

 <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 January 5, 2020

- Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020 The Epiphany of the Lord**
5:00 p.m. Bob Shepherd by Deverde O'Connor & Family
- Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020**
8:30 a.m. (SFX) The Family of Emma George by her Estate
10:00 a.m. Dominic Giordano by Tim & Diane Kring
- Monday, Jan. 6, 2020**
8:00 a.m. Our Parishioners
- Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020**
8:00 a.m. The Intention of Deacon Bernie Slate by Carol Dwyer
- Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020**
8:00 a.m. The Intention of Everette Hepper by Grandma & Grandpa Ringer
- Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020**
8:00 a.m. Ann McCraith by Bud & Marguerite Sanzone
- Friday, Jan. 10, 2020**
8:00 a.m. *Liturgy of the Word with Communion*
- Saturday, 11, 2019 The Baptism of the Lord**
5:00 p.m. Joe Cullen by Rod, Lisa, Cristofer & Dominic Tidd
- Sunday, Jan. 12, 2019**
8:30 a.m. (SFX) Louis Panunzio by his Wife, Connie
10:00 a.m. T. Richard and Patricia B. Harmon by James & Evelyn Harmon

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

December 28 - 29, 2019

Envelopes	\$1,967.00	Priests' Retirement	\$4,256.00
Plate	\$215.00	Christmas Flowers	\$10.00
Youth		Religious Retirement	\$20.00
Electronic Giving	\$157.72	Fuel Collection	\$145.00
Total	\$2,092.72	Total Fuel Contrib.to Date	\$18,087.00
Last Year	\$1,630.72	Total Fuel Goal in '19-'20	\$20,298.00

.Update on Collection to support the Retirement Plan for Priests.

Thank you for your generous gift in our Christmas collection. To date we have received \$6,851.00. Like every North Country parish we forward 75% of the collection to the diocese to fund pensions for retired priests. Pension needs for the future as well as obligations for the next year are being met thanks to your generous donation.

“The Twelve (12) Days of Christmas”

The 12 Days of Christmas is the period in Christian theology that marks the span between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi. It begins on Christmas Day (December 25) and ends on Epiphany (January 5). It is sometimes called Twelvetide or Three Kings' Day.

Most of us are familiar with “the Twelve Days of Christmas” carol in which the “true love” gives a gift for each of the 12 days, building on the verse before it until one is reciting all 12 gifts together. Some facts about “the 12 Days of Christmas”...

According to the *Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes*, the earliest known printed version of this poem dates back to 1780, and appeared in the book, Mirth Without Mischief. In that version it was a chant or poem not set to music.

Some believe it was created to teach Catholic children the Catechism in a coded way. But this theory only appeared in the 1990s and isn't supported by any documentary evidence. Further, although the religion was controversial in 1700s England, the concepts supposedly symbolized in the carol were basic articles of faith common to all denominations of Christianity. (David Mikkelson, SNOPEs).

The poem, in some form, is probably much older than 1780. It likely has roots that well predate 1780 and may have been French in origin. (Tanya Pai, VOX)

A Scottish holiday poem is very similar. Other poems about the twelve days of Christmas do exist, such as the Scottish poem, “The Yule Days.” This poem focuses on a king sending his lady partridges, geese, ducks, swans, etc., just like the English poem.

Its origins may relate to a memory game. It is highly probable that the song began as a memory/forfeit game for twelfth night celebrations, which would have been said and not sung. “The players gathered in a circle and the leader would recite a verse, each would repeat it, the leader would add another verse and speak faster and so on until a mistake was made by a player, who then had to drop out and pay a forfeit such as a kiss. The last player still correctly reciting won the game. (Authors Mark-Lawson Jones; Dominic Walker)

It wasn't set to music until the 20th century. In the early 20th century, Frederic Austin composed the music based on a traditional folk song, but both the lyrics and the melody were altered by the composer.

The song is not a coded primer on Christianity. It was not written to help Christians with their faith, such as 2 Turtle Doves= Old & New Testament or Partridge in a Pear Tree=Jesus. SNOPEs dispels this theory quite logically.

This and the other carols that were featured during this season will now be “put away” until the beginning of the next Christmas season.

Judy Pearson

Father Doug Writes:

I am very grateful for all the Christmas greetings and gifts. I am enjoying goodies and cookies very much, ---- even if my scales are not. Sincere thanks.

Calendars and Envelopes for the New Year

Calendars and Envelope Sets for the New Year may be picked up in the Our Lady's Chapel at St. Cyril's Church and in St. Francis Xavier Church.