

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Catholic Action Network:  
Get informed, get involved | PAGE 3

Woman sues Buffalo Diocese, Franciscans for \$300 Million | PAGE 7

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 73, Number 40

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 6, 2019

## Pope: Lent is time to let go of 'destructive' selfishness

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Lenten season is a reminder for Catholics that overindulgence ruptures communion with God, with others and with creation, Pope Francis said.

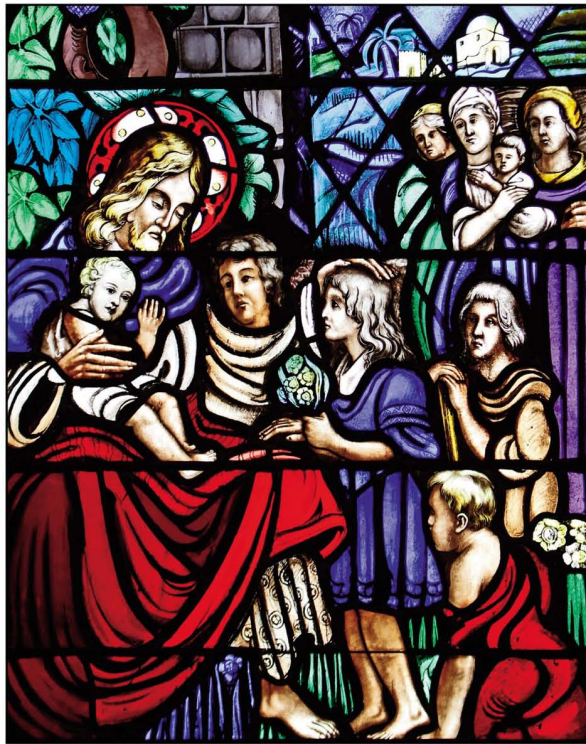
A failure to live as children of God can give way to sin, which "takes the shape of greed and unbridled pursuit of comfort, lack of concern for the good of others and even of oneself," the pope said in his message for Lent, which begins March 6 for Latin-rite Catholics.

"Unless we tend constantly toward Easter, toward the horizon of the Resurrection, the mentality expressed in the slogans 'I want it all and I want it now!' and 'Too much is never enough,' gains the upper hand," he said.

The pope's Lenten message, which was released at the Vatican Feb. 26, centered on a verse from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans in which the apostle proclaims creation's "eager longing for the revealing of the children of God."

This longing, the pope said, is "a journey from Easter to Easter toward the fulfillment of the salvation" that all Christians have received through Jesus' death and resurrection.

Reflecting on the



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHERITZ

Jesus welcoming children is depicted in a stained-glass window at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Malverne, N.Y. Pope Francis said that through their Lenten journey, Christians can bring "the hope of Christ also to creation, so that it may be free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God."

Lenten "journey of conversion," the pope explained that when Christians live as children of God, all creation benefits from the grace of redemption.

However, he warned, "the harmony generated by redemption is constantly threatened by the

negative power of sin and death."

Sin, which is the root of all evil, disrupts "our communion with God" and "undermines our harmonious relationship with the environment" and leads "man to consider himself the god of creation," the pope said.

## MYSTERY PLAYERS ON TOUR



The Immaculate Heart Central Mystery Players have announced their Lenten performance schedule. This year's production, performed by IHC seniors, is titled "Anna and Simeon." The tour will include shows in Watertown, Black River, Potsdam, Ogdensburg, Alexandria Bay, Massena, Star Lake, Herkimer and Hudson, as well as Leonardtown, Maryland.

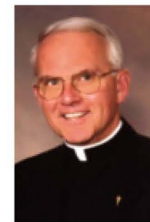
FULL STORY, PAGE 5

## Follow Me: Cultivate a relationship with Christ this Lenten season

In his annual Lenten letter, Bishop Terry R. LaValley asks the faithful to reflect upon a question asked when Bishop LaValley attended the bishops' retreat: "Is Jesus for us a person, or just a personality, a celebrity, a cult figure?"

Unfortunately, for many of us, Jesus is a personality and not a person. He is the

eminent figure in Church doctrine. He is the one whose memory we celebrate in the liturgy even proclaiming the Eucharist as His Real Presence. However, without developing a personal relationship between ourselves and Jesus, He remains external to us, outside of ourselves, touching our minds, but not our hearts.



Bishop  
Terry R.  
LaValley

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

NORTH  
COUNTRY  
CATHOLIC

Box 326

Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669

USPS 0039-3400

BISHOP TERRY

R. LAVALLEY

President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

JAMES D. CROWLEY

Secretary-Treasurer

DARCYLE L. FARGO

Editor &amp;

Communications Director



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: \$30

Matters for publication  
should be  
addressed to  
PO Box 326  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
and should be received by  
Thursday prior to  
publication.  
Paper is printed each  
Monday;  
deadline is Wednesday.  
Member, Catholic Press  
Association.

POSTMASTER:  
Send address changes to  
North Country Catholic,  
PO Box 326  
Ogdensburg, NY  
13669-0326

## EDITOR'S NOTE

## The dreaded red marker

If looks could kill, Mary Jude would no longer be with us.

"I'm going to have Terry Fye review the paper and mark up the grammar and spelling mistakes," Mary Jude, the publisher, told us, the newsroom staff. "The expectation is that you'll each go in and review your errors when you get here. If several of you are making the same mistakes, we'll have lessons on those mistakes at our staff meetings."

While Mary Jude's face

showed she thought this was a positive development, it was clear based on our facial expressions that the reporters and editors were not thrilled. I was outright mad. Though I was 22 and just starting my career, I had convinced myself that I was a talented writer and reporter. I didn't think I needed a retired English teacher reviewing my grammar. The mere idea of it was insulting.

The next day, I was fully prepared to walk into the conference room – where the

marked-up newspaper was to be located – to see my stories devoid of editing marks.

That was not what I found. Instead, I saw a newspaper awash with red marker. My stories were no exception.

It made me angry to have my flaws pointed out. I hated every red circle. I resented Mary Jude and Mr. Fye.

Then, I noticed something happening. Between my increased awareness and what I learned in our grammar lessons, I was making fewer errors. We all were. I'd hear Mr. Fye's voice in my head as I ensured I placed "only" in the correct spot in a sentence (closest to the object it's

modifying, if you're wondering), and I no longer resented it.

Mr. Fye and Mary Jude pointed out my errors to make me better and to make the newspaper better. Sometimes, we're oblivious to our deficiencies. We need help to see ourselves clearly.

Lent is a season to focus on our relationship with the Lord and to work on the things that impede that relationship. It's a season to seek the grace we need to identify the flaws God wants to help us overcome.

I pray we receive the red marks on our pages with gratitude.



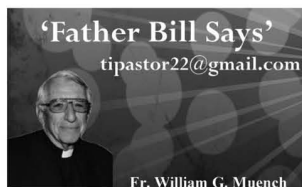
Darcy L.  
Fargo

## Lent is a time to discover who we are

God has a gift for us: Lent. Lent is an old friend for most of you. Keep in mind, Lent is about transformation, Lent is about conversion. Lent is about making us saints, especially when we use well the time of Lenten prayer and fasting and good works. When we understand, Lent is God's gift – a program to allow God into our hearts in a special way.

Last week, at the doors of the church, I picked up the recent copy of the Florida Catholic, the Catholic newspaper of the Palm Beach Diocese. The Bishop of this diocese is an old friend of ours, here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Bishop Barbarito. He writes a regular column for his diocesan newspaper.

In this week's issue of the Florida Catholic, Bishop Barbarito's column begins with an introduction to Lent. In the column, he mentions a new book by Pope Francis. This book, "God is Young," is written as a conversation with the author, Thomas Leoncini. It sounded good. So, I got a copy for my kindle



and have read much of it already. It is not long.

I would like to share with you some of Pope Francis' ideas in this book. Pope Francis speaks of God as young. He does go on to talk about God as old. It is his hope that God becomes more alive to the young, as well as the old. Pope Francis makes it clear he is talking about people. He says: "Youth does not exist, only young people." And he adds: "Old age does not exist, old people do." The Pope makes it clear he is talking to us, people.

God is young. Young people should find a friend in God because God is young. Pope Francis reminds us of a line from the Book of Apocalypse: "The one who sits on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new!'"

Pope Francis tells us why God is young: "God is He

who always renews, because He is always new! God is Young! The most distinctive attributes of the young are also His. He is young because He makes all things new and loves innovation. He astonishes and loves astonishment because He dreams and wants us to dream, because He is strong and enthusiastic, because He forms relationships and asks us to do the same. He is social."

God is young and has so much to share with the young.

God is old. God wants to be one of us old people. Pope Francis explains: "We must be joyful and proud of being old, just as we are normally proud of being old, just as we are normally proud of being young. Old Age is a privilege; it means having experiences, being able to know and recognize our faults and our merits."

The old should be a gift to the young. The old have dreams to share with the young. The young share hopes and enthusiasm. Together, they are our path to

salvation. Pope Francis does have a warning: "For a young person to approach an old person requires tenderness, and it takes tenderness for an elderly individual to approach a young person."

So, Lent is our time each year to discover who we are and to recognize God's gift to us – the gift of "who we are." Lent establishes a close relationship for us with the Holy Spirit so that our hearts will be filled with the freshness, the imagination and the innovation of the Holy Spirit. Each year, during Lent, the Holy Spirit has something new for us. May we be open and receptive. The Spirit approaches us often through prayer and through others, through the young and the old.

Pope Francis reaches out to the young, that they may discover that truly they are prophets. The young are the most important prophets of the world. The mission of young people is to be prophets: To be prophets, "they have to get their feet dirty in the streets" as bearers of hope.

## FOLLOW ME

# Cultivate a relationship with Christ this Lent

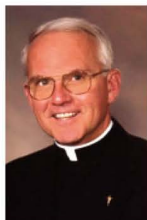
## Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Lent is a truly graced time to take stock of our ongoing journey of conversion and transformation in Christ. We desire to cultivate an intimate relationship with Jesus making His presence in our lives real and vibrant so that we might follow Him more closely while supporting one another in our common pilgrimage of faith.

This Lent, we might reflect on a question that the bishops' Retreat Director recently asked: Is Jesus for us a person, or just a personality, a celebrity, a cult figure? There's a big difference between the two. Person-

alities might include people like Oprah, even Elvis Presley or any number of people who have a following today. A personality is someone who has name recognition, but not someone with whom we can easily strike up a personal relationship. There are plenty of personalities out there today. An intimate relationship develops with a person, not a personality.

Unfortunately, for many of us, Jesus is a personality and not a person. He is the eminent figure in Church



**Bishop  
Terry R.  
LaValley**

doctrine. He is the one whose memory we celebrate in the liturgy even proclaiming the Eucharist as His Real Presence. However, without developing a personal relationship between ourselves and Jesus, He remains external to us, outside of ourselves, touching our minds, but not our hearts. He remains a remnant

of the past because we instinctively place twenty centuries between ourselves and Him.

Yet, Jesus says, "I am with you always, until the end of the age"

(Mt.28:20). The Resurrected Christ is alive and present, not physically as He had been, but His presence today is even stronger and more real. Christ is not only beside us but dwells within us. Therein lies our hope and confidence during these troublesome times.

Particularly during our Lenten journey, the Church asks us to focus our attention on Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. These spiritual disciplines are indispensable means to strengthen our personal relationship with Jesus. Additionally, I hope that you avail yourself of the Lenten programs and liturgies provided by your parish.

These will help you grow in love and knowledge of our Lord.

May our hearts be renewed as we encounter Christ ever more intimately this Lent. As St. Paul announces to us on Ash Wednesday: "Now is a very acceptable time" (2 Cor. 6:2). Let us pray for one another this Lent and always.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

**Most Reverend  
Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg**

## Action Network: Stay informed, get involved

The Catholic Action Network (CAN), an arm of the NY State Catholic Conference, gives New York Catholics a larger voice in the halls of government.

Through email and social media alerts, CAN reaches tens of thousands of Catholics to pro-

vide educational updates on the important issues being debated and to provide the tools to simplify the process of contacting your elected officials.

Recent alerts have included:

- "Sign the petition to repeal the abortion law"

- "Protect Catholic schools from public school control"
- "Maintain the ban on surrogacy."

CAN focuses on issues related to respect for life, education, religious liberty, criminal justice, marriage and family life, health care and human

services.

In addition to the email and social media alerts, Catholic Action Network's website provides users with the ability to track bills, look up legislators and register to vote.

Sign up online to receive email alerts at <http://www.nyscatholic.org/> and click on the "Join the Catholic Action Network" logo on the top right corner of page.

## JOB OPENINGS

### LPN's Needed

The Sisters of St. Joseph in Watertown are seeking multiple LPN Positions.

- LPN for Temporary hire for 37.5 hours per week. Anticipated duration is three (3) months. This is an Overnight Position 6 p.m. until 6:30 a.m.
- LPN for Permanent Part Time, 25 hours per week. The schedule consists of two (2) 12.5 hr. shifts per week. Week 1: Wednesday day shift and Sunday night shift. Week 2: Sunday night shift and Tuesday day shift. Day shift is 6 a.m. until 6:30 p.m.; Night shift is 6 p.m. until 6:30 a.m.
- LPN for per Diem Duty. We offer a 25% premium pay for working weekends and holiday for this position. Shifts run from 6 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. until 6:30 a.m.

**All positions require a current valid Nursing License and Driver License. Previous geriatric experience is helpful.**

Applications and full job descriptions can be picked up at:  
1425 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601



Warm up with a subscription to the *North Country Catholic* and find out what is happening with the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

### Warm up with Good News!

Visit our website at [www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org) to pay by Credit Card for immediate delivery.

OR Send this coupon with payment to:

North Country Catholic  
PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317

*\*\*Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery when mailing in your renewal\*\**

Inside Diocese \$27     Outside Diocese \$30  
 I want to be a Patron:  \$35  \$50  \$100  \$250  
 New Subscrip-     tion Renew-

Please send my subscription to my e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parish \_\_\_\_\_

# Two Lenten retreats planned

**WATERTOWN** – Two Lenten retreats are currently planned in Watertown.

## Charisms: Discovering the Gifts We All Have to Share

All are welcome to attend “Charisms: Discovering the Gifts We All Have to Share,” a retreat to be held on March 23 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 1425 Washington St., Watertown.

Marika Donders, director of the diocesan Office of New Evangelization will be the facilitator. The retreat begins with Mass at 9:30 a.m. The workshop will run from 10 a.m. to noon.

Instead of a formal registration fee, free will donations will be collected at the door. Light refreshments will be available.

Please register prior to March 23.

To register, go to <https://www.rcdony.org/formation/commissioned-lay-ministers/clm-event-registration.html> or call Jeannie Grizzuto at 315-393-2920.

The retreat is sponsored by the Commissioned Lay Ministers Association of the Jefferson and Lewis Deaneries.

## Lenten ‘Commuter’ Retreat:

### Strengthened by Faith During Difficult Times

The Sisters of St. Joseph are hosting a “Lenten ‘Commuter’ Retreat: Strengthened by Faith During Difficult Times” from April 5 to 7.

The retreat will explore – through presentations, personal and group prayer, and sharing – aspects of loss, grief and suffering caused by loss of a loved one, divorce, illness, loss of job or other life challenges.

Reflections will include how our faith not only gives us strength and hope to be transformed into new life, but gives us the grace to help others on the Journey.

Friday’s session will run from 6 to 9 p.m.; Saturday’s activities start at 9:30 a.m. and continue to 9 p.m.; and the retreatants will gather from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday’s session will include Mass.

The retreat will be held at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, Hearthside Hospitality Center, 1425 Washington Street, Watertown.

Presenters include Sister Norma Bryant, Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, Molly Amoriell and Cindy Matthews.

Cost is \$50 and includes retreat materials and food.

To register, email [srbethssj@gmail.com](mailto:srbethssj@gmail.com) or call 315-212-6592 by March 31.



The 2019 Immaculate Heart Central Mystery Players perform in “Anna and Simeon,” this year’s Lenten performance.

# Mystery Players are on tour

**WATERTOWN** – Since 1981, Immaculate Heart Central (IHC) seniors have been bringing the stories of Jesus’ birth and death on the cross to life during the Advent and Lenten seasons as Mystery Players.

The performances – really prayerful meditations – combine austere but dramatic acting, narration, music and lighting.

A Mystery Players’ event is a prayerful experience for both the student performers and the audience.

This year’s play is titled, “Anna and Simeon.” Performance dates and locations are listed in the included table.


The show may not be suitable for small children.

## IMMACULATE HEART CENTRAL SCHOOL MYSTERY PLAYERS LENT 2019: “Anna and Simeon”

Date	Place		Time
March 10	Summit Village	Watertown	2:00 p.m.
March 15	Sacred Heart	Massena	7:30 p.m.
March 17	St. Paul’s	Black River	7:30 p.m.
March 22	St. Hubert’s	Star Lake	7:30 p.m.
March 24	SSJ Motherhouse	Watertown	6:15 p.m.
March 29	Notre Dame	Ogdensburg	7:30 p.m.
March 31	Emmanuel	Watertown	7:30 p.m.
April 5	St. Mary’s	Potsdam	7:30 p.m.
April 7	St. Cyril’s	Alex Bay	7:30 p.m.
April 14	St. Anthony/Joseph	Herkimer	7:30 p.m.
April 15	Holy Trinity	Hudson	7:30 p.m.
April 16	St. Aloysius	Leonardtown, MD	7:30 p.m.
April 17	Fr. Andrew White School	Leonardtown, MD	10:00 a.m.
April 19	St. Patrick’s	Watertown	7:30 p.m.

[www.ihcschools.org/spiritual-life/mystery-players](http://www.ihcschools.org/spiritual-life/mystery-players)

For a New or Used Car  
**Mort Backus & Sons**  
On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.  
**315-393-5899**  
  
**CHEVROLET**



*Support And Pray  
For Vocations*

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

- Read local stories and commentaries
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

 Find us on Facebook!




**BARSTOW**  
AN AMERICAN  
R-EVOLUTION  
GMC SUBARU  
For More Information, Visit Our Web Page  
at: [www.barstowmotors.com](http://www.barstowmotors.com)  
MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY # (315) 265-8800  
Your NNY Regional GM & Subaru SuperCenter

# Journey to the foot of the cross: Ten things to remember for Lent

## United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay, Wisconsin, former chairman of the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, offers "10 Things to Remember for Lent":

- **Remember the formula.** The Church does a good job capturing certain truths with easy-to-remember lists and formulas: 10 Commandments, 7 sacraments, 3 persons in the Trinity. For Lent, the Church gives us almost a slogan—Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving—as the three things we need to work on during the season.

- **It's a time of prayer.** Lent is essentially an act of prayer spread out over 40 days. As we pray, we go on a journey, one that hopefully brings us closer to Christ and leaves us changed by the encounter with him.

- **It's a time to fast.** With the fasts of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, meatless Fridays, and our personal disciplines interspersed, Lent is the only time many Catholics these days actually fast. And maybe that's why it gets all the attention. "What are you giving up for Lent? Hotdogs? Beer? Jelly beans?" It's almost a game for some of us, but fasting is actually a form of penance, which helps us turn away from sin and toward Christ.

- **It's a time to work on discipline.** The 40 days of Lent are also a good, set time to work on personal discipline in general. Instead of giving something up, it can be doing something positive. "I'm

going to exercise more. I'm going to pray more. I'm going to be nicer to my family, friends and coworkers."

- **It's about dying to yourself.** The more serious side of Lenten discipline is that it's about more than self-control – it's about finding aspects of yourself that are less than Christ-like and letting them die. The suffering and death of Christ are foremost on our minds during Lent, and we join in these mysteries by suffering, dying with Christ and being resurrected in a purified form.

- **Don't do too much.** It's tempting to make Lent some ambitious period of personal reinvention, but it's best to keep it simple and focused. There's a reason the Church works on these mysteries year after year. We spend our entire lives growing closer to God. Don't try to cram it all in one Lent. That's a recipe for failure.

- **Lent reminds us of our weakness.** Of course, even when we set simple goals for ourselves during Lent, we still have trouble keeping them. When we fast, we realize we're all just one meal away from hunger. In both cases, Lent shows us our weakness. This can be painful, but recognizing how helpless we are makes us seek God's help with renewed urgency and sincerity.

- **Be patient with yourself.** When we're confronted with our own weakness during Lent, the temptation is to get angry and frustrated. "What a bad person I am!" But that's the wrong les-

son. God is calling us to be patient and to see ourselves as he does, with unconditional love.

- **Reach out in charity.** As we experience weakness and suffering during Lent, we should be renewed in our compassion for those who are hungry, suffering or otherwise in need. The third part of the Lenten formula is almsgiving. It's about more than throwing a few extra dollars in the collection plate; it's about reaching out to others and helping them without question as a way of sharing the experience of

God's unconditional love.

- **Learn to love like Christ.** Giving of ourselves in the midst of our suffering and self-denial brings us closer to loving like Christ, who suffered and poured himself out unconditionally on cross for all of us. Lent is a journey through the desert to the foot of the cross on Good Friday, as we seek him out, ask his help, join in his suffering, and learn to love like him.

## Rest in Peace

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

**March 6** – Rev. Louis F. Lussier, 1915; Rev. John G. Craven, 1921

**March 7** – Rev. Alexander K. Klauder, 1934; Rev. Cornelius O'Mahoney, M.S.C., 1940

**March 8** – Rev. William B. Nyhan, 1914; Rev. William J. Reilly, O.S.A., 1925

**March 10** – Rev. Hector Mauriot, O.M.I., 1895

**March 11** – Msgr. Edmund Charles M. J. DePauw, 1911

**March 12** – Rev. Joseph L. Stickelmyer, 1984

## Bishop's Public Schedule

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

**March 7** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**March 9** – 10:30 a.m. – Pastoral Council Meeting at St. James School in Gouveneur

**March 10** – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

2:30 p.m. – Rite of Election at St. Mary's Cathedral

**March 11** – 7:15 p.m. – Novena followed by Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**March 13** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

## 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](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org)

- Join the conversation!

## Environmental Stewardship

### Celebrating Lent

The heart of Lent is 'metanoia' or a change of heart that can bring about a "springtime" of new life with me and to all around me.

The invitation of Lent, then, is first of all a call to immerse ourselves more deeply in God's unconditional love and mercy. However, an authentic response to this love always radiates beyond itself to ALL relationships. In *Laudato Si: Care for Our Common Home*, Pope Francis reminds us that "Human life is grounded in three fundamental and clearly intertwined relationships with God, with our neighbor and with the earth itself."

He shows us how following in the footsteps of Jesus challenges us to heed the cries of the human family AND the cries of the earth. The three traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving given to us by Jesus in the Ash Wednesday Gospel reading from Matthew 6:1-6; 16-18 take on deeper meaning when seen in this context.

In the book of Isaiah 58:6-8 the prophet challenges us: "Is this not the fast that I choose: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke, setting free the oppressed... Is it not sharing your bread with the hungry... Then your light shall break forth like the dawn." How can this message be applied to not only the "cries of our sisters and brothers" but also to the cries of earth upon which all life depends?

During these next weeks of Lent some suggestions will be given on how these traditional Lenten practices can aid us in responding to the challenge of protecting God's creation, to practicing Gospel justice and to nurturing our spiritual lives.

Let us begin our Lent with a prayer from the Psalmist: "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me... grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me." Ps.51

## 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

## Court hears oral arguments on historic cross memorial

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The U.S. Supreme Court seemed to lean toward preserving a historic cross-shaped memorial in Maryland Feb. 27 without making overall clarifications about the constitutionality of religious symbols on public property.

The justices heard oral arguments about a 93-year-old cross in Bladensburg, Maryland, that pays tribute to local World War I veterans that is viewed by opponents as an endorsement of religion and by supporters as a secular monument.

Before the arguments began, people from both sides gathered at the front of the Supreme Court on the chilly but sunny winter morning. The memorial's opponents held aloft placards or wore hats or buttons with the words "#honor them all" and spoke about importance of not singling out the Christian faith tradition for a memorial when people of many faiths have fought and died in battles. Those gathered in support of the monument, many older men in American Legion caps, insisted that the memorial had nothing to do with religion.

Will Trotter, vice commander with American Legion for Maryland, said taking down the monument would be an affront to those who "fought valiantly in World War I" and to family members who wanted these men remembered in that spot and view the cross as a grave marker.

Justices took in both sides in the hour and a half of arguments where they paid particular attention to whether or not the monument was endorsing or proselytizing religion and if its placement on a parcel of land on a busy road was different than on the top of a city hall building, for example.

Last year, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals based in Richmond, Virginia, ruled 2-1 that the 40-foot monument is unconstitutional and must be removed or destroyed because it has the "primary effect of endorsing religion and excessively entangles the government in religion."

Known as the Bladensburg Cross or the Peace Cross, the cement and marble memorial was erected by the Snyder-Farmer Post of the American Legion of Hyattsville, Maryland, to recall the 49 men of Prince George's County who died in World War I. The cross, whose construction was funded by local families, was dedicated July 13, 1925.

The American Humanist Association, a Washington-based group that represents

atheists and others, filed suit against the memorial saying that its cross shape on public property violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

The monument's supporters stress that its message is secular: to commemorate war victims. They also have argued that its cross shape was not intended for religious reasons but to look similar to cross-shaped grave markers in Europe used for American soldiers who died there.

"Figure out where you want to draw the line," Justice Elena Kagan said during arguments about markers with religious connotations.

She also pointed out some distinctions about this memorial, saying it was put up when crosses were a common way to honor those who died in World War I; it is located near other war memorials and does not include religious language.

Other justices pointed out the strong Christian symbolism that comes across even in a plain cross. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg pointed out that it is "the pre-eminent symbol of Christianity."

But Justice Neil Gorsuch questioned why the existence of some religious symbols is considered "too loud" or too offensive to some.

"There aren't many places in the law where we allow someone to make a federal case out of their offensiveness about a symbol being too loud for them," he said, adding: "We have to tolerate one another. This is the only area I can think of like that where we allow people to sue over an offense because, for them, it is too loud."

Gorsuch pointed out that the Ten Commandments display overhead could even be "too loud for many."

The justices also mentioned that their own interpretation on rules about religious symbols in church and state matters is murky or as Gorsuch put it, twice: "a dog's breakfast."

Justice Samuel Alito cautioned against a general ruling against all war memorials with crosses telling the attorney representing those opposed to the memorial: "There are cross monuments all over the country, many of them quite old. Do you want them all taken down?"

One possible way to look at the cross memorial might be to accept it but not let new ones with religious imagery find a home on public property.

As Justice Stephen Breyer put it: "What about saying past is past, but no more?"

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

### Methodist delegates maintain ban on same-sex marriage

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Following a vote by United Methodist Church delegates to keep in place a ban on same-sex marriage and the ordination of LGBT clergy, some of the church's bishops and pastors said they were conflicted about the decision, but seemed resolved to focus on continuing their congregations' outreach ministry and service projects to the community. Bishop Scott Jones of the church's Texas Conference told Catholic News Service Feb. 27 that the proceedings during the 2019 General Conference Feb. 23-26 in St. Louis, while "difficult and painful" still constituted a "significant step in the conversation." According to United Methodist News Service, delegates voted 438-384 to approve the Traditional Plan Feb. 26. It says homosexuality "is not compatible with the teachings of Christianity" and institutes penalties for Methodist churches that allow same-sex marriage or the ordination of LGBT clergy. The Traditional Plan was chosen over the One Church Plan, which leaves such decisions up to individual congregations.

### Missouri House OKs bill to ban abortions after heartbeat

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (CNS) – The Missouri House of Representatives Feb. 27 passed the Missouri Stands for the Unborn Act, an omnibus bill that bans abortion when the heartbeat of an unborn child can be detected, which could be as early as six weeks "depending on the method used." The measure, H.B. 126, also limits late-term abortions after five months of pregnancy; declares the state of Missouri a "sanctuary of life"; bans abortions based on sex, race or Down syndrome; and requires abortion doctors to have adequate malpractice insurance. Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the national pro-life group Susan B. Anthony List, said the state House's "bold action shows the growing momentum to humanize our laws and challenge the radical status quo of Roe v. Wade. The United States is one of only seven nations – including China and North Korea – that allow abortion on demand through the moment of birth," she said in a statement.

### South Sudan bishops: Peace deal not working

JUBA, South Sudan (CNS) – South Sudan's peace deal is fatally flawed, the country's bishops said as they committed the church to helping forge new negotiations. They also recommended a series of measures to end the conflict. "We urge all stakeholders and friends of South Sudan to collaborate to seek a new model" for peace, the bishops said in a statement. While South Sudan's main warring parties signed a deal in September to end the five-year civil war that killed almost 400,000 people and displaced millions, the situation on the ground shows that it is "not addressing the root causes of the conflicts" in the country, the bishops said. The level of open conflict has decreased, but "all parties are involved either in active fighting or preparations for war," they said. Human rights abuses, including murder, rape and looting, continue with impunity, they said. With only three months left in the pre-transitional phase of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan, most of what should have been achieved has not been done, the bishops said. "This is likely to impact negatively" on the next activities in this and the following phase, they said, noting that all the "omissions and delays are deeply worrying" and "divide-and-rule" tactics seem to be in play.

# Woman sues order, Buffalo Diocese for \$300M

WASHINGTON (CNS) – A New York woman sued the Diocese of Buffalo, New York, a diocesan-run high school and a Maryland-based order of Franciscan priests for \$300 million, saying she was sexually abused by a priest of the order for three years at the school.

Gail Holler-Kennedy, 55, of Niagara County, New York, said she endured multiple sexual assaults from 1978 to 1981 by Father Mark S. Andrzejczuk, a Conventual Franciscan who taught at Cardinal O'Hara High School, where she was student at the time, according to the lawsuit filed Feb. 22 in State Supreme Court.

In New York, the State Supreme Court is the trial-level court of general jurisdiction. The New York Appellate Court is the state's highest court.

The case is among the first in the state to be filed under the

Child Victims Act, which New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed into law Feb. 13. The law expanded the age for filing lawsuits from 23 to 55 for plaintiffs who experienced childhood sexual abuse to pursue civil and criminal charges against their perpetrators.

Boston attorney Mitchell Garabedian, who is representing Holler-Kennedy, told Catholic News Service the lawsuit was filed before his client turned 55 Feb. 24 "to protect her rights" under the new law.

Holler-Kennedy also is represented by the law firm of Simmons Hanly Conroy LLC of New York City.

The lawsuit seeks \$50 million in compensatory damages and \$250 million in punitive damages.

The lawsuit specifically names the St. Anthony of Padua Province of the Conventual Franciscans

Minor based in Ellicott City, Maryland, as a defendant. The province is now known as Our Lady of the Angels.

Father Andrzejczuk died in 2011.

The order did not return calls seeking comment. Through a spokeswoman, the diocese declined comment on the lawsuit.

Holler-Kennedy was 14 when the abuse began, according to the court filing. Father Andrzejczuk, a science teacher, wrote passes to excuse her from another class and sexually assaulted her in an empty classroom twice a week, the complaint said.

"My client, by coming forward, is empowering herself and ... has shown a tremendous amount of courage," Garabedian said.

Given that the abuse occurred over three years, Garabedian said, officials of the Buffalo Diocese, the school and the Franciscan province should have known

about the unusual relationship between the priest and a student. He said the church officials were responsible for investigating Father Andrzejczuk and protecting the safety of students while he was employed by the school.

The Child Victims Act also includes a one-year "look back window" to allow adults abused as children to file claims no matter how long ago they said the abuse occurred. The window opens in six months.

After initially opposing the bill, the New York State Catholic Conference removed its opposition to it when the Legislature expanded the retroactive window to include both private and public institutions. The conference explained that support for all victims -- regardless of where the abuse occurred -- had been a critical reason the bishops could not support earlier versions of the legislation.

## Religious groups seek end to asylum policy

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Calling the federal government's migration protection protocols – also known as the "Remain in Mexico" policy – "baseless and immoral," a coalition of 500 religious organizations and leaders have asked Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen for an immediate end to the policy.

In a Feb. 26 letter to Nielsen, the religious groups and individuals said the policy "returns vulnerable asylum-seekers to Mexico and puts them at risk of further harm while they wait for their case to be processed in the United States."

"Our diverse moral teachings find consistency in the absolute value of the human person and our obligation to protect the most vulnerable among us," the letter said. "We call on you to uphold our country's asylum law and

respect asylum-seekers and others seeking protection as the human beings they are."

The letter cited two main reasons for ending the policy: It "puts people fleeing danger back in harm's way," and it "jeopardizes access to counsel, due process and (the) overall ability for a person to find safety in the United States."

"Our country's asylum laws are based upon the international principle of non-refoulement – a promise that we as the United States will not send people back to countries where their lives or freedom will be at risk," the letter said.

However, "since July 2017, the dangers facing refugees and migrants in Mexico have escalated. Asylum-seekers forced to return to Mexico face risk of homelessness, mal-

nourishment, disease, assault, kidnapping and death," the letter added. "Recent reports confirm that Mexican authorities continue to improperly return asylum-seekers to their countries of persecution and that the deficiencies in the Mexican asylum system have grown."

Central American countries such as El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras – from where the bulk of many asylum-seekers have fled – "have some of the highest homicide rates in the world for countries that are not classified as being at war," the letter said.

"Additionally, the policy has serious implications for children asylum-seekers – leaving them without access to education and other factors that will permanently affect their development, health, and well-being."

On the access-to-counsel issue, the faith leaders' letter said, "Asylum-seekers' due process right to access legal counsel both during the assessment at ports of entry and while waiting in Mexico is seriously compromised by the policy."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced what is being called the "Remain in Mexico" policy Dec. 20, saying it is provided for under Section 235(b)(2)(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Pompeo said the U.S. government notified Mexico's government it was invoking that section, a move he said was necessary "to confront the illegal immigration crisis facing the United States."

"Individuals arriving in the United States from Mexico – illegally or without proper documentation – will be returned to Mex-

ico for the duration of their immigration proceedings," he said in a statement. "In response, the Mexican government has informed us that it will support the human rights of migrants by affording affected migrants humanitarian visas to stay on Mexican soil, the ability to apply for work, and other protections while they await U.S. proceedings."

In a separate statement Dec. 20, Nielsen said the action was needed because some "try to game the system" by entering the U.S. without legal permission and then "disappear" into the country. "Many skip their court dates" to appear before an immigration judge, she said, but under the new policy, "they will wait for an immigration court decision while they are in Mexico."

**CRS RICE BOWL**  
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

crsricebowl.org  
crsplatodearroz.org



*Un tiempo de*  
**encuentro**  
**encounter**  
*Lent*



Irene from South Sudan lives in the Bidi Bidi refugee settlement in Uganda.

#### About Catholic Relief Services:

Catholic Relief Services is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization;  
Donations to CRS are tax-deductible to the full extent allowable under the law.



Catholic Relief Services eases suffering and provides assistance to people in need in more than 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality.

We are the official overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and a member of Caritas Internationalis and the National Catholic Development

**For questions and inquiries please contact Diocese of Ogdensburg Catholic Charities:**

**Deacon Patrick Donahue**  
Director  
pdonahue@cathcharities.org  
315-393-2255



CRS Rice Bowls helps us to encounter Lent

**We are called forth from the desert to encounter resurrection.**

Lent gives us the opportunity to encounter Christ in the desert. With him, we face the temptation to despair in the face of the world's deepest needs, to throw up our hands in defeat. In Jesus' struggle, we find ourselves struggling: we are afraid of not having enough, afraid of not doing enough, afraid of not being enough. But, just as Jesus emerged from the desert fortified to begin his ministry, so too do we emerge from the desert of Lent ready to encounter the needs of the world with the hope of the Resurrection.

Yet, sometimes our fears can be paralyzing. We find ourselves focusing all of our energy inward. We find ourselves doubting if we have enough, if we've done enough, if we are enough—and we are afraid to act. Scripture reminds us time and again: "Be not afraid." In the person of Jesus—and in the countless holy women and men who have followed him—we see the power of giving fearlessly, of sacrificing what we have and what we are for the good of others.

**Bolstered by faith, Jesus showed courage when confronted by fear.** He did not waver in reaching out to those most in need. And we're called to do the same, trusting that our lives can be ones of fearless encounter pointing to the hope of the Resurrection.

This is where we turn to CRS Rice Bowl. Each day during Lent, we have the opportunity to be inspired by the stories of communities from around the world, to set aside a little of ourselves to make room for a stranger. This Lent, CRS Rice Bowl reminds us that the journey through the desert ultimately leads to resurrection—and that it is our Gospel call to stand with courage, bringing the hope of the Resurrection to a world often beset by hopelessness.

While the temptations of the desert tell us to be afraid, to cling to what we have and look out only for ourselves, the invitation of Lent beckons us forth to encounter the needs of the world through:

- ◆ A renewed life of PRAYER in God that unites our needs with the needs of the world, through the stories of members of our global human family
- ◆ A commitment to FAST that reminds us that God is ever faithful and frees us from the fear of not having or being enough
- ◆ A readiness to GIVE ALMS so as to share what we have with our brothers and sisters around the world.

This Lent, we journey with Christ through fear to fortitude, recognizing God's invitation to reach out beyond ourselves to encounter the needs of all.

#### LENTEN ALMS CHANGE LIVES

CRS Rice Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, the official relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Through CRS Rice Bowl, faith communities in every diocese throughout the United States put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in roughly 45 different countries each year. Since its inception in 1975, CRS Rice Bowl has raised nearly \$300 million.

**25% of all donations to CRS Rice Bowl stay in our local diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts.**



PRAY



FAST



LEARN



GIVE

**All of the information here can be found at: [www.crsricebowl.org](http://www.crsricebowl.org)**



# encounter Lent



## WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

### Encounter Lent

Lent is our time of preparation. A 40-day journey of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, Lent is a journey that spans Ash Wednesday through Holy Week, culminating in the great celebration of Easter. As Catholics, the spiritual pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving guide us in daily reflection on our own lives as we strive to deepen our relationship with God and neighbor—no matter where in the world that neighbor may live.

### A Digital Lenten Retreat

This Lent, CRS Rice Bowl invites you, your family and community to journey alongside the Good Samaritan, to reflect on the question: Who is my neighbor? So many of our neighbors are on the move: migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, travelers. The Good Samaritan—a traveler himself, one on the move—shows us what it means to encounter the stranger, to accompany one in need and become a companion on the journey. That's why CRS has prepared this digital retreat, juxtaposing the words of Jesus' parable with the words of Pope Francis, connecting an ancient teaching with a present reality. Because we are all called to be Good Samaritans, especially today, as so many of our brothers and sisters are forced from their homes, fleeing violence, economic hardship, persecution and climate injustice. Go to: [www.csricebowl.org/digital-retreat](http://www.csricebowl.org/digital-retreat)

### Download the App

#### CRS Rice Bowl App



Family's daily Lenten practice a digital journey around the world. Through the CRS Rice Bowl app, encounter the stories of men, women who are served by Catholic Relief Services—and who benefit from your Lenten sacrifices. Family's experience of CRS Rice Bowl to the next level by pairing the CRS Rice Bowl app with the Lenten Calendar found in every cardboard box. Find meatless recipes for fasting on Fridays during Lent. Available in English and Spanish in the Google Play and App stores.

### Encounter Lent as a Family

This Lent, CRS Rice Bowl invites you, and your family and community, to journey alongside the Good Samaritan. Reflect on how an encounter with our neighbor can be transformative. Together, our prayers, fasting and almsgiving support migrants, refugees and others around the world who are seeking safety and opportunity. Visit <http://www.csricebowl.org/families> to learn more about the activities below.

- Lenten Kit for YOUR Family
- Lenten Calendar
- Make your own CRS Rice Bowl.
- Read the Story of Hope as a family each Sunday.
- Put your Lenten sacrifices into your CRS Rice Bowl.
- Set aside 5 minutes a day with the reflections on Jesus' life and example.
- Prepare—and share—simple meatless meals on Fridays.

### LOOKING FOR MEATLESS MEALS TO PREPARE THIS LENT?

Fasting from meat on Fridays during Lent helps us “acquire a mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart.” (CCC 2043). Fasting is meant to free us. It helps us feel our physical hunger, and in turn, our spiritual hunger for the infinite love found only in God. Remember to put the money you saved by not buying meat – an average of \$3 per person per meal – [into your CRS Rice Bowl](#) to feed our brothers and sisters in need around the world. Try the recipe below and go to [www.csricebowl.org/recipe](http://www.csricebowl.org/recipe) to find more meatless recipes.

## SHAKSHOUKA

Makes 4 servings

- 3 T fair trade olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 7oz can green chilis
- 1 28oz can diced tomatoes
- 1 T ketchup
- 2 t salt
- 4 eggs



Heat oil in a large pan. Sauté onions and garlic. Add chilis including juice and cook until soft. Add tomatoes, ketchup and salt. Cook tomatoes down to a sauce. Make four holes in the sauce with a spoon. Crack the eggs into the holes and cover until the eggs cook. Leave yolks runny.

## 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 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.

## FISH FRY

Chazy – Sacred Heart is having their annual Fish Fry.

**Date:** March 15

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

**Place:** Sacred Heart Church

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

## PAINT AND SIP

Chazy – Sacred Heart church to have a St. Patrick's Day Paint and Sip.

**Date:** March 17

**Time:** 1 p.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Hall

**Cost:** \$30, includes all instruction, supplies, snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages.

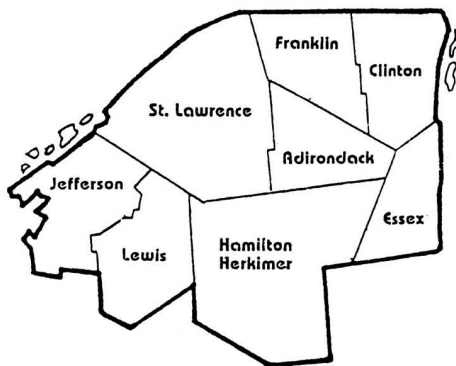
**Features:** Jessie Furnia will lead us step by step to paint a beautiful pictures of your choosing (there are 2 options).

**Contact:** Reservations are encouraged to help with planning for food. 518-846-7650 or 518-570-7747 for more information.

## LENTEN ADORATION

Plattsburgh – St. Peter's Church will offer Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during Lent.

**Dates:** Mondays and Tuesdays



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:** 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](http://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.

## EVANGELIZATION AND APOLOGETICS

Dannemora - The Eastern Region Commissioned Lay Ministers Association (ERCLMA) has organized the following event for continued formation: Evangelization and Apologetics with Marika Donders.

**Date:** May 11

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

**Cost:** \$10

**Features:** Father Mickey Demo will lead the celebration of a morning Mass followed by a presentation by Diocese of Ogdensburg Director of Evangelization, Marika Donders. A light lunch will be served. All Commissioned Lay Ministers and the current class of candidates set to be Commissioned in June, are welcome and encouraged to attend. The event will also be live-streamed, so if you cannot attend please join us on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/Maalc60EIB0>.

**Contact:** Brenda Smith soundtech58@yahoo.com or Karen LeClair - k.leclair2@aol.com by April 26

## 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

## LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Chasm Falls – Lenten Day of Recollection to be held by the Ogdensburg Cursillo 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

## HOLY ROSARY CRUSADE

St. Regis Falls – Public Square Rosary Crusade to be held.

**Date:** March 23

**Time:** Noon

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

**Contact:** Elaine McGivney at 518-529-6133

## 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 Allard 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

## FISHERS CLUB

Malone – Priesthood discernment with Bishop LaValley.

**Date:** April 7

**Time:** 3 p.m. to 5

**Place:** Notre Dame Rectory

**Features:** It doesn't get much better than this- being able to discern and discuss the Priesthood with a Successor to the Apostles! Men who are High School Junior age and older are invited to join Bishop LaValley. The gathering

includes discernment discussion, Evening Prayer, and dinner.

**Contact:** Please register for the free event with Father Doug Lucia (dlucia@rcdony.org) or Father Howard Venette (pastorsmoll@stmarysti.org).

## 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 Griz-zuto 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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

# Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

**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

## LENTE COMMUTER RETREAT

Watertown – Lenten commuter retreat to be held.

Date: April 5-7

Time: Fri., 6 p.m. to 9; Sat., 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sun., 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (includes Mass)

**Place:** Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Hearthsides Hospitality Center

**Cost:** \$50 includes Retreat Materials and Food

**Speakers:** Sister Norma Bryant, Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, Molly Amoriell and Cindy Matthews

**Features:** Retreat will explore through presentations, personal and group prayer, and sharing some aspects of loss, grief and suffering caused by loss of a loved one, divorce, illness, loss of job, or other life challenges. Reflections will include how our faith not only gives us strength and hope to be transformed into new life, but gives us the grace to help others on the Journey.

**Contact:** email srbethsj@gmail.com or call 315-212-6592 by Sunday, March 31

## 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 Chapel 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 All parishes welcome.

## LEWIS

## LENTE EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville – Lewis Lenten Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

**Date:** March 7, 14, 21, 28 April 4, 7,

11

**Time:** 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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

**Features:** Thank God for & To Honor the Most Blessed Sacrament, all are invited to our Lenten hours of adoration prior and after our Thursday Noon Mass. Adoration includes Morning Prayer prior to mass and after mass - Exposition, Silent Adoration, the Divine Mercy Chaplet for Souls, and Benediction.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## FISH & 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

## BLESSED IS SHE WORKSHOP

Norwood – "Live Well: Self Care for 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

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Canton – Knights of Columbus to host St. Patrick's Day Dinner to be held.

**Date:** March 17

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

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

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children 4-8, \$5; under 3, Free; Family 32

**Features:** Irish Entertainment by school students.

## IHC MYSTERY PLAYERS

Star Lake – IHC Mystery Players to present in a very creative way the centuries old stations of the cross.

**Date:** March 22

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

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

**Features:** a very creative way, 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

## ALPHA COURSE

Massena – Alpha is here and you are invited to attend.

**Date:** Starts April 8 and runs for 12 weeks

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

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

**Features:** Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian Faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No pressure. No follow up. No charge.

**Contact:** For more information, please call the parish office at 315.769.2469 or visit our website at www.massencatholics.com.

## MANICOTTI MONDAY

Norfolk – The parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond to have Manicotti Monday the first Monday of each month.

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

**Place:** Fr. Andrew Amyot Parish Center

**Cost:** \$9.75; under 5, Free; Take-out available

**Contact:** For delivery in the Norfolk area please call 315-384-4242 by 1 p.m.

## EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Potsdam – The Potsdam Knights of Columbus Council is sponsoring monthly Eucharistic Adoration on the first Mondays of the month.

**Time:** 5 to 7 p.m.

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

**Features:** Eucharistic Adoration with Benediction; all are welcome to

come and spend a few minutes, an hour or the full two hours in quiet prayer before the Lord.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

### WOMEN DISCERNMENT GROUP

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

**Date:** March 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, Hearthsides 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 crussell@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920. Registration is requested by emailing Shayne Lippincott at slippincott@rcdony.org

### 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 Blast, Glow Ball Fun and Arts and Crafts. Free Swag bags with surprises will be given out as well.

### WOMEN'S RETREAT

Norfolk – Save the date for a day long women's retreat.

**Date:** May 4

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** Father Amyot Parish Center

**Cost:** \$20, includes lunch

**Features:** Presenter will be Edwina Gateley on the topic of "Soul Sisters: Women called to connect, bond and heal in a broken world"

### RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Saranac Lake - The Spring Rachel's Vineyard after-abortion healing retreat will be held.

**Date:** May 31 – June 2

**Place:** Guggenheim Lodge

**Features:** If you or someone you know is hurting after an abortion, con-

sider attending this weekend retreat. You're not alone. Help is available.

**Contact:** Confidential registration form available at the Respect Life webpage rcdony.org/prolife. For more information call or text Colleen Miner 518-524-0774 or email cminer@rcdony.org.

### 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. Application 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, Onondaga Community College

**Features:** There will be three speakers that will challenge all who attend.

**Contact:** You can register for the IGNITE 2019 Catholic Men's Conference online at www.ignitecatholicmen.org

### NEW EVANGELIZATION SUMMIT

Ottawa – The Annual New Evangelization Summit will take place in Ottawa.

**Date:** May 4, 2019.

**Cost:** Free

**Features:** Speakers will be Father James Mallon, Cardinal Gerald C. Lacroix, Michael Dopp, Father John Bielawski, Michelle Thompson and Michelle Moran.

**Registration:** To register, go to newevangelization.ca and choose Ottawa as the location.

**Contact:** Once you've registered, please contact Marika Donders, Director of the New Evangelization at mdonders@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920. She will be tracking participation and trying to assist diocesan participants in arranging car pools for the event.

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Lent: Enter a new relationship with Jesus

Lent is here – the springtime of the soul! It's always exciting to realize we can change and start a new relationship with Jesus. The readings at the beginning of our Lenten journey are summed up so well in the words of Tom Conry's hymn: "... we rise again from ashes, to create ourselves anew!"

In the first reading from Deuteronomy, Moses is preparing the people to rise from their long trek through desert sands and joyfully enter the Promised Land. As they offer their best fruits to the Lord, Moses



**Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore**

reminds them to throw off the shackles of sin and enter into a whole new life. They are free at last! He joyfully binds them to a covenant, and pledges, on His part, never to forsake them. And He charges them never to forget and never to let their children forget what they had suffered in Egypt, and how He had

miraculously led them to freedom.

Well over a thousand years later, Jesus embarks on His journey as messiah and savior, not only of the Jews, but as redeemer of all the peo-

**March 10**

**First Sunday of Lent**

READINGS

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Romans 10:8-13

Luke 4:1-13

ple ever born or to be born. The Spirit who had overshadowed Jesus at his baptism at the Jordan, now leads Him into the desert for His initial battle with the powers of evil. Satan seeks to probe any human weakness in his adversary. First, he tempts Jesus to flaunt His power right away. Why not turn stones into bread? Later, Jesus will miraculously feed others, but he refuses to let the devil manage his mira-

cles! Again, Satan tempts Jesus to political power and possessions – and Jesus, the poor and humble teacher, refuses. The last temptation is to pride and fame – and glory. Jesus, knowing that His mission is to win hearts gently through truth and love, refuses to win hero-worship through cheap exhibitions. Ultimately, He must drink the cup of suffering to secure victory – and so must we, His followers. Quite soundly beaten, Satan leaves him – for a while! Angels come and minister to Jesus who is now ready to begin His public ministry.

And how about us? Hopefully, through the

liturgy of this first Sunday of Lent, we will begin with joy and energy to create ourselves anew through prayer, discipline, and communal study of the treasure of truth found in Scripture and of the Catholic Church. We may choose to participate in a study group or a prayer group for this short seven weeks of spiritual growth to help us truly rise from ashes to create ourselves anew.

This year, we have a special reason for making this an intense prayer time for the Bishops of our country to bring about a true renewal of the Gospel face of Christ in all our Catholic Church.

## United to Christ, others through suffering

**By Andrew Lauria**  
Contributing Writer

It has been a long winter. It seems as though we have been trapped in a never-ending cycle of massive snow fall followed by warm temperatures followed by a prolonged sub-zero period followed by another massive accumulation of snow. In other words, this winter has been an action series of shoveling, falling, freezing, and repeating. My spirit gave up about six feet of snow ago, and I am not so much looking forward to spring as combing real estate magazines for bank foreclosures in Florida. Oh, and now it is Lent, which is not great, because I gave up coffee for Lent. But I am not escaping to Florida quite yet.

I can change my physical location to one of more

stable weather patterns, but I cannot just leave my suffering as a fundamental reality of life. We are blessed that our faith teaches us about the cross, which gives us not only a path but a purpose for suffering. Suffering is a component of our salvation and so is not a waste of time, although shoveling snow often feels like it. That back-breaking work can be an aid to our salvation, and this is good news!

I will give an example. About two weeks ago, I felt like the world was after me. I was over-booked between work and many social and political obligations, the weather was so bad that I hadn't reached the speed limit in three days, I was battling a cold, my dog died, and then on Friday night as I got out of my car, I fell so

hard on the ice in my driveway that I thought I broke my hip. As I was laying on my back cursing very loudly, gasping for breath, I thought: "This is it, I give up. I hate this. I am so unhappy and now I am injured, and this is all terrible." It was a proper end to one of the worst weeks in recent memory. So I gathered the many items from my two bags that went flying all over the driveway and slowly crept indoors.

And then God gave me a grace. It hit me that suffering in our faith isn't always about us and that every suffering, even me going flying on a patch of ice or crying over the passing of my beloved dog, has meaning and value. When we bring our daily sufferings to Christ, we can unite our suffering to his on the cross and in

a small way participate in a very big mystery, the mystery of redemption.

God then continued to clear my swollen head. Not only can my mundane everyday travails be redemptive, but there are people right in front of me that can benefit from my offering. I used to think that "offering it up" was some kind of vain, heroic action where one lays with hand across the forehead on a bed, voicing holy words like some sort of bizarre existential exercise from a Victorian-aged novel. But rather my personal uniting with Jesus on the cross was me splayed out on the driveway, mad as can be after an exhausting week. I thought of a friend of mine who is going through some seriously challenging issues in their life right now and I simply

told God that I give it all up for him. If he can live through that suffering, then I choose to be there in that suffering with him in this way. And our faith tells us that the grace of God will not only bring the two of us closer through prayer, but also to the divine mystery of redemptive suffering, that God will in turn bring us both closer to Him.

It has been a really long winter. I have no idea why I thought that now was a good time to give up coffee. But I am beginning to look at it another way. The basic challenges of life and the challenge of offering up something I love will help me to stay close to Jesus on the cross and close to those who are right in front of me. Maybe, just maybe, this winter can yet redeem me, too.

## AT THE MOVIES

# HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD

**NEW YORK (CNS)** – In his 1922 book "What I Saw in America," the great Catholic writer G.K. Chesterton reflects on how beautiful New York's Times Square would be for someone who couldn't read. Similarly, the animated adventure "How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World" (Universal) would benefit from being shown without sound.

Visuals are sumptuous, but the story scant as writer-director Dean DeBlois wraps up a trilogy in all three films of which – based on books by Cressida Cowell – he has had a hand. Excessively noisy, frenetic battle scenes and dialogue that often breaks down into wooden declarations so self-satisfied they're grating only get in the way.

Now the ruler of the community of Vikings whose aversion to dragons he cured, Hiccup (voice of Jay Baruchel), the lad at the center of the franchise, would like nothing better than to concentrate on his ongoing romance with his true love, Astrid (voice of



CNS PHOTO/UNIVERSAL

Animated characters Astrid, voiced by America Ferrera, and Hiccup, voiced by Jay Baruchel, appear in the movie "How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World."

America Ferrera), and on his efforts to liberate captive fire-breathers and create a harmonious utopia populated by both species.

Instead, Hiccup must battle Grimmel (voice of F. Murray Abraham), an implacable enemy to – and hunter of – dragonkind. In pursuit of an old grudge, Grimmel is intent on ensnaring Hiccup's beloved

pet, Toothless.

There's a melancholy feel to the script's ultimate lesson in altruism, a mood akin to that evoked by Peter, Paul and Mary's "Puff the Magic Dragon." Yet, like the values throughout, this message is in keeping with a Christian perspective.

That's reassuring since the overall milieu is vaguely pagan. This may

be historically justified, insofar as the silly Vikings on screen are in any way related to their rampaging real-life counterparts. And there's really nothing more to it than the occasional exclamation and a single, silent religious ceremony. Still, parents of

impressionable kids should take note.

Timid tots also are not the ideal audience for this movie since, along with the numerous scenes of intense, albeit bloodless, conflict that might prove overwhelming for them, the fate of the good guys often hangs in the balance. That said, this is a feast for the eyes, if not necessarily for the brain, that's suitable for a wide range of ages.

The film contains characters in peril, much thoroughly stylized combat, mythological references and fleeting childish scatological humor.

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.

## ALSO SHOWING

### "GRETA"

Catholic News Services

A naive waitress (Chloe Grace Moretz), still mourning the recent death of her mother, finds a lost handbag on a New York City subway train and, on returning it, discovers that its owner is a lonely French-accented widow (Isabelle Huppert). The two quickly bond, but all is not, of course, what it seems in director and co-writer Neil Jordan's

psychological thriller, which also features Maika Monroe as the server's savvy roommate.

Moretz and Huppert create sufficient dynamism to elevate the implausible proceedings into a guilty pleasure, and Jordan holds back any bloodletting until a single sequence that's all the more shocking for the restraint that has preceded it.

Gothic fun for grown-

ups. Momentary but intense gory violence, a few gruesome images, references to a lesbian relationship, about a half-dozen uses of profanity, several crude and crass terms.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R – restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.



## Plattsburgh

### Wholesale Homes

Building the North Country  
for over 45 Years!



Smart. Stylish. Functional.  
Everything you want in your New Era modular home.

**We process all VA loans**

New or Used Manufactured and Modular Homes

Located on 7109 State Route 9

Exit 39 of the Northway, across from the city beach of Plattsburgh

518-563-1100 • [www.pwmh.com](http://www.pwmh.com)

# The draw of Ash Wednesday

By Robin Caudell  
Press-Republican

**OGDENSBURG**—Ash Wednesday heralds the start of Lenten season in Christendom.

Like priests around the world, Father Bryan D. Stitt will be making the sign of the cross on his parishioners' foreheads on March 6 at Saint Mary's in Canton.

## PATTERNS OF 40

"Lent is the annual reset button that the church gives us to help us remember what is really important in life," said Stitt, who is director of worship for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

"It's a 40-day season. We see the physical image of 40 throughout the scriptures, from the flood to the years of wandering in the desert, the prophet Elijah," he explained.

"It's all about a time of testing, and most especially Jesus's 40 days in the desert as he was beginning his public ministry. He spent 40 days fasting in the desert."

Every year, Lent provides a time to focus on preparation for the season's themes of prayer, fasting and alms giving.

"These are the three themes we

always look to to help us hit the reset button," he said.

## ENTOMOLOGY

Lent is a diminutive of Lencten, a Middle English word meaning "spring season."

"It's a Germanic word (Lenz) that means to lengthen," Stitt said.

"In French, Spanish and Italian, it is based on the theme of 40. In Germanic and English, it reminds us that this time always leads to a lengthening of the days.

"So, Easter is new life. Easter is always celebrated in the springtime. Easter is the resurrection of Christ, and that is a sign of new life that will remind us with every springtime that new life comes from the darkness of winter."

The faithful fast during Lent to make space in their lives for God's blessings.

"When we're hungry, we should remember what we're really hungry for," Stitt said.

"So, if we make space in our lives, then we give room for God to come into our lives. It's like clearing a space for a helicopter to land.

"If we're holding on to things too tightly, we don't have room for God. But when we let go, that

gives us a chance to receive more."

## RECYCLED PRAYERS

Ashes — blessed, burnt palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday — are placed on the penitent's forehead in the sign of the cross.

"The ashes remind us that we are sinners, but the cross reminds us that we have a savior," Stitt said.

"It's remarkable how people will come for Ash Wednesday, and I think sometimes the regulars of the church are surprised that there are so many people there for Ash Wednesday."

Why do they care so much about getting ashes on their foreheads?

"It is a reflection that we all know that we're mortal, but I think there's this annual reminder for us that I'm a sinner, I'm mortal, I need that reminder but there's hope in the midst of it because it's in the form of a cross and there's a savior," Stitt said.

"It's not nearly as serious as Easter, but we get numbers of people who just love Ash Wednesday."

## HOLY WEEK

Ash Wednesday is followed by

the 40 days of Lent, which is marked by days of prayer, fasting and alms giving.

"That leads us to the holiest week of the year," Stitt said. "It's so holy we call it Holy Week.

"Holy Week is from Palm Sunday, when Jesus came into Jerusalem and we waved the palm branches.

"Then, Holy Thursday, when we celebrate the Last Supper with the Lord giving us the Eucharist, his body and blood."

April 19 marks Good Friday this year.

"He died for our sins on the cross," Stitt said of Jesus.

"The holiest night of the year is all coming up to the Easter vigil, which is the night between Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday, when all the people looking to enter the church are baptized or people who are baptized already are looking to be confirmed."

Stitt pastors St. Mary's in Canton, where 12 people will be entering the church that day.

"It's much later than last year," Stitt said. "Last year, Easter Sunday fell on April Fool's Day actually. The way it falls is it's always in conjunction with the Jewish celebration of Passover."

## Discern with the Bishop

Malone — It doesn't get much better than this: being able to discern and discuss the priesthood with a successor to the Apostles!

Men — high school juniors and older — are invited to join Bishop Terry R. LaValley from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 7, at Notre Dame Rectory, Malone, for a Fishers Club discernment event.

The gathering includes discernment discussion, Evening Prayer and dinner.

Please register for the event with Father Douglas J. Lucia by emailing [dlucia@rcdony.org](mailto:dlucia@rcdony.org), or with Father Howard J. Venette by emailing [pastorsmoll@stmarysti.org](mailto:pastorsmoll@stmarysti.org).

If you attend only one Fishers Club meeting this year, make it this one!



## CELEBRATING 100 DAYS

Students in Mrs. Cumming's first grade class at Trinity Catholic School in Massena celebrated the 100th day of school by making projects centered around the number 100. Here, students display their work with Father Tojo Chacko.



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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

# Lent: A perfect time to be a missionary

As the 2019 Season of Lent is upon us, we seek ways to draw closer to Jesus. It is the opportune time to share our faith stories with other parishioners in parish small faith sharing groups. Each group will listen to the word of God, learn about the Scriptures and apply the Scriptures to daily life. Faith sharing groups provide parishioners with excellent opportunities to grow in holiness, to become more welcoming and to witness to Christ more consciously in the family, the neighborhood and the workplace. Be a Lenten Missionary in sharing your faith stories so that other people may be encouraged to find God in their daily lives and experiences.

Lent calls for sacrifice. Missionaries are just that: they embody sacrifice in their everyday life. "Give it up for Lent," they say. Yes, and give it to God by way of His most needy. Goodness literally goes to the ends of the earth. Lent is a very serious season for some and with that comes very serious action by all Christians. Will you please consider a gift for the missions so that you may receive peace! Would you pardon someone's offences, that Almighty God may pardon yours! Would you offer a prayer for the needy in the missions so that they by the power of Christ's Cross, may one day be born to eternal life!

You may wish to be a Lenten Missionary in a special way in your home. Perhaps schedule family activities to promote Lent. One family suggestion is to have your family gets a map or globe of the world and place it in the room where the family eats together. At this time there are over 795 million people considered undernourished. Find the following countries where starvation and hunger are major problems: The Sudan, Zambia, Ethiopia, Central African Republic, Yemen, Chad, so when you gather for a meal and after you have thanked God for your food, look at your map or globe and pray for the poor and hungry people of a city in one of the countries; today, let us pray for the poor and hungry people in Syria or Haiti. What country will you pray for during Lent? Either one you choose, let us all pray for all missionaries and let them be able to know the love of Christ. Remember Lent and all those in the missions? God bless.

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

## OBITUARIES

**Altona** – Yvonne Marie (Beausoliel) Gardner, 91; Mass of Christian Burial in June at Holy Angels Church.

**AuSable Forks** – Jean Elizabeth (Burgess) Mousseau, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 28, 2019 at Holy Name Church.

**Bloomington** – Roy W. Nichols, 69; Mass of Christian Burial March 2, 2019 at St. Paul's Oratory.

**Canton** – Harry Barr, 68; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 23, 2019 at St. Mary's Church.

**Champlain** – Angele E. (Guay) Laurin, 80; Mass of Christian Burial March 2, 2019 at St. Mary's Church.

**Constable** – Theodora "Teddie" Jean Wright, 68; Mass of Christian Burial March 1, 2019 at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

**Keeseville** – James E. Frank, 56; Mass of Christian Burial Mary 6, 2019 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery.

**Keeseville** – Harvey S. LeCuyer, 87; Mass of Christian Burial March 4, 2019 at St. John's Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery.

**Malone** – Patricia L. Tufo Tower, 55; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 28, 2019 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

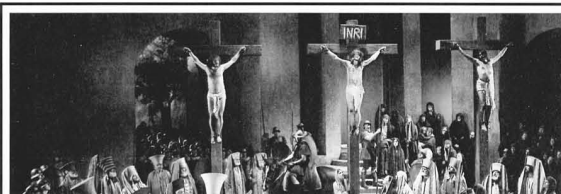
**Norfolk** – Stephen J. Clemmo, 57; Mass of Christian Burial March 4, 2019 at Church of the Visitation.

**Rouses Point** – Bonnie E. Ashley Rossi; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 27, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Ticonderoga** – Raymond R. Borho Jr., 64; Mass of Christian Burial March 2, 2019 at St. Mary's Church.

**Watertown** – Rosalie K. (Mayne) Young, 79; Mass of Christian Burial March 2, 2019 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Willsboro** – Elizabeth L. (Young) Mero, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 25, 2019 at St. Phillips Church.



### CLASSIC AUSTRIA and GERMANY PILGRIMAGE Featuring the Passion Play of Oberammergau!!

Hosted by

**FR. ANDREW J. AMYOT**

11 DAYS: SEPTEMBER 15 – 25, 2020

**\$4099 PER PERSON FROM MONTREAL**

(Air/land tour price is \$3599 plus \$500 government taxes/airline surcharges)

Visiting: Heidelberg, Rhine Valley, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Vienna, Altötting, Munich & Rothenburg!

Price Includes: Roundtrip air from Montreal, first class/select hotels, hotels & guesthouses in Oberammergau, first class (Category 1) admissions tickets for the Passion Play, most meals, comprehensive sightseeing by private motor coach with an English-speaking guide and more!!

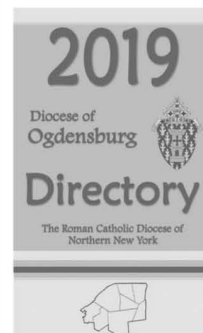
FOR A BROCHURE, PLEASE CONTACT FR. AMYOT

Tel: (315) 384-2064 / Email: fraamyot2@twcny.rr.com

**SPACE IS LIMITED - BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!**

*This is your last chance to experience the world-famous  
Passion Play of Oberammergau until 2030!!*

# Diocesan Directory



The Official 2019  
Directory of the  
Diocese of  
Ogdensburg includes  
detailed information  
about parishes,  
schools and other  
Catholic  
organizations.

ORDER YOURS TODAY!

Online at [www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org)  
for faster delivery or fill out form below



Make checks payable to  
North Country Catholic  
PO Box 106

Canajoharie, NY 13317

(Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery when mailing in form)

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ directories

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**\$15.00  
each**

## A GLOWING DAY AT SCHOOL



During Catholic Schools Week at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga, students and staff enjoyed a Glow Dance.

## Report: Children abused in federal custody

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Federal documents show that the U.S. government

has received more than 4,500 complaints over the last four years alleging that children who are under government custody because of immigration matters faced sexual abuse.

But the agency in charge of keeping track of the complaints said the "data given to Congress by our agency reflects allegations much broader than 'sexual abuse'" and could have included incidents of vulgar language.

A Feb. 26 statement from Jonathan Hayes, acting director of the federal Office of Refugee Resettle-

ment, said the numbers include complaints of sexual harassment and inappropriate sexual behavior, "a catch-all category for sexual behaviors that do not rise to the level of sexual abuse or sexual harassment." The ORR is part of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Some of it involved behaviors perpetrated among children detained, not necessarily by federal staff or those hired to care for the children, the statement said. But they do include allegations that adults charged with caring for the children abused

them sexually in some form.

Hayes said in the statement that the total number of incidents of alleged abuse by "facility-staff-on-minor," basically adults who allegedly abused minors, is small and over the four-year period the figure totaled 178 cases.

"These allegations were all fully investigated and remedial action was taken where appropriate," the statement said.

But critics said the report does not offer sufficient information, such as what happened to those who were believed to have

committed the abuses.

The children affected had entered the country illegally without a parent, or legal guardian, or had been separated from a parent by federal workers. The data tracks information received from October 2014 until July 2018 from what they call "unaccompanied alien children," or UACs.

"The safety of minors is our top concern when administering the UAC program," Hayes said in the statement.

The documents were the source of a war of words between Hayes and Florida's Democratic Congressman Ted Deutch, who said they "detail an environment of systemic sexual assaults by staff on unaccompanied children."

The Diocese of Ogdenburg  
**NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC**  
is on  
**FACEBOOK**



- Find Us
- Like Us
- Follow Us

 Like

  
**D.L. CALARCO**  
*Funeral Home, Inc.*  
135 Keyes Avenue  
Watertown • 782-4910  
Service Available

Follow Pope Francis on  
Twitter!  
[www.twitter.com/Pontifex](https://www.twitter.com/Pontifex)  
 #Pontifex