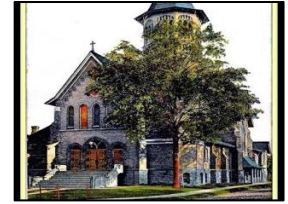




ST. MARY'S & ST. PATRICK'S NEWSLETTER

Dec. 25, 2022 & Jan. 1, 2023 • Edition 77



A Word (or Two) From Fr. Joe

Dear Parish Family, both near and far away,

Today Christ is born! We celebrate the Savior and welcome Him into our lives! May we welcome the Savior into our hearts this Christmas! Welcome is such an overlooked part of our celebration of the Christmas Season. Mary welcomes the angel's message. Joseph welcomes the guidance to accept Mary and the Christ. Shepherds and Kings welcome the Savior on bent knee.

Let's remember to welcome everyone this Christmas! Let's remember...

- to welcome folks who are leaving COVID behind for the first time in months, maybe years;
- to welcome the college students, back home from their studies;
- to welcome members of the armed services, back home on leave;
- to welcome folks caring for elderly parents or for folks who are ill and homebound;
- to welcome folks working several jobs or who work at odd hours, to raise their families in dignity;
- and to welcome folks who feel unwelcome at church or in the community.

As you enjoy the Savior's embrace, remember to embrace our sisters and brothers.

St. Mary's and St. Patrick's will celebrate the Christmas Season with Masses at our regularly scheduled times (*St. Patrick's: Saturday at 4:30 pm and Sunday at 9:30 am; St. Mary's at 7:30 am and 11:30 am on Sunday*) for the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (December 31 & January 1) and Epiphany (January 7 & 8).

Recently, Fr. Jay Atherton, pastor of our eight parish local network, issued a letter to parishioners in all of our communities. As our network moves toward even closer collaboration and cooperation in the future, we're taking the first step by forming a central administrative office to be located temporarily at St. Patrick's in Catskill. Dawn Brownson, our new network Director of Business and Operations, will supervise the centralizing of all office administrative work. We will maintain our parish offices at St. Mary's and St. Patrick's with volunteer help. If you'd like to participate... we're especially looking for help with volunteers for Mission Central (adding to our volunteer group at St. Mary's and beginning this ministry at St. Patrick's). If you'd like to participate in Mission Central or in any other facets of parish life, please talk to or email Dawn Brownson (parishbusinessmanager@gmail.com) or me (revjosephobrien@nycap.rr.com).

Dawn and I are excited for the future of your parishes and we know it will work best with your help. We need your help. Please contact us. We'd love to hear from you.

Year End Financial Planning As year-end approaches, some like to consider charitable gifts and planning their taxes. Please keep St. Mary's and St. Patrick's in mind. Have you thought about your Christmas gift to the parish? Would you like to donate to our repair and maintenance funds? Would you consider a gift or pledge to the Diocesan Appeal and help support our seminarians? Thank you for your generous stewardship throughout the year.

May you and your family enjoy abundant Christmas Blessings!

Fr. Joe, and St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Parish Staff

Please note: *The Parish offices will be closed for the week following Christmas reopening January 3rd.*

Our snow policy: *The offices follow the local school district. If the district has a two hour delay the office opens two hours later. If there is a school closure, the office is closed. If there is either a delay or closure, weekday morning Mass and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament are cancelled.*

St. Mary's Faith Formation News:

Busy Day December 18: Thank you to our Youth Ministry FF (Grades 7-9) group for serving as ministers for Mass at 11:30 AM. Thank you to our youth: Owen and Mason Tetro, Hannah Osborn, Ryker Cox, Lily Anne Dauphin, Gavin and Gracie Quigley, Georgia Banik, Annaleah Giarquinto, Amara Frascello, and Lucy Sandberg for leading the way into the Christmas Preparation Week. Following Mass on December 18th, 11 of our Confirmation Group will assisted other parishioners in decorating the Church for the Christmas Season. Many thanks to: Hailey and Thomas Gibney, Leslie Hinrichsen, Matthew Kunz, Jacob and John Luvera, Neil Murphy, Hannah Osborn, Ronin and Ainsley Rausch, and Andrew Sager.

Faith Formation resumes on January 8th for Grades K-6 at 10:15 AM and for Grade 10 Confirmation at 6:30 pm in Ravena.

St. Patrick's Faith Formation News:

Thank you for an awesome Advent event 3.0.! On December 10th we had a delightful evening of 'Advent/Nativity' walking, Christmas Play and Sing-a-long. This event would not have been possible without the help of so many - Donna Hagen, John Vasto, Tim Kelly-Haller (for the sweet snacks) Amy Billetts, Matty Haller, Shelby Green, Katherine Desrosiers, Kathy Beers, Diane Hoffman, the Columbiettes who provided the savory snacks and Clayton and Al who got us heat for the night! Of course, the students and families who were part of the play were the most amazing part! We thank them for bringing us the story of our Savior with enthusiasm and joy! Reminding us always the reason for the season – Jesus.

Mass Intentions

Week of December 24, 25, 2022

Christmas Sunday

Merry Christmas

January 1, 2023

Solemnity of Mary

Jan 1	7:30 Coxsackie	Mary Jane Smith by her family Peggy Prostler by J. Albright
	9:30 Ravena	John Eric Stoddard by Mommy and Daddy
	11:30 Coxsackie	A Healing Mass for Linda Spano by Lorraine Tremmel

Week of January 7, 8, 2023

The Epiphany of the Lord

Jan 7	4:30 Ravena	Nancy Biscione by Bill and Gloria Albright Tommy Persico by his family
Jan 8	7:30 Coxsackie	Memorial Society Timothy McDonald by Rosemary, Darrin, Shawn and Gina Martin
	9:30 Ravena	Jane Barklie by Messengers of Love
	11:30 Coxsackie	Jack McGrath (28 th Anniv.) and Kerry McGrath (1 st Anniv.) by their family Ray Berglion by his mother
Jan 11	8:00 Coxsackie	Rose Vaudry by her family

Please check our next edition of the newsletter for a summary of our Flower Memorial gifts.