
 <p>St. Cyril of Alexandria 28 Walton St. Alexandria Bay, NY</p> <hr/> <p>Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>The Catholic Community of Alexandria 17 Rock St. Alexandria Bay, NY 13607 315-482-2670</p> <p>pastor@stcyrils.org www.stcyrils.org</p> <p>Rev. Douglas G. Comstock, Pastor Bernard Slate, Deacon Joel Walentuk, Deacon</p>	 <p>St. Francis Xavier 43596 State Route 37 Redwood, NY</p> <hr/> <p>Sunday 8:30 a.m.</p>
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Liturgy Schedule for Week of December 15, 2019

Saturday, Nov. 14, 2019 Third Sunday of Advent
5:00 p.m. Frank Cavallario by his wife, Connie Cavallario

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019
8:30 a.m. (SFX) Louis Panunzio by his wife, Connie Panunzio
10:00 a.m. Richard Rittling by Kathy & Tony Folino

Monday, Dec. 16, 2019
8:00 a.m. Our Parishioners

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2019
8:00 a.m. The Intention of Kevin Topa by Mom & Dad

Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2019
8:00 a.m. Jayne and Maurice Simpson by the Estate of Marie Clickner

Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019
8:00 a.m. Jean Jennings by Jeanne Snow & Family

Friday, Dec. 20, 2019
8:00 a.m. William "Bill" Decker by his Wife, Jean

Saturday, Dec. 21, 2019 Fourth Sunday of Advent
5:00 p.m. Larry McCauley by Dean & LouAnn Honeywell

Sunday, Dec. 22, 2019
8:30 a.m. (SFX) Arthur Watson by the Estate of Emma George
10:00 a.m. Tom Black by Peg & Dan Wallo

Sacrament of Reconciliation in Preparation for Christmas

Monday	Dec. 16	6:00 p.m.	Penance Service at St. Cyril's, Alexandria Bay
Tuesday	Dec. 17	6:00 p.m.	Penance Service at St. Mary's Church, Clayton

(On Monday and Tuesday there will be two priests available for Confessions.)

Wednesday	Dec. 18	5:00 p.m.	Confessions at St. Francis Xavier, Redwood
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Our Stewardship
December 7 - 8, 2019

Envelopes	\$1,807.00	Campaign for Human Development	\$5.00
Plate	\$228.00	Christmas Flowers	\$443.00
Youth		Religious Retirement	\$947.00
Electronic Giving	\$78.24	Fuel Collection	
Total	\$2,113.24	Total Fuel Contrib.to Date	\$17,852.00
Last Year	\$1,774.72	Total Fuel Goal in '19-'20	\$20,298.00

It's Our Church...It's Our Future

I'd like to update you on our Capital Campaign which began in the summer of 2018. Our goal was \$201,724.00 and as of December 6th \$215,104.12 had been pledged or given. Of that amount, we have received \$124,763.24. Recall that in 2018 there was no Bishop's Fund Appeal; instead, our previous year's goal of \$14,687.00 came off the top. And, 25% of the remainder went to diocesan projects that benefit us. We have completed quite a few of the announced projects (the most recent was replacing rotting cedar shingles on the south side of the rectory). If all pledges are paid, we will still receive \$67,785.66 for our use, I believe.

Collection to support the Retirement Plan for Priests.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg's Retirement Plan for Priests has long been supported by parish contributions from its annual Christmas Collection. Currently 33 retired priests, and 12 active priests age 70 and older, are expected to receive pension benefits of \$900,000 in 2019-20. 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.

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

This Christmas carol began as a poem penned in 1739 by Charles Wesley, brother of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. **Wesley, inspired by the sounds of London church bells while walking to church on Christmas Day, wrote the "Hark" poem about a year after his conversion to be read on Christmas Day.** The original version was titled "Hymn for Christmas-Day", and was one of his over 6,000 published hymns (text, no music.) The original opening line, as it appeared in 1739 in his collection *Hymns and Sacred Poems* was "Hark how all the welkin rings" using a rarely invoked term for heaven.

Wesley's friend and colleague, George Whitefield, an Anglican preacher, changed the opening line to the official one we know today. And in 1753, Whitefield adapted the poem into the song with which we are familiar. It was Whitefield who penned the phrase "newborn King."

The carol was originally sung to a solemn tune, in fact, to many different tunes, including "New Britain." The spirited melody we sing today was adapted by William H. Cummings from Felix Mendelssohn's cantata, *Fetgesang*, composed to commemorate Johann Gutenberg's invention of the printing press. While this is the musical variant that has caught on, it is one unlikely to be appreciated by Wesley or Mendelssohn. Wesley believed the hymn was best sung slowly, while Mendelssohn was a strictly secular musician.

For well over two hundred years, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" has been a Gospel-saturated anthem pointing people to the Savior. This carol tells us that God has sent the One who will reconcile the sinner back to Himself. Therefore, **all the nations should rise and sing and proclaim the good news, which is Christ the King!**

Judy Pearson

[Next week: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"]

