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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 73, Number 39

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 27, 2019

## Massena uses Alpha to reach 'unchurched'

An Alpha session consists of a meal, a talk (video presentation) and a discussion, and it's meant to engage those who may not be regularly attending Mass or even familiar with Christian principles.

The series of talks opens with, "Is there more to life than this?" on the first week, and moves on to such questions as "How does God guide us?" and "Who is the Holy Spirit?"

Now preparing for its fourth round of Alpha in April, St. Peter's Parish in Massena is seeing the fruits of the program, and participants are saying the program changed their lives.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## DISCERNING & DRIBBLING



A team from Pontifical College Josephinum recently won the 39th Annual Helfant Classic Basketball Tournament, a tournament of eight seminary basketball teams. The PCJ team included Carter Pierce, a seminarian from the Diocese of Ogdensburg (front row, far right).

## MYSTICISM IN THE MASS

*To Heaven and Back:  
Discover the Mystical Journey  
of the Mass*



Maura Hearden Fehner

Maura Hearden Fehner authored a booklet, "To Heaven and Back: Discover the Mystical Journey of the Mass," to help others grow in their understanding and appreciation of the Mass. The effort was born out of a desire to help Catholics increase their understanding and love of the Mass, so they can share that love with others.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

## Pope: It's time for 'all-out battle' against abuse

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The time has come for an "all-out battle" against the abuse of minors, erasing this abominable crime from the face of the earth, Pope Francis said, closing a global four-day summit on child protection in the Catholic Church.

For quite some time, the world has been aware of the "serious scandal" the abuse of minors by clergy has brought to the church and public opinion, both because of the dramatic suffering it has caused victims and because of the

"unjustifiable negligence" and "cover-up" by leaders in the church, he told people gathered in St. Peter's Square.

Since the problem is present on every continent, the pope said he called leaders of the world's bishops and religious superiors to Rome because "I wanted us to face it together in a co-responsible and collegial way," he said after praying the Angelus Feb. 24.

"We listened to the voice of victims, we prayed and asked for forgiveness from

God and the people hurt, we took stock of our responsibility, and our duty to bring justice through truth and to radically reject every form" of sexual abuse and the abuse of power and conscience, he said.

"We want every activity and every place in the church to be completely safe for minors," he said, which means taking every possible measure so that such crimes never happen again.

It will also entail working with great dedication to-

gether with people of good will everywhere in order to fight this "very grave scourge of violence" that affects hundreds of millions of minors around the world.

The pope's noonday summary of what he called a "very important" meeting came after he delivered his closing remarks at the end of Mass Feb. 24.

Surrounded by the ornate frescoed walls and ceiling of the Sala Regia, the pope told some 190 cardinals, bishops and religious superiors from

around the world, "the time has come, then, to work together to eradicate this evil from the body of our humanity by adopting every necessary measure already in force on the international level and ecclesial levels."

However, despite the importance of knowing the sociological and psychological explanations behind this criminal act of abuse, he said, the church must recognize this is a spiritual battle against the "brazen, aggressive, destructive" power of Satan.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## A few steps outside my comfort zone

"I'm really good at talking, but I'm not comfortable sharing."

That's typically my response when someone asks me to participate in some type of discussion group or to give some type of witness talk.

If you meet me, it'll be clear very quickly why communications is such a fitting field for me. I'm a professional talker. I love telling stories and talking about ideas, and I love hearing about other peoples' experiences and ideas. I'm even among that odd subset of the population that sort of en-

joys public speaking.

I'm comfortable talking about a wide variety of topics, but I am completely uncomfortable talking about my struggles, failures, doubts, moments of conversion or awe... – the deep stuff; the important stuff. I barely talk about those things with the people closest to me, let alone with strangers.



Darcy L.  
Fargo

This brings me to Presidents' Day, when I found myself sitting in Tim Hortons with two relative strangers, a few cups of coffee and my laptop. While I was interviewing the men about their experi-

ence with Alpha and their faith journeys in general, at least one of the men seemed intent on interviewing me. He asked about my life experiences and faith journey.

I was (sort of) sharing. In Tim Hortons – a busy Tim Hortons, at that. It was not a normal moment for me.

We have a saying in my family: "Normal is just a setting on the dryer." It's not really something we aspire to. Important moments stand out because they're not normal.

This conversation over coffee was an important moment. I was inspired by the stories these men told of their faith journeys. I felt accepted for mine. There was

grace and beauty in the conversation.

A friend often reminds me that we need to step outside our comfort zones to grow and progress. I like my comfort zone. As the name implies, it's comfortable.

But despite what I like, growth and progress are what I need.

We're all called to step outside our comfort zones. We're called to take Christ to others; that's not comfortable. We're called to cooperate with grace to overcome our weaknesses and struggles; that's not comfortable. We're called to holiness, and that's not always comfortable.

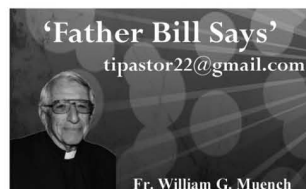
But it's important.

## A good bishop is a blessing

I was saddened to learn recently of the death of Bishop Thomas Costello, the retired auxiliary Bishop of Syracuse. I have known and been a friend of Bishop Costello since seminary days. Bishop Costello visited our diocese often and was frequently involved in many of our diocesan programs.

There were several times over these years that we all thought Bishop Costello would be chosen as to be the Bishop of our diocese, the Diocese of Ogdensburg. I am certain Bishop Costello would have been a fine Bishop for us here in this diocese.

I have talked with many lay people and priests of excellent experiences that involved Bishop Costello. A friend of mine from Gouverneur shared such an opportunity with me recently after learning of Bishop Costello's death. Not too long ago she attended her grandson's Confirmation – I believe it was in Cazenovia. Bishop Costello was the celebrant.



She was quite impressed with Bishop Costello's ability to reach the Confirmation students and catch the attention of these teenagers. I can truly agree – Bishop Costello had a special something in reaching people especially young people.

I want to share with you part of a letter written to the Syracuse newspaper in tribute of Bishop Costello. It is written by a friend of mine, David Pasinski. He wrote: "Bishop Costello was a leader who made the presence of Christ manifest in his commitment to the poor, to social justice, to interfaith work, to peace issues, to women's concerns, to education, to good preaching, and to the simple but ultimately critically important aspect of pastoral care that are the

marks of the best clerical religious impulses."

In recent years, I have attended the same retreat as Bishop Costello, so I have had the opportunity to visit and spend time with Bishop Costello. Today, I remember him in my prayers – prayers of gratitude that he was a true gift to us all, and I ask that he watches over me.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention to you in gratitude to God that we, the priests and people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, have been led as a diocese by so many excellent Bishops. As I look over the years that I have been a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, I remember the several Bishops that I have served and realize how fortunate I have been as a priest with such great leaders. I realize that some of those Bishops were only here in our diocese for a short time, but in every case, they had a profound influence on our diocese. I also know that all the Bishops of our diocese have found terrific spirit

here, and their time in our diocese was very rewarding.

In these recent years, you and I have been blessed with a bishop that was one of our own. Bishop LaValley was raised here in the North Country and ordained a priest for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. This is very important to us. Bishop LaValley began his time as our Bishop knowing the North Country and knowing us all, priests and people. He was our friend, and this has made a difference in his time as bishop. We are certain of his concern and love for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. So, we can be truly grateful for our bishop, for Bishop LaValley.

There are so many challenges these days in being a bishop in our Catholic Church. Please join me in praying for our bishop and all bishops in our country and in our world, and pray for Pope Francis, the Shepherd of Shepherds.

# Implementing Alpha

## Program has St. Peter's Parish reaching out

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

**MASSENA** – An Alpha session consists of a meal, a talk and a discussion, and it's meant to engage those who may not be regularly attending Mass or familiar with Christian principles. Only a few sessions into their Alpha experience, the program seems to be bearing fruit in Massena.

"A few years ago, I read 'Divine Renovation,' and the content resonated with my experience and aspirations for parish renewal," said Father Mark R. Reilly, pastor of St. Peter's Parish in Massena. "That book spoke in glowing terms about Alpha as a tool for evangelization, renewal and change in a parish. Already in our parish, we had a lot of churn and culture change because of the consolidation (from several parishes to one parish). The question was, 'do we manage the culture change and drive it in a healthy way, or do we just let it change?'"

In the spring of 2017, Father Reilly again encountered Alpha at the New Evangelization Summit in Ottawa. There, he learned more about the program and became more intrigued. He then talked to representatives of Alpha both in the United States and Canada, as well as the Catholic Context director (Alpha is offered for Catholic and other Christian churches), who suggested the parish run a pilot program or two.

The parish piloted the program in the fall of 2017 and spring of 2018, running the sessions for parish members and a few

### Experience Alpha

St. Peter's Parish in Massena is planning its next session of Alpha.

**Dates:** Mondays, starting April 8

**Times:** 6 to 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** St. Mary's Social Hall, 7 Sycamore St., Massena

**Register:** Go to [massenacatholics.com/alpha-registration](http://massenacatholics.com/alpha-registration)

**Learn more:** Go to [alphausa.org](http://alphausa.org) or contact St. Peter's Parish at (315)769-2469

outside participants, and opened it up for wider audiences in fall of 2018. A spring session will begin at 6 p.m. on April 8 at St. Mary's Social Hall.

"The program consists of a meal, then a talk – a video – about a fundamental aspect of Christianity or faith and life," said Father Reilly. "The talks look at answers to deeper questions in life through the lens of Christian faith. They're very basic; we're not talking about a deep dive into theology. The talks are presented in a way that doesn't presume people know anything about the faith."

The series of talks opens with, "Is there more to life than this?" on the first week, and moves on to such questions as "How does God guide us?" and "Who is the Holy Spirit?"

"People at every level get something from those talks – I get something out of them each time," Father Reilly said. "It's the Kerygma – initial proclamation; the seed corn kernel of faith, a basic proclamation of the Good News. That comes first, before catechesis."

After the video talks, there is discussion.

"We break into small groups," said Father Reilly.

"You sat with your group for both the meal and discussion. There's a host who makes sure the basic needs are being met in the group setting, and the group talks about the matter presented in the talk."

While participants may be reluctant to talk early in the discussions, comfort levels improve quickly, Father Reilly said.

"Questions are asked, thoughts are shared, observations are made, and no one is told 'that's the wrong answer or that's the right answer,'" he said. "Relationships start to grow."

The program also includes a retreat day, and participants get away for a day together.

"Once those relationships are established, and we get away, people are astounded by what God does in and for them," Father Reilly said. "I've noticed a change both in long-time church goers and others."

Father Reilly said St. Peter's Parish is happy with the impact Alpha is having thus far.

"In term of the fruit it's bearing, immediately we're seeing a difference in relationships," he said. "People who weren't in the same social circles now light up when they see each other. There's a sense of belonging, and I'm seeing people interacting in ways they wouldn't have before; there's more warmth and joy. And there are some people I'm seeing in church that I didn't see there before. It's not about getting people in church, but that's a fruit of an encounter with Christ and sense of belonging. It's beautiful to know people you think are pretty far along – in-

## Participants say Alpha changed them

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

**MASSENA** – Though they come from vastly different backgrounds and are at vastly different points in their faith journeys, three Massena residents say participating in Alpha changed them.

### Dale & John's story

"I didn't know if I wanted to do Alpha at first, but there was a meal involved, and I like to eat, so I agreed to give it a try," said Dale Mangel. "I'll be honest: I have a background. I tried to become a career criminal, but I stunk at it, and I kept getting caught."

Mangel was invited to Alpha by St. Peter's parishioner John Kozsan.

"Dale's wife was my wife's caregiver for several years," Kozsan explained. "When she married Dale, we got to know him. We've been good friends ever since."

Though he was raised Catholic, Mangel said he "dropped out" of his Catholic faith, but still maintained a relationship with God.

"Whenever we went out to eat, Dale always said grace before meals," Kozsan said. "That gave me a clue that there was something. The Holy Spirit was working. I knew he loved to eat. I knew there was some faith there."

Mangel said his first Alpha session included both an excellent meal and good discussion.

"After that first time, I figured the food is good, and the people were nice, though definitely not people I'd normally spend time with," he said. "A few sessions in, I started to feel like this little group isn't bad. I'm able to get stuff off my chest and turn around and help others with their problems. I was able to show people they're not the only person who

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

considers, shall we say – rubbing elbows with people who are definitely not insiders, people with whom you wouldn't typically expect them to associate. It's like the biblical image of the early church – distinctions fade away in Christ."

St. Peter's Parish hopes to offer Alpha twice a year for the foreseeable future.

"I'd like to see it become a regular part of the parish and what we do," said Father Reilly. "I don't want to see it die out. I think we'll see an increase

in participation in the short-term. Then, when a good number of our parishioners have done it, the numbers will go down. I'd like to see the proportion of 'unchurched' participants go up, even if the total numbers go down. If we're doing this the right way, that's how it will likely play out. I guess this is one humble attempt to do more than talk about new evangelization and changing parish culture."

To learn more about Alpha, visit [alphausa.org](http://alphausa.org).

# Participants say Alpha changed them

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

has issues in their past.”

Mangel said he's experienced community as a result of his Alpha participation.

“What did I take from it? Love and compassion,” he said. “There's still a lot of work to do on me; I'm still in the making, but I can tell people have seen a change in me. I hear that all the time from people in the (Alpha) group. These are people who aren't the people I'd regularly hang out with, but when I see them now in the store or in the library or out in town, I get hugs. And I feel like I can talk freely now – talk about my life and experiences in ways I didn't feel like I could before.”

Kozsan said that while he's been a person of faith his entire life, Alpha gave him an opportunity to practice it in ways he hadn't before.

“I'm a product of Catholic education, seminary, Catholic university – I've learned a lot about the faith,” he said. “This was a practical application. We talk about people being made in the image and likeness of God. Sometimes, I think it was more a nebulous thought. This was practicing it. This was taking people with different experiences, opinions and ideas, and accepting them as they are and where they are. People were freely expressing

their ways of thinking and their experiences in life and of God, and it gave me an interesting perspective.”

## Lisa's experience

Lisa Tyo said she grew up Catholic, but she had fallen away from regularly practicing her faith.

“Life got in the way, and I got busy,” she said.

Then, one day a friend called and suggested she attend an Alpha session.

“My friend called and said ‘this group is getting together. Come for one session. There's no commitment, no pressure; just come for one session,’” Tyo said. “I told her I'd think about it. The next day, my Zumba instructor mentioned it and said I should check it out. I figured with two people bringing it up, I should probably go and see.”

Tyo said she didn't quite know what to expect of her first Alpha session.

“I was thinking of it kind of as a book club,” she said. “I was told we'd have a meal, watch a video and discuss it. I was kind of nervous at first. I had these thoughts like ‘do they know I haven't been going to church?’ and ‘Do they know I don't know much about all this? Is there a test?’ Everyone was really friendly. I found myself going back.”

Tyo said it took her a couple weeks to get comfortable with the group, at which point she really

started participating in discussions.

“It was really informal,” she said. “There were no right or wrong answers, just how you feel. I never felt any judgment. It was so interesting to be talking about faith. These were people of all different backgrounds and life experiences, all at different points in their spiritual journey, and it was ok. People in the videos or in the discussion groups had some of the same

ideas and questions and doubts as me. It was ok to talk about those things. It was a place to discuss faith with people who wanted the same thing.”

As a result of her participation in Alpha, Tyo said she's grown in faith.

“I was Catholic, but there was so much I didn't understand,” she said. “Now, I understand more, and I want to participate in it. I'm more focused on what it's all about. I love praying in community

and the Eucharist. I feel blessed to be more aware of it and to be a part of it. And it's always been there. I just didn't make time for it. Now I want to. This is just the beginning. I'm looking forward to having more Christian experiences, to being part of the parish, and learning more and getting closer to God.

“Alpha gave me a platform to re-engage. Actually, it was more just to engage for the first time.”

## Womens' Retreat



Save the date .....

Presenter: Edwina Gateley

Edwina was born in Lancaster, England. She earned a teaching degree, a Master's in Theology from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and certification as an HIV counselor in Illinois.

In 1983, she worked on the streets of Chicago with the homeless and women of prostitution. She founded Genesis House—a house of hospitality and nurturing for women involved in prostitution. She has been publicly commended for her work and ministry by many groups, individuals, former Mayor of Chicago and former US President, Bill Clinton. She has been featured on CBS's “60 Minutes” and “48 Hours”.

Edwina felt the call to invite others to offer their services in the developing world. After 18 month struggle to receive church support and endorsement, Edwina founded the Volunteer Missionary Movement (VMM) in response to a need for lay people to become more deeply involved in the mission life of the Church.

Edwina is currently writing, giving talks and leading retreats nationally and internationally.

### Topic

Soul Sisters: Women called to  
Connect, Bond and Heal in a  
Broken World

May 4, 2018

9:00 am

Fr. Amyot Parish Center  
3 Morris Street  
Norfolk, NJ 13667

Pre-registration is required. More information on registration to follow

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# Booklet penned to show mysticism of the Mass

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

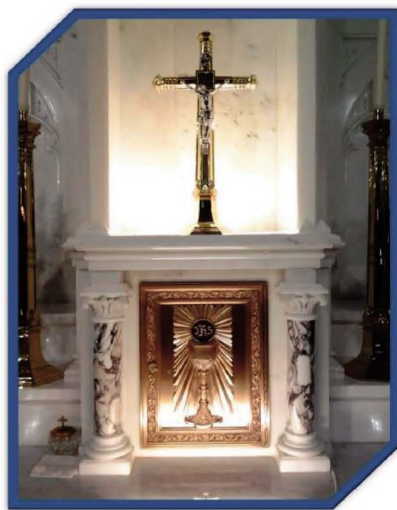
KEENE – Noticing that many youth and young adults – including some who were baptized Catholics – were gravitating toward concepts of eastern mysticism, Maura Hearden Fehlner, who has a doctorate in religious studies, wanted to help Catholics better understand the mysticism of the Mass.

"To Heaven and Back: Discover the Mystical Journey of the Mass," a booklet, was born.

Fehlner said she was partly inspired to write the booklet after she and her husband, Deacon John Fehlner, attended a Convocation for Catholic Leaders with Bishop Terry R. LaValley and other diocesan leaders.

"There was a great deal of talk about how to reach the 'nones' – the people who identify as having no faith," she said. "You reach them through relationship and witness. Perhaps the focus should be on the people who are in pews. They're the ones who need to become holy and witness to others through their holiness and their lives, but they could use more background on faith. If you want to bring an appeal to mysticism and a method for becoming holy in one place, look at the liturgy. The Mass is where heaven meets earth, where we're standing shoulder to shoulder with angels, where we meet our Lord, Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and consume his body and blood, soul and divinity. To me, it was a question of how to help people more deeply understand the Mass. Even people who go every Sunday don't know why we stand when we

## *To Heaven and Back: Discover the Mystical Journey of the Mass*



Maura Hearden Fehlner

Maura Hearden Fehlner authored a booklet, "To Heaven and Back: Discover the Mystical Journey of the Mass," to help others grow in their understanding and appreciation of the Mass.

stand and kneel when we kneel, where the prayers come from, and why we do what we do."

The booklet, around 50 pages in length, breaks the Mass into its component parts in chronological order, from preparing for Mass and dipping fingers in holy water to the Concluding Rites. The various parts of the Mass, movements and prayers are discussed in easy-to-read language.

"Everyone is so busy these days," Fehlner said. "There are a lot of wonderful books about the Mass, but a lot of people don't have time to sit and read several hundred pages. And often smaller pamphlets are set up in a dry question-and-answer format. I wanted to create a booklet – something short and easy to read, but filled

with the mysticism and wonder of the Mass."

Fehlner was aided in creating the book by her husband, Deacon Fehlner, who collaborated on the content and designed the layout for the booklet. Father John R. Yonkovic, pastor of St. Brendan's Church in Keene and St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid, worked with the couple to secure photos of portions of the Mass. The booklet has received reviewed and received the Nihil Obstat from Father Douglas J. Lucia, episcopal vicar for Canonical Affairs, and the Imprimatur from Bishop LaValley.

"To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek him the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement." These words ascribed to St. Augustine

aptly describe the mystical journey that Maura Hearden Fehlner takes us on in her most informative and inspiring work on the Eucharist," wrote Bishop LaValley, in a message about the work. "The reader is able to discover how, in the Eucharist, 'heaven is wedded to earth, and earth to heaven.' In the process, one discovers again, the awesome gift of the Eucharist."

The book was completed for first use with a Formation for Ministry class focused on the sacraments.

"The class became the deadline, and sort of a test market," Fehlner said. "We created the first 30 booklets for that class, and it went over really well."

The Fehlners say the book could be used by an individual looking to grow their understanding of the Mass or as a guided study program, as part of an RCIA curriculum or in a group setting. An audio CD of the booklet is also available.

"During the Mass itself, the amount of grace we receive is based – at least in part – on our receptivity,"

said Deacon Fehlner. "I think a lot of people are missing out on the fullness of the graces because they don't understand the fullness of what we're doing. We don't just walk into a church and drop into a pew. We prepare by dipping our hands in water and cleansing and blessing ourselves as we start our journey. It's a journey to meet the Lord. God's not going to force himself on you, though. If you're not receptive, if you're not open or if you're distracted, you're not going to get as much as you should. The goal is to open their eyes and their ears, so they can fully appreciate this and receive the graces they're meant to receive, and the peace and happiness that go with that."

The booklet is currently available by contacting Light of Truth, the couple's ministry, and Deacon John Fehlner at (518)312-5636. The couple is charging a nominal fee to cover printing costs. Any amount raised that exceed printing costs will be used to support WCLP Catholic Radio, also a Light of Truth ministry.

## JOB OPENING

### Pastoral Associate for newly linked parishes

Are you a person blessed with a deep love of the Catholic Church, looking for a career where you could enrich a parish community by providing outreach and evangelization for Catholic families? Would you like the chance to share your strong faith by supporting the spiritual, social and developmental needs of young people? These are only two of the opportunities that are part of the position of Pastoral Associate for the linked parishes of St. Andrews, Norwood; Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond, Norfolk & Raymondville; and St. Patrick's, Brasher Falls. These parishes are located in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York.

For inquiries and a complete job description contact the Search Committee at: parish@twcny.rr.com

**The deadline for applications is March 20, 2019.**

# 40 Days for Life begins March 6

PLATTSBURGH—“On March 6, the highly successful 40 Days for Life campaign returns to Plattsburgh with 40 days of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil and community outreach,” said Nancy Belzile, who is coordinating the local campaign. “We pray that these efforts will help mark the beginning of the end of abortion in Plattsburgh.”

40 Days for Life is a peaceful, highly-focused, non-denominational initiative that focuses on 40 days of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil at abortion facilities, and grassroots educational outreach. The 40-day time frame is drawn from examples throughout Biblical history.

“We know 40 Days for Life has made a difference here,” Belzile said. “Our volunteers have made extraordinary sacrifices to expose the abortion industry and to protect children and their mothers from abortion.”

The campaign will feature a peaceful 40-day prayer vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood of the North Country, located at 66 Brinkerhoff Street. All prayer vigil participants are asked to sign a statement of peace, pledging to conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner at all times.

“40 Days for Life has generated proven life-saving results since its beginning in 2004 in Bryan/College Station, Texas,” said Shawn Carney, president of 40 Days for Life. “During 23 previous coordinated campaigns, 816 communities have participated in this effort. More than 750,000 people – representing some 19,000 churches – have committed to pray and fast. And we know of at least 15,256 unborn children whose lives were spared from abortion during 40 Days for Life campaigns.”

A kickoff blessing is scheduled for March 6th at 10 a.m. at the vigil site.

For information about 40 Days for Life in Plattsburgh visit: [www.40daysforlife.com/Plattsburgh](http://www.40daysforlife.com/Plattsburgh)

For more information, please contact Nancy Belzile at [nancys\\_56@hotmail.com](mailto:nancys_56@hotmail.com) or 518-593-6024.

## Rest in Peace

*This week marks the anniversary of the deaths of the following clergy members who have served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg*

**Feb. 27** – Rev. Ferdinand Grenier, O.M.I., 1872

**Feb. 28** – Rev. J. H. Tabaret, O.M.I., 1886

**March 1** – Msgr. Alexander P. Landry, 1955; Most Rev. Stanislaus J. Brazana, 1997

**March 2** – Rev. Edward A. Dailey, O.S.A., 1901; Msgr. John J. Bent, 1949; Rev. Joseph E. Tessier, O.M.I., 1952

**March 3** – Rev. Francis McCranor, O.S.A., 1914; Rev. John G. Fitzgerald, 1925; Rev. Cyril Stevens, 1963; Deacon David N. Hennigan, 2009

**March 4** – Rev. Jeremiah S. O'Brien, 1899; Rev. Thomas D. Hurley, 1934

**March 5** – Rev. Edward J. Murtaugh, O.S.A., 1951; Rev. Paschal Rys, OFM Conv., 2013

## To Report Abuse

**If you have a complaint** of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, 31 Sixth Street, Malone, NY 12953; [terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto:terrianneyanulavich@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

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Feb. 27** – 11 a.m. – Council of Priests Meeting followed by lunch at Bishop's Residence

**March 1** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**March 2** – 4 p.m. – Installation Mass of Rev. Garry Giroux as Pastor of St. Andrew's Church in Norwood and the Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond in Norfolk at Norwood

**March 3** – 10 a.m. – Installation Mass of Msgr. John Murphy as Pastor of St. Bartholomew's Church in Old Forge and St. Anthony of Padua Parish of Inlet and Raquette Lake at Old Forge

**March 4** – 7:15 p.m. – Novena followed by Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**March 5** – 10:50 a.m. – Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg  
Noon – Mardi Gras luncheon in the Brzana Conference Room in Ogdensburg

12:45 p.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting in the Spratt Conference Room in Ogdensburg

**March 6** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

## 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](http://www.virtus.org).

Upcoming sessions:

**March 1** – 1 p.m., Diocesan offices, Ogdensburg

## Environmental Stewardship

### What will you fast from this Lent?

It is that time again, when we begin to think about the upcoming Lenten Season. Our first thought may be, “what will I give up this Lent?”

We may recall that Lent is meant to be a time to bring about a “springtime for our souls.” As our gardeners know, spring is the time to work up the soil to ready it for the new seeds. By analogy Lent is a time for us to prepare our souls for planting more deeply the Word of God.

Who is the Word of God but Jesus who came to show us by His words and actions how to live life to the fullest. (Jn. 10:10)

One of the tools for spiritual growth presented to us on Ash Wednesday from Matthew's Gospel is fasting. Ordinarily, fasting refers to abstaining from food or drink. When Jesus went into the desert, He fasted.

The motive for Christian fasting involves fasting from something in order to be able to feast on something better out of love for God. How could my Lenten fast this year bring about not only a springtime for my spiritual life but also a springtime for God's creation, for my sisters and brothers?

Consider our role as God's children given to us in Genesis; namely, to be caretakers of God's garden.

Pope Francis urges us to look around at our planet. He states “The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.” (#21)

How could a decision, for example, to fast from the use of single-use plastics, benefit bringing about a “springtime” not only for the environment but for the lives of all who share this “common home?”

At the same time this decision can be a step towards living Christian simplicity. Designate a day this week to pay attention to the things you use once and discard without much thought to its impact.

Is there anything you could fast from this Lent?

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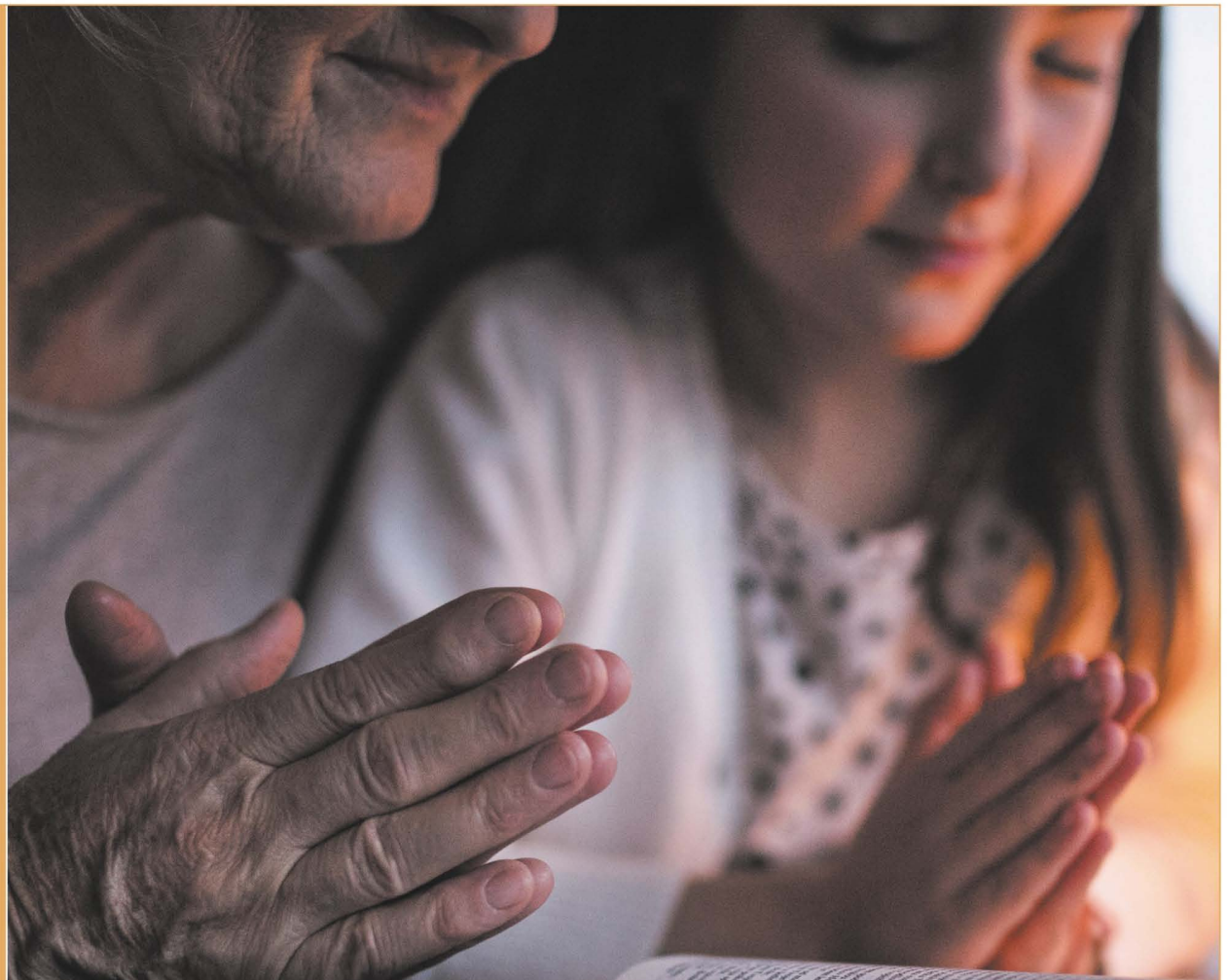
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## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Preparing our hearts for the start of Lent

This last Sunday in Ordinary Time (the Eighth) before Ash Wednesday is a good preparation for the beginning of Lent. Both days warn against hypocrisy in either our speech or action.

There's a story told about Mark Twain at a dinner party at which a businessman was



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

ent, famous for vicious hard-dealing with his tenants and clients.

He piously spouted off to Twain that, before he died, he planned to visit the Holy Land, go to Mount Zion, and read the ten commandments there.

Twain replied, "I think it a better idea for

March 3

Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Sirach 17: 1-15

1Corinthians 15:54-58

Luke 6: 39-45

you to remain right here in Boston and keep them!"

It's well-known that when we play the pious hypocrite to others, we are often reflecting – as in

a mirror – our own faults! The first thing to root out this Lent is perhaps our own faults and failings.

No trumpet blasts this year boasting to others of our fasting and almsgiving. Humility and honesty are a great start to the season.

Today's Gospel shows the blindness of even the disciples of Jesus of what was meant by His feeding of the both the 4,000 and the 5,000 people with the

miraculous bread and fish. He was pointing ahead to the spiritual gift of His own body and blood in the Eucharist, which He would give us daily for our growth in closeness to the image, the wisdom, the mercy, and the love of Jesus Christ. That must be the basis for all our Lenten planning.

How we should look forward to this blessed time!

## We can make a difference speaking up for life

By Kathleen Gallagher

Director of Pro-Life Activities  
New York State Catholic Conference

So many New Yorkers continue to mourn the state legislature's enactment of the most permissive abortion policy in the country. I share your grief.

But it's time to turn that grief into action, and each one of us can help. The most important thing we can do right now to build a Culture of Life is to speak up in our little corner of the vineyard. Allow me to share a story.

In January 2013 Governor Andrew Cuomo was particularly aggressive in pushing his late-term abortion proposal as part of a "women's agenda." I was distraught about the chances of the horrific bill being enacted that year. In February I poured my heart out to my friend Katy one day over lunch, explaining all the grim details of the legislation and how I believed it would lead to dangerous consequences for women and their unborn children. Katy listened politely.

Over the next four

months the Church and other pro-life groups battled against that proposal very hard, and were relieved when the legislature adjourned without passing the bill.

Fast forward to August, when I was enjoying myself at a cookout at Katy's house and one of her neighbors introduced herself to me. Her name was Jane and she sold life insurance for a living. When I told her what I did for a living, she immediately asked if I knew about the late-term abortion legislation.

She explained that she was the president of a local chapter of an international women's service and advocacy organization. She said that a representative of the

governor's office had come to speak at their meeting earlier in the year to get their support for his 10-point women's agenda. That representative had presented nine points of the agenda just fine, but when she got to the tenth one about "securing reproductive choice," Jane said she raised her

hand to inquire if that meant legalizing late-term abortions. The governor's rep kind of hemmed and hawed, Jane said, and then another woman raised her hand to ask if the abortion bill was really needed, because, after all, New York already has the highest abortion rate in the country.



Kathleen  
Gallagher

### JOB OPENING

Full time Position of Facilities Manager at  
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For job description and information, contact:  
Msgr. Robert Aucoin at [msgraucoin@mac.com](mailto:msgraucoin@mac.com)

And one by one, the members of that little women's club repeatedly questioned the abortion proposal, until, when the voting came, they decisively voted down the resolution to support the governor's women's agenda.

All because I had explained it to Katy. And Katy had explained it to Jane. And Jane had explained it to her women's club.

I still get goosebumps

when I think about this, and I realize how we can make a huge difference in the world simply by speaking up. At the dinner table, in the car on the way to school, over lunch with our friends, around the water cooler at work. Changing hearts and minds happens one person at a time through conversations and love.

We must not be afraid to speak up. Know the facts, be respectful, but please, speak up for life.



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AT THE MOVIES

# FIGHTING WITH MY FAMILY

NEW YORK (CNS) – You can't judge a book by its cover – or, in this case, a film by its title. "Fighting With My Family" (MGM) turns out to be an entertaining comedy-drama despite its off-putting name.

Taken literally, the movie's title is wholly accurate, for this is the fact-based story of a tight-knit British clan obsessed with the sport of wrestling.

Florence Pugh stars as Saraya-Jade Bevis, who competed under the name "Paige" and became a superstar of the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) empire. In 2014, at age 21, she won the "Divas Championship," becoming the youngest female champ in WWE history.

One could say wrestling is in Paige's DNA. Her parents, Julia (Lena Headey) and Ricky (Nick Frost), are former wrestlers who now manage a carnival-like wrestling show. They raised their children to regard the sport as their veritable lifeblood – and a ticket out of poverty.

"Some people find religion," Julia explains, rather dubiously, "we found wrestling as our sal-



CNS PHOTO/MGM

Dwayne Johnson stars in a scene from the movie "Fighting With My Family."

vation."

Paige admires her older brother, Zak (Jack Lowden), her frequent partner in the ring. (Yes, men and women are often pitted against each other, and the violent takedowns can make for uneasy viewing.)

When not grappling, Zak and Paige run an after-school wrestling program for at-risk teens, to keep them off the streets and build self-esteem.

Pressed by their parents to go for glory, Zak and Paige travel to London, where the WWE holds a tryout for wannabe stars, overseen by gruff trainer Hutch (Vince Vaughn).

There they meet their idol, real-life former WWE superstar Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson (playing himself), who offers sound advice.

"Don't worry about being the 'next me,'" he says. "Worry about being the 'first you.'"

In a surprise, Paige nails her audition, and is invited to the official WWE training camp in Florida. Zak, hoping to support his pregnant girlfriend through a lucrative contract, is crushed at being rejected. Herself upset over being separated from Zak, Paige reluctantly heads to the Sunshine

State where, as something of a fish out of water, she is ridiculed and ostracized by her fellow contestants.

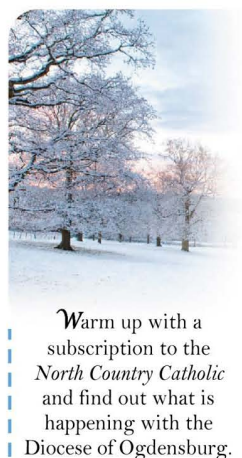
Writer-director Stephen Merchant channels the "Rocky" films in this rousing underdog tale. The seemingly insurmountable challenges test Paige's faith in herself and that of her anxious family back home.

The rough edges of "Fighting With My Family," including streetwise cursing and sexual banter, place the movie out of bounds for younger viewers. An exception might be made, however, for mature adolescents who would benefit from this uplifting picture's positive messages about perseverance, forgiveness and the bonds of friendship and family.

The film contains occasionally violent wrestling action, an out-of-wedlock pregnancy, drug references, sexual innuendo and some profane and crude language.

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.



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WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

Eternal Father,  
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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

Mass  
Rosary  
Fasting  
Day Offering  
Eucharistic Adoration  
Offering of Sufferings  
Divine Mercy Chaplet  
Or whatever the Lord  
inspires you to offer Him

(With ecclesiastical approval)

**MARCH**

St. Joseph

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## ADIRONDACK

## RUMMAGE SALE

Lake Placid – Rummage Sale to be held.

**Date:** March 9

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Place:** St. Agnes School

**Features:** There is something for everyone. Come shop the treasures and find those items for bargain prices. Donations are now being accepted at the school for the sale.

**Contact:** Please call Kathleen Murphy at 518-523-3771.

## CLINTON

## FISHERS CLUB

Plattsburgh – The Lakesides Fishers Club will meet and discuss priesthood discernment.

**Date:** March 3 & 17, April 7

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Place:** St. Peter's Church Upper Room

**Features:** Join for discernment, evening prayer & dinner. High school junior men and older are welcome.

**Contact:** Father Douglas Lucia, dlucia@rcdony.org, or Father Howard Venette, hvenette@gmail.com, or just drop in.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

West Chazy – St. Joseph's Men's Club will host an all you can eat pancake breakfast.

**Date:** March 3

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

**Place:** Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Children 6-10, \$4; Children 5 and under, Free  
**Contact:** 518-493-4521

## ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST

Altona – All you can eat breakfast to be held.

**Date:** March 3

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

**Place:** Holy Angels Church Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$9.50; Children 6-12, \$5; under 5, Free; Take-outs Available

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

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

**Date:** March 3

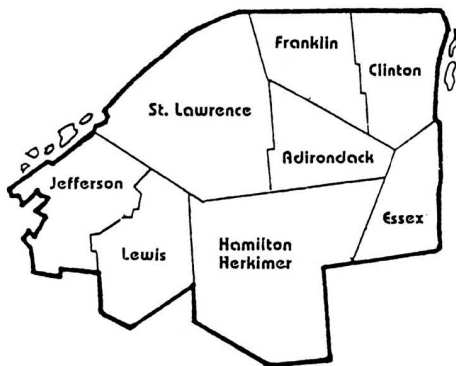
**Time:** 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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

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

## LENTE ADORATION

Plattsburgh – St. Peter's Church will



The North County Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese."

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North County Catholic, PO Box 326,  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;  
e-mail news@northcountycatholic.org.

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

offer Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during Lent.

**Dates:** Mondays and Tuesdays

**Time:** 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Place:** Saint Frere Andre Chapel

**Features:** Adoration will conclude with Benediction at 7 PM on Tuesday of Holy Week.

**Contact:** Parish Rectory: 518-563-1692

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh – You're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion.

**Date:** Beginning Ash Wednesday, March 6 to Palm Sunday, April 14

**Features:** Father Mickey Demo will lead a kick-off blessing March 6 at 10 am at the vigil site. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside the vigil site Planned Parenthood, 66 Brinkerhoff Street and also to help spread the word about this important community outreach.

**Contact:** If you'd like more information and especially if you'd like to volunteer to pray at the vigil site, please contact: Nancy Belzile, 518-593-6024, nancys\_56@hotmail.com  
www.40daysforlife.com/plattsburgh

## FISH FRY

Chazy – Sacred Heart parish to have their annual fish fry.

**Date:** March 15

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 7:30

**Place:** Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$11; Children 6-12, \$5;

All take-outs are \$11

**Contact:** 518-846-7650 or email sacredheart@westelcom.com for more information.

## ESSEX

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Elizabethtown – St. Elizabeth's Church will hold its annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner.

**Date:** March 17

**Time:** Take-outs start at 1:30 p.m.

**Place:** Parish Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$12; Children under 12, \$5

## FRANKLIN

## LENTE DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Chasm Falls – Lenten Day of Recollection to be held by the Ogdensburg Cur-sillo group.

**Date:** March 23

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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

**Cost:** A donation of \$10/adult is suggested upon arrival

**Features:** Join Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Father Albert Hauser, Father Alan Shnob, Father Jack Downs and Father Andrew Amyot for a day of talks, prayer, personal witness, recollection and opportunity for Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Contact:** Pre-register by mail, email or phone no later than March 15.

Kathyracette@gmail.com,  
kracette1a@gmail.com, 518-314-1505,  
518-578-3056, Ken and Kathy Racette,  
679 Cumberland Head Rd, Plattsburgh,  
NY 12901

## ABSOLUTE JOURNEY TRIBUTE BAND

Malone – Holy Family School to host Absolute Journey Tribute Band for Spring Fundraiser.

**Date:** April 6

**Schedule:** at the Malone Middle School, 7 p.m. 80's Costume Contest with \$250 in prizes; at 7:30 p.m. Josee Allerd and Friends will play; at 8:30 p.m. Absolute Journey will play until 9:30 p.m. and then an 80's after hours party is being planned at The Pines.

**Cost:** \$25

**Contact:** Holy Family School for more information at dtvrdik@hfs-malone.org or call 518-483-4443

## JEFFERSON

## SPAGHETTI &amp; MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner to be held to benefit Indian River Knights of Columbus.

**Date:** March 2

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 7

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$7; Senior Citizens, \$6; children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free

**Contact:** For more information call 315-629-4678

## RETREAT

Watertown – Please join us for "Charisms: Discovering the Gifts We All Have to Share" retreat.

**Date:** March 23

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

**Place:** Sisters of St. Joseph Mother House

**Features:** The cost of the workshop is minimal, free will donation at the door. Facilitator will be Marika Donders. Mass and workshops to be held.

**Contact:** Please register prior to March 23 by going to It's easy to register, just click on the link below: <http://www.rcdony.org/formation/commissioned-layministers/clm-event-registration.html> or call Jeannie Grizuto at 315-393-2920.

## SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Watertown – St. Anthony's Church Altar Rosary Society to have a spaghetti dinner.

**Date:** March 28

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**Place:** Msgr. Sechi Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$8, Children, \$4.50; Children under 3, Free; Sauce, \$5 per quart; Meatballs, \$.75 each

**Features:** Take-out available at 4 p.m., please bring your own containers

## LEGACY GALA

Watertown – Immaculate Heart Central School to have their 2019 Legacy Gala.

**Date:** April 6

**Time:** Cocktails at 6 p.m.; Dinner at 7 p.m.

**Place:** Italian American Civic Association

**Cost:** \$50

**Features:** The event is Semi-Formal  
**Contact:** Tickets are available at IHC Jr./Sr. High School or call 315-788-4670 or email ihcgala@ihcschool.org

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Watertown – Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church will hold a Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration.

**Schedule:** Beginning Good Friday April 19 at 3 p.m. the Divine Mercy novena will begin by praying in the Chaplet in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.; Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated April 28 at 3 p.m., there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, confession & a procession. You may bring your own Divine Mercy picture to be specially blessed.

**Contact:** For more info on Mercy Sunday call Judy at 315-783-7349 or visit [www.thedivinemercy.org](http://www.thedivinemercy.org) All parishes welcome.

## LEWIS

## DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville – Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of March will be held.

**Date:** March 3

**Time:** 3 p.m.

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

**Features:** Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and Benediction. All are welcome.

**Contact:** 315-348-6260.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## FISH &amp; SHRIMP FRY

Gouverneur – Fish & Shrimp Fry to be held every Friday during Lent.

**Date:** March 8 to April 19

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

**Place:** St. James School

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free

**Contact:** Take-out and deliveries available by calling 315-287-1030

## BLESSSED IS SHE WORKSHOP

Norwood – "Live Well: Self Care for



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

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Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director  
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
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mbrett@rcdony.org

# Remembering in gratitude

Perhaps you grew up in a family where you heard a few or many life stories that you remember from your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles or from other significant people. Maybe one of those stories had a lasting impact on you that helped you to make a difference in someone else's life.

Did you know that by the initiative of a twelve-year-old girl, a water well has been built in Africa?

Congratulations to Loryne G. Nebie a seventh grader at Immaculate Heart Central, Watertown, NY.

Loryne listened to real life stories of living conditions from her mother, Edith A. Nebie, who had lived in a large town of Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso. She spent her summers 130 miles away in Serekini, a small village that her mother was raised in.

Loryne's mother told her how she would walk daily about three miles with her grandmother and aunts on hot summer days just to bring clean water home from the river. I'm sure listening to her mother's daily challenge of getting water, Loryne realized the difference in her easy access to water to keep healthy.

Loryne's prayers were answered when she received a Presidential Award from Immaculate Heart Intermediate School. Loryne's family gave her a gift of money to congratulate her. Not thinking of herself, she wanted to build a well in Serekini so her extended family and village could have clean water.

According to a story published in the Watertown Daily Times on Monday, January 28th, "The well was built in November and officially opened on December 29, 2018, given as a gift from Loryne and her two sisters, Clavery and Mathel. The whole family traveled to Serekini for the opening ceremony."

Loryne's generosity is indeed a reminder to us to listen to and respect life stories of people and when possible, respond to their need as best we can.

God bless Loryne for her outreach, her mother who shared her stories, her family and all those who have encouraged Loryne's love of others.

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

## OBITUARIES

**Adams** – Sherrill L. (Chereshnoski) Goodnough, 55; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 20, 2019 at St. Cecilia's Church; burial in Ellisburg Cemetery.

**Brownville** – John "Dick" R. Peckham Sr., 92; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 22, 2019 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Dexter Cemetery.

**Carthage** – Emily (James) Butler Frezza, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 19, 2019 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Chateaugay** – Mary Elizabeth (Manning) Rankin, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 21, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Hogansburg** – Hilda Mae Lazore, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 23, 2019 at St. Regis Church.

**Keeseville** – Joan M. (Blaise) Doyle, 86; Mass of Christian Burial May 6, 2019 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery.

**Louisville** – Irene (White) Power, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 21, 2019 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in Louisville Community Cemetery.

**Malone** – Leslie R. Elliott; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 15, 2019 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Francis Cemetery, Constable.

**Malone** – Howard Kirby Gonyea, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 23, 2019 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.



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**Malone** – Ronald Ross Taylor, 66; Mass of Christian Burial at later date at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Massena** – Jo-Ann (Layo) Walsh, 65; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 18, 2019 at Sacred Heart Church.

**Morrisonville** – Charles E. Carrier, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 22, 2019 at St. Alexander's Church.

**Ogdensburg** – Leilia N. (Cliff) Lovan-nisci, 89; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2019 at St. Joseph's Home Chapel; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

**Plattsburgh** – Sylvia (Rossi) Brown, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 23, 2019 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Port Henry** – Helen Gurge Vanderhoof, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 19, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Potsdam** – Neil T. Willmart Sr., 73; Funeral Services Feb. 22, 2019 at the Garner Funeral Service; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Raymondville** – June M. (Eldridge) Furnace, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 22, 2019 at St. Raymond's Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, Louisville.

**Sackets Harbor** – Thomas E. Busler, Sr., 77; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 23, 2019 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Lakeside Cemetery.

**Ticonderoga** – Thomas Walter Han-son, Jr., 55; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 23, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Aaron J. Bodah, 38 and daughters Alexa, 8; Skylar, 4; Merissa, 14 and Erin, 5; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 22, 2019 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.



## James T. Spencer 1934 - 2019

Raymondville: James T. Spencer, age 84, passed away Thursday evening, February 14, 2019 at his home. Jim was an employee of Reynolds Metals for 30 years, retiring in 1989 as Pot Room Superintendent. Born on April 11, 1934

in Croghan, NY the son of the late Gerald and Gertrude Spencer. A graduate of Father Leo Memorial School in Croghan, NY and completed a course in industrial engineering in 1968. He also was a U.S. Navy Korean Veteran serving his country proudly from 1951-1955. He married Jeanette Marie Widrick on April 4, 1953. They have eight children, Dawn Leduc (Mike) of Oswego, NY; Barry Spencer (Laura) of West Bolton, VT; Jeffery Spencer (Nancy) Lebanon, PA; Beth O'Connor and (Bill) Plattsburgh, NY; Cindy Stevens and (Roger) of Pennellville, NY; Kim Davidson and (Steve) of Ogdensburg, NY; Patti Cushman and (Paul) of Malone, NY along with 16 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and four nephews. He was predeceased by a son Rodney Spencer, grandsons, Jared Leduc and Jimmy Spencer and a brother Ira Spencer.

He was a Municipal Power Commissioner for the town of Norfolk, past president of the Hepburn Library Board, past president of St. Raymond's parish council and served as a trustee and a St. Raymond's communicant. He was an outdoorsman and enjoyed all of the four seasons with his family. He was a member of the Norfolk American Legion Post 925, Massena AmVets Post 4, Massena V.F.W Post 1143 and the Massena DAV.

Friends and family may call on Monday, February 18, 2019 from 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. at Phillips Memorial Home in Massena. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 11:00 A.M. at St. Raymond's Church in Raymondville, NY with Fr. Andrew Amyot presiding and Fr. Garry Giroux concelebrating. Spring burial in Visitation Cemetery at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Legion in Norfolk; P.O. Box 99, Norfolk, NY 13667 and Hospice & Palliative Care of St. Lawrence Valley; 6805 US-11, Potsdam, NY 13676

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Phillips Memorial Home in Massena, family and friends may leave condolence and memories of Jim, by visiting [www.PhillipsMemorial.com](http://www.PhillipsMemorial.com)

# Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Body and Soul" workshop and DIY perfume making to be held.

**Date:** March 10

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

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

**Features:** All women can come and learn about spiritual and physical self care, then make your own essential oil perfume! Light snacks will be served but please bring a drink. There is no cost to attend

**Contact:** To reserve your materials for perfume making or for more information please contact Sara LaPoint at 315-212-7565 or narrow56@gmail.com

## LENTE FISH FRY

Massena – Friday Fish Fry to be held during Lent.

**Date:** March 15 – April 12

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 7

**Place:** St. Mary's Social Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children under 12, \$5

## IHC MYSTERY PLAYERS

Star Lake – IHC Mystery Players to present in a very creative way the cen-

turies old stations of the cross.

**Date:** March 22

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

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

**Features:** a very creative representation of the centuries old stations. Meditation and contemplation on the death and resurrection of Jesus in the central mystery in the prayer life of the Catholic Church. We strongly encourage everyone to attend this unique and powerful prayer experience.

**Contact:** St. Huberts at 315-848-3612 or st.huberts.church@gmail.com

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

### WOMEN DISCERNMENT GROUP

Women's discernment groups are forming in three areas of the diocese.

**Date:** March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7

**Place:** Potsdam, St. Mary's Rectory 5 p.m. to 7; Plattsburgh, Newman Center 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.; Watertown, Hearshide Room at SSJ Mother House 5 p.m. to 7

**Features:** Come pray and discuss with other women how to know what God has in mind for you. Dinner will be provided.

**Contact:** Cathy Russell at russell@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920. Registration is requested by emailing Shayne Lippincott at slippincott@rcdony.org

### YOUTH LENENT RETREAT

A Lenten retreat for grades 6-12 to be held in Gouverneur and Ticonderoga.

**Schedule:** March 2 at St. James, Gouverneur from 12 p.m. to 5; March 9 at St. Mary's, Ticonderoga from 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**Features:** Journey begins with the sacrament of Reconciliation. Each retreat will be comprised of a unique blend of activities, DYC led workshops, and closing Mass. Snacks and drinks included. Registration deadline is Feb. 27

**Contact:** To register visit [www.rcdony.org/youth](http://www.rcdony.org/youth) and select "Lenten Retreats". Please contact Tom Semeraro, Director of Youth Ministry at [tsemeraro@rcdony.org](mailto:tsemeraro@rcdony.org) or by calling 315-393-2920 ext. 1415

### YOUTH RALLY

Massena – 2019 Youth Rally to be held.

**Date:** April 6

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Place:** Trinity Catholic School

**Cost:** \$25 (Lunch is included)

**Speakers:** Kevin Dowd will be the Keynote Speaker and Marihon Alzuhairi will be presenting.

**Features:** Prayer and Reflection, Mass, Adoration, Climb the Scripture Wall, Indoor Snowball Blas, Glow Ball Fun and Arts and Crafts. Free Swag bags with surprises will be given out as well.

### MATER DEI COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Are you a Catholic High School Senior who currently resides in the Diocese of Ogdensburg and is planning to attend a Catholic College or University in the Fall? The Mater Dei College Foundation is pleased to offer a Scholarship opportunity to qualifying students going on to study liberal arts and sciences at a degree granting Catholic College or University.

**Contact:** To request an application form, please email Valerie Mathews, Mater Dei Foundation Scholarship Chair at [vmathews@rcdony.org](mailto:vmathews@rcdony.org). Appli-

cation deadline is June 1, 2019.

## NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

### IGNITE MEN'S CONFERENCE

Syracuse – The 11th Annual IGNITE Conference to be held.

**Date:** March 30

**Place:** The SRC Arena is located on the campus of Onondaga Community College

**Features:** There will be 3 tremendous speakers that will challenge all who attend. An amazing day that will have a tremendous impact on you.

**Contact:** You can register for the IGNITE 2019 Catholic Men's Conference online at [www.ignitecatholicmen.org](http://www.ignitecatholicmen.org)

### DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE

Bronx, NY – 14th Annual Divine Mercy Conference to be held.

**Date:** April 6

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**Place:** Cardinal Spellman H.S.

**Contact:** For more information go to [thedivinemercy.org/Bronx](http://thedivinemercy.org/Bronx) or call 1-800-462-7426

## SAINT MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

(PRE-K - 6)

Canton, New York

Is seeking applicants for the position of

**PRINCIPAL**

For the School Year 2019-20

Effective July 1, 2019

Applicants should:

- Possess a Master's Degree in Education and/or Education Administration/ Supervision;
- Be a practicing Catholic;
- Have successful experience(s) in a Catholic school;
- Give evidence of administrative leadership skills in the areas in Catholic identity, instructional evaluation, management, promotion and maintenance of an effective learning environment and school advancement.

Founded in 1930, St. Mary's is located in a college town between the shores of the St. Lawrence River and the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains. Our school is nursery through grade 6 with a current population of 75 students. The new principal will help us increase our enrollment through innovation and excellence and guide our voyage into the future while being anchored in Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

Applicants should send a cover letter expressing their suitability for the position, resume, a completed application (available at [www.rcdony.org/catholicchools](http://www.rcdony.org/catholicchools)) transcripts and two letters of recommendation attesting to the candidate's proven administrative ability and one letter of recommendation attesting to the person's adherence to the Catholic Church, no later than March 10.

Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ,  
Superintendent of Schools  
100 Elizabeth Street, PO Box 369  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Bring Jesus to nursing homes

Dear Editor:

Eucharistic Ministers can help to save souls by bringing Holy Communion to nursing homes. Most Catholics think that evangelization means "bringing people to Jesus," but in a real sense, it includes "bringing the body of Jesus to people." This form of evangelization is becoming more important because we have an aging population, with nursing homes becoming a growing part of many communities. These facilities are home to some people who have been practicing Catholics, and now they are denied the solace that had been the promise of their faith.

Nursing homes are fertile grounds for evangelization in three

categories; first, there are Catholics who want to continue sharing in the faith; second, there are "fallen-away" Catholics who might be looking for an opportunity to reach out for their eternal salvation; third, there are people of other faiths who may be touched by the attraction of seeing "how these Catholics love each other." Eucharistic Ministers would perform Evangelization just by bringing Communion and by listening to residents, so no special evangelization training or skill is needed, and the prospect of helping a soul reach eternal salvation is a sufficient motivator.

Many parishes now have some visits to a nursing home, but we should con-

sider going beyond a few days per month. The challenge is to create an extension of the parish Faith Community. Eucharistic Ministers who may have time during the day or in the evening can begin the process of "adopting" a nursing home. The arrangement could start with one day per week for Communion. The next steps might be to increase the number of visits, forming a prayer group, or an on-site Mass, etc. Bringing Communion once per week should grow into a model for how our Church can become Christ's Body today.

**Adolf Schimpf**  
Hanover Township