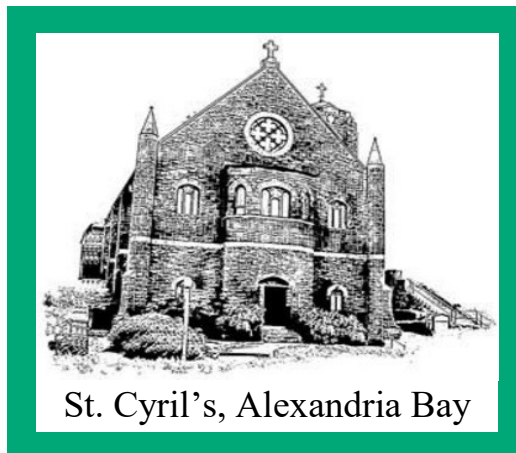
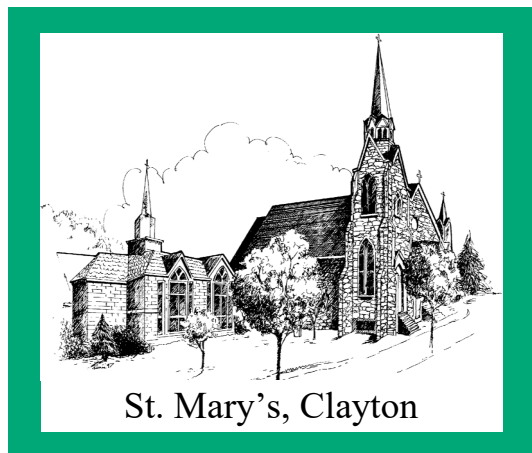


Welcome to St. Mary's Church, Clayton & the Catholic Community of Alexandria, Alexandria Bay



Deacon Neil Fuller Pastoral Life Coordinator

Phone: 315-405-6910

email: pastoralassociate@stmarysclayton.org

Rev. Arthur J. LaBaff Sacramental Minister

St. Mary's Rectory: 315-686-3398

Rev. Douglas G. Comstock Pastor Emeritus

St. Cyril's Rectory: 315-482-2670

Deacon Assistants

Bruce Daugherty
Gary Frank

Bernie Slate
Joel Walentuk

Parish Office

Maribeth McFadden, Secretary

email: reception@stmarysclayton.org

Mailing Address: 521 James Street, Clayton, NY 13624

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm

Religious Education

St. Mary's: Jennifer Barton 315-686-2638

email: religioused@stmarysclayton.org

St. Cyril's: Trina Henry 315-482-2252

email: thenry2252@gmail.com

Buildings/Grounds & Cemeteries

Call the Parish Office 315-686-3398

Websites:

www.stmarysclayton.org

www.stcyrils.org

August 1, 2021

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend Masses

St. Mary's, Clayton

Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.

Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

Tabernacle, Thousand Island Park

Sundays at 8:00 a.m.

St. Cyril's, Alexandria Bay

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

St. Francis Xavier, Redwood

Sundays at 8:00 a.m.

Weekday & Holy Day Masses

See page 2 or call the Parish Office

Reconciliation

3:00–3:30pm Saturdays at St. Mary's

Saturdays after 5:30pm Mass at St. Cyril's

and by appointment

First Friday Holy Hour

after 9:00 a.m. Mass on the first

Friday of the month at St. Mary's

Prayer Line

315-686-3970 or smsjprayerline@gmail.com

*No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church;
No matter what your current family or marital situation;
No matter what your past or present religious affiliation;
No matter what your own personal history, age, background, race, or color;
No matter what your own self-image or esteem;
You are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved, and respected
at St. Mary's, St. Cyril's, and St. Francis Xavier Catholic Churches.*

MASS SCHEDULE:



SATURDAY, July 31, Anticipated Vigil

4:00 (SM) Gus Brown by the Napodano family
 5:30 (SC) Teresa Bresnahan by Dorothy Beach & Dennis Griffin

SUNDAY, August 1, 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 (TIP) Katherine Dziewisz, Frances Bonadonna, and Frances Bonadonna Lux by the Dziewisz family
 8:00 (SFX) William & Catherine McBride by their family
 9:30 (SC) Joseph Tarkowski by Bob & Pam McDowell
 11:00 (SM) Art Sboro by Cindy Beattie

MONDAY, August 2

8:00 (SC) Liturgy of the Word with Communion
 9:00 (SM) Liturgy of the Word with Communion

TUESDAY, August 3

8:00 (SC) Joanne Burrit by Kathy & Tony Folino
 9:00 (SM) Sara Re by Joanne & Brian Bansbach

WEDNESDAY, August 4

8:00 (SC) Terry Bresnahan by Bonnie Bolus & family
 9:00 (SM) Liturgy of the Word with Communion

THURSDAY, August 5

8:00 (SC) Liturgy of the Word with Communion
 9:00 (SM) Liturgy of the Word with Communion

FRIDAY, August 6

8:00 (SC) Jack Getman by the family
 9:00 (SM) Liturgy of the Word with Communion

SATURDAY, August 7, Anticipated Vigil

4:00 (SM) Nancy Hinerth by Tim & Cheryl Pacific
 5:30 (SC) Teresa Bresnahan by Mary Lou Shaughnessy

SUNDAY, August 8, 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 (TIP) Joseph Vay by the family
 8:00 (SFX) In gratitude by a parishioner
 9:30 (SC) Terry Bresnahan by Kelly Crosby
 11:00 (SM) Dolores Amore by Jerry & Kathryn Ingerson & family

August 1, 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Lord Calls: “Do not work for food that perishes, but for food that endures for eternal life.” Are you being chosen to help feed and give life to the people of God as a priest, deacon, or in the consecrated life? Talk to Fr. Art LaBaff, or Fr. Chris Carrara at ccarrara@rcdony.org / 315-393-2920, or Cathy Russell at crussell@rcdony.org / 315-393-2920.

From the Parish Life Coordinator:

Let us start with our faith journey.

Jesus says: “You are not looking for me because you have seen signs, but because you have eaten your fill of the loaves.”

This happens to all of us who call ourselves Christians. At some point in our life, we recognize there is something missing. Our bodies and minds may be full of material things, but our spirit still seems to hunger. We notice a void and we seek to fill it. Perhaps we are in a difficult time in our life and we reach out for something bigger than ourselves for comfort and strength.

Whatever the case, we seek, and at that moment our journey of faith begins.

Weekly Giving

Thank you for your continued support.

	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 2,179.00	
Plate	1,208.00	
Electronic	272.77	
Total	\$ 3,659.79	\$ 2,659.77
Fuel	\$ 257.00	Fuel Goal
Fuel to Date	\$ 2,615.00	\$19,357.00
Tower Restoration	\$ 530.00	

St. Mary's	This Year	Last Year
Envelopes	\$ 3,224.25	\$ 3,320.00
Plate	\$ 1,164.00	\$ 431.37
TI Park	\$ 1,036.87	\$ 992.00

Please consider electronic giving...a safe and consistent way to support your parish.

Sign up at www.stmarysclayton.org or www.stcyrils.org or contact the parish office.

The Sanctuary Lamp at St. Mary's is in Loving Memory of Don, Maureen, Mike, & David by the Shampine & Bevans family



From Fr. LaBaff:

I wonder, in a twenty-four-hour period, how many TV commercials do we see that focus on food? Today's Gospel joins this chorus of concerns about food. It follows last Sunday's Gospel which told of the multiplication of the loaves of bread that fed thousands from five loaves and a couple of fish.

In today's passage, Jesus quickly recognizes that the crowd following Him is doing the right thing for the wrong reason. It was certainly right to follow Jesus, but the crowd's reason for following Him is the question. We can hardly blame those hungry people for hoping that here perhaps was the solution to their pressing problem of having enough to eat at a time when food was never plentiful. The apparent magic of Jesus that had just fed a huge crowd gave the people reason to believe that history was repeating itself. They were reliving those good old days of the Exodus from Egypt when, after a whole lot of grumbling, their leader Moses gave them their daily desert diet of manna and quail. But Jesus quickly dismisses such happy reminiscing when He tells them "Don't work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life."

As one writer noted, Jesus was not born among us so He might be a generous grocer distributing free food for the famished. Of course, He is genuinely concerned with the issue of giving food to the hungry and drink to the thirsty, (corporal works of mercy) but Jesus' major mission is essentially spiritual. He is not the Stuffer of Stomachs but the Savior of Souls.

That is why Jesus says the bread He gives comes "from heaven." The food He gives will not grow stale, but "endures for eternal life." Jesus wants us to understand that He is not the one who gives us bread, loaf by loaf. Rather He *is* the Bread of Life. His purpose is to feed us, nourish us with His very own life, His very own love, His very own REAL PRESENCE.

And that's why we come together every Sunday. Our church is not a grocery store where we come and shop to fill our freezer. We come here to praise and thank God and to fill our heads and our hearts with the nourishment we need to give us spiritual strength, to grow in holiness.

The goal of the Christian life is holiness, but somewhere along the way we lost the desire. Some sigh and roll their eyes when they hear talk of holiness. Either we think it is an unattainable ideal or we feel that holiness lacks relevance in the modern world. Perhaps we believe that the idea of holiness, a close relationship with Jesus, makes people feel out of touch with the real world.

It seems that holiness has come to mean being labeled and ridiculed as a wimp in a world where power, rudeness, and rugged individualism rule the day. Whatever the reason, the disappearance of this goal to be holy hasn't made it easy for modern Catholics; it's made it much more difficult to follow Jesus. My sisters and brothers, more and more, our culture is molding us, the Gospel's influence is waning.

A serious confusion, even malaise, is torturing the Church and weakening our faith. Do I want to be holy? Have we become disoriented and lost our focus? Have we forgotten, or minimized, the awesome gift of the Eucharist as the necessary food on the holiness menu? We come here to feed on Jesus who is our Bread of Life. We come to hear His words of life that refresh our faith, our hope, and our love. We come to eat His Body and drink His Blood in Holy Communion. We come for the greatest, most mind-boggling gift, the very presence of Jesus Christ.

We mustn't forget, too, that worship of God at Mass is not just about *receiving*, receiving the very Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, as awesome as this Gift is. Worship is also about *giving*: giving God our time, our thanks, praise and love; giving God our hearts, our entire lives.

This gift of Jesus Christ himself is what makes our celebration of the Eucharist our most precious privilege as Catholics. Yes, it is our privilege, our gift, our good fortune to come together like this Sunday after Sunday, even day by day. We come to Jesus so we will never hunger, to believe in Jesus so we will never thirst, to receive Jesus who is food that endures for eternal life. What a privilege! What Good News! Thank you for being here and embracing the privilege. Let's never stop praying for loved ones who aren't.

Hopefully, we've turned the corner on the coronavirus. But, this is not a time to return to the way things were. They were not good enough. They were not the "good ole days." I hope you share my vision of the post-pandemic Church of the North Country: Each one of us must grow closer to Jesus, and to His Body, the Church. The Mass is the means for that to happen.

We have begun a Eucharistic initiative to revitalize our teaching on the Eucharist and to rekindle in the faithful the urgent desire to participate at Holy Mass every week. The Eucharist is too great a gift to tolerate indifference, irreverence, or disregard. Every commitment to holiness, every activity aimed at carrying out the Church's mission, every work of pastoral planning in our diocese must draw the strength it needs from the Eucharistic Mystery. In the Eucharist we have Jesus, we have His redemptive sacrifice, we have His resurrection, we have the gift of the Holy Spirit. We must not neglect the Eucharist, lest we forget who we are.

Today's readings are a fresh call to a recovery of a Eucharistic faith. I hope you will join your parish efforts to learn more about the Eucharist and invite your family to join us at Mass. The Holy Eucharist: *A Mystery to be believed, Mystery to be celebrated, Mystery to be lived.* "Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you." May God be praised...forever may God be praised!

Did You Know... by Judy Pearson

Eucharist: The Heart of the Church-Part 1
Is It Important?

One afternoon recently, a friend and I were discussing the changes in priest assignments and the shortage of ordained priests to serve our churches.

Her “solution” was to continue to allow Mass online as fulfillment of our obligation to attend Mass. “But what about Communion?” I asked. Her response truly surprised me...she considered not being able to receive the Eucharist was just the “sacrifice” of online Mass; it was more important to just “attend” Mass than to receive Communion.

During COVID when churches were closed and the only Masses were online, I and many others found it heartbreaking to only have Spiritual Communion and not receive the Eucharist week-after-week.

The Mass is divided into two main parts, plus the Introductory and Concluding Rites: The *Liturgy of the Word* (Proclaiming and Hearing the Word, Prayers of the Faithful) and the *Liturgy of the Eucharist* (Preparation of the Gifts, Eucharistic Prayer, Communion). The Liturgy of the Eucharist is the high point of the Mass celebration. The Preparation of the Gifts has been described as setting the table for a meal, Eucharistic Prayer as saying the blessing, and Communion as sharing the meal together.

Can you imagine setting the table for Thanksgiving, saying a Thanksgiving blessing, and then leaving...not sharing the meal together? I cannot.

And so it is at Mass...we need the Eucharist to make it complete.

Today we heard part of the Gospel of John 6:41-51:

*“Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert,
but they died;
This is the bread that comes down from
heaven so that one may eat it and not die.
I am the living bread that came down from
heaven;
Whoever eats this bread will live forever;
and the bread that I will give is my flesh for
the life of the world.”*

Do we all believe that this *IS* the “living bread”, the Real Presence? Over the next few weeks we will discuss various aspects of **The Eucharist: The Heart of the Church.**

Deacon's Corner

by Dc. Bernie Slate

I have a small plaque which reads "Do small things with great love, signed Mother Teresa" sitting on a small table in my living room. Each morning and evening, as I am reading Morning and Evening Prayers, I try to reflect on Saint Mother Teresa's simple words of encouragement. It's hoped you will do the same!

Mother Teresa went to Loreto Abbey, Rathfarnham, Dublin, Ireland in 1928 and from there to India where she began her novitiate. She taught geography in St. Mary's High School in Calcutta from 1929 to 1948. It was in 1950 she started her own order, The Missionaries of Charity to minister exclusively to the poorest of the poor. She won many awards during her long life including the Nobel Peace Prize, and founded hundreds of homes for the poor throughout the world.

Mother Teresa dedicated over fifty years to serving the poorest of the poor. She witnessed in the slums of Calcutta, India how God's love transforms lives. She was able to see dignity in each of these individual souls. The poorest are not consumed with worldly matters, but most free to seek God's peace!

We each have the opportunity to share in this peace. Many accustomed to a fast-paced world filled with anxiety will find it challenging, but may obtain Peace. The path to true faith begins with silent contemplation and prayer. Our prayers will free us of worldly concerns and reminds us of God's constant presence in our lives. Once we are able to accept God's love through prayer, we will be able to share this love with others through service.

Many of us are not called to serve in the particular way that Mother Teresa served until her death, but we are called to serve others in every day life. It is not how much we do that is important, rather the love which our actions are performed that is most important. The smallest action, done with love, will lead us toward inward peace.

I will conclude by using Mother Teresa's message of peace. We must love one another as God loves each one of us. It was Jesus who came to give the good news that God loves us and that He wants us to love one another.

God bless you all, wishing you much Peace in your lives! We can gain much from the simple life of the Saint Teresa.