



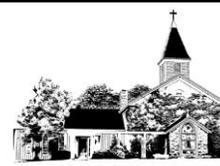
St. Cyril of Alexandria
28 Walton St.
Alexandria Bay, NY

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m.

The Catholic Community of Alexandria
17 Rock St.
Alexandria Bay, NY 13607
315-482-2670

pastor@stcyrils.org www.stcyrils.org

Rev. Douglas G. Comstock, Pastor
Bernard Slate, Deacon
Joel Walentuk, Deacon



St. Francis Xavier
43596 State Route 37
Redwood, NY

Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Liturgy Schedule for Week of December 1, 2019

Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019 First Sunday of Advent

5:00 p.m. Rose Lamarais

Sunday, Dec. 1, 2019

8:30 a.m. (SFX) Carl Lawton (1st Anniv.) by Deacon Joel and Dawn Walentuk

10:00 a.m. Brian Yaussi by his Mother, Martha O'Donnell

Monday, Dec. 2, 2019

8:00 a.m. Our Parishioners

Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2019

8:00 a.m. Darlene Ringrose by Mike & Barb Bresnahan

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2019

8:00 a.m. **Mr. and Mrs. Earl Griffin by the Estate of Marie Clickner**

Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019

8:00 a.m. Larry McCauley by Jeanne Snow & Family

Friday, Dec. 6, 2019

8:00 a.m. The Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)

Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019 Second Sunday of Advent

5:00 p.m. Marie Bouchey by the Bradley Family

Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019

8:30 a.m. (SFX) Harold George by the Estate of Emma George

10:00 a.m. Robert Shepard by Teresa & Gary Hogan

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:45 – 4:30 p.m. at St. Cyril of Alexandria Church
Sunday 8:00 – 8:15 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Church

Our Stewardship

November 23 - 24, 2019

Envelopes	\$1,609.00	Campaign for Human Development	\$616.00
Plate	\$279.00		
Youth			
Electronic Giving	\$77.72	Fuel Collection	\$210.00
Total	\$1,960.72	Total Fuel Contrib.to Date	\$17,742.00
Last Year	\$1,766.41	Total Fuel Goal in '19-'20	\$20,298.00

Retirement Fund for Religious

Our Second collection next weekend will be for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests served for little or no pay. Today, religious communities often do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your gift will help provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. This collection provides help for those who have given a lifetime.



The History of the *Advent Wreath*

History of the Advent Wreath

Of all the symbols of the Advent season, the most familiar is the Advent wreath, as each week a new candle is lit to mark the weeks leading to Christmas. Though the word Advent is of Latin origin, the tradition of the wreath is probably Germanic in nature. There is evidence of pre-Christian Germans using wreaths with lit candles during the cold, dark months of December as a sign of hope in the future warmth and increased sunlight days of spring.

Research by Prof. Haemig of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, points to [Johann Hinrich Wichern](#) (1808–1881), a Protestant pastor in Germany and a pioneer in urban mission work among the poor as the inventor of the modern Advent wreath in the 19th century. During Advent, children at the mission school [Rauhes Haus](#), founded by Wichern in [Hamburg](#), would ask daily if Christmas had arrived. In 1839, he built a large wooden ring (made out of an old cartwheel) with 20 small red and 4 large white candles. A small candle was lit successively every weekday and Saturday during Advent.

On Sundays, a large white candle was lit. The custom gained ground among Protestant churches in Germany and evolved into the smaller wreath with four or five candles known today. Roman Catholics in Germany began to adopt the custom in the 1920s, and in the 1930s it spread to North America. Professor Haemig's research also indicates that the custom did not reach the United States until the 1930s, even among German Lutheran immigrants. [Wikipedia]

In Medieval times Advent was a period of fasting during which people's thoughts were directed to the expected second coming of Christ; but in modern times many have forgotten this meaning and it has instead been primarily seen as the lead up to Christmas, and in that context Advent Wreath serves as a reminder of the approach of the feast.

The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

Even the individual evergreens that make up the wreath have their own meanings that can be adapted to our faith. The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering. The pine, holly, and yew signify immortality and the cedar signifies strength and healing. The pine cones that decorate the wreath symbolize life and resurrection. The wreath as a whole is meant to remind us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us through Christ.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent.

The wreath and its prayers are a good tradition to help us remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Judy Pearson