



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 13 - St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr
12:00 (SPJ) - Kristina Knox by Richard & Margaret Smith

Tuesday, December 14
St. John of The Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church
12:00 (SE) - Silvia Calvani
by Harold Bean & Dorothy DeVitt

Wednesday, December 15
No Scheduled Mass

Thursday, December 16
12:00 (SPJ) - For All Children Born & Unborn
by Richard & Margaret Smith
Confessions at 11:00am prior to Mass

Friday, December 17
12:00 (SPN) - Madeline Huchro
by Bruce & Nona Hoskins

Preceded at 11:00am by Eucharistic Holy Hour

Saturday, December 18
4:30pm (SE) - Pro Populo

Sunday, December 19
8:30am (SPN) - Amady & Gertrude Montville
by Ann Ryan and Family
10:30am (SPJ) - Special Intention for the Dickerson
Family by Maura Dickerson

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown
(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro
(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex
(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

Readings for the Week of December 13

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-9/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9-14/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13/Lk 7:24-30
Friday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
Saturday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

SANCTUARY CANDLES

for Week of December 12 – December 18

St Philip of Jesus – Intentions of the parishioners
St Elizabeth's – Intentions of the parishioners
St Philip Neri – "Healing for Erin" by Grandma

To reserve the candle, please submit

- 1) *the memorial/honor names,*
- 2) *donor name, if desired, &*
- 3) *church name, with \$10 contribution to our parish office at Willsboro.*

Don't forget to patronize and thank our advertisers!

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth
Envelopes: \$695.00; Plate: \$805.00
Christmas Flowers: \$20.00
Total: \$1,520.00

Saint Philip Neri
Envelopes: \$1,225.00; Plate: \$32.00
Christmas Flowers: \$40.00
Total: \$1,297.00
Retirement Fund for Religious: \$20.00

St Philip of Jesus/St Joseph
Envelopes: \$975.00; Plate: \$84.00
Fuel: \$225.00; Christmas Flowers: \$40.00
Total: \$1,324.00

SECOND COLLECTION TODAY
RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Help aging religious. Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others — educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to today's second collection.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

An Advent Message: "Be awake!" This message could call us to be more attentive to our habits of consumption and challenge our creativity. How could the familiar advice of RECYCLE, REDUCE, REPURPOSE be applied to your practices for celebrating Christmas?

CHRISTMAS ANGEL HELPERS NEEDED




We will be decorating the Church in Willsboro for the Christmas Season following the 10:30am Mass next Sunday, December 19th. With enough helpers it shouldn't take more than an hour. **Please plan to give of your time to help make our worship environment a reflection of God's love for us and our love for God!**

REPORT MISCONDUCT

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terrianne Yanulavich, PhD, LMHC. 5050 Route 374 Merrill, NY 12955; email: terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: Day time is 518-651-2267, evenings: 518-569-0612 or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340 or ccarrara@rcdony.org. If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or misconduct by the Bishop, contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at 800-276-1562

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

"**Gaudete Sunday**" What is so special about it? The traditions surrounding this Sunday go back as far as the 4th or 5th century, as does the season of Advent itself. Advent, our preparation for Christmas was originally a 40-day penitential season like Lent. In fact, it used to begin on November 12 (just after the memorial of Saint Martin of Tours). It was called "Saint Martin's Lent". Gaudete Sunday was the advent counterpart to "Laetare Sunday" which marks the midpoint in Lent. On Gaudete Sunday, the season of advent shifts it's focus. For the first two weeks of advent the focus can be summed up in the phrase "**The Lord is coming.**" But beginning with Gaudete Sunday the summary might be "**The Lord is near.**" This shift is marked by a lighter mood and heightened sense of joyous anticipation. The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "**Rejoice**". In times when the focus of our anticipation is often on the negative and fearful, this celebration is a reminder that God loves us so much, is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous **Joy**.
With Love and Prayers,  **Fr. J.T.**



EACH CANDLE ON THE ADVENT WREATH HAS ITS SIGNIFICANCE

The third lit candle this week is **Rose** (pink), and it symbolizes **Joy**. It's called the "**Shepherd's Candle**," and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

Things to Ponder....

Problem solving is a great skill!

From Bishop Terry R. LaValley...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Pope Francis often highlights the role older adults play in conveying faith from one generation to the next. Recently, he noted that "there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel." As we approach the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection, an appeal that benefits some 26,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests, I am reminded that senior women and men religious never retire from their vows.

The prayer and ministry of older religious are an ongoing witness to the Gospel. In their younger years, they laid the foundation for Catholic schools, hospitals, and works of mercy. Today, many serve in volunteer ministry. Others are frail and need assistance. Yet all remain wholly committed to their vocations, accepting the limitations of aging and embracing the opportunity to spend more time praying for our Church and world.

Most senior religious worked for little pay, and now their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious offers support that helps religious communities provide loving care for older members while ensuring younger ones can continue the good works of their elders.

Many fine religious women and men have served and continue to serve the people of God here in the North Country as teachers, health care providers, pastoral associates, administrators, pastors, and assistant priests. We are richly blessed to have a community of contemplatives, Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood, supporting us through their ministry of prayer. We are also grateful to those missionaries (Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Heralds of the Good News) who have left their home countries to minister here.

I recognize you may be experiencing your own financial difficulties. I ask only that you give what you can. Most importantly, please join me in praying for God's continued blessing on our nation's elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

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



HOLY HOUR WITH CONFESSION

Every **Tuesday** before Noon Mass in Elizabethtown: 11:00—11:45am
Every **Friday** before Noon Mass in Westport 11:00—11:45am



Confessions are also heard:

Every **Thursday** before Noon Mass in Willsboro 11:00-11:45am

Every **Saturday** from 3:30pm to 4:15pm in Elizabethtown.



PLEASE RETURN GIFTS NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 13TH WITH THE TAG ATTACHED! THANK YOU!

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2021

Christmas Eve: (Friday)
5:00pm: Willsboro (with a possible Pageant)
8:00pm: Elizabethtown (Mass for the Night)
Christmas Morning (Saturday)
9:00am: Westport

There will **NOT** be an anticipated Mass on Christmas day in Elizabethtown. Usual Sunday schedule the next day: **8:30am Westport & 10:30am Willsboro.** Thank you.





**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 19, 2021**

Monday, December 20

12:00 (SPJ) - Geraldine Watson
by Richard & Margaret Smith

Tuesday, December 21

12:00 (SE) - John & Nancy Boisseau by the Estate

Wednesday, December 22

No Scheduled Mass

Thursday, December 23

12:00 (SPJ) - Mary Brown & Husband by the Estate

Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

5:00pm (SPJ) - Intention of the Celebrant

8:00pm (SE) - Intention of the Celebrant

Saturday, December 25 – Christmas Day

9:00am (SPN) - Intention of the Celebrant

Sunday, December 26

8:30am (SPN) - Madeline Huchro by Helene Dennis

10:30am (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Carver Family

by Sue & John Carver

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown

(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro

(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex

(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

Readings for the Week of December 20

Monday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-6/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 **or** Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21
Lk 1:39-45

Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-8/Lk 1:46-56

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14/Lk 1:57-66

Friday Christmas Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 **or** 18-25

Friday Christmas Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-13[Lk 2:11]
Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Saturday: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-3, 11-13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 **or** 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 128:1-5 **or**
84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10/Col 3:12-21 **or** 1 Jh 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

SANCTUARY CANDLES

for Week of December 19 – December 25

St Philip of Jesus – Intentions of the parishioners

St Elizabeth’s – Special Intentions for the Living &
Deceased Members of the Hutchins
Family by Cheryl Hutchins

St Philip Neri – Intentions of the parishioners

To reserve the candle, please submit

- 1) the memorial/honor names,
- 2) donor name, if desired, &
- 3) church name, with \$10 contribution
to our parish office at Willsboro.

Don't forget to patronize and thank our advertisers!

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth

Envelopes: \$645.00; Plate: \$117.00

Donation: \$70.00

Total: \$832.00

Immaculate Conception: \$120.00

Retirement Fund for Religious: \$301.00

Saint Philip Neri

Envelopes: \$407.00; Plate: \$138.50

Total: \$545.50

Retirement Fund for Religious: \$229.00

St Philip of Jesus/St Joseph

Envelopes: \$672.00; Plate: \$148.00

Fuel: \$115.00; Christmas Flowers: \$75.00

Total: \$1,010.00

Immaculate Conception: \$130.00

Retirement Fund for Religious: \$936.00

Christmas Collection: \$210.00

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Religious give thanks. A sister writes, "Our prayers belong most of all to the generous benefactors whose donations have made this financial assistance possible." Thank you for supporting last week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Visit retiredreligious.org to learn how your gift supports elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

O Antiphon for December 19: "Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people; come to save us without delay!" Lord, save us from all the non-essential business in these last days of Advent so that we may take a few moments to ponder the mystery of your love for all, even in the check-out line!



THE MARIAN BLUE WAVE

What is the Marian Blue Wave? A call to Catholics across America to pray a weekly Rosary with the specific intentions of ending all clinical, chemical, medical and surgical abortions and shutting down every Planned Parenthood facility in the United States. To join in the Marian Blue Wave, sign up at MarianBlueWave.com/Rosary. To learn more visit MarianBlueWave.com.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

"Peace" is the one word that kept on coming to my mind for the past few days, as I will be celebrating with you my first Christmas as "Pastor" of this parish family. We all want peace in life. But do we, have it? Looking back at myself, it's been six months...and I am obliged to think... am I at peace with myself? Am I at peace with you all? More importantly, Are you at peace with me? So far, it's been really challenging, having to make some difficult decisions and changes some couldn't take... and yet it was a rewarding experience to know you and to serve you spiritually. No matter what the circumstances, I will always be proud of the fact that I could be part of this faith family. When it comes to true happiness in life, the gift of true interior peace is one of the clearest signs that we are on the right track and are making the right decisions. Choosing the will of God throughout our day, every day, will produce within us the consoling and sustaining gift of the peace of Christ. It may not be easy but that's what we have to do, not counting the cost. As we advance to celebrate Christmas may we try to **make Peace with each other** (if needed) before we embrace the Child Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

With Love and Prayers, Fr. J.T.

EACH CANDLE ON THE ADVENT WREATH HAS ITS SIGNIFICANCE



On this final week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance, we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, sometimes called the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes Peace.

WEEKEND ENVELOPES

Starting towards the end of this month, you will be receiving your weekend envelopes in your mailbox every quarter starting January. It's just that you don't have to worry anymore about picking or taking the wrong boxes. The color of the envelopes is changed but your **unique ID/No. will remain the same...** There need not be any confusion as **everything you do remains the same** especially like making the checks in the name of your Church. Please continue to support your parish family as you had been and maybe a bit more for those who can, **especially as all the parishes are still going through a big financial crisis.** Thank you and wishing you and your loved ones a very Blessed Christmas.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2021

Christmas Eve: (Friday)

5:00pm: Willsboro

8:00pm: Elizabethtown (Mass for the Night)

Christmas Morning (Saturday)

9:00am: Westport

There will **NOT** be an anticipated Mass on Christmas day in Elizabethtown. Usual Sunday schedule the next day: **8:30am Westport & 10:30am Willsboro.** Thank you.



HOLY HOUR WITH CONFESSION

Every **Tuesday** before Noon Mass in Elizabethtown: 11:00—11:45am

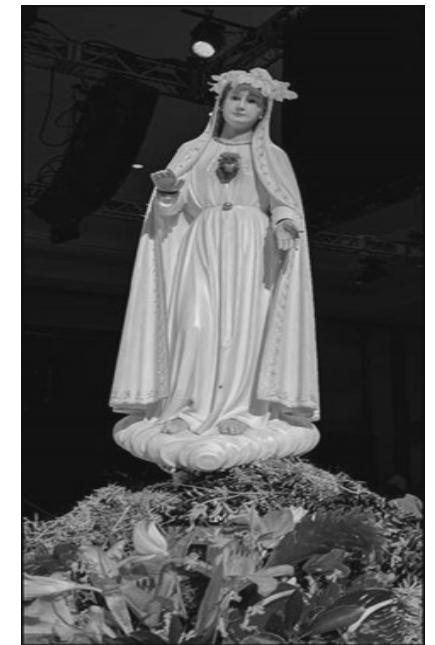
Every **Friday** before Noon Mass in Westport 11:00—11:45am



Confessions are also heard:

Every **Thursday** before Noon Mass in Willsboro 11:00-11:45am

Every **Saturday** from 3:30pm to 4:15pm in Elizabethtown.



Mary Immaculate, our Mother and our Patroness, we ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our diocese, our nation and our world,

for our families and loved ones, the protection of your Maternal mantle from this dreaded virus.

In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us to love one another and to be patient and kind.

Help us to bring the peace and healing Presence of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Keep us in the embrace of your arms, Help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus our Lord.

AMEN.

Reminder masks are required at all Masses until further notice as directed by the Bishop!





THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

December 26, 2021

Monday, December 27-St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
12:00pm (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Perkett & Remancus Families by Richard & Margaret Smith

Tuesday, December 27-The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
12:00pm (SE) - Jeanne Luppy
by Donna Sands & Heather Lewis

Preceded by Eucharistic Holy Hour

Wednesday, December 29

No Scheduled Mass

Thursday, December 30

12:00pm (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Polak & Smith Families by Richard & Margaret Smith

Confessions prior to Mass at 11:00am

Friday, December 31

12:00pm (SPJ) - Madeline Huchro by Barbara Lenihan

Saturday, January 1 – Solemnity of Mary

10:00am (SPJ) - Pro Populo

4:30pm (SE) - Norman & Peppina Martin

by their daughters, Dolores & Darlene

Sunday, January 2

8:30am (SPN) - Mary Jerdo by Carol Meaker & family

10:30am (SPJ) - Pro Populo

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown

(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro

(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex

(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

Readings for the Week of December 27

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-5, 7-8/Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-3, 5-6/Lk 2:22-35

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-10/Lk 2:36-40

Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-13/Jn 1:1-18

Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6
Mt 2:1-12

SANCTUARY CANDLES

for Week of December 26 – January 1

St Philip of Jesus – Intentions of the parishioners

St Elizabeth's – Intentions of the parishioners

St Philip Neri – "Healing for Erin" by Grandma

To reserve the candle, please submit

1) the memorial/honor names,

2) donor name, if desired, &

3) church name, with \$10 contribution

to our parish office at Willsboro.

Don't forget to patronize and thank our advertisers!

Reminder masks are required at all Masses until further notice as directed by the Bishop!

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth

Envelopes: \$330.00; Plate: \$20.00

Total: \$350.00

Retirement Fund for Religious: \$10.00

Christmas Collection: \$125.00

Saint Philip Neri

Envelopes: \$1,785.00; Plate: \$65.00

Total: \$1,850.00

St Philip of Jesus/St Joseph

Envelopes: \$390.00; Plate: \$35.00

Total: \$425.00

Retirement Fund for Religious: \$10.00

Christmas Collection: \$25.00

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

On January 1, Feast of Solemnity of Mary, the Church asks us to join in prayer for the World Day of Peace. Beginning in 1967 with Pope Paul VI, each pope addressed heads of state and governments especially, and all people in the world. We are called to create a culture of care as a path to Peace, one that will promote justice and peace between individuals, communities, peoples and nations. Mary, Queen of the Universe, pray for us.



THE MARIAN BLUE WAVE

What is the Marian Blue Wave? A call to Catholics across America to pray a weekly Rosary with the specific intentions of ending all clinical, chemical, medical and surgical abortions and shutting down every Planned Parenthood facility in the United States. To join in the Marian Blue Wave, sign up at MarianBlueWave.com/Rosary. To learn more visit MarianBlueWave.com.

BROWNBAG SERIES

Lunchtime Discussion via Zoom

The Office of New Evangelization will be running a new Brownbag Chat **starting Wednesday, January 5 from noon-1pm** via Zoom. We will use the Revive Parishes Series by Bishop Andrew Cozzens on **The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church**. We anticipate running the series in seven sessions. In each session, we will watch a video together via zoom and then have an informal discussion.

Description of the Series:

The Eucharist is indeed Jesus Christ, and as Catholics, a gift that requires our response. And what a gift it is! In this groundbreaking new course, Bishop Cozzens breaks open the new document published by the USCCB: "The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church." This is the perfect companion resource!

If you would like to join us this series of lunchtime chat discussions, please sign up online at <https://www.rcdony.org/brownbag>. For more information, contact Marika Donders at mdonders@rcdony.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

The holiness of the **Holy Family** reveals to us that every family is invited to share in God's divine life and to encounter ordinary daily life with grace and virtue. This leads me to think **How our Parish Family should be**. We are a family united in our faith whenever we assemble before the Eucharistic Table. Though we may have our differences especially when it comes to our opinions, choices and decision-making process, the underlying thing is whatever we do is oriented for the good of the Church than our own personal interests. To arrive at such a point, what we need is a mutual cooperation and mutual understanding with each other. Real understanding can lead to real compassion and Love. St. Ignatius tells us that Love is expressed in deeds rather than in words. So, any deeds that we render to our churches voluntarily may it be cleaning, decorating, scheduling and everything we do it is **not** for the pastor or anybody, but for God in whose name we assemble in this sacred space. So, in these final days ahead, along with our kind deeds, let us give gifts of understanding, compassion, and healing love to each member of our family. Let's listen, pay attention, acknowledge gifts, and affirm them. Every step we make in this direction of greater healing and love will help our family grow in holiness. May these be something to consider for our New Year resolution. Wishing you and your loved ones a very Blessed Christmas and Happy NEW YEAR.

With Love and Prayers, ✨ **Fr. J.T.**

Things to Ponder.....

First be Faithful and Sincere!

From Bishop Terry R. LaValley...

"While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son.

She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger,

because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:6-7)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

At our Christmas Vigil Mass, we will hear St. Luke tell us that God was born in a manger because there was no room for Him in the inn. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior this year, it is fitting that we ask ourselves: Is there room for God in my heart?

Today, there is so little room in our hearts for many—the unborn, the poor, those suffering from mental illness, the migrant, the victim of unjust discrimination, the elderly, the addict, the lonely, the imprisoned, indigenous peoples, the abused, the terror-stricken refugee. So many women, men and children are hurting. They are members of our families. They are us!

We enter this Advent Season, preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, grateful for blessings received, but also keenly aware of our Christian duty to be the hands and tender heart of Christ to those who currently warrant scarce attention from us. This Christmas, let us resolve, inspired by our own time spent with Jesus, to see His Face in our sisters and brothers who we too 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 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 that we are 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 extend God's compassion and love.

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 Ogdensburg



HOLY HOUR WITH CONFESSION

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Every **Friday** before Noon Mass in Westport 11:00—11:45am



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WEEKEND ENVELOPES

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PLANNED GIVING

Make a Will

Good Christian Stewardship would call for the orderly disposition of our worldly goods. If you do not make a Will, the State has to decide how to distribute your property it may not be according to your wishes.