

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Parish: Campaign
'was absolutely
worth it' | PAGE 7

Mass celebrated for Na-
tive Americans'
healing | PAGE 9

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 75, Number 31

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

DEC. 16, 2020

Fund supports retired priests

The 40 retired priests of the diocese who currently receive pensions from the Priests' Retirement Fund will be direct beneficiaries of the generosity of Catholics in the North Country who contribute to their parishes in the Christmas collection. Also, 11 priests age 70 and older who remain active in their ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg are receiving partial retirement benefits.

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

In recent years, the Priests' Retirement Fund of the diocese received 75% of the Christmas Collection proceeds given to each parish.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

INSTALLED AS ACOLYTE, LECTOR



The Installation of Lectors and Acolytes took place at the Pontifical College Josephinum on Dec. 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Fourteen seminarians in the School of Theology received these ministries during Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan, bishop of Columbus and vice-chancellor of the Josephinum. Ogdensburg seminarians who received these ministries were Lukas Gruber (acolyte) and Youmarcks Jacques (lector). They are pictured with Very Reverend Steven Beseau (Josephinum rector/president) and The Most Reverend Robert Brennan. See additional photos on Page 12.

SHARING OUR STORIES



Carthage resident Kathi Buskey went from being a youth who "spiral[ed] out of control" with drugs and trouble to being a woman who considers it part of her life's mission to spread love of Eucharistic adoration and prayer for the souls in purgatory. Read her story in this week's Sharing Our Stories, Sharing Our Faith, a series featuring how lay Catholics are living out their faith in the North Country. To nominate someone for this series, call Darcy Fargo, editor, at 315-393-2920 or email dfargo@rcdony.org.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope: Nativity is reminder of hope amid suffering

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The image of baby Jesus nestled in the manger is a much-needed reminder during the pandemic that God gives the world the gift of hope in troubled times, Pope Francis said.

Meeting with delegations from Castelli in Italy's Abruzzo region and from Kocevje, Slovenia – responsible, respectively, for the Nativity scene and Christmas tree in St. Peter's

Square – the pope said that Christmas "reminds us that Jesus is our peace, our joy, our strength, our comfort."

"But, to receive these gifts of grace, we need to feel small, poor and humble like the characters of the Nativity scene. Even in this Christmas, amid the suffering of the pandemic, Jesus – small and defenseless – is the 'sign' that God gives to the world," he said

Dec. 11.

The delegations were at the Vatican for the evening ceremony to light the Vatican Christmas tree and unveil the Nativity scene. Presiding over the ceremony were Cardinal Giuseppe Bertello, president of the commission governing Vatican City State, and Bishop Fernando Vergez Alzaga, secretary general of the commission.

The Nativity scene featured several life-sized ceramic statues in a contemporary art style that "has its roots in the traditional working of Castelli's ceramics," said a statement from the commission.

The statues in St. Peter's Square are "only a few pieces" of a 54-statue collection created by students and teachers of Castelli's "F.A. Grue" Art Institute be-

tween 1965 and 1975 and included sculptural representations of the Magi and an angel placed above ceramic statues of the Holy Family.

The cylindrical ceramic statues surrounding Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus included a bagpiper, a shepherdess holding a jug and an astronaut, meant to reference the history of art and scientific achievements in the world.

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

DARCY L. FARGO

Editor &

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@northcountrycatholic.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

He's given me a parts car

"What's it like being a car twin?"

Since I wasn't sure how to answer that question, posed to me by a colleague in the newspaper industry, I reverted to an attempt at humor.

"I have built-in partner in crime, and the human equivalent of a parts car," I said.

My colleague looked confused.

"If I ever need a kidney, I'm almost guaranteed to have a match. We don't know that we're identical, but we have a strong suspicion. It's like having a parts car to repair your daily driver. I have a human parts

That colleague referred to my twin sister, Deanna, by the nickname "car parts" after that.



Darcy L. Fargo

As I mentioned in last week's edition, my twin sister and I were classified as fraternal twins when we were born. At that time, nearly 40 years ago, all twins born in separate amniotic sacs were classified as fraternal. Science has since discovered that twins born in separate sacs can be identical.

Deanna and I always assumed we were in that group. We assumed we were identical. We recently com-

pleted genetic testing. The verdict is in. We're identical.

This knowledge really hasn't changed anything for us. It's only provided us with new material to joke around with one another. For example:

"If one of us commits a crime, even if there's DNA left behind, we can create reasonable doubt."

"You would appear to be my kids' mom in a DNA test. I'm dropping them off at your house."

And now, every time one of us calls the other a "weirdo" or something similar, the response is always "I share your DNA."

Learning we're identical twins also has me reflecting

about our differences. Deanna is a morning person. I'm a night owl. Deanna gravitates toward science and math. I detest math. Deanna is a nurse and can remain calm and collected through intense situations. I get sick and/or panic at the sight or smell of bodily fluids. I could list differences all day.

While we're genetically identical, and we're similar in many ways, we're very different. It's a beautiful reminder that God has lovingly and uniquely created each of us. He's given all of us unique talents, gifts, abilities and personalities to use in His service.

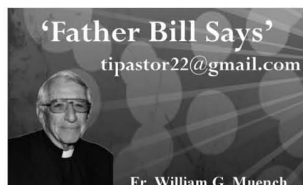
And He's given me a parts car.

The most exciting Christmas

I have decided that today's column will be my Christmas card to you for this year. So, I begin by wishing you all a happy Christmas. As I offer my Christmas greetings I hope and pray that you have remained healthy and happy during this confusing year of the coronavirus. I also hope that you have been able to deal with all the anxiety that has bothered us all.

I want to remind you of the message of Christmas: the celebration of the incarnation of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus came to live among us and to teach us. Jesus demonstrated God's great love for us by his life and sufferings, his death and resurrection.

As I send along my Christmas greetings to you, I want to promise to pray for you and your family. I will remember you all in my Christmas Masses. I consider you all a part of my family. I think of each of you each time I sit down to write this column. Thank you for your



constant support.

Each time I sit down to write Christmas cards, I think of all sort of messages that I want to include. However, what usually comes to mind for me is what has become the most exciting day of my life. My Christmas memories always include that day. I have told you this story many times.

It was about 23 years ago. Susan and Paul invited me to the birth of their second child, Will. I do remember Susan's invitation. She said that I had something important to learn. She was right. I guarantee you that it was a time that I have never forgotten. I still remember every detail from that experience.

I was in Ticonderoga when my secretary, Diane, notified

me as I came into the rectory after making some calls that something was happening in Syracuse. I called and they told me to get moving. I did get there in time.

I accompanied Susan and Paul to St. Joseph's. I do remember overhearing one of the nurses saying to the other, "My goodness, they've brought along their own priest." I did take a moment to introduce myself as the soon-to-be-born baby's uncle.

I remember doing all I could to stay out of the way, however, everything was so fascinating! I simply stood off to the side. One of the nurses stood next to me; she promised to explain it all to me. Actually, I know she was there to make certain I wasn't going to do something outrageous.

Many have asked me what prayers I said during Will's birth. I have to admit to you that I didn't say any prayers at all. I was simply so extremely impressed and absorbed by all that was

happening. I do remember offering a blessing later as I was allowed to hold the infant – a rather unique experience holding a newborn, at least for me.

I do continue to remember the spirit that filled that room as this young father supported his wife as she gave birth. It was such a spirit of love. That spirit that touched us all – doctor, nurses and this neophyte priest on the scene. I truly want to tell you it was certainly the most exciting day of my life.

After Susan and the baby were settled in a room for the night, Paul and I stopped for coffee at an all-night café. I remember the conversation. It was a moment for hopes and dreams.

So, that is my Christmas card. I wish I had a little musical talent. I would close with a Christmas song, maybe "The First Noel." I always liked that one. Each Christmas, I call to mind my Christmas story being permitted to be at Will's birth.

Fund supports retired priests

By Michael Tooley
Diocesan Fiscal Officer

The 40 retired priests of the diocese who currently receive pensions from the Priests' Retirement Fund will be direct beneficiaries of the generosity of Catholics in the North Country who contribute to their parishes in the Christmas collection. Also, 11 priests age 70 and older who remain active in their ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg are receiving partial retirement benefits.

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

In recent years, the Priests' Retirement Fund of the diocese received 75% of the Christmas Collection proceeds given to each parish. This Christmas, to help parishes deal with the financial stress they are experiencing during the COVID-19 pandemic, parishes are asked to contribute 50% of the Christmas collection to the Plan, with the parish keeping the balance. While your gift helps pay pensions to retired priests, it will also help the diocese make provisions for pensions for other priests as they retire in the future.

Actuarial studies are performed annually to assure the diocese is preparing for its future obligations to retired priests. The firm of Frank J. Walters and Associates has determined that adequate provisions are being made in 2020-21 to fund the Plan.

On July 11, 2020, an increase of \$25 in the monthly benefit paid to retired priests of the diocese became effective. It is the diocese's goal to provide a

pension increase when able to do so.

Estimated pension payments in this fiscal year amount to \$970,000. One hundred percent of the cost of health insurance for retired priests is also funded through the Plan, the budget in 2020-21 for this benefit is \$220,000.

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

The value of investments of the Priests' Retirement Fund increase over a one-year period from \$12,169,325 on June 30, 2019 to \$12,243,764 on June 30, 2020. The diocese's Investment Advisory Committee, diocesan administration, and the investment portfolio's investment managers closely monitor monies invested in support of the Plan.

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

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

Bring the message of Christmas into your home all year long.

Enter a one year subscription of the *North Country Catholic* for yourself or a member of your family to enjoy.

Name: _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Parish _____

This subscription is a gift, please send a gift card.

Name of person giving gift _____

New Subscription Renewal
 Check enclosed for \$27 Outside Diocese \$30

I want to be a Patron \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250

Clip and Mail to: North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY 13669

UNTO
US A Child
IS BORN

ISAIAH 9:6

SHARING OUR STORIES, SHARING OUR FAITH

‘It gives us hope through all life’s trials’

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

CARTHAGE—“I love my faith. I didn’t seek it out. It kind of fell in my lap,” said Kathi Buskey of Carthage.

Buskey said her parents were raised Catholic but were not practicing the faith when she was a child.

“My grandparents – all four of them – were Catholic and practiced their faith,” Buskey said. “They insisted I make my first Communion.”

Despite that initial exposure to the faith, Buskey said she became involved in two things in her youth: drugs and the new age movement.

“I made so many mistakes,” she said. “I was looking for God but didn’t know how or where. I went to college in Buffalo. There were so many ways to get into trouble. I found a lot of them. Then I moved to Albany. I sort of spiraled out of control. I kept looking for happiness, but in the wrong places. As St. Augustine said, ‘my soul is restless until it rests in thee, Lord.’”

Buskey said she was “prejudiced against the Catholic Church at a young age.”

“I was very much a feminist,” she said. “I thought abortion and birth control were ok. The Catholic Church was the last place I thought to look for answers. I thought the Church was antiquated and patriarchal. I just continued being unhappy. I met my husband. We lived together. We ended up getting married in a Unitarian Universalist Church.”

Then, the couple struggled to become pregnant.

“I was desolate,” Buskey said. “One day, I walked by a Catholic Church in Utica. Everything in my heart



The Buskey family, Rachel, David, Kathi, Alina, Zach, Sarah and Jacob.

said to go in. I looked to see when there would be a Mass. I thought, ‘I’ve tried everything else. I might as well try this.’ I sat in the last pew. During consecration, it was miraculous. I’m a very grounded, practical person, but when the priest held up the host, I knew it was Jesus with every fiber of my being.”

Buskey said she knew not to receive the Eucharist, as she wasn’t in a state of grace, but she said she desperately wanted to receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. She asked the priest to hear her confession after Mass.

“I was 26,” she said. “I hadn’t been to confession since I made my First Communion.”

Buskey’s husband, David, who had been raised Catholic but was then a practicing Mormon, soon joined her on her journey of faith.

“He’s been on this journey with me every step of the way,” she said. “When I told him, ‘this is what I think will save me,’ he said, ‘I am on board.’”

After their conversion ex-

perience, Buskey said she continued to struggle to become pregnant for five years.

“We didn’t know if we’d ever have a baby or not,” she said. “We started pursuing adoption. But, by the grace of God, we were able to have a child. Now we have five. It was our faith that got us through that time. Our faith has made us who we are and given us one of the best marriages I know. I say that with all humility. It’s a gift.”

The couple opted to homeschool their five children.

“Our kids are great,” Buskey said. “They are so joy filled and faith filled.”

Buskey’s mother has also returned to her Catholic faith.

The Buskeys, business owners in Watertown, are actively involved in more than one parish.

“Our office is in Watertown,” she said. “Prior to the pandemic, we were daily communicants of St. Anthony’s, so we became parishioners there. Father (John ‘Mickey’) Demo, Father Deepak (Baru) and Fa-

ther Herman (Pongantung)

are amazing! They’re really the cream of the crop. It’s such a beautiful parish.”

When COVID-19 hit, the Buskeys began working from home.

“We became parishioners of St. James in Carthage,” Buskey said. “Father (Donald) Robinson welcomed us with open arms. He’s been so amazing. We’re so blessed to have all those priests!”

The Buskey family regularly participates in adoration at both parishes, and they encourage others to spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

“You can go to Him any time,” she said. “He’s just sitting in the tabernacle waiting for you. I’m a big advocate for adoration. We’re so blessed to have regular adoration opportunities in our communities. I can’t encourage people enough to go and sit at the feet of Christ. If you can only go for 10 minutes, go for 10 minutes. If you can go for an hour, go for an hour. Sit at His feet and tell Him what you’re thankful for, tell Him what you

need. Listen to Him.”

Buskey said she regularly prays for vocations as part of her prayer at adoration.

“I love our priests,” she said. “And we’re so blessed to have the bishop we have. My heart aches as a mother to see the burdens they bear and the disrespect they get, and the way they’re treated because of the sins of others. Our kids are told to go out and make lots of money and do what makes you happy. It’s so counterculture what our priests are doing. They go against the culture to serve and bring us the sacraments.”

She said she’s also grateful to the religious sisters in our diocese.

“We have so many beautiful sisters,” she said. “So many of them are dear friends.”

Buskey said she also regularly prays for the souls of those in purgatory.

“So many people seem to think we go straight to heaven, and no suffering needs to be done after we leave this life,” she said. “I tell my children all the time: pray for the souls in purgatory and pray for me when I go. Pray for our loved ones. Don’t just assume they go to heaven.”

Now, four of Buskey’s five children practice their faith.

“I know the heartache mothers have when their child is not in the faith,” she said. “I tried so hard to make sure my kids understood the mistakes I made. To see one make the same mistakes is heart breaking. I have faith she’ll come back.”

And Buskey said that faith is what sustains her.

“We’re on fire and we’re passionate,” she said. “Our faith gives us peace. It gives us hope through all life’s trials and obstacles.”

GET TO KNOW CURSILLO

Small groups in Cursillo

By Susan Kocsis

North Country Cursillo

The lifeblood of the Cursillo movement, after living a retreat weekend, is the small group. It is a way to continually hold yourself accountable to the commitment one makes while living their weekend. Small groups usually meet on a weekly basis, and are made up of two to 10 members, although most seem to hover around four or five members. In a small group, each member has a chance to share their piety (what they have done to experience God's gifts), close moment with Christ, study (what Cursillo and/or Catholic literature they have been reading or ways they've been growing in knowledge of the faith), action (what the person has done to further Christ's message of making a friend, being a friend and bringing a friend to Christ). Additionally, each member has a chance to speak of apostolic successes and failures they have experienced during the week.

Some groups plan their meetings around a dinner or social event which also increases the deep friendships that the group experience offers while allowing the members to grow in their friendships. Other groups have found ways to keep distance from meetings by using the telephone or other technology. During the isolation caused by the COVID crisis, the small group has become a lifeline to many, as it is the one time each week many people get to look forward to



Learn more or get involved

To learn more about participating in a Cursillo weekend and the Cursillo movement, visit rcdony.org/cursillo, call Michael Neaton at 315-261-4150 or email ncsec2019@gmail.com.

seeing and interacting with other people. The small group also allows each person a safe place to share their Catholic faith. A group member is also assured of confidentiality with any topic that comes up in group. This has allowed many participants to work on improving their relationships with Christ, the church, and humanity in general.

Each group is made up of cursillistas who have found common ground and who are able to enjoy each other's quirks, individual personalities, successes and shortcomings without judgment. Small groups give each participant the freedom he or she needs to make decisions about participating in group each week. Within each group, members get to practice Christian fundamentals such as acceptance, forgiveness, turning the other cheek, holding each other accountable while not judging (basically everything Christ has called each of us to do). The group becomes a micro-

cosm of what was taught in religious education and what people often say they want to experience in a Church community. It is what is preached but too often not experienced in our world today. It allows each of the small group members a chance to experience the ideals of Christianity while learning to put them into practice. The end result of all of this is that little by little, we get to improve our society and world, and we learn how to help everyone recognize that each person is an unique and irreplaceable gift from our God to this world.

I belong to a small group of ladies who meet weekly by phone or zoom so that distance does not interfere with our sharing. We developed our meetings almost six months prior to the COVID crisis. When in-person meetings were put on "hold," we were ahead of the game. This group has given me a way to grow in many aspects

of my Catholic faith and allowed me to practice what I have heard at Mass each week, while growing as a leader.

Bishop's Public Schedule

Dec. 17 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

2:30 p.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting in the Spratt Conference Room followed by dinner at Bishop's Residence

Dec. 18 – 5 p.m. – Evening Prayer and Christmas Dinner with Our Seminarians at Bishop's Residence

Dec. 19 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Dec. 20 – 9 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Church in Canton

Rest in Peace

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

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

Dec. 17 – Rev. John Orrin Senecal, 1980

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

Dec. 20 – Rev. Luke Harney, 1892; Rev. Jean B. A. Barette, O.M.I., 1955

Dec. 21 – Rev. Camillus Mondorf, O.S.F., 1914; Rev. Charles A. Grady, O.S.A., 1981

Dec. 22 – Rev. Edgard Thivierge, O.M.I., 1975

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri-
anne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terri-annyanulavich@yahoo.com
Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg uses the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. There are no live trainings scheduled. If you need to complete VIRTUS training, contact Jean Grizzuto, jgrizzuto@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 x 1413, who will coordinate online training.

Environmental Stewardship

What will your Christmas be like this year?

Our Advent journey this year unfolds in the midst of uncertainties, fears, stress for many of us. It brings new meaning to the longing for Emmanuel's presence with us NOW. Even the natural world, with its gradual encroachment of darkness, tends to evoke a desire for the return of the sun's light to our world. This longing reflects an even deeper longing for the light of God's Son.

In times of darkness the Greek philosopher Desiderius Erasmus advises us to "Give light and the darkness will disappear of itself." His words seem to shift one's perspective from what is causing "darkness" to what is producing "light."

This same approach seems to appear in the daily thoughts from Advent Simplicity Challenge offered by the Ignatian Solidarity Network. *The first weeks begin with an invitation to reflect on our experience of the abundance life on the earth and then to consider its connection to simple living on the earth. The Christian challenge to live simply may initially evoke in me a negative reaction. I think about what I might have to give up, to sacrifice, to go without – in other words – I focus on the "the darkness." However, the Challenge asks us to consider – "When have we felt that we were living most abundantly?" It seems that the more I focus on the abundance of my life, measured not only in what I have materially, but what is most important to me that can never be measured by money, the more content I feel. Focusing on the "light" motivates me to live simpler, consume less and enjoy it more. I will then be more able share it and dispel the "darkness." Using only what I need will enable the earth to have enough for everyone's needs.*

"The first Christmas was pretty simple. It's Ok if yours is, too." What will your Christmas look like this year?

"The Lord will come and he will not delay. He will illumine what is hidden in the darkness and reveal himself to all nations." – Habakkuk 2:3: 1 Co. 4:5

Provide for our priests through a generous gift to your parish

Christmas Collection

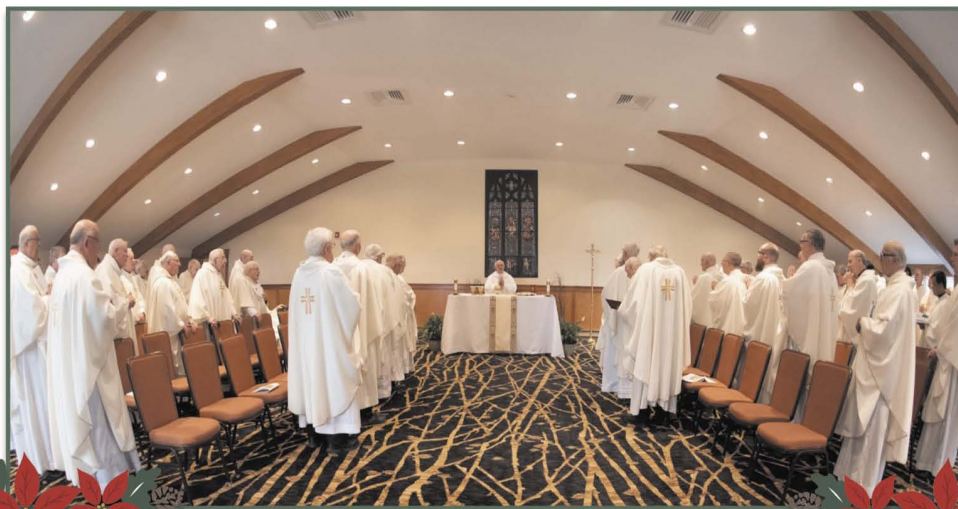


Photo taken by Tom Semeraro at the 2019 Presbyteral Assembly in Lake Placid

*A gift to the Christmas Collection in your parish helps
to support our 51 retired priests.*

Parish: Campaign 'was absolutely worth it'

By Mary Beth Bracy
Contributing Writer

WADDINGTON – “It was absolutely worth it,” said Tom Nelson, a member of the finance committee at St. Mary’s in Waddington. “A quarter of every dollar went to the diocese, and 75 cents back to the (parish) church. It gives you an incentive when you donate because you know that 75% of that is coming back to you.”

Nelson was referencing the “It’s Our Church, It’s Our Future” capital campaign, which has allowed his parish to make a number of improvements.

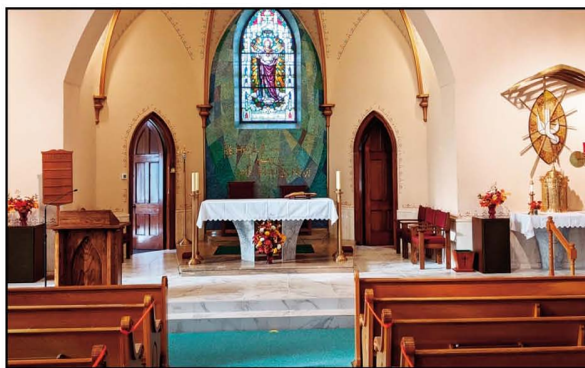
Nelson said the projects were prioritized after a committee “went through and made suggestions on what should be done. Of course, we are all pleased with the outcome.”

Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin, pastor of St. Mary’s in Waddington and St. John’s in Madrid, also spoke of how the capital campaign project helped his churches.

“We recarpeted the church, painted the outside of the church,” Msgr. Aucoin said of the project at St. Mary’s. “It’s a stone church, so we painted the window frames. We have put a ceramic tile floor in the sanctuary of the church. For Faith Formation, we installed two large-screen televisions that have access to the internet [in the parish hall], and we use them for the way we teach these days.”

Roof and window repair work on the church was also completed. The parish plans to replace the sign in front of the church as well.

Before Msgr. Aucoin arrived, now Bishop Douglas J. Lucia made renovations and redecorated the church interior



St. Mary’s in Waddington replaced carpet (top photo) with ceramic tile (bottom photo) and made other improvements using funds raised in the ‘It’s Our Church, It’s Our Future’ capital campaign.

at St. John’s in Madrid with capital campaign funds.

“The sanctuary floor was restored, the hardwood,” Msgr. Aucoin said. “The entrance way was fixed up with floor tiling. They installed a new baptismal font.”

In Madrid, the impact of the capital campaign project “was very visible and people were very appreciative of the fact that the renovations were done,” Msgr. Aucoin said. “They were very generous to the campaign, and they were very pleased about renovations,” he said.

In Waddington “the work took place during the pandemic, so it hasn’t had that much exposure yet,” Msgr. Aucoin said. “There have been pictures on

Facebook and things like that, but there really hasn’t been that much exposure. Those who have seen it, who are able to come to church, they are quite impressed with it.”

The project also includes lighting upgrades.

“We put in LED lighting and actually restored lighting, because there was some lighting that didn’t work,” Msgr. Aucoin said. “People have noticed that it’s much brighter than the church was before. There is a big difference there. They were very pleased with the work.”

The changes have improved the space, Nelson said.

“It has made quite a dif-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Capital campaign funds more than 80 projects

North Country Catholic

OGDENSBURG – Thus far, Bishop Terry R. LaValley has authorized more than 80 improvement projects around the diocese using funds raised in the “It’s Our Church, It’s Our Future” capital campaign.

Since 2018, 80 projects have been authorized in parishes. Parish projects have included improvements and renovations to church buildings and grounds, as well as renovations and construction of social gathering areas.

In addition, the sound system and organ at St. Mary’s Cathedral has been upgraded, and improvements continue to be made at Camp Guggenheim, including the replacement of windows and doors in the dorm building at the diocesan camp.

“Because of the generosity of the faithful here in the North Country in supporting the ‘It’s Our Church, It’s Our Future’ capital campaign, the diocese and many parishes around the diocese have been able to undertake projects that have improved both worship and fellowship,” said Bishop Terry R. LaValley. “This campaign, as well as the commitment of those who supported and continue to support it, help our parishes and our diocese stay vibrant well into the future. I am grateful to everyone who supported this campaign and the related improvement projects with their financial contributions, prayers and labor.”

“Thank you to all of those in our Catholic Community who have supported and continue to support this historic endeavor which started back in 2018 to help strengthen the mission of the local Church for generations to come,” added Scott LaLone, diocesan executive director of Development. “The support from the entire diocesan family has been just tremendous, especially during these trying times, and we are so very grateful for their continued support. We appreciate those with the ability to continue to honor their pledges, as our office continues to provide support to the parishes and send out pledge reminders, process gifts and run reports to track the progress of the campaign.”

Thus far, the multi-year capital campaign has received \$10.4 million in contributions. Another nearly \$4 million remains in outstanding pledges.

As part of the “It’s Our Church, It’s Our Future Capital Campaign,” 75% of all monies raised above and beyond the 2018 Bishop’s Fund Appeal goal go directly to the parishes to use towards their parish needs. The other 25% indirectly benefits every parish by supporting retired clergy, educating seminarians, improving Camp Guggenheim and supporting critical capital repairs at St. Mary’s Cathedral.



Green carpeting was replaced with ceramic tile at St. Mary's in Waddington. Much of the capital-campaign funded project was completed during the pandemic.

'Absolutely worth it'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

ference in the looks of the church," he said. "To me it's more inviting, it just seems like it's - I don't want to use the word cozier, but I can't think of another word for that. We did put new carpeting and new flooring in the entrance of the Church, on the floor near the altar, and added a new lectern. The carpeting that was in there was drab and had

been there since the 1950s."

There are still a few more upgrades are on the way, thanks to the capital campaign.

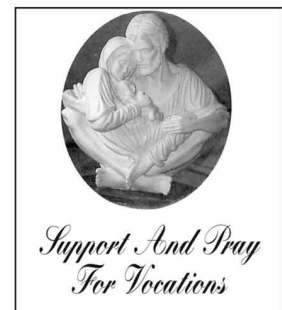
"We are also going to get for both churches, with Campaign money, new permanent hymnals/missalettes," Msgr. Aucoin said. "In other words, we are going to replace missalettes with permanent hymnals

with readings."

The Madrid/Waddington pastor said the parishes are also going to "beef up our faith formation programs in the parishes. With the campaign income we will have the money to do that."

"We are using the parish hall more now," both for social distancing and convenience, Nelson said. "It is more accessible to view DVDs and have class. The confirmation class is using one of the TVs. It makes it so much easier to learn, so that you can see what's going on and not just listen or read."

"People believe that the capital campaign was needed, and they have seen the results of what their donations have brought and so, from that point of view, it was very helpful," Msgr. Aucoin concluded. "For the church, the parishes in general, it wasn't just money that was put into the general fund. It was money that was put to good use to spruce up the parish."



For a New or Used Car

Mort Backus & Sons

On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.
315-393-5899



CHEVROLET

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

Find us on Facebook!




CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope to celebrate early Mass Dec. 24 because of curfew

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis will celebrate the Vatican's traditional Christmas "Mass during the Night" Dec. 24, but will begin the liturgy at 7:30 p.m. local time so that the few people invited to attend can get home in time to observe Italy's 10 p.m. curfew. The curfew is one of many measures the Italian government has employed in an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus. In addition to the early start time, the Vatican's COVID-19 measures are still in force: only a small congregation will be allowed inside the basilica; people's temperatures are checked as they arrive; masks are required for the congregation and servers; the seating is socially distanced. While the nighttime Mass often is referred to as "Midnight Mass," it has not been celebrated at midnight at the Vatican since 2009 when Pope Benedict XVI moved it to 10 p.m. Pope Francis moved it to 9:30 p.m. in 2013, his first Christmas as pope. The pope's Christmas blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world) will be given, as usual, at noon Christmas Day from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica.

Vice postulator of Sheen cause dies on anniversary of his death

PEORIA, ILL. (CNS) — A Mass at the tomb of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen on the 41st anniversary of his death Dec. 9 also was a first opportunity for the Diocese of Peoria to mourn the death from COVID-19 two hours earlier of the vice postulator of the famed media pioneer and author's cause for canonization. "We gather with sad news for our diocese as Msgr. Richard Soseman has gone home to God this morning," said Coadjutor Bishop Louis Tylka of Peoria at the start of the 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria. The livestreamed Mass followed a nine-day video novena for the canonization cause of Archbishop Sheen that drew participants from around the world. Msgr. Soseman, 57, had been the episcopal delegate assigned by Peoria Bishop Daniel R. Jenky to assemble Archbishop Sheen's sainthood cause and later became vice postulator. Acknowledging "our hearts are heavy" with the news of his death, Bishop Tylka said "in some ways it is providential and fitting that on the same day that Sheen went home to God, so does Msgr. Soseman."

HHS pick praised for backing ACA, criticized for abortion views

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As President-elect Joe Biden systematically announces his Cabinet nominees, one selection has already become a culture war flashpoint. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, Biden's choice to head the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has stirred the partisan fires Biden says he hopes to quell. On the one hand, the head of the Catholic Health Association praised Becerra for a career spent "fighting for underserved communities" and his efforts "to protect the welfare of immigrants and migrants." But National Right to Life and other pro-life leaders criticized Becerra "as an abortion activist plain and simple," citing NARAL Pro-Choice America's 100% rating for his record on abortion during his 25 years in Congress. If confirmed, he would be "the most pro-abortion HHS secretary ever," said Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life. Becerra also sued the Trump administration for expanding the religious exemption to the ACA's contraceptive mandate in 2017 to fully accommodate the Little Sisters of the Poor's refusal on religious grounds to cover contraceptives and abortifacients in their employee health care plan.

For Native Americans hurt by 'historical trauma'

Executive director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions celebrates Mass for healing

CLEVELAND (CNS)—The Catholic Church can offer a message of healing to Native peoples through a new and inculcated evangelization that shares the hope expressed by Jesus in the Gospel, the executive director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions said at a Mass celebrating the feast of St. Juan Diego.

By embracing such an evangelizing style, the church can help Native Americans heal from the "historical trauma" caused by practices that have demeaned their dignity and led to long-standing social challenges, Father Maurice Henry Sands said in a homily during the Mass Dec. 9 at the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington.

Canonized in 2002, St. Juan Diego is the first Indigenous saint of the Americas. First known by his Indigenous name of Cuauhtlatohuac (the eagle who speaks), he witnessed Mary's apparitions at Tepeyac Hill in Mexico in

1531. The hill is now the site of the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which houses St. Juan Diego's tilma, the mantle that bears the miraculous image of Mary.

The Mass was celebrated in collaboration with the Knights of Columbus, which in 2019 initiated a wider outreach effort to Native Americans and First Nations people in Canada.

Father Sands, a member of the Ojibway, Ottawa and Potawatomi tribes, invited Knight of Columbus councils and parishes "to implore the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe to heal our people."

"Our nations once again need to hear her message of love, hope and reconciliation," he said.

Father Sands outlined "some of the many reasons why Native Americans are very much in need of healing."

He cited government policies of "genocide, annihilation, termination, relocation, assimilation," the

effect of racism, prejudice and discrimination and the forced placement of Native American children in government boarding schools for a century beginning in the 1870s for creating the trauma that has existed for generations and caused severe challenges for Indigenous people.

Native Americans currently live in "grim circumstances" that have contributed to poverty, high unemployment, substandard housing, lack of access to health care, unstable home life, domestic violence, abuse, alcoholism and drug use, Father Sand said.

"Many Native people have little or no hope, and people who live without hope do not believe that anything can make things better, not themselves, not someone else, nor any change in their circumstances," the priest said.

Church leaders have been "commissioned" to bring the Gospel message of hope to Native Americans by "being present to others, offering them a solid Christian witness and by our acts of charity," he continued.

"Helping Native peoples to experience a living and personal faith in Christ, and inviting them to live that faith as members of the body of Christ, is the best way that we can help them receive the hope that only Christ can offer them," Father Sands said. "And it is this hope that will help them to begin to experience healing, to believe that things can get better for them and to take steps to improve their lives."

He also explained that hope has helped him, a priest of the Detroit Archdiocese, "to live the Christian life and to also strive for and achieve my personal goals and aspirations, even as I have had to deal with the historical traumas and difficult challenges and obstacles and untruths that have been part of my journey as a Native American."

Father Sands, who has worked with the Knights of Columbus on its initiative, told Catholic News Service a day before the Mass that Native communities have experienced numerous injustices as well as difficulty accessing services

that others take for granted.

"A lot of Native Americans live in very difficult circumstances and are very hurt by the injustices," he said. "They are in need of some assistance from the Lord in the way of spiritual healing."

The coronavirus pandemic has compounded the difficulties, leading to a greater need for a new evangelization, Father Sands added.

The Knights' initiative has seen local councils begin wider engagement with Catholic and other Native Americans living on reservations and tribal lands.

The fraternal organization also worked with the Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico, and the Southwest Indian Foundation to build a new shrine to St. Kateri Tekakwitha.

A shrine dedicated to the Native American saint exists in her home state of New York. The new shrine near Gallup provides a place of peace and prayer for Native American Catholics so they don't have to travel 2,000 miles, planners said.

Cardinal: Preach the promise of eternal life

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Anyone who thinks eternal life will be boring should ask a couple in love whether they want that love to endure forever, said the preacher of the papal household.

Human beings are "finite beings capable of the infinite, mortal beings with an innate yearning for immortality," said Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, offering an Advent meditation to Pope Francis, leaders of the Roman Curia and Vatican employees.

In his reflection Dec. 11,

the cardinal said Jesus' birth was the moment "eternity burst into time" and his death and resurrection opened eternity to all who believe.

Preaching about eternity is an essential aspect of evangelization, he said, because it responds to that human desire for meaning and for unending love. But also, he said, it is a reminder to Christians that the focus of their lives should be striving for holiness on earth so that they can enjoy eternal life with God in heaven.

"Imagine this situation:

A person receives an eviction notice and must move soon. Fortunately, he immediately is given the possibility of a new home," the cardinal said. "But what does he do? He spends all his money to modernize and decorate the house he must leave rather than furnishing the one he's going to. Wouldn't that be foolish?"

"All of us will be 'evicted' from this world," he said, "and we resemble that foolish man if we think only about embellishing our earthly home without being concerned for the

good works that will follow us to our new home after our deaths."

Unfortunately, the cardinal told the pope and Curia officials, too many Christians seem to be losing sight of the promise of eternal life, which diminishes their "capacity to face suffering and life's challenges with courage."

Like St. Bernard of Clair-

vaux and St. Ignatius of Loyola taught, he said, "in every situation and before every obstacle," Christians should ask themselves, "Quid hoc ad aeternitatem?" essentially, "What does this mean in the light of eternity?"



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Answering God with an unqualified 'yes'

In the first reading today, God scolds King David for trying to build Him a house of gold, when for years, God says he has been perfectly satisfied to live in a tent – the Ark of the Covenant. In today's readings, God says, "Not yet!" Through the prophet, Nathan, God tells the King that He'll let Solomon do the building of a Temple. Later, God is going to do something truly awesome. He is going to send His Son Jesus, and Jesus will choose for His Temple, a human person who is full of grace, obedience



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

and love. Mary will be God's Temple.

That promise to David that He will place His Son, Jesus, someday on David's throne is fulfilled through the fact that Mary herself is a descendant of the House of David.

God thinks of everything. God will come into the world through His Son, Jesus. He will be born in a stable, die on a cross, and only then find His permanent throne in that heaven from which He came!

The details are beautifully told in today's Gospel. God sends His

December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

READINGS

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

Angel, Gabriel, to ask Mary if it will be all right with her. After a discreet inquiry as to how all of this will come about, she simply says "Yes." Mary, queen that she is, returns a regal, simple, incredible one-word answer, "Yes." Then she adds on another sentence, "Let it be done to me according to your Word." "Fiat voluntas tua." May your will be done, God. She doesn't worry any more about the

"how," because the angel has assured her that nothing is impossible with God.

The meaning of Christmas is summed up in His name – Emmanuel – God is with us to destroy our fears and make us ambassadors of the Light. Advent has been all about waiting. And now we know what the waiting was all about – to live our lives, consoled in the midst of our frustration with the virus, with politics, as well as with our own personal failures. For God is with us. He alone makes sense of all the suffering, all the misery, helping us believe that we are in a much larger plan – waiting for Love to be

born again. If we have responded well this time, we need never fear His coming the last time. Then, all those prophecies we heard read to us in the last few weeks will be brought to fulfillment. His daily presence in our hearts call forth from us faith and hope and love. If we can only say a simple, unqualified "yes" as Mary did, life could be so much more bearable.

This Christmas will be like no other. We are bound in love to keep social distancing.

With consideration for all those around us, we may well find next year's Christmas to be much more joyful. We must pray earnestly for that.

CALLED TO SERVE

Celebrating our Christmas traditions

Christmas traditions came to mind the other day while I was dipping peanut butter balls. Perhaps I should elaborate! In our family, the process of making peanut butter balls has become one of our traditions. Ticia, our daughter, calls us the peanut butter ball team. The process involves Kathy making the batter, Ticia rolling the batter into bite sized balls and then yours truly completing this part of the project by dipping the balls into melted chocolate and spreading the completed

dipped balls on waxed paper on our dining room table to cool. Collectively we probably only eat about half a dozen. The rest, several dozen more, are part of Christmas gifts to friends and relatives. That brings the project full circle. Kathy packs the gift bags.

That is just one tradition we have. Certainly, each of you has a family tradition or six you can recall, and they make you smile.

Midnight Mass at Christmas was always a tradition in my family

when I was in grade school. As a choir member it was not just tradition, it was a given. The number of parishes that actually have Midnight Mass at these days are few. Our Cathedral, St. Mary's in Ogdensburg is one that continues the tradition.

Back in 2009, the Vatican moved the Midnight Mass to 10 p.m. (Rome time) and renamed it Mass during the Night. You may miss Midnight Mass but think of the priest. As we experience fewer vocations to the priesthood in the Northeast, many priests have to celebrate Mass a couple or more times Christmas Eve and then again

Christmas Day in their church or churches. Midnight Mass means Father leaves church around 2 a.m. and is back to church for the first Christmas Day Mass in just few hours. That's not fair.



**Deacon
Kevin Mastellon**

One tradition that still exists in most parishes is decorating the church. The church is usually decorated for Christmas from Christmas Eve to the Baptism of the Lord. Most parishes cheat the start a little and decorate earlier because it is more convenient.

At home, you, like us, have probably jumped the gun and decorated for Christmas already; the tree (or trees) is set up, decorated and lit. Perhaps

we can start a tradition, if you do not already do it, of saying a prayer to "dedicate" the lit Christmas tree to the light that is Jesus Christ. Liturgical Press provides this prayer that I found quite appropriate:

Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we illumine this tree.
May the light and cheer it gives
be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.
May all who delight in this tree
come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown. He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

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



Find us on Facebook!





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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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

Please help the missions this Christmas season

As we approach Christmas and the end of this unprecedented year, we fill our hearts and homes, and our world with hope. We hope for the children in our lives, and especially for children living in the most vulnerable communities around the globe.

Their lives are impacted more deeply by the circumstance of the past year: a child in a tattered hut in a Kenyan village; the at risk of child-trafficking in Thailand; an infant starving in Zambia.

With prayers and generosity, children are fed and clothed, receive counseling, medical care, and an education. Above all, they find listening hearts, loving care, and hope from the Good News of Jesus' birth, and from the reality of His love alive in the work of the sisters caring for them, now.

This Christmas can you consider a gift? As little as \$25 or a generous gift of \$150 provides for work in mission schools and parishes, outreach, and health centers.

Anything you are moved to send will bring such great joy and hope to a child in need half a world away. Through prayers and support, you accompany sisters throughout the missions as they bring the Good News of God's great love revealed in His Son, Jesus.

What could be a better Christmas gift?

If you are not on our mailing list for this appeal, please go to rcdony.org/mission/spof and see the DONATE button. Through paypal, our office can accept your donation online.

It has been a challenging year for everyone. Please consider helping if you can. Know that I keep you in my prayers throughout Advent and Christmas seasons. I pray for God's blessings upon you.

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

OBITUARIES

Brasher Falls – Rose M. (Anderson) Stowell, 90; Funeral Services Dec. 9, 2020 at the Hammill Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Brownville – William H. McGarry, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 9, 2020 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Brushton – Terry M. Trudeau, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 11, 2020 at St. Mary's Church

Ellenburg – John S. "Jack" Campbell, 95; Mass of Christian Burial to be held at a later date at St. Edmund's Church.

Carthage – Patricia E. (Lewis) Gagnon, 85; Funeral Services held Dec. 8, 2020 at the Bezanilla-McGraw Funeral Home; burial in Sunnyside Cemetery, Great Bend.

Chazy – Roger Giroux, 82; Mass of Christian Burial at Sacred Heart Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Dannemora – Harriett (Ackey)

Provost, 89; Mass of Christian Burial at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lowville – Ruby V. (Snyder) Cavanaugh, 98; Private Mass of Christian burial held; burial in Beaches Bridge Cemetery.

Massena – Raymond P. Chagnon, 80; Services to be held in the Spring; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Adrienne R. (LeDuc) McDermott, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 11, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Margaret E. (Schwartzkopf) Sheets, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 7, 2020 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Pine Grove Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Mary Ann Lesperance, 78; Burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Potsdam – Wesley Albert Buffham, 87; Funeral Services Dec. 8, 2020 at the

Donaldson-Seymour Funeral Home; burial in Madrid Cemetery.

Schroon Lake – Emile "Rudy" M. Valley, 89; Funeral Services Dec. 12, 2020 at the Edward Kelly Funeral Home.

Waddington – Mary J. (Condlin) Ladoceour, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 11, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Watertown – Jeffrey A. Bohling, 65; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 12, 2020 at Holy Family Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Watertown – John R. Cascanette, 90; Funeral Services Dec. 12, 2020 at Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.

Watertown – Hannah Manassa Habeeb, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 10, 2020 at St. Anthony's Church.

Watertown – Mary T. (Finley) Hager-Killeen, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 11, 2020 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

MASS FOR DECEASED CHILDREN
Canton – Mass to be held for deceased children.

Date: Dec. 28

Time: Noon

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Parents of children who have died often note missing their children more than ever during this time of year. As a Church, we must honor the lives of these children and pray for them—from those who were lost before birth, to infants and toddlers who died from illness, to teens who died tragically in accidents, to those who lived for decades but whose parents are still missing them terribly. The Church calendar points clearly to one day to pray for them: The Feast of the Holy Innocents.

Contact: Sign up for the Mass by calling the parish office or by visiting the parish website. If you or someone you know would like your child's name included in the Mass and represented with a candle, contact the office: 315-386-2543, cantoncatholics@gmail.com

LIVING A SACRAMENTAL WAY OF LIFE STARTING AT BAPTISM

A live Zoom event with Director of

the Department of Faith Formation, Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ to discuss the sacraments, beginning with baptism, touch all the stages and all the important moments of the Christian's life. Christ comes to meet using the "outward signs" of the sacraments, giving birth and increase, healing and mission to the Christian's life of faith (Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1113).

Date: Jan. 9

Time: 9:45 a.m. to Noon

Features: Inviting all Catechetical Leaders, RCIA Directors, and Youth Ministers. The cost is free.

Contact: To register go to rcdony.org/ffleadreg. A Zoom link will be sent after registration

NEWS BRIEF

Canton thrift store closed until February

Due to concern for the health of our clientele and staff, St. Mary's Thrift Shop (7 Main Street, Canton) will be closed as of Wednesday, December 9. No donations can be accepted at this time. St. Mary's Church and volunteers will work with relevant entities to reevaluate the local COVID numbers at the end of January with the hope to reopen on Monday, February 1, 2021. Please know of our prayers for a Happy, Healthy, and Holy Christmas and New Year.



Attention Snowbirds

going south for the winter!

Notify our office so you don't miss a single issue of the *North Country Catholic*! Call (315) 608-7556 with your winter address.

LIGHT CLEANING

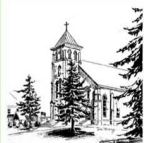


St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid has put a new twist on the old phrase "light cleaning." A large UV-C lamp is used throughout the church with a technology that sterilizes the entire space. Similar technology is used in hospital surgery suites. In addition to this light technology, each pew is hand sanitized after each Mass. For Christmas it will be necessary for parishioners of St. Agnes to make a reservation for the 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. Liturgies on Christmas eve and the 10 am. on Christmas day by calling 518-523-2200.

INSTALLED IN MINISTRIES



The Installation of Lectors and Acolytes took place at the Pontifical College Josephinum on Dec. 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Fourteen seminarians in the School of Theology received these ministries during Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan, bishop of Columbus and vice-chancellor of the Josephinum. Ogdensburg seminarians who received these ministries were (above) Youmarcks Jacques (lector) and (below) Lukas Gruber (acolyte).



ST. MARY'S CHURCH

68 Court Street
Canton, New York
www.cantontholics.com
(315) 386-2543

Holiday Schedule

Monday, December 14, Day of Mercy
Sacrament of Penance from 6am – 10pm

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve
8pm Christmas Vigil Mass
11pm Christmas Mass at Night

Friday, December 25, Christmas Day
8am Christmas Mass at Dawn
11am Christmas Mass during the day

To conform with health department contract tracing guidelines, please sign in for Mass on our website under the Liturgy tab or call the office.

Both 8 o'clock Christmas Masses will be broadcast on the parish Facebook page and afterwards on the website www.cantontholics.com.



BUYING USED SINGLE WIDE AND
DOUBLE WIDE MANUFACTURED
HOMES

CALL JERRY @
518-569-0890