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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 76 Number 31

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

DECEMBER 15, 2021

## Follow Me: The Sunday of rejoicing

*Editor's Note: This week, Bishop Terry R. LaValley offers his reflections on the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday.*

Today, the Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of rejoicing. That's why today's readings often mention the word "joy." Jesus didn't come to intimidate and oppress us; He came to save us. Salvation, friendship with God, is the fullness of living in communion with our Creator and Redeemer, of being "gathered into the barns" of His eternal Kingdom. This is the message of Christmas, the joyful expectation and hope of the Advent Season.

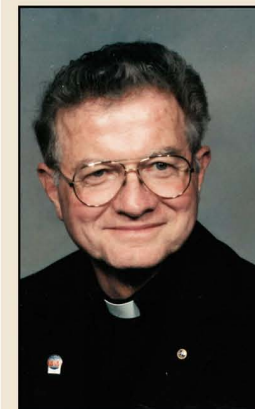
FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## FAITH ON PARADE



Knights of Columbus Council 255 in Plattsburgh participated in the city's Holiday Parade and tree lighting on Dec. 3 with a float honoring the real purpose of the season.

## REMEMBERING FATHER LAMITIE



Father Robert O. Lamitie passed into eternal rest on Dec. 7 in Florida, where he had been residing for several years. He was 90 years old. Father Lamitie is remembered for his love of the Adirondacks and work to promote Camp Guggenheim.

FULL STORY, PAGES 4 & 6

## Pope: Christmas is time for sharing, not consumerism

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Christmas tree and Nativity crèche should evoke the joy and the peace of God's love and not the selfish indulgence of consumerism and indifference, Pope Francis said.

Meeting Dec. 10 with delegations from Andalo in Italy's Trentino-South Tyrol region and from Peru's Huancavelica region—responsible, respectively, for the Christmas tree and the Nativity scene in St. Peter's Square—the pope said the traditional

Christmas symbols bring an atmosphere that is "rich in tenderness, sharing and family closeness."

"Let us not live a fake, commercial Christmas! Let us allow ourselves to be enveloped by God's closeness, by the Christmas atmosphere that art, music, songs and traditions bring to our heart," he said.

The delegations were at the Vatican for the evening ceremony to light the Vatican Christmas tree and unveil the Nativity scene. However, the Vati-

can announced earlier that due to less-than-favorable weather predictions for the evening, the traditional outdoor ceremony would be held inside the Paul VI hall.

In the evening, despite the rain and cold temperatures, dozens gathered in St. Peter's Square to witness the lighting of the Christmas tree. In the audience hall, the sounds of festive holiday music in Quechua played as videos of a children's choir from Huancavelica were shown

to commemorate the Andean-inspired crèche.

Archbishop Fernando Vérgez Alzaga, president of the commission governing Vatican City State, also welcomed the delegations from northern Italy and Peru and said their contribution was a symbol that "Europe and America are united in paying homage to the King of Kings."

The Nativity scene in St. Peter's Square featured 30 statues depicting Mary, Joseph, the Three Kings, shepherds and various

flora and fauna from Huancavelica. The figures were dressed in the traditional bright, multicolored garments of the region's indigenous Chopcca people.

Next to the Andean Nativity scene stood a 90-foot-tall Christmas tree. The spruce tree came from a sustainably managed forest in the Dolomite mountains in northern Italy's Trentino-South Tyrol region. The round wooden ornaments were also from Trentino.

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# 'New Jesus Bobbleheads'

Between spam, marketing, personal correspondence and work, it's not uncommon for me to receive hundreds of emails per day. This email was different, though. It was the kind of subject line that stopped me in my tracks:

"Heads up – Four New Jesus Bobbleheads."

I normally don't open marketing emails, but this one got me. I had to learn more about the Jesus bobbleheads.

As the subject line indicated, there are four ver-

sions – full size, mantle, ornament and miniature. They're made by the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame (who knew that was a thing?).



**Darcy L.  
Fargo**

Oxford Languages defines a bobblehead as "a figurine with a disproportionately large head mounted on a spring so that it bobs up and down, often made as a caricature of a famous person."

While these bobbleheads don't seem to have extremely large heads, they do seem to have the spring-loaded nod.

After reading the promotional email, I immediately thought, "why would anyone want a bobblehead Jesus?"

Then, it hit me: I have a habit of turning Jesus into a bobblehead of sorts.

When I'm facing a major decision, I generally know what I want to do or what I think is the correct course of action. It's easy for me to think, "I feel strongly that I want to do X, so it must be what the Lord is calling me to do."

It's like I tap my Jesus bobblehead and get him to nod in the affirmative.

But that's not who Jesus is, and it's not how we're called to follow him.

Ensuring we're following the Lord's will in our lives takes more than following our whims and desires. It takes prayer and discernment.

Discernment isn't always easy. I often struggle to determine what is my will and what is God's will. For me, when I don't feel certainty or clarity after extensive prayer, I often find it helpful to share my uncertainty with others who are walking this faith journey with me, trusted spiritual advisors and friends. Then I pray about it some more.

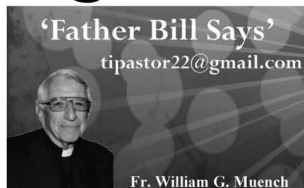
And I try very hard not to turn Jesus into a bobblehead.

## Learning about life and family

During the time of Advent, I think a great deal of St. John the Baptist. John prepared the world for the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. This part of the story fits in so well to the Christmas time. At the first Christmas, John the Baptist was only a few months old. He was Jesus' cousin. He was born just a few months before Jesus.

Many of you know well the thrill and joy of holding a newborn. I have had that experience, but you know that. I bring it up every Christmas. My nephew, Paul, and his wife, Susan, invited me to accompany them to the birth of their second child. It truly was one of the most exciting days of my life. Truly! When Susan invited, I remember her saying to me, "You have something to learn" and experience.

That day began with a long drive. I was at home in Ticonderoga. My secretary told me as I returned from a parish visit that something was beginning to happen in



**Fr. William G. Muench**

Syracuse. I took right off. I wasn't going to miss this. I got there in plenty of time.

For various reasons, I was the only one that was accompany them. So, off we went to St. Joe's Hospital. I want you to know I was rather impressed with the room and all that was to happen that evening. As Susan and Paul checked in, I noticed the nurses chatting, and I overheard one saying, "My goodness they brought their own priest." I did make certain to notify them that I was family.

After they were settled, Susan decided to go for a walk. I was to notice that the mother was always in charge. After a while, Susan said it was time. The doctor and nurses got everything organized. I have been

asked if I started praying. I must admit I did not. I was simply too absorbed with all that was happening. I do remember one of the nurses moving close to me. She said she would describe all to me. I really think she was worried that I would do something outrageous.

I learned so much that day. I must admit that I truly did realize exactly about the "pain of birth." Watching Susan, I realized that birth was a time of pain, such pain that a mother accepts in love as she gives birth. I must admit that I quickly realized that my own mother had loved me so much to accept such pain to bring me into the world. I want you to know that since then, I pray often to and for my mother in gratitude for all she accepted the day I was born.

I was allowed to hold this newborn baby, my new great nephew, soon after his birth. I did pray in that moment – attempting to find the words in my own heart and mind to properly wel-

come him into our family. It was a special moment for me.

Now I must tell you all this was 22 year ago. I still remember each and every thing that happened that evening. It seems like yesterday. I have told this story rather often since – like 42,000 times over the years. It was an exciting day for me.

I remember well the love that filled that room and that whole evening as I joined this young couple – a wife with her husband standing near supporting her – as they brought this new child into their family. I remember Paul and I stopped on the way home for a cup of coffee after they got Susan and the baby settled. Did I tell you they named him Will? Paul and I had so much to talk about. I still had many questions. Paul was filled with hopes and dreams. It was quite a night! I had learned so much about life and all that family means.



## FOLLOW ME

# The Sunday of rejoicing

I was never much of an athlete. So, when I was in high school, my extra-curricular activities included public speaking. My junior year, I participated in a local public speaking contest and I remember one Friday afternoon giving my speech on the center stage in the auditorium at a school assembly. I think there were five other contestants.

I had chosen Jonathan Edwards' sermon: "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" for my speech. I remember when I got to the point in the sermon when I said: "God holds you over the pit of hell as he holds a spider dangling over fire," I heard a portion of the student body snickering. At the end, they gave me a neat ovation. But, it was too late. I was so embarrassed and hurt. Afterward, my coach explained to me that they laughed because my delivery of the hellfire and brimstone sermon was so out of character to my rather happy-go-lucky personality. I guess there was a disconnect between what I was saying and my own normal behavior. Well, I won the competition. I suppose that helped to heal my bruised ego a bit. But, as you can see, I haven't forgotten the event.

As happens often during Advent, St. John the Baptist takes center stage. In paintings and movies, he is often depicted as an ill-tempered, fire and brimstone preacher who scared people into repentance. There's something wrong with that picture. Now, I'm no John the Baptist, but it seems he had the same issue of people misreading the man as I had that Friday afternoon long ago.

First, such a judgment

fails to explain how he was able to attract such huge crowds and win over so many hearts. You see, people don't come if you're always yelling and screaming, putting them down. And second, it misses the main point of his message: Salvation is at hand! That message is just the opposite of dark, threatening, and foreboding words. In fact, when we, more and more, come to understand and accept the Good News, it is the source of a deeper joy than any other we can experience in this life. Luke ended today's Gospel reading by telling us that the Baptist "preached good news to the people."

And that's the whole point of today's celebration. Today, the Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of rejoicing. That's why today's readings often mention the word "joy." Jesus didn't come to intimidate and oppress us; He came to save us. Salvation, friendship with God, is the fullness of living in communion with our Creator and Redeemer, of being "gathered into the barns" of His eternal Kingdom. This is the message of Christmas, the joyful expectation and hope of the Advent Season.

In today's Second Reading, St. Paul actually commands us to "rejoice in the Lord always." And, just in case we thought he was exaggerating, in the very next sentence Paul says, "I shall say it again, rejoice!" We can only rejoice "always" if our joy is based on something that goes deeper than the passing pleasures of this world.

What is that deeper thing? Salvation; an intimate relationship with God; something that never ends, and something no one can take away from us.

The joy of Christ our Savior is different from the joys of the world in three ways. First, it doesn't wear out. This is because it comes from something that is dynamic, alive: our relationship with Christ. Might this not be a good way of looking at why the Christmas tree is an evergreen tree. In winter, the other trees are leaf-

less and dormant. Not so, the ever-green and fragrant fir tree. (Now, I'm not talking about an artificial tree!) But, the evergreen can symbolize hope amid winter's lifeless, cold and dark days.

Second, Christ's joy gets more and more intense as we advance in our journey of faith. Another way to symbolize this is by the third candle on the Advent wreath that we light today, the rose-colored one. It reminds us of the color of the sky at the very brink of morning when the

sun is just beginning to come up. The horizon takes on a pale rose color that gradually gets redder and brighter as the sun rises. For the faith-filled, Catholic Christian, life is like a long sunrise, and death is the entrance into the bright, everlasting day of eternal life.

Third, the more we give this joy to others, the more we will have for ourselves. And this, of course, is symbolized in the tradition of exchanging gifts on Christmas. Jesus Himself told us that "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). We have all experienced that when we do something for others. Even if it is costly or uncomfortable for us, we experience true fulfillment and satisfaction. But, when we give into our selfish, self-centered tendencies, we shrivel up, like Scrooge. It's like what happens at the Easter Vigil when we light our candles and then light someone else's. In the process we lose nothing and gain more light and warmth than we had before. This is the joy Jesus wants to bring to us: a lasting, growing, self-multiplying joy that comes from ac-

cepting God's gift of our Savior.

Pope Benedict XVI once preached: "If we let Christ enter fully into our lives, if we open ourselves totally to Him, are we not afraid that He might take something away from us? Are we not perhaps sometimes afraid to give up something significant to us? Do we not then risk ending up diminished? The Pope emeritus said: No! If we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great.

No! Only in this friendship are the doors of life opened wide. Only in this friendship is the great potential of human existence truly made known. Only in this friendship do we experience beauty, true happiness and joy. And so, today, with great strength and great conviction, I say to you...Do not be afraid of Christ. He takes nothing away, and He gives you everything. When we give ourselves to Him, we receive a hundredfold in return. So, open wide your hearts to Christ and rejoice, I shall say it again, REJOICE! Happy Gaudete Sunday!



Bishop  
Terry R.  
LaValley

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# Remembering Father Robert O. Lamitie

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

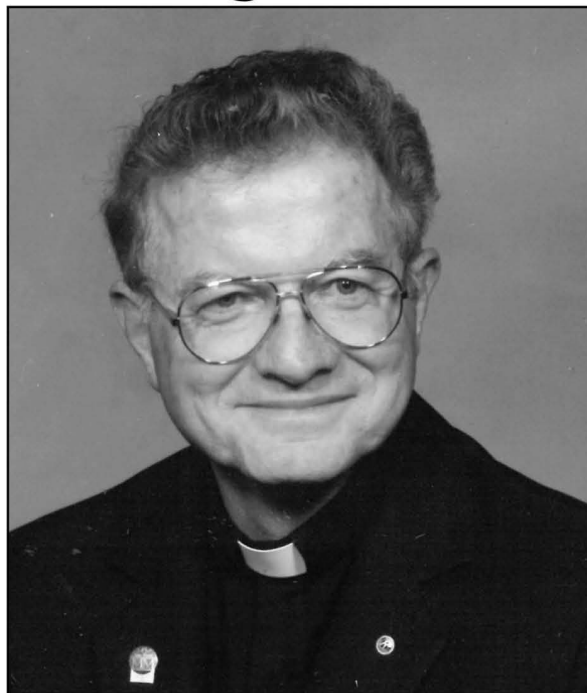
While he'll be remembered as a beloved pastor to many, Father Robert O. Lamitie will likely be most remembered for his love of the Adirondacks and the Catholic camp that opened in that part of the world he cherished so much.

"He loved the Adirondacks a lot," said Father Donald A. Robinson, a friend of Father Lamitie's. "He had a home in the Adirondacks. He loved taking people on boat rides on the Upper Saranac Lake. He loved the mountains, the lakes—all of it."

Father Lamitie died Dec. 7 at Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital in Vero Beach, Florida, where he had been residing for the last several years. He was 90 years old.

Father Robinson noted that Father Lamitie was one of the individuals who drove the efforts to create the diocesan camp, Camp Guggenheim, in Saranac Lake.

"He was instrumental, along with (Father) Art



Father Robert O. Lamitie

LaBaff, in getting camp off the ground and promoting it as a youth camp and retreat center," Father Robinson said. "He oversaw camp for many years, especially when he was pastor at St. John's in Lake Clear for many years."

In his role at the camp,

Father Lamitie helped form a number of seminarians who now are priests of the diocese.

"A lot of seminarians who worked under (Father Lamitie) went on to ordination, including Father Pat Ratigan," Father Robinson said.

Camp Guggenheim wasn't the only camp where Father Lamitie served.

"When he was in Lake Clear, I think he started the Masses at Fish Creek (campsite)," Father Robinson said.

In addition to his work at Guggenheim and in Lake Clear, Father Lamitie served as a parochial assistant at Saint Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor, Saint Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, Notre Dame Church in Malone, Saint John's Church in Plattsburgh and Saint Anthony's Church in Watertown early in his priesthood.

Later, he served as pastor at St. Anthony's, St. Brendan's in Keene, St. Patrick's in Brasher Falls and at St. Agnes in Lake Placid. He served as administrator of St. Bartholomew's in Old Forge, St. Patrick's in Port Henry and All Saints in Mineville.

He also served as pro-synolda judge of the Diocesan Tribunal for five years; camp director of Camp Guggenheim for eight years; and as prison Chaplain at Bare Hill Cor-

rectional, Adirondack Correctional and Federal Correctional Institute.

"He was missed greatly at the prisons when he retired," said Father Robinson.

Though he was well known for his ministries, Father Robinson said he'll remember Father Lamitie's personality fondly.

"He was very outgoing, very effervescent," he said. "He loved to entertain. He loved to be around people. He was a great cook and a great baker. He was a good guy."

In addition to his parents, Oliver and Marie (Florida-Hamlin) Lamitie, Father Lamitie was predeceased by his brother, Father James Lamitie, who also served as a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on Dec. 14. Priests of the diocese concelebrated. Father Lamitie will be laid to rest in St. John in the Wilderness Cemetery in Lake Clear.

A complete obituary can be found on page 6.



## AT THE INSTALLATION

Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated Mass installing Father Michael J. Jablonski as pastor of St. Joseph's in Dannemora and Church of the Assumption in Redford on Nov. 20. Serving as color guard for the Mass were Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Knights Michael Williford, Donald Recore, Kevin Goddeau, Harry Durgan, Marvin Brown and James Moesch. Also in attendance at the installation Mass were Knights of Columbus members Chat St. Denis and Steve Geddes.





For 50 years, Knights of Columbus Father John Cosmic Council #291 of Carthage has been placing billboards promoting the message of Christmas for 50 years. This billboard is located on Interstate 81 between exits 44 and 45.

## Carthage Knights create signs of the season

By Catherine Bracy  
Contributing Writer

CARTHAGE—“Keep Christ in Christmas.”

This is the message that the Knights of Columbus Father John Cosmic Council #291 of Carthage has been promoting for over 50 years.

How has this message been promoted? By billboard.

The tradition started approximately 50 years ago when past Grand Knight Joseph Shambo received a postcard from what is now the Lamar Advertising Company, requesting ideas for depicting the Christmas season. Shambo proposed the idea to the Knights' Council, and thus began the process of sponsoring the billboard(s) during the month of December.

The Knights currently rent two billboards each year. They purchase the posters from a design company called Christ is Christmas, LLC. The posters and billboard spaces are paid for via a 50/50 raffle and donations.

This project is currently overseen by Steve Szalach, the Council Treasurer. According to Szalach, the two board spaces are rented by Lamar “at a very generous reduced rate.”

The billboards are located near Carthage and Watertown. One is on NYS Route 3 driving east between Herrings and Carthage, the other seen driving south on I-81 between Exits 44 and 45. The billboard on I-81 is illuminated.

Though the setup typi-

cally begins each December, Szalach points out that the billboard will be set up ahead of time “if the space has not been rented” in November.

Who is the target of this message promoted for such a long time, one may ask?

“Everybody” is Szalach’s answer. “We want everybody to stop and think [of] what Christmas is really about... Things would be so much better in the world if we all would put Christ first in our lives and treat each other as Jesus would. Remembering Him on his birthday is a good start.”

The Knights would like to thank all those who have supported the campaign over the years, especially the parishioners of St. James Church in Carthage.

## NEW TO THE CONFRATERNITY



On October at the 4 p. m. Mass held at St John the Baptist Church in Keeseville, two new members, Kim Devins and Pat Underwood, were inducted into the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary by Father Kris C. Lauzon, pastor.

## On our knees prayer campaign

From October 22 to June 22, all are asked to pray for the protection of life in our nation.

On January 22, 1973, the Roe v Wade Supreme Court decision began the era of abortion on demand in the USA.

### Facts of the case:

- 2018: Mississippi passed a law protecting unborn children after 15 weeks of gestation, when the baby has a heartbeat, eyes that open, ears that hear, and can move and kick. The law was challenged and the case, known as Dobbs v Jackson Women’s Health Organization, is being heard by the Supreme Court.

- Dobbs v Jackson is a landmark case that could potentially overturn the decision of Roe v Wade. The possibility for future laws protecting the unborn hangs in the balance.

- December 1, 2021 oral arguments for the case will be heard. A decision is expected in June 2022.

For more information, visit [www.prayfordobbs.com](http://www.prayfordobbs.com) or contact the Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Contact information can be found at [rcdony.org/pro-life.html](http://rcdony.org/pro-life.html)

## Environmental Stewardship

## What about Joseph?

During Advent season is a beautiful time of the year to focus our attention on Mary, the Mother of God. But we don't seem to hear much about Joseph who also must have wrestled with what God was asking of him. . . . What was it like for Joseph when he was called in a dream to become the foster father of the Son of God?

Last week when we celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, it concluded the special year dedicated to St. Joseph by Pope Francis. During this past year, we have been invited to ponder Joseph's role in the holy family's life and what lessons we may glean from his life.

There is a poster that hangs on the wall in the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse that says:

Not much is known of Joseph. He was husband, father, provider . . . every day, and he had dreams. What more can be said?

Perhaps nothing more needs to be said. But there is much to be pondered, learned and put into practice in our own lives. He shared with Mary in the mysterious unfolding of God's plan for them and for the world. Like Joseph we struggle each day to hear the Voice of God in the midst of the ordinary happenings of the day and discern how to put these inspirations into action.

Where is Joseph in your life? Is he for you like the woman when asked about Joseph responded, "Oh, he is in the background of the Nativity scene, and I don't think much about him 'til next Christmas." Granted he is the silent one often in the background of the stories of Jesus' and Mary's lives. But could he be a valuable guide and companion during these unsettled and turbulent times? As a provider for his family, what would he have chosen as essentials for their flight into Egypt, for their simple life in Nazareth? What can we learn about what is important in life? Why not invite Joseph to accompany us, as we prepare our hearts and homes to celebrate Christ's birth?

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Dec. 15** – 3 p.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting in the Spratt Conference Room followed by dinner at Bishop's Residence

**Dec. 16** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Dec. 17** – 4:30 p.m. – St. Lawrence Deanery Clergy Penance Service followed by dinner at Martin Field's Clubhouse (former Knights of Columbus)

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

**Dec. 19** – 9:30 a.m. – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

**Dec. 20** – 5 p.m. – Evening Prayer and Christmas Dinner with Seminarians and their parents at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

**Dec. 21** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Dec. 22** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

## Rest in Peace

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

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

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

**Dec. 17** – Rev. John Orrin Senecal, 1980

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

**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

## 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.

# Funeral Mass celebrated Dec. 14 for Father Lamitie

Reverend Robert O. Lamitie, age 90, passed peacefully into new life on December 7, 2021, at Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital in Vero Beach, Florida. Kit, his faithful friend of many years, was at his side.

On Monday, December 13 at 3p.m. Reverend John Yonkovig presided over the reception of the Body at Saint Agnes Church in Lake Placid.

Calling continued until 6p.m. Evening Prayer then resumed the following morning.

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, celebrated a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, December 14 with the priests of the diocese concelebrating. Reverend Donald A. Robinson offered the homily.

Father Lamitie will be laid to rest at Saint John in the Wilderness Cemetery in Lake Clear.

Robert Lamitie was born in Albany on Sep-

tember 11, 1931, the son of Oliver and Marie (Florida-Hamlin) Lamitie.

After graduating from Saint Joseph Academy in Schenectady, he attended college at Siena College in Loudonville. He entered seminary at Saint Mary's Seminary in Baltimore in 1951. After graduating in 1953, he continued at Saint Mary's Seminary for theological studies until 1957.

Most Reverend Walter P. Kellenberg ordained Father Lamitie on May 18, 1957, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

After ordination, Father Lamitie served as parochial assistant at Saint Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor, Saint Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, Notre Dame Church in Malone, Saint John's Church in Plattsburgh and Saint Anthony's Church in Watertown.

Father Lamitie stayed on at Saint Anthony's Church to serve as pastor from 1963 to 1969. He then served as pastor of Saint Brendan's Church in Keene for two years and then eight years at Saint John in the Wilderness. He loved the Adirondacks and was a great supporter in the formation and early years of Camp Guggenheim and served as Camp Director for eight years. During this time, he was

appointed to a five-year term as Pro-Synodal Judge of the Diocesan Tribunal.

In 1979, Father Lamitie was named pastor of Saint Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls. He was named pastor of Saint Agnes Church in Lake Placid in 1985. After a short time as administrator of Saint Bartholomew's Church in Old Forge in 1988, he served as chaplain at Bare Hill Correctional Facility for eleven years followed by two years at Adirondack Correctional Facility.

Father Lamitie retired in 2001 but remained active serving as chaplain at the Federal Correctional Institute, Ray Brook until 2006 and as temporary administrator of Saint Patrick's Church in Port Henry and the Church of All Saints in Mineville. He spent his later years in Florida with the support of his friend, Kit, and companionship of Carley, his dog that managed to make a hospital visit prior to his death.

Father Lamitie was predeceased by his parents and his brother, Reverend James Lamitie, who also served as a faithful priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Arrangements are in the care of the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home, Saranac Lake

## 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-  
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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 Serv-  
ice** at 800-276-1562 or  
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# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Mass marks end of phase of inquiry for Day's sainthood cause

NEW YORK (CNS) — More than 1,500 people filled St. Patrick's Cathedral Dec. 8 to witness the formal end of the diocesan phase of the sainthood cause for Dorothy Day. Following official protocol established by the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York stamped a hot wax seal onto red ribbon binding the final box of documents collected during the 23-year process. Cardinal Dolan closed the diocesan inquiry with a decree. He and other officials of the inquiry took an oath attesting to its integrity and promised to safeguard the confidential testimony of those they interviewed in the process. In response, the congregation offered cheers and a standing ovation. Dorothy Day was born in Brooklyn in 1897. She worked as a journalist for several Socialist newspapers and was an activist deeply interested in the plight of farmers and workers. She was received into the Catholic Church in 1927.

## Organization calls attention to number of 'missing' migrants

WASHINGTON (CNS) — On paper, some call them "missing," but many families of the migrants know it's likely that they're dead. Now, the International Organization for Migration, through the Missing Migrants Project, is hoping to shed some light on the plight of families looking for their loved ones as well as the magnitude of migrant deaths. Since 2014, the project has recorded 45,427 missing migrants, just a fraction of "incidents in which migrants, including refugees and asylum-seekers, have died at state borders or in the process of migrating to an international destination." "Behind every death is a family — mother, father, brother — searching for answers ... they suffer a profound agony over their dead loved ones who are missing," Rudi Maxwald, senior regional liaison and policy officer with the International Organization for Migration, said in a Dec. 7 webinar that focused on deaths and disappearances on migratory routes in Central and North America. "Many of them will never have the certainty of what happened to them, nor will they receive their remains. These are unimaginable human tragedies that will affect thousands of families of migrants the rest of their lives," he said.

## Court examines death-row claims of ineffective counsel

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court's last case of the year Dec. 9 looked at when death-row inmates can raise claims that they were given ineffective counsel. The justices examined combined cases of Arizona death-row inmates who want to submit new evidence in federal court hearings about ineffective counsel they say received. Arizona wants to block submission of new evidence based on interpretation of a federal law. Although inmates can challenge their sentences under the Constitution, the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 says they can only use evidence previously produced in state court proceedings. The justices, who heard the cases of inmates David Ramirez and Barry Jones, have to determine if the Supreme Court's 2012 decision in *Martinez v. Ryan* applies to them. This ruling gave an opening for inmates to show evidence found after the state court record proceedings. The two men were convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Ramirez was convicted on two counts of first-degree murder for the 1989 stabbing deaths of his girlfriend and her 15-year-old daughter. Jones was convicted of murder, sexual assault and child abuse in the 1994 for the death of his girlfriend's 4-year-old daughter. In rulings last year, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered new hearings for both men, citing the Supreme Court's *Martinez* decision.

# Doctors: Advances since Roe confirm life of unborn

At 15 weeks' gestation, a fetus responds to touch. The neurotransmitters and nerves needed to process and transmit pain signals have formed, and most of the spinal cord has hardened into bone.

As early as 21 weeks, the fetus can survive outside the womb.

None of these realities were known in 1971, when a case came before the Supreme Court that would ultimately give a mother the right to abort her unborn child.

During the past 50 years, advances regarding the biological genesis of humans have disproven the basis on which the court, in *Roe v. Wade*, presumed a lack of justifiability of a ban on abortions — except to save the life of the mother — that was in place in the defendant's home state of Texas.

The court's 1973 decision legalizing abortion nationwide rested on the use of the word "person" in the 14th Amendment, which protects the mother's privacy.

Notably, there was great disagreement over when an unborn child becomes a living being whose rights compete with those of the mother.

Since then, techniques in research tools and prenatal surgery, advancements in viability and the proliferation of support options for mothers with unexpected pregnancies have conspired to erode many of the arguments offered then and now for the right to terminate life in the womb.

The many layers to comprehending the humanity of an early gestation fetus begins with the "absolutely critical" advancements in science over the last five

decades, according to Dr. Tara Sander Lee, senior fellow and director of life sciences for the Charlotte Lozier Institute, an organization that brings the power of science, medicine and research to bear in pro-life policies and public awareness.

Fifty years ago, expectant parents could barely see their unborn child in the womb because ultrasound technology was fairly new and rudimentary, Sander Lee explained.

Now, ultrasound technology gives physicians better and faster diagnostics and new tools that can not only detect, but when appropriate, even treat malformations of the unborn.

"So, there's this whole development of what we call the perinatal revolution, where you can actually perform surgery on the unborn while still in the womb," she told Catholic News Service.

While the original ultrasound images were static and black and white, 3D, 4D and real-time images are the norm today.

"We can see in real time the baby move, and with absolute clarity," said Sander Lee. As early as 15 weeks, even whether the fetus is favoring their right or left hand can be observed.

Dr. Kathleen Raviele, past president of the Catholic Medical Association and an OB-GYN, added that mothers and their physicians can see the fetal heartbeat by six weeks, observe the movements of the baby, assess the anatomy and determine his or her sex far earlier than could be done just two generations ago could do.

"So those involved in abortion cannot say this is a 'blob of tissue' — they

know this is a baby, and that abortion takes the life of an unborn child," she said.

If an early ultrasound or test determines the presence of a malformation in the fetus, the most severe ones — including spina bifida and twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome, which can result in the death of both babies — has been done as early as 15 weeks in these pregnancies. In the latter situation, it proven to be a lifesaving procedure for one, if not both babies.

"This ability to be able to better visualize inside the womb has really allowed us to be able to then treat some of these conditions early on. And even for those that are untreatable, we can give the parents and physicians time to plan for a meaningful and rich life," said Sander Lee.

In terms of viability, it was known at the time of *Roe v. Wade* that it was only possible to save premature babies born between 24 and 28 weeks: That clock has been moved up as well.

"We know now that we can save babies routinely at 22 weeks, and sometimes even younger as early as 21 weeks," said Sander Lee. "That means about just 19 weeks after fertilization." The world's most premature baby, born last year at just 21 weeks, celebrated his first birthday this summer.

The Catholic Medical Association argues that the 24- to 28-week criterion for viability is unworkable, demonstrating the flaws in predicting viability, especially if the person responsible for such a prediction is the abortion provider, whose interest is not in protecting life.

## VIRTUAL EVENTS

## ONLINE AUCTION

Saranac Lake – The elves at St. Bernard's School have been busy gathering items for this winter fundraiser. This online auction will allow family, friends, and neighbors to complete some of their Christmas shopping while supporting St. Bernard's School.

**Date:** Dec. 9th to 19th

**Features:** Check out the Online Auction by visiting: <https://www.32auctions.com/UnderTheTree>

## ADIRONDACK

FIRST FRIDAY  
PRAISE & WORSHIP

Lake Placid – Monthly praise and worship to be held.

**Date:** First Friday of the month

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** St. Agnes Church

**Features:** Music led by Joey and MC Izzo. Time for fellowship and snacks afterwards. Will be livestreamed as well on St. Agnes Facebook page.

## CLINTON

## BRUNCH

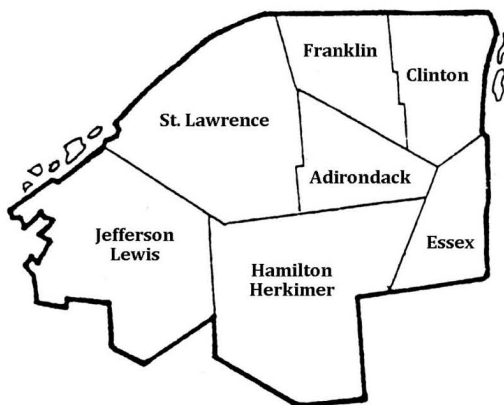
Lyon Mountain – Lyon Mountain American Legion to have brunch.

**Dates:** Dec. 19; Jan. 9 and 23

**Time:** 9 to Noon

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children under 12, \$7

**Menu:** Scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, pancakes, garlic parmesan wings, breaded mushrooms, homefries.



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese!"

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;  
e-mail [news@northcountrycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org).

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

## ESSEX

## LATIN MASS

Port Henry – Extraordinary Form Latin Mass to be held each Sunday.

**Schedule:** 1 p.m. on Sundays

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

**Features:** The traditional Latin Mass celebrated according to the 1962 Missal of St. John the XXIII.

## LATIN CHRISTMAS MASS

Port Henry – Extraordinary Form Latin Mass to be held Christmas Day.

**Time:** 11 a.m.

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

**Features:** The traditional Latin Mass celebrated according to the 1962 Missal of St. John the XXIII.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## DAY OF MERCY

Canton – There will be a Day of Mercy with confessions heard all day.

**Date:** Dec. 13

**Time:** 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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

**Features:** Mass will be said at 7:30 a.m.

## ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Massena – Sacred Heart Church to

have an Advent Penance Service.

**Date:** Dec. 15

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

**Features:** Several priests will be available for the sacrament of penance.

## PRAYER AND ADORATION

Massena – Commissioned Lay Ministers are invited to gather for Adoration and Rosary.

**Date:** Every third Wednesday of the month (Dec. 15)

**Time:** 6:30 to 7 p.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Church

11TH AND 12TH GRADE  
RELIGION CLASSES

Ogdensburg - St. Mary's Cathedral Parish is kicking off its 11th & 12th grade religion class. Youth in the applicable grades from outside the Cathedral Parish are welcome to attend.

**Date:** Monthly Dec. 19, Jan. 23, Feb. 13, March 13, April 10, May 15

**Time:** 5 p.m. to 7:30

**Place:** Brzana Hall below St. Mary's Cathedral

**Features:** We have no curriculum; YOU will help decide what we discuss! Lots of discussion, less lecture. Games with prizes. Dinner included. We ask families to consider taking a month and providing dinner. Past families have been very creative from spaghetti dinners to breakfast dishes to bringing in pizza or subs. Classes are self-contained units. Can't make it in October, you are still invited for November, December... No makeup assignments!

Guests welcome! Bring a friend!

**Contact:** If you have questions or concerns that can't wait, contact Deacon Jim Crowley via email [jcrowley@rcdony.org](mailto:jcrowley@rcdony.org) or Jessica Hargrave via email [jhargrave@rcdony.org](mailto:jhargrave@rcdony.org).

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## LOVING AUTHENTICALLY

Commissioned Lay Ministers and candidates are invited to this program that is designed to strengthen the participant's conviction about the truth, beauty and importance of church teaching on natural law and sexual morality and to give participants a basic understanding of the ethical basis of the teaching.

**Schedule:** Two remaining opportunities to attend. Jan. 29 at Emmaus Room, St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh; April 23 at St. Peter's Church, Lowville.

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Presenters: Deacon John Fehlner & Dr. Maura Fehlner, Mr. Steve Tartaglia and other members of the Family Life Department.

**Features:** Cost is free and all are welcome. Must watch an 80-minute video prior to the event. Link to video will be sent after registration. Bring your own lunch.

**Contact:** Register at: <https://www.rcdony.org/lovingauthentically>. If you have questions, contact Family Life Director, Steve Tartaglia at [startaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:startaglia@rcdony.org) or call 315-393-2920

## Bishops decry Calif. plan to be abortion 'sanctuary'

LOS ANGELES (CNS) – California's Catholic bishops slammed a new plan endorsed by Gov. Gavin Newsom to make the state a "sanctuary" for legal abortion if Roe v. Wade is overturned.

"When families are struggling to put food on the table and pay rent, it is absurd for the state to focus on expanding abortion when the real needs of families for basic necessities remain unmet," said Kathleen

Buckley Domingo, executive director of the California Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the

state's Catholic bishops.

"California doesn't need more abortion. It needs to support women and help them be the mothers they want to be," she said in a Dec. 9 statement.

The report, titled "Recommendations to Protect, Strengthen and Expand Abortion Care in California," was released by the California Future of Abortion Council, a group made up of more than 40 abortion providers and advocacy groups, led by Planned Parenthood, and convened by Newsom, according to The Associated

Press.

"We'll be a sanctuary," Newsom told the AP in an interview about the proposal.

The groups' 45 recommendations include using taxpayer money to help pay for travel expenses, lodging, child care and abortion procedures for women who come from out of state seeking an abortion in California.

Domingo noted that not one of the group's recommendations considers alternatives to abortion and there is no discussion of the factors that cause

women to seek abortions.

She said the groups' plan also would violate "conscience protection for medical students by forcing them to be trained in abortion procedures" in order to receive scholarships, and force Catholic hospitals to either offer abortions or go out of business.

The report came a week after the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments for and against upholding a Mississippi law that bans most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, which is what the

law considers the viability of the fetus; in other words, when it is said to be able to survive on its own.

During the Dec. 1 arguments, the majority of the justices appeared willing to let the ban stay in place, although analysts said the justices seemed uncertain whether to overturn Roe v. Wade or limit the degree to which it ensures a legal right to abortion on the national level.

A decision on the case is expected sometime in the late spring or summer of 2022.



## NOW PLAYING

## BEING THE RICARDOS

NEW YORK (CNS) – The set of "I Love Lucy" was a toxic workplace. At least, that's how it's portrayed in writer-director Aaron Sorkin's biographical drama "Being the Ricardos" (Amazon).

The iconic sitcom, which first aired on CBS in October 1951, has never really disappeared. Stylized physical comedy plus a musical number in the second act proved to be an exceedingly popular formula. Yet, if the film is to be believed, the principals – both in front of the innovative three cameras employed to film the show and behind them – were in a continuous power struggle.

That comedy is hard, grinding repetitive work is generally known. But everyone in this film takes turns being completely miserable.

That goes for stars Lucille Ball (Nicole Kidman) and her then-husband, Desi Arnaz (Javier Bardem), supporting players Vivian Vance (Nina Arianda) and William Frawley (J.K. Simmons) as well as producer and head writer Jess Oppenheimer (Tony Hale) and co-writer Madelyn Pugh (Alia Shawkat).

Ball tries relentlessly to exert her newfound power as the star of a hit series, usually with cursing and sometimes with the added threat of humiliation. Sorkin never adequately explains the roots of this behavior.

True, Ball had failed to establish herself as a Broadway chorine, and her subsequent film career never gave her top-rank stardom. Yet, although she explains these experiences, they hardly seem to provide a sufficient reason for

her to have turned into such a monster.

Frawley, depicted as an alcoholic philosopher out of a Eugene O'Neill play, warns Ball that her success is emasculating her spouse. For her part, Vance is bitter that her character, Ethel Mertz, is a frump – even though Ball reminds her that most women in America look like Ethel. Similarly, Frawley resents the fact that his character, Ethel's hubby Fred, is referred to as old.

Only Arnaz, the co-owner of the program's production company, Desilu, comes off pleasantly. He's shown to have recognized Ball's gifts sooner than most. "You have a lot more talent than the roles you play allow," he tells her.

Arnaz also has the diplomatic acumen to balance the sometimes-competing interests of the series' prin-

cipal sponsor, Philip Morris Tobacco, and a chorus of grim-faced and usually clueless network executives.

Though he bills his movie as "based on true events," Sorkin doesn't hesitate to mash up those events to suit his dramatic purposes. Thus he packs the weeklong process of filming one episode in the early 1950s chockablock with crises.

These include the threatened disclosure that Ball, and her immediate family, had registered as members of the Communist Party in the 1930s as well as the challenges of her second real-life pregnancy; the arrival of Desi Jr. was famously worked into the show's plot. When the revelation of one of Arnaz's extramarital affairs in a scandal magazine is added to this mix of miseries,

panic takes hold.

The most obvious symptom of this is Ball's obsessive restaging of a scene between Frawley and Vance. She's convinced that the contracted director, Donald Glass (Christopher Denham), is incompetent.

Dramatically, the tartness works, but viewers in search of something as innocuously pleasant and funny as "I Love Lucy" may come away bewildered. There's a lot more belly-aching than "Babalu" on offer.

The film contains fleeting sensuality, references to adulterous activity and pervasive rough language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is R – restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

## Christmas novels will keep readers engaged

"Chasing Manhattan: A Novel" by John Gray. Paraclete Press (Brewster, Massachusetts, 2021). 284 pp., \$22.

"Mr. Nicholas" by Christopher de Vinck. Paraclete Press (Brewster, Massachusetts, 2021). 160 pp., \$20.

If the Hallmark Channel is in need of books on which to base Christmas movies, these two should be considered.

The sequel to "Chasing Manchester," "Chasing Manhattan" is about writer Chase Harrington's escaping the notoriety she attained in Vermont due to looking at stained-glass windows and seeing what others did not see – people who were in trouble – and then helping them.

When she wrote a book about her experience, she was inundated with others wanting her to look at

church windows and to let them know about their loved ones. Overwhelmed by the onslaught but flush with money from her best-seller, she moves to New York City.

At first, she regularly makes quick visits to St. Patrick's Cathedral to view the windows to see if she can replicate the Vermont experience. She can't. Nonetheless, from autumn to December, with the help of her boyfriend, Gavin Bennett, she is involved in bettering the lives of multiple people and saving the lives of others.

How Gray develops the story, intertwining various characters with each other and various events, is what will keep readers engaged. Just as Chase saw things that weren't in the church windows, readers, through multiple plot twists, will

see things they might not have anticipated, e.g., how Chase moves from a 900-square-foot Manhattan apartment to an estate worth millions of dollars.

These are not stand-alone occurrences. Gray uses them as anchors and transition points as readers experience the flow of the story.

"Chasing Manhattan" is not overtly religious. No one attends church, clues are not found in the Bible, and only once when they make a discovery does Gavin quietly say to her, "Jesus, Mary and Joseph."

However, early in the book during a conversation with her driver about her gift to see what others don't, Chase says, "Before Vermont, I'm not sure I even believed in God. I rarely went to church, so I keep asking myself the

same question."

"Why you?" the driver responds.

"Exactly!" Chase replied.

"Why me?"

Readers will be pleased with the answers.

"Mr. Nicholas" is a simple story that should touch even the hardest hearts. Much of the drama centers upon Anna and Jim Kelly, whose marital issues cause them to separate.

Their son JB has Down syndrome and lives with his mom during the week. He spends weekends with his dad, the story's narrator, who reluctantly loves his son but doesn't like him – an "ugly, useless, confused set of chromosomes wiggled into the world, grew up to a useless 10-year-old boy, and ruined my life."

The other key character in the "small, intimate

town" of Pompton Plains, New Jersey, is Mr. Nicholas, the hardware store owner who collects people's discards every Friday morning.

Townspeople, including Anna, have their doubts about Mr. Nicholas, wondering why he likes children and why he is so popular with them. Jim, an investigative reporter for The New York Times, looks for answers.

"Mr. Nicholas" is a panorama of love, uncertainty, conversion and reconciliation.



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## Finding joy in Gaudete Sunday

*Editor's note: Due to a communications error, Scripture Reflections did not run in the Dec. 1 edition. To get back on schedule, this edition includes two weeks of Scripture Reflections. Reflections for the Fourth Sunday of Advent can be found on page 12.*



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

The joy that fills this Sunday's liturgy is the closest we have to Christmas itself. We're always shocked to see the celebrant process into the Mass this week dressed in rose-colored vestments. Today's Entrance an-

tiphon proclaims, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice. The Lord is near." In the old days, the words were in Latin: "Gaudete, iterum dico vobis, Gaudete..." And so, this Sunday is still called "Gaudete Sunday." The whole message is one of hope.

But, we say, we don't feel like joy. Even Christmas shopping is more hectic than it used to be. In any case, it's very different from the real deep, serene joy that we look for in vain in the world around us.

## December 12

## Third Sunday of Advent

## READINGS

Zep 3:14-18a

Phil 4:4-7

Luke 3:10-18

When, if ever, will we find that joy? The key is found in St. James' advice in the second reading. He advises us to be patient. There will come a day when wars will cease and the desert of our despair will blossom again with peace. We're still climbing the mountain of the Lord as we resolved to do two weeks ago. It's when we pray and meditate each day that we find patience. In prayer, we let go and

let God's Spirit do the work of flooding our souls with His light. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus assures us that the Father sent John the Baptist as a messenger to prepare His way. And Jesus praises John as the greatest of the prophets, dressed as he is in rough clothing. His message is meant to shrink our fears and bolster our hopes. It inspires us with joy.

Sin and darkness fled when the Son of God was born in Bethlehem. Of course, people can and do close their eyes to the light and chose to live without His Light. Only when we refuse to repent of our sin and hang on to the darkness can we have

reason to fear. When John in prison sends emissaries to Jesus to ask if He is really the Messiah, Jesus sends back the answer that He himself is the fulfillment of all John's prophesies. Now the blind see, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the Good News preached to them! John in prison must have been filled with joy at Jesus' testimony about Himself.

The celebrant has good reason for rose-colored vestments today. The liturgy of this Sunday looks forward to a future time of peace that Jesus has promised we will experience! Let's carry that thought with us all week.

## CALLED TO SERVE

## The religious in our lives deserve a 'thank you'

"That was a great idea, but we are going in a different direction."

Every once in a while, I imagine the Holy Spirit saying that to me as I write a homily.

I do some of my most creative writing at the keyboard. My cursive was pretty good a long time ago, but years of writing news stories at typewriters and keyboards have changed my thought processes. Now I can type a lot faster than I can hand write a text, so the keyboard is my friend.

Sometimes, as I merrily type away the latest brilliant idea for a homily, I suddenly realize the homily is going in a different direction. That's a reminder of who is in charge, and it ain't me.

Something similar happened as I prepared to

continue the epic series The Deacon at Mass. We are about to embark on the deacon's role during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Why the deacon does certain things might surprise you, but that will have to wait a week. All week I've been encouraged by unspoken forces to spend some time talking about the women and men who helped form me and to say, "Thank you!"

Last weekend we were asked to contribute to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

One diocese put their ask this way, "For years, religious sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have given their lives in prayer and service without counting the cost. They often worked for small stipends and now their religious com-

munities are struggling to provide adequate medical care and resources. Show your gratitude for their faithfulness by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Thank you for your generosity!"

Dominican Sisters of Amityville, Long Island staffed my grade school in Queens. When I moved to high school, the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, an order based in Canada, were our teachers. Most, if not all of them, are now deceased or have been retired for many years.

I look back fondly to those people who took the time to prepare us spiritually and intellectually for the world. Occasionally a religious

sister or brother had to discipline me. I deserved it (just don't tell my mother!). And there were a few times those same disciplinarians put their arms around me and became my counsel, consolers and friends.

Then there were the two religious in my family. Sister Rose Marie, RGS, was a sister of the Good Shepherd for 75 years. Sister Amata Marie, CSJ, was a teacher for many years. Her motherhouse was in Brentwood on Long Island. Both had a tremendous influence on me, probably more than either knew.

Today our diocese is served by consecrated religious from eight differ-

ent orders. They work in our parishes, our hospitals and nursing homes, our schools and most assuredly in our homes, visiting the homebound and sharing God's Word and Eucharist.

If you missed the collection last weekend, don't fret. You can always send a donation to your parish for that collection. Put "religious retirement" in the memo field.

Father will happily make sure it gets credited to the sisters and brothers who deserve our thanks and our prayers.



Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon

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





## 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

# Giving hope, help for Christmas

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, offering joy and love especially to the children in our lives, we know that so many children in the world live a different reality.

These vulnerable little ones too often experience dire poverty and immense suffering, endure violence or forced labor, face human trafficking and other challenges beyond their age and innocence.

For children in the Missions, there is hope. You can be a part of it as Christmas comes!

Through your prayers and generous help to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith/Missionary Childhood Association, the children are fed and clothed, receive counseling, medical care and an education. Above all, Jesus' birth, and from the reality of His love alive in the work and witness of the Sisters and pastoral leaders caring for them, who are helping them to get ready for Christmas right now.

This Christmas, will you add the missions and families they serve to your gift-giving list? Any donation you are able to give provides for work in mission schools and parishes, outreach, and health centers.

Your generosity will bring such great joy and hope to a child in need half a world away. Through prayers and support, you accompany missionaries throughout the Missions as they bring the Good News of God's great love revealed in His Son, Jesus.

It has been a challenging year for everyone. Please consider helping. Know that I keep you in my prayers throughout Advent and Christmas Seasons.

I pray for God's blessings upon you as I am...

Sincerely in Christ,

*Sr. Mary Ellen*

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your will.  
[rcdony.org/mission](http://rcdony.org/mission)

## OBITUARIES

**Alexandria Bay** – John R. Durand, 67; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 13, 2021 at St. Cyril's Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery.

**AuSable Forks** – Patricia (Adams) Pulsifer, 82; Funeral Services Dec. 7, 2021 at Zaumetzer Funeral Home; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

**Belfort** – Kathleen Rose Peters Widrick, 59; Mass of Christian Burial in Spring at St. Vincent de Paul Church; burial in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery.

**Brasher Falls** – James McGraw, 89; Memorial Mass July 1, 2022 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Sarasota National Veterans Cemetery.

**Brushton** – James A. Helm, Sr., 77; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 9, 2021 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Carthage** – Ronald H. Hill, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 9, 2021 at St. James Church; burial in Old St. James Cemetery.

**Chateaugay** – Robert Leonard Lobdell, 68; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 11, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Burke Center Cemetery.

**Colton** – Colleen (Leary) Regan, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 7, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Heuvelton** – Douglas Craig, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 10, 2021 at St. Raphael's Church.

**Heuvelton** – Mary Agnes (Denny) Wood, 90; Funeral Services to be held in 2022.

**Louisville** – Loretta (Kanoff) Castagnier, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 6, 2021 at St. Lawrence Church burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Winifred Laughton Dunn, 87; Funeral Services Dec. 9, 2021 at Iseneker Funeral Home; burial in Beaches Bridge Cemetery.

**Malone** – Helen M. (Lindsey) Gokey, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 11, 2021 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Malone** – Lorraine (Young) McMahon, 81; Services to be held in the spring; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery.

**Massena** – Anna May (Catanzarite) Bombard, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 11, 2021 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Morrisonville** – Gail L. Giroux, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 10, 2021 at St. Alexander's Church.

**Peru** – Virginia (White) Sayward, 87; Funeral Services Dec. 11, 2021 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Memorial Cemetery, Willsboro.

**Peru** – Wayne N. Twining, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 11, 2021 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Eunice M. (Trombley) Bell, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 10, 2021 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in Plattsburgh Community Mausoleum.

**Plattsburgh** – Gregory Brushnefski, 62; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 7, 2021 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Sacred Heart Church, Chazy.

**Port Henry** – Joseph Henry Gilbo, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 6, 2021 at

St. Patrick's Church.

**Potsdam** – Theresa Hayes Logan, 92; Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Rouses Point** – Ted Joseph Favro, 66; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 11, 2021 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Saranac Lake** – Craig Collier, 57; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 11, 2021 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** – Betty Jeanne (Boyea) Sayles, 97; Private services to be held; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

**Tupper Lake** – Alice I. (Baker) Duprey, 58; Funeral Services Dec. 13, 2021 at Frary-Stuart Funeral Home.

**Tupper Lake** – Theresa Helen (Godin) LaMare, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 11, 2021 at St. Alphonsus Church.

**Watertown** – John J. Bondellio, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 6, 2021 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**West Chazy** – Alice (Miller) Thompson, 51; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 10, 2021 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

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## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Be attentive for signs of God among us

Now Advent is getting really exciting. It's like that sense of growing anticipation when the car bearing our grandparents had turned into the driveway, and we can't wait to give them a big hug. The prophet Micah tells us that from humble Bethlehem shall be born a Saviour. He shall be ruler in Judah and will be a shepherd like none other. His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. His mother gave the model for our response – humility, awe, hope and love.



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

Well, what other signs do we see of that great event? You'd think the world would be all one big happy family by this time. We know it's not. So have people missed it, or just forgotten? It did happen. He did come. And the point is, we have to look for signs again of His coming this year. Maybe we'll do a better job this time.

This last week of Advent is a time for being attentive to the signs. We have signs of longing – hearts that are empty of

December 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent

READINGS

Micah 5:1-4a

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

faith, with religious practice long since abandoned, or hearts that are so fearful of the lingering pandemic. There are so many hearts that are cynical of any kind of peace or any kind of justice even in our own country.

For those who are alert, there are all kinds of signs – in the eyes of children jumping up and down, dancing with anticipation of gifts. There are signs in

lonely faces, warmed by a particularly welcome Christmas card or a thoughtful gift from a neighbor's child. Especially, there are signs in the care and concern shown by almost everyone for the needy and forgotten. God's heart must be particularly consoled by these signs. Let's hope He will be come in a burst of grace into our homes.

May we cry out with joy as Elizabeth did when Mary visited her, "And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

Jesus, I long for you. Please come into my heart this Christmas and fill it with long-term strength

for the everyday work of love. Help me be for my family, my friends, and my acquaintances a source of light, strength, and love, just as you were to Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, and the poor.

Hail and Blessed be the hour and the moment in which the son of God was born of the most Pure Virgin Mary at midnight in Bethlehem in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, O my God, to hear My prayer and grant my desires, through the Merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His Pure Virgin Mother. Amen.

## Court keeps Texas abortion law in place

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The Supreme Court said Dec. 10 that clinics can continue to challenge a Texas law that bans most abortions after six weeks of pregnancy but in the meantime the law would remain in effect.

Eight justices said the challenge could go forward. Justice Clarence Thomas opposed it.

Chief Justice John Roberts, writing separately, urged the U.S. District Court judge to act quickly in reviewing the law.

"Given the ongoing chilling effect of the state law, the District Court should resolve this litigation and enter appropriate relief without delay," he wrote.

The Texas abortion law, signed by Republican Gov. Greg Abbott in May, went into effect Sept. 1.

During oral arguments about it Nov. 1, the justices considered whether

the Justice Department and state abortion clinics can even challenge the abortion law in federal court because of the way the law was set up with citizens' enforcement.

This was the third time the nation's high court considered the Texas abortion law. On Sept. 1, it ruled against blocking it and on Oct. 22, it said the law would remain in effect before its expedited review Nov. 1.

Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund, said in reaction to the court's Dec. 10 decision: "Today the court ruled on a procedural issue without addressing the merits of the case challenging the Texas Heartbeat Act."

She said the Texas law came about because "for decades Roe has blocked states from being able to regulate abortion" and

added that she hopes the court's upcoming ruling in the Mississippi case "returns this right to the people."

When the Supreme Court first ruled against blocking the Texas abortion law, the Texas Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the state's Catholic bishops, said this action marked the first time since *Roe v. Wade* that the nation's high court "has allowed a pro-life law to remain while litigation proceeds in lower courts."

On Dec. 1, the Supreme Court examined Mississippi's ban on most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy and heard requests to overturn the court's 1973 *Roe* decision that legalized abortion.

In the oral arguments, the majority of justices seemed willing to let the state's abortion ban after 15 weeks stay in place, but

it was unclear if they would take this further and overturn *Roe*.

If the court ultimately sides with Mississippi, it would be the first time the court would allow an abortion ban before the point of viability that most consider to be at 24 weeks and could lay the groundwork for abortion restrictions from other states. Viability is when a fetus is said to be able to survive on its own.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, in a court brief supporting Mississippi, said abortion is not a right created by the Constitution and called it "inherently different from other types of personal decisions to which this court has accorded constitutional protection."

The day before the Supreme Court's opinion

on the Texas abortion law, a Texas state district court judge ruled that the means of enforcing the state's abortion law – involving citizens to sue its violators and receive financial compensation – was unconstitutional.

The decision, issued by Judge David Peeples, keeps the state's abortion law in effect.

Abortion providers in the state called it a step in the right direction, while pro-life advocates were disappointed.

Texas Right to Life said they would "immediately appeal this unjust ruling."

Kimberlyn Schwartz, director of media and communication for Texas Right to Life, said: "The abortion industry's lawsuit abuses the judicial system and turns this court into a mere platform for airing criticisms against the boldest pro-life law to take effect since *Roe v. Wade*."