

December 20, 2020

FR. CLYDE A. LEWIS, PASTOR
Fr. Duc Nguyen, Parochial Vicar
Sr. Jessintha Xavier, SCC, Pastoral Associate
Trustees: Patricia Racine ~ 518-297-6454 Jim Gonyo ~ 518-297-2482

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Many thanks to all who continue to support St. Patrick's Church with their offertory gifts, either by mail, personal delivery or when attending Mass. This is very important for the day-to-day operations of our parish. We are truly grateful for your continued support.

Last year \$4307 Last week \$5964 (Envelopes \$5862, Children \$0, Plate \$102)
Immaculate Conception \$465

PRAYER LIST

(These names will be listed for two months and then removed, unless we hear otherwise. If a name is removed and needs to be placed on the list again, please call the Rectory.)

Judy Rushford, Terry Hyde, Cassidy Spinner, Gary Burton, Rose Moore, Julie Lafountain, Diane Favreau, Bonnie Filion, Ed Sweeny, Shirley Rap, Jackie Ducharme, Eric Pristera-Polniaszek, Ken Dupere, Normand & Brenda Jolicoeur, Tim Neverett, Claude Dessureault, Fr. Clyde Lewis, Darlene Poquette

Please pray for all those in our Community Intention Book and all the sick of our area.

READER/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS SCHEDULE

December 19 / 20

4:00PM Gary Brunell
10:00AM Arsene Letourneau

December 24

3:00PM Arsene Letourneau
5:00PM Pat Racine

December 25

10:00AM Joey Proulx

MASS INTENTIONS

December

Sat. 19 **Late Advent Weekday**
9:00AM **(St. Mary's)** No Mass
(Anticipated) Fourth Sunday of Advent
4:00PM †**(St. Patrick's)** Kristin Patterson by Bernard Duffy Family
4:00PM †**(St. Mary's)** Janet Carey by Claude & Joan Boucher
Sun. 20 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
8:00AM †**(St. Mary's)** Richard "DJ" Eddy by Mark
10:00AM †**(St. Patrick's)** 7TH Anniversary of Gerald Dupree by Arsene, Rose & Rachel Letourneau & Dupree Family
Mon. 21 **Late Advent Weekday**
9:00AM †**(St. Patrick's)** John Rowe by Bernie & Bob Halstead
Tue. 22 **Late Advent Weekday**
9:00AM †**(St. Patrick's)** Foshier Family by Bob & Maria Foshier
Wed. 23 **Late Advent Weekday**
9:00AM †**(St. Patrick's)** Donald LaBombard by Claude & Sue Dessureault
Thur. 24 **(Anticipated) Nativity of the Lord**
3:00PM **(St. Patrick's)** Parishioners of St. Patrick's
3:00PM **(St. Mary's)** Parishioners of St. Mary's
5:00PM **(St. Patrick's)** Parishioners of St. Patrick's
5:00PM **(St. Mary's)** Parishioners of St. Mary's
Fri. 25 **Nativity of the Lord**
10:00AM **(St. Patrick's)** Parishioners of St. Patrick's
10:00AM **(St. Mary's)** Parishioners of St. Mary's
Sat. 26 **St. Stephen**
9:00AM **(St. Mary's)** No Mass
(Anticipated) The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
4:00PM †**(St. Patrick's)** Ila Comeau by Mark & Kay Papin
4:00PM †**(St. Mary's)** Lawrence & Florence Baker, Ruth, Rita & William Baker by Robert, Mary & Darlene Baker
Sun. 27 **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**
8:00AM †**(St. Mary's)** Tina Marie Lapan by Gene & Pat Gladd
10:00AM †**(St. Patrick's)** Muriel & Harold Thompson by Gail & Richard Weierstall

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!

BLESSED MARY CANDLE

Kay Cavanagh by her Family

ADVENT WREATH

Gil LaDuke & Deceased Members of Favro Family by Sue LaDuke

Bette & Harold Mero by their Family

George Marnes by a Friend

Bob & Sandy Aubrey by Carol Manor

CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Richard Ballman by his Family

GLUTEN-FREE HOSTS ... are available from Fr. Duc, Fr. Alan or Deacon Noel.

Notes from the Pastor's Desk

CHRISTMAS MAILING ... The Christmas mailing includes the schedule for Christmas and New Year's services and envelopes for Christmas and Christmas flowers. As in the past, we are accepting donations towards the Christmas flowers which will decorate sanctuary. You may use the envelope that will come in your Christmas mailing. If you wish to make the donation in memory of your loved ones, please clearly PRINT their names on your envelope. The names of those who donated as well as those who requested special intentions will be included in next weekend's bulletin.

RESERVATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES ... As we are limited in the numbers who can attend Masses, we will require reservations for ALL our Christmas Masses. We will have three Masses: Christmas Eve, 3:00PM and 5:00PM and Christmas Day, 10:00AM. Please call the rectory (518-297-7361) or e-mail (stpats@twcny.rr.com) to let us know how many people will be attending. We will have couples seated in the side pews, singles seated at either end of the large pews and families in the large pews to ensure that we get the maximum people seated safely. We cannot guarantee which pew you will have, but you will be guaranteed a spot if you call ahead to reserve. We will also have room for additional people to sit in the parish hall where sound only will be provided. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we work to keep everyone safe. Please note that St. Mary's will have the same Masses as St. Patrick's.

OFFICE CLOSED ... Please note that St. Patrick's Office will be closed on Thursday, December 24 and Friday December 25.

Notes from the Pastor's Desk (cont'd)

FR. LEWIS ... Special blessings to Fr. Lewis as he celebrates his 56th Anniversary to the priesthood. We are grateful to have him as our Pastor. Also please keep him in your prayers as he continues to rehab from his ankle surgery at Meadowbrook Healthcare, Room #17.

NEW DIRECTIVE FROM THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG ... Due to the increasing number of COVID-19 infections, we ask that our parishioners, age 2 and older, wear masks or cloth face coverings during Masses (except for when receiving Holy Communion) to decrease the spread of airborne droplets and the subsequent risk of transmission. Wearing face coverings is a risk-reduction measure that permits as many people as possible to attend Mass in person. In particular, this helps guard against transmitting the virus to the elderly and immunocompromised members of the congregation and to those who assist in their care. We appreciate your cooperation with this request. '

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION ... The Diocese of Ogdensburg's Retirement Plan for Priests has long been supported by a percentage of parish contributions from its annual Christmas collection. This Christmas, to help parishes with financial stress due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the diocese is reducing the contribution from 75% to 50% of the Christmas collection, with the parish keeping the balance. Currently 40 retired priests, and 11 active priests age 70 and older, are expected to receive pension benefits of \$970,000 in 2020-21. Also 100% of the cost of health insurance premiums for retired priests, estimated at \$220,000 this fiscal year, is paid by the Plan. Your 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 all priests of the diocese through a generous contribution to our Christmas Collection.

ST. PATRICK'S FOOD SHELF ... is open Wednesdays, 9:30 - 10:30AM or call Pat Carey at 518-420-4957 for an appointment.

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION Please come to Communion using the main aisle. Parishioners should alternate exiting their pews from side to side and forming a **single line in the middle of the aisle** while maintaining 6 feet social distancing. Once the center pews are empty, those in the side pews should walk to the back of the church and come up the main aisle as well. When arriving at the front, please go to the priest or Eucharistic Minister who is on the side where you were sitting so that you can easily return to your pew. Those who are not able to come to Communion should remain in their seats and a Eucharistic Minister will bring Communion to them.

CONFESSIONS & HOLY COMMUNION ... St. Patrick's and St. Mary's will have confessions Saturdays from 3:00 to 3:45PM or you can call to make an appointment. You may also call the Rectory and request that Holy Communion be brought to you.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES ... Christian Formation Classes continue this Sunday, December 20 for Grade 1, 8:45-9:45AM (St. Patrick's), Grades 5 & 6, 9:15-10:15AM (St. Mary's) and Grades 7 & 8, 6:30-7:45PM (St. Mary's). All students are asked to wear masks. **Please note that Grades 2, 3 & 4 are all being done remotely at this time.**

PLEASE NOTE ... There are no sign-up sheets for Grades 1, 2, 8 and Confirmation for this school year, but students are still expected to attend Mass.

2020 BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL ... United in Faith - Continuing Christ's Mission ... There is still time to make your donation. Our parish has raised \$9600 toward our goal of \$13061. Pledge envelopes are located in the downstairs front lobby or you can make your gift online by visiting <https://www.rcdony.org/bfa.html#donate>.

ANNUAL SUPER BOWL FUNDRAISER ... sponsored by the Champlain Catholic Men's Club. Contact Roy or Brenda Cardin at 518-726-0280 or 518-420-3765 for tickets.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

St. Patrick's & St. Mary's, 3:00PM & 5:00PM

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

St. Patrick's & St. Mary's, 10:00AM

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!!!

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS

St. Mary's, 4:00PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

St. Patrick's, 9:00AM

CHRISTMAS 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

"Abundant joy and great rejoicing" -- Isaiah's prayer is most welcome! We have been dwelling in the land of gloom for months. We are restless and ready to hear the Advent message of hope. We yearn to embrace once again the Christmas story of light, peace, and joy.

The Feast of Christmas is the time when it is the easiest to fight against discouragement and darkness. As we gaze upon the Infant Babe in the manger, God makes Himself so close that our hearts cannot remain fearful, anxious or troubled. As Pope Francis preached on the First Sunday of Advent, "Advent is the season for remembering the closeness of God who came down to dwell in our midst." The Christmas hymns and the customs that surround this Feast are imbued with the profound joy of being saved—such Good News! Knowing that we are so loved and saved by God, we shiver with hope and joy before the nativity scene.

The birth of Jesus comes about because of the extraordinary faith of His mother Mary. Several months ago, the Diocese of Ogdensburg was consecrated to St. Joseph, her husband. He accepted the fact that Jesus is indeed the promised and long-awaited Savior. We desire the trust and deep faith that Mary and Joseph lived.

In the quiet and calm of sleep, Joseph's life was open to God's regenerative and sustaining love. The decisiveness with which Joseph acts upon his dreams reveals a man who already walks with God. Joseph will believe the angel's words, and this belief will sustain him in the face of challenging demands and arduous conditions.

In the unique demands made upon us in this pandemic, we, too, are determined to be open to God's regenerative and sustaining love. We, like Joseph, want to walk with the One Who bids us, "Follow Me." May the Christ Child bring you and your loved ones the Gift of Love, the Blessing of Hope and the Promise of Peace. A blessed Christmas and joy-filled New Year!

Faithfully yours in Christ, Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg

LET US KEEP ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ... Mandy McCammon, Chad McCammon, Patrick Rosenberg, Colleen Kelly, Ben Brassard, Justin R. Moore, Alexis Wrye, Andrew Patterson, Eric Pristera-Polniaszek, Craig Langley, Paul Langley, Michael Casey, Matthew Letourneau, Maritza St. John-Lester, Ethan Gadway