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# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

DEC. 25, 2013

## Christmas offers lesson in humility

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope Francis said Christmas is an occasion of joy but also a lesson in humility, when the faithful are called to imitate the example of God-made-man.

The pope made his remarks Dec. 18, during his weekly public audience in St. Peter's Square.

"God abases himself, descends to earth as someone small and poor, which means that to be like him we should not put ourselves above others, but on the contrary, abase ourselves, give ourselves in service, make ourselves small with the small and poor with the poor,"

Pope Francis said.

"It is an ugly thing when one sees a Christian who will not abase himself, who will not serve, a Christian who struts about vainly everywhere," Pope Francis added. "That is not Christian, that is pagan."

A Christian is obliged to

serve, the pope said, because the incarnation means God is to be found in every person.

"If God, through Jesus, involved himself with man to the point of becoming one of us, that means whatever we have done to a brother or sister we have done" to God, Pope Francis said.

## CHRISTMAS AT THE VATICAN

### The first for Pope Francis



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

A Christmas tree glows in St. Peter's Square after the lighting ceremony at the Vatican Dec. 13. At least liturgically, Pope Francis' first Christmas at the Vatican will follow the schedule set during the pontificate of Pope Benedict XVI. At 9:30 p.m. Dec. 24 he will begin the celebration of Christmas Mass in St. Peter's Basilica. On Christmas Day, at noon, he will address the crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square and give his blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world).

## One more honoree



Bishop Terry R. LaValley has announced that Betty Lucia of Altona has been awarded the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* Cross by Pope Francis. Bishop LaValley will confer the cross on Mrs. Lucia Jan. 5 at the 10:30 a.m. Mass at Holy Angels Church in Altona.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## Ministry in honor of Mary

Robert Hurley of St. Cecilia's Parish in Adams creates rosaries every day

and gives them away

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

## KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS



The students of Seton Academy in Plattsburgh focused their attention on the real meaning of Christmas during Advent. During their Dec. 17 production of "Gabriel's Awesome Adventure," Jake Glicksman, (son of Justin and Carissa Glicksman) played the role of St. Joseph. Olivia Kenney (daughter of James Kenney and Lori Sheporaitis) took the role of Mary, and Jacob Johnston (son of Keith Johnston and Carrie Nutt) was the Infant Jesus.

**MY CHRISTMAS MOMENT:** Sharing wonder with 90-year-old mom... p. 8

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

## Home away from home for Christmas

Christmas will be a little different in our house this year... no-body will be there!

Now that the kiddos have kiddos of their own, it's Grammy and Papa who will be on the road.

I'll be making Christmas Eve lasagna under Annalin's watchful eyes; Papa will oversee the Christmas beast with his first mate Patrick.

It will surely be a wonderful week but it *will* be different.



Mary Lou  
Kilian

It's hard to believe that we won't be leading Christmas carols at the Christmas Eve Mass at Notre Dame Church. It's hard to believe that I won't be the one filling stockings this year.

While I'm thrilled that my children are starting family traditions of their own, there's a piece of me that still wishes they were all nestled and

snug in their beds in *my* house on Christmas Eve.

But, as families change, traditions change too and that is as it should be.

This year's celebration will be unlike any we've had which nudges us to think about what we're doing and why.

Without all the usual responsibilities of hosting extravagant holiday feasts, we have more time to take on nourishment for ourselves... even from the pages of the *NCC*.

Our bishop offers sustaining food in his powerful Christmas letter this year; our pope nudges us every day towards lives of humility and joy.

The "reason for the season" doesn't change whether we're in northern New York or on either end of the Thruway.

Wherever we are, we'll be home for Christmas.

We will be carrying faith, hope and abiding love to places where two young families are starting to grow.

The change in our traditions isn't a diminishment; this year we have two more people to love - and they are very cute people! How blessed are we that we won't be in our usual home this week.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

## A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

## Christmas wish: be ready to change the world

May your Christmas be filled with love and peace. May your family discover again the love of the new born Savior.

You will all be remembered in my Christmas Masses.

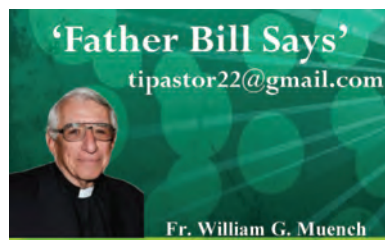
A Christmas Poem by Catherine Doherty (from "Donkey Bells" by Catherine Doherty)

*I saw a Child stand,  
Royally bedecked  
In crown, scepter,  
And finely wrought white  
garments,  
And a crimson cloak.  
I saw a child.  
And suddenly I knew  
The secret of all mystery,  
And of all immensity.*

*Eternity opened  
Its sublimity to me  
I looked into  
The Face of Ecstasy  
For hidden there  
Before my eyes  
Was love  
Become a child  
For love of me!*

The most popular person on the planet this Christmas is our Holy Father, Pope Francis. Everybody is writing about him and talking about him. This Christmas and this end of year reflections, he is the rage. Time Magazine and many others have chosen him as the Person of the Year.

There has been a flurry of



op-ed columns written about him. The television and radio news can't get enough of him.

Pope Francis has encouraged all of us to be evangelizers - to get ourselves out in the street - to get the message of Jesus and of the Church out to everyone. I suspect he never realized that he would lead the way - that he would be the number one evangelizer - the witness for all of us.

The best story about him that I have heard lately - with an obvious Christmas twist to it - just isn't true.

The story is that Pope Francis went out into the streets in disguise to bring food and necessities to the street people of Rome. Well, it never happened. However, I wish it had - wouldn't it be a wonderful story? Actually, I do suspect that Pope Francis did send help out to the street people in various other ways.

A Pope would be a perfect one to write a Christmas novel about. It would be a Christmas story of a Pope who goes down

into the slums of a city like Rome every Christmas to give out gifts and food to those in need. Pope Francis could easily be a model of such a story. I guess there is just too much security these days to make it all possible, but it certainly would be fun - to march around the city with Pope Francis to help the needy at Christmas.

There is a present day Christmas message for all of us that comes from Pope Francis. The Pope wants us to get out into the world and do something - do something good for somebody. So what am I supposed to do? Now here is what I be-

lieve. Each day of our lives - especially at Christmas time - God places innumerable opportunities and challenges into our lives - ways of doing something good, something helpful, even something miraculous. Usually, these opportunities are surprises for us - unplanned surprises - but because we are open to the Lord and faith-filled, we are ready to follow God's lead.

My Christmas prayer for you and for me is that we are ready. The Lord needs us today and each day - to transform this world - to make it better - to do something in the spirit of our Savior.

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## FOLLOW ME

# What Christmas means: God is with us!

## Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

"Emmanuel" – GOD IS WITH US!

That is the meaning of Christmas. That is the reason for the Season and what an awesome, earth-shattering reason it is!

For centuries, gifted artists have created beautiful manger scenes of the newborn Savior. They proclaim to all, that one simple message: God is with us.

Can there be a more hope-filled, reassuring message? God accompanies us throughout our life journey, wherever we find ourselves. The joy of Christmas is the realization of God's abiding Presence, in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Every Christmas heightens our awareness that when God took on human flesh, He made all human flesh holy. Our attitude towards every person, no matter how different from ourselves, should reflect respect for such sacredness that dwells among us.

For instance, that means we don't forget the

families that are homeless and feel hopeless, especially as a result of poverty, natural disasters and terrorism.

That means we don't forget the victims of human trafficking, religious persecution and those who suffer from substance abuse.

That means we remember those who suffer from chronic disease and physical, emotional and psychological distress.

We remember those who continue to die from abortion, starvation and neglect.

We keep in mind and heart those who are imprisoned and those that don't know the love and support of a family.

Without judging, not only do we not forget, we accept, pray for and reach out to every person with the Christmas message: God is with us -- Yes, particularly to those who are hurting.

Our Christmas liturgy rings out with joy to all. We sing carols and the Gloria makes its triumphal return. We make our own the song of

the angels who appeared to the shepherds on the night of Christ's birth, *Glory to God in the highest!*

We give praise because God has come as One among us to save us all. We are God's own and for that we give endless praise.

This Christmas, may the Christ Child, Emmanuel, come to you and your loved ones, bringing the Gift of Love, the Blessing of Hope and the Promise of Peace. A blessed Christmas and joy-filled New Year!

Faithfully yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg

## One more recipient of papal honor recognized

Bishop Terry R. LaValley announced that Betty Lucia of Altona has been awarded the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* Cross by Pope Francis.

The bishop will confer the Cross on Mrs. Lucia Jan. 5 at the 10:30 a.m. Mass at Holy Angels Church in Altona.

Bishop LaValley conferred the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* Cross on 14 individuals in a ceremony Dec. 8 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

"I wanted to hold back one of the awards so that I could confer it in the parish in which the recipient performed her distinguished service to the Church," he said. "Holiness and discipleship take place every day on the parish level. The parish Church is where the Gospel and the world truly intersect.

"I look forward to conferring this award on Mrs. Lucia in the church where she prays to God, hears His Word, finds strength in the Eucharist and gives powerful witness to her faith," explained Bishop LaValley.

Bishop LaValley has personally known Mrs. Lucia for many years. Her son, Father Douglas Lucia, attended Wadhams Hall Seminary and Christ the King Seminary

with Bishop LaValley, and has worked with Bishop LaValley in various diocesan positions over the years since ordination.

### Bishop will confer *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* Cross to Betty Lucia at her home parish in Altona

"I was going to say that Mrs. Lucia's award was delayed because she had to undergo a heightened level of scrutiny because of her reputed association with Father Lucia," joked Bishop LaValley.

"Seriously, taking Mrs. Lucia's health and my desire to confer the award at a local parish church into consideration, I wanted to come to her for this happy occasion instead of asking her to come to Ogdensburg for the award," Bishop LaValley said.

### About the award

The *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* (Latin: For the Church and the Pope) is an award for the laity established by Pope Leo XIII on July 17, 1888. It is also known as the "Cross of

Honor". It is the highest medal that can be awarded to the laity by the Papacy.

The medal depicts the Apostles Saint Peter and Saint Paul. On the left arm of the cross is *Pro Ecclesia* (For Church), and on the right arm is *Et Pontifice* (And Pope). At the point on top of arm of the cross is the coat of arms of the reigning Pope. At the points of the other arms are small Greek crosses. Below the depiction of the Saints is the Latin Name of the Pope. The reverse of the medal depicts a Greek cross.

The cross is conferred together with a certificate in Latin, which says "Francis, Supreme Pontiff has determined to bestow the medal of this venerable cross, *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*, awarded in recognition of outstanding service distinguished by remarkable effort and zeal to Betty Lucia, at the same time granting the aforementioned the honor of wearing the token of this award".

Bishop LaValley said that he is looking forward to awarding the medal upon Mrs. Lucia. "It is such a humbling experience to be able to confer this award on a

woman I have known so well for so long," he said. "I have been a beneficiary of Mrs. Lucia's deep faith, good example and loving service.

"Mrs. Lucia has the faith that fostered and supported a vocation to the priesthood which, in turn, has brought so many blessings to the people of our diocese through the priesthood of Father Lucia," Bishop LaValley said. "I am overjoyed at this well-deserved honor for this faithful woman. Her life is a beautiful example of how graces and blessing multiply".

### About Betty Lucia

Betty K. (Pepin) Lucia was born on October 22, 1928 in Champlain. Betty married Leward Lucia at St. Patrick's Church in Rouses Point on October 31, 1959. The couple has four children, one of whom is Reverend Douglas Lucia, a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Since her marriage, Betty has been an active communicant of Holy Angels Church in Altona. Betty has instilled a love of the Catholic faith in her family. Her example and devotion has been a source

of inspiration for all the parishioners of Holy Angels Church.

Betty has actively given witness to her faith by her prayerfulness and active participation in the spiritual life of her parish.

Betty also inspired others, including her children, by her life of service to the church and neighbor. Betty served her church for years by working on the annual parish bazaar, the preparation and serving of parish dinners, social events in the parish and by preparing the weekly bulletin.

Betty also exercised the spiritual and corporal works of mercy by visiting the sick and homebound, and by bringing them Holy Communion. Betty brought great consolation to the bereaved by her work as coordinator of the parish bereavement ministry.

Although health challenges have forced Betty to curtail some of her activities, she continues to give powerful witness to her faith by her continued participation in parish liturgies and prayers. Betty is most deserving of this papal honor.



Rejoice, for the King will come again in glory!

The Catholic Community of Holy Name & St. Matthew  
Au Sable Forks & Black Brook  
St. Margaret's, Wilmington

## A VISIT FROM ST. NICK



SCHOOL PHOTO  
The pre-kindergarten students at Holy Family School, Malone, presented a Christmas pageant Dec. 13, under the direction of their teacher Mrs. Gratton. Santa (aka Brent Charland, sexton for Malone Catholic Parishes) made a surprise visit to the manger at the end of the production.

*We Are So Very Proud of You!*



*Patricia Stabins*

Former Sacred Heart Foundation  
Board Member (1978-89)

Recipient of  
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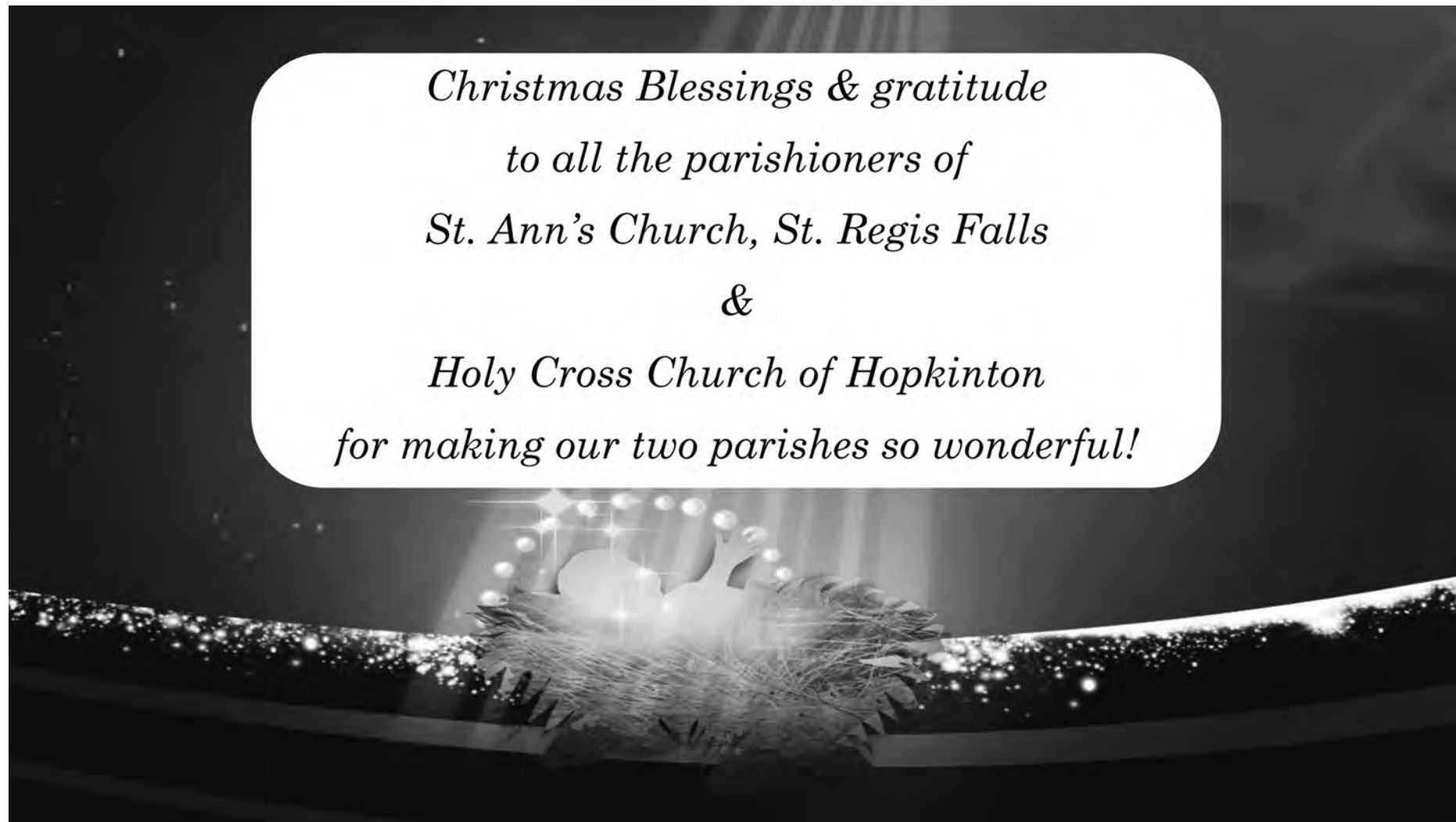
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&  
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for making our two parishes so wonderful!*



*Adams man gives away rosaries as quickly as he makes them*

# A ministry of macramé' and Mary

By Kristina Dean  
Staff writer

**ADAMS** - Mostly, when Robert Hurley does God's work, it is quiet.

The parishioner of St. Cecilia's Catholic Church quietly helps people who may never know his name.

Mr. Hurley makes rosaries from macramé cord, usually two per day as he watches the news on television, and hands them out to people he meets.

The cloth rosaries are softer than traditional rosaries with beads, and can be comfortably carried in pockets.

The 78-year-old, who is content to remain without recognition, said he gives them away often to people he doesn't know. Sometimes this may be in a doctor's office, to people at nursing homes, and sometimes for children in church.

One time when he was getting a haircut, he gave away a rosary to a lady he'd just met whose sister has cancer. Upon receiving the gift, she cried.

He also takes down 15 or 20 at a time to a nursing home in Syracuse.

Laura Mallan, religious education coordinator at St. Cecilia's, said she finds him inspirational.

"He's been making rosaries out of colored cord for several years," she said. "There was a couple at church for the first time, and he pulled

two right out of his pocket. He picks families.

"It's amazing to see these families go to Communion with his rosaries," she said. "Talk about evangelization!"

Ms. Mallan said his rosaries are amazing; all the beads are the same size and perfectly spaced.

Mr. Hurley, who is married with six children and ten grandchildren, said it takes approximately 60 minutes to make one rosary. He usually creates them as he is watching television and prays a rosary for each one he creates.

He is a retired teacher who taught math and science at the junior high level. After public school, he taught Catholic school at Holy Family in Watertown for ten years.

During his last year he ordered rosaries for his students, he said. Then he decided to make them for his grandchildren. He's continued to make them since then.

"I seem to have this urge to do it," Mr. Hurley said. "I guess sometimes I see a child, and just reach into my pocket for one. It gives me a certain amount of satisfaction."

Mr. Hurley sometimes makes the Rosaries during

sporting events that he attends. He joked that sometimes he is watching so intently that he's ended up with rosaries with six decades, or too many Hail Mary beads.

He attributes his dedication to the Rosary from his mother, who prayed for him and his four brothers especially during their time in the military. One brother was a pilot in World War II, one stationed in China during the same war, and a third was in the Korean War. He and a fourth brother were in during non wartime.

None of them were injured, including the fourth brother during a boating accident in Virginia, a fact he believes results from his mother's prayers.

Often, Mr. Hurley gives the Rosaries to people who aren't Catholic, and he said he's never gotten a negative response.

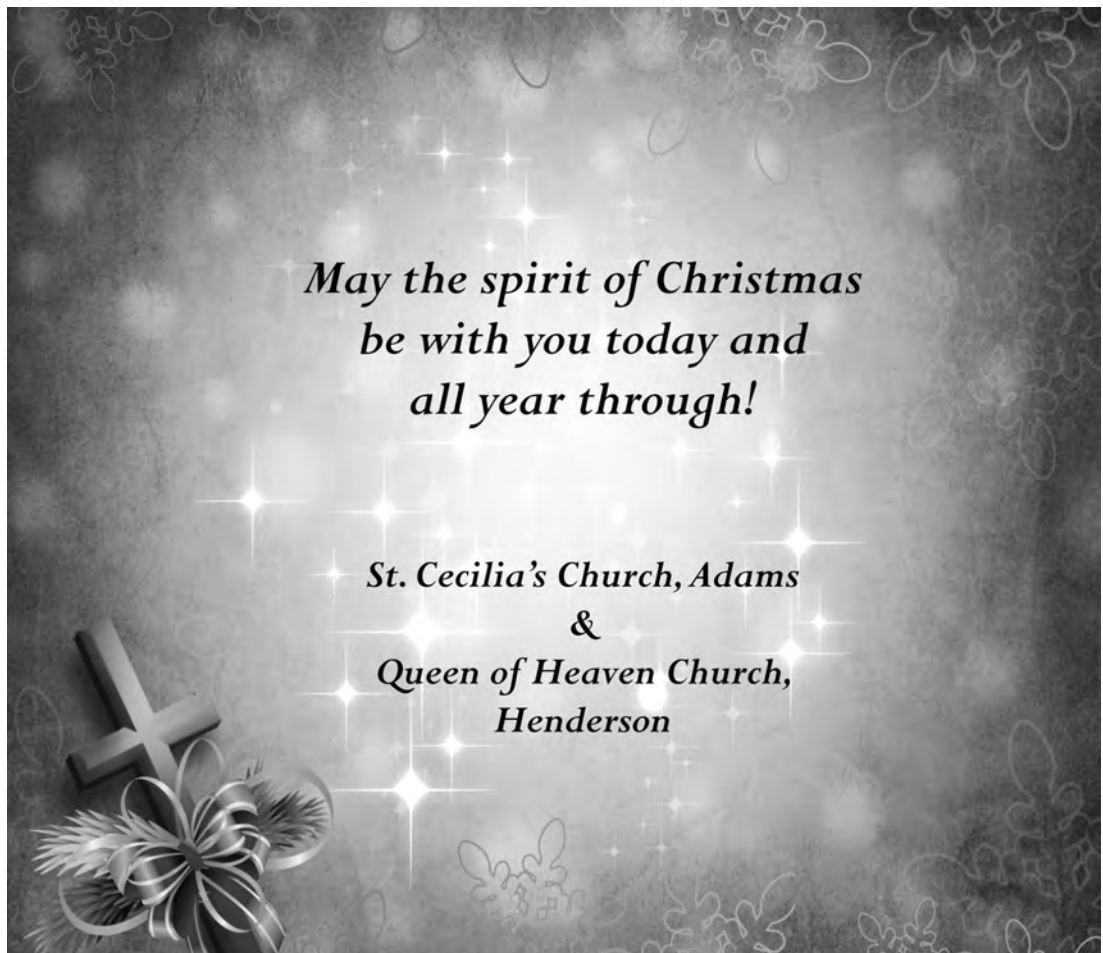


PHOTO SUPPLIED  
Robert Hurley, a parishioner of St. Cecilia's Church in Adams, displays a few of his hand-made rosaries which he gives away wherever he sees a need.



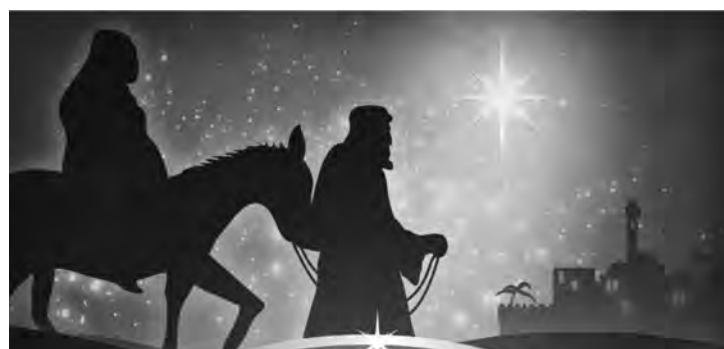
Merry Christmas!

St. Mary's,  
Evans Mills  
St. Theresa's,  
Theresa  
&  
St. Joseph's,  
Philadelphia




*May the spirit of Christmas  
be with you today and  
all year through!*

*St. Cecilia's Church, Adams  
&  
Queen of Heaven Church,  
Henderson*



**Christmas Blessings!**

Upon the parishioners of the Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay!  
From: Rev. John J. Looby & Deacon Brian Dwyer



*... unto you a child is born ...*

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**Bishop Terry R. LaValley** and our **Catholic Neighbors** throughout the diocese

Our Prayerful Best Wishes for a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Peace-filled New Year!

### Bishop's Schedule

**Dec. 25** – 12 a.m., Christmas Vigil Midnight Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

9 a.m., Christmas Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Dec. 27** – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

12:30 p.m., Luncheon with the Seminarians of the Diocese of Ogdensburg

**Dec. 28** – 4 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Dec. 30** – 7:15 p.m., Novena and Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Jan. 1** – 9 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Diocesan Central Offices will be closed in observance of Christmas beginning 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 23 and will re-open for business on Dec. 26 at 8:15 a.m.



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### Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults.

Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may preregister at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) by selecting the registration button and following the directions.

All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate in this training.

Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440.

Upcoming programs:

**Jan. 30**– 8 p.m., Wakefield Recital Hall/SUNY Potsdam, Room C-224.

### To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terriane Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: [ayc-snn@yahoo.com](mailto:ayc-snn@yahoo.com); Phone: 518-569-0612; Fax: 518-425-0401 or Father James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340



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### Rest in Peace

*This week marks the anniversary of the deaths of the following clergymen men who have served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg*

**Dec. 25** – Rev. Patrick Lyons, 1911; Rev. Oswald L. Bentley, 1940

**Dec. 26** – Rev. Aloysius Hyacinth McMahon, 1936

**Dec. 27** – Rev. Hollis David Burns, 1936; Rev. Henry Gilbeau, O.F.M. Conv., 1978

**Dec. 28** – Rev. Nicolaus Burtin, O.M.I., 1902; Msgr. John M. Waterhouse, 1995; Rev. Eugene J. Beaudet, 2004;

Rev. Howard P. McCasland, 2010

**Dec. 29** – Rev. John A. Mullen, 1887

**Dec. 30** – Rev. Jean Baptiste Lemerrier, 1863; Rev. Sam D'Angelo, O.S.A., 1961; Deacon Victor Demers, 2003

**Dec. 31** – Rev. Joseph Butler, 1894; Rev. Benedict Granottier, 1930; Msgr. Clarence A. Kitts, 1949

### Environmental Stewardship

#### Caring for God's creation on Christmas Day

Light the Christ Candle and Change a Bulb

*"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." Is. 9:1-2*

Awakening to new ways to care for the gift of Creation through conserving our uses of energy, though energy –efficient light and many other ways, we are preserving resources for today's children and their children. In this season of gift-giving, let us see these small actions as the present that we give to future generations.

*"All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God." Ps. 98*

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Sister Joan Lashway, a Sister of Charity of St. Louis and member of Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Mother Admirable #592, Dannemora, continues a life a service despite illness and confinement in a skilled nursing facility in Plattsburgh. She is shown above with bingo prizes which she has collected for the residents of her facility.

## Sr. Joan Lashway shows CDA spirit

By Anna Lucia  
 Vice Regent Court Mother Admirable #592  
 CDA District Diocese of Ogdensburg

DANNEMORA - Sister Joan Lashway, one of the five remaining Sisters of Charity of St. Louis in the US, and member of Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Mother Admirable #592, Dannemora, has faced a very serious health issue and confinement to a Skilled Nursing facility in Plattsburgh.

She has not let dismay prevent her from continuing service to others.

Seeing the need for more desirable Bingo prizes for the residents at the facility, Sister Joan spearheaded a joint effort with her CDA court and their local parishes - St. Joseph's at Dannemora and Church of Assumption at Redford.

She sought gently used costume jewelry, stuffed animals, knick knacks, etc - all bringing big smiles to the faces of the residents at the Bingo games, never knowing what their prizes will be each week.

Every two weeks Sister Joan receives a new stash.

Sister Joan also holds Bible study for the residents and does hospice sitting within the facility- turning the lemons of life handed her into lemonade, true CDA spirit of Unity and Charity.



***“Our Lord is our big brother. We are the little brothers, and we therefore have to love each other like the members of the same family.”***  
***St. André Bessette***

Merry Christmas from all your brothers and sisters at the  
***Malone Catholic Parishes***



***May the Christmas Blessing descend upon the parish family of St. John's, Madrid***

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## RESPECT LIFE

# My Christmas Moment

By Kathleen M. Gallagher  
 Director of Pro-Life Activities  
 New York State Catholic Conference

My 90-year-old mother is a genuine sweetheart. She has a personal relationship with Jesus, an active prayer life and a spirit of selflessness that pervades every-

thing she does. She is absolutely the most giving and generous person I know, and this year, she gave me my Christmas Moment.

Mom is spending some time at our house this holiday season, and, for ninety years, she is in remarkably good shape. She sleeps upstairs in our guest bedroom,

and she takes those stairs faster than our dog when there's a bone on the top landing. She has a voracious appetite, and eats foods that even I have to stay away from. She bowls in a league once a week, completes a crossword puzzle each day (barely needing reading glasses!), and dotes on her

grandchildren.

That said, she is becoming increasingly forgetful. She will often misplace her glasses, overlook a doctor's appointment, and struggle to remember a name. The story that she tells me at 2:00 p.m. will be retold to me at 3:00 p.m. and then again at 5:00 p.m. And it will be all new, all fresh, all the time. It is simple, innocent, childlike; she thoroughly enjoys telling the stories, unaware of the repetition.

Thanksgiving weekend we bought some scratch-off lottery tickets and Mom won \$200 on a \$2 card. She was thrilled! She danced and twirled and expressed disbelief as her eyes welled up with joy.

I brought her to the grocery store the next day to cash in her winnings. As we walked across the parking lot from the car to the store, a huge flock of geese soared in formation over our heads, honking loudly to one another. My mom looked up with that same look of pure delight I had witnessed in her the day before. She had tears in her eyes, and the sight momentarily took her breath away, but when she regained it, she said, "Magnificent, isn't it? How can anyone say God is not the Creator?"

And that's when I had my Christmas Moment, when I saw everything clearly, when it all made sense, and my heart was filled with overwhelming gratitude.

As I worried about goose poop possibly hitting my coat, my mother saw the choreography, the music, the grandeur, and the hand of God in that gaggle of birds. What a gift! What a blessing! What a return on her investment.

Mom has spent her nine decades living her life every day with passion, joy, a desire only to do good and to bring Christ to others. When I look into her face, I see the embodiment of the 'Joy of the Gospel.' She is a true evangelizer, a missionary of Christ.

It is no wonder Jesus identifies especially with the little ones. They do indeed have much to teach us. As my mother becomes more childlike, more dependent on me and others, each day is new, each experience -- even if repeated -- is once again pure and glorious, as it should be in order to be properly appreciated.

As Pope Francis says, "Each day in our world, beauty is born anew, it rises transformed through the storms of history...and all who evangelize are instruments of that power."

This Christmas Season, I pray that we can all delight in the wonders of God, big and small, and bring good tidings of great joy to others each and every day.

Merry Christmas!



*Fidelis Care*  
 Fidelis means faithful.

At this special time of year, Fidelis Care wishes you and your family a Christmas filled with good health, peace, and joy.

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 from your friends at Fidelis Care.



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## GO GREEN!

Receive the *NCC* in your e-mail every Monday where ever you are in the world.  
 E-mail [cward@diogdensburg.org](mailto:cward@diogdensburg.org)  
 to sign up today.



Merry Christmas  
 from  
 St. Francis Solanus  
 Parishioners  
 Harrisville



# CELEBRATING THE SEASON



Trinity Catholic School students in Massena celebrated the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe with a special Mass. Fourth through sixth grade students sang the traditional Spanish song "Las Mananitas," as students processed in with roses for Our Lady. The song was taught to students by their Spanish teacher and native speaker, Monica Boyea. After communion, the congregation was treated to a reenactment of the Mexican miracle by third graders, John Grogan, Graci Lonkey and Thomas Eggleston.



For the past three years, members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Bernard #787 in Saranac Lake have baked Christmas Cookies for folks who are not able to get out on their own or who might not have a loved one to bake for them. The cookies are dropped off at the Saranac Lake Adult Center and assembled into a festive Cookie Box by members of the Court. The Cookie Boxes are then delivered to those on the list through the Meals on Wheels program bringing just a touch of sunshine and love to those in need.



*The Song of the Angels:  
"Glory to God in the highest  
and on earth, Peace."  
~ Luke 2:14*

*St. Joseph's, Bombay &  
St. Mary's of the Fort, Fort Covington*

*A Child is Born For Us!*



*Christmas blessings to all in our  
diocesan family*



From the NFP Office

*May the blessings of that first Christmas  
be yours this season and always.*

*From the Staff of the Development Office  
Scott Lalone, Valerie Mathews, Renee' Grizzuto*

# Pope: Christians can't be gloomy

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Sadness is a sign of being far from Christ because Jesus offers everyone the strength to persevere with hope and joy, Pope Francis said.

## Because Jesus always brings joy

"God is the one who came to save us and offer help, especially to hearts gone astray," he said before praying the Angelus Dec. 15, Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday.

"The church is not a refuge for sad people, the church is a house of joy" because the Christian message is "Good News" - "a proclamation of joy for all people," he said.

Despite the rain, tens of thousands of pilgrims turned out in St. Peter's Square for the weekly prayer and to have the pope bless the figurines of Baby Jesus that children bring and then place in their Nativity scene at home or at school.

The pope asked the children to remember him when they pray in front of their Nativity scenes just as he remembers them in his prayers.

Before the Angelus, the pope said that no matter how big people's sins and limits, Christians are not allowed "to be weak and waver before



CNS PHOTO/GIAMPIERO SPOSITO, REUTERS

**A boy takes the skullcap off Pope Francis' head during an audience in Paul VI hall at the Vatican Dec. 14. The audience was held for families who have been receiving care at the St. Martha Dispensary, a maternal and pediatric clinic located at the Vatican.**

difficulties and our own flaws."

"On the contrary, we are invited to toughen our hands, steady our knees and have courage and not be afraid because God always shows the

greatness of his mercy."

Perhaps people may think their sins are so great that it is impossible to start over, he said. "You're wrong. You can. Why? Because God is waiting for you, he loves you," is

merciful and will give the strength needed for a fresh start and to overcome all pain and sorrow, the pope said.

"This true joy even remains during times of trial, suffering, too, because it is not superficial, but lies deep in the person who trusts in God and confides in him."

Christian joy and hope are grounded in God's fidelity, "in the certainty that he always keeps his promises," he said, adding that this joy flows from knowing you are welcomed and loved by God.

Christian joy is found in Jesus Christ's faithful and boundless love, he said, that is why "when a Christian becomes sad, it means he has strayed from Jesus."

"However, it's necessary then to not leave him alone! We must pray for him and make him feel the warmth of

the community," he said.

Before the pope appeared at the window of the apostolic palace, people in the square sang "Happy Birthday" ahead of his Dec. 17 birthday when he will turn 77.

The day before, children and parents he met in the Vatican's Paul VI audience hall gave him a surprise birthday party marked with singing and a real cake with candles. The children and families use the Vatican's St. Martha Dispensary, a maternal and pediatric clinic.

The pope first visited the dispensary, which is staffed by volunteers and serves mainly immigrant families, before he met in the audience hall with the families who have been receiving care.

In the hall, a group of children piled large blocks on top of each other to reveal the pope's picture and the Italian word "Auguri," meaning "Happy Birthday."

Another group of kids wearing white T-shirts with a yellow letter printed on each one, assembled themselves to spell out "Happy Birthday, Pope Francis" in Italian.

When presented with the cake, the pope blew out the candles. He joked, "I'll tell you later if it's good or not." He thanked the children for their joy and gifts, which included a sweater.

Rather than giving a talk, the pope spent the audience greeting, holding and blessing the children there. One small boy the pope was holding plucked the pope's skullcap off his head. The pope laughed and managed to put the cap back.

Also, the Vatican announced Dec. 14 that the director of papal charities was going to distribute phone cards and public transportation passes to the city's poor.

On behalf of the pope, Archbishop Konrad Krajewski was overseeing the distribution of 2,000 envelopes containing the passes and cards as well as a small Christmas card with the pope's signature.



*May the Christmas Blessing  
descend upon the parish family of  
St. Mary's, Waddington*

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Papal preacher says concern for unborn should extend to poor

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Christians cannot hope to abolish abortion and euthanasia unless they live out their faith, extending their concern for victims of such practices to those who suffer from poverty, illness and oppression, said the preacher of the papal household. "The first Christians, with their morality, helped the state change its laws," Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa said Dec. 20. "We Christians today must not do the opposite and think it is the state with its laws that should change people's morals." Father Cantalamessa gave the third of his 2013 Advent reflections to the pope and his closest aides, focusing on the mystery of the incarnation as contemplated through the eyes of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis emphasized the humility and poverty of Christ's humanity, and thus underscored Christ's presence in each member of poor, the preacher said. Father Cantalamessa argued that Christian objections to abortion and euthanasia should lead naturally to a concern for social justice.

## Que. archbishop hopes Holy Door will draw Americans closer to faith

TORONTO (CNS) -- Quebec Archbishop Gerald Lacroix hopes the Holy Door being installed at the Basilica-Cathedral Notre Dame de Quebec will draw more than a million North Americans closer to their roots and faith. "The idea is not to just come to the door," the archbishop told the Canadian weekly *The Catholic Register*. "People love to go to the roots of their faith. We get over a million visitors already a year in our cathedral, (and) we'll certainly get a lot more." At a special Mass marking the opening of the Holy Door and a jubilee year for the 350th anniversary of Notre Dame de Quebec, the oldest parish in French-speaking North America, Archbishop Lacroix told the congregation that "passing through the Holy Door is a great sign of hope." "When people decide to embark on this journey toward encountering and following Christ, anything becomes possible. A New World can be achieved," he said. The Holy Door is in the wall of the Chapel of the Sacred Heart on the north side of the basilica. It will remain unlocked for visitors to pass through until Dec. 28, 2014. Pope proclaims sainthood of Jesuit companion of St. Ignatius

## Pope proclaims sainthood of Jesuit companion of St. Ignatius

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis issued a decree declaring one of his favorite Jesuits, Blessed Peter Faber, a saint. The decree is what the Vatican terms an "equivalent canonization," in which the pope inserts the name of the new saint in the universal calendar of saints without verifying a miracle performed through his intercession and without holding a formal canonization ceremony. The Vatican announced Dec. 17 that the pope formalized the church's recognition of the 16th-century priest, who with St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Francis Xavier, was a founding member of the Society of Jesus, by "inscribing him in the catalog of saints." The same day, the pope advanced the sainthood cause of Sister Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, a member of the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth in Convent Station, N.J., who died in 1927. By recognizing a miracle attributed to her intercession, the pope clears the way for the beatification ceremony to be held. Sister Demjanovich was born in Bayonne, N.J., in 1901.. She wrote a series of spiritual conferences, which were collected and published after her death as a book, "Greater Perfection." She died in 1927 at the age of 26. She was declared venerable by the Vatican in May 2012.

# Judge says employer objections to HHS mandate based on religious rights

NEW YORK (CNS) - A spokesman for the New York Archdiocese said the archdiocese "welcomes and applauds" a Dec. 13 ruling by a federal judge granting Catholic organizations in the archdiocese and the neighboring Diocese of Rockville Centre a permanent injunction on having to comply with the federal contraceptive mandate in the health care law.

Adele Keim, counsel at the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which tracks suits challenging the mandate, said it was "we believe, the first permanent injunction that has been issued against the HHS mandate in any case."

The 41-page ruling issued by Judge Brian Cogan of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York in Brooklyn said the Affordable Care Act mandate violates the religious freedom of the four nonprofit plaintiffs - two Catholic high schools and two health care systems.

Three of the plaintiffs are in the New York Archdiocese: Cardinal Spellman High School in the Bronx, Msgr. Farrell High School in Staten Island, and ArchCare, an umbrella group of nonprofits based in New York that provide health care to the poor and disabled.

The fourth is Catholic Health Services of Long Island in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, which includes six hospitals, three nursing homes and a hospice center.

The mandate, issued by the Department of Health and Human Services and scheduled to take effect Jan. 1, 2014, requires nearly all employers to provide free preventive health care coverage specifically for women. That coverage includes services such as mammograms, prenatal care and cervical cancer screenings, but it also mandates free contracep-

tives, sterilizations and abortion-inducing drugs -- which are contrary to Catholic teaching.

## Decision welcomed and applauded by Catholic groups

The mandate does not include a conscience clause for employers who object to such coverage on moral grounds.

Under final rules issued in June to implement the mandate, there is an exemption for some religious employers that fit its criteria. For those employers who do not fit the criteria but still object to providing the coverage, the rules cover an accommodation -- using a third party to provide the contraceptive coverage they find objectionable to employees.

But Catholic entities, including those in the New York Archdiocese and Rockville Centre Diocese, say the exemption is too narrowly drawn and the accommodation still does not solve their problem over being involved in providing coverage they reject for moral reasons.

"The court has correctly cut through the artificial construct which essentially made faith-based organizations other than churches and other houses of worship second-class citizens with second-class First Amendment protections," said Joseph Zwilling, a spokesman for the New York Archdiocese, in a Dec. 16 statement.

Cogan ruled that the HHS contraceptive violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and said that even the third-party accommodation to provide the coverage violate the groups' religious rights.

The judge said the plaintiffs consider complying with the mandate "an en-

dorsement of such coverage," which also "compels affirmation of a repugnant belief."

"It is not for this court to say otherwise," he added.

Cogan stressed that the third-party accommodation compels the Catholic plaintiffs "to perform acts that are contrary to their religion. And there can be no doubt that the coercive pressure here is substantial. If plaintiffs do not comply with the mandate, they are subject to fines of \$100 per day per affected beneficiary."

He also pointed out other fees, noting that if religious groups cease providing health insurance, they will face an annual fine of \$2,000 for each full-time employee.

The ruling also stressed that the government has not shown a "compelling interest in uniform enforcement of the mandate, for the simple reason that enforcement of the mandate is currently anything but uniform."

The judge noted that "tens of millions of people are exempt from the mandate, under exemptions for grandfathered health plans, small businesses, and 'religious employers' like the diocesan plaintiffs here."

Millions of women thus will not receive contraceptive coverage without cost-sharing through the mandate. Having granted so many exemptions already, the government cannot show a compelling interest in denying one to these plaintiffs," he said.

If Cogan's ruling is appealed, Keim noted that the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted an injunction against the mandate pending an appeal in a case before it. "So that's a positive sign," she told Catholic News Service Dec. 18. Other injunctions have been granted against the mandate while those cases proceed in court.

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Feast of Holy Family: Christmas story goes on

The Christmas story continues in today's Feast of the Most Holy Family - Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

Once a child is born, then a married man and woman are now a "father" and a "mother". At least, this is the ideal. It was for Mary and Joseph, once Jesus was born. And yet, very soon, this family became refugees, fleeing for their lives.

How their lives resemble the modern scene in Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey as well as in other countries as thousands of Syrian refugees families struggle to stay unified.

The scene is repeated in many African countries as well. Families on the run with a few possessions loaded onto a tractor and

cart, or on foot, move out of their native land to seek refuge wherever they will be tolerated.



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

Most homes are abandoned and will probably be looted and vandalized. It may never be possible for these people to return to their homelands.

Add to this, the thousands of broken families, broken by divorce, military deployment, or abandonment by one or other parent, and we may well wonder what is "normal" for the word "family".

Pope Francis is deeply concerned with these threats to family life.

He has started the process for an extraordinary synod of Bishops to meet in 2015 to determine how the Church may help remedy the current situation.

Just four days ago we celebrated the birth of a tiny Baby, surrounded by the ethereal angel choir, greeted with awe and adoration.

Today, we commemorate a family in deep stress because their two-year old is seen as a threat to a jealous king, Joseph and Mary are running for their lives from Herod the Great.

Their flight into Egypt as told us in today's Gospel, is a reminder that many centuries before their journey, Moses, also a child of danger, had led the Jewish people from slavery to freedom in what we call the Exodus.

Now Jesus, the new and greater Moses, will free his people from their slavery to sin in a new Exodus, and secure eternal life to all who will follow Him, in the Promised Land of heaven.

Tradition says that after three years in exile, another angel informs Joseph that Herod the Great is dead.

DEC. 29

## The Feast of the Holy Family

### READINGS

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Colossians 3:12-17

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

The Holy Family returns to their homeland, not to Bethlehem, since the new King Archelaus who reigns in his father's place is also a cruel and barbaric ruler.

Joseph brings Mary and Jesus to His native town of Nazareth in Galilee. There, they lived a simple ordinary life, Joseph as a carpenter, and Mary as a housewife and mother.

Jesus grew in holiness and in knowledge of God's will in the same ordinary ways that good families do in our day.

What extraordinary wisdom we find in both the first and second readings this Sunday for family life! Sirach, a second-century B.C. writer, gives us the fruit of constant reading of Scriptures.

First, he reminds us that

parents' authority is given them by God Himself.

When a child obeys his parents, they will have their sins forgiven, their prayers heard, and will themselves be blessed with children.

Sirach counsels us to be good to our parents in their old age, even when their minds fail!

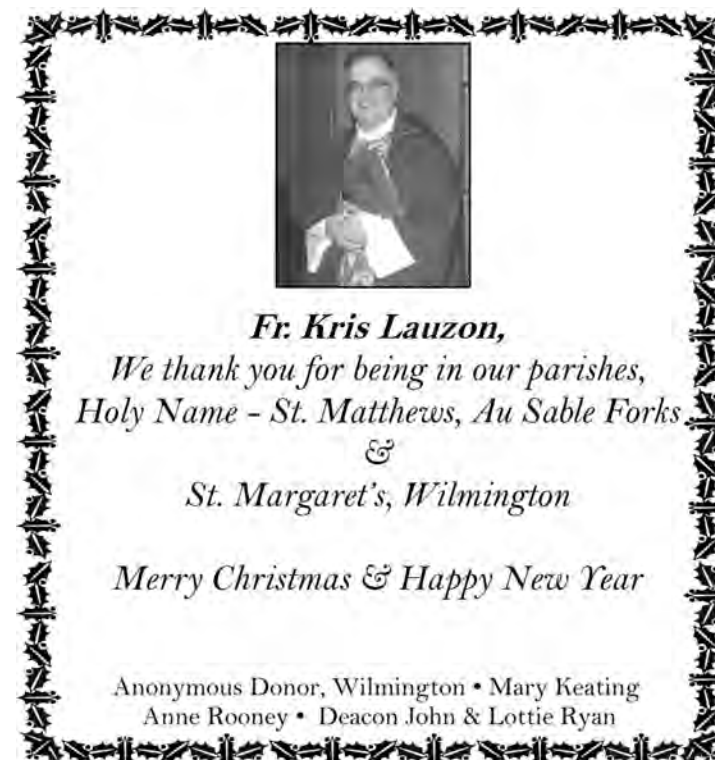
St. Paul, in Colossians, gives families, both our own individual families, and the wider family of the Church, a sure-fire formula for success.

We are to act with "heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another."

Who would ever want to escape home - whether Dad, Mom, or teenager - from such a happy home?

In the wider sense, who would ever want to leave that kind of a parish family to seek Christ elsewhere?

If we can only give a simple, unqualified "yes" as Mary and Joseph did, some amazing things may happen through us in the world in which we live.



## AT THE MOVIES

# ANCHORMAN 2: THE LEGEND CONTINUES

By Kurt Jensen  
Catholic News Service

The one-note joke of clueless Ron Burgundy in 2004's "Anchorman" goes all stale and moldy in "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues" (Paramount).

Will Ferrell's Burgundy, last seen in the 1970s heyday of flashy local news in San Diego, moves into 1980 and the dawn of 24-hour cable news. His wife Veronica Corningstone (Christina Applegate), with whom he co-anchors a newscast in New York, is promoted to a network position, while Ron is fired.

Ron gives Veronica a choice of her lucrative new job or sticking with their marriage, which - surprise! - backfires on him.

After failing as an emcee of the dolphin show at Sea World, he regroups with his old sidekicks: dimwitted weatherman Brick Tamland (Steve Carell), racist sports-

caster Champ Kind (David Koechner), and sensual but competent reporter Brian Fantana (Paul Rudd).

The new Global News Network, funded by Australian tycoon Kench Allenby (Josh Lawson), gives them all a chance to restart their careers, even though they've been assigned the dismal 2 a.m.-to-5 a.m. timeslot. Meanwhile, Ron has to try to reconnect with 7-year-old son Walter (Judah Nelson) and deal with Veronica's new relationship with sensitive psychologist Gary (Greg Kinnear).

Ron's only ever had a single goal: "Have salon-quality hair and read the news." Now he knows he has to succeed as a parent to his long-ignored son.

Ron's not known for his deep thoughts, at one point asking, "Who the hell is Julius Caesar? You know I don't follow the NBA!" But on his first night in cable news, he suddenly has an epiphany: "Why do we tell

people what they need to hear? Why can't we tell them what they want to hear?"

So, he transforms himself into a jingoistic ranter who only wants to proclaim what's good about America, Champ gets his sportscasts down to one-second clips accompanied by "Whammy, whammy, whammy!" and Brick warns only of impending catastrophes.

This satire, directed by Adam McKay, who co-wrote the script with Ferrell, is done in by gags left over from the first film, including an identical clash of anchors from other networks. These characters are amusing in small doses but can't sustain a plot.

Brick's racism, intended as comic, is instead off-putting, as is a scene in



CNS PHOTO/PARAMOUNT

Will Ferrell and Christina Applegate star in a scene from the movie "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues."

which Burgundy offends the African-American family of his boss and current romance, Linda Jackson (Meagan Good).

The film contains a scene of nongraphic premarital sexual activity, drug use, some racist dialogue, fleeting sexual banter and pro-

fane language and frequent crude and crass terms.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



*In Advent and Christmas, grace is given to our world.  
Because of you, Peace reaches to the ends of the earth,  
to the Mission, to those longing for life in Christ.*



*Merry Christmas from the Pontifical Mission Societies, Inc.  
in the Diocese of Ogdensburg*



*Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director  
Molly McKee Ryan, Secretary*

**CLINTON**

**MARCH FOR LIFE**

**Plattsburgh** – Champlain Valley Right to life will be sponsoring a March for life.

**Date:** Jan. 12, 2014

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

**Place:** March starts at The Newman Center, 90 Broad Street and ends at St. John's Church, 20 Broad Street (Signs will be provided.)

**Features:** The march will be followed by a prayer service with Kathleen Gallagher as our Guest Speaker. Kathleen is the director of pro-life activities for the New York State Catholic Conference and the co-founder of the non-denominational group, New Yorkers for Life. Come hear about the interesting events which led to the defeat of the New York State Abortion Expansion Act and what we should be doing as we move forward. Light refreshments will be served in the church basement after the service.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**Treadwell Mills** – St. Alexander & St. Joseph's Church will hold a Pancake Breakfast.

**Date:** Jan. 5

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$6; Children 12 and under, \$3; under 5, Free

**Features:** All you can eat pancake, real maple syrup, sausage, scrambled eggs, home fries, coffee, orange juice or milk.

**HEALING MINISTRY**

**Morrisonville** - The Catholic Community of St. Alexander's and St. Joseph's announces the addition of Living Waters Healing Ministry to the Parish.

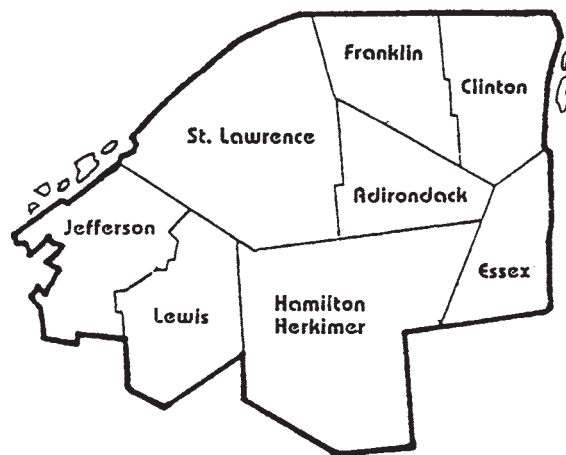
**Date:** First Thursday each month

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Alexander's Church

**GO GREEN!**

Receive the NCC in your e-mail every Monday where ever you are in the world. E-mail [eward@diogodensburg.org](mailto:eward@diogodensburg.org) to sign up today.



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese". Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:  
**North Country Catholic**, PO Box 326,  
 Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;  
 e-mail [news@northcountrycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org).

Items must be received in the NCC office by the Thursday before publication.

**Features:** Healing Mass, Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and an opportunity to receive individual prayer.

**QUILT SHOP OPEN**

**Ellenburg Center** - Lost Sheep Quilt and Fabric Shop is now open!

**Place:** Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer,

**Hours:** Tues. - Sat, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Evenings and other times by appointment. Phone 594-3253 or email [olaprayehouse@gmail.com](mailto:olaprayehouse@gmail.com) to come at other times

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**Plattsburgh** – Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

**Place:** St. John's "Holy Family" Adoration Chapel, downstairs

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Theme:** "A God who draws near out of love ... walks with His people, and this walk comes to an unimaginable point. We could never have imagined that the same Lord would become one of us and

walk with us, be present with us ... present in the Eucharist." (Pope Francis).

**Contact:** call 518-561-5083 or email [Sjohnsadoration@aol.com](mailto:Sjohnsadoration@aol.com)

**Features:** May be pre-ordered starting on Nov. 4 by calling 518-529-6580.

**JEFFERSON**

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**Watertown** - Holy Family Church is holding holy hours of Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations

**Schedule:** Monday through Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass at Holy Family Church (9:30 - 10:30 a.m.),

**LIFERIGHT MEETING**

**Watertown** - Liferight of Watertown meets third Wednesday of the Month.

**Time:** 4 p.m.

**Place:** 312 Sherman St.

**Features:** The office has materials on infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia and chastity.

**Contact:** Phone 315-788-8480; website: [www.liferight.org](http://www.liferight.org).

**LEWIS**

**INTERNATIONAL CRÈCHES**

**Houseville** - All are welcome to an exhibit of Christmas Crèches- Nativities from around the world.

**Date:** Jan. 5

**Time:** After 11 a.m. Mass or between 1 p.m. and 3

**Place:** St. Hedwig's

**Features:** The exhibit is free and open to the public. Help keep Christ in Christmas.

Bring family and friends and experience the universality of Christ and Christmas through the eyes of many different cultures. Contact 348-6260

**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS**

**Houseville** – January Divine Mercy Devotions to held.

**Date:** Jan. 5

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Place:** St. Hedwig's Church

**Features:** The program includes: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. All are welcome.

**Contact:** 348-6260

**ST. LAWRENCE**

**K OF C BRUNCH**

**Norfolk** – The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a brunch.

**Date:** Jan. 12

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to Noon

**Place:** Visitation Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$7; Children under 12, \$4; Under 5, Free; Family, \$18; Take-outs available

**Menu:** Pancakes, French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Homefries, Ham, Sausage, Toast, Muffins, Juice, Coffee.

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

**Massena** – Sacred Heart/St. Lawrence holds a Bereavement Support Group last Tuesday of each month.

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Convent

**Features:** A gathering of those who have had a recent loss of a loved one.

**Contact:** 315-769-3137

**NOVENA FOR MILITARY**

**Ogdensburg** - Notre Dame Church is holding a Weekly novena for the safety of U.S. military personnel at a new time.

**Date:** Tuesday afternoons

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

**LATIN MASS**

**Potsdam** – A Tridentine (Latin) Mass is celebrated each Sunday with Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin as the celebrant

**Time:** 12:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Church

**COMMUNITY FREE LUNCH**

**Ogdensburg** – The Knights of Columbus Council 258 is starting its community free lunch program again.

**Date:** Every Wednesday

**Time:** Noon

**Features:** Free hot lunch

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**Massena** – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's hold Benediction and Adoration every Friday.

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 10

**Place:** St. Mary's Family Room

**HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS**

**Ogdensburg** - St. Mary's is holding a monthly Holy Hour for Vocations.

**Date:** Thursday before the First Friday

**Time:** 7 p.m. concluding with Benediction at 8 p.m.

**Place:** Deacon Winter Chapel

**DIOCESAN EVENTS**

**PILGRIMAGE TO SPAIN**

Father Donald Robinson, pastor of St. Anthony's and St. Patrick's in Watertown, will be leading a pilgrimage "Best of Spain and Portugal".

**Dates:** Feb. 18-28, 2014

**Cost:** \$2899 per person from NYC

**Included:** Roundtrip Air from NY, First Class/Select Hotels, Most Meals, Comprehensive Sightseeing and much more.

**Features:** Madrid, Salamanca, Lisbon, Seville, Granada & Toledo

**Contact:** Fr. Robinson at 315-782-1190 or e-mail [donrob4@twcny.rr.com](mailto:donrob4@twcny.rr.com)

**2014 BUS FOR LIFE**

**Plattsburgh** - The Lake Champlain 2014 bus to Washington D.C. for the national March for Life is set

**Date:** Jan. 21-22

**Schedule:** Meet at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh on Tues. Jan. 21 at 7:30 p.m. Arrive in Washington, D.C. early morning Jan. 22; Free Time in the morning to attend Mass, sightsee, lobby representatives, etc; Rally and March start at noon

on The National Mall; Meet at St. Peter's Church in Washington at 4:45 p.m. for the trip home

**Cost:** Reserve a seat on the bus is \$30

**Contact:** To reserve a seat or to obtain more information, please contact Karen Smith at 518-566-6229. To sign up for a seat on the bus or to make a donation—please mail your check to St. Peter's Church 114 Cornelia Street Plattsburgh, New York 12901. Make a note on the memo line: "Bus for Life."

**DIOCESAN ECUMENICAL SERVICE**

**Saranac Lake** - The annual Diocesan Ecumenical Service is set.

**Date:** Jan. 12

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Place:** St. Bernard's Church

**Features:** Priests and clergy from other faiths Will participate. The service is held in advance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan. 18-25

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## The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director  
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296  
mbrett@rcdony.org

# Merry Christmas and thank you!

From the Director's Desk,  
Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Diocesan Mission Director

I'm filled with gratitude when I reflect upon the words of Pope Francis, "Embrace with tender affection the whole of humanity, especially the poorest, the weakest, the least important..." My gratitude causes me to recall the numerous prayers and sacrifices offered by the parishioners of the North Country for the poorest in developing countries who are dear to our hearts.

It was heartwarming in June 2013 to hear words of gratitude from St. Martin de Porres Parishioners, Mollendo, Peru, "The diocese is so good to us from the Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg". "You never forget us."

Letters of gratitude were received from Communities whose representatives spoke in parishes this past summer in the Co-op Program. Through your generosity missionaries are able to make possible Christ's presence and service to the least important in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas. God bless those missionaries from participating communities which include:

Daughters of Charity-  
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart  
Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement  
Order of Friars Minor Convent.  
Brothers of Christian Instruction  
North Country Mission of Hope  
Maryknolls Fathers & Brothers  
El Centro Del Muchacho  
Glenmary Home Missioners  
Congregation of the Holy Spirit  
Salesian Missions  
Sisters of Chavanod of the Cross  
Divine Word Missionaries  
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

I remind you, in gratitude, that your generosity to World Mission Sunday, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, St. Peter the Apostle Appeal, the Christmas and Lenten Appeals, make possible the services of priests, religious and lay catechists in 1,150 mission dioceses. You are the Lord's hands and hearts bringing His light to the darkest of circumstances.

On behalf of our office Molly Ryan and I express our heartfelt gratitude. In this season of giving, we remember God giving His only Son. We are reminded of the significance of your giving as we ponder the greatness of His only Son. Your generosity takes on a special significance as you embrace those too many in the world's view as least important. We wish a blessed Christmas Season to you and your loved ones.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.  
[www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice)

## OBITUARIES

**Brasher Falls** — "Billy" Henry William Lantry, 79; Funeral Services Dec. 21, 2013 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Brushton** — Leo F. Martin, 87; Funeral Services Dec. 21, 2013 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Cadyville** — Jennifer L. LeFevre Merrill, 58; Funeral Services Dec. 19, 2013 at St. James Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

**Clayton** — Janet "Jane" Agnes Knill, 81; Funeral Services Dec. 14, 2013 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Croghan** — David G. Ferguson, 55; Funeral Services Dec. 20, 2013 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**Louisville** — Kathryn M. (Trippany) Tyo, 77; Funeral Dec. 17, 2013 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Malone** — William Charles LeRoy Sr., 73; Funeral Services Dec. 18, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Massena** — Daniel K. Burke, 69; Funeral Services Dec. 18, 2013 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** — Blanche M. (Beaupre) Glaude, 81; Funeral Services Dec. 19, 2013 at the Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Pine Grove Cemetery.

**Massena** — Dr. Celine G. L. Philibert, 57; Funeral Services Dec. 21, 2013 at Church of the Sacred Heart.

**Mineville** — Arthur J. Brassard, 90; Funeral Service Dec. 21, 2013 at Church of All Saints.

**Peru** — Emery A. Ezero, 85; Memorial Services June 7, 2014 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in Parish Cemetery

**Plattsburgh** — G. Warren Carter, 79; Funeral Services Dec. 20, 2013 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Raymondville** — Shirley Ann (Agen) Hall, 76; Funeral Services Dec. 19, 2013 at St. Raymond's Church; burial in Madrid Cemetery.

**Redford** — Blanche M. (Fournia) Collins, 85, Funeral Services Dec. 17, 2013 at Church of the Assumption; burial in the parish cemetery.

**Rouses Point** — Raymond Vincent Dunlavy, 91; Memorial Services Jan. 8, 2014 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Sackets Harbor** — Cathy A. (Resseguie) LaDue, 60; Funeral Services Dec. 20, 2013 at St. Andrews Church; burial in Sulphur Springs Cemetery.

**Sackets Harbor** — Pauline M. (Brenon) Resseguie, 86; Funeral Services Dec. 20, 2013 at St. Andrews Church; burial in Sulphur Springs Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** — Lucille T. DeForge, 95; Funeral Services Dec. 20, 2013 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** — Mary Anna (Blinn) Woodruff, 82; Funeral Services Dec. 13, 2013 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in

North Elba Cemetery.

**Schroon Lake** — George J. Egan, Jr., 90; Funeral Dec. 17, 2013 at Our Lady of Lourdes; burial in Severance Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Gary Steven Grant, 63; Funeral Services Dec. 18, 2013 at Holy Family Church.

**Watertown** — Jean Marie Thurheimer, 57; Funeral Dec. 17, 2013 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Alberta I. (Sixbury) Zimmerman, 92; Funeral Services Dec. 19, 2013 at Cummings Funeral Service Inc.; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**West Chazy** — Kathleen M. (Corron) Delisle, 57; Memorial Services Dec. 21, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church.

Visit our website  
[www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org)

- Read Bishop LaValley's columns
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

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## THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

Eternal Father, we lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen  
(With ecclesiastical approval)

Mass  
Rosary  
Fasting  
Day Offering  
Eucharistic Adoration  
Offering of Sufferings  
Divine Mercy Chaplet

January  
**JESUS**  
Holy Name  
Of Jesus

DIocese OF  
OGDENSBURG, NY

JANUARY 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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12 REV. TIMOTHY G. CANAAN	13 REV. CHRISTOPHER C. CARRARA VF	14 REV. GERALD A. CERANK	15 POPE FRANCIS	16 BENEDICT XVI POPE EMERITUS	17 REV. DANIEL L. CHAPIN	18 REV. MARTIN E. CLINE
19 REV. DOUGLAS G. COMSTOCK	20 REV. JOHN L. COSMIC	21 REV. NORMAND C. COFE	22 RETIRED PRIESTS	23 REV. LAWRENCE E. COTTER	24 REV. ROBERT L. COTTER	25 REV. THEODORE A. CROSBY
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For more information visit us online at: [www.mprpapistolate.org](http://www.mprpapistolate.org)  
A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated.  
The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: [www.myvocation.net](http://www.myvocation.net)

FACES OF FAITH ACROSS THE DIOCESE

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

Young people of the North Country celebrate the reason for season



Trinity Catholic School students in Massena learned about the true meaning of Christmas as the Junior Kindergarten through First Grades presented their version of *Twas the Night Before Christmas*. TCS students Ella Matejcik, Hailey LaShomb, Brennan Aldous and Kate Finnegan provided an angelic performance as they and many others re-enacted the first Christmas story.



St. Mary's School, Ticonderoga students and families donated gift boxes to needy children through Operation Christmas Child run by Samaritan's Purse. Here are junior high students, Christina Simpson, Stephania Zelinski, and Emily Pike in front of the 69 boxes of gifts which were sent to those in need.



The Catholic Community of Burke & Chateaugay Youth Group and Faith Formation class collected over 100 items to be donated to local families this year. They collected non perishable food items for the church Christ-

mas Baskets that will be distributed to people in need throughout the community. They also collected new unwrapped toys for children in need to donate to Holiday Helpers.