

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

**DECEMBER 25, 2016**

*In Mathew, Jesus' lineage is traced to Abraham, father of believers. The birth of Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name his Emmanuel."*

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 - Anticipated Nativity of the Lord**

4:00PM (St. Mary's with pageant & Choir) Parishioners of St. Mary's

4:00PM (St. Pat's ) Parishioners of St. Patrick's

6:00PM (St. Mary's with Choir) ) Parishioners of St. Mary's

6:00PM (St. Pat's) Parishioners of St. Patrick's

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 - Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

9:00AM (St. Pat's) Parishioners of St. Patrick's

10:00AM (St. Mary's with Choir) Parishioners of St. Mary's

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 26**

9:00AM (St. Mary's) NO MASS

9:00AM +(St. Pat's) Marie Sterling by Robert & Family

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27**

9:00AM + (St. Pat's) Donald Demers by Albert Gokey

9:00AM + (St. Mary's) Frank Carey by Butch, Bud, and Lucille Chamberlain

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28**

9:00AM + (St. Pat's) Intention to be provided by Fr. Bryan Stitt

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29**

9:00AM + (St. Mary's) Don Arno by Don & Cecile LaPierre Family

9:00AM + (St. Pat's) Clara Seymour by Sue & Paul Duffy

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30**

9:00AM +(St. Mary's) Annabelle Ashline by Susan Horn

9:00AM + (St. Pat's) Richard Anctil by his Family

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31**

4:00PM +(St. Pat's ) Rene Bedard by Therese Bedard

5:30PM + (St. Mary's) Orville Babbie by Florence Cardin

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1**

8:00AM + (St. Mary's) The Filion Family by Red & Barbara Filion

10:00AM + (St. Pat's) 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dorothy Sweeny by her Family

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Neil Seymour (Paul's brother) Jane Sample, Gerald Mayo, Darriel Demers.

**Deceased:** Please pray for the soul of Darrell Demers. May he rest in peace.

Nursing Homes.... Agatha Dubois, Ruby Tetreault, Doris Deso, Gerry Hayes.

Military: Reese Tucker, Avery Trombley, Shawn LaFontaine, Tyler Bursey.

**SANCTUARY LAMP - DEC. 24 - 31**

*Ivan LaLonde by Dianne Proulx*

**VIGIL CANDLES DEC. 24 - 31**

*In Memory of Paul Cloutier by Elaine*

*Deceased Family of Rochester & Trombley Families*

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP**

December 4	2016	2015
# of Envelopes	(63)	(67)
Envelopes	\$2,309	\$1,914
Plate	104	198
Kids	2	
Total	\$2,415	\$2,112

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**

**The second collection at all Christmas Masses will be for the support of Priests' Retirement. Thank you in advance for your generosity.**

Because Christmas fall on Sunday this year, we will take up two collections, the **first collection** will be for the **regular Sunday** collection and the **second** will be the **Christmas Collection**.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg's Retirement Plan for Priests has long been supported by parish contributions from its annual Christmas Collection. Currently 38 retired priests, and 9 active priests age 70 and older, are expected to receive pension benefits of \$860,000 in 2016-17. Also, 100% of the cost of health insurance premiums for retired priests is paid by the Plan. Your generous contribution not only supports current retirees but will also help provide for the retirement needs of priests who will retire in the future. Say *thank you* to your pastor and all priests of the diocese through a generous contribution to our Christmas Collection.

**ST. MARY'S NEW WEBSITE - [stmaryschamplain.org](http://stmaryschamplain.org)**

Please take a moment to check out our new website and help to spread the word. Many parishioners that are away for the winter months would love to keep current with what's happening!

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>!**

**NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE**

New Year Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God  
*(Due to January 1 falling on a Sunday, we are following normal weekend schedule.)*

**Saturday, December 31**

5:30 PM *(Anticipated)*

**Sunday, January 1**

8:00AM

**Please note:** thank you to those who donated to our Christmas Flowers/decorations to date. Due to the storm last weekend many were not able to turn in their Memorial Flower envelope, therefore the Memorial Bulletin will not be available until next weekend.

Merry Christmas!

We wish each and everyone of you a

Blessed and safe Christmas!

**CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM BISHOP LAVALLEY 2016**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

St. Luke writes: *"And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn"* (Luke 1:7). This poor couple's God was born in a manger because there was no room for him in the inn.

Today, there is no room in our hearts for so many—the unborn, the poor, the alcoholic, those suffering from mental illness, the unemployed, the underemployed, the persecuted, the victim of unjust discrimination, the elderly, the addict, the lonely, the forgotten, the imprisoned, the abused, the terror-stricken refugee. So many women, men and children are hurting. They are members of our families. Our parish census visits reminded us that they are our neighbors. They are us!

As we have concluded a truly graced-filled Jubilee Year of Mercy, we enter this Christmas Season grateful for the blessings bestowed, but also keenly aware of our Christian duty to be the hands and merciful heart of Christ to those who currently warrant scarce attention from us. This Christmas, let you and me resolve, inspired by our own personal encounter with Jesus Christ, to see His Face in our sisters and brothers who we so often neglect. We yearn to make room in our hearts and in our lives for the hurting. Their human dignity demands it. Our Christian dignity impels us.

We pray that the beautiful acts of generosity that so characterize the Christmas Season, will be transformed from seasonal gestures of charity to lifelong acts of justice and mercy. Such personal transformation will give tangible evidence of the fruitfulness of the Jubilee of Mercy. *Christ-led, Christ-fed, and Hope-filled*, we can do great things in Christ Jesus, the Savior whose birth we celebrate with such joy and gratitude. Our God's unconditional love and boundless mercy became flesh and bones in the Person of Jesus Christ so that we might touch and see God's compassion for every one of us.

In so many ways, the Diocese of Ogdensburg has been especially blessed this year. As your shepherd, I am deeply grateful and continue to feel so privileged to lead the faithful of our North Country. In my pastoral visits, I continue to see such Mercy in Motion in our communities.

May the Christ Child bring you and your loved ones the Gift of Love, the Blessing of Hope and the Promise of Peace. A blessed Christmas and joy-filled New Year!

Faithfully yours in Christ,  
Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of

**CHRISTMAS ARTWORK CONTEST FOR MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION MCA:**

Attention all little artists in the Diocese.....Announcing the annual MCA Christmas artwork contest for students grades K-8 where 24 winners will be displayed in the National Shrine in Washington DC. Deadline is January 31, 2017. For more information and detailed guidelines, see the flyer above.

**ST. MARY'S CEMETERIES ARE OFFICIALLY CLOSED FOR THE WINTER MONTHS!**

**CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS/DECORATIONS**

The flowers and decorations for Christmas may be given in memory or in honor of loved ones. Please use the envelope which was included in your Christmas mailing. You may also submit your memorials in a plain envelope with the deceased names on the envelope. Please print clearly. A Christmas Memorial Bulletin will be printed and available for next weekend.

**COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS**

We all know someone who has simply stopped practicing their faith. As we celebrate Jesus' birth, God wants all people to join in the praise. Invite them to come to Church with you this Christmas!

**2016 BISHOPS FUND - "Mercy in Motion"**

It is not too late to donate to the Bishop's Fund Appeal. To date St. Mary's parishioners have contributed a total of \$6,922.85 with 77 households participating. Please prayerfully consider donating to this worthwhile Appeal.

**REMINDER: please take advantage of the drop box on the rectory porch located underneath the window to the left. The box is checked on a daily basis and is the safest way to leave things when the office is closed.**

**VIGIL CANDLES ...** For the past few years, we have been offering Vigil Candles in memory or in honor a loved one in the votive light stand near the statue of St. Joseph. These candles burn for 7 days for an offering of \$10. This is a great way to remember someone (living or deceased) on special occasions. As you may have noticed, there are usually only a few candles lit each week. Therefore, we will only have one candle by the statue of St. Joseph and one candle by the statue of St. Ann. The intention would still be announced in the bulletin each week, but we would only have these two candles available. Please call the Rectory to request Vigil or Sanctuary candles for 2017.

**FINAL CHANCE TO WIN \$500 ON JANUARY 1ST**

For every four (4) lotto's you sell or purchase at \$20 each your name will be submitted in the drawing for \$500 on January 1<sup>st</sup> following the 8:00am Mass. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR STUBS ASAP! This is a major fund raiser for our parish, please make every effort to try and sell or purchase the four you were mailed. Thank you to all who have purchased or sold some. We appreciate your support!

**PLATTSBURGH MARCH FOR LIFE: Champlain Valley Gathering to support life. All are welcome.**

Sunday, January 22nd. Gathering at 12:15pm at St. John 23rd Newman Center. March begins at 12:45pm to St. John the Baptist Church. Program starts at 1pm. Guest speaker, Dale Barr, is a mom and nurse from Cornwall, Ontario, Canada. She has been active in Silent No More Awareness Campaigns as a regional coordinator for Eastern Ontario. As a teenager, Dale had an abortion. She's shared her story at the Washington, DC and Ottawa, Ontario March for Life Rallies. Dale is married and a mother of four on earth and one in heaven. All are welcome to the March and presentation at St. John's Church in Plattsburgh. Reception to follow in the parish center. For additional info contact Mr. Jack Lukasiewicz 518.562.1175.

**NO RELIGIOUS ED THIS WEEKEND OR NEXT WEEKEND!**