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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 78 Number 41

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEBRUARY 28, 2024

RITE OF ELECTION & CALL TO CONVERSION



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Catechumens, those who are unbaptized and preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil, traveled from around the diocese to St. Mary's Cathedral for the Rite of Election on Feb. 18. This rite marks the beginning of the period of final preparation for the sacraments of initiation. Each catechumen's name is inscribed in the "Book of the Elect." See additional photos of the Rite of Election and Call to Conversion on Page 3.

Learning to create a culture of vocations

On March 9 a workshop, "Creating a Culture of Vocations in the Parish," will be held at Our Lady of the Visitation in Norfolk from 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the Fr. Andrew Amyot Parish Center.

The event is sponsored by the Vocation Office in conjunction with LEAD. Bishop Terry R. LaValley will offer the final remarks and blessing.

The first 30 attendants to register will receive a free copy of the book "The Harvest: A Guide to Vocation Ministry in Education."

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope: Lent is a time to encounter truth

By Matthew Santucci
Catholic News Agency

(CNA) - On the first Sunday of Lent, Pope Francis focused his Angelus address on the temptation of Jesus in the desert to highlight that it is an invitation for us to enter the proverbial desert to come "in contact with the truth."

Observing that during the 40 days in the desert Christ was in the company of both "wild beasts and angels," the pope reflected that when we enter this symbolic "inner wildness," we too "encounter wild beasts and angels."

These wild beats assume a

deeply symbolic meaning in our "spiritual life," and so "we can think of them as the disordered passions that divide our heart, trying to take possession of it. They entice us, they seem seductive, but if we are not careful, we risk being torn apart by them," the pope said to the nearly 15,000 faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square on Sunday.

Expanding upon this idea of "disordered passions," the pope suggested that we can conceive of them also as "the various vices," such as "the lust for wealth" or "the vanity of pleasure."

"They must be tamed and fought, otherwise they will devour our freedom," the pope

emphasized.

In order to confront these vices that afflict each and every one of us, the pope stressed that we need "to go into the wilderness to become aware of their presence and to face them — and Lent is the time to do it."

The setting of the desert has featured prominently in the pope's catechetical series throughout the year and is the main theme of this 2024 Lenten message, taken from the Book of Exodus: "Through the Desert God Leads Us to Freedom."

While it is imperative to undertake this journey of self-examination, the pope underscored that we are not alone: We are

aided by the angels, who "are God's messengers, who help us, who do us good."

"Indeed, their characteristic, according to the Gospel, is service, the exact opposite of possession, typical of the passions we spoke about earlier," the pope continued.

Juxtaposing the spirit of possession with the virtue of service, the pope stressed that the angels "recall the good thoughts and sentiments suggested by the Holy Spirit," adding that "while temptations tear us apart, the good divine inspirations unify us in harmony, they quench the heart, infuse the taste of Christ, 'the flavor of heaven.'"

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CATHOLICPO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
USPS 0039-3400**Bishop Terry
R. LaValley**
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Publish
45 issues
per year:
Weekly except
skipping every
other week be-
ginning July through August
and skipping one week in
December by the
Diocese of Ogdensburg,
622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.**Editorial Office:**
622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.**Telephone:**
(315) 608-7556**E-mail:**
news@northcountry
catholic.org**Entered at the
Post Office:**
Ogdensburg, NY
13669 and additional mailing
offices as
Periodical Postage.**Subscription:**
For one year:
In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30Matters for publication
should be addressed to
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received by
Wednesday prior to
publication. Paper is
printed each Friday;
dateline is Wednesday.
Member, Catholic
Press Association.**POSTMASTER:**
Send address changes to
North Country Catholic,
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY
13669-0326

I'm not that kind of person

I'd love to be the kind of person who writes in a journal every day.

I love writing, and journaling has been recommended to me by at least a handful of people I trust to have my best interest at heart. When I have tried journaling, I've found it helpful in processing big emotions and remembering significant events.

While I'd love to be the kind of person who writes in a journal every day, I'm the kind of person who writes in a journal for five to seven days only to ignore its existence for the rest of time after.

I've tried to develop a journaling habit more times than I can count. I just can't seem to stick with it. I've had this experience when trying to develop other new, positive habits. I'll stick to the new habit for a short time, and then I'll do it sporadically or, in some cases, never again.

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

For years, I would beat myself up for being unable to stick with journaling.

Then, the Holy Spirit gave me a nudge. That nudge? A "buy one, get one free" sale on a journal I had been eyeing.

I bought two copies of

the journal. I gave one to a friend. We did the journal together. Every night, we'd digitally message each other about that day's journal prompt. We left it very open. We could just say, "I did it," we could talk about why the prompt was challenging to us or we could talk about what we wrote.

I finished that journal. I'm now working on a different journal with a different friend. I've benefited from considering my answers to the prompts and writing, but I've benefited as much or more from the subsequent discussions.

With something as simple as a sale, the Holy Spirit taught me to stop fighting who I am and work with it. It's ok to want to be better,

but I'm denying the goodness of God's creation if I don't at least try to accept who I am now.

Through that sale, the Holy Spirit also reinforced the fact that we grow best with others helping. I've been able to make progress toward making journaling a habit. I've been able to grow by considering the journal prompts and discussing them with my friends. I've grown closer to the friends with whom I've done these journals.

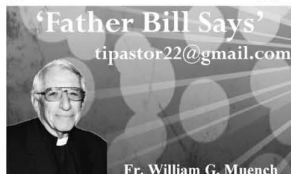
All that growth came about because God knows I'm the kind of person who needs accountability and community to write in a journal every day and to accept where I am now on my journey.

A journey through Lenten Scripture

The Scripture readings at the daily Masses during Lent are truly a course in Sacred Scripture - a perfect Bible study. These Scriptures - from the Old Testament and the Gospels - teach us in a powerful way the story of the life and message of Our Lord Jesus. The Lenten Scriptures present to us what it means to be a Catholic. These Scriptures are the same each Lenten Season - but these Scriptures have a new message for us each year. Today I would like to review with you the Scriptures of just one of our Lenten weeks.

On Monday of this week, the Gospel reading was Jesus' story of the final judgment. Jesus pictures this final judgment as like a shepherd separating sheep from goats. The sheep are the image of the righteous. I am sure you often wonder, as I do, how that judgment will be determined. St. Matthew remembers Jesus' description of the decision.

In Jesus' story, the sheep, those righteous, are placed

**Fr. William G. Muench**

on the right. They are welcomed by the Lord into the Kingdom of God. They are told why they are chosen. This is a most important message for us to consider: "I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was ill and you cared for me, I was in prison and you visited me." In Jesus' story the people are confused, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison." Jesus then makes it clear in his story and teaches us, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

Then on Tuesday of that same week, the Gospel at Mass reminds us of the

time that Jesus taught his apostles the Lord's Prayer. This a time for Jesus to remind us to listen carefully each time we pray this perfect prayer, the Our Father. We begin by recognizing our God as a Father. God loves us like a Father. He likes to be called "Father." So, we respond in praise and love. Our God is our God and our Father. Each phrase of this prayer is a prayer of honor and love. In addition, right in this prayer we take a moment to sort of make a deal with our Father: "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Lord, we pray that we may be a forgiving, compassionate, loving people. Help us to be like you, Jesus.

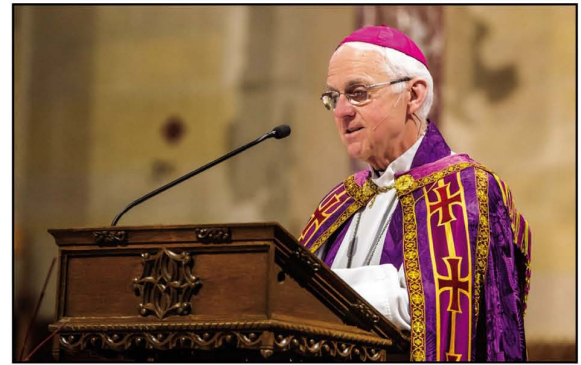
Then on Thursday of this same week, we join with the apostles as Jesus teaches them just who he is in the Gospel reading. Jesus asks what the people believe. The apostles remember what the people are saying about Jesus: he is John the Baptist returned, some say that he is an Old Tes-

tament Prophet returned. Then Peter steps forward, inspired by the Holy Spirit: "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." We should understand at this point, that Jesus looks at us, you and me, and asks "Who do you say that I am?" Lent is about finding Jesus. Through prayer and study, we must find Jesus, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can join Peter and recognized Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

So, each week of Lent leads and guides us to find Jesus and to understand all that Jesus wants to be in our lives. Then we find the proper road of becoming a saint: Do I truly recognize Jesus I each person who turns to me for help? Each time I pray to Jesus in prayer, do I rededicate myself to God as my Father who wants to show me the way to being a loving and forgiving person? As we go through these weeks of Lent, am I truly recognizing who Jesus is, who Jesus is for me? Am I allowing Jesus to be my Lord and Savior?

RITE OF ELECTION & CALL TO CONVERSION

Photos by Jesse Sovie for the North Country Catholic



Learning to create a culture of vocations

By Mary Beth Bracy, consecrated virgin
Contributing Writer

On Saturday, March 9 a workshop titled “Creating a Culture of Vocations in the Parish” will be held at Our Lady of the Visitation in Norfolk from 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the Fr. Andrew Amyot Parish Center.

The event is sponsored by the Vocation Office in conjunction with LEAD. Bishop Terry R. LaValley will be in attendance at the gathering, and offer the final remarks and blessing.

The workshop is free, including lunch, and faithful from around the diocese are encouraged to attend, including catechists, Parish Council Leaders, priests, and laity.

The first 30 attendants

to register will receive a free copy of the book “The Harvest: A Guide to Vocation Ministry in Education.”


Leticia Ramirez, who will present at the workshop, is a wife, mother, grandmother and educator who was born into an immigrant Catholic family.

That family was the seedbed for the growth of her faith and passion for sharing with families about the importance of supporting and promoting vocations in their parishes.

In her early marriage, and for the last 42 years, she and her husband have worked in youth ministry, as catechists and later as staff for youth retreats.

Throughout those years, Leticia and her husband have encour-





Presenter: Leticia Ramirez, Vocation Ministry

Free - Open to Those in Parish Ministry
Saturday, March 9, 2024
9:30 am - 3 pm

Fr. Andrew Amyot Parish Center
Norfolk

Schedule:

9:30 - 10:00 Meet, Greet, Prayer

10:00 - 12:00 Presentation #1 - Parish


12:00 - 1:00 Lunch Provided

1:00 - 2:30 Presentation #2 - Classroom

2:30 - 2:45 Office of Vocations - Fr. Christopher Carrara & Sr. Mary Eamon, SSJ

2:45 - 3:00 Final Remarks & Blessings - Bishop Terry R. LaValley

Free Book for First 30 Registered!




REGISTER NOW

SCAN ME

<https://www.rcdony.org/CreatingCulture>

Theme, which Bishop Valley often preaches about: “Renew Faith, Nurture Hope, Discover Love! Christ-led, Christ-fed, and Hope-filled.”

She also shared several quotes for this article, including Pope Francis’ words: “I am a mission on this earth.” And, as St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, wrote: “At last I have found my calling: my call is love. Indeed, I have found my proper place in the Church ... In the heart of the Church, my Mother, I will be love.”

It is the hope that faithful will generously respond in attending the workshop to help nurture an environment in their parishes where vocations will grow and blossom. In the words of Bishop LaValley, “Every person has a vocation. The first vocation that each of us acquires by virtue of our baptism is to become a saint, to be holy.”

As the “Catechism of the Catholic Church” teaches: “All the faithful, whatever their condition or state--though each in his own way--is called by the Lord to that perfection of sanctity by which the Father himself is perfect.” (CCC, #825) We will build a culture where such awareness of our baptismal call is nurtured and where Church vocations are encouraged and celebrated. Genuine vocations will surface, indeed, flourish in the Diocese of Ogdensburg as our energy and fervor to bring Christ to others increase.” (“We Are Called” resource book)

To register for the workshop, visit <https://www.rcdony.org/CreatingCulture>

aged youth to discern their vocation and to be open to listening to God’s call for their lives. This journey has brought Leticia to Vocation Ministry and to bringing that awareness to parishes throughout the country.

The morning presentation will include an introduction to vocations and Vocation Ministry, along with statistics that support the need to promote vocations. Ramirez will explain why the parish is the best place for this lay-led ministry/committee. She will also lay out the recipe for a vocation-producing parish: Supportive Priest, Youth Ministry, and Vocation Ministry/committee. In addition, Ramirez will discuss proven effective activities in the categories of Prayer, Awareness and Education, Youth, and Affirmation. She will invite people to discern and provide examples on the positive impact of vocation-producing parishes and di-

oces. In the afternoon, Ramirez will talk about the importance of education in promoting vocations. She will answer questions like: Why do we need to promote vocations in every classroom? and provide examples of vocation-producing classrooms. There will be more practical activities for Prayer, Awareness and Education, and Affirmation. Her presentation will also include “Saints to inspire” and introduce the resources “The Harvest” and [Vocationministry.com](http://vocationministry.com)

Father Christopher Carrara and Sister Mary Eamon, SSJ of the Vocation Office for our diocese will also share about upcoming events and how people can partner in fostering vocations. They will have resources available for participants to take back to parishes to help create a Parish Vocation Committee.

Sister Mary Eamon shared our Diocesan

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

Eternal Father, we lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen

(With ecclesiastical approval)

Mass
Rosary
Fasting
Day Offering
Eucharistic Adoration
Offering of Sufferings
Divine Mercy Chaplet
Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him



MARCH
2024

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A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated. The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: www.mypriest.com

Effort to create maternity home underway

By **Mary Beth Bracy,**
consecrated virgin
Contributing Writer

When Msgr. Dennis Duprey was pastor at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh, Janice Tobin happened to walk into the sacristy one day. A young woman named Katharine was pregnant, in a desperate situation, and needed a place to stay. Msgr. Duprey said that Janice would help her and the young woman ended up staying in Janice's home until after the baby was born. This experience helped inspire Janice to move forward with her idea to start a maternity home.

Heart Well Homestead is a non-profit organization that is aiming to begin a maternity home in Plattsburgh. They are hoping to raise the necessary funds to purchase a home and provide the necessary services by the end of this year. Tobin, the organization's chairperson, explained its origin.

"The name was inspired by Regina Maria Retreat House in Plattsburgh that is for sale," she said. "I learned WW Hartwell and Dependencies were the original owners and he was an entrepreneur in the 1800s. It was the start of my becoming re-motivated about the project. The idea came way before 2022."

"Gloria Garami and I were working as nurses together in the Clinton County Health Department," Tobin said. "We were doing home visits with mothers and babies. We often saw women who were placed in hotels by Department of Social Services (DSS) as the only option to offer mom's who did not have stable housing and who couldn't afford alternative housing. We would come back from those visits and say 'We have to do better than this. This is not something we would want our daughter to be facing in a situation like that.' So we started to think about a maternity home where women could receive education and

be independent. I retired five and a half years ago, so the timing seems right for me to begin this big project. When we found out Regina Maria for sale, we talked again. It seems it would be a way to use my experience in this community."

Tobin visited other maternity homes in Eastern Rochester, Syracuse and Ontario to see what they are offering.

"There are so many success stories and testimonies that I have seen from other maternity homes across the nation," she said. "We are looking forward to sharing them in the future with our community. They are transitional homes, to be there when a mom is pregnant and offer the support they need when the baby is very young. The first six weeks are critical for bonding and breastfeeding. Garami is a breastfeeding consultant at CVPH."

"We would like to have 24/7 staff," Tobin explained, "so that the women would have someone in the home if an issue arises, and we will have programs for the women to participate in. The program will be tailored to their needs, so we will know what their needs are as well. It will be an individual plan for each woman who comes. All the women will have financial literacy sessions, because the goal is also to have them transition from this home with savings and the ability to rent or buy and also to be support in the home. If they have a job, (the hope is that there would be) volunteer babysitting and they could possibly finish college or school. The age group that we will be working with is about 18 to 24 years of age. It could be a woman who is pregnant or a woman who has had her child (children under a year of age). Some of the homes we visited actually have moms with more than one child. Depending on the space we have there may be a possibility of

having a child with the mom as well.

"The reason that we're aiming to have a program that goes for almost two years is to help put that support that they need to be able to be transitioned into their own home with support from the community, but also because many of the women who will be coming into the home need time to heal about trauma they have received in the past to reset their lives and to begin again. It takes time to heal from maybe even a life time of issues in the family. It's my hope that we will have counselors available as well that we can have the women meet with individually and to have a group meeting a well that discusses certain virtues, possibly things they had never thought about before and to see how they can be lived out. There will be the opportunity to read stories, watch movies, to express themselves with art. Some women who have been given a pen or ink and asked to draw who you are right now and then a year later, there is a huge difference in how they see themselves. Often when they are new to the home they are mistrusting and afraid and very negative about who they are."

The hope of Heart Well Homestead is to help women become interdependent.

"Part of the building of support around woman is to heal the family that women come from," Tobin said. "That is something that we hope the women mature and grow in the programs they will be able to share with their families what they learn with."

They want to help women and their babies overcome challenges.

"Homeless women have difficulty with transportation," Tobin said. "One local woman was put in Rouses Point, for instance, so you can imagine how difficult it is. Pre-term and low birth rate babies and

their health is compromised as well. Poverty is associated with that and is a cycle that we want to break. We definitely want to have healthy babies in our community."

"I was involved with Encounter Ministries and learned that God gives us Kingdom Dreams," Tobin shared. "This is my Kingdom Dream. At Regina Maria there is a stained glass window of Joan of Arc. In ministry, we were put into groups and our partner was to say which super hero we reminded them of; they said Joan of Arc for me. This was in May of 2023. I have been rallying the troops around the maternity home. A Kingdom Dream requires more than one person in the community. It requires the community to come around it. This is going to happen. We need to appeal to the hearts of people. It requires a lot of energy and support to be a mom. Beginning those early years with a child gives them a foundation that will carry them through life."

For more information and upcoming events visit Heart Well Homestead's Facebook page and their website at <https://www.heartwellhomestead.org/> Donations may be made through the site and are tax-deductible. They are also hoping for the support of businesses and to find a grant writer who can help them obtain larger amounts of money. If anyone knows of a house that is at least 3,000 sq. ft. in Plattsburgh that could be donated for the use of the maternity home, please contact them through the site.

On Fridays throughout Lent, board members from the Heart Well Homestead will have an information table at the Holy Cross Parish "Fish Fry" which is held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the parish center (formerly the Our Lady of Victory Academy gym). They are also planning a Golf Tournament at The Barracks on August 23.

Environmental Stewardship

Braiding our Lenten practices together

We are all familiar with the practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving that Jesus give us to grow in our relationship with God, ourselves and our neighbor. During the Lent, how often do we connect these, braiding them together?

In a recent article on Lent, the author says fasting and charity go hand and hand. When I fast from something, it calls me to feast on something else. Fasting can be about more than just food; it can be from my angry words, judgmental thoughts, etc. However, fasting from food can heighten my awareness of my hunger for God. It can also unite us with those who have no food.

During Lent, our church calls us to meatless Fridays. Beginning in the early Church, Christians abstained from meat on Friday as a penance to commemorate Christ's sacrifice of his own flesh on Good Friday. Over-consumption of meat has negative impacts on our health and the health of the planet. Reducing meat consumption to improve health and decrease the livestock herds emitting methane, a major source of global warming, has become an environmental priority. In the Amazon basin and elsewhere, deforestation to boost cattle ranching has increased carbon output and shrunk the size of carbon-absorbing forests. Fasting from meat on Fridays as a way to unite ourselves with the suffering of Christ on Good Friday can also unite us with our suffering neighbors and suffering earth. When we fast from meat, its impact can become a feast for others.

Fasting from chocolate is a common Lenten practice. This too can be braided with charity or almsgiving. Buying Fair Trade products, we are assured whoever created the goods receives a fair wage. This choice can become a feast for their family and community. Consider purchasing Fair Trade chocolate for Easter

Bishop's Public Schedule

Feb. 28 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by Lunch

Feb. 29 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 1 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

7 p.m. – Deacon Candidates Class on Canon Law at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

March 2 – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting at the Father Andrew Amyot Parish Center in Norfolk

4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 3 – 9:30 a.m. – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

March 4 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 5 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 6 – Seminar Visit at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio

Rest in Peace

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

Feb. 28 – Rev. J. H. Tabaret, O.M.I., 1886

March 1 – Rev. Louis B. Demers, 1888; Msgr. Alexander P. Landry, 1955; Most Rev. Stanislaus J. Brazana, 1997

March 2 – Rev. Edward A. Dailley, O.S.A., 1901; Msgr. John J. Bent, 1949; Rev. Joseph E. Tessier, O.M.I., 1952; Rev. Raymond J. Wertman, 2021

March 3 – Rev. Francis McCranor, O.S.A., 1914; Rev. John G. Fitzgerald, 1925; Rev. Cyril Stevens, 1963; Deacon David N. Hennigan, 2009

March 4 – Rev. Jeremiah S. O'Brien, 1899; Rev. Thomas D. Hurley, 1934

March 5 – Rev. Edward J. Murtaugh, O.S.A., 1951; Rev. Paschal Rys, OFM Conv., 2013

OBITUARIES

Adams – Walter J. Tjo, 82; Graveside services in spring at Fairview Cemetery, Rodman.

Carthage – Gary L. Deskins, 80; Funeral Services Feb. 22, 2024 at Bezanilla-McGraw Funeral Home; burial in Felt Mills Cemetery.

Carthage – Deborah A. (Britton) Hoffman, 73; Funeral Services Feb. 24, 2024 at Bezanilla-McGraw Funeral Home; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Chazy – Paul Roland LaPierre, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 22, 2024 at Sacred Heart Church.

Copenhagen – Raymond H. Hebert, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 27, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Lorraine Beatrice

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration is required. Preregister at www.virtus.org. Upcoming sessions: **March 10** – 6 p.m. – St. Mary's School in Canton

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 Phone: 518-358-3145, Ext. 7179 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340.

If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

(Mignone) Izzo, 88; Mass of Christian Burial at Elderwood of Uihlein; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Louisville – Joyce M. (Girard) Legault, 89; Mass of Christian Burial in spring at St. Lawrence Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Massena – Edwina M. (Carriere) Dale, 94; Graveside services in spring at Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Jeannette M. (Peets) Shinnock, 67; Private Services to be held; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Thomas Howard, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 24, 2024 at St. Alexander's Church.

Morrisonville – Thomas St. Clair, 69; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 26, 2024 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Frances I. (Wells) Reynolds, 92; Funeral Services Feb. 23, 2024 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Ogdensburg Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Earl W. Sellers, Jr., 87; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 20, 2024 at Notre Dame Church.

Saranac Lake – Carleton J. Rivers, 83; Funeral Services Feb. 20, 2024 at Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in Pine Ridge Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Donald J. Sabin, 93; Services to be held May 2024.

Watertown – David N. Cummings, 90; Services to be held in the spring.

Watertown – Mary Fitzgerald, 95; Funeral Services Feb. 24, 2024 at Reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Burning question



FROM WONDERING TO WONDER IN WORSHIP

With Father Bryan Stitt, Diocesan Director of Worship

Editor's Note: In celebration of the Eucharistic Revival, Father Bryan Stitt, director of Worship for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, will answer questions about worship, the Eucharist and related topics. To submit a question, email bstitt@rcdony.org.

Why do Catholics light candles in front of statues?

Great question. Thanks for asking. The tradition of burning votive candles in front of holy images goes back all the way to the first century. Archeologists have found small oil lamps around the tombs of St. Peter and other holy places dating the very first days of the Church. Why? Because people would go to these holy sites and ask for the intercession of the saints.

The thought is that I cannot stay in this holy place, but I'd like my prayer to remain being prayed for.

On a personal note, this was one of my earliest religious memories: regularly going after Mass with my father to burn a candle for the repose of the soul of my great-grandmother. Dad didn't articulate it very well. He just said, "Let's go light a candle for Nana." But in hindsight it was a powerful practice. It fulfilled part of our duty as Christians to pray for the dead, and it also burned a lasting memory in my heart that our prayers can and should have a bodily component to them.

Of course, the intention could be anything: a deceased loved one, health of a friend, employment for ourselves. Holy Saints of God, pray for us!

Cardinal: Priests surprised by behavior at funeral for transgender activist

By Matt McDonald
Catholic News Agency

Priests at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City were surprised by the "irreverence and disrespect" that occurred during a funeral for a transgender activist last week, Cardinal Timothy Dolan said in his first public comments on it.

"We didn't know the background. We don't do FBI checks on people who want to be buried," Dolan, the archbishop of New York, said during his podcast Tuesday.

He said cathedral staff try to be welcoming when someone requests a funeral.

"All they know is somebody called and said, 'Our dear friend died. We'd love to have the funeral at St. Patrick's Cathedral. It would be a great source of consolation. She's a Catholic. It would be a great source of consolation for us, her family and friends.' And of course, the priest at the cathedral said, 'Come on in. You're more than welcome,'" Dolan said.

The priests at St. Patrick's made a decision at the beginning of the service not to celebrate a funeral Mass but to conduct a funeral service with no Mass instead.

It was the right thing to do given the situation, the cardinal said.

"I applaud our priests who made a quick decision that, 'Uh-oh, with behavior like this, we can't do a Mass. We'll do the Liturgy of the Word, which is the readings, and the sermon, and the prayers of petition, and the Our Father, and then we'll stop it. The Mass is not going to go on,'" Dolan said. "Bravo for our cathedral people, who knew nothing about this that was coming up."

Meanwhile, though, supporters of the deceased are demanding an apology from the Archdiocese of New York for what they described as "cutting short" the Feb. 15 funeral service of Cecilia Gentili, 52, a male who identified as a woman who died Feb. 6. Supporters of Gentili also want an apology for what they called "the painfully dismissive and exclusionary language" used in a statement released by the pastor of the cathedral after the funeral.

"The current narrative from St. Patrick's Cathedral leadership that they

were manipulated by funeral organizers of the identity of Ms. Gentili is simply not true," an organization called Gays and Lesbians Living in a Transgender Society said in a written statement. "Funeral organizers advised cathedral staff to look up Cecilia Gentili, her work, and the community she served. To now place responsibility on the funeral organizers to have affirmatively disclosed the gender identity of their loved one is imposing a burden upon the mourners that would not be expected of a non-transgender person."

However, the New York Times reported that the funeral's organizer did not disclose to the cathedral that Gentili, who died Feb. 6 at age 52, was a biological man who identified as a woman.

"I kept it under wraps," Ceyeye Doroshov, the service's organizer, told the outlet.

The organization also suggested that cathedral staff violated the Catholic Church's law.

"Still reeling from the pain of Cecilia's loss, community members are asking for an explanation for this decision which seemingly violated Catholic Canon Law governing the denial of funeral [M]asses," the organization said. "... Ms. Gentili's service ended an hour earlier than had been scheduled, thus denying her the full funeral Mass that was agreed upon."

Joseph Zwilling, a spokesman for the Archdiocese of New York, contacted by CNA on Wednesday said the archdiocese had no immediate comment on the Gentili supporters' statement.

Asked by email who decided to replace the funeral Mass with the shorter funeral service, Zwilling said the decision "was made by the priests at the cathedral after witnessing what was taking place."

On Tuesday, Cardinal Dolan addressed the Gentili funeral about five minutes into his podcast after discussing a few other topics, including the recent shooting at the Super Bowl parade in Kansas City. Dolan mentioned that he had received

The cardinal noted he had asked the cathedral staff to celebrate a Mass of reparation after the funeral service, which the pastor, Father Enrique Salvo, said last week was done.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Texas AG targets Catholic non-profit for work with refugees

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is trying to shut down a Catholic nonprofit organization in El Paso based on allegations that the group may be facilitating illegal immigration, harboring immigrants who entered the country illegally, and engaging in human smuggling. Paxton filed a lawsuit against the nonprofit Annunciation House, which has operated in the state for nearly 50 years. The lawsuit asks the District Court of El Paso County to revoke the organization's nonprofit registration, which would prohibit it from continuing to operate in Texas. "The chaos at the southern border has created an environment where [nongovernmental organizations] funded with taxpayer money from the Biden administration facilitate astonishing horrors including human smuggling," Paxton said in a statement. In response to the lawsuit, Annunciation House issued a statement that called Paxton's actions "illegal, immoral, and anti-faith" and his allegations "unfounded."

Alabama Supreme Court rules frozen embryos are children

The Alabama Supreme Court has ruled that frozen human embryos constitute children under state statute, a decision that could have wide-reaching effects on in vitro fertilization and other medical concerns there. The nine-judge court said in the 8-1 ruling that the state's "Wrongful Death of a Minor Act" is "sweeping and unqualified," and that its provisions extend to children "regardless of their location." "It applies to all children, born and unborn, without limitation," the ruling said. "It is not the role of this Court to craft a new limitation based on our own view of what is or is not wise public policy." The court said that assessment was "especially true where, as here, the People of [Alabama] have adopted a Constitutional amendment directly aimed at stopping courts from excluding 'unborn life' from legal protection."

Pope launches study groups to analyze issues from synod

The Vatican announced Saturday that Pope Francis has launched synodal study groups to analyze key issues ahead of October's Synod on Synodality assembly. Pope Francis has issued a chirograph asking the dicasteries of the Roman Curia to collaborate with the General Secretariat of the Synod to establish the study groups for "in-depth analysis" of some of the themes that emerged in the first Synod on Synodality assembly. The pope did not specify in the chirograph published on Feb. 17 how many groups will be formed, what topics will be studied, or who will participate in the study groups. The synthesis report published at the end of the first synod assembly lists 75 different "matters for consideration," including women's access to diaconal ministry, priestly celibacy, and "Eucharistic hospitality" for interfaith couples. These "matters of consideration," which could not find a consensus in the first synod assembly, are defined as "points on which we have recognized that it is necessary to continue theological, pastoral, and canonical deepening."



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

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

Many thanks

The Lenity Project is one of the organizations supported by our summer Missionary Cooperative Appeal. Please read below to see how your generous donations have helped them serve the poor in Ecuador.

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your gifts for our Missionary Coop collections this summer. Missions count on your help.

I hope that 2024 is starting off well for you. Maybe you made some New Years Resolutions. How is that going? Hopefully you are keeping at it or at least you remember what they were! One of my resolutions was to try and reach out to friends like you who were so generous to our mission. We do have our Family Foundation with the same vision and mission that Padre John Halligan had in the original Center. Father Halligan died last year, but his work continues in the new foundation which we have been running since 2017.

You may have seen on the nightly news lately reports of the chaos and violence going on in Ecuador. The Drug Cartels have taken control of the country at many levels. They have politicians, doctors, lawyers, prison guards, police etc. on their payroll. The new president of the country is trying to take the reins away from them, but it is very difficult of course. Ecuador went from the most pacifist country in S. America to the most violent. People are fleeing the country in droves. The cartel thugs come around and threaten the small businesses to pay a "protection fee" or be burned out. Shootings and kidnappings are rampant. It breaks my heart to see and hear about so many living in fear.

Madre Miguel remains committed to our mission with Carlos, Marco and Giuliana at the helm. I am on the team as the fundraiser, but it is hard not being down there with them. We all continue to keep the padre's vision and mission alive. I, from upstate New York, as I care for my folks, who are 94.

Our team realizes that we need to expand our services and to look for a piece of property where we could build a more adequate facility to have the programs to help these families get the education and skills, they need to be able to take charge of their lives and help each other. We are convinced that God will continue to bless our efforts and you for your help.

Thank you again for your love and support! Continued Blessings for 2024!

Hugs, Sister Cindy

Help Stop Human Trafficking: It is Everyone's Work

Two presentations about Human trafficking are planned. Both will include a brief film, "Chosen," and panelists will share insights about the signs, the ins and outs of grooming, social media dangers and kidnapping.

For Whom: Parents, grandparents, parishioners

When: March 3 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Where: Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 1425 Washington Street, Watertown & Temple Beth Israel, 1 Bowman Street, Plattsburgh

Both events are sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph and community partners.



Communion means:

1. an act or instance of sharing;
2. a Christian sacrament in which consecrated bread and wine are consumed... as the body and blood of Christ;
3. intimate fellowship or rapport;
4. a body of Christians having common faith and discipline.
(according to the online Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

In the pages of our *North Country Catholic*, you'll find many "acts or instances of sharing." The newspaper shares stories of how our North Country neighbors – individuals, parishes, schools and organizations – are trying to follow the Lord's call and share His love. Reading those stories, we find similarities with our own lives. We find ideas to improve our faith and spirituality, and we find inspiration in seeing what the Lord is doing in the world around us. It helps connect us, despite how far apart we may be geographically. The newspaper helps create that "intimate fellowship or rapport" and helps us see our "common faith and discipline" in action. And, of course, we are drawn together by Holy Communion, Christ given to us, body and blood, soul and divinity.

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FOR THE DIOCESE OF OGDENBURG

We are truly In Communion

- Personal stories of faith
- Parish and Diocesan News
- Scripture Reflections
- Important messages from Bishop Terry LaValley
- Catholic news from around the nation and world

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

'Clean house in our personal temples'

Don't you just love Jesus to death? He is so nice and friendly and forgiving, a cool guy to be around. He is just so nice!

But then, we look at a Gospel passage like today's and we see a much different Jesus, the Jesus of the scriptures. Yes, Jesus is the nice guy mentioned at the beginning, but we do a great disservice to him, to his name, and, obviously to God himself, if we do not speak and preach about the fullness of Jesus, the Jesus documented in Scripture.

Jesus is walking into the very busy temple area. He makes a whip out of chords. This is not imagery. This is the real thing, a real whip. Not only does he have it, but he uses it just like a whip is supposed to be used. The madman-acting Jesus drives out of the temple the money changers and the merchants who had turned God's house into a marketplace. With injustice in plain view, Jesus takes strong action, rather shocking action, to

make a difference. Clearly, he wanted people to change.

Jesus decided that it was time to clean house in the temple. In Lent, we are supposed to engage in practices to help remove the warts from our lives. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are meant to help us get rid of what is preventing us from living life to the fullest. Would Jesus want to clean house in our personal temples? There may be stuff in our personal temples that began as something worthwhile or even innocent that has taken over our lives.

In the first reading, we read what we call the Ten Commandments. When we hear those Ten Commandments, we may think that we are doing well and that we are on the fast track to heaven. But, let's look at our lives a little more deeply. If Jesus came to us today, would he be looking for some chords in order to make a whip?

For example, when does chit-chat become gossip?

March 3

Third Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Exodus 20:1-17

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

John 2:13-25

*This homily is offered
courtesy of a priest of
the Diocese of Ogdensburg.*

When does caring for another become lust? What about those programs or activities that become so all-embracing that they move us to forget our true responsibilities to our families and perhaps to our church? What about the so-called "white lies" that suddenly morph into something much more serious? What about the admiration for the other person's possessions that emerges into jealousy? What about the foul language, used, perhaps to get a laugh, that suddenly is now part of one's ordinary vocabulary? What about our efforts to become our own person that have changed us into self-seeking, selfish adult

brats? What about the activities that have replaced Sunday worship? Have well-intentioned efforts to assist your children, assist your spouse or assist your friend actually enabled them to persist in their bad or immature behavior? In other words, is there fodder in our lives, in our temples, that Jesus would want to clean up and clean out in our virtual tour with him?

Remember the depictions of the Ten Commandments: One large tablet with two sides, numbers one through three on the left side and four through 10 on the right. The first three commandments on the right refer to God and the others referring to our neighbor. Sometimes, today, people believe that if they are doing a pretty good job on commandments four to 10, then that's all that is needed. But what about commandments one to three. What are some of the false gods that we have introduced into our lives? You see, if God is

not number one, then something or someone or some activity will become our God. For some that is sports, for some that is just leisure time around the house. The result of not being serious about no false gods is that we stop worshipping the one true God and, so to speak, worship what has replaced the one true God. Those first three commandments are just as mandatory as the other seven.

If what I am saying is making you a little nervous and sounds like I'm too close to home, then good. That's the idea.

Even though our earth may still be covered in snow and even if our pipes are frozen, it's time to do some spring cleaning and thaw out the hardness of our hearts. If we take seriously the message to clean our personal house, then we will feel much more comfortable in God's house. After all, in church with God's people, we find our strength to live all ten commandments.

Catholic Hallow app makes Apple history

By Francesca Pollio Fenton
Catholic News Agency

The Catholic prayer app Hallow has made history becoming the first religious app to reach the No. 1 spot on Apple's app store.

Hallow reached the top spot on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, which was the same day its Lent Pray40 prayer challenge started.

More than 1 million people joined the Lenten prayer challenge featuring Catholic actors Jonathan Roumie and Mark Wahlberg; Father Mike Schmitz; Sister Miriam James Heidland, SOLT; and Sister Mary Bernice.

The Catholic app sur-

passed the e-commerce app Temu, which previously held the No. 1 spot, on Wednesday evening and held its top ranking into Thursday morning. With roughly 85 employees, Hallow is a significantly smaller company than those creating apps who tend to rank high in the App Store.

This Lent, Hallow will walk listeners through "He Leadeth Me" by Father Walter J. Ciszek, a Jesuit priest and missionary who was imprisoned for 20 years in the Soviet Union amid some of the worst conditions imaginable.

"He Leadeth Me" rose to No. 2 overall in Amazon's

list of bestsellers during the same time frame. It currently sits at the No. 3 spot.

"We're blown away. When we started Hallow, it would've been crazy for us to imagine a thousand people praying together on it, much less 1 million. God is doing incredible things. All glory and credit and praise belongs to him," said Alex Jones, CEO and co-founder of Hallow, in a press release.

"Never in a million years would I have imagined we'd be at the top of the App Store," he added. "The other folks in the top 100 apps are just such incredible and popular apps with tens of

thousands of employees — Netflix, Spotify, Amazon, Google, Instagram. What a crazy world."

The spike in downloads comes after Hallow aired a 30-second commercial during Super Bowl LVIII encouraging viewers to take a moment to give thanks to God and invite them to join Hallow in prayer this Lenten season.

After the commercial aired, Jones told CNA in an interview that "it was a phenomenal night. A dream come true. For the first time ever during the Super Bowl, we all got to take 30 seconds to give thanks to God."

"We've been blown

away by the responses to the spot," he said. "We've heard from many who were inspired to join us and give prayer a try for the first time in a long time this Lent."

"It was amazing to see how the spot resonated with so many," he added. "It was an honor to get to pray together, and we're thrilled to continue to pray together."



CALLED TO SERVE

Planning for what we hope doesn't happen

We can usually go to Mass every day of the week. We are spoiled in the Northeast section of our country when it comes to daily Mass. Vocations to the priesthood have not been an issue in the last 100 years, so we have been blessed with daily Mass opportunities throughout our lives.

This is not so in many parts of the world and it is increasingly not the case in this part of the world today for a variety of reasons.

I'll overstate the obvious here when I say we have a serious vocations issue in this diocese and in others. Pray for the men in seminary now and those who are discerning a vocation.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg's Living Stones Planning Committee recognizes the problem. "Although all parishes will have a pastor with access to a Sunday Mass, not all communities will have a pastor in residence or a Mass in their church building. The primary concern is to do what is best for the church, both clergy and laity, and place our priests where they are most needed. In some cases, a deacon or a pastoral associate may fill this role of pastoral presence, and in some particular situations, a parish life coordinator may be assigned."

The last published numbers from the Ogdensburg Diocese are, "77 parishes and th

up of 101 worship sites, 13 parochial oratories, 2 high schools, 8 elementary schools and St. Joseph's Nursing Home. Catholics are served by 43 active diocesan priests, 9 priests belonging to religious institutions, and 2 priests belonging to other dioceses."

The Mass is the only true "actualization" of the Lord's Paschal Mystery. It is the "sum and substance" or our liturgical worship. Many folks count on the daily celebration of the Mass to worship the Lord and to personally renew and refresh their commitment to serve the Creator.

The numbers suggest the days of daily Mass opportunities are going to be challenged.

Of greater significance is the possibility that, in some places, a weekly Sunday Mass is in jeopardy. There are people in the world who might see a priest who will celebrate Mass once ev-

ery four to eight weeks; there are some places that will hopefully see a priest once a year. It was that way when the Diocese of Ogdensburg was founded in 1872.

The Catholic Bishops in the U.S. have prepared for that day with a rite called Sunday

Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest. SCAP for short.

It is not a pleasant thought and one all priests and deacons hope will never be called into use. But we priests and deacons are getting ready to use SCAP if necessary.

Details in next week's column. Meanwhile, keep praying for Vocations to the Priesthood.

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



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon



After years of tension between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, Russian forces began a devastating war in February 2022 by invading Ukraine. In addition to killing and wounding many, the conflict has forced millions of Ukrainians to flee the country. Many refugees went to neighboring countries in Europe, but many others came to the United States. For decades, the Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) department of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has assisted refugees fleeing wars and persecution, and in 2022 it responded to the Ukrainian refugee crisis with two initiatives to help local communities welcome refugees.

The first initiative, Welcome Circles, is a community-led program that helps local groups work together to provide financial support and connect refugees to services such as health care and education. Although Welcome Circles are locally led, they are certified, vetted, and given ongoing guidance by MRS staff or local affiliate experts. MRS's support and guidance help each Welcome Circle accompany refugees effectively during the resettlement process. As of early 2023, the Welcome Circles program already had 25 circles engaging more than 200 volunteers and had expanded to welcome refugees from Haiti, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela in addition to Ukraine.

Since 2010, MRS has led the second initiative, Parishes Organized to Welcome Immigrants and Refugees (POWIR), a program that works with select diocesan resettlement programs to empower parishes and local Catholic institutions so they can welcome and assist immigrants and refugees at the diocesan level. From May 2021 to January 2023, this diocesan support helped nearly 10,000 local volunteers, working in Catholic communities in 23 active POWIR

programs nationwide, to spend more than 100,000 volunteer hours working with and on behalf of about 24,000 clients.

Funds received through The Catholic Relief Services Collection allow MRS to help victims of war and oppression begin new lives in welcoming, supportive communities through innovative initiatives like Welcome Circles and POWIR. In addition to MRS, the collection supports other Catholic organizations that aid victims of persecution and natural disasters, provide legal services to poor immigrants, and advocate for the powerless.

Your Donations Help Our Brothers and Sisters . . .

In the United States

Feed Jesus' hunger in suffering refugees . . . through the **USCCB Department of Migration and Refugee Services (MRS)**.

Offer legal assistance to Jesus in struggling immigrants . . . through the **Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)**.

Reach out to comfort Jesus' loneliness in isolated workers . . . through the pastoral work of the **USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church**.

And Around the World

Give water to quench Jesus' thirst in the people of Kenya and Zambia . . . through the humanitarian work of **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**.

Advocate on behalf of Jesus in the poor and marginalized . . . through the public policy work of the **USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development**.

Send aid to Jesus in the victims of natural disaster . . . through the **Holy Father's Relief Fund**.

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Special Collection to be held with Peter's Pence March 9 & 10

Combined Collection

VIRTUAL EVENTS

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

Are you a single Catholic man who is hearing the Lord's call to the Priesthood? Consider joining others virtually who are listening and seeking to respond.

Date: Mar. 10, Mar. 24, Apr. 14

Time: 4 to 5 p.m.

Place: Online

Features: High school age men and older are invited to join fellow discerners and Father Howard Venette to discuss this vocation.

Contact: You must register in order to attend, please go to www.rcdony.org/priesthooddiscernment

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

ALPHA

Lake Placid – All are invited to Alpha.

Date: Wednesdays, starting Feb. 28

Time: 6:15 p.m. to 8:15

Place: St. Agnes School

Features: Free to all, regardless of belief and includes dinner.

Contact: Go to <https://stag-neslakeplacid.com/alpha> for more info and to register.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

FAITH, FELLOWSHIP AND REFLECTION

Ellenburg – Join Us for "Faith, Fellowship, and Reflection.": Experience the Lenten journey like never before!

Date: Every Thursday during Lent (Feb. 29, March 7, 14 and 21)

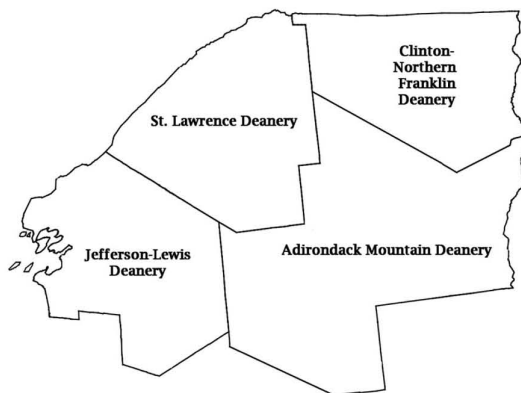
Time: 5 p.m. Mass, followed by soup and salad and then a video from the Symbolon Series

Place: St. Edmund's parish hall

Features: "Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained" offers a presentation of our Catholic Faith, guiding you through its "big picture" with our Creed as the compass. This series delves into the breadth and richness of our faith. All are welcome.

FISH FRY

Plattsburgh – Holy Cross Parish to have fish fries during Lent.



The North County Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese."

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North County Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

Date: Fridays through March 22

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

Place: Holy Cross Parish Center
Cost: \$14

Menu: Haddock, coleslaw, beverage, tartar and cocktail sauce, roll with butter, dessert and the following sides on these dates, Mac & cheese on March 15; French Fries on March 1, 8 and 15

Contact: 518-563-0730 for more information.

LENT, SEASON OF TRANSFORMATION

Plattsburgh – Holy Cross Parish presents, Season of Transformation.

Schedule: March 4, 11 and 18 at 6:30 p.m. or Feb. 28, March 6, 13 and 20 at 10 a.m.

Place: St. Peter's Emmaus Room

Cost: Suggested donation is \$5 for the study guide

Features: During Lent, we strive to free ourselves from all kinds of clutter-material and spiritual-in order to focus on God and turn back to him with our whole hearts. If this "turning back" is genuine, it will be a reorientation, a transformation. To help us enter into this season, Amy Ekeh guides readers in exploring three key moments in the life and ministry of Jesus.

Contact: Please register for

the day or evening session to: plattburghsec@rcdony.org or call the Parish Office at 518-563-0730.

FISH FRY

Chazy – Sacred Heart Church to have a Fish Fry.

Date: March 1

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

Place: Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$14; Children 5-12, \$7; Take-outs, \$14

Menu: Fried fish, homemade macaroni and cheese, french fries, cole slaw, rolls, beverage and dessert.

Contact: For more info, contact Noreen at the rectory 518-846-7650 or email chazypa@rcdony.org

STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Plattsburgh – The interfaith council of Plattsburgh and Clinton County will have an information presentation on how to stake action against Human Trafficking.

Date: March 3

Time: 1 p.m. to 3

Place: Temple Beth Israel

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.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

Ellenburg – Our Lady of the Adirondacks invites you to First Saturday Devotions.

Time: 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Weather permitting. Please feel free to join us earlier, beginning at 8:30 a.m. for private prayers and recollection prior to the start of the First Saturday rosary devotion.

Contact: For more information, contact Sarah at 518-534-9976.

STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Watertown – Take action against human trafficking, an informational presentation for parents, grandparents and parishioners.

Date: March 3

Time: 2 p.m. to 4

Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse

Features: Brief Film "Chosen" will be shown, panelists will share information and insights about the Signs, the ins and outs of grooming, social media dangers, and kidnapping from the mind of the predator, the child, and the parent. Sponsored by Sisters of St. Joseph in collaboration with local Churches, community organizations and schools.

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: March 3

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River

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

Date: March 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

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

LENTEN RETREAT

Watertown – Lenten retreat to be held for Pastors and Secretaries, Catechetical Leaders and Catechists.

Date: March 10

Time: 2 p.m. to 4

Place: SSJ Motherhouse

Features: Join us as we reflect on the "Eucharist and the Call to Discipleship and Mission." There will also be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, time for prayer, and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

LENTEN MISSION

Croghan – Lenten Mission to be held with the theme "Walking to Calvary: A Eucharistic Journey".

Date: March 10, 11, & 12

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Stephen's Parish

Schedule: March 10, "Alone with the Alone": The Eucharist and Prayer; March 11, "Jesus' falls: Meeting Him in my failure"; March 12, "Meeting Mary on the Way: Her Eucharistic Love"

Contact: For More Information, Please Contact Stephen's Parish, 315-346-6958 (Fr. Donald Manfred) or (Tom Kalamas 315-523-5890)

ST. LAWRENCE

TRUST TRUTH SERIES

Canton - Join Canton Catholics for a discussion on hot-button topics.

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Sylvia's Lounge (below Josie's Pizza).

Next sessions: March 5, IS MY BODY REALLY ME? IDENTITY, TRANSGENDERISM, AND THE MEANING OF REALITY, Speaker-

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Father Leagon Carlin, Parochial Vicar at St. Peter's in Massena. Additional sessions are planned.

Features: Cash preferred for drinks. We hope to see you there!
Contact: Free childcare will be offered. Please call ahead to reserve your child(ren)'s spot at 315-386-2543.

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS
Ogdensburg – The Legion of

Mary will pray the rosary with devotions for First Saturday.

Date: March 2
Time: 8 a.m.
Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg
Features: Rosary with devotions

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

Date: March 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.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP
Massena – First Saturday of the month, men's prayer group to meet for Mass and Adoration.
Date: March 2

Time: 9 a.m.
Place: Sacred Heart Church

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

Date: March 10 (Second Sunday of each month)
Time: 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Place: Father 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.

CATHOLIC PARENTING
Potsdam – A series of workshops from the Franciscan University Catechetical Institute to be held on Catholic Parenting.

Date: First Sunday of the month from Oct. to April
Place: St. Mary's Rectory, second floor

Features: Attend all or only those that interest you. Child care can be provided. Event is free.

Contact: For more information contact Mike Neaton at 315-335-6302 or Liz Tarbox at formationstp@gmail.com

DIOCESAN EVENTS

CREATING A CULTURE OF VOCATIONS
Norfolk – The Vocation Office in conjunction with LEAD will be presenting a conference "Creating A Culture of Vocations in the Parish."

Date: March 9
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Place: Fr. Andrew Amyot Parish Center

Features: The speaker for the conference is Leticia Ramirez, from Vocation Ministry, Houston, Texas. Leticia Ramirez will share her experiences of supporting and promoting a culture of vocations in parishes and within families to the priests and parish

representatives and to catechetical leaders and catechists.

Contact: To register: <https://www.rcdony.org/CreatingCulture>. Free book "The Harvest" to the first 30 registered.

CHRISM MASS
Ogdensburg – All the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are invited to join Bishop 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 our Diocese.

Date: March 21
Time: 11 a.m.
Place: St. Mary's Cathedral
Features: This ritual symbolizes that we are one family in Christ. The Chrism Mass may be viewed at <https://www.rcdony.org/livemass>. The Chrism Mass program will be available at the same link shortly before the Liturgy.

LEAD DAY OF REFLECTION
Ogdensburg – Welcome Catechists, Catechetical Leaders, Commissioned Lay Ministers & Candidates and all Parish Ministers to the Lead Annual Day of Reflection.

Date: March 23
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Place: Wadhams Hall
Cost: \$25 per person

Theme: "What are you looking for?" John 1:38

Features: This event will be led by Bishop LaValley. Includes Mass, two talks, discussion, holy hour, benediction, and opportunity for confession.

Contact: Register at www.rcdony.org/dayofreflection

HEALING MASS
Potsdam – Bishop LaValley has scheduled a Healing Mass for those hurt by the Church on Divine Mercy Sunday.

Date: April 7
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's Church, Potsdam



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Peter's Pence Collection

Be a sign of
mercy.

Turkey and Syria are situated in a region that experiences frequent, major earthquakes. In early February 2023, central Turkey's most powerful earthquake since 1939 struck with a magnitude of 7.8. More than 10,000 aftershocks continued for weeks afterward, including a powerful magnitude 6.4 aftershock that struck the biblical city of Antioch, known as Antakya. More than 50,000 people in Turkey and neighboring Syria were killed by the initial earthquake, followed by more deaths and the destruction of structures damaged by the first earthquake. UN officials estimated that more than 1.5 million people were left homeless in what is believed to be the largest natural disaster in Turkey's history.

In a mid-February meeting with Turkey's new ambassador to the Holy See, Pope Francis asked what sort of aid Turkey most needed. Within 24 hours, Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner and prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for the Service of Charity, organized a shipment of canned food, diapers, thermal garments, and other necessities, to be sent from Rome to a warehouse in Turkey for distribution to those in need. At the same time, economic aid to Syrian victims was entrusted to the apostolic nunciature in Syria. In addition to this material relief, the Vatican's prefect for the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches, Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, visited Syria and Turkey to provide a ministry of presence to victims.

The Holy Father's charitable outreach to victims of war, migrants and refugees, the poor, and those affected by illness and natural disasters is supported by your contributions to the Peter's Pence Collection. When you

participate in the collection, you join Catholics across the globe in supporting the pope's mission of mercy as well as the Holy See dicasteries that assist his ministry.

For more information on Peter's Pence, please visit the Vatican's Peter's Pence website: www.obolodisampietro.va/en/cos-e-l-obolo.html (English) or www.obolodisampietro.va/es/cos-e-l-obolo.html (español).

A Tradition of Support for the Holy Father
Support for such papal efforts is rooted in the scriptural message exhorting us to take care of the poor, and it expresses unity with the Holy Father in two ways: through the ongoing activities of the Holy See and through the charitable works of the Holy Father on behalf of those most in need.

How You Can Help

PRAY

Pray for the Holy Father, for those he serves in compassion, and for the ongoing activities of the Holy See, all of which benefit from the Peter's Pence Collection.

SHARE

Share this bulletin insert with anyone who might be interested.

GIVE

Give generously to this collection as a sign of mercy to those who suffer around the globe and of your support for the ongoing work of the Holy See. By doing so, you help build up the Church so that it can minister to all for generations to come.



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**Special Collection to be held with CRS March 9 & 10
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