

 <p><b>St. Cyril of Alexandria</b> 28 Walton St. Alexandria Bay, NY</p> <hr/> <p>Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p><b>The Catholic Community of Alexandria</b> 17 Rock St. Alexandria Bay, NY 13607 315-482-2670</p> <p><a href="mailto:pastor@stcyriils.org">pastor@stcyriils.org</a>   <a href="http://www.stcyriils.org">www.stcyriils.org</a></p> <p><b>Rev. Douglas G. Comstock, Pastor</b> <b>Bernard Slate, Deacon</b> <b>Joel Walentuk, Deacon</b></p>	 <p><b>St. Francis Xavier</b> 28685 Butterfield Lake Rd Redwood, NY</p> <hr/> <p>Sunday 8:30 a.m.</p>
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**Liturgy Schedule for Week of December 20, 2020**

**Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020    The Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
5:00 p.m.            Frank Cavallario by his wife, Connie

**Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020**  
8:30 a.m. (SFX)    Arthur Watson by the Estate of Emma George  
10:00 a.m.            Carmella Folino by Tony & Kathy Folino

**Monday, Dec. 21, 2020**  
8:00 a.m.            The Needs of our Parishioners

**Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020**  
8:00 a.m.            George & Frank Bolus by their Family

**Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020**  
8:00 a.m.            Ricky Sidman by Mike & Barb Bresnahan

**Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020    Christmas Eve**  
5:00 p.m. [SC]    All of our Parishioners  
7:00 p.m. [SFX]    The Faithful Departed

**Friday, Dec. 25, 2020    Christmas Day**  
10:00 a.m.            The Intentions of the Celebrant

**Saturday, Dec. 26, 2020    The Holy Family**  
5:00 p.m.            Mary Aline Decker by Deacon Bernie Slate

**Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020**  
8:30 a.m. (SFX)    Joe Cullen by the Rose Family  
10:00 a.m.            James Armiston, Jr. by Dick & Eugenia Kavanaugh

**Sacrament of Reconciliation in Preparation for Christmas**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Dec. 20</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Confessions at St. Francis Xavier, Redwood</b>
		<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Confessions at St. Mary's, Clayton            (2 priests)</b>
		<b>3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Confessions at St. Cyril's, Alexandria Bay    (2 priests)</b>

**Our Stewardship**

December 12 – 13, 2020

Envelopes	\$2,971.00	Retirement Fund for Religious	\$815.00
Plate	\$161.00	Christmas & Priests' Retirement	\$1,305.00
Youth		Christmas Flowers	\$370.00
Electronic Giving	\$257.22	Fuel Collection	\$78.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,389.22</b>	<b>Total Fuel Contrib.to Date</b>	<b>\$12,737.60</b>
Last Year	\$2,943.21	<b>Total Fuel Goal in '16-'17</b>	<b>\$21,339.00</b>

**During this Pandemic Period**

At this time, the number of people able to physically attend Mass will be limited to 99 in St. Cyril of Alexandria Church and 50 in St. Francis Xavier Church. To attend with smaller numbers, try the 8:00 a.m. Liturgy on Monday through Friday.

**Please wear your mask at all times at Mass except when receiving Holy Communion.**

**Our Sunday Mass may be viewed on [www.stcyriils.org](http://www.stcyriils.org)**

## The Northern Cardinal-Christmas Bird

While not mentioned in the Bible, the Northern Cardinal has often been referred to as the “Christmas Bird,” mainly for its spectacular red color, but for other reasons as well. Legend proclaims that the cardinal is the symbol of beauty and warmth of the Christmas season and it is often displayed on Christmas cards. It is said to bring cheer, hope and inspiration on a wintry day that holds very little color.

For hundreds of years, red and green have been the traditional colors of Christmas. Green represents the eternal life of Jesus Christ, just as evergreen trees remain green the whole winter long. Likewise, red represents the blood shed by Jesus Christ during his crucifixion. The cardinal’s vibrant crimson reminds us to focus on His atonement and the hope and peace it brings.

Beyond their beautiful red color, they have other attributes.

Unlike most northern birds, cardinals don’t migrate south for the winter. They are, therefore, a year-round beauty throughout the United States and parts of Canada and Mexico. They represent constancy like the constancy of God’s love. In Native American lore, the number 12 is considered lucky. If a cardinal is seen, it is believed that individual will have good luck either at noon or midnight that day or within 12 days from the day it was seen.

Cardinals are very loyal. They mate for life and develop a close bond with their young. The nest is always guarded by the male or female and both feed their young and teach them how to fly and hunt for food.

An old folklore preserve’s the cultural belief that “When a cardinal appears in your yard, it is a visitor from heaven.” It is also stated...“*Cardinals appear when angels are near.*”

This latter quote comes from a poem by Victoria McGovern of [Our Wander Life](#):

*May you come to find comfort in and remember:  
Cardinals appear when angels are near.  
So go now, sit outside and drink your tea.  
Keep a look out for the little red bird —  
It is there, your loved one will be.*

Look for this beautiful red bird this winter and especially during the Christmas Season to remind us of God’s love.

*Judy Pearson*



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.