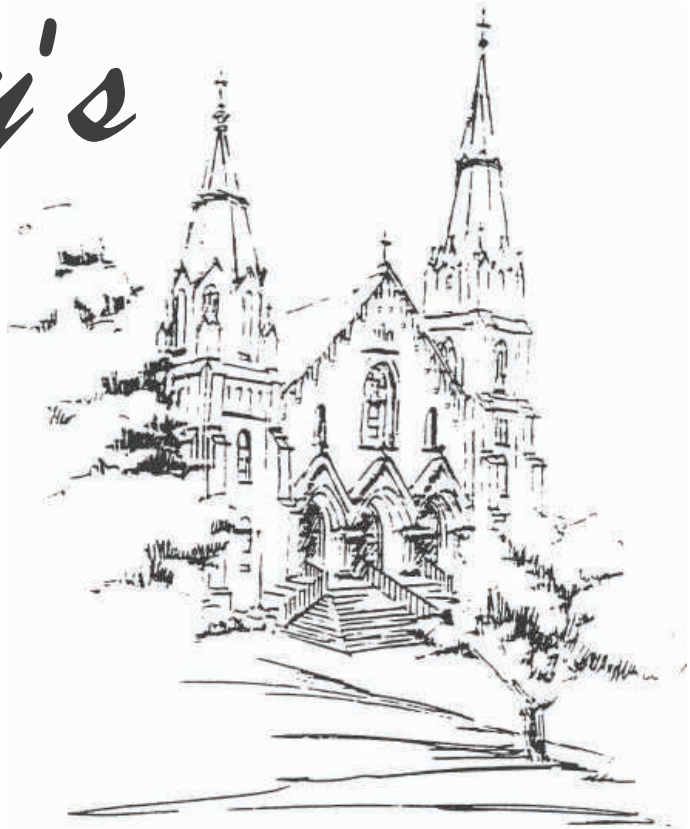


December 9, 2012

# St. Mary's Parish

**13 Marvin Street  
Clinton, New York 13323**



## **PARISH STAFF:**

*Rev. John P. Croghan* – Pastor  
*Sister Johanne McCarthy, CSJ* – Parish Associate  
*Carol Marshall* – Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper  
*Mary Lou Lauchert* –  
    Director of Faith Formation  
*Susan Cambridge* – Preschool Director  
*Chris Ellis* –  
    Superintendent of St. Mary's Cemetery  
*Valerie Wright* – Director of Music/Organist  
*Leonard Murphy* – Custodian

## **Parish Council Officers**

Elizabeth Tantillo - Chair  
Patricia Balon - Vice Chair  
Carole Byrne - Secretary

**Web Page:** [www.stmarys-clinton.com](http://www.stmarys-clinton.com)

**Email:** [parishoffice@stmarys-clinton.com](mailto:parishoffice@stmarys-clinton.com)

## **Phone Numbers:**

Parish Office .....853-2935  
Faith Formation Center.....853-6196 or 853-7631  
Parish Center .....853-6196  
Sister Johanne McCarthy.....853-1849  
Cemetery Superintendent .....939-3058  
Music Director .....292-0368

## **Eucharistic Liturgies**

**Weekend Mass**                      Saturday Vigil 5:15 PM  
   Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM  
**Weekday Mass**                      Wednesday – Friday 7:00 AM  
   Saturday 8:00 AM

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday 4:00 – 4:45 PM

## **Sacrament of Baptism**

We joyfully welcome all into our Church family through this sacrament. Parents are asked to please call the rectory 853-2935 to make arrangements. Baptismal preparation meetings are held with the Baptismal Team the first Sunday of the month at 9 AM at St. Mary's School.

## **Sacrament of Marriage**

Couples planning to be married are asked to schedule an appointment with Fr. Croghan at least 6 months before the desired date. Wedding dates cannot be scheduled over the phone. One of the parties being married and/or their parents must be registered members of St. Mary's (Pre-marriage instruction is required).

## **Prayer Line**

If you or any of your loved ones are in need of prayer, please call Margaret – 853-5280, or Pat – 853-5229.

## **New Parishioners**

Welcome! Please introduce yourself after Mass. We invite you to become an active member of our parish community. Please call the parish office to register.

## **Bulletin Deadline**

All announcements for the bulletin should be in writing and submitted to the parish office by Monday noon.



**Saturday, December 8 - Vigil Mass**  
 5:15 PM Eric Wiedmer (10th) by His Family  
**Sunday, December 9 - 2nd Sunday of Advent**  
 8:00 AM Edward Kaido, Sr. by His Family  
 10:30 AM Linda Knepek by M/M Jerome Mack, Sr.  
**Wednesday, December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe**  
 7:00 AM Linda Marsh by Carla & Don Barrett  
**Thursday, December 13 - St. Lucy**  
 7:00 AM Charlotte Heintz (B'day) by Her Family  
**Friday, December 14 - St. John of the Cross**  
 7:00 AM For the People of the Parish  
**Saturday, December 15**  
 8:00 AM Jeffrey O'Brien by His Family  
 5:15 PM - Vigil Mass - John & Eleanor Calidonna  
 by Their Family  
**Sunday, December 16 - 3rd Sunday of Advent**  
 8:00 AM Bob Auert (7th Ann) by Their Family  
 10:30 AM Anthony James Odell  
 by His Mother, Roxanne

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED,  
 HOSPITALIZED, SICK & SHUT-INS  
 OF OUR PARISH**

**Altar-Rosary Cleaners - 12-15**  
 Carole Byrne & Amy Franz

**Collection for Last Weekend**

Ordinary Collection.....	\$8,219.00
Christmas.....	217.00
Christmas Flowers.....	424.00
Faith Formation.....	19.00
School Assessment.....	55.00
Memorial Fund.....	195.00
Country Pantry.....	10.00

**Second Collection Next Weekend**

The annual Cathedra collection, for the support of our Bishop, will be taken up at Masses this weekend. Many thanks for your generosity!

**A Family Perspective**

Today's gospel shows John the Baptist and parents have similar vocations. Like the Baptist, parents are asked to make "rough ways smooth" and to "prepare the way of the Lord" for their families. This Advent ask: "Does my life hinder or help my family to know Jesus?"

**The Country Pantry**

A special thank you to all those who helped transport the gifts last Sunday from St. Mary's to the Pantry located at the Church of the Annunciation. Thank you also to all who contributed nearly 150 gifts to our families. What a wonderful Christmas our families will have. We are one of 13 churches who comprise the Country Pantry and together we will serve about 170 families this holiday season, over 500 people. Our distribution date is Tuesday, December 18, 10-5 PM. Along with their regular monthly food supplement each family will receive a Hannaford Helping Hands gift box and Christmas gifts for the children, elderly and disabled. Other adults who do not have children or elderly members will receive a box of candy.

If you have not returned your gift yet, please do so as soon as possible. Any gifts not returned must be purchased by the Pantry so that no one will be disappointed this Christmas. Any questions, please call Jeanne Roback at 737-7650. Thank you for sharing and caring

<b>Liturgical Ministers</b>			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Altar Servers</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>
8:00 AM (12/15)	Seamus & Betsy Gale		
5:15 PM (12/15)	Cheyenne Eisenhut, Meradith Thayer & Will Eisenhut	Joyce Bojdak	Host - Bob McQueen & Mary Paul Cup - Jan Slawson, Ann Wilkinson, Sue Kielar & Pearl Gapp
8:00 AM (12/16)	Jane Hughes, Georgia Zoller & Nathan Gale	Ron Roback	Host - Mike Howard & Jack McNamara Cup - Bob Burns, Evelyn Micciche, Kate Chute & Jeanne Roback
10:30 AM (12/16)	Kate Sullivan, Taylor & Kendell Arndt	Marylalice Hogan	Host - Phyllis Moore & Michele Beach Cup - Maryalice Hogan, Mary Stuttard, Peggy Schweitzer & Joanne Joseph

**Faith Formation**

The second candle on the Advent Wreath is the candle of preparation. Being "good" in order to reap benefits from Santa Claus is rooted in the Christian tradition of preparing our hearts and souls for celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Regular classes on Monday for grades 1-8

Wednesday classes will meet for grades 1-5

9th Grade meets next Sunday, December 16, 6:30-8 PM

**TGIF (Teens Gathered in Faith) Youth Group**

We will be meeting this Sunday, December 9, 6:30-8 PM, in the school. We will be baking Christmas cookies to distribute as a local nursing home and enjoying some recreation. All high school students in grades 9-12 are invited and welcome!

**Liturgy of the Word for Children**

Your children, grades K-5, are invited to join in Liturgy of the Word for Children at the 10:30 AM Mass this Sunday. Next session 12/23.

**Fun Facts**

The original St. Mary's Church organ was a rebuilt instrument that has been replaced twice. The last time being in 1942 by Fr. Lawrence.

**St. Mary's Cemetery**

Please note - roadways are not plowed on a regular basis December 1 - April 1 - **proceed at your own risk.**

Just a reminder, Christmas decorations must be removed by April 7.



**St. Mary's Pre-K Christmas Celebration**

St. Mary's Preschool will be performing songs and skits at the annual Christmas Celebration, Tuesday, December 11, at 6:30 PM, in the school gym. All are welcome!

**Advent Penance Service(s)**

Again this Advent, the parishes of St. John's, New Hartford, St. Mary's-Sacred Heart, New York Mills and St. Mary's, Clinton will join together for an Advent Penance Service at **St. Mary's-Sacred Heart, New York Mills**, Tuesday, December 18, at 7 PM.

**Other Area Penance Service(s)**

Sunday, December 16, 6 PM - Our Lady of Lourdes, 2 Barton Ave., Utica.

Monday, December 17, 7 PM at Historic St. John's, Utica

Sunday, December 23, 4 PM - St. Bernard's/St. Joseph's, 199 Stafford Ave., Waterville.



# dear Padre

December 9, 2012

## Who invented the Christmas tree?

Did Christians come up with the idea of the Christmas tree, or is it yet another religious custom with pagan roots?

Betty Mae

Dear Betty Mae,

The origins of our Christmas tree traditions are a little hard to pin down. It's connected to different strands of history, and some of its meanings were shaped by pre-Christian cultures well before Christians started bringing evergreens indoors and decorating them for Christmas.

Some parts of this tradition are likely rooted in the ancient pagan practice of bringing evergreen plants indoors during winter to encourage thoughts of life while all outside is dormant or dead.

Other parts go back to the story of Saint Boniface, the great eighth-century missionary to Germany. Legend has it that after Boniface cut down an oak tree associated with pagan human sacrifice, he encouraged people to take fir trees into their houses and to use the green, upward-pointing branches as symbols of peace and immortality and an indication of God's dwelling place.

But many Christmas-tree traditions come from later, medieval Germany, where a fir tree hung with apples and crushed biscuits symbolized the tree of paradise in annual December 24 productions of a morality play focused on Adam and Eve and anticipating the celebration of our Redeemer's coming on December 25.

*Fr. Matthew Allman, CSSR  
sundaybulletins@liguori.org*

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I am new in the parish & wish to register

I am unsure if registered or not, please check

I am previously registered and wish to receive envelopes.

I moved to the above address.

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- William Newton Clarke

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