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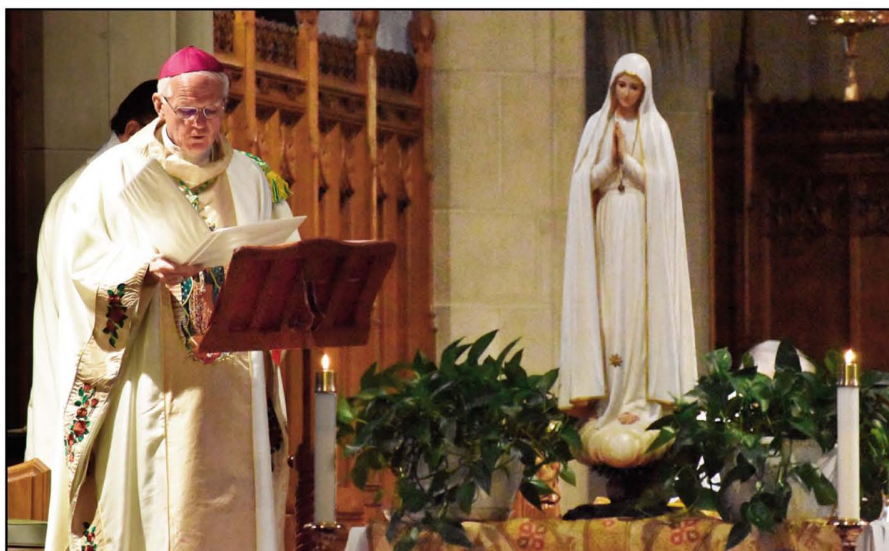
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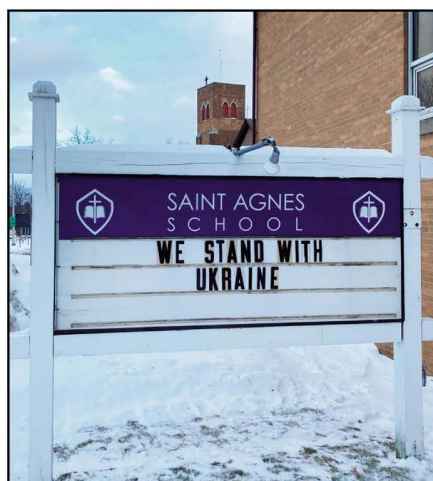
# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 30, 2022

## PRAYING & HELPING



(Above) Bishop Terry R. LaValley joins the Holy Father, Pope Francis, consecrating Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Friday, March 25. Read Bishop LaValley's homily and consecration prayer on Page 3. (Below at left) Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey accepts a check from Carter Fowler, a member of the confirmation class for the Catholic Community of St. Peter - St. Mary - St. Hedwig in Lowville/Glenfield/Houseville. The confirmation class raised over \$3,300 for relief efforts in Ukraine by hosting a ziti dinner. Students spent the afternoon assisting with baking, preparing ingredients for tossed salads, and packaging slices of bread and desserts. When customers arrived, students took the orders, filled the bags with the dinner and delivered them to the customers with a smile. (Below at right) St. Agnes School in Lake Placid dedicated their sign to supporting Ukraine. St. Agnes Parish will host a free-offering dinner to raise funds for Ukrainian refugees.



## RETREAT TO AID ADULT CHILDREN OF DIVORCE

SARANAC LAKE – The Diocese of Ogdensburg will be offering a healing opportunity called Life-Giving Wounds, a Catholic ministry helping adults from divorced and separated families. The three-day retreat, scheduled for June 12-14 at Camp Guggenheim, is uniquely created for adult children of divorce, ages 18 and older. Participants are invited – no matter the circumstances of their parents' break-up – to move through the broken image of love that appeared to them in their parents' divorce to their identity as God's beloved children and part of His family. The retreat gives participants a greater understanding of the wound of their parent's loss of love and how it affects their lives; it offers advice about loving and trusting others; and it points to the Catholic faith and the sacraments as essential parts of the healing journey.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## Pope: Confession is about forgiveness

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The sacrament of reconciliation "is not so much about our sins" as it is about God's forgiveness, Pope Francis said.

"Think about it: If our sins were at the heart of the sacrament, almost everything would depend on us, on our repentance, our efforts, our resolve," but it is about God's power, mercy and grace, the pope said March 25 during a Lenten penance service in St. Peter's Basilica.

The service, with individual confessions, preceded the pope's formal act of consecrating the world, particularly Russia and Ukraine, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Pope Francis went to one of the confessionals in the basilica and, remaining standing because of knee trouble, confessed his sins before joining more than 100 other priests in hearing confessions.

The Vatican penance service was canceled in 2020 and 2021 because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Pope Francis began the service praying that God would "open our eyes, that we may see the evil we have committed, and touch our hearts, that we may be converted to you."

The pray booklet given to people participating in the service contained a 25-point "examination of conscience" designed to prepare them for confession and absolution by looking at their faith and prayer lives, the way they treat family members and others, whether they go to Mass every Sunday and holy day of obligation, how they practice charity, follow church moral teachings and how they use the time and talents God has given them.

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# Not a #BadCatholic

The text said only, “#BadCatholic.”

As I stepped out of my car in the office parking lot on Friday morning, one of my favorite colleagues reminded me that it was a solemnity, and we could eat meat on a Lenten Friday.

“I knew that at one time, but I had completely forgotten,” I said.

Then, as I discussed it with this colleague, it became apparent that I could not come up with the name of the solemnity we were celebrating.

Immediately following this conversation, I sent my husband a text message reminding him he could eat meat and acknowledging that I

couldn't explain why at that moment, because I couldn't remember the solemnity we were celebrating.

I ended my text with “#BadCatholic.”



Darcy L.  
Fargo

My loving husband then replied with a text reminding me of a time I messed up a name related to a solemnity in a very public way.

He concluded the text thread repeating, “#BadCatholic.”

I once thought I knew a lot about Catholicism. Then I started working for the Church. Now, barely a week goes by when I'm not asking someone to explain a teaching or a tradition with which I'm not familiar.

While I don't really think I'm

a “#BadCatholic,” I know I have a lot to learn. I'm pretty confident one could learn about the teachings of Jesus and His Church every day of life and still not know even a fraction of everything there is to learn.

That's part of the beauty of our faith, isn't it?

As I interviewed an instructor from one of the amazing Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) programs in the diocese (see the story on Page 5), she said she and her fellow instructors refer to RCIA as “a ‘process’ not a ‘program’” because “a program has an end.” Learning our faith and growing in our relationships with the Lord doesn't end. It's a life-long journey.

Luckily, our God and our Church gives us lots of op-

portunities to grow and learn. Our parishes and diocese sponsor outstanding workshops and events. There are books, articles, podcasts and videos on nearly every topic imaginable. And, of course, we learn and grow as we participate in Mass, hear the Scripture readings and hear the reflections and explanations from our priests and deacons in their homilies. That's before I even think about those moments in conversation – even parking lot conversations – when I learn something new or realize there's something I don't know.

There's lots of opportunity to develop and learn.

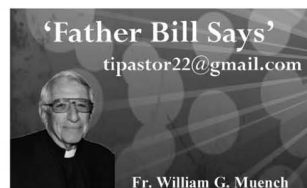
I may need to rethink my hashtag comment. “#GrowingCatholic” would've been better.

## A look at the Prodigal Son

Lenten Masses are filled with the parables of Jesus. As you know, these parables are stories that Jesus cleverly crafted to teach the apostles and the people of all time. It is important for you to remember that the parables of Jesus are always about us. So, it is important that we find ourselves in the parables of Jesus.

Each year on Laetare Sunday, the Gospel reading is one of my favorite parables of Jesus: the Parable of the Prodigal Son. This parable is often used as the Scripture reading at Lenten Penance Services. Many like to name this parable as the Parable of the forgiving, loving father. Let us see why.

I am certain you will remember the story. This father has two sons. The younger son asks his father for his share of the inheritance now. In Jesus' story, the father agrees, and the son leaves home and begins to live a very decadent life. He ends up moneyless



Fr. William G. Muench

and also tending swine – not a good job for a Jew.

As Jesus' story goes on, this younger son comes to his senses and decides to return home and admit to his father that he was wrong and asks to be a hired hand. As the younger son heads up the road to his father's place, we are surprised to learn that the father sees him coming and runs out to welcome him. I suspect if this were my story, I would make the father much more demanding. But this is Jesus' story. He tells us that the father welcomes his son and has a banquet prepared as well as a party. The father does not demand anything from this son.

For those who see themselves in this story as the

younger son – those who have rejected God and gone off on their own – Jesus wants to teach them that God our Father will always welcome them back freely and with understanding, and in love with care as they repent and seek God's acceptance. This is God's message for us to pass on to others.

There is more to Jesus' parable. The older son comes home from the fields and is upset to learn of this celebration because his brother has returned. He refuses to enter the house and welcome his brother home. In Jesus' story, the caring, loving father is again the one who comes out of the house to speak with the older son and try to make peace with him. Again, it is the father who accepts this opportunity to bring his love to his sons.

In Jesus' story here is what the father says to the older son: “My son you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we

must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again, he was lost and has been found.”

Here is where the story of Jesus ends. I would hope in the spirit of Our Savior that I could finish the story with the older son realizing the love and forgiving spirit of his father and agreeing to join him and welcome his brother home.

In our time, I believe Jesus is teaching those who have remained faithful and united closely with God but seem to find it annoying and maybe unacceptable when those who have deserted the Lord but then are welcome openly and lovingly when they repent. May we remember well the Father's message to the older son in Jesus' story and rejoice that our brother or sister has returned.

These parables of Jesus are such a gift. These stories teach the message of Jesus is such a beautiful way.

FOLLOW ME

# Turn to the Queen of Peace

*Editor's Note: The following is Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily and the Act of Consecration of Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord on March 25.*

I don't need to tell you that ours is a troubled world. The Immaculate Heart of Mary throbs with such pain and disgust as she sees the indiscriminate slaughter and horrendous displacement of millions of



**Bishop Terry R. LaValley**

innocent moms, dads and children who continue to be brutally attacked by Communist Russians invading the sovereign nation of the Ukraine. Evil is on display in all its raw wretchedness with such callous disregard for human life, even the most vulnerable among us. My sisters and brothers in Christ, we must do more than just shrug our shoulders and somehow think we are off the hook with a resigned sigh: "Well, what can I do?"

Let us not be shy in turning to the Queen of Peace for her powerful intercession. Let us not be embarrassed to get down on our knees and implore her assistance. Mary could have said "NO" to the Lord's messenger. But she didn't! Mary's "YES" which the Church celebrates today, changed our world beyond belief, beyond what seemed remotely possible. Her "YES" gave a Savior to those who were poor, a Prophet to those who were voiceless. Her "YES" gave a Friend and Brother to each one of us, a Prince to the those des-

perately yearning for peace. Mary's response in faith was affirmed by God who, having already worked a miracle in the life of Elizabeth, could work a miracle in Mary's life, too.

The angel's message to Mary reminds us of the role of the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity in all our lives: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you..." Mary said, "YES." She could have said, "No." Like Mary, am I open to the promptings of

God's Holy Spirit in my life? My "yes" may not be as dramatic or as world-changing as Mary's, but every little "yes" to love, to hope, to a more peaceful way of life has impact. My "yes" to treating every person I meet with the dignity due every child of God paves the way for an opportunity for a miracle and reminds us that our God is truly a God who makes the impossible possible.

Mary's "YES", an extremely simple word, brought hope and salvation into a world that waited in darkness. In so many ways, we don't even know that we are living in a world of darkness. St. John Paul II often referred to ours as a culture of death. Pope Francis refers to it as a "throwaway culture." We are so cavalier, reckless and disrespectful of human life.

So, at this very hour, let us join Pope Francis in Rome and the faithful throughout the world as we pray an Act of Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on this, the

Solemnity of the Annunciation of our Lord.

O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. As our Mother, you love us and know us: no concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Yet we have strayed from that path of peace. We have forgotten the lesson learned from the tragedies of the last century, the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two world wars. We have disregarded the commitments we made as a community of nations. We have betrayed peoples' dreams of peace and the hopes of the young. We grew sick with greed, we thought only of our own nations and their interests, we grew indifferent and caught up in our selfish needs and concerns. We chose to ignore God, to be satisfied with our illusions, to grow arrogant

and aggressive, to suppress innocent lives and to stockpile weapons. We stopped being our neighbor's keepers and stewards of our common home. We have ravaged the garden of the earth with war and by our sins we have broken the heart of our heavenly Father, who desires us to be brothers and sisters. We grew indifferent to everyone and everything except ourselves. Now with shame we cry out: Forgive us, Lord!

Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and for all humanity. By God's gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love.

We now turn to you and knock at the door of your heart. We are your beloved children. In every age you make yourself known to us, calling us to conversion. At this dark hour, help us and grant us your comfort. Say to us once more: "Am I not here, I who am your Mother?" You are able to untie the knots of our hearts and of our times. In you we place our trust. We are confident that, especially in moments of trial, you will not be deaf to our supplication and will come to our aid.

That is what you did at Cana in Galilee, when you interceded with Jesus and he worked the first of his signs. To preserve the joy of the wedding feast, you said to him: "They have no wine" (Jn 2:3). Now, O Mother, repeat those words and that prayer, for in our own day we have run out of the wine of hope, joy has fled, fraternity has faded. We have forgotten our humanity and squandered the gift of peace. We opened our hearts to violence and de-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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# Retreat to be held for adult children of divorce

SARANAC LAKE – The Diocese of Ogdensburg will be offering a healing opportunity called Life-Giving Wounds, a Catholic ministry helping adults from divorced and separated families. The three-day retreat, scheduled for June 12-14 at Camp Guggenheim, is uniquely created for adult children of divorce, ages 18 and older.

Participants are invited – no matter the circumstances of their parents' break-up – to move through the broken image of love that appeared to them in their parents' divorce to their identity as God's beloved children and part of His family. The retreat gives participants a greater understanding of the wound of their parent's loss of love and how it affects their lives; it offers

advice about loving and trusting others; and it points to the Catholic faith and the sacraments as essential parts of the healing journey.

Retreats are led by a trained, experienced team of faithful Catholics who are all adult children of divorce. A Catholic priest also serves on the team. Father Christopher C. Carrara will serve the local retreat. The national team is traveling from the Washington DC area to facilitate the weekend. A local team led by Steve Tartaglia, Family Life director, and Colleen Miner, Respect Life director, will also assist. Both have attended a Life-Giving Wounds retreat.

"We often think of the vocations crisis in terms of the low numbers of men getting ordained and

## AT A GLANCE

Topics to be covered during the retreat include:

- Finding our deepest identity
- Faith and our relationship with God
- Love, dating, and the Sacrament of Marriage
- Anger, anxiety, and shame
- Family boundaries and forgiveness
- The Christian meaning of suffering

There are also support groups offered after the retreat, in person and online.

The retreat in our diocese will be held at The Guggenheim Center in Saranac Lake. The registration fee is \$100 and includes overnight accommodations, food and all retreat materials. To register for the June retreat please complete the online registration at [rcdony.org/lifegw](http://rcdony.org/lifegw) or contact Diocese of Ogdensburg Family Life Director Stephen Tartaglia [sttartaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:sttartaglia@rcdony.org) 315-393-2920.

women entering religious life," said Tartaglia. "The numbers of couples getting married, is also extremely low. Even lower are the numbers of couples pursuing sacramental marriages. I believe that children who have grown up in divorced families find the notions of

trust and permanent commitment very challenging. Who would blame them? But they miss out on the many blessings that God wants to give to them. This retreat helps them to explore those wounds and begin healing."

"It helped me to under-

stand how my parent's divorce and annulment has affected my thinking and actions. It was nice to connect with others who feel the same way or have the same reactions. Often children are told that it's for the best and not much will change. But that's not true," added Miner. "This retreat is so needed and can help many – that's our goal in offering it in our diocese. Right now it's in a few dioceses but they are at a distance: Georgia, Colorado, Michigan, Florida, Virginia, California... but if you visit [lifegivingwounds.org](http://lifegivingwounds.org), you'll now see Ogdensburg listed!"

The weekend includes presentations by the team, small group discussions, opportunities for prayer, reflection and for reconciliation and the Eucharist.

## Turn to the Queen of Peace

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

structiveness. How greatly we need your maternal help!

Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer.

Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war.

Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.

Queen of Heaven, restore

God's peace to the world. Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness.

Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons. Queen of the Rosary, make us realize our need to pray and to love.

Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity.

Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.

O Mother, may your sorrowful plea stir our hardened hearts. May the tears you shed for us make this valley parched by our hatred blossom anew. Amid the thunder of weapons, may your prayer turn our thoughts to peace. May your maternal touch soothe those who suffer and flee from the rain of bombs.

May your motherly embrace comfort those forced to leave their homes and their native land. May your Sorrowful Heart move us to compassion and inspire us to open our doors and to care for our brothers and sisters who are injured and cast aside.

Holy Mother of God, as you stood beneath the cross, Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said: "Behold your son" (Jn 19:26). In this way he entrusted each of us to you. To the

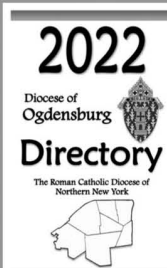
disciple, and to each of us, he said: "Behold, your Mother" (v. 27). Mother Mary, we now desire to welcome you into our lives and our history. At this hour, a weary and distraught humanity stands with you beneath the cross, needing to entrust itself to you and, through you, to consecrate itself to Christ. The people of Ukraine and Russia, who venerate you with great love, now turn to you, even as your heart beats with compassion for them and for all those peoples decimated by war, hunger, injustice and poverty.

Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the Church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end and

peace spread throughout the world. The "Fiat" that arose from your heart opened the doors of history to the Prince of Peace. We trust that, through your heart, peace will dawn once more. To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world.

Through your intercession, may God's mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Our Lady of the "Fiat", on whom the Holy Spirit descended, restore among us the harmony that comes from God. May you, our "living fountain of hope", water the dryness of our hearts. In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion. You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace. Amen.

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# Seeker: 'I question everything'

*Editor's Note: This is the fourth and final installment in a series highlighting individuals who are participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) as they move toward entering the Catholic Church.*

**By Darcy Fargo**  
Editor

**ELLENBURG DEPOT** – For Andrea Felix, the road to the Catholic Church hasn't been without its twists and turns.

"I'm probably one of the most difficult students the instructors have ever had," said Felix of her instructors in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). "I question everything."

Felix said she's struggled to find a faith home her entire life.

"My father married a Catholic woman," she said. "I felt out of place (at the Catholic Church). I felt there was some sort of choreography and information I hadn't been included in. I went to a number of other churches over the years. Every time someone starts criticizing another faith from the pulpit, I would leave."

After years of abandoning her search for faith, she began providing care for Leon and Viola LeMere of Mooers.

"They were the most wonderful people I've met," she said. They were part of the Catholic

## Instructor guides 'seekers' as they prepare to enter the Catholic Church

**By Darcy Fargo**  
Editor

**WATERTOWN** – Midge Fraser has been accompanying "seekers" on the journey into the Catholic Church since 1988, but the ministry still feels like home to her.

"I love it," she said. "I can't see myself stopping."

Fraser said Blessed Sacrament Parish in Watertown has eight individuals – four male and four female – going through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) this year.

"It's a beautiful group," she said. "They're such a faithful group – possibly the most faithful group we've ever had. They participate in everything they can. A couple of our seekers – that's what we call them – have been going to daily Mass throughout Lent."

Fraser said working with seekers – adults and older children – has been a joyful experience.

"Working with kids can be a challenge," she said. "You don't always get to see the fruits of your labor until maybe they're grown, and you see them come back and bring their children to Mass. With RCIA, you see the fruits of the labor, so to speak, when they come into the

Church. We're always looking to see what we can do better and how we can challenge the seekers more and help them to grow in their spiritual lives. While we're trying to teach them a lot, the most important thing is building their relationship with Jesus Christ."

With adults, there can also be some challenges, though, Fraser said.

"There have been times in the past when someone has challenged us on something, and we may need to get to a point where we say 'we have to stop here,'" she said. "That doesn't mean we can't keep looking at that topic with that individual, or maybe their sponsor or the pastor can look at it with them, but we have to be mindful of the entire group and making sure they're not uncomfortable. We're very fortunate to have Father (John M.) Mickey Demo as pastor here. He's been very supportive and helpful."

While she noted the position is a ministry to which she feels a strong call, Fraser said her work with the RCIA program has benefited her, as well.

"I always say that we learn right along with them," she said. "And it helps us a lot with our own prayer

lives, since we're always encouraging them to spend time in prayer."

Fraser said she was previously able to attend multiple certifications, workshops and training programs related to her RCIA ministry.

"We still make mistakes," she said, "But we've spent a lot of time figuring out what works and what doesn't, and we continue to make changes to the program. I don't think we'll ever be done."

Fraser noted, though, that she and her colleagues in Watertown, including program Director Kathy Allen, are available to share their experiences with other instructors and programs.

"We've helped other programs by explaining our process," she said. "We refer to it as a 'process' not a 'program.' A program has an end. This is something they'll be living their entire lives. We're open to helping any parish or group that would like to talk about what we've found that works and what we've found that doesn't."

After all, the ministry is all about giving back and following God's call.

"We love helping," Fraser said. "We're just trying to do what God wants us to do."

Church here. They helped me get a job with Catholic Charities. I work at St. Joseph's Outreach."

Father Scott R. Seymour, pastor in Morrisonville, Cadyville and Peru, would sometimes visit the outreach while Felix was

working.

"I knew there were (faith formation) classes for kids, but Father Scott talked about the adult program," she said. "I love to learn, so I decided to give it a try."

Felix said she's thoroughly enjoyed learning about Church teaching and history.

"I love the history and traditions," she said. "I always want to keep drilling down deeper and learning more and more. I'm constantly asking questions."

And Felix said she doesn't plan to stop questioning. In fact, she's still discerning whether she

wants to be initiated into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

"I'm on the fence about a lot of things," she said. "I don't want to sign up for something I can't really do. My sponsor has been awesome. She's answered a lot of questions, and she has the same sort of questioning feeling I have. I'll probably never stop questioning and listening with a critical ear."

She also noted she still struggles with the loss of her son, who died 20 years ago as a teenager.

"After I lost my son, I couldn't go to church without crying like a baby," she

said. "Any references to 'son' and I'm a basket case. It's been 20 years, but it's still like yesterday. I still get hit with that."

She noted, though, that she's found love and support in her church home.

"The people, the volunteers – they're the best people," she said. "If they can handle me being this difficult, I think they can handle anything."

And Felix said she plans to continue learning and discerning.

"I'm going to keep questioning," she said. "I'm trying to do the best I can. This is a good step on my path."

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## Environmental Stewardship

## What lessons have you learned?

We in the northern hemisphere are blessed to be immersed in the mystery of life, death and resurrection cycle experienced by nature every year. During summer and early fall we observe its fullness of life, then in late fall we see the earth surrender to the death blows of winter. During this seeming death around us in nature, we know that underneath the mounds of snow the trees are stretching their roots deeper, and the soil is resting. Then, their inner "DNA clocks" know exactly when to burst forth with new life, as they gradually respond to the warmth of the sun and the moisture of the rain.

In John's gospel (John 12:24), Jesus refers to this same cycle in nature to reveal to us something about our role as human beings in the whole of creation. "Unless a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest." The cycle of life, death and resurrection is the same; however, Jesus freely chooses to embrace this paschal mystery so that His life would produce a rich harvest of life for others that includes us and all creation.

One of the things that we observe in Jesus is his attentiveness to the natural world around him. We hear Him expound about the beauty of the wildflowers in the field, the mustard seed, the vine and branches, etc. Then, he shares a lesson that could be learned from them about our own lives as humans.

What lessons might we gain about the unfolding of our own spiritual lives during Lent that is meant to be a springtime for our souls? How observant am I to the unfolding of the earth's seeming death coming to new life? What might it be revealing to me about my spiritual life that may seem dormant or even 'dead' at times that needs to be nurtured by the warmth of God's love? One of the practices suggested for Lent is prayer. Praying with creation's great lessons can be a way of experiencing the mystery of God's love.

## Pope consecrates Ukraine, Russia to Mary

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—As Russia's violent monthlong invasion continued to devastate Ukraine, Pope Francis laid the fates of both countries at the feet of Mary in the hopes that peace would finally reign.

"Mother of God and our

mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine," the pope said March 25, pronouncing the Act of Consecration after leading a Lenten penance service in St. Peter's Basilica.

Praying before a statue of Mary that was loaned by the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima at San Vittoriano on the outskirts of Rome, the pope pleaded with Mary to "accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end, and peace spread throughout the world."

## Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults.

Pre-registration online is required. Participants may preregister at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). Upcoming sessions:

**April 4**— 6 p.m., St. James School, Gouverneur

For more information or to arrange for training, contact Jeannie Griz-zuto at 315-393-2920 or [jgriz-zuto@rcdony.org](mailto:jgriz-zuto@rcdony.org).

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**March 31** — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**April 1** — Noon — Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

**April 2** — 11 a.m. — Diocesan Youth Rally at High Peaks Resort in Lake Placid

5:30 p.m. — Mass at St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid

**April 3** — 8 a.m. — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**April 4** — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

4 p.m. — Open House and Ribbon Cutting for the Citizen Advocates New Behavioral Health Urgent Care in Ogdensburg

**April 5** — 11 a.m. — Priests Personnel Board Meeting at Bishop's Residence

**April 6** — 9:45 a.m. — Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

## Rest in Peace

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

**March 30** — Rev. Joseph Chartrand, O.M.I., 1960; Rev. Victor Lamore, 2017

**March 31** — Rev. Louis Lopic, 1873; Rev. Gabriel Volkert, 1873; Rev. Henri Langlais, O.M.I., 1980

**April 1** — Rev. James H. Roche, 1927; Msgr. Herbert J. Hannan, 2002; Rev. Mark McDonald, MSC, 2018

**April 2** — Pope John Paul II, 2005

**April 3** — Msgr. Philias Garand, 1942

**April 4** — Rev. Ronald Brabant, 1963; Rev. Francis J. Beyette, 1984

**April 5** — Rev. Florence McCarthy, 1901; Rev. Amedee Lacasse, M.S.C., 1941; Msgr. Francis P. Devan, 1992

Sitting in front of the statue, which was placed before the steps of the main altar on a red platform and adorned with white roses, the pope proclaimed the act of consecration. During the prayer, the pope paused at several moments to gaze at the statue of Mary before continuing to recite the prayer.

"To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world," he prayed.

After the consecration, the pope, accompanied by a young boy and girl, placed a bouquet of white roses at the feet of the statue. He then remained for a few moments, with eyes closed and head bowed in silent prayer, before stepping away.

According to the Vatican, an estimated 3,500 people filled St. Peter's Basilica, while 2,000 people watched on video screens from St. Peter's Square. Police asked pilgrims who entered St. Peter's Basilica carrying or wearing Ukrainian flags to put them away, since the event was a prayer service.

Among those present at the liturgy were Andrii Yurash, Ukraine's ambassador to the Holy See. The consecration, he tweeted March 25, is "another attempt (by the pope) to defend Ukraine from the devil's war," referring to Russia's attacks on the country.

Joe Donnelly, who soon will present his credentials to the pope as the U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, also attended the service.

The Vatican announced March 18 that Pope Francis also asked bishops around the world to join

him in consecrating Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, led a similar act of consecration at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal.

Bishops from around the world had announced special services to coincide with the timing of the consecration in Rome, even in the early hours of the morning.

At the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica in Hagatña, Guam, Archbishop Michael Byrnes led the faithful in praying the rosary before reciting the Act of Consecration at 2 a.m. local time March 26.

Archbishop Georg Gänswein, private secretary of retired Pope Benedict XVI, had told reporters that the former pope would join in the consecration from his residence.

In a video released before the liturgy, Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych, major archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, said he would join in the consecration "because today we need very much the victory of good."

The consecration, Archbishop Shevchuk said, "means that it is never possible to make a deal, to cooperate with this evil that emerges from Russia today."

"And that is why we must pray for its conversion, for the eradication of that evil, 'so that it,' as the Mother of God of Fatima said, 'might not destroy other states, might not cause yet another world war.' We, as Christians, have a duty to pray for our enemies," he said.

In Rome, the bells of St. Peter's Basilica rang out after Pope Francis concluded the Act of Consecration.

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Court rules in favor of inmate's prayer request during execution

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The Supreme Court March 24 ruled in favor of a Texas prisoner who wanted his pastor to pray aloud over him and place his hands on him in the execution chamber. Although the 8-1 decision specifically focused on the case of prisoner John Ramirez, it also will likely impact the cases of other death-row prisoners with similar requests. Chief Justice John Roberts, who wrote the majority opinion, said: "It is possible to accommodate Ramirez's sincere religious beliefs without delaying or impeding his execution." Ramirez – sentenced to death for the murder of a convenience store clerk in 2004 – had asked that his Southern Baptist pastor be able to lay hands on him and pray aloud with him during his execution. When the Texas prison system rejected his request, Ramirez challenged it in court, saying the state was violating his religious beliefs. The lower courts sided with the state, saying the prison system has a compelling interest to keep executions safe and orderly. Then just hours before his scheduled execution last September, the Supreme Court granted a temporary stay and agreed to hear the case, which the justices did in November. In its ruling, the Supreme Court said the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit was wrong to deny Ramirez's stay of execution and it handed the case back to lower courts for further consideration.

## Pope meets Hong Kong bishop, records messages to Catholics

HONG KONG (CNS) – Pope Francis, in a video message recorded on their bishop's cellphone, encouraged Catholics in Hong Kong and in mainland China to be strong in the face of challenges, to be good citizens and to pray for him as he prays for them. Bishop Stephen Chow Sau-yan of Hong Kong, a Jesuit who was ordained a bishop Dec. 4, met privately with Pope Francis at the Vatican March 17 and posted the videos on the Diocese of Hong Kong's Catholic Way website March 23 and the website of the Sunday Examiner, with subtitles in English. "Dear brothers and sisters, you Catholics, I greet you with gratitude and love," said the English subtitles of the pope's message in Italian to Catholics on the mainland. "Thank you for your testimony of faith." In both videos, Pope Francis thanked Catholics for the way they endured and continue to endure the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. "Sometimes the Lord is hidden from our sight," he said, "but he is always beside us."

## 'Every street and square will resist' Russians, says Odesa bishop

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) – A Catholic bishop in the threatened Ukrainian port of Odesa warned of "ferocious resistance" if Russian forces launch a frontal assault. Bishop Stanislaw Szyrokoradiuk of Odesa-Simferopol said parts of Odesa were being bombed and dozens of families had been killed, but citizens were "expecting an attack in the near future. When it comes, it'll be held back, because people will fight ferociously to defend their city. Although we're not fully defended against planes and missiles, every street and square will resist, even if this takes years." The 65-year-old bishop spoke as Ukrainian troops and civilians deployed tank traps and barricades in preparation for an expected amphibious Russian assault on the Black Sea city of 1 million. In a March 22 interview with Catholic News Service, Bishop Szyrokoradiuk said so far, Russian forces had not imposed restrictions on Catholic activities in occupied parts of his diocese, and local priests and nuns were still "ministering normally." He said churches were continually praying for those killed and injured in the monthlong war, and prayers were offered at six Sunday Masses in the diocesan cathedral.

# Leaders seek prayer, relief and advocacy for Ukraine

NEW YORK (CNS) – Exactly one month after Russian forces invaded neighboring Ukraine, religious and diplomatic leaders urged prayer, advocacy and relief for Ukrainians and those who help them.

Participants at a media briefing March 24 near the main altar at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York offered candid assessments of the war's physical and spiritual toll. They also expressed hope that unprecedented solidarity among the world's people will help bring peace and solace in the conflict.

Sergiy Kyslytsya, Ukraine's ambassador to the United Nations, said he tried unsuccessfully to appeal to the dignity and beliefs of Russian diplomats in the U.N. Security Council and General Assembly in the days before the Feb. 24 start of the war.

"I told the Russian ambassador that there is no purgatory for war criminals. I do believe that war criminals are going straight to hell, unfortunately. I invited him to pray for his salvation and for the salvation of (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's henchmen," he said.

Kyslytsya spoke before returning to the U.N. to vote on a General Assembly resolution to deliver humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

He said, "Healthy forces are clearly in the majority" at the U.N., but the organization closed its eyes to instances of "pure evil" perpetrated by the Russian Federation in Moldova, Syria, Georgia, the Central African Republic and other places in the 30 years since the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

He said human traffick-

ing is among the significant and realistic concerns for the more than 3 million vulnerable Ukrainians now "scattered across Europe." Kyslytsya said trafficking is not a theoretical premise for academic discussion but should be part of planning in all of the places refugees are arriving.

He recalled that trafficking was hard to address when more than 1 million people arrived in Europe from the Middle East in a one-year period in the past decade. Now that 3 million-plus Ukrainians have become refugees in a matter of weeks, "you can imagine the scale of the tragedy and the volume of responsibility," he said.

Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, the Vatican's permanent observer to the United Nations, said that "what is happening now is a defeat of common humanity."

He said in a meeting with the Russian ambassador to the Holy See and telephone conversations with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and by dispatching high-level representatives, Pope Francis is trying to keep all doors open to restore peace.

He said Pope Francis has stressed the need to "stop the war, put down the weapons, take care of the people and talk about peaceful solutions."

"The Holy Father does not despair, because we have the cross. It is a sign of the wickedness of human beings but also of hope that the Resurrection can overcome," Archbishop Caccia said.

Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, said the Russian invasion is not a

response to action by NATO or threats from the West or Ukraine.

Ukraine reduced its army from 900,000 to 100,000 soldiers between 1991 and 2014 and was the first country in the world to give up its nuclear capability. He said it had been the third largest nuclear power and had more nuclear capacity than the United Kingdom, China and France combined.

"What stronger demonstration of peaceful intentions can there be?" he asked.

Ukraine's embrace of democracy is a threat to Russia, he said. Ukraine has elected six presidents in 30 years and "no president in Russia ever lost an election. The disease of democracy cannot enter Russia because it is a threat to the oligarchic kleptocracy," he said.

Archbishop Gudziak said within several days, 25 million Ukrainians will need aid. This includes more than 3.5 million refugees, 7 million internally displaced and 12 million still in their homes who cannot survive without help.

He said resistance in Ukraine is a biblical story akin to David and Goliath. "Ukraine has won this war morally," he said. There is both tragedy and great victory. Europe is united and the North Atlantic relationship has gotten new purpose, he said.

"People were kind of lost in the beginning of the 21st century," their beliefs clouded by commercial and transactional considerations, he said. "All of a sudden, we see something that thousands of Ukrainians believe is worth dying for."

## VIRTUAL EVENTS

## BROWN BAG SERIES

The Office of New Evangelization will be running a new Brownbag Chat.

**Date:** 10 sessions starting Wednesday, March 23

**Time:** noon to 1 p.m.

**Place:** via Zoom

**Features:** We will use the Revive Parishes Series by Chris Stefanick on Evangelization. In each session, we will watch a video together via zoom and then have an informal discussion.

**Contact:** If you would like to join us this series of lunch-time chat discussions, please sign up online at <https://www.rcdony.org/brownbag>. For more information, contact Marika Donders at [mdonders@rcdony.org](mailto:mdonders@rcdony.org)

## ADIRONDACK

## FIRST FRIDAY PRAISE &amp; 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.

## UKRAINE NIGHT

Lake Placid – St. Agnes parish welcomes you to a free-offering dinner in support of Ukrainian Refugees.

**Date:** April 7

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

**Place:** St. Agnes School

**Features:** Soup, salad & bread will be served.

**Contact:** If you are interested in helping, contact the rectory at 518-523-2200 or [stagneschurch@stagnesplp.org](mailto:stagneschurch@stagnesplp.org).

## CLINTON

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

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

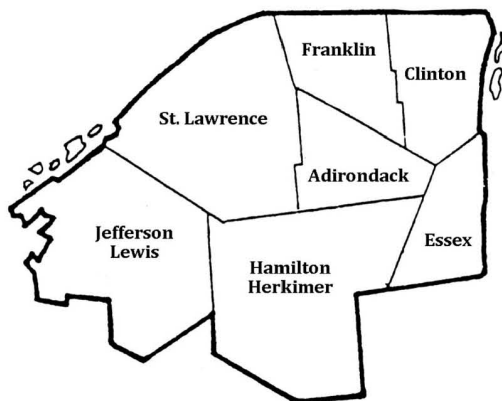
**Date:** March 2 to April 10

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

**Place:** Outside Planned Parenthood

**Features:** Stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood of the North Country.

**Contact:** Nancy Belzile at 518-593-6024 or email: [nancys\\_56@hotmail.com](mailto:nancys_56@hotmail.com) for more information.



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.

## ADORATION

Ellenburg Center – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on the Fridays during Lent.

**Date:** March 4th to April 8th

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

**Place:** Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer.

**Contact:** Deacon Ken Lushia 518-493-6671 or Sarah Anderson, OFS 518-534-9976

## RELICS OF ST. PADRE PIO

Peru – Relics of St. Padre Pio to be viewed at St. Augustine's Church.

**Date:** April 1

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Mass at 8 a.m.

**Features:** The first-class relics available include a crust of Saint Pio's wounds, cotton gauze stained with Saint Pio's blood, and a lock of Saint Pio's hair.

**Contact:** Please, contact the parish at (518) 643-2435 or via email at [info@peruparish.org](mailto:info@peruparish.org) for additional information.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Plattsburgh – Stations of the Cross to be held for the victims of abortion.

**Date:** April 15

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Place:** In front of Planned Parenthood

**Features:** Please dress accordingly. Volunteers needed to hold stations, somber and prayerful meditation.

**Contact:** Nancy at 518-593-6024

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST: JESUS PRESENT AND HOW TO SHARE IT

Plattsburgh – A Continuation of the Eucharist Initiative sponsored by LEAD.

**Date:** April 30

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. to noon

**Place:** Emmaus Room, St. Peter's Church

Presenter: Father Tojo Chacko, HGN

**Features:** We hope you'll bring a bagged lunch for food and conversation afterwards. No cost to attend.

**Contact:** To register, go to: [www.rcdony.org/liturgyeucharist](http://www.rcdony.org/liturgyeucharist)

## FRANKLIN

## DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR

St. Regis Falls – All are invited to the monthly first Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour for Vocations.

**Date:** First Saturday of the Month

**Time:** Following the 4:30 anticipated Mass

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

**Features:** Prayer after Mass, Night Prayer, Prayer for All Souls and the Holy Souls, Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, The Reparation Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary with private meditation on the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the Tabernacle, and Prayers for the Holy Father and his intentions.

## LENTEN DEANERY MISSION

Father John Yonkovig will be doing a Lenten Mission at parishes in our deanery with the theme "Dying to Live"

**Schedule:** April 4, at St. Mary's Church Brushton ("The Best Seat in the House"); April 5, at Notre Dame Church, Malone ("Business as Usual"); April 6, at St. Francis of Assisi, Constable ("Keep Your Hands and Feet Inside the Boat")

**Time:** 7 p.m.

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Malone – Divine Mercy Sunday events to be held at St. André's Parish.

**Date:** April 24

**Place:** Notre Dame Church

**Schedule:** Following the Mass from noon until 3 p.m. the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for individual adoration. Confessions will be heard beginning at 1 p.m. and continue up until 2:50 p.m. At 3 p.m. Devotions for Divine Mercy Sunday will begin. The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy will be prayed and there will be Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome to join in any or all of the above times of prayer and praise as your schedule permits.

**Contact:** For additional information please call the St. André's Parish Office, 518-483-1300.

## JEFFERSON

## HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY

Houseville – A Holy Hour of Adoration with the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be observed the first Sunday of the month.

**Date:** April 2

**Time:** Following 11 a.m. Mass

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

**Contact:** 315-348-6260

## SPAGHETTI &amp; MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Knights of Columbus to have a Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner.

**Date:** April 9

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

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

**Cost:** Adults, \$9 Seniors, \$8; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free; Sauce, \$5 per quart

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

## DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Watertown – Divine Mercy Novena to begin for 9 days.

**Date:** April 15 (Good Friday)

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Place:** St. Patrick's Church, PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR

**Features:** The Divine Mercy Novena will begin with a brief background of the Divine Mercy, and by praying the

Chaplet in the Church to begin the first day of the 9-day Novena. Therefore, the Novena must be prayed every day for the following 8 days until Divine Mercy Sunday.

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Watertown – St. Patrick's Church will hold a Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration.

**Date:** April 24

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Place:** St. Patrick's Church, PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR

**Features:** For all Catholics, active and fallen-away. The Divine Mercy Devotion consists of making a Novena by praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy beginning on Good Friday, making a good confession & celebrating the Feast of Mercy in church.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## HOLY HOUR

Canton – Holy Hour for Vocations to be held.

**Date:** Every Tuesday

**Time:** 4:10 p.m.

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

**Features:** Holy hour followed by Mass at 5:15 p.m. and confessions at 5:45 p.m.

## LENTEN FISH FRY

Gouverneur – St. James School Friday Fish Fries are back during Lent.

**Date:** Beginning March 4th through Lent.

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

**Place:** Back of St. James School

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

**Features:** Dine in or take out.

**Contact:** Local deliveries available by calling 315-287-0130

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Canton – All are welcome to join in praying the Stations of the Cross.

**Date:** Fridays from March 4 – April 15

**Time:** 5:15 p.m.

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

## FOOD DRIVE

Canton – Join the Sarto Council #1059 Knights of Columbus in Canton in a Lenten Food Drive. All are challenged to donate one can of food (or other non-perishable item) for each day of Lent. Donations can be deposited at the doors St. Mary's Church.



## AT THE MOVIES

## THE LOST CITY

**NEW YORK (CNS)** – Grown-ups will find "The Lost City" (Paramount) a crowd-pleasing blend of action, comedy and love story. However, this generally diverting adventure includes material that makes it doubtful fare even for mature teens.

The story focuses on romance novelist Loretta Sage (Sandra Bullock) and her Fabio-like cover model, Alan Caprison (Channing Tatum). Alan has been representing Loretta's fictional hero, Dash McMahon, for so long that her fans conflate the two, much to the scribe's annoyance since

she considers Alan vain and vacuous. What she doesn't realize is that easily tongue-tied Alan carries a secret torch for her.

Widowed Loretta is struggling with writer's block as a result of unresolved grief. But she faces a much bigger problem when she's suddenly kidnapped by crazed billionaire Abigail Fairfax (Daniel Radcliffe).

Fairfax believes Loretta's latest book, "The Lost City of D," which was based in part on research she did years earlier with her archaeologist husband, holds the key to finding a fabulous treasure buried

on a tiny tropical island. When she refuses to cooperate, he forcibly transports her there.

Despite having none of the skills needed to do so, Alan promptly sets off to rescue Loretta.

As directed and co-written by brothers Aaron and Adam Nee (working with Oren Uziel and Dana Fox), the travails of the central pair as they run through the jungle trying to evade Fairfax's minions certainly provide some amusing moments. And a cameo appearance by Brad Pitt as Jack Trainer, a seemingly invincible Navy SEAL, is

nothing short of hilarious.

Alan and Loretta's bumbling relationship, moreover – based, in part, on Loretta's reconsideration of her initially dismissive view of Alan – remains chaste. Yet a couple of sequences, one of shocking mayhem and another in which a character strips down in a nonsexual context, take this well away from the realm of family entertainment.

The former interlude represents an extreme form of gross-out humor while the latter portrays an awkward, rather than intimate, situation. Both are

needlessly included in what is otherwise a jaunty tale of the heroism that can be summoned up by love.

The film contains brief harsh violence with graphic gore, shots of rear male nudity played for laughs, other sexual and scatological jokes, a couple of uses of profanity, several milder oaths and occasional crude and crass language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG-13 – parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

## Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

### ROSARY DEVOTION

Massena – Sacred Heart Church to have first Saturday Rosary Devotion.

**Date:** April 2

**Time:** 3:15 p.m.

**Features:** First Saturday Rosary Devotion to OUR Lady of Fatima. Confessions will be available. Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.

### ALPHA

Massena – You're invited to ALPHA.

**Date:** Starting Tuesdays April 5

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

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

**Features:** Join for a meal and fellowship. No cost to attend

**Contact:** Sylvie Marion at 315-769-2469

### DAY OF MERCY

Canton – St. Mary's Church will be offering a Day of Mercy.

**Date:** April 6

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

**Features:** The Sacrament of Confession to be heard all day with a pause at 8:15 a.m. for morning Mass.

### RECONCILIATION

Massena – All day reconciliation to be held.

**Date:** April 8

**Time:** 6 a.m. to 0 p.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Church

### PRAYER AND ADORATION

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

**Date:** Every third Wednesday of the month (April 20)

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

**Place:** Sacred Heart Church

### THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST: JESUS PRESENT AND HOW TO SHARE IT

Waddington – A Continuation of the Eucharist Initiative sponsored by LEAD.

**Date:** April 30

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. to noon

**Place:** Waddington Parish Center

**Presenter:** Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ

**Features:** We hope you'll bring a bagged lunch for food and conversation afterwards. Cost is free for anyone to attend.

**Contact:** To register for a location go to [rcdony.org/liturgyeucharist](http://rcdony.org/liturgyeucharist)

### DIOCESAN EVENTS

#### YOUTH RALLY

Lake Placid – Diocese of Ogdensburg Youth Rally to be held.

**Date:** Apr. 2

**Time:** 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (with Mass at St. Agnes at 5:30 p.m.)

**Place:** High Peaks Resort

**Cost:** \$35 per youth

**Features:** A Special Day event for you people in grades 7 to 12. Theme will be "In His House". It will be a day filled with Faith, Friendship, Fun, and a closing Mass led by most Reverend Bishop Terry LaValley.

**Contact:** Please visit:

[www.rcdony.org/youth/rally](http://www.rcdony.org/youth/rally) or contact Tom Semeraro 315-393-2920 ext. 1415

#### CHRISM MASS

Ogdensburg – All the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are invited to join the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley in the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all the churches of the Diocese symbolizing that we are one family in Christ.

**Date:** April 7

**Time:** 11 a.m.

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

**Features:** The Chrism Mass will also be livestreamed at [www.rcdony.org/livemass](http://www.rcdony.org/livemass).

#### DIGGING DEEPER INTO THE MYSTERY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Ogdensburg – A day of reflection based on the fourth video of Presence, "Biblical Foundations."

**Date:** April 9

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Place:** Wadhams Hall

**Cost:** \$25

**Speaker:** Sister Mary Gregory Munger, SSJ

**Features:** A Continuation of The Mystery of the Holy Eucharist. Lunch will be provided.

**Contact:** To register go to: [www.rcdony.org/diggingdeeper](http://www.rcdony.org/diggingdeeper)

#### 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:** 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:

[rcdony.org/lovingauthentically](http://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

#### LIFE GIVING WOUNDS RETREAT

Saranac Lake – Retreat to be held for anyone 18 or over whose parents are no longer together either through separation, divorce, or were never married.

**Date:** June 10 – 12

**Place:** Guggenheim Center

**Cost:** \$100 includes lodging, food and retreat materials.

**Features:** Topics will include anxiety, anger, sin, temptation and forgiveness. All presentations are given by trained, expert speakers who are children of divorce.

**Contact:** To register, go to [rcdony.org/lifegw](http://rcdony.org/lifegw). If you are in need of financial assistance to attend the retreat, please contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or [startaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:startaglia@rcdony.org)



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## Readings show God's mercy

Lent has been a time of endless opportunity for new growth, a time for insights into the meaning of God's love for us, that is for those who have been faithful to prayer, penance, and almsgiving. On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, we need to perk up the ears of our hearts when God says to a despondent people in exile to look forward, not backward, as though this moment in which they hear Isaiah's prophecy is really the first day of their lives. He tells them to forget the past, for He has decided to do something new! This prophecy is re-



**Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore**

ally a veiled reference to the Father's decision to send His Son Jesus as Messiah. By his sacrifice, He will bring them out of their vicious cycle of sinning. How sad that hundreds of years later, when their descendants actually saw their Messiah in the flesh, they failed to remember Isaiah's words that God was doing something new!

In the light of that first reading, we can better understand that mercy is the "something new" in the message of Jesus. The Gospel describes what incredible mercy Jesus shows towards the woman

**April 3**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

READINGS

Isaiah 43:16-21

Philippians 3:8-14

John 8:1-11

in today's Gospel. There is no question that she is guilty as well as the man involved. The law in Deuteronomy clearly says they should both be put to death by stoning. For the time being, the Pharisees have placed the woman squarely in front of Jesus, hoping to trap him into saying something incriminating. By writing on the ground, Jesus cleverly shifts the attention to the sins of those about to stone her to death. Here,

indeed, is "something new," and the Pharisees immediately see that Jesus has placed them in the trap! The elders among them are the first so acknowledge that Jesus has won the test, and they are the first to drop their stones and slink away. The others follow, leaving Jesus alone with the woman. Without excusing her sin, He merely tells her she is free to leave, but to "sin no more." What surprises and delights us here is that the Lord has placed something new into the Law! He now includes MERCY – mercy is now a part of justice!

The second reading on Sunday doesn't always fit the meaning of the other two readings, but it does

today. St. Paul tells the Philippians that in the light of our faith that Jesus has redeemed our sins, and in the power of His Resurrection, we now have God's mercy as the reason for our hope and joy. Now, it will be much easier to "strain ahead" each day in pursuit of that goal to which Jesus and His Spirit calls us. This Fifth Sunday brings us more joy than we had expected. Now we should be convinced that Lent is truly a seedtime of hope for the glory to come.

What a dangerous, divided, and fearful world we live in. May we earnestly enter deeply into the days of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection. Remember, he brings mercy and hope.

## CALLED TO SERVE

## Still on the bucket list

As the years whiz by, I find myself thinking a little about the things I would still like to do and the places I would still like to visit, my bucket list. The major difference between my bucket list and others is that I will not go to meet my Lord disappointed that I was unable to empty my bucket.

You don't have to send me notes suggesting I drop everything and accomplish what I would like to do in

this lifetime before the clock of my days stops. Thanks. I'm good.

Visiting the Holy Land is in my bucket. Kathy and I had visions of repeating our wedding vows in Cana for our 50th wedding anniversary, but COVID dashed that plan. A new opportunity to travel to Israel is on the horizon, but we will see. The horizon is a year from now.

We did repeat our vows, by the way, in our parish

church. That was special.

There are other places I'd like to visit or revisit. We will see.

The list of "maybe I'll become a" has changed over the years. That's my "wannabe" list. Somehow, I think being a star on Broadway, a lawyer, a baseball major league second baseman or



**Deacon  
Kevin Mastellon**

president of the United States are not going to happen. I just made the last one up. I never wanted to be president.

But, again, I'm not worked up about any of the things I have not become or will not be. In fact, I thank God for the life I have, our marriage, our daughter, her wonderful family, the experiences and

hurdles, the good times and the bad. I like to say everything in life has prepared me for today.

High on the list of wonderful things has been God's call to me to the diaconate. I did not include priest on the list of "wannabees" above but that did cross my mind for a few days.

If you read these ramblings with any frequency, you know by now that I loved being an altar server. The honor of assisting at the Lord's table has never left me, but my vocation was to marriage and parenthood. Thank you, Holy Spirit, for directing me.

Then the Spirit started blowing in my ear and suggested serving God and the

church as a deacon. Kathy asks wives of deacons, "did you ever imagine you would one day be the wife of a deacon?" A similar question could be posed to the guys. "Did you ever imagine you would, one day, be ordained?"

The section of Paul's letter to the Philippians we hear on the 5th Sunday of Lent is most appropriate. "Forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus."

That goal sits on top of everything else in my bucket.

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

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# Sisters of St. Joseph Foundation offers grant funding

The Sisters of St. Joseph Foundation opened its third annual application window for the 2022 grant season. The awards assist those in leadership roles or those who desire to lead in diocesan, parish or established programs that promote the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Watertown: announcing the Gospel message to “the dear neighbor”

and through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The Foundation is one way the community seeks to continue to bear fruit in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Recent leadership award recipients include:

- Daniel Charlebois, Principal of IHC to participate in Notre Dame University’s Catholic School Leadership

program.

- Sarah Anderson for the support of programs at Our Lady of The Adirondacks House of Prayer

- Deacon Neil Fuller, Parish Life Coordinator at St. Mary’s in Clayton, to continue studies for certification.

- Jessica Hanlin for courses to prepare her to assume a leadership role in

Watertown’s Special Religious Education Program.

- Starr Burke for outreach that will support migrants and immigrants physically and spiritually in the Plattsburgh area.

- Sarah Wojtaszek from Healing Grace Perinatal for programs to assist parents in the loss of their newborn child.

If you or someone you

know is currently active in a leadership role in a diocesan, parish or established program or is in training for such leadership, requests for applications for grant requests up to \$4,000 can be made to: Sisters of St. Joseph Foundation, 1425 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601. Attn. Chairperson. Applications are accepted in March-April.

## OBITUARIES

**Carthage** – Michael J. Condello, 56; Mass of Christian Burial March 28, 2022 at St. James Church.

**Croghan** – Shirley (Aucter) Ardison, 82; Mass of Christian Burial March 22, 2022 at St. Stephen’s Church; burial in St. Vincent DePaul Cemetery, Belfort.

**Dexter** – Leon J. Shatraw, 90; Funeral Services March 22, 2022 at the Johnson Funeral Home; burial in Chapel Hill Cemetery, Parishville.

**Massena** – Ronald W. Greenleaf Sr.; Funeral Services March 24, 2022 at

Phillips Memorial Home.

**Morrisonville** – Dorothy (Cayea) LeClair, 100; Mass of Christian Burial March 29, 2022 at St. Alexander’s Church; burial in Plattsburgh Community Mausoleum.

**Plattsburgh** – Ernest James Cleveland, 80; Mass of Christian Burial March 25, 2022 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in Divine Mercy Cemetery, Cumberland Head.

**Plattsburgh** – Eva Lalone, 58; Mass of Christian Burial March 21, 2022 at Our

Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery.

**Port Henry** – John F. McDonough, 65; Mass of Christian Burial March 23, 2022 at St. Patrick’s Church.

**Potsdam** – Bonnie J. (Thomas) Atkinson, 81; Funeral Services March 25, 2022 at Garner Funeral Service; burial in Cray Mills Cemetery.

**Potsdam** – James Joseph Emerson, 77; Funeral Services March 22, 2022 at Garner Funeral Service; burial in Bay-side Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** – Catherine (O’Brien) Nelson, 94; Graveside services at a later date at St. Mary’s Cemetery, Potsdam.

**Star Lake** – Betty M. Reynolds De Cora, 93; Graveside Services at a later date at St. Hubert’s Cemetery.

**Ticonderoga** – Karen Fuller Blais, 74; Funeral Service March 24, 2022 at Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home.

**Watertown** – Terry W. Curtis Sr., 79; Mass of Christian Burial March 25, 2022 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Robert L. Derouin, 75; Mass of Christian Burial March 25, 2022 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Charles P. Melara, 90; Mass of Christian Burial March 26, 2022 at St. Anthony’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Lena (Campisi) Ward, 93; Mass of Christian Burial March 23, 2022 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

## PARISH MISSION



Father Frank T. Natale, MSC, conducted two two-day Lenten Missions for Blessed Sacrament Parish in Watertown. “The Two Strands of Lent: Baptismal and Penitential” was conducted March 7 and 8 and March 21 and 22. Father Natale, pastor of Our Lady of Sacred Heart Parish in Watertown, is pictured with Father John M. Demo, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish, and Father Matthew S. Conger, parochial vicar.

## REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

### — PRAYER SUGGESTION —

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name a priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life.

Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (...)



## APRIL

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY							2022	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
					BISHOP TERRY LAVALLEY	1	2	REV. PHILIP T. ALLEN
3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
REV. ANDREW J. AMYOT	REV. MEDENEL ANGRAND	REV. DANIEL ASUE	MSGR. JOSEPH G. AUBIN	REV. PIERRE AUBIN, MSC	OUR PASTOR	MSGR. ROBERT H. AUCCOIN		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
REV. DEEPAK BARU, HGN	REV. SCOTT A. BELINA	REV. PETER M. BERG	REV. CORNELLE EKLA BOYEYE, MSC	REV. TIMOTHY G. CANAAN	POPE FRANCIS	BENEDICT XVI POPE EMERITUS		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
REV. CHRISTOPHER C. CARRARA	REV. GERALD A. CERANK	REV. TOJO CHACKO, HGN	REV. DANIEL L. CHAPIN	REV. MARTIN E. CLINE	RETIRED PRIESTS	REV. DOUGLAS G. COMSTOCK		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
REV. MATTHEW S. CONGER	REV. NORMAND C. COTE	REV. THEODORE A. CROSBY	REV. PEDRO EDGARDO DE LA ROSA	REV. DOUGLAS A. DECKER	DECEASED PRIESTS	REV. ROBERT L. DECKER		

A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated. The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society www.myvocation.net

# Jesus falls a third time

Instead of our regular reflections, throughout this holy season of Lent, the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg will be featuring Stations of the Cross.

These Stations of the Cross were assembled by Maureen Crowley Heil, director of Programs and Development for the Pontifical Mission Societies and the Archdiocese of Boston.

Please join us in praying.

## Ninth Station:

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Reader: Unlike this statue in Ecuador, when a child's life is shattered by poverty or violence, it is not so easily mended. Lord Jesus, help us to reach out to victims of hardship and cruelty so that they may feel Your loving embrace through our actions.

## Tenth Station:

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

Reader: Many people, like those seen here in the slums of Haiti, must live without the very basics we take for granted – even an indoor shower or a different outfit to wear most days.

Lord Jesus, help us to be content with what we have – the toys, clothes, shoes, and other possessions – and to sacrifice for Your children, who have so little in this world.



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

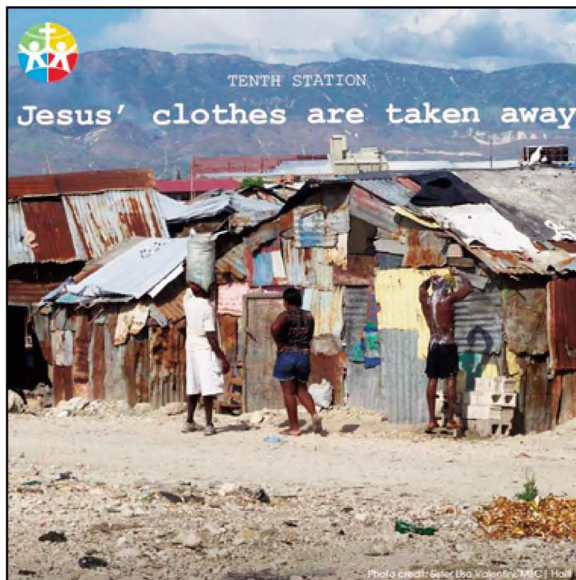
The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669

(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296

mbrett@rcdony.org



## IRISHMAN OF THE YEAR



The Ticonderoga Knights of Columbus Council #333 continues an annual tradition started in 1978 by celebrating an Irishman of the Year annually around St. Patrick's Day. The honoree does not necessarily need to be Irish, nor Catholic. It just happens the honoree this year is very proud to be both. Father Christopher Looby, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga and Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Schroon Lake was given the honor on March 20 at the Knights' Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner.

## TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL Massena, New York

Is seeking applicants for the position of  
**PRINCIPAL**  
For the School Year 2022-23

Applicants should:

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

Applicants should send a cover letter expressing their suitability for the position, resume, a completed application (available at [www.rcdony.org](http://www.rcdony.org) under Offices and then selecting Education), transcripts and two letters of recommendation attesting to the candidate's proven administrative ability and one letter of recommendation attesting to the person's adherence to the Catholic Church, no later than May 6, 2022 to:

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