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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 73, Number 30

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

DEC. 12, 2018

Retirement fund benefits 46 priests

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Your gift this year will help support not only priests currently receiving support from the Priests' Retirement Fund but also benefits to be paid to future retirees.

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GATHERING AT THE TABLE



Trinity Catholic students Jocelyn White, Sadie Fent, Andrew David, Joie-Lynn Jabaut and Lillian Fregoe chat with Bishop Terry R. LaValley. Bishop LaValley recently toured the school and said Mass at Sacred Heart Church, part of St. Peter's Parish in Massena.

DISCERNMENT JOURNEY



Members of the Plattsburgh Fischers Club recently ended the fall semester with a Eucharistic Holy Hour. In January, the Fischers Club will host an overnight discernment event that includes a trip to St. Joseph's Oratory and Abbey of St. Marie des Deux Montagnes.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Prayer is a constant learning experience, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Jesus' way of praying to his father throughout his life is a reminder for Christians that prayer is more than asking God for something but is a way of establishing an intimate relationship with him, Pope Francis said.

Prayer is a longing within one's soul that is "perhaps one of the most profound mysteries of the universe," the pope said Dec. 5 during his weekly general audience in the Paul VI audience hall.

"Even if we have perhaps been praying for so many years, we must always learn!" he said.

Beginning a new series of audi-

ence talks on the "Our Father," the pope reflected on the disciples' request to Jesus to teach them how to pray.

The Gospels, he said, offer "very vivid portraits of Jesus as a man of prayer" who, despite the urgency of his public ministry, often felt the need to withdraw into solitude and pray.

"In some pages of Scripture, it seems that it is first Jesus' prayer, his intimacy with the Father, that governs everything," the pope said.

This intimacy, he added, is evident in Jesus' prayer in the Gar-

den of Gethsemane where he experienced "real agony," yet was given the strength to continue along "the way toward the cross" where even in his final moments, he prayed the Psalms.

"Jesus prayed intensely in public moments, sharing the liturgy of his people, but he also looked for select places, separated from the whirlwind of the world, places that allowed him to descend into the secret of his soul," the pope said.

Pope Francis said that in teaching his disciples to pray, Jesus shows that he is not "possessive

of his intimacy with the father" but rather came into the world "to introduce us into this intimacy."

However, he said, the first step in establishing this relationship with God through prayer is humility.

"The first step to pray is to be humble, to go to the father, to go to Our Lady and say, 'Look at me, I'm a sinner, I am weak, I am bad,'" the pope said. "Everyone knows what to say but it always begins with humility. The Lord listens; a humble prayer is always listened to by the Lord."

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Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except skipping every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg. 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.**Telephone:**

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:news@northcountry
catholic.org**Entered at the****Post Office:**
Ogdensburg, NY
13669 and
additional mailing offices as
Periodical Postage.**Subscription:**For one year:
In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30Matters for publication
should be
addressed to
PO Box 326Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received byThursday prior to
publication.Paper is printed each
Monday;
dateline is Wednesday.
Member, Catholic Press
Association.**POSTMASTER:**Send address changes to
North Country Catholic,
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY
13669-0326

EDITOR'S NOTE

Expressing love through elf insanity

Mother of the year moment: I contemplated having a niece or nephew ruin the Christmas magic for my son, just so I wouldn't have to keep staging the Elf on a Shelf in ridiculous scenes.

For the uninitiated, Elf on the Shelf originated with a book that was released in 2005. The book explains that an elf comes to your home, watches your child(ren) and flies back to the North Pole every night to give Santa an update on child behavior. Then, the elf flies back to your home and hides in a

new spot.

The book comes with a small elf with a plastic head and a stuffed felt body, ready to be named and report for duty.

It sounds simple, but in many homes, Elf on a Shelf has taken on a life of its own. There are numerous blog posts, Pinterest pins and websites devoted to showing the crazy and fun ways the elf can be staged. Elves roll down stairs inside rolls of toilet paper. Elves take bubble baths in sinks filled with marshmallows. Elves have festive parties with Barbie dolls. It's elf

insanity!

Five years ago, when my son acquired an Elf on the Shelf book and elf, I made the mistake of going wild with elf fun. I had no idea I was sentencing myself to five (maybe more) years of staying up late and developing elaborate scenes using my son's toys, purchased props and craft projects (I once sewed a tiny pair of underwear for the elf to imitate a book character my son loved at the time; I'm not sure that's what my grandmother intended when she taught my sisters and I to sew, claiming it was an important life skill).

I'm 100 percent sick of

the elf, and I regret ever bringing it into my home. But my son, Jake, loves the elf. He loves its antics. He loves the anticipation, wondering what it'll do next. He loves that I dramatically complain about its messes.

That elf brings amazing joy to my little big man.

The elf has become a reminder that the best gifts of the season aren't the ones purchased from a store. The best gifts are the sacrifices we make for others – the gifts of self, the gifts of love.

After all, isn't it the ultimate gift of love – God becoming man to save us – that we're celebrating this time of year?

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

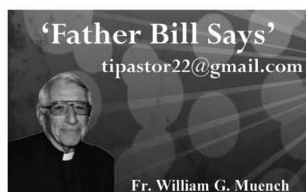
Spending time with St. John the Baptist

Advent is our times to be alone with St. John the Baptist. I like Advent, and I consider St. John the Baptist to be a friend. So, Advent is a very special time for me – a time to meditate on John's life and his message.

I assume that John the Baptist was close in age to Jesus – they were both very probably in their early thirties – at the time of the Gospel events. So, thinking of John the Baptist, it makes me remember the events of my own life when I was that age, those early days in my life.

For me, John the Baptist was, first of all, a powerful preacher. He drew crowds to listen to his message. His message was of the coming of the long-awaited message for Israel – the Messiah was coming, and it was Jesus. This was John's vocation; God had chosen him to bring the world to Jesus by being a bold and challenging preacher.

Early on, I recognized my



vocation as a priest meant I was called to be a preacher. So, John the Baptist became an important patron saint for me.

One of the gifts I received as a seminarian at Wadhams Hall was a terrific public speaking course; I took it each of my four years in college. Our professor for that course each year was Father Joseph Bailey. I want you to know that he was a very good speech teacher. Now that doesn't mean that he was easy on us.

I remember being so nervous each time it was my turn to speak in class. It was a real challenge for me. And there was Father Bailey sitting in the back row ready to point out our failings, leading us to improve.

Now I know that his efforts were such a great part in my becoming a preacher.

Now you may find this a bit humorous: my first pastor as a newly ordained priest was Father Joseph Bailey. He had stepped out of seminary work to be a pastor. I am certain you can imagine how I felt each time it was my turn to preach. I was certain that Father Bailey was sitting in the back of the church as I began to speak. He continued to be an effective guide for me during those days.

In addition, I want to add I learned a great deal by often experiencing Father Bailey's preaching. He was a very good preacher.

One more thing: I still have a note that Father Bailey wrote to me complimenting me on a column I had written. I was pleased.

Back to St. John the Baptist. Just as John was a powerful preacher, he was a genius in reaching people spiritually. John used a Baptism of Repentance, very

different from the sacramental Baptism of Jesus. John spoke often of repentance; he challenged the people to make the decision to find a new and better and life. They must change what keeps them from God – a change to be a better person.

To make that moment of decision memorable, John would invite each person into the River Jordan and baptize them, literally pushing them under the water – something for them to remember at this important moment in their lives.

I had the privilege of visiting the spot along the River Jordan where tradition says John the Baptist spoke and baptized. Our group even had a sort of baptismal renewal there. I walked into the river with a few folks and poured water over their heads and renewed their Baptismal promises. It was a rather impressive opportunity.

The river waters were very healing

Funeral Mass held Dec. 7 for Sister Aquinas Hagan

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Aquinas Hagan, a Sister of St. Joseph, was celebrated Friday, December 7, 2018 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown.

Sister Aquinas died on December 4, 2018 at the Motherhouse. She was 75 years old.

She was born in Lowville on June 9, 1943, the daughter of Powers Hagan and Marion Campbell Hagan.

Sister Aquinas was a graduate of Immaculate Heart Academy, Watertown. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph on October 15, 1959. She received the habit on June 24, 1960. On June 24, 1965, Sister made her Final Profession.

She received her Bachelor's Degree from the NYS University of Potsdam, her Masters of Arts Degree from Weston School of Theology, Boston, MA. She continued her studies towards her Ministry of Divinity Degree in Spirituality at San Francisco Theology Seminary.

Sister Aquinas received a Fulbright Scholarship to the Fulbright Seminar: "Ancient and Modern Israel" in Jerusalem.

She taught in St. Joseph's School, Danemora, St. John the Evangelist School, Morristown, St. Andrew's School, Nor-

folk, Sacred Heart, St. Patrick's, and Holy Family Schools, all three in Watertown, Augustinian Academy, Carthage, and Holy Name School, AuSable Forks. Sister Aquinas taught religion for the Special Religious Education Program, Watertown, and did pastoral work at St. Regis Church, Akwasasne.

Following her studies at Weston School of Theology, Boston in 1983, Sister Aquinas was the Assistant Professor for the Religious Studies at Mater Dei College. Sister Aquinas also coordinated the Diocesan Permanent Diaconate Program and was an instructor in the program.

She aided in the initial program for the Diocesan Formation for Ministry Program, setting up the curriculum development, writing course descriptions, and teaching the courses throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg and at the Mohawk Nation Center, Hogansburg.

She served on the Diocesan Sisters' Council, the Ecumenical Committee, and the Natural Family Planning Commission Advisory Board.

Sister Aquinas chaired "The Outcome Task Force for the Middle States Self Study" and served on several committees while at Mater Dei College.

She became the Diocesan Traveling Religious Educator for the Diocese of Ogdensburg from 1990 to 1999. In 1990, she implemented the Diocesan program "To Teach as Jesus Did."

Sister directed, co-coordinated and taught in this program which assisted Catholic School principals and parish leaders in their responsibility for the faith formation of Catholic School teachers and of teachers in parish religious education programs.

Sister Aquinas received the "Sharing the Light of Faith Award" in June of 1994. In 1999, she became an Associate Pastor at St. Joseph's Church, Antwerp until she retired to the Motherhouse and became involved in the prayer apostolate.

Sister Aquinas is survived by her brother and his wife, David and Deanna Hagan, Huntersville, North Carolina, and several cousins. She is predeceased by her parents, Powers and Marion Hagan, and her cousin, Rev. Paul Hagan.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph, 1425 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

Online condolences to her family may be posted at www.cummingsfuneral.com.



Members of the Elizabeth Ministry recently presented crocheted baby items to Samaritan Medical Center's nurse. Pictured are, from left, Nancy Maryhugh, RN in the SMC Newborn Intensive Care Unit, Deborah LaMora, RN, Patient Care Coordinator in the unit, Kathleen Mastellon and Maureen O'Donnell from the Elizabeth Ministry Chapter and Karl Komar, MD a Neonatologist at SMC.

Ministry brings warmth to babies

Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Staff Writer

WATERTOWN—Newborns can leave the Samaritan Medical Center nursery a little better protected against the elements due to a generous donation from the Elizabeth Ministry Chapter at St. Patrick's Church in Watertown.

"We found we had an oversupply of crocheted hats and booties in our cupboards," Chapter President Kathleen Mastellon said. "We offered almost six dozen sets to Samaritan's Center for Women and Children. They were happy to accept."

Elizabeth Ministry International offers hope, help and healing to women of childbearing age on issues related to relationships, sexuality and childbearing.

The crocheted items and hundreds of other clothing and necessary items have been contributed to the chapter at the annual Baby Shower held in the parishes of St. Patrick and St. Anthony each fall.

For further information about Elizabeth Ministry in our Diocese, call 315-921-2806 or email elizmin@catholicwatertown.org.

The North Country Catholic wants holiday news and photos from your parish or organization!

Please submit story ideas, photos or event notifications to news@northcountrycatholic.org

Retirement plan benefits 46

Michael J. Tooley
Diocesan Fiscal Officer

The 37 retired priests of the diocese who currently receive pensions from the Priests' Retirement Fund will be direct beneficiaries of the generosity of Catholics in the North Country who contribute to their parishes in the Christmas collection. Also, nine priests age 70 and older who remain active in their ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg are receiving partial retirement benefits.

Your gift this year will help support not only priests currently receiving support from the Priests' Retirement Fund but also benefits to be paid to future retirees.

The Priests' Retirement Fund of the diocese receives 75 percent of the Christmas Collection proceeds given to each parish. While your gift helps pay pensions to retired priests, it will also help the diocese make provisions for pensions for other priests as they retire in the future.

Actuarial studies are

performed annually to assure the diocese is preparing for its future obligations to retired priests. The firm of Frank J. Walters and Associates has determined that adequate provisions are being made in 2018-19 to fully fund the Plan.

Effective July 1, 2018, retired priests in the diocese received an increase of \$30 per month in their pension benefit. It is the diocese's intention to provide a pension increase when able to do so. Estimated pension payments in this fiscal year amount to \$872,000. One hundred percent of the cost of health insurance for retired priests is also funded through the Plan.

Retired priests of the diocese receive pensions from the Social Security system. Because priests' income is typically modest, their Social Security pensions are not large and most rely heavily on pensions from the diocese for a good portion of their financial support.

The value of the investments of the Priests' Retirement Fund increased

over a one-year period from \$11,891,753 to \$12,203,447 on June 30, 2018. The diocese's Investment Advisory Committee, diocesan administration, and the investment portfolio's investment managers closely monitor monies invested in support of the Plan.

The Priests' Retirement Fund of the diocese is also assisted through extraordinary gifts. Information about gift opportunities to benefit the Priests' Retirement Fund is available from the Development Director of the Diocese, Scott Lalone. He can be reached in Ogdensburg at (315) 393-2920 or through e-mail to slalone@rcdony.org.

Your personal generosity to the Christmas collection in your parish will support all retired priests of the diocese and, in the longer term, benefit the diocesan and religious priests serving you today. Your priests, retired and active, will appreciate your support tremendously!

Fischers Club to travel to Montreal

The Fischers Club will host an overnight Discernment Event with travel to Montreal on Jan. 4 and 5.

The event begins on Friday, Jan. 4 with 7 p.m. Mass at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh, followed by dinner and casual discussion/reflection with at least one seminarian.

After an overnight stay, participants will gather for breakfast at 8 a.m. on Jan. 5, departing for Montreal immediately after.

The group will visit St. Joseph's Oratory, where participants will pray a Discernment Rosary and have an opportunity for confession. Mass will follow at 12:15, followed by lunch and a visit to the Cathedral.

At 4:30 p.m., the group will pray Vespers of Epiphany and visit with the Benedictine Nuns at Abbey of St. Marie des Deux Montagnes.

There is no charge for participation, as the event is sponsored by the diocesan Vocations Office.

Passport or enhanced license is mandatory for admission into Canada; if you do not possess the necessary documentation, please join us for the Friday night session.

Contact Father Howard Venette (hvenette@gmail.com) or Father Doug Lucia (dlucia@rcdony.org), by Dec. 28, if you plan to attend.

CORRECTION

Due to an editorial error, Our Lady of Victory Church and Father William G. Reamer were omitted from the list of parishes and priests who would be working with Father Kevin D. McEwan, new pastor at St. John the Baptist Church, to implement the pastoral plan for Plattsburgh.

St. Andrew's was also incorrectly listed as being in Norfolk instead of Norwood.

We apologize for these errors.



CHRISTMAS IN CONCERT

Students at Trinity Catholic in Massena recently performed a Nativity-themed Christmas Concert. (Left) Lynden McAllister and Jason Tenzin played Mary and Joseph for the show, while (right) Cayden Patrick, Levi Netown and Gideon Faucher were cast as animals and shepherds. Trinity students will also perform a Live Nativity on Dec. 19 at 3 p.m. in the school parking lot.



Environmental Stewardship**Blessed is the consumer**

In her book, "Blessed is the Consumer: Climate Change and the Practice of Restraint," Sallie McFague reminds us of the power that we have as consumers.

She states: "In a world bent on consumption it is imperative that people of religious faith realize the significant role they play in advocating for the earth, and a more humane life for all."

The root of restraint, she says rests in the ancient Christian notion of Kenosis, or self-emptying.

One way to make room in our hearts for the Lord who emptied Himself (Phil. 2:1-12) to become one with us could be to resist buying everything that "glitters" and to choose consciously what we decide to give as gift this Christmas. We hear Pope Francis in his encyclical, "Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home," call us to return to Christian simplicity that allows us to stop and appreciate the small things. . . It is a way of living life to the full. (#222-3)

As consumers, this season of giving can be a wonderful opportunity to choose carefully what we buy and to consider the true cost of the goods we do decide to purchase. What is the cost of human labor and how are workers being remunerated for their labors? What is the cost to the natural world in terms of the use of natural resources, transportation costs, throwaway items?

Studies reveal that an average of 50 percent of what we purchase is discarded within six months.

When we use our purchasing power to acquire less and become more conscious of the effects on our sisters and brothers and on our planet, we can become a blessing not only to the person we give the gift to but to those who contributed to producing it. The emptier a person's heart is, the more he or she needs to buy, own and consume." (#204)

Let us fill our hearts with Jesus' and allow it to spill over into the lives of God's family.

Bishop's Public Schedule

Dec. 12 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Dec. 13 – 10:50 a.m. – Mass at St.

Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

Dec. 14 – 4:30 p.m. – Deanery Clergy Penance Service followed by dinner at St. Mary's Cathedral

Dec. 15 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Dec. 16 – 2 p.m. – Advent Penance Service at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

Dec. 17 – 7:15 p.m. – Novena followed by Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Dec. 18 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

2:30 p.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting followed by dinner at Bishop's Residence

Dec. 19 – 10:50 a.m. – Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

Rest in Peace

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

Dec. 12 – Rev. Victor Dugas, 1843; Msgr. Albert J. Farrell, 1967; Rev. Julian P. O'Brien, 1988; Deacon Floyd J. Barton, 1999

Dec. 14 – Rev. P.M. O'Shea, O.S.A., 1942, Rev. Paul Beyette, 2016

Dec. 15 – Rev. Leon Pierre Cochard, 1915; Deacon Joseph H. Gilbert II, 2010

Dec. 16 – Rev. J. F. McGowen, O.S.A., 1935; Rev. Frederick Cummings Horton, 1975

Dec. 17 – Rev. John Orrin Senecal, 1980

Dec. 18 – Msgr. Narcisse Lorrain, 1915; Rev. Laurent Legoff, O.M.I., 1932; Rev. Louis Kopp, M.S.C., 1946; Msgr. Harold J. Skelly, 1980; Rev. George A. Fortaine, 1990

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required. Participants may preregister at www.virtus.org.

Upcoming sessions:

Jan. 24 – 7:30 p.m., Wakefield Recital Hall at SUNY Potsdam

Mass of Christian Burial held for Sister Sheila Murphy, OSU

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Sheila Murphy, an Ursuline Sister, was held Saturday, December 8, 2018, at the Ursuline Provincial Center in New Rochelle.

Sister Sheila died December 5, 2018 at Andruson-Hudson in Hastings.

Born in Flushing, New York, in 1931, she was the daughter of Martha Fairbrother and George Murphy.

Predeceased by her parents, Sr. Sheila is survived by her loving Ursuline Community, cousins and friends.

After graduating from the College of New Rochelle in 1953, Sister Sheila entered the Ursuline Order in Beacon, New York, and professed her



Sister Sheila Murphy

vows in January 1956. Known as Mother Martha, she earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Catholic University of America.

A gifted and creative educator, Sister Sheila's ministry in education included serving as a teacher or principal in the Bronx at Our Lady of Mercy, St. Philip Neri, St. Jerome, Ursuline Academy Lower School in Bethesda, Maryland, and at All Souls Catholic School in Sanford, Florida. In addition, her passion for the integrity of the

earth and social justice inspired her to serve on the Social Services Board in the Diocese of Orlando, Florida.

She also spent a year teaching English as a Second Language in Thailand.

Over the years, Sr. Sheila served the Ursuline Community in many capacities: Superior of the Bedford Park Convent, Provincial Councilor, and Board member for the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, as well as, the MSU Speech Center.

Before her move to New Rochelle in 2016, Sister Sheila served in Malone for more than a decade as a volunteer in a variety of ministries. She was involved in Notre Dame Parish, the Ursuline Associates, and the Council of Religious, Social Justice Committee for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. She also served as a Pastoral Assistant in Chateaugay.

Donations in Sister Sheila's name may be made to the Ursuline Sisters Retirement Fund, 1338 North Avenue, New Rochelle, N.Y. 10804-2121.

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, 618 Lake Rd, Chateaugay, NY 12920; terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: Day: 518-651-2267, Night: 518-569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Personnel at 315-393-2920

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the *North Country Catholic*.

•Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 300.

•We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

•Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to news@northcountrycatholic.org

•Join the conversation!

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1836 Walden Pond Road
Ft. Pierce, FL 34945



Share Christmas greetings with the priests of our diocese

Rev. Kris C. Lauzon

The CC of Holy Name & St. Matthew
PO Box 719
Au Sable Forks, NY 12912

Rev. Clyde A. Lewis

St. Patrick's Church
PO Box 217
Rouses Point, NY 12979

Rev. Christopher J. Looby

St. Anthony's Church
850 Arsenal Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. John J. Looby

PO Box 78
Constable, NY 12926

Rev. Douglas J. Lucia

St. Mary's Church
PO Box 187
Waddington, NY 13694

Rev. Shane M. Lynch

St. James Church
164 East Main Street
Gouverneur, NY 13642

Rev. Donald J. Manfred

St. Stephen's Church
PO Box 38
Croghan, NY 13327

Rev. Lawrence E. Marullo

St. Mary's Church
PO Box 382
Constableville, NY 13325

Msgr. C. John McAvoy

51 Willow Way, Apt. 19
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

Rev. Kevin D. McEwan

St. Mary's Church
22 Father Jogues Place
Ticonderoga, NY 12883

Rev. J. Roger McGuinness

15 New Hampshire Rd., Apt. 317
Plattsburgh, NY 12903

Rev. Bernard D. Menard

2679 State Route 11
Moers, NY 12958

Rev. Gilbert B. Menard

104 Beas Way, Apt. 118
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Rev. Raymond J. Moreau

St. Mary's Church
1347 State Route 11
Brushton, NY 12916

Rev. Joseph A. Morgan, V.G.

St. Mary's Cathedral
125 Ford Avenue
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Rev. William G. Muench

PO Box 664
Sackets Harbor, NY 13685

Msgr. John R. Murphy, V.F.

Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond
PO Box 637
Norfolk, NY 13667

Rev. Steven M. Murray

Holy Family Church
129 Winthrop Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Kevin J. O'Brien

St. Raphael's Church
PO Box 377
Heuvelton, NY 13654

Rev. Patrick J. O'Reilly

425 Sue Ryder Apartments
Kilminchy, Portlaoise, Ireland

Rev. Jerome Pastores

Kateri Hall
PO Box 429
Hogansburg, NY 13655

Rev. Terrence Patterson

18 Flow Drive
Potsdam, NY 13676

Rev. Eduardo C. Pesigan III

St. Peter's Church
114 Cornelia Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Msgr. Leeward J. Poissant

16 Glen Drive, Apt. 4
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Rev. Herman Pongantung, MSC

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
668 Thompson Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Sony G. Pulickal, V.F.

St. James Major Church
PO Box 214
Speculator, NY 12164

Rev. Patrick A. Ratigan

St. Bernard's Church
27 St. Bernard Street
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

Rev. William G. Reamer

Our Lady of Victory Church
4919 S. Catherine Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Rev. Mark R. Reilly

St. Peter's Parish
PO Box 329
Massena, NY 13662

Msgr. Peter R. Riani

Champlain Valley Senior Community
10 Guilliland Lane, Rm. 203
Willsboro, NY 12996

Rev. Donald A. Robinson

St. James Minor Church
327 West Street
Carthage, NY 13619

Rev. Stephen Rucker

St. Patrick's Church
PO Box 315
Colton, NY 13625

Rev. Joseph N. Sestito

100 Van Tassal Lane
Rome, NY 13440

Rev. James W. Seymour, V.F.

St. Peter's Church
5457 Shady Avenue
Lowville, NY 13367

Rev. Scott R. Seymour

The Roman CC of St. Alexander and St. Joseph
PO Box 159
Morrisonville, NY 12962

Rev. Alan D. Shnob

St. Augustine's Church
3035 Main Street
Peru, NY 12972

Rev. F. James Shurtleff

St. Mary's Cathedral
415 Hamilton Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Msgr. Harry K. Snow

St. Joseph's Home
950 Linden Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Rev. Bryan D. Stitt

St. Mary's Church
68 Court Street
Canton, NY 13617

Rev. Richard S. Sturtz

St. Mary's Cathedral
415 Hamilton Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Rev. Jonas Rafael Tandayu, MSC

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church
320 West Lynde Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Todd Thibault

St. Edmund's Church
5526 State Route 11
Ellenburg Center, NY 12934

Rev. Justin Thomas, HGN

St. Mary's Cathedral
415 Hamilton Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Rev. Howard J. Venette

St. Bartholomew's Church
PO Box 236
Old Forge, NY 13420

Rev. Raymond J. Wertman

2292 Costa Rican Dr., Apt. 56
Clearwater, FL 33763

Msgr. Paul E. Whitmore

Holy Family Church
129 Winthrop Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Leo A. Wiley

Church of the Holy Family
129 Winthrop Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. John R. Yonkovig, V.F.

St. Agnes Church
169 Hillcrest Avenue
Lake Placid, NY 12946



MERRY CHRISTMAS

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

We have cause to rejoice this Gaudete Sunday

Today is called Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word, "re-joyce." For those of you with Advent wreaths, be sure to light the rose-colored candle as a sign of the today's joyful spirit. Even the celebrant today may use rose-colored vestments at Mass.



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

It well may take us an effort to feel very joyful today. A national cartoon

depicted terrorists shooting guns at the Angel of Peace far up in the sky! And yet, the Child of peace again gently intrudes His promise of hope into our violent world. What persuasive reasons does He bring this Advent? Let's look at the readings.

The prophet Zephaniah proclaims, "Shout for joy, O daughter Zion...the Lord is in

December 16

Third Sunday of Advent

READINGS

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:10-18

your midst...be not discouraged!" Even though the prophet had been very critical of the sins of the people and had foretold a harsh judgment, he now speaks of God's divine mercy. As for Israel long ago, so too for us,

God refuses to give up on our sinfulness. He even begs us to pull ourselves out of gloom and despair.

In the second reading, St. Paul urges the Philippians – and us – to "Re-joyce in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! ...The Lord is near – by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God". In this Year of Faith, we must double our efforts to pray, to beg God for forgiveness and mercy, and to act with love and

service toward all.

We listen to what John the Baptist tells the crowds in today's Gospel. He has advice for each group, from the soldiers to the rich, to the religious leaders, to the ordinary people. Our joy is based on God's mercy and the fire of the Holy Spirit we have received in Baptism. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. What He has done in the past, He will do again. So we have cause to rejoice!

Advent calendars: Tradition and commercialism

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The Advent calendar with one tab or box to open each day for 24 or 25 days taps into something people really like: countdowns. It also highlights the anticipation that is at the heart of the four-week liturgical season of Advent.

These calendars, which are religious in nature, hence always with the name Advent, also at times can take the religious theme and run with it, sometimes leaving the biblical manger scene in the dust with daily surprises of anything from whiskey, cosmetics, toys, chocolates, books, coffee, and for pets, daily treats.

But not all Advent calendars are alike. Some simply display, when each window is opened, either Christmas symbols, Bible passages or inspirational daily motivations. Some are online, some are traditional paper and others are way more elaborate with daily gifts in drawers or boxes.

No matter their size or design, Advent calendars all count down to Christmas. Since they start with

the No. 1, for Dec. 1, they technically do not begin at the start of Advent; the first Sunday of Advent varies each year and often comes at the end of November.

Some calendars, with 25 windows, end after Advent with the biggest prize, or image, on the 25th window, or Christmas, but some calendars end at 24.

Whether they come from a Hallmark store or a religious supply company, these calendars are based on the practice of counting down the days until Christmas that once was done with chalk marks on doors or straw placed in Nativity manglers.

The ancient tradition of counting down to Christmas eventually made its way into calendars initially called "Nicholas calendars" because they were distributed Dec. 6, the feast of St. Nicholas, but then the name changed to "Christmas calendars" and even "Advent calendars" as some initial calendars appeared with the annual number of Advent days.

But the first official Ad-

vent calendar as we now know it is attributed to Gerhard Lang from Germany who produced a cardboard Advent calendar in 1908 with colored pictures that could be attached to each day in December – replicating the calendar his mother had made when he was a child with 24 candies to stick on cardboard.

Lang, who worked for a printing company, further developed this paper calendar to have tabs to open each day of December.

Printed Advent calendars took a break during world wars but made their way back to stores and were introduced to American consumers in the 1950s. A Newsweek photo of President Dwight D. Eisenhower and his grandchildren with an Advent calendar in 1953 no doubt gave sales of these calendars a further boost.

Today, the Advent calendar runs the gamut from religious to political or sports themes and range from simple to expensive.

In 2010, the Daily Mail, a British tabloid, reported on what it said was the

world's most expensive Advent calendar: It was filled with 24 diamonds and gold along with diamond-shaped fairies. The calendar, made by a Belgian company, weighed 81 carats and cost 1.7 million pounds or just under \$2.2 million dollars.

The world's largest Advent calendar, according to Guinness World Records, was in London in 2007 at the St. Pancras train station to celebrate the station's reopening. It stood more than 232 feet high and 75 feet wide.

A benefit of current paper Advent calendars is that they can be reused each year -- although without surprises under each flap.

Alternatively, there are plenty of annually updated online Advent calendars. Here is a sampling of some of the online Catholic Advent calendars:

•Loyola:

<https://www.loyola-press.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/advent/calendars/advent-calendar-for-adults>. The site also has a children's calen-

d a r .
•Catholic Relief Services:
<https://www.crs.org/advent-calendar>.

•The Paulist's Busted Halo calendar:
<https://advent.busted-halo.com>.

An unofficial Twitter poll on Advent calendars conducted by this reporter found that 68 percent of respondents viewed Advent calendars as a spiritual resource and 32 percent found them too commercial.

One person said she wished religious Advent calendars were easier to find.

Colleen Darland, a parishioner at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in DeWitt, Iowa, said she wished "more Advent calendars were actually Advent calendars and not 'December' calendars."

"I understand of course that this makes it more difficult to have a reusable calendar, but our faith isn't meant to be reusable. It is to change and grow as we learn and change and grow," she said in an email to Catholic News Service.

AT THE MOVIES

SPIDERMAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE

NEW YORK (CNS) – Traditionalists be warned: "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" (Columbia) has little to do with your father's Peter Parker.

Instead, this innovative but noisy and frenetic animated take on the Marvel Comics saga features one novice web-slinger and a quintet of alternate versions of the title character who arrive on Earth from other dimensions.

The resulting adventure is not for the easily jangled or the littlest tots. But it is otherwise suitable for a wide audience.

Although the personnel have changed, the premise remains. So it's no surprise when half African-American, half Puerto Rican Brooklyn lad Miles Morales (voice of Shameik Moore), like Parker before him, is bitten by a radioactive arachnid and takes on some of its characteristic abilities.

Confused to find that his hands keep sticking to everything – including, sadly for her, the hair of Gwen Stacy (voice of Hailee Steinfeld), the girl he would like to make his own – Miles gets some much-needed mentoring from an unlikely source. It seems that villainous Kingpin (voice of Liev Schreiber) has successfully opened a portal to parallel universes through which five variants on Spider-Man arrive, one by one, on Earth.

Though he eventually teams with all his fellow Spideys, Miles first forms a partnership with Peter B. Parker (voice of Jake Johnson), a slightly sad-sack iteration of the familiar figure. Reluctantly at first but with growing enthusiasm as things progress,



CNS PHOTO/SONY

This is a scene from the animated movie "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse."

this Peter shows Miles the ropes – or, perhaps, the strands.

In bringing to the big screen characters first created on paper by writer Brian Michael Bendis and artist Sara Pichelli, the trio of directors – Bob Persichetti, Peter Ramsey and Rodney Rothman – maintains a jaunty and humorous tone. In keeping with his name, for instance, Spider-Man Noir (voice of Nicolas Cage) uses the stilted jargon of a mid-20th-century movie tough guy.

Amid stylized dustups and often jarring psychedelic imagery the screenplay, on which Rothman collaborated with Phil Lord, conveys a message about the importance of family bonds. It also offers a lesson in living up to your potential.

Thus Miles is close to both his cop dad, Jefferson (voice of Brian Tyree Henry), and nurse mom, Rio (voice of Luna Lauren Velez). He also looks up to his slightly dodgy Uncle Aaron (voice of Mahershala Ali) whose wayward-

ness has led to his estrangement from his by-the-book brother Jefferson.

With Peter's help, fledgling Miles learns to take control of his powers and use them for good. Specifically, that involves battling Kingpin and his octopus-like sidekick, Doc Ock (voice of Kathryn Hahn).

Back in his world, Peter B. has broken up with his true love, Mary Jane (voice of Zoe Kravitz), in part because she wanted to have children and he did not.

This is presented as evidence of selfishness and immaturity on his part and his relationship with Miles gives him a new, more positive perspective.

Even when the bullets fly, the sometimes-intense mayhem remains suitably cartoonish. And, aside from a brief foray into questionable humor involving Miles mistaking his transformation for the symptoms of puberty and spouting awkward statements on the subject, the dialogue is overwhelmingly innocent.

The film contains some harsh but bloodless violence, including gunplay, references to puberty and a single vaguely crass word. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II – adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG – parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.



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www.northcountrycatholic.org

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CLINTON

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Treadwell Mills – The Knights of Columbus will hold an all you can eat Pancake Breakfast.

Date: Jan. 6

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

Place: St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 6-12, \$4; under 5, Free

BOARS HEAD FEAST & FESTIVAL

Altona – St. Ann's & Holy Angels will host a Boars Head feast and festival.

Schedule: Jan. 5 at 5 p.m. and Jan. 6 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Place: Holy Angels Hall and Church

Cost: Feast only is \$25; Festival only is \$20; attend both for \$40; children are \$10; children 5 and under are free

Features: Two evenings that celebrate the End of the Christmas Season and the Feast of the Epiphany. A medieval jubilation of Light from Darkness. Feast to include an appetizer course of meat, cheese and fruit platter, maple fruit sansa medieval salad with choice of maple mountain vinaigrettes; a main course of mango beef stew, egg noodles and rolls; and rice and bread puddings, and yule log cake for dessert.

Contact: For more information or to purchase tickets, call 518-236-5632

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

Plattsburgh – The Sacred Heart Fraternity Secular Franciscan Order meets the second Sunday of the each month.

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: St. John's Church (Holy Family Chapel)

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP

Mooers – Monthly prayer group held to pray for all of the sick in our parishes.

Date: Meets every second Friday

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: Senior Housing

Features: Prayer for all the people added to our list each month. The Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet are recited within the prayer service.

Prayer and snack lasts about an hour.

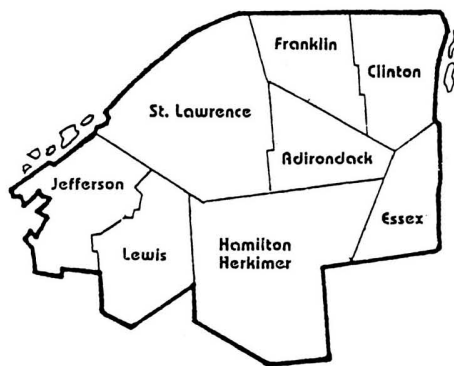
Contact: Nancy Monette at nmonette@charter.net

JEFFERSON

FRANCISCAN MYSTERY PLAY

Clayton – "The Birth of Jesus," A Franciscan Christmas play to be performed.

Date: Dec. 16



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.

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

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Through special lighting, inspirational music, and narration, this presentation is a prayerful and moving meditation on the Birth of Jesus. There is no admission cost, but a free-will offering is appreciated to support the Mystery Players ministry.

Contact: For more information, contact St. Mary's parish office at 315-686-3398.

IHC Mystery Players

The IHC Mystery Players have one performance remaining for their Advent show.

Date: Dec. 16

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Place: Holy Family, Watertown

EUCARIST PRAYER GROUP

Watertown – Our Mother of the Eucharist Prayer Group to meet the 2nd Thursday of every month.

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall, St. Anthony's

Contact: Kathi Buskey 315-783-2230; Lourdes Hough 315-408-4492

CURSILLO MEETING

Carthage - The Jefferson/Lewis Cursillo holds its monthly meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Time: 6 p.m. to 8

Place: Community Room of St. James Church

Features: All Cursillistas are encouraged to attend. We also welcome those interested in deepening a personal re-

lationship with Jesus Christ.

Contact: Anne Seegebarth

ams2962@gmail.com, 315-783-4596

HIBERNIANS SEEKS MEMBERS

Watertown – Ancient Order of Hibernians are looking for new members.

Features: The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) the oldest and largest Irish Fraternal Organization in the World, is looking for new members. Are you a Catholic male, 17 years or older of Irish descent? The AOH will be visiting parishes across the North Country to spread the word about the charitable works we do across our community.

Contact: nnyirish@gmail.com or Pat Keogh 519-1961 or Sean Hennessy 775-0570.

WEEKLY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Sackets Harbor - St. Andrew's Church has weekly exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on every Friday.

Time: 5 p.m. to 6

LEWIS

EUCARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville – Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

Date: Dec. 20

Time: 4 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: To Thank God for & To Honor the Most Blessed Sacrament, all are invited to celebrate one hour of Exposition, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, silent adoration, and Benediction.

INTERNATIONAL CRECHES-NATIVITIES

Houseville - All are welcome to an exhibit of International Creches-Nativities.

Date: Dec. 16, 23, 30 Jan. 6

Time: The display may be viewed before or after the 11:00 a.m. Masses or between 1 p.m. to 3 or by appointment during the week.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church,

Features: This 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: 315-348-6260

OPLATKI-POLISH CHRISTMAS WAFER

Houseville - The Polish Christmas Wafer or OPLATEK is available from St. Hedwig's Church.

Cost: \$3 per package plus postage.

Features: The Christmas Wafer of OPLATEK is part of a beautiful Polish, Lithuanian and Slovak custom that is observed during the Vigil of Christmas (Wigilia). After the first star is visible, family and friends gather around the dinner table to share the OPLATEK, which symbolizes the presence of Christ, the Newborn Child. The OPLATEK is sent and shared with family and friends all over the world as a symbol of love, unity and forgiveness while wishing God's Blessing on each other this Holy Night.

Contact: 315-348-6260.

ST. LAWRENCE

GALA

Gouverneur – Save the date for the St. James Gala.

Date: Feb. 9

Features: Join for a taste of "The Sweet Life" in rich Tuscan style. The Italian themed dinner will be presented by chef Joe Pistolesi and family.

Contact: Tickets will be available Jan. 1 from any Gala Gal or by calling 315-287-0130

MEN SHARPEN MEN

Ogdensburg – Gathering to be held for men.

Date: Saturdays

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Place: Bishop Brzana Hall of St.

Mary's Cathedral

Features: In this day and age, when we have more gadgets and gizmos to make our lives easier and less compli-

cated, WHY do we find ourselves so stressed-out and out of time to do the things we want and need to do? How do we sort it all out and make our lives better? God has a lot to say about the role and responsibilities of men. Let us gather together so that we can make a difference in the lives of one another, for scripture says, "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." (Pro 27:17). All men are welcome.

Contact: www.ogdensburgcatholics.org/men

DIOCESAN EVENTS

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

Northern Adirondack Vocal Ensemble (NAVE) will give two performances of A Festival of Lessons and Carols.

Schedule: Dec. 22 at St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh at 7 p.m. and Dec. 23 at St. Agnes Church, Lake Placid at 4 p.m.

Cost: \$10 Donation

Features: Anthems, carols, and hymns illuminate the Christmas story with community readers and congregational singing.

SURVIVING DIVORCE

Surviving Divorce groups to be held for 12 weeks.

Schedule: Jan. 22 at St. Anthony's Church, Watertown and Jan. 24 at St. Peter's Parish in Massena

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30

Features: The Surviving Divorce Program offers support and healing for people who are separated or divorced.

Contact: Contact Stephen Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org. To register go to: <https://www.rcdony.org/family-life/surviving-divorce-support-group.html>

DOVS MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

D.O.V.S (Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society) is dedicated to promoting and fostering vocations to the priesthood and religious life in our diocese.

The annual campaign provides a major source of revenue for our organization and its success is vital to our Diocese.

Funds that we raise through our membership campaign helps us to raise awareness for vocations in our Diocese.

Cost: Annual dues are \$50 per year or \$75 per married couple.

Contact: Any questions please call Connie Randall at 315-265-2762 or Anne Miller at 315-353-2950 or email Connie at connierandall47@yahoo.com



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

Advent 2018: Joy and hope for all

In last year's Christmas message, Pope Francis offered warm greetings and encouraged us to renew our hearts, awaken our desires to build solidarity and fraternity and bring joy to everyone.

The Advent Season prepares us for Christmas. We are hopefully able to spend time with family and friends. As part of our preparation, we pray for our brothers and sisters in the Missions. Our help is needed for children lacking food, water and clothing, as well as the elderly suffering from serious illness without medical attention. Pope Francis calls for Peace in the Holy Lands and urges the world to see the face of Jesus in little children everywhere. Christmas invites us to focus on the children, especially when there is no room in the Inn.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith carries out the message year-round to bring the Light of Christ to all nations, especially to the poor. During Advent, we invite you to join the Holy Father by:

1. **praying** for the success of our initiatives around the world,
2. **making a gift** to those in need through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and
3. **inviting others** to become a part of this important work of the church.

Advent is a time to support the priests, religious and lay catechists who are offering tangible help, while communicating to all of them the joy of the Christ-child: God with us! While missionaries play critical, life-saving roles for countless families, they cannot do it alone. We are so thankful to have such generous friends, like you, dedicated to helping us. Please "Be an Angel" for those who are in greatest need and know your support is deeply appreciated and will truly make a difference. Thank you for your consideration.

I wish you and your loved ones a holy Advent and a joyous Christmas. Be assured that I will remember you and your intentions at Mass and in my prayers in the coming weeks.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.
www.rcdony.org/mission

OBITUARIES

Burke — Gerard P. Sidor, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 7, 2018 at St. George's Church.

Carthage — Richard I. Crane, Jr. 75; Funeral Services Dec. 3, 2018 at the Lundy Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Inc.; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Copenhagen.

Champlain — Steven K. Burky, 51; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 30, 2018 at St. Mary's Church.

Champlain — Lena (Ashline) Matott, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 4, 2018 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Chateaugay — Lavina M. Boyea, 101; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 30, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Clayton — Elizabeth J. (Benack) Foisy, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 3, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery, North Bangor.

Colton — George H. Seaver, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 6, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Croghan — Theresa A. (Beaton) Lehman, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 6, 2018 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Dannemora — Thomas Howard Lapoint, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 7, 2018 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens, Ellenburg Depot.

Gouverneur — Anna Marie (Seitz) Reilly, 95; Funeral Services Dec. 8, 2018 at Green Funeral Home; burial in New St. James Cemetery.

Heuvelton — Margaret Pauline (Raymon) Corrice, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 3, 2018 at St. Raphael's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Indian Lake — Leona (Raymond) Warner, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 3, 2018 at St. Mary's Parish; burial in Cedar River Cemetery.

Lisbon — Alyce E. Murphy, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 5, 2018 at St. Philip and James Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ogdensburg.

Massena — Anita (LaMarche) Savoca, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 10, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Robert L. Wilson, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 11, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Chapel Hill Cemetery, Parishville.

North Bangor — Robert Simon McCaffrey, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 7, 2018 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in Steven's Cemetery, Brandon.

Ogdensburg — Mary C. (Bernier) Ashley-Sansoucy, 90; Memorial Services in Spring at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — John P. Miller, 57; Funeral Services May 11, 2019 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Ogdensburg — Alberta M. (Bouchard) Scott, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 10, 2018 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Mary E. (Ferrari) Gar-rant, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 3, 2018 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Anne E. (Marsden) Hollop, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 7, 2018 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Oswego.

Plattsburgh — Yvonne (Boire) Santimaw, 101; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 3, 2018 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Potsdam — Susan Marie (Fuller) Burnham, 61; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 10, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Bayside Cemetery.

Rouses Point — Kenneth C. Perry, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 7, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church.

Watertown — Rose A. (DiStefano) Babick, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 6, 2018 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Charles H. Moore, 81; Funeral Services Dec. 6 at Sister of the Precious Blood Chapel; burial in Sulphur Springs Cemetery.

Watertown — Lucy Catherine (Frat-tali) Trumble, 90; Mass of Christian Dec. 10, 2018 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.



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SCENES FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE

FACES OF FAITH



(Above and right) Holy Family School in Malone recently participated in the village's first Parade of Lights. Parents and students worked together to create the illuminated float and joined together to walk in the parade.



The Canton Knights of Columbus recently donated \$30,000 to St. Mary's Church for the diocesan Capital Campaign. John Taillon, grand knight, presented the donation to Father Bryan Stitt, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Canton.



The Plattsburgh Fischer's Club, a discernment group for men, recently concluded the semester with a Eucharistic Holy Hour. Pictured with Father Howard Venette, group leader, are group members Tom Middleton, Nate Pultorak and Aaron Akey.

Pope Francis to visit United Arab Emirates

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis will visit the United Arab Emirates next year, becoming the first pope to visit the Arabian Peninsula, the Vatican announced.

In a Dec. 6 statement, the Vatican said the pope will "participate in the International Interfaith Meeting on 'Human Fraternity'" after receiving an in-

itation by Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, crown prince of Abu Dhabi.

"The visit will take place also in response to the invitation of the Catholic Church in the United Arab Emirates," the Vatican said.

The trip Feb. 3-5 will take place less than a week after Pope Francis returns

from his Jan. 23-28 visit to Panama for World Youth Day.

Shortly after the announcement, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, vice president and prime minister of the United Arab Emirates, welcomed the announcement of the pope's visit in a post on his personal Facebook page.

The visit, he said, "will strengthen our ties and understanding of each other, enhance interfaith dialogue and help us to work together to maintain and build peace among the nations of the world."

In a message published on the visit's official website, Swiss Bishop Paul Hinder, apostolic vicar of Southern Arabia, ex-

pressed his hope that the pope's "short visit will be a moment of deepening our faith and our adherence to the bishop of Rome."

Although a detailed program of the pope's schedule "will be published before Christmas," Bishop Hinder confirmed that Pope Francis will celebrate a public Mass in Abu Dhabi Feb. 5.