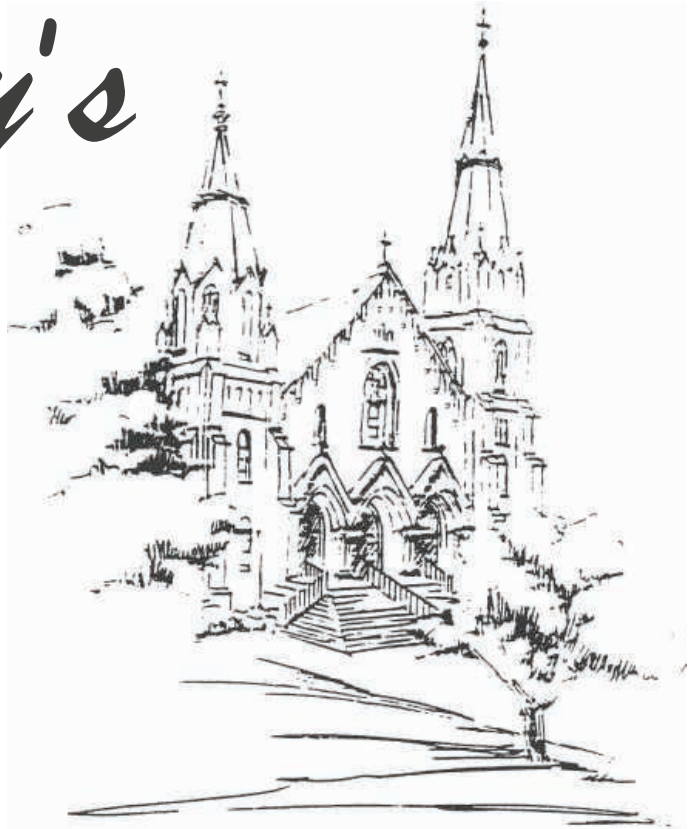


December 16, 2012

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

Email: parishoffice@stmarys-clinton.com

Phone Numbers:

Parish Office853-2935
Faith Formation Center.....853-6196 or 853-7631
Parish Center853-6196
Sister Johanne McCarthy.....853-1849
Cemetery Superintendent939-3058
Music Director292-0368

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

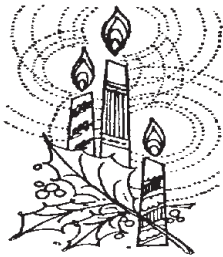
If you or any of your loved ones are in need of prayer, please call Margaret – 853-5280, or Pat – 853-5229.

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 15 - Vigil Mass
 5:15 PM John & Eleanor Calidonna by Their Family
Sunday, December 16 - 3rd Sunday of Advent
 8:00 AM Bob Auert (7th) by His Family
 10:30 AM Anthony James Odell by mother, Roxanne
Wednesday, December 19
 7:00 AM John Thomas Crane by His Family
Thursday, December 20
 7:00 AM Kathleen Phillips by Her Family
Friday, December 21 - St. Peter Canisius
 7:00 AM For the People of the Parish
Saturday, December 22
 8:00 AM Leo Crane by John & Colleen Crane
 5:15 PM - Vigil Mass - Dominic & Mary Calidonna
 by Their Family
Sunday, December 23 - 4th Sunday of Advent
 8:00 AM Joseph & Josephine Slivonik
 by Joe, Kris and Family
 10:30 AM Benjamin Burdick (18th) by His Family

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

Altar-Rosary Cleaners - 12-22
 Sandy & Marilyn Cirrincioni

Collection for Last Weekend

Ordinary Collection.....	\$5,955.72
Holy Days.....	719.00
Christmas.....	586.00
Faith Formation.....	42.00
School Assessment.....	35.00
Memorial Fund.....	25.00
Diocesan Collections.....	578.00
Christmas Flowers.....	82.00

The Country Pantry

Our Christmas distribution is Tuesday, December 18. Along with the regular monthly food supplement, our families will be receiving their Christmas gifts which have been donated by the 13 area churches through our Christmas Star Program. Our clients will also be receiving "Hannaford Helping Hands" food boxes, which have been purchased by area residents and donated to the Pantry. This will truly be a wonderful day for our families. We thank all of you who have contributed in any way to making this possible. Thank you for helping us spread a little cheer into families who need some sunshine in their lives. Please pray for those who are ill, having financial difficulties and family problems. May the Infant Savior bestow his blessings on you for your kindness. God bless us everyone!

A Family Perspective

Today's gospel tells us to SHARE! This Christmas resist the pressure to give token gifts. Instead, use those funds to give necessities to the poor. If our impoverished brothers and sisters are not on our gift list, we've missed the point of Christmas.

Liturgical Ministers			
Time	Altar Servers	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers
8:00 AM (12/22)	Daniel & Connor Frank		
5:15 PM (12/22)	J.P. Wade, Dominic & Joseph Pascucci	Colleen Kannainen	Host - Ron Newman & Barb Blatz Cup - Alex D'Acunto, MaryLou Lauchert Steve & Beth May
8:00 AM (12/23)	Jenny Maxam, Madeline Krasniak & Garrett Frank	Bob Burns	Host - Fran & Gwen Lallier Cup - Carole Byrne, Evelyn Micciche, Chris Kielar & Pam Sprague
10:30 AM (12/23)	Fritz, Betsy & Seamus Gale	John Burdick	Host - Peggy Schweitzer & Joanne Joseph Cup - Anita Fitzgerald, Carol Fobes, Don & Jane Conniff

Faith Formation

The third Advent candle represents Joy. Joy is a gift of God. Sometimes it takes an effort to set aside our worries or expectations of the future and to be happy in the present moment. Sometimes, to "get joy," we have to give joy first! We also need to stop and notice the peace and joy already in our lives. What can you notice today? The smile of a friend? A beautiful sunset? Your favorite song? A favorite verse from Scripture?

9th Grade meets this Sunday,

December 16, 6:30-8 PM

Regular classes on Monday and Wednesday
for grades 1-8

TGIF (Teens Gathered in Faith) Youth Group

The teens made Christmas cookies last Sunday and delivered them to residents of the Lutheran Home on Wednesday along with Christmas decorations made by Mrs. Berney's 5th grade class. This was a wonderful outreach by our teens and brought joy to everyone involved. Next meeting will be after New Year!

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 next Sunday.

Fun Facts

Our four bells arrived in the spring of 1914. The bells are named: Gabriel, the Sacred Heart, Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Joseph.

Third Thursday Group

The Third Thursday Group will meet December 20. We gather in church at 12:15 PM for a Communion Service. Bring a bag lunch and come to the basement after the service for socializing. Dessert and beverage provided. All adults welcome. Bring a friend!

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.

Confessions at St. Mary's, Clinton

Saturday, December 22, 10-11 AM
(No 4 PM Confessions)

Good News!

December 16, 2012

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Zep 3:14-18a / Phil 4:4-7 / Lk 3:10-18

A priest friend prays the following prayer every morning as he gets out of bed: "You are God, and I am not. Thanks be to God!" What a wonderful way to begin the day! Now, if we could only remember that truth throughout the day...

We do tend to forget who we are and what our limits are. We unknowingly slip into God mode as we try to exercise complete control over our unpredictable lives and smoothly move into Savior mode as we try to fix someone else's. We easily forget who is truly in control and who truly has healing power.

John the Baptist models such humility as he directs attention away from himself and to the coming Messiah. He could have easily claimed the title for himself, but he knew his limits, and he exhorted his followers to know theirs as well. He challenged tax collectors to remain honest in their occupation and soldiers to live with integrity. John didn't ask them to do more, be more, or control more. Instead, he asked them to do what they'd been asked to do—no more, no less—but to do it righteously.

So on this Gaudete Sunday, this "Rejoice" Sunday—are we *supposed* to rejoice in our limitations? Exactly! It is precisely within our limited human condition that God came to be with us as Emmanuel. It is precisely within our limited human condition that we can experience God's saving power and live out God's love and mercy to others. We needn't do more, be more, control more—we need to be exactly who we are and be that person as humbly and faithfully as possible.

"You are God, and we are not." Thanks be to God indeed!

Janel Esker

sundaybulletins@liguori.org

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Applications are available from the Parish Office and need to be returned by February 1, 2013.

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