

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

JANUARY 1, 2017

On the eighth day, Mary's child was circumcised and was given the name Jesus, that is, "God saves." Mary "kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart."

MASS SCHEDULE

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) 6th Anniversary of Dorothy Sweeny by her Family

MONDAY, JANUARY 2

9:00AM + (St. Mary's) Aline Eddy by Mark

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

9:00AM + (St. Pat's) Burton Merchant by Mary & Joe LaValley

9:00AM + (St. Mary's) Marcel Duquette by Norm Burl & Barbara

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

9:00AM + (St. Pat's) 57th Anniversary of Jean-Jacques Bedard by his daughters Ginette & Claude

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

9:00AM + (St. Mary's) Leo Richard by Doris & Family

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

9:00AM +(St. Mary's) Hubert Trombley by Ken & Veronica Dupere

9:00AM + (St. Pat's) M/M Wilbur Jennings & Son & M/M George H. Ducharme & Son by their Family

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

11:00AM Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

4:00PM +(St. Pat's) 10th Anniversary of Sandra Proulx by Joseph Proulx & Family

5:30PM + (St. Mary's) James Daily by Catherine Gooley

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

8:00AM + (St. Mary's) Carol C. Castine by Theresa Venne

10:00AM + (St. Pat's) 6th Anniversary of Simonne Dessureault by her Family

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

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

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

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

SANCTUARY LAMP - DEC. 31 - JAN. 7

In Memory of Mabel & Leo Demers by Dianne Proulx

VIGIL CANDLES DEC. 31 - JAN. 7

In Memory of Paul Cloutier by Elaine

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

December 25	2016
# of Envelopes	(61)
Envelopes	\$2,049
Plate	569
Kids	
Total	\$

Christmas Collection \$1,523

CHRISTMAS IS A TIME OF GRATITUDE

A special "thank you" is extended to all those who do so much for the good of St. Mary's Parish Family: Fr. Bryan Stitt, Deacons Noel and Laszlo, our Trustees, Parish Council, Finance Council, Cemetery help, Staff of St. Mary's, our Christian Formation Teachers and Aides, the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Daughters, the Music Ministry, the Bazaar Committee, all who helped beautify and decorate the Sanctuary and Church, Kathy Ryan for bringing back the pageant on Christmas Eve, our Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, Altar Servers, all who remembered loved ones with Christmas Memorials, those who helped in any way in preparing the church for Christmas, all of our parishioners and friends. To all and everyone –an immense "thank you". You are appreciated.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Advent Giving Tree for Birthright, the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes, and to the Children's Christmas Magic. Your generosity enabled many children to have a Merry Christmas. Again, many thanks for your continued support to these important organizations.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL BULLETINS

Extra copies of the Christmas Memorial Bulletins are available on the radiator covers. Again, thank you to all who contributed.

TODAY IS THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

What makes a "holy family"? The Spirituality of family life is not about long hours of prayer and fasting. There are more than enough ascetic opportunities within family life to qualify anyone for sainthood. Changing dirty diapers, wiping runny noses, visits to emergency room for stitches. Carpooling the kids and arbitrating sibling squabbles. Fast food sandwiched in between piano lessons, soccer games, and play rehearsals. Crying when a pet dies. Waiting for a teen out on a date. Stretching paychecks to cover college tuition. Agonizing whether to institutionalize a parent with Alzheimer's.

Family Spirituality is about healing bruised egos, mending broken trust, and struggling with reconciliation. Family spirituality comes in mixed proportions of delights, struggles, and sorrows.

The challenges of living in a family are never ending: unexpected pregnancies, shaky marriages, parent-child conflicts, misunderstandings, children leaving home, aging parents, sickness and death. It is encouraging to know that through the Holy Family, God is familiar with all of these. It was into family life - holy, human, and messy as it is – that Emmanuel, "God with us," came to dwell.

FYI: The Church celebrates the Birth of the Lord until the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus which is January 9th.

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY
JANUARY 2ND!**

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous gift in our Christmas collection. Like every North Country parish we forward 75% of the collection to the diocese to fund pensions for retired priests. Pension needs for the future as well as obligations for the next year are being met thanks to your generous donation.

KEEPING THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Dec. 25 - The First Day of Christmas - Remember God's greatest gift, Jesus, as you unwrap your gifts

Dec. 26 - The Second Day of Christmas - Remember the angels "tidings of great joy" and spread some joy today.

Dec. 27 - the Third Day of Christmas - Remember that Christ came as the Light of the world when we see candles burning. Give thanks for the witness of St. John the Evangelist.

Dec. 28 - The Fourth Day of Christmas - Remember the angels' song as we sing carols to joyful and bright. Read about the Holy Innocents in Matthew 2:16-18.

Dec. 29 - The Fifth Day of Christmas - Remember the Shepherds who came to the stable to worship and adore. Have family and friends together for a party.

Dec. 30 - The Sixth Day of Christmas - Remember that Jesus is the Word made flesh. Share your belief with a child.

Dec. 31 - The Seventh Day of Christmas - Remember the wonder of the shepherds and how they were filled with joy. Give thanks for the bounty our Lord has shared with you this year.

Jan. 1 - The Eighth Day of Christmas - Remember the Christmas Star when you see the stars at night. Pray for world peace.

Jan. 2 - The Ninth Day of Christmas - Remember Jesus' life of service to others and what it means to you.

Jan. 3 - The Tenth Day of Christmas - Remember Jesus' life of obedience and prayer. Think how your life should more reflect the model of Jesus.

Jan 4 - The Eleventh Day of Christmas - Remember the Good news of God's love as you reach out to others. Plan a way to reach out to someone with God's love,

Jan 5 - the Twelfth Day of Christmas - Remember that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Tell someone you love them and thank them for being a gift in your life.

ST. MARY'S NEW WEBSITE - 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!

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**

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year

Filled with joy, peace & love!

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.

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.

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 Lukaszewicz 518.562.1175.

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.

REMINDERS DURING FLU SEASON

- Parishioners should not share the sign of peace if feeling ill.

- It is recommended that parishioners receive Communion in the hand. Communion on the tongue does present hygienic problems during flu season.

- Hand sanitisers are available on the radiator covers for use by parishioners.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE...JANUARY 1ST