday through Friday 9 -3.**

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**STEWARDSHIP May 3:** Envelopes: \$1,090.

Thank you for your continued support to St. Mary's during this extremely difficult time for everyone.

**Update on Reopening public Sunday Mass**

As you know, Governor Cuomo has placed the opening of houses of worship in Phase 4 of the plan to reopen New York State. The governor's office has asked for and received copies of the plans of the upstate dioceses, including ours, and is evaluating them to see if it might be possible to reopen our churches at an earlier date. Right now the earliest date we could reopen is June 26th. We will keep you posted on developments.

Bishop LaValley has asked pastors to prepare for reopening so that we are ready when we are able to do so. Prior to resuming public worship, a parish must formulate a parish plan that will allow for the celebration of Sunday Mass in a safe and responsible way. Bishop LaValley has given pastors a draft decree that includes the guidelines for celebrating Mass with precautions that will prevent the spread of the coronavirus. In order to formulate an acceptable parish plan, the pastor must include guidelines for social distancing, on-going cleaning and disinfecting of worship spaces, the placement of signs and markings to assure social distancing and safe movement of parishioners during Mass, the wearing of masks during Mass by the faithful, requesting that sick persons or those at higher risk for coronavirus remain home and not come to Church, placement of hand sanitizer at the entrances of churches and a safe protocol for the distribution of Holy Communion. Once the plan is formulated, the pastor will submit an attestation form to Bishop LaValley, stating that the parish has a plan for the celebration of Mass that meets the requirements of the decree for the reopening of Sunday Mass. Only when we have been given the "go ahead" to

resume Mass and the pastor has received the approval of Bishop LaValley may he reopen the Sunday Mass for public participation.

Bishop LaValley wants to make us aware of the changes we will have to make once public worship is allowed. These changes will require the understanding and cooperation of us all. These changes include:

...Our churches will have to undergo intensive cleaning and sanitizing to reduce the spread of the virus.

...At the outset, only a certain number of people will be able to physically go to Mass. This is largely determined by the size of the church and the requirements of social distancing.

...All parishioners will be encouraged to wear face coverings while in church to protect themselves and others.

...There will be no holy water in fonts to reduce the risk of infection.

...No offertory processions.

...No passing of the collection basket. The basket will be placed in a fixed location and parishioners will be asked to drop their contributions into the basket as they enter or leave the church.

...The distribution of Communion will be different because of necessary distancing.

...No worship aids will be available for use, such as missalettes and hymnals. This will reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

...There will be no choirs in the early phases of our return to public worship.

...There will be no congregating in the church, on the steps or at the doors of the church so we can maintain social distancing.

Bishop LaValley will extend the dispensation for Sunday Mass until further notice. Those who are sick or are at higher risk for coronavirus will be asked to stay home and not come to church.

**CHURCH PARKING LOT**

The top coat (asphalt) on the church parking lot was finished this past Thursday. Therefore, it is closed to any traffic until Monday or Tuesday of next week.

**PRE CANA: During Pandemic**

During the pandemic the diocesan sponsored Pre Cana program continues to be offered using a virtual alternative rather than in-person meetings. Couples should register for Pre Cana on the diocesan website as normal and select the on-line option. They will receive materials and instructions on how to access the online content through the mail. Once the restrictions are lifted, we will return to in-person Pre Cana sessions. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Tartaglia at [startaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:startaglia@rcdony.org) or 315-323-6431.



**PLEASE HAVE A SAFE & ENJOYABLE  
MEMORIAL WEEKEND!**

Memorial Day is Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. We pray for all those who have died in the service of our country as well as all our beloved dead whom we honor on this special day.

**ST. MARY'S APPRECIATION DAY**

We have "tentatively" scheduled a St. Mary's Church Appreciation Day for August 30<sup>th</sup>. On this date, we will continue to hold the Tractor Pull with limited festivities and food on the bazaar grounds. The car show and parade have been canceled for this year. This event will be subject to social distancing guidelines and policies of the State of New York at the time.

We also plan to hold our annual raffle to be drawn on August 30<sup>th</sup>. We will include a virtual payment option for those wishing to participate. Please stay tuned for more information to come.