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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 77 Number 36

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEBRUARY 1, 2023

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CONSECRATED LIFE



Sister Sahayarani Selvaraj, a Sister of the Cross of Chavanod, Sister Mary Paul Blank, a Sister of St. Joseph, and Sister Cathleen Moore, a Sister of St. Joseph celebrated jubilees in 2022. On February 2, the Diocese of Ogdensburg will join the Church worldwide in praying for consecrated religious as part of World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Religious.

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## CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



A student at Trinity Catholic School in Massena tries on a firefighter's coat during a visit from the local fire department on Community Day, part of last year's Catholic Schools Week. Learn more about this year's Catholic Schools Week Celebrations on Pages 3, 4 and 12

## Pope reiterates Church teaching on marriage

Pope Francis on Friday reiterated the Church's perennial teaching on marriage as a lifelong union between a man and a woman.

"Today I would like to share with you some reflections on marriage, because there is a strong need in the Church and in the world to rediscover the meaning and value of the conjugal union between a man and a woman on which the family is founded," the pope said Jan. 27 in the Vatican's apostolic palace. "Indeed," he added, "a certainly not minor aspect of the crisis affecting so many families

is the practical ignorance, personal and collective, about marriage."

Pope Francis spoke about marriage during a meeting with the lawyers, auditors, and collaborators of the Tribunal of the Roman Rota for the inauguration of the judicial year.

The Roman Rota is one of three courts within the Holy See and is akin to a court of appeals or court of "last instance." It is also where marriage nullity cases are judged.

Quoting from his 2013 apostolic exhortation *Evangelii gaudium*, Pope Francis under-

lined that marriage "is a reality with its own precise essence, not a mere form of affective gratification that can be constituted in any way and modified according to each person's sensitivity."

One may ask, he said, how it is possible for men and women, with all the limitations and fragility of human beings, to commit to "a union that is faithful and forever and from which a new family is born?"

Confronted with this question, and with the crises facing many families today, the Church needs to renew awareness in the

gift of grace received through a sacramental marriage, he said.

The gift received in the sacrament of matrimony, he said, is "an irrevocable gift, a source of grace which we can always count on."

Pope Francis also emphasized, quoting the constitution *Gaudium et spes*, that "God himself is the author of marriage."

"And this can be understood to refer to every single conjugal union," he added.

The pope told the tribunal that the Church needs "to rediscover the permanent reality of marriage as a bond."

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# Meeting them where they are

There were only a few of us, and we ranged in ages from 15 to 18. If my memory serves me, we met for a couple of hours each week for around six to eight weeks.

For most of my youth, my home parish had a priest from a religious order, a Dominican. He was an experienced teacher.

During those few weeks, we met with him and discussed portions of St. Thomas Aquinas' *Summa Theologica*, a rather heavy document (both figuratively and literally – it's generally separated into several books) referred to by

one Catholic publishing company as Aquinas' "brilliant synthesis of Christian thought."

That Dominican priest talked to us – then a bunch of teenagers – like we were capable of understanding that heavy material. My friends and I struggled at first, but we eventually got it. We made it through only a section or two of the *Summa* in the six to eight weeks, but we understood those sections fairly

well.

For a period of my life, I used that short course as an example when I would talk about what I considered

good religious education. As I've aged, though, and especially as I became the mother of a teenager who sometimes struggles with abstract concepts, I became acutely aware that it was only a good course because it was targeted at the right audience – teens who could thrive in a traditional academic setting.

My son, a 15-year-old boy who is on the autism spectrum, probably would've struggled and felt lost in our lecture-based class. He learns well in other ways – through engaging stories, through activities, through

repetition. Our Catholic schools get to know their students, providing them individualized

and targeted instruction. Our Catholic schools support students, meeting them where they are academically, emotionally and spiritually and helping them grow in all three areas. Our Catholic schools support families. The schools offer events to help families create fun and community, and they connect families in need with available resources.

Support also comes up in another way. It's critical that we support Catholic education. Enroll your child/grandchild in a Catholic School. Donate time or talent to a school. Pray for a school.

Happy Catholic Schools Week!



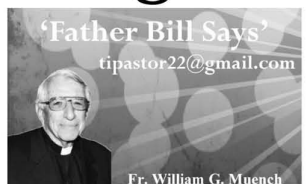
Darcy L.  
Fargo

## Guiding us to sainthood

Last week, I got back to remembering and again investigating the documents of the Second Vatican Council. I continue to realize why our Catholic Church is strong and alive. The Second Vatican Council renewed our foundation. I find such a joy as I read again these important documents. I thank God for the Council; it had such a profound effect on me and my ministry as a priest.

Today, I plan to share with you again the powerful message of the Council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*). The Council here reminds us just what we mean by Church and challenges us as Church to bring everyone to the holiness that Jesus meant for us all.

This document begins by reminding us that as Church, we are a people, the people of God. The Council fathers write this: "God has willed to make men and women holy and save them, not as individuals, but rather to make them into a people who might acknowl-



edge him and serve him in holiness."

Then the Council offers support and challenges the hierarchy of our Church – pope, bishops, priests and deacons of our Church. The Council reminds us that the hierarchy of the Church must remain strong in bringing the Lord's love and peace and holiness to all the people of God.

In this regard, the Council reinstated the office of the permanent deacon. In every place in the world, men are invited to join in the work of the Church as an ordained deacon to assist pastors in the life of the parishes of our Church – assisting at liturgies, preaching the Word of the Lord, celebrating baptisms, weddings, funerals, joining in the ministry of bringing Christ's

holiness to all.

This Council spends much time in reminding us that holiness is what we are called to as the people of God. Jesus loved the Church. Jesus gave himself for the Church to sanctify all people. We believe that God sent the gift of the Holy Spirit to the people of the Church throughout all time. All in the Church – the hierarchy and all those cared for by the Church – are called to holiness.

Jesus spoke of holiness to each disciple without exception: "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your Heavenly Father is perfect." Followers of Christ are made sons and daughters of God through the baptism of faith, making us all partakers of the divine nature, truly sanctified by the Lord. We are all called to live in the perfection of love.

We believe God is love. He who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. God has poured his love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who gives us the necessary gift of charity by

which we love God above all things and love our neighbor as ourselves.

So, as Church, we are called to live as a holy people. Each of us must willingly hear the Word of God and carry out his will with the way we live our lives – by being Church, by partaking of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, by applying ourselves to prayer, self-denial and service of others. Love is the bond of perfection and the fullness of the law of our Savior.

This document then summarizes the Church as the Pilgrim Church. The Church, to which we are called by our Savior, Jesus and in which by the grace of God we acquire holiness, will receive its perfection only in the glory of heaven when Jesus draws us to himself. The Church will guide us to our earthly goal of becoming a saint. With the Lord's help, this goal will be a reality for us all. Why are we disciples of the Lord? To become saints.



# Trinity celebrates Catholic Schools Week

Trinity Catholic School

MASSENA – One of the most exciting times of the school year is Catholic Schools Week (CSW)!

This year, Trinity Catholic School will celebrate CSW February 12-17. The week is packed with fun activities for the students and staff, including fun daily outfit suggestions.

Each year, Trinity kicks off CSW with a pancake breakfast with the community. This year, it will be held on February 12, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the school's cafeteria. Not only is this a delicious way to kick off the week with our families and parish, it's also an important fundraiser for our cafeteria.

During the week, Trinity have daily activities centered around themes:

*Loving our Faith and Families* – Noon Mass with our families, and then the families are invited back to school to play games.

*Loving our Community* – we'll join together as a school community to make Valentine's Day

cards for people in the Massena community!

*Loving the Gifts that God Gave Us* – Trinity will hold its annual Student Talent Show in the morning, with a community Spaghetti Dinner and student Share Fair in the evening.

*Loving our Teachers* – In the morning the teachers will swap classrooms and see what it's like to have a different class for a little bit, and then they get to enjoy the much-loved Faculty and Staff Appreciation luncheon hosted by the school's amazing PTC (parent group).

*Loving our Students* – We'll watch a movie and enjoy popcorn, and perhaps enjoy some outdoor winter fun!

Phew! It's a busy, but well-earned week of fun, and celebrating our Catholic school!

Please keep an eye on our social media for pictures of all the fun!

Facebook: Trinity Catholic School

Instagram: trinity\_catholic\_massena

Website: www.Trinity-CatholicSchool.net



Trinity Catholic School students point out their families' squares on the school-wide heritage quilt made for Heritage Day during 2022's Catholic Schools Week.



A Trinity Catholic School student and his grandmother read together at Catholic Schools Week Opening Mass during last year's CSW celebration.

Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2023

January 29 - February 4 #CSW23

## a dozen reasons

### to choose Catholic Schools

We cultivate a faculty and staff of people who are dedicated, caring and effective.

We have a 99 percent high school graduation rate. 85 percent of our graduates go to college.

We prepare students to be productive citizens and future leaders.

We emphasize moral development and self-discipline.

We teach children respect of self and others.

We provide a safe and welcoming environment for all.

We offer an education that combines Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence.

We partner with parents in the faith formation of their children.

We set high standards for student achievement and help them succeed.

We provide a balanced academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture and life.

We use technology effectively to enhance education.

We instill in students the value of service to others.

THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
NCEA.org/csw

# St. Bernard's celebration began on Sunday

SARANAC LAKE – It's a theme of celebration as St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake kicked off Catholic Schools Week on Sunday.

On Jan. 29, the school marked the theme "Celebrate your Parish," opening the week with Mass at St. Bernard's Church followed by a reception.

Throughout the week, in addition to themed days, St. Bernard's students will participate in "Cereal Dominos." As part of the event, students will bring in a box of cereal or two to donate. At the end of the week, the boxes of cereal will be used to create a domino path throughout the church. The cereal will then be donated to the

Interfaith Food Pantry serving the local community.

While participating in the Cereal Dominos together, classes at St. Bernard's will compete in Penny Wars. Students can bring pennies to school for the week. The class with the highest value at the end of the week earns a dress-down day, and all funds will be donated to the local Humane Society.

On Monday, Jan. 30, St. Bernard's will "Celebrate your Community." Students can participate in mismatch day, and community helpers will be visiting and/or classes will be taking field trips into the community.

On Tuesday, Jan. 31, "Cele-

brate your Students" is the theme. Students can celebrate pajama day, and teachers will serve students a breakfast of pancakes, sausage and juice, and students will watch a movie with popcorn in the afternoon.

"Celebrate your Nation" is the theme of Wednesday, Feb. 1. Students will dress in red, white and blue, make cards to send to members of the U.S. military and will have a community patriotic sing-along at 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 2, will see St. Bernard's "Celebrate Vocations." Students can dress as a grown up and make and deliver cards and treats to take to the rectory, and there will be a full school

presentation on different vocations and professions.

"Celebrate Faculty, Staff and Volunteers" will be the theme on Friday, Feb. 3. Students will be able to dress down, snacks and lunch will be provided for the staff, the students will have "Buddy Morning" and be paired together for activities, and there will be a dance party with DJ Max.

Even when the school week ends, St. Bernard's is keeping Catholic Schools Week going. On Saturday, Feb. 4, St. Bernard's will "Celebrate Families" with a sledding party at North Country Community College Hill complete with hot cocoa and snacks.

## Augustinian Academy ties in Disney theme

By **Mary Ann Margrey**  
Principal, Augustinian Academy

CARTHAGE – Catholic Schools Week is one of the favorite weeks for the students and staff. Not only do we celebrate all the things Augustinian Academy has to offer, but it provides so many opportunities for the whole school to gather for a little fun.

This year we will celebrate the week of February 12. On Sunday, February 12, the Knights of Columbus and Ave Maria Circle will host a Pancake Breakfast which provides a delicious meal of pancakes, French toast, scrambled eggs, sausage and ham as well as fresh muffins.

This year we will celebrate with a Disney

theme.

On Mad Hatter Monday, students and staff will wear their favorite or craziest hat. That day will also include the annual faculty vs. seventh- and eighth-grade volleyball game. The teachers recall that they have the most wins so far, but the seventh and eighth graders are confident they can chalk up the win!

Everyone will wear their pajamas on Sleeping Beauty Tuesday. The seventh and eighth graders will also be reading to the younger students and helping with a craft for Valentine's Day!

Wednesday brings Goofy's Goofiest Day with wacky outfit day.

The faculty and staff will show off their talents with a lip-sync contest featuring Disney songs!

Thursday's Rapunzel's Bad Hair Day will feature crazy hair styles. We can't wait to see what everyone comes up with. During the day, the students will take part in a scavenger hunt!

The Incredible Friday will feature a wide variety of Disney characters as the students and staff dress as their favorite Disney character. Our third and fourth graders will host a Fun Hour to help raise funds for a Catholic school in Ecuador. Their teacher, Mrs. Vickers heard about this school and dis-

cussed this project with her students. They decided to help this poor school by raising funds to fill a suitcase with school supplies that are greatly needed. What a great life lesson on serving others!

We also remember to thank those who do so much to support us...our parishioners, our alumni, our community businesses! We know that we are able to do all that we do because of the generosity of so many.

While we spend this week before our mid-winter break having so much fun, we always remember that we are each a gift from God working together to love and share as Jesus did. We can learn life lessons and build positive relationships with others by sharing time together learning and playing! We pray all of our Catholic Schools will celebrate who they are and all they do! Happy Catholic Schools Week to everyone!

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[www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org)

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- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

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# World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ  
Diocesan Vocations Coordinator

*"Consecrated life is a living encounter with the Lord in his people. It is a call to the faithful obedience of daily life and to the unexpected surprises from the Spirit. It is a vision of what we need to embrace in order to experience joy: Jesus." – Pope Francis*

On the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, February 2, the Gospel reading (Luke 2:22-38) tells us that Mary and Joseph were being faithful to the Mosaic Law (Exodus 13:2, 12) of consecrating Jesus, that is, offering Him to the Lord. In the spirit of their own poverty, Mary and Joseph offered a pair of turtledoves according to the dictates of the Law. Upon entering the Temple, they met Simeon and Anna who had long awaited the coming of the Messiah. The Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that "he would not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord" (Luke 2:26).

With open arms, Simeon reached out to hold the Child Jesus and praised and blessed God that his eyes had seen the salvation promised long ago. How did Simeon recognize this babe in arms as the One who is to come? Luke tells us that "the Holy Spirit was upon him" (Luke 2:25).

On this special day, the Church celebrates the World Day of Consecrated Life, specifically religious women and men who radically offer and consecrate their lives of poverty, chastity and obedience to God to carry forward the charism of their religious communities of proclaiming the Gospel to the world. The Church also celebrates



FILE PHOTOS BY JESSE SOVIE & DARCY FARGO

(Above) Consecrated religious from around the diocese gathered at St. Mary's Cathedral for the Religious and Marriage Jubilee in September. (Below) Father Joseph Kanimea and Father Corneille Boyeye, both of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, process into the diocesan 150th Anniversary Mass in August.



consecrated virgins who dedicate their lives for the world.

What moved these women and men to answer the call to consecrated life? What moves a young woman and man to consider consecrated life today? It is the movement of the Holy Spirit within the heart of each person.

Simeon was "moved by the Holy Spirit" to know that when he saw Mary and Joseph bring the Child to the Temple this was the Christ, the Savior of the world. It is in the silence of deep prayer, leaning and listening to the heartbeat of God's immense love that Simeon

knew Who was before him. He was in the Temple every day, listening, praying and waiting. Luke tells us that it had been revealed to him that he would not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. The Holy Spirit cleared the way for Simeon to pray the "Nunc Dimittis," a prayer recited at Night Prayer of the Divine Office.

Are our young people moved by the power of the Holy Spirit to radically offer their lives to God?

There are young women and men discerning the next step in their lives and looking for a

## CELEBRATING THOSE WHO SERVE

### What is World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life?

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred to the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church. – USCCB

### Religious Congregations in the Diocese of Ogdensburg

- Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod, Cadyville, Sackets Harbor, Watertown
- Sisters of St. Joseph, Carthage, Copenhagen, Ogdensburg, Ticonderoga, Watertown
- Sisters of the Precious Blood, Watertown
- Sisters of Mercy, Lake Placid, Plattsburgh, Saranac Lake, Watertown
- Sister of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Massena
- Daughters of Charity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Plattsburgh
- Dominican Sisters of Hope, Plattsburgh
- Sisters of Charity of St. Louis, Plattsburgh
- Consecrated Virgins for the World, Plattsburgh
- Heralds of the Good News, Elizabethtown, Lyon Mountain, Tupper Lake
- Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Watertown

deeper way of living their lives, to make a difference, to help the poor, the immigrants, migrants, homeless, uneducated, etc. As a consecrated religious, I need to examine my own interior movements and motivations so that the Holy Spirit will bring about a renewal of consecrated life.

What do our eyes see? Do our eyes see a longing for the sacred? A longing for God? A longing to bring hope to a world that is losing hope? A longing for a brighter future? The Lord continues to give signs that invite men and women to consider a vocation to the consecrated life.

As Simeon opened his arms and took the Child Jesus into his arms, he spoke words of blessing, praise and wonder of the joy of holding the Savior of the world. God yearns and thirsts for love. Are

our arms open to the movement of the Holy Spirit? Are our hearts open to the movement of the Holy Spirit to hear the voice that calls, "Follow Me"? The question may be asked, "Where do you live, Lord?" (John 1:38) And Jesus says, "Come and See!" (John 1:39).

Can we take Jesus in our arms, hold Him, encounter Him with love and joy, and allow the Holy Spirit to move us, guide us, lead us into the greatest adventure of our lives?

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is blessed with the dedication and service of women and men religious who serve the people of the North Country. It is with deep gratitude that their spirit of their love for God and His people that their special charism continues to bear fruit. Let us pray for more vocations to the consecrated life.

## Environmental Stewardship

## Is it either/or?

Have you ever tried to match an article of clothing or a skein of yarn with something that is black or white? One would think that is not a problem; it is either black or white. However, experience reveals that there are MANY shades of black and white, just as nature shows us many shades of color in blue skies, green grass, red flowers.

Why is it that we often find ourselves viewing people, situations or places in this either/or way? It is amazing how one person can describe a friend in positive glowing lights and yet someone else sees the same person only in negative darkness. Our society seems to relish either deifying or demonizing others. It seems caught in what St. Paul warns his disciples not to be caught up in rivalries, as in "I belong to Paul or Apollos or Cephas or Christ." We witness this tendency even in our Church, and in response to Jesus' call to love our neighbors.

The spiritual classic *The Demon and the Dove*, by Father Adrian van Kaam and Kathleen Healy, sheds light on this tendency. As we mature, we go through stages. As small children, we see our parents as all good: "My dad/mom can do anything!" Thus, we tend to deify them. Then, as we get older, when we see them do something wrong, we may demonize them. It seems now they can do nothing right! It is at this point we often get stuck and tend to see only black or white, missing out on all the myriad of shades of goodness amid the struggle with imperfection. If we recognize these tendencies, we are less likely to become stuck. It is then that we need to seek God's grace and patience to see that it is not a question of either/or but both/and. We are precious yet not perfect.

On this journey to wholeness and holiness, we need the many 'shades' of each person to enrich and challenge us to live the Gospel each day.

# Mass of Christian Burial celebrated for Sister Kathleen Mary DeBoalt

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sister Kathleen Mary DeBoalt, a Sister of St. Joseph, on January 24, 2023, at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse. Bishop Terry R. LaValley was the celebrant, and Father John M. "Mickey" Demo was the homilist.

Sister Kathleen Mary DeBoalt died January 18, 2023, at the St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse at the age of 72.

She was born February 9, 1950 in Syracuse, the daughter of Francis DeBoalt and Mary (Pizio) DeBoalt.

Sister Kathleen Mary graduated from North Syracuse High School in 1968. She continued her



Sister Kathleen Mary DeBoalt, a Sister of St. Joseph, poses with students in her second-grade class at Immaculate Heart Central in this 2019 North Country Catholic photo.

studies at SUNY Oswego, earning a Bachelor of

Science degree in 1972. She later continued graduate studies at Nazareth College in Rochester earning a Masters of Science Degree.

Upon completing her first degree and receiving her New York State certification, she taught kindergarten at Harrisville Central School until 1981.

She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in Watertown on September 7, 1981. She made her First Profession of Vows on February 24, 1985, and her Final Profession on August 18, 1990. Father Thomas Robillard was the celebrant for both

professions.

Sister Kathleen was a primary teacher throughout her long teaching ministry. She retired from the classroom in June, 2022, but she continued to work part time at IHC Elementary in the library and Faith Formation program.

Throughout those many years, she taught at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, Watertown, St. James School, Gouverneur, St. Augustine's School, Peru, and in her last years at Immaculate Heart Elementary in Watertown.

In addition to her teaching ministry, she served as director of the Sisters of St. Joseph Associate Program and was a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph Leadership Team.

Sister Kathleen Mary DeBoalt is survived by her brothers John (Charlotte) of Lake Bonaparte, New York, and Thomas (Debbie) of Granby, Colorado. She is also survived by her nieces Megan Rajkovick and Jessica Brevik, and her nephews Dan DeBoalt and Phillip DeBoalt, as well as six grandnieces and grandnephews.

She is predeceased by her parents Francis and Mary DeBoalt.

Funeral arrangements were with Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph, 1425 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

Online condolences to her family may be posted at [www.cummingsfuneral.com](http://www.cummingsfuneral.com).

## Rest in Peace

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

**Feb. 1** – Rev. John B. Doonan, 1949; Msgr. George T. Donnelly, 1968; Rev. Edward M. Delaney, 1977; Rev. Robert L. Cotter, 2015

**Feb. 2** – Rev. William Bennett, O.M.I., 1887; Rev. Amadeus Viger, O.S.A., 1915; Rev. George E. Racette, 1961; Rev. Gilbert O. Boisvert, 2017

**Feb. 3** – Rev. John McDonald, 1879

**Feb. 4** – Rev. Joseph Redington, 1892; Rev. Edmund Walsh, 1925; Msgr. Michael R. Burns, 1932; Rev. Henry McArdle, O.S.A., 1969; Rev. Francis Maurus Kearns, 1990

**Feb. 5** – Msgr. Thomas E. Walsh, 1901; Msgr. F. Gordon Coseo, 1997; Rev. John J. Fallon, 2005

**Feb. 6** – Msgr. Gerard Gefell, 2009

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Feb. 1** – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council meeting at Bishop's Residence

## To Report Abuse

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

## 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: **Feb. 6** – 2:30 p.m., St. Joseph's Outreach Center, Plattsburgh



# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Pope Francis decries German Synodal Way

VATICAN CITY (CNA) — In an interview published Jan. 25, Pope Francis decried the German Synodal Way as elitist, unhelpful, and running the risk of bringing ideological harm to Church processes. “The German experience does not help,” the pontiff told Associated Press when asked about the controversial process, explaining that dialogue should involve “all the people of God.” The 86-year-old pontiff contrasted the German event, which is not a synod, with the universal Church’s recently extended Synod on Synodality. Francis said on Tuesday that the global synod’s aim was to “help this more elitist (German) path so that it does not end badly in some way, but so is also integrated into the Church.” While Pope Francis did not delve into details of the demands made in Germany, he plainly described the Synodal Way as perilous. “Here the danger that something very, very ideological trickles in. When ideology gets involved in church processes, the Holy Spirit goes home, because ideology overcomes the Holy Spirit,” he said in the wide-ranging interview that also included remarks about the Church’s stance on homosexuality, the loss of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI — and his health. Since its launch by Cardinal Reinhard Marx in 2019, the German Synodal Way has courted controversy. Participants have voted in favor of draft documents calling for the priestly ordination of women, same-sex blessings, and changes to Church teaching on homosexual acts, prompting accusations of heresy and fears of schism. Concerns have been publicly raised by Church leaders from Poland, the Nordic countries, and around the world.

## Alabama governor adds protection to religious freedom

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (CNA) — Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey, a Republican, signed an executive order Friday to protect religious freedom in the state. The executive order ensures the enforcement of the Alabama Religious Freedom Amendment. Passed by the state Legislature in 1998, the amendment to the state constitution guarantees the freedom from government coercion in violation of one’s religion to all individuals and businesses holding state licenses as well as all state contractors, employees, and grant and benefits recipients. “As I have promised, under my watch, our state government will always reflect the values of our people,” Ivey, who has served as governor since 2017, said. “Religious freedom is the cornerstone of the American way of life, and as governor, I will always protect the rights of Alabamians and ensure they are free to exercise their beliefs as provided in the Constitution.” Donald Carson, communications director for the Diocese of Birmingham, applauded the governor’s action. “Catholics in the Diocese of Birmingham, which covers central and northern Alabama, are blessed to live and work in this state with such strong affirmation of religious freedom,” Carson told CNA. Religious Liberty in the States, a database on freedom of religion in the U.S. maintained by the Center for Religion, Culture, and Democracy, ranked Alabama as the 12th best for religious freedom in 2022.

# Baker loses appeal over transgender birthday cake

By Kevin J. Jones  
Catholic News Agency

A Colorado appellate court has ruled against a baker who appeared in court once again for declining to make a cake that contradicts his religious beliefs.

While Jack Phillips’ successful U.S. Supreme Court case concerned his refusal to make a same-sex wedding cake, he now faces a civil lawsuit for declining to make a cake celebrating a purported gender transition of a transgender-identifying attorney.

In a Thursday decision, a Colorado Court of Appeals three-judge panel sided with Autumn Scardina, a man who identifies as a transgender woman. Scardina said Phillips and his Lake-wood, Colorado, Masterpiece Cakeshop discriminated when he declined to bake a pink cake with blue frosting to celebrate Scardina’s purported gender change.

Phillips has ruled out making various kinds of cakes he says would violate his Christian religious beliefs. He is represented by the Alliance Defending Freedom legal group, which will appeal the case to the Colorado Supreme Court.

“Free speech is for everyone. No one should be forced to express a message that violates their core beliefs,” Jake Warner, Alliance Defending Freedom senior counsel, said Jan. 26.

“Over a decade ago, Colorado officials began targeting Jack, misusing state law to force him to say things he does not

believe,” Warner said. “Then an activist attorney continued that crusade. This cruelty must stop. One need not agree with Jack’s views to agree that all Americans should be free to say what they believe, even if the government disagrees with those beliefs.”

Phillips’ attorneys had appealed a 2021 trial court’s judgment in favor of Scardina, ruling that Phillips and his bakery violated state anti-discrimination law.

The Jan. 26 appellate court decision, written by Judge Thomas J. Schutz, sided with Scardina’s claim to have been denied service because of a transgender identity, in violation of the right to be free from discrimination in a place of public accommodation.

Schutz said the defendants “contend their decision not to make a cake for Scardina was based on their firm and sincere religious beliefs and the right to be free from compelled speech that would violate those beliefs.”

However, Schutz rejected the argument that the Colorado law compelled speech in this case.

“It was only after Scardina disclosed that she was transgender and intended to use the cake to celebrate both her birthday and her transition that Masterpiece and Phillips refused to provide the cake,” said the ruling. “Thus, it was Scardina’s transgender status, and her desire to use the cake in celebration of that status, that caused Masterpiece and Phillips to refuse to provide the

cake.”

According to the ruling, Scardina’s cake request differed from previous cake requests, which required an explicit message.

“We conclude that creating a pink cake with blue frosting is not inherently expressive and any message or symbolism it provides to an observer would not be attributed to the baker,” said the ruling, which concluded the state law therefore does not compel speech.

The use of the plaintiff’s transgender pronouns was also an issue in the appeal. Schutz rejected arguments that the trial court showed hostility toward the religious beliefs of Phillips and his wife, Debra.

“The trial court initially indicated it would not force parties in the case to use pronouns they found offensive,” the court’s decision continued. “However, the court noted that Ms. Phillips’ decision to avoid using feminine pronouns when referring to Ms. Scardina was relevant to the credibility of her suggestion that Scardina’s transgender status was unrelated to the decision not to make the requested cake.”

“We do not discern any suggestion of hostility in the court’s statements,” the ruling said.

Phillips has been involved in legal trouble for more than a decade in cases that implicate free speech and the place of Christians in public life as changes to anti-discrimination laws provide more avenues for lawsuits against them.

## ADIRONDACK-FRANKLIN

## PRAISE AND 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.

## 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, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the Tabernacle, and prayers for the Holy Father and his intentions.

## CLINTON

## PREPARATION FOR PARISH NURSING

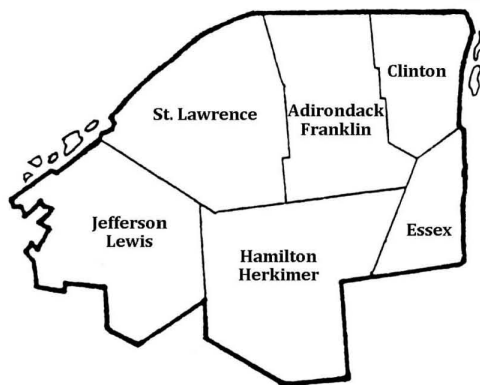
Plattsburgh – Mercy Care for the Adirondacks will offer preparation for the role of Parish Nurse.

**Date:** Beginning March 10

**Place:** St. Joseph's Outreach Center

**Features:** This course is open to registered nurses and others who are interested in health ministry in their parishes or with Mercy Care. Parish Nurses (Faith Community Nurses) assist the members of their faith community to maintain or regain wholeness in body, mind and spirit. They promote wellness by health screening, health education, advocating for clients, connecting them to services in their community, listening and providing support. There is no charge, but registration is required. It is 36-hour course offered on Fridays and Saturdays in March.

**Contact:** For 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.

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

please contact Alexandria (Lexi) Bevilacqua, Program Director at abevilacqua@adkmercy.org or 518-523-5446.

## ADORATION

Plattsburgh – Adoration to be held weekly.

**Date:** Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

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

**Place:** St. John's in the Holy Family Basement

**Features:** Come to an out of the way place and rest awhile in Jesus' Presence. Experience His healing power, grace, love and mercy for yourselves and loved ones.

**Contact:** For more information, to become a substitute or to sign up for an hour, please contact 518-563-3773.

## JEFFERSON-LEWIS

## 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:** Feb. 5

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

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

**Contact:** 315-348-6260

## SPAGHETTI &amp; MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River

Council 7471 Knights of Columbus will be having a spaghetti & meatball dinner.

**Date:** Feb. 11

**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; Quart of sauce, \$6

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

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Carthage – A pancake breakfast to be held to benefit Augustinian Academy sponsored by the Father John Cosmic Council 291 of the Knights of Columbus

**Date:** Feb. 12

**Time:** 8AM to Noon

**Place:** St. James Community Room

**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$7; Children under 10, \$4; Family of 4 or more, \$27

**Contact:** For more information call 315-493-3224

## WOMEN'S PRAYER &amp; HEALING RETREAT

Watertown – The Department of Faith Formation will be having a Women's Prayer and Healing retreat.

**Date:** March 31

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

**Place:** Sisters of St. Joseph Hearthiside Room

**Cost:** \$20

**Features:** The retreat will be run by Sister Mary Michael Fox, OP, a member of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville.

**Contact:** To register go to, www.rcdony.org/healingretreat

## ST. LAWRENCE

## MEAL DELIVERY DRIVERS NEEDED

The St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging is seeking drivers for home delivered meals in Brasher Falls, DeKalb, Canton, Gouverneur, Morristown, Ogdensburg, Potsdam and Star Lake.

**Features:** Drivers deliver hot, nutritious meals to older adults. Many are homebound and receive a lunchtime meal Monday through Friday. A critical component of this program is the daily wellness check that is provided. Drivers receive a mileage reimbursement. Typical deliveries take place between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Routes can be between one hour and two hours. Any help is greatly appreciated.

**Contact:** If you are interested please contact Danielle Durant at 315-386-4730.

## ADORATION

Norwood – St. Andrew's Church to offer Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday.

**Time:** After 8:30 a.m. Mass until Noon

**Features:** Sign up is not needed.

## BISHOP BARRON STUDY PROGRAM

Massena – St. Peter's Parish will have an 8 week study program using Bishop Barron's "Conversion".

**Date:** Tuesdays starting Jan. 31

**Time:** 2 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.

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

**Contact:** St. Peter's Office at 315-769-2469 or visit website at massenacatholic.com for info and registration

## THE CHOSEN 1 &amp; 2

Massena – St. Peter's Parish will be showing "The Chosen" 1 and 2.

**Date:** Season 1 starts Wednes-

days Feb. 1 and Season 2 starts Mondays Jan. 30

**Time:** 6 p.m.

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

**Contact:** Call St. Peter's Office at 315-769-2469 or visit website at massenacatholic.com for info and registration.

## ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

Ogdensburg – The Legion of Mary will pray the rosary with devotions for First Saturday.

**Date:** Feb. 4

**Time:** 8 a.m.

**Place:** Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

**Features:** Rosary with devotions

## FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY DEVOTION

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

**Date:** Feb. 4

**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.

## MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Massena – First Saturday of the month, men's prayer group to meet for Mass and Adoration.

**Date:** Feb. 4

**Time:** 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Church  
**Features:** Coffee and donuts after service in the parish center

**Contact:** Bob Brothers at 315-842-2886

## ST. JAMES GALA

Gouverneur – St. James School will have their 2023 Gala, "Return to Vegas."

**Date:** Feb. 11

**Time:** 5:45 p.m. to Midnight

**Place:** St. James School  
**Cost:** \$75, includes dinner, drinks, dancing, admission to auctions, door prizes, games, raffles and new surprises at our premiere event! Must be 21 years of age.

**Features:** The lights, the excitement, the suspense, the fun.... it's back IN PERSON! Return to our



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Vegas themed night to try your luck and help us raise a buck! Join us for all our party favorites including the in person treasure chest keys, silent and live auctions, Pay and Pick game, raffles, prizes, full course meal, famous dessert bar, cash bar and dancing!

**Contact:** For more information please contact 315-287-0114 or St. James School 315-287-0130

### MONTHLY BRUNCH

Norfolk – Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond's will have their monthly Knights of Columbus Brunch.

**Date:** Feb. 12 (Second Sunday of each month)

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 11:30

**Place:** Fr. Amyot Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; under 12, \$5; under 5, Free; Omelets, add \$3; Take-outs available

**Contact:** For more information contact Grand Knight Gil Gonthier 315-212-5166.

### PRIEST, PROPHET, KING

Ogdensburg – St. Mary's Cathedral to host a Lenten study featuring Bishop Robert Barron's DVD-based Study Program: Priest, Prophet, King.

**Date:** Thursdays starting Feb. 2nd to March 16th.

**Time:** 2 sessions to choose from, 9:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** Bishop Brzana Hall.

**Features:** Join us as we deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ. Explore the biblical archetypes of priest, prophet, and king and see how Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of each one. Throughout this experience, you will better understand who Jesus really is and also realize your own priestly, prophetic, and kingly mission. No charge for the workbooks, but donations will be accepted.

**Contact:** Email billob315@gmail.com (preferred) or if you don't have email, simply call between 5 and 9 p.m. at: 315-528-0461 to register.

### 40 CANS FOR LENT

Canton – The Knights of Colum-

bus in Canton invite you to participate in the "40 Cans for Lent" program as part of your Lenten journey.

**Features:** Simply donate one can of food or a non-perishable item for each of the 40 days of Lent. Donations can be made at any of the doors at St. Mary's Church 68 Court St. in Canton. Lent provides an opportunity for each of us to live generously- to show gratitude for God's gifts to us and to share those gifts with others.

### DAY OF REFLECTION

Ogdensburg – The Department of Faith Formation will be hosting a Day of Reflection.

**Date:** April 1

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Place:** Wadhams Hall

**Cost:** \$30, lunch is included

**Features:** Sister Mary Michael Fox, OP, a member of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville will present "Blessed, Broken, Given: Living Eucharistia!"

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

### DIOCESAN EVENTS

### SURVIVING DIVORCE

The Family Life Office is offering the Surviving Divorce Program, starting late February in Gouverneur, Canton and Potsdam/Colton.

**Dates:** Facilitators at each site will contact registrants to establish exact dates and times for the meetings.

**Cost:** \$25

**Features:** Surviving Divorce features twelve video presentations that cover topics such as shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, and annulment and remarriage. This program is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later.

**Contact:** Register online at [www.rcdony.org/survivingdivorce](http://www.rcdony.org/survivingdivorce). For more information contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or [startaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:startaglia@rcdony.org).

dony.org.

### LOVING AUTHENTICALLY

All are invited to attend this free seminar, Loving Authentically: Sex, Happiness and Catholic Teaching designed to deepen our understanding of how Church doctrine on sexual morality connects with our happiness.

**Schedule:** 3 different times and locations to attend. Feb. 12, 2023 at Newman Center, Plattsburgh 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; April 22, 2023 at St. Bernard's Saranac Lake 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; May 20, 2023 at St. Mary's Ticonderoga 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Features:** Program will be a showing of "Unprotected: A Pope, the Pill, and the Perils of Sexual Chaos." With Q & A led by Natural Family Planning Directors, Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli and Catholic Theologian, Maura Harden Fehlner, Ph.D. Lunch will be provided.

**Contact:** To register go [www.rcdony.org/lovingauthentically](http://www.rcdony.org/lovingauthentically). For more information contact Stephen Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or [startaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:startaglia@rcdony.org)

### RITE OF ELECTION

Ogdensburg - The Rite of Election will be held the first Sunday of Lent. All are invited to experience this liturgy and offer prayer and support to the Catechumen and Candidates preparing for full initiation into the Catholic Church this Easter.

**Date:** Feb. 26

**Time:** 2:30 p.m.

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

**Contact:** Anita Soltero at [asoltero@rcdony.org](mailto:asoltero@rcdony.org) or 518-310-3669 with questions.

### YOUTH LENTEN RETREAT

Lenten Retreats for youth in grades 7 to 12 to be held.

**Schedule:** March 4 at Sacred Heart Church (Dostie Hall), Watertown 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. with Mass at 4:30 p.m.; March 18 at St. Peter's Church (Emmaus Room) 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. with Mass at 4 p.m.

**Features:** During this retreat, youth will be able to have fun while putting together their "Best Lent Yet" plan! Drinks and snacks will be provided. There is no fee to attend and, retreatants are encouraged to attend the Mass offering.

**Contact:** Registration is required to attend. The deadline to register is: March 1. To register visit: [www.rcdony.org/lentenretreat](http://www.rcdony.org/lentenretreat) When registering, please choose the date and location that works best for you. For more information **Contact:** Tom Semeraro @ 315-393-2920 ext. 1415

### MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

Massena - The Vocation Office and the Office of Youth Ministry is sponsoring a Middle School Retreat (Grades 6-8) in the St. Lawrence/Franklin region of the Diocese.

**Date:** March 22

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

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

**Features:** The purpose of a Middle School Retreat is to guide young women and men to prayerfully consider what God's plan is for their lives. This invitation is open to students in Grades 6-8 both in the Catholic schools and public schools. This is a Retreat Day for the students and is considered a legal excused absence.

**Contact:** Contact your pastor, Catholic school principal, or Religious Education Coordinator for a registration form.

### GUGGENHEIM SUMMER CAMP

2023 registration is open. New this year is a mini session for youth 11-13 years old along with the annual sleepaway camp weeks for ages 11 to 18.

**Dates:** The season starts July 5th and ends Aug. 11th.

**Cost:** Mini session is \$200 and the weeklong sessions is \$425 per camper. Meals and accommodations are included in the registration fee.

**Features:** There are so many fun things to do at camp! Like arts and crafts, Project Adventure,

Liturgy, rappelling, hiking, basketball, or soccer, swimming and watercrafts. Evenings at camp are packed with fun activities like bonfire time, a dance, outdoor movies, and camp-wide games.

**Contact:** To sign up for camp please visit: [www.rcdony.org/youth/camp](http://www.rcdony.org/youth/camp) or call, Jeannie Grizzuto at 315-393-2290 ext. 1413

### SUMMER CAMP YOUTH DIRECTOR

Saranac Lake – The Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking an energetic and dedicated individual for the position of Summer Youth Camp Director at the Guggenheim Center.

**Features:** Summer Camp Guggenheim has been a "home away from home" for people ages 12 to 18 years old since 1972. Hike, Swim, Praise, and a whole lot more! Summer camp Guggenheim is a high energy camp filled with activities and opportunities for campers to experience their faith and joyfully celebrate it.

**Contact:** To apply please visit: [www.rcdony.org/information/employment](http://www.rcdony.org/information/employment) Questions or inquiries Tom Semeraro, Director of Youth Ministry 315-393-2920 ext. 1415 [www.rcdony.org/youth](http://www.rcdony.org/youth)

### NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

#### CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

Syracuse – Diocese of Syracuse Catholic Men's Conference, Ignite 2023 to be held.

**Date:** March 25

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

**Place:** SRC Arena & Event Center

**Cost:** \$55 through March 7, \$65 after March 7, \$70 at the door

**Features:** Scheduled speakers include Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Christopher Stefanick, Mike McGlinn and Gus Lloyd. Open to men ages 16 - 96. A near sell-out crowd is expected because of the slate of speakers.

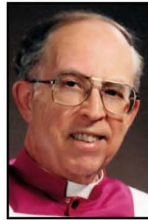
**Contact:** For more information and to register, visit <https://www.ignitecatholicmen.org>

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Look to those looking for light

One of the great concerns of Pope Francis since his election is that of hospitality, openness to other Christians, working for real Church unity. The theme of the Week for Christian Unity this year asked a question: "Has Christ been divided?" Our Holy Father has said with intense sincerity that our divisions must stop. They are not inevitable. With humility and trust we must continue our journey together, exploring reasons for our differences. Unity will not come for merely human

efforts. We must walk together in the Holy Spirit. It's a very special aspect of the New Evangelization. While we take joy and constant nourishment from our cherished forms of worship and devotions, we must be always aware that Christ established One Church, not many. Jesus, in the Gospel today says to those who had just heard His teaching on the Beatitudes, "You are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world." In this passage, Jesus urges them not to "light a lamp, and then put it under a



**Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore**

**February 5**

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**READINGS**

Isaiah 58:7-10

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Matthew 5:13-16

bushel basket." No, "Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

We need always to look outward to those who are looking for light, as well as to those who have given up hope of ever finding it! Love isn't love until it is shared, not just to our own, but to all whom we meet in our streets and in the public square.

A special way to be light-bearers is to look to the physical needs of our neighbor.

In our first reading today from "late" Isaiah, we hear the prophet giving God's word to those who had just returned from the Babylonian exile, a people who were eager to observe the rituals which had been denied them for many years. At the beginning of this 58th chapter, the prophet is scolding them for their lack of concern for widows, orphans and aliens, despite their observance of many fasts. But then his tone abruptly changes. He tells them that if they look beyond their selfishness and take care of

those in need, "then your light shall break forth like the dawn....and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard." If you correct your unjust behavior, "then you shall cry for help, and he [God] will say 'Here I am!'"

Very often our long, cold winters can bring depression and darkness to our souls. The best medicine for huddling inwardly in misery these days is to look to the misery of our neighbors, whether spiritual or physical. Heeding the words of Pope Francis can lift our spirits and bring the warmth of Christ's light to our neighbor and welcome him to the community of the Church.

## CALLED TO SERVE

# But it was just Christmas

One of us, I can't recall if it was Kathy or me, said in the course of conversation the other night that our digital thermometer was kaput. That was our conclusion after the thermometer read 56 degrees in a roast that had been in the oven for several hours. Mind you we were educated in the liberal arts so maybe the thermometer was correct, but we decided it was broken.

Scrounging around the catch-all drawer in the kitchen, I found an old-fashioned meat thermometer, and it read 140 degrees. Time to take the roast out and let it rest.

The off-hand comment about the non-functioning thermometer came at a dinner with our daugh-

ter, son-in-law and three grandsons.

The words had barely been uttered before I noticed my daughter's eyes move immediately to my son-in-law and I could almost read the telepathic communication between them. "Christmas present."

It turns out, that was exactly what they were thinking so I guess we will have to make-do with our old-fashioned (but working, I might add) thermometer for roughly eleven months until Christmas comes around on the calendar again.

We are in the process of de-Christmasizing our home. With luck, we will have all the Christmas decorations stored away by Ash Wednesday. The

outside lights, which never really worked to my satisfaction, will be the last to come down. Certainly, by Easter. Maybe!

I'll commit to figuring out why one string did not light, or replace it, before next Christmas season. I did not say when I'll figure that out, just that I am committed to do it.

Meanwhile, we have been working on the Lent and Holy Week schedule.

That's the way things work in a parish. We might be celebrating the Octave of Christmas, but pastors and others responsible for appointments in church are



**Deacon Kevin Mastellon**

already thinking about un-decorating after we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord and putting up the Ordinary Time banners and things.

While the green goes up, parish Liturgy Committees and staff are seeing purple. Lent is coming.

Do we have a sufficient supply of ashes? Will we cover all the statues Holy Week this year?

In a multi-site parish (which most of us are now) where will stations of the cross be held and on what days.

Did we arrange for a Lenten retreat this year? When is it? Where will the Holy Week celebra-

tions take place? How many candidates and catechumens will we be taking to the Rite of Election at the Cathedral, and how many will receive sacraments at the Easter Vigil?

And the list goes on. Five more things occurred to me as I wrote the preceding sentence.

We will wait patiently for next year's surprise gift of a new digital meat thermometer from our family. Meanwhile, we will focus for the moment on more immediate concerns.

Did anyone order a new Easter Candle?

*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

# Christian hope in Lunar New Year

After three years of closures and impediments due to the pandemic, endless crowds of people travel through China to spend the days of the Chinese New Year with their loved ones.

For days, the streets of all Chinese cities have been invaded by decorations, lanterns and colored lights. Red festoons with good wishes are hung on the doors of the houses. New Year's Eve dinners, fireworks, red envelopes with money inside to be donated to young and old – everything seems to be ready for the feast. And at the same time, a veil of sadness hangs over the upcoming holiday.

Chinese New Year 2023 marks the beginning of the Year of the Rabbit, a lucky, meek and kind animal, according to the Chinese horoscope. People wish each other that the rabbit "brings good luck," that the coming year is one of peace and serenity. And the Catholic Church in China also embraces the sentiments, the sorrows and the expectations of the people, in this festive time, and lives them in the light of faith, hope and charity, gifts that Christ can kindle in the heart of every Christian.

Masses are celebrated on the vigil and thanksgiving liturgies to the Lord on New Year's Day in parishes. The people of God once again fill churches and chapels, as in normal times in the solemnities of Christmas and Easter. The pastoral initiatives of the Catholic communities are also reconfigured around the festive season, which is an opportunity to dedicate special attention to the lonely, the elderly and those with difficulties.

In the diocese of Zhengzhou, Henan province, the Charity Group has created small teams of people from different parishes who travel to the most isolated villages and towns in the countryside to visit families in need and bring them spiritual and material help. Priests and lay people from Xingtai, Hebei Province, also visit the elderly, sick and lonely in Zhangzhuang Village and neighboring villages on these days. They administer sacraments, bring blessings, and distribute charity "red envelopes" to help everyone experience a peaceful Chinese New Year.

Small examples of works of mercy at the time of the New Year celebration show in a luminous way how the simplest gestures of Christian charity embrace with a comforting elective affinity the traditional Chinese virtues, those that move the respect, love and support for the elderly.

*Article from FIDES missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies.*

## OBITUARIES

**Brasher Falls** – Mary L. (McCosham) Parent, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 24, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Brownville** – Christine Mary (Peckham) Hine, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 27, 2023 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Dexter Cemetery.

**Chateaugay** – Mark A. Pond, 72; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2023 at Chateaugay Funeral Home.

**Colton** – Richard V. Manning, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 3, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Chapel Hill Cemetery, Parishville.

**Keeseville** – Cynthia I. Smith, 75; Mass of Christian Burial in spring at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Lesley "Les" B. Armstrong, 79; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2023 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Oswegatchie Mausoleum.

**Ogdensburg** – Mary Anne (Dishaw) McPherson, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 23, 2023 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

**Peru** – Brian Allen Martin, 52; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2023 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

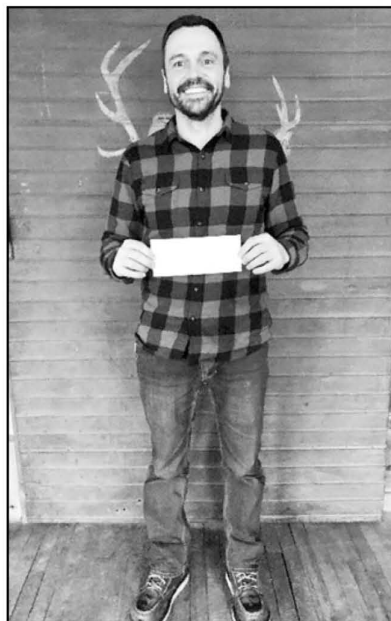
**Redford** – Oswald J. Carter, 83; Mass of Christian Burial in spring at Church of the Assumption.

**Watertown** – Pasquale "Pat" Crupi, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 28, 2023 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.

**Watertown** – Ronald D. Monnat, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 23, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Sammy R. Tufo, 70; Services to be held at a later date; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

## AND THE WINNERS ARE...



Trinity Catholic School in Massena recently announced its Winter Raffle winners. More than \$20,000 in prize money was given away. Trinity Catholic School families sold tickets from mid-November until Jan. 3. The drawing took place at Sacred Heart Church after 9:30 a.m. Mass on Jan. 8. Joyce Giroux, principal, drew three winners. (Above) Taking the \$20,000 cash prize was Mike Blais. (Top right) Mark Robillard won \$1,000. (Bottom right) Nicole Blair Beckstead was the \$500 prize winner. Trinity's winter raffle is an important fundraiser for the school. The school thanks everyone who sold and purchased tickets!



# Week of events at Immaculate Heart Central

WATERTOWN – Immaculate Heart Central kicked off a week of fun, service and celebrations on Sunday as the school celebrates Catholic Schools Week Jan. 29 to Feb. 4.

Sunday, IHC held a

schoolwide Pancake Breakfast at the school from 9 to 11 a.m. The breakfast was free for all IHC families and alumni.

On Monday, Jan. 30, elementary students will have a dress-down day, and an Art Extravaganza

will be held in grades JK4, kindergarten, one and two. At the junior/senior high, students can wear sports shirts, the school's annual Souper Bowl food drive will begin, and the "Name the teacher

game" begins.

Tuesday, Jan. 31, will also be a dress-down day in the elementary, and students in grades JK5, third, fourth and fifth will host an Art Extravaganza. Also that day, junior/senior high students will have Wacky Uniform Day, an ice cream sundae bar and student raffles.

Students throughout the school will wear their uniforms on Wednesday, Feb. 1, as they attend Mass and focus on service to others. This year's senior class will be helping elementary students assemble homeless kits.

It's back to relaxed

dress on Thursday, Feb. 2, as elementary students have pajama day, and junior/senior high students have a mismatch dress-down day. Older students will also create thank you cards for the school's faculty and staff.

On Friday, students across the school will have blue and white dress down day in honor of the school's colors, and elementary students will compete in Spirit Day Relay Races. At the junior/senior high, the annual seniors vs. faculty volleyball game will be held, and Name the Teacher prizes will be awarded.



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SCAN CODE  
TO LEARN  
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Three sessions of "Loving Authentically: Sex, Happiness and Catholic Teaching" are scheduled over the next several months.

Designed to deepen our understanding of how Church doctrine on sexual morality connects with our happiness, the program will be a showing of "Unprotected: A Pope, the Pill, and the Perils of Sexual Chaos"

with a question and answer period led by Natural Family Planning Directors, Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli and Catholic Theologian, Maura Hearden Fehlner, Ph.D.

Sessions will be held Feb. 12 at the Newman Center in Plattsburgh from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; April 22 at St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and May 20 at St. Mary's Ticonderoga from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To register go [www.rcdony.org/lovingauthentically](http://www.rcdony.org/lovingauthentically). For more information contact Stephen Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or [sttartaglia@rcdony.org](mailto:sttartaglia@rcdony.org)



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