

Welcome to

St. Paul's Catholic Church (St. Rita's Oratory)

210 LeRay Street, Black River, NY 13612 - Phones: SP's 315-773-5672 & SM's 315-629-4678 - <http://rivercatholics.org>

PASTOR: Reverend Vicente F. Jazmines - vfjazmines@hotmail.com

Deacon Candidates: **DAN LEROY and NOEL VOOS**

March 22, 2020

OFFICE HOURS

SP's: Monday & Friday, 12:30 – 4:00 PM

SM's: Monday & Friday, 8:30 AM – noon

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Sunday @ 10:30 AM

Also by Appointment

SACRAMENT OF

BAPTISM

Contact the Pastor.

SACRAMENT OF

MATRIMONY

Contact the Pastor.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE 3/15/20

St. Paul's: Envelopes: \$480.00/ Plate: \$241.00

MARCH 22 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT or rose - Readings: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Today's passage about the Jesus healing the man born blind is rich in symbolism and meaning. There are images of light and dark, seeing and not seeing, understanding and confusion, strength and weakness. I was struck this time by the manner of Christ's healing touch. He could have just said a word or snapped his fingers and the man could have been healed. Instead he makes clay with spittle and dirt and smeared it on his eyes and told him to go wash. The blind man heard Jesus' voice and was felt his touch. In order to be healed, Jesus made him actively participate by having him go and wash. The healing was a true encounter between man and God. We too can encounter Jesus this way in the Sacraments. We receive grace and healing through the physical elements of water, bread, wine, oil. Let us not take these encounters for granted but let us actively allow the Sacraments to transform us to be disciples of Christ.

Prayer During Coronavirus

Mary Immaculate, our Mother and our Patroness, we ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our diocese, our nation and our world, for our families and loved ones, the protection of your Maternal mantle from this dreaded virus.

In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us to love one another and to be patient and kind.

Help us to bring the peace and healing Presence of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Keep us in the embrace of your arms, Help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus our Lord AMEN.

ALL MASSES ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Fourth Sunday of Lent:

Saturday, 4:00 PM (SM)
March 21

Sunday, 9:00 AM (SM)
March 22

11:00 AM (SP)

Liturgical Schedule:

Monday, 8:00 AM (SP)
March 23

Tuesday, 8:00 AM (SP)
March 24

Wednesday, 8:00 AM (SP)
March 25

Thursday, 8:00 AM (SP)
March 26

Friday, 8:00 AM (SP)
March 27

Fifth Sunday of Lent:

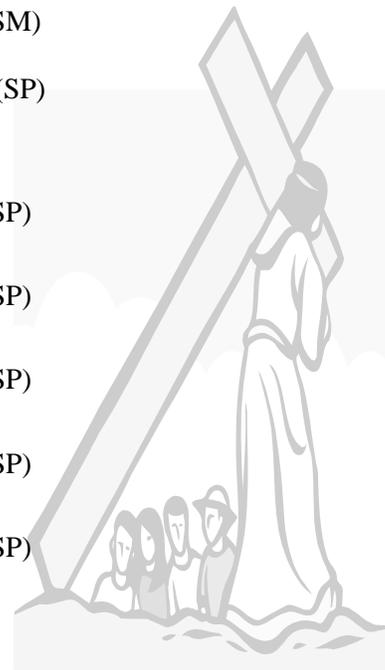
Saturday, 4:00 PM (SM)
March 28

Sunday, 9:00 AM (SM)
March 29

11:00 AM (SP)

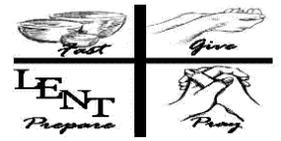
FROM THE DIOCESE: Due to continuation of concern COVID-19 (Coronavirus), Bishop LaValley has suspended all daily masses until further notice. Please see Bishop's letter on the reverse side of this bulletin.

NEW PARISHIONERS: If you are new to our community, we encourage you to **REGISTER** with us at St. Paul's Parish. Please see Fr. Vicente after Mass, or call the rectory at 315-773-5672.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Grades Kindergarten through 7 and **CONFIRMATION CLASS** (Grades 8 -12): NO CLASSES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.



ALL 5-8TH GRADERS throughout the diocese are invited to a **VOCATIONS RETREAT** on **Saturday, April 7 – CANCELLED.**

IHC KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: Will be held at a later date to be determined.

BIBLE STUDY: LENTEN LITURGY: Cancelled.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated on **April 19 at 3 PM** at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, Watertown. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, confession, & a procession. You may bring your own Divine Mercy picture to be specially blessed.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP: Lent "Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us . . . is burdened and laid waste . . . she 'groans in travail' (Romans 8:22) We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf Gn.2:7): our very bodies are made up of her elements; we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters." Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*. What can I fast from that is contributing to the 'burden' the earth is carrying, so that all may feast on earth's bounty now and in the future?

March 17, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

In light of more recent developments concerning the Coronavirus and its effect on the most vulnerable of our faith family, particularly our elderly, all public Masses in the Diocese of Ogdensburg beginning Wednesday, March 18 are suspended until further notice. We will keep you informed as to when they will resume. During this time period, all the faithful are dispensed from their Sunday obligation to participate at Mass.

This difficult decision for me to ask people not to gather for the Holy Eucharist is made in consideration of strong recommendations from public health officials and after consultation with my vicars and some Deans. Care and concern for everyone's health (spiritual, emotional and physical), especially elderly persons, those with underlying health issues, our clergy and liturgical ministers necessitates this extraordinary measure.

Until public Masses are reinstated, priests are encouraged to offer Mass in private. As Catholics, caring for our spiritual and sacramental lives is most important. Therefore, our priests will continue to be available for sacramental emergencies while maintaining the necessary public health precautions.

At the pastor's discretion, churches may remain open for private prayer. Public devotions such as the Stations of the Cross should be suspended. However, the faithful are encouraged to make those devotions in private. If a church is open, pastors will ensure that there is a thorough daily cleaning of all surfaces and that social distancing (at least six feet) is maintained.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals raise particular concerns. These celebrations may proceed but attendance should be limited to immediate family and all public health precautions must be observed. Of course, in the case of emergency, Baptism and the Anointing of the Sick should be conferred. The individual reception of the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) may continue to be offered. We are not in a situation that requires general absolution.

Although public Masses are cancelled, your parish will continue to face its financial obligations to employees and others. Please help your parish out by mailing your offering or by online contributions. Your pastor will strive to meet payroll and other essential parish bills during this time. Your continued support of your parish is urgently needed and gratefully received at this difficult time. At the pastor's discretion, parish offices may remain open with essential staff. Pastors will ensure regular thorough cleaning of the office space and appropriate social distancing for the benefit of all. For any questions, please contact your pastor.

We continue to pray for our diocesan family. We pray for healing for those already afflicted with the virus. May our Blessed Mother intercede with her Son, for those who are hurting, the vulnerable and the fearful. May our response to this crisis, be strengthened through prayer and sacrifice as our Lenten journey continues. I'm so grateful for your prayerful support.

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