

**THE EPIPHANY
OF
THE LORD
January 5, 2025**

Monday, January 6

No Scheduled Mass

Tuesday, January 7

11:00am (SE) - Holy Hour

12:00pm (SE) - Charles H Scampini by Marie Scampini

Wednesday, January 8

12:00pm (SPJ) - Marysue Arnold by Margaret Smith

Thursday, January 9

11:00am (CVSC) - Shirley Longware

by Margaret Smith

Friday, January 10

11:00am (SPN) - Holy Hour

12:00pm (SPN) - Msgr. Stephen Wojciechowski

by the Estate

Saturday, January 11

4:30pm (SE) - Nancy Doyle by Darlene & Paul Hooper

Sunday, January 12

8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo

10:30am (SPJ) - Jack Wintermute

by Church Ladies Group

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown

(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro

(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

(CVSC) = Champlain Valley Senior Community, Willsboro

Readings for the Week of January 6

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7-8,10-12/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8/Mt 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14-15, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-6, 9/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 29:1-4, 9-10 or

Ps 104:1-4, 24-25, 27-30/Acts 10:34-38 or

Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

Readings: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Epiphany. The word means manifestation. God is revealing his glory, not with great fanfare or extraordinary signs but in the simple birth of a baby. Yet the Magi, following their star, recognized the sign and did him homage. How often do we look for great signs and symbols to know God's will for us? If only we had a star to follow, if only Jesus would speak to us and make his will clear. Yet, we have been given all the tools we need. We have the teaching of the Church, we have scripture, and we have the sacraments. We have the gift of the Holy Spirit. But like the Wise Men, we need to take time to study, to ponder and to allow God to show his will for us in the little everyday things. We need to take time to pray and to listen and then, we too, will come to recognize Jesus in our midst and will do him homage.

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth—Attendance: 25, Christmas: 37

Envelopes: \$258.25; Plate: \$32.00

Total: \$290.25

Christmas Day: \$706.00

Saint Philip Neri—Attendance: 40, Christmas: 48

Envelopes: \$271.00; Plate: \$82.95

Fuel: \$105.00

Total: \$458.95

Retirement Fund for Religious: \$25.00

Christmas Day: \$519.00

St Philip of Jesus—Attendance: 52, Christmas: 52

Envelopes: \$665.00; Plate: \$154.26

Total: \$819.26

Christmas Day: \$997.00

A FLIGHT ATTENDANT WITH A GOLDEN PIN

Every December, Mrs. Diane Bartosik wears a little golden pin on her airline uniform. It's a beautiful pin depicting the three Wise Men following the star to Bethlehem. In her work as a flight attendant, people will sometimes comment on the beauty of the pin. She uses those situations as opportunities to be a witness for Christ. She wore that little pin on her flight to Los Angeles this past week. She came to one seat, where there were two young girls, seven and ten years old. The seven-year-old said, "That's a pretty pin." Diane responded, "Do you know what the pin means?" They both looked carefully at the three men on camels following a star... and then said, "No." They didn't know what it signified. Then Diane explained, "It's the three Wise Men following the star to Bethlehem to see the baby Jesus." "Do you know that story?" They both said, "No". They had never heard of it before. Over the next few hours, as they flew across the Pacific, many people commented on the beautiful pin; but to Diane's amazement, not a single one seemed to understand or at least did not acknowledge that they understood what it symbolized. Throughout the flight, people were attracted to the glitter of the pin --- but in every case, the people Diane met were either indifferent to its meaning, or did not understand its meaning, or in one case a mother did not want her little six-year-old son to even hear the story of the birth of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the coming of the Wise men. Yet, she continues to bear witness to what she believes with Faith.

CATHOLICS 'AGATHERING



Next coffee hour gathering is Sunday, January 19th. Please plan to join in and spend a few minutes visiting with your "Church Family"!

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS 2024

If you would like a record of your contributions for 2024 from any of our 3 churches for tax purposes, please fill out the form below & return it by mail or place it in the collection basket. We will mail them to you before the end of January.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Parish: _____

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



At the time of Jesus' birth, it was commonly believed that a new star would appear whenever a new ruler was born. The Father in Heaven used this belief to honor His Son Who was born as the new King. The three Magi from the East were astrologers. When they saw this "new star," they chose to follow it to discover the new King. Creation itself, in the form of a star, pointed the way, thus giving glory to the newborn King, manifesting Him to the whole world as symbolized by the Magi. The Magi brought the Christ Child gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. God was honored and glorified through His creation by the giving of these gifts. God created gold to manifest His beauty and dignity. It was a gift that symbolized kingship. When we ponder the natural gift of gold given to the Christ Child, we are inspired to give Him our gift of symbolic gold by prayerfully acknowledging Him as our own King to whom we pledge our complete submission. Made from the sap of trees found in India, northeastern Africa, and the Arabian Peninsula, frankincense and myrrh are also fruits of God's creation. Used in worship to symbolize prayers rising to heaven, frankincense symbolizes the Christ Child's divinity. We offer frankincense to Christ when we acknowledge His divine nature since He is God in the flesh. Often used in burial, myrrh honors the Christ Child Who came to give His life as a sacrifice for many. We offer myrrh to profess our belief in the saving power of Christ's death on the Cross and our need for that gift of salvation. As we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Epiphany**, try to see it as a historical event in which you are invited to share. God wants to manifest Himself to you today. When this happens, you must respond with faith and worship, giving God the greatest glory by giving Him your very life and offering Him your spiritual gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

With Love and Prayers....  **Fr. J.T.**

**MESSAGE FROM OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE
GIVEN THROUGH MARIJA PAVLOVIC LUNETTI
ON DECEMBER 25, 2024**

"Dear children! Pray, pray, pray that peace may begin to reign in every heart and prevail over every evil and peacelessness. Thank you for having responded to my call." (With Ecclesiastical approval)

Things to Ponder.....

**Don't use time or words carelessly!
Neither can be retrieved.**



THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

What is a Jubilee Year? In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

How often is a Jubilee Year? A Jubilee Year is celebrated by the Church every 25 years. This has been the case since 1470, when Pope Paul II changed it from every 50 years. A Pope can also proclaim an Extraordinary Jubilee, like the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which Pope Francis inaugurated in 2015.

What is the theme of the Holy Year? The theme is *Pilgrims of Hope*. Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

When does the Jubilee Year start and finish? The 2025 Jubilee Year begins on Christmas Eve 2024 and concludes on 6 January 2026.

What is the Biblical background for the Jubilee Year? The word Jubilee comes from the Hebrew word *yobel*, which is a ram's horn. This wind instrument is blown to mark the start of a Jubilee Year in the Bible (Leviticus 25:9). In the Bible the Jubilee Year occurred every 50 years and involved the cancelling of debts, a period of rest for people and the earth, and land being restored to the landless. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus makes clear his own mission is to bring Jubilee. In the synagogue at Nazareth he reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor: The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the Lord's year of favor." (Luke 4:18-19) After reading, Jesus announces: "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus shows us what God's Kingdom of justice, compassion and freedom looks like. He invites us join him in making it a reality.

What is the Papal Bull of Indiction? The term 'bull' originates from the lead seal, known as *bulla* in Latin. It refers to a Papal decree which outlines the purpose and spirit of the Holy Year.

What does the Papal Bull for the 2025 Jubilee Year tell us? The Bull is titled "Spes non confundit" (Hope does not disappoint) and urges us to **look for signs of hope in the world around us** and work for peace and justice. In the document Pope Francis writes: "If we really wish to prepare a path to peace in our world, let us commit ourselves to remedying the remote causes of injustice, settling unjust and unpayable debts, and feeding the hungry." (#16)

What is a Holy Door? A Holy Door is one of the usually sealed entrances that lead into the major basilicas of Rome. The beginning of the Jubilee Year is marked by the opening of the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. It is only during a Jubilee Year that these doors are opened. Three other papal basilica doors will be opened and one prison door during the Holy Year.

What do Catholics do during a Jubilee Year? The Jubilee Year is an opportunity to respond to God's call to turn to him and to pursue justice. Often people will go on pilgrimage during a Jubilee year, to Rome or another holy site. Pope Francis writes: "Pilgrimage is of course a fundamental element of every Jubilee event. Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life. A pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity of life." (*Spes non confundit* #5)

(taken from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg's website: www.rcdony.org)



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 12, 2025

Monday, January 13

No Scheduled Mass

Tuesday, January 14

11:00am (SE) - Holy Hour

12:00pm (SE) - The William & Ellen Keenan Family by the Estate

Wednesday, January 15

12:00pm (SPJ) - Larry Blanchard by Margaret Smith

Thursday, January 16

12:00pm (SPJ) - Robert Arnold

by Margaret Smith

Friday, January 17 – St. Anthony, Abbot

11:00am (SPN) - Holy Hour

12:00pm (SPN) - Charles Scampini by Marie Scampini

Saturday, January 18

4:30pm (SE) - Jerry Geiling Jr by A. Martin

Sunday, January 19

8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo

10:30am (SPJ) - Shirley Longware by Margaret Smith

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown

(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro

(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

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Readings for the Week of January 13

Monday: Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1, 2, 6-7, 9/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2, 5-9/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-4, 6-9/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-11/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3-4, 6-8/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8-10, 15/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-3, 7-10/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

Readings: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
In today's readings for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we are reminded of Advent. Prepare the way of the Lord. We await his coming again in glory. Who is this Jesus for whom we wait? In our Gospel, we have two witnesses telling us who Jesus is. John the Baptist reminds us that Jesus is mightier than he and that John is not worthy to untie the thongs of his sandal (the job of a slave). The second witness is God the Father himself. As Jesus is praying and being baptized by John, the Holy Spirit descends on him. The Father from Heaven speaks of him as the beloved Son in whom he is well pleased. Jesus, the sinless Son of God, did not need baptism. But he allowed it and showed us that he is always among us, walking with us on our pilgrimage to heaven. We, too, have been baptized, not just with water, but with fire and the Holy Spirit. As we journey back to God, do we walk alongside others who may need our assistance and encouragement in faith? Can we hold out our hand to someone who may need a little help on their journey of faith?

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth – Attendance: 30

Envelopes: \$553.25; Plate: \$37.00

Fuel: \$275.00

Total: \$865.25

Christmas Day: \$25.00; Solemnity of Mary: \$140.25

Respect Life Collection: \$20.00

Saint Philip Neri – Attendance: 24

Envelopes: \$165.00; Plate: \$48.00

Fuel: \$15.00

Total: \$228.00

Christmas Day: \$20.00; Solemnity of Mary: \$95.00

St Philip of Jesus – Attendance: 44

Envelopes: \$560.00; Plate: \$155.00

Fuel: \$90.00

Total: \$805.00

Solemnity of Mary: \$135.00

CATHOLICS A'GATHERING



Next coffee hour gathering is Sunday, January 19th. Please plan to join in and spend a few minutes visiting with your "Church Family"! Contact Desiree or Bill to help or to bring a dish to share: 518-335-2106

"FOR ME, IT'S A TOTAL COMMITMENT!"

A pig and a chicken were out for a walk one day. The pig wasn't too bright and tended to repeat everything that others said or suggested. The chicken remarked 'Those are very nice people down in that house down there.' 'They are, indeed,' replied the pig, 'they are very nice people.' 'They are very good to us,' continued the chicken. 'They are, indeed,' replied the pig, 'They are very good to us.' 'Do you know what I was thinking?' asked the chicken. 'No,' said the pig. 'What were you thinking?' 'I was thinking that we should do something for them.' 'That's a very good idea,' replied the pig, 'I think we should do something for them. What did you have in mind?' 'I was thinking,' said the chicken, 'that we should give them something.' 'A brilliant idea,' said the pig, 'I think we should give them something. What did you have in mind?' 'I was thinking,' said the chicken, 'that we should give them bacon and eggs.' The pig quickly stopped in his tracks and said 'Definitely no! For you, that's only a slight inconvenience, but for me, it's a total commitment!' Baptism is intended to lead us to a total commitment, and our acts of Christian charity should be seen as anything but slight inconveniences.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS 2024

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



The Feast of the **Baptism of the Lord** is a liturgical bridge that connects the Christmas season to Ordinary Time. During the Christmas season, we pondered the Incarnation, Nativity, Presentation in the Temple, and Epiphany. Today, we see Jesus manifesting Himself to the world as He began His three years of public ministry. Jesus

begins His ministry through an act of deep solidarity with the fallen human race. John the Baptist had been preaching in the desert and offering a baptism of repentance. John's baptism was not the same as our baptism today. Instead, it was only a sign of one's willingness to turn away from sin and turn toward God. Jesus, of course, had nothing to repent of. He was sinless in every way. But that didn't stop Him from freely choosing to receive the baptism of repentance. Why would He do that? Simply put, Jesus chose to unite Himself with fallen humanity, taking upon Himself our sins and suffering their consequences. He humbly allowed Himself to be identified as a sinner in need of repentance. This was done out of love for us and out of His longing to become one with us so that we could become one with Him. By bowing His sacred head to receive the baptism of repentance, Jesus united Himself and His divinity to everyone who had already chosen to repent. And He gave power to every forthcoming act of repentance others would make, even until today. When we repent today, we meet Jesus in that same water of repentance. It was not only the Eternal Son Who was present at that baptism of repentance but the Father and the Holy Spirit as well. The Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove, and the Father's Voice spoke to acknowledge His oneness with His Son. Therefore, every time we make a humble act of repentance, such as when we combine the crucifixion, the Trinity, and holy water upon entering a church and blessing ourselves, we not only meet our Lord but also receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and share more fully in our adoption as sons and daughters of the Father in Heaven.

With Love and Prayers....  Fr. J.T.

Things to Ponder.....

Don't allow self-pity. The moment this emotion strikes, do something nice for someone less fortunate than you.



Pray Your Rosary

...because Mary asked us to...



RENEWAL OF OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS

New Year's resolutions are made in the hope of making our health better, daily habits, relationships, and communities. We may have already broken a few resolutions by now, but they motivate our desire for a better world. A new year also offers a fresh opportunity to renew ourselves spiritually. And among the spiritual resolutions we could make is to strive to live out daily the meaning of our baptism. We are all called, by baptism, to ongoing conversion of life, perseverance in prayer, and selfless witness to the Gospel in our homes, places of work, neighborhoods, and communities of faith. We live our baptismal vocation at home, in the workplace, and in our communities of faith. The renewing strength and wisdom we need to witness to Jesus Christ is rooted in the graces we first received at baptism. Living out our baptism can be a good spiritual resolution in this new year. The Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks of baptism as the unrepeatable sacrament of initiation that incorporates a person into new life in the Trinitarian mystery of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in whose name every Christian is baptized. At baptism, we receive "forgiveness of original sin and all personal sins, birth into the new life by which man becomes an adoptive son of the Father, a member of Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit" (No. 1279). The grace we received at baptism is not a thing of the past, a nice family memory from infancy or childhood. Rather, baptism is the foundation of new life in Jesus Christ lived today and every day in the light of God's love and mercy. The new year is a perfect time to resolve to rely more on God's grace, first received at baptism. Jesus' baptism in the Jordan began his public ministry as the son of God incarnate whose life, death, and resurrection inaugurated the kingdom of God on earth. Our baptism into Jesus Christ strengthens us with graces for daily conversion of life and Christian witness. As we strive to give joyful and humble witness to our new life in Jesus Christ, the grace of our baptism moves us now to pray, "Speak to me, Lord."

PRAYER IN HARD TIMES

Father God, sometimes the challenges of life feel overwhelming, and our faith is challenged. When we are weak, strengthen us and fill us with hope. Remind us that you are bigger than every problem we face and you will always make a way! In Jesus' name, Amen!



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CIRCLEOFPRAYER



**THE SECOND
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY
TIME
January 19, 2025**

Monday, January 20

12:00pm (APJ) - Ronald Calabrese by Anonymous

Tuesday, January 21 – St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr

11:00am (SE) - Holy Hour

12:00pm (SE) - Jerry Geiling Sr. by A. Martin

Wednesday, January 22

No Scheduled Mass

Thursday, January 23

11:00am (CVSC) - Robert Arnold by Margaret Smith

Friday, January 24

St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

11:00am (SPN) - Holy Hour

12:00pm (SPN) - Special Intention of Dora Hermon

Saturday, January 25

4:30pm (SE) - Pro Populo

Sunday, January 26

8:30am (SPN) - The Trainor / Farragher Family

by Maggie Trainor

10:30am (SPJ) - Special Intention for Joyce Marcianti

by Jocelyn Blanchard

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown

(SPN) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro

(SPJ) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

(CVSC) = Champlain Valley Senior Community, Willsboro

Readings for the Week of January 20

Monday: Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1-4/Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9-10/Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1-4/Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-10, 17/Mk 3:7-12

Friday: Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8, 10-14/Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: Acts 22:3-16 **or** Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1-2/Mk 16:15-18

Next Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8-10, 15

1 Cor 12:12-30/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

Readings: Is 62:1-5/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

Both the first reading and the Gospel use wedding imagery: God rejoices in Israel just as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride. Jesus inaugurates his ministry at the wedding of Cana. This gospel is rich in details: Mary alerting Jesus to the lack of wine, and then telling the servants to do whatever he tells them. The empty water jars to be filled with water which Jesus will turn into wine. The superabundance (more than 120 gallons!) of the most excellent wine and the fact that this first sign or miracle lets the disciples begin to believe in Jesus. How have we experienced the abundance of God? How do we share this good news with others?

CATHOLICS A'GATHERING

Coffee hour gathering is today! Please join in and spend a few minutes visiting with your "Church Family"! Contact Desiree or Bill to help in the coming months: 518-335-2106.

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth— Attendance: 16

Envelopes: \$532.25; Plate: \$22.00

Fuel: \$255.00

Total: \$809.23

Solemnity of Mary: \$10.00

Saint Philip Neri— Attendance: 28

Envelopes: \$515.00; Plate: \$72.00

Fuel: \$145.00

Total: \$732.00

Christmas Day: \$25.00

St Philip of Jesus— Attendance: 48

Envelopes: \$1,445.00; Plate: \$212.00

Fuel: \$515.00

Total: \$2,172.00

Solemnity of Mary: \$50.00

Respect Life Collection: \$50.00

**JANUARY 22: DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE
LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN, USA**

We remember today the tragic United States Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*, issued on January 22, 1973, that essentially legalized abortion in all fifty states for almost fifty years. By God's grace, that decision was finally overturned on June 24, 2022, by the Supreme Court case *Dobbs v. Jackson*. Though that latter decision gives us much to be grateful for, the battle for the sanctity of life must continue, since the *Dobbs v. Jackson* ruling simply deferred the decision on abortion to state legislatures. Thus, abortion remains legal in the majority of states in the United States and continues to be legal in many other countries around the world.

Throughout the world, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that there are approximately 40–50 million abortions every year. That translates into about 125,000 abortions every day. Up until the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision, the WHO further estimated that twenty-two percent of all pregnancies in the United States ended by abortion, over one million abortions every year. These numbers are conservative estimates, given that the WHO promotes abortion. Too often, abortion advocates premise their arguments on a woman's right to do what she wants with her *own* body. Yet a baby in the womb is a new life, distinct from the mother's, with as much dignity, beauty, and value as any other life, including all the mothers. The psalmist puts it this way, "You formed my inmost being you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are your works!" An unplanned pregnancy indeed brings with it a myriad of concerns. But no such concern is so grave that it justifies taking an innocent life at its most vulnerable stage of development. "Such attacks strike human life at the time of its greatest frailty when it lacks any means of self-defense" (Saint John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, #11). Today, call to mind that the weakest, most vulnerable, and most at-risk human beings need you. Statistically speaking, the most dangerous place to live is within the womb. Also, call to mind every mother who finds herself in an unplanned pregnancy. Both child and mother need your prayers and your acts of penance—that every mother makes the choice for life, and that the right to life will be enshrined in every civil law throughout the world. Your acts of penance help atone for every abortion committed, especially for the repentance and healing of everyone involved. Don't underestimate the power of your prayers and penance. Unite yourself to the Body of Christ and do your part to bring healing to the past and true hope for the future.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Very little is known about **Saint Agnes** (Jan.21st), except for Saint Ambrose's brief words written many decades after her death. We do know for certain that she was martyred at the age of twelve or thirteen. Later traditions have supplied what history cannot, including what follows. Agnes was born into a noble Christian family in Rome. She was said to have been quite beautiful, which, together with her wealth and holiness, caused many young noblemen to seek her as their bride. But Agnes' eyes beheld One Who was the most beautiful of all—her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. After taking in His beauty, she could look upon no one else. She dedicated herself to a life of virginity. Such self-gift, however, was neither well received nor well understood by the young men of her time. Agnes was reported to the local prefect Sempronius for being a Christian, in an attempt to dissuade her from her vow of chastity. The prefect first tried to convince Agnes to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods. She refused. Her heart was firm in its devotion to her Beloved. The prefect then tried to frighten her by displaying some instruments of torture in the hands of the cruel executioner himself. Agnes showed no fear and refused to burn incense to false gods. The prefect, having failed to convert Agnes back to paganism, or to defile her body, then condemned her to a death by beheading. Agnes willingly offered her neck to the executioner, who trembled with fear as he approached, while she was as joyful as a bride waiting to meet her Bridegroom. Saint Agnes, along with Saint Cecilia, was one of the earliest martyrs whose name was honored by its insertion into the Roman Canon. Her name in Latin means "lamb." As a result, since the sixteenth century, every year on her feast day two lambs are brought to the Roman basilica built over her tomb. Their wool is shorn and weaved into various pallia, vestments covering the shoulders. These very pallia are later placed on the shoulders of archbishops by the pope himself on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. Along with his crozier, or staff, the pallium symbolizes a bishop's role as shepherd.

With Love and Prayers....  **Fr. J.T.**

Reminder:

E-TOWN: The Capital Campaign funds have been diverted from Installing New Windows in the rectory to replacing two Propane Furnaces in place of the Steam Boiler that burned out in October. The Diocese was very gracious in permitting the use of those funds in this regard. The leftover funds could still be used towards the replacement of the windows if needed. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Pastor or Parish Trustees. **Thank You**



ELIZABETHTOWN THRIFT SHOP

St. Elizabeth's Parish has received another generous donation from the thrift shop—\$1,804.03! Sincere appreciation to all involved who make this a reality.

From Bishop Terry R. LaValley...



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

On Halloween, youngsters come to our homes clad in all sorts of creative costumes looking for treats. Once they have received their goods, should they forget, their parents often ask them the question: "What do you say?" and they respond: "Thank you!" I couldn't help but think that these words seem to have been forgotten by many of us today. I am reminded that the psalmist cries out: For it was you who created my being, knit me together in my mother's womb. I thank you for the wonder of my being, for the wonders of all your creation. (Psalm 139: 13-14)

We have, in so many ways, forgotten how to say 'thank you' because, perhaps, we no longer consider human life to be a wonder-filled gift. If I don't embrace human life as a gift, then I need not treat it with any special respect, let alone a sense of gratitude. The body becomes merely an object that I can do with as I please. The philosophy that results: "My life is my life--period. I am not beholden to anyone for it. It's my right to do with it as I see fit."

Just a few verses further on, we hear the psalmist say: O search me, God, and know my heart. O test me and know my thoughts. See that I follow not the wrong path and lead me in the path of life eternal. The psalmist knows that he doesn't have all the answers, but seeks the Lord's constant guidance so that the wrong way is never taken. Sometimes we think we know better. The guidance and direction offered by God's laws are ignored, even ridiculed.

For many, the teachings of Christ are unknown or irrelevant. A tragic result: the spread of the Culture of Death. Today, in too many ways, we find ourselves deeply imbedded in the Culture of Death where the very fabric of our family is coming unwoven. Issues of life mean everything to the family. If human life has no value, the family suffers immeasurably.

So, what do we do? Throw in the towel? Ours is an urgent moral challenge. We have been changed by our culture too much, and we have changed it not enough. We must be about the business of informing and forming our consciences based on the Gospel and Church teaching. It's not a question of when the Church will "get with it" and change. It's a question of when our culture will "get with it" and change, particularly when it comes to attitudes that continue to feed our culture of death and the destruction of the family.

The Church of the North Country continues to accept our responsibility to promote a Culture of Life in a resistant society. For the last several years, here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, a special Respect Life Collection is taken up to support our diocesan Respect Life efforts. Colleen and John Miner, from our Diocesan Respect Office, faithfully coordinate the steps we need to take in promoting and protecting the dignity and worth of every human life.

As we begin this New Year, the Jubilee of Hope, I ask you to please consider supporting the efforts our diocese makes in promoting the Culture of Life. These include, most recently, helping five Gabriel Projects. Needed help was offered to Heart Well Homestead, Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center, Walking with Moms in Need, Birthright, Liferight, Light of Truth Radio and the diocesan Natural Family Planning and Family Life Office efforts.

Thank you for your prayers and generous support of the 2025 Respect Life Collection and for all your efforts to build a Culture of Life by changing hearts and minds. Gratefully yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg



**THE THIRD
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY
TIME
January 26, 2025**

Monday, January 27

12:00pm (SPJ) - Larry Blanchard by Anonymous

Tuesday, January 28

11:00am (SE) - Holy Hour

12:00pm (SE) - Rona Lacombe by Yvonne Lesperance

Wednesday, January 29

No Scheduled Mass

Thursday, January 30

12:00pm (SPJ) - Deceased Relatives of Carolyn,

Jane & Nick

Friday, January 31

11:00am (SPN) - Holy Hour

12:00pm (SPN) - Well-Being & Intentions of

Watertown S.S.J.'s by Anonymous

Saturday, February 1

4:30pm (SE) - Emily "Peanut" Wilson, born 1/11/1987

She lived for 15 days—by her Father

Sunday, February 2

8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo

10:30am (SPJ) - Special Intention for Joyce Marcianti

by Jocelyn Blanchard

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown

(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro

(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

(CVSC) = Champlain Valley Senior Community, Willsboro

Readings for the Week of January 27

Monday: Heb 9:15, 24-28/Ps 98:1-6/Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 10-11/Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: Heb 10:11-18/Ps 110:1-4/Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: Heb 10:19-25/Ps 24:1-6/Mk 4:21-25

Friday: Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1:69-75/Mk 4:35-41

Next Sunday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7-10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40

THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

Readings: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Today, this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing. Jesus is the fulfillment of the OT scriptures. He is the one who brings glad tidings to the poor, proclaims liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, lets the oppressed go free and proclaims an acceptable year to the Lord. This year, and every year, we celebrate another acceptable year to the Lord. We are baptized in Christ, incorporated in his body the Church. How do we live this scripture? How do we bring glad tidings to the poor? How has Jesus set us free to announce the Good News? Tell your story and share the Good News!

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth—Attendance: 24

Envelopes: \$438.25; Plate: \$132.00

Fuel: \$25.00

Total: \$595.25

Respect Life Collection: \$10.00

Saint Philip Neri—Attendance: 30

Envelopes: \$1,696.00; Plate: \$59.00

Fuel: \$25.00

Total: \$1,780.00

Solemnity of Mary: \$10.00

St Philip of Jesus—Attendance: 51

Envelopes: \$440.00; Plate: \$208.00

Donation fo Living Faith Booklets: \$25.00

Total: \$673.00

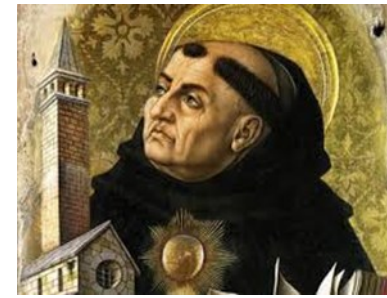
**PILGRIMS OF HOPE – JUBILEE YEAR
TIM MULDOON**

HOPE, writes Emily Dickinson, "is the thing with feathers – / That perches in the soul," by which, I take her to mean, **that Hope** is ever-ready to take wing, quite apart from the machinations of our calculating minds. It is good to hold this image, particularly in times when news reports crash upon us rather too heavily. Fractures among our electorates; wars between neighbors; violence and neglect on our streets, in our schools, and even within our hearts: the regular drumbeat of reality can overwhelm us. We need the thing with feathers to surprise us. Hope, of course, is very different from optimism. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks distinguishes them this way: "Optimism is the belief that the world is changing for the better; hope is the belief that, together, we can *make* the world better" (*To Heal a Fractured World: The Ethics of Responsibility*). He is right. Optimism calculates; hope believes. For Thomas Aquinas, who articulated the classic definition of hope as one of the three theological virtues (along with faith and love, following St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:13), hope points to a future good, "difficult but possible to attain." And when we ask God for help, the hope in our hearts speaks directly to the heart of God, as St. Francis de Sales reminds us. There can be many reasons to be pessimistic in the face of so many difficulties in the world. (For that reason, it may be good to consider a media fast for certain periods.) But hope is neither optimism nor starry-eyed idealism. It is God's gift to us, that we might cooperate with God to make the world better. *It is God's heart speaking back to our own*, offering to us new ways of imagining how to overcome evil with good (cf. Romans 12:21). Pascal writes that the heart has its reasons, which reason can never know. Hope is the reason of the heart, the heart logic that takes wing of us, lifting us to see the world as God does. Let us, then, take up our crosses and be pilgrims of hope.

PLANNED GIVING

How to Transfer a Gift of Stock: Gifts of stock can be given to benefit our parish, the Capital Campaign, your favorite Catholic School, programs, ministries, Missionary Projects and the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The proceeds can be restricted according to your wishes, or directed to an endowment fund held in the Foundation of the RC Diocese of Ogdensburg. For more information, contact the Diocese at 315-393-2920 or Email slalone@rcdony.org.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Among the greatest intellectuals in the history of the Church, **Saint Thomas Aquinas** (Jan.28th) rises far above the rest. He is not only a Doctor of the Church but is given the titles Angelic Doctor, Common Doctor, and Universal Doctor. It is difficult to understate the impact that Saint Thomas has had on the Church's doctrine and intellectual understanding of the faith. Thomas was born in a grand castle in central Italy near the town of Aquino. His father was a nobleman, a knight in the army of the Emperor Frederick II. Thomas began his studies when he was only five at the famous Benedictine monastery, Monte Cassino, where his uncle was abbot. Thomas's parents hoped he would one day become the abbot himself. When he was fourteen, because of military conflicts, Thomas moved from Monte Cassino to the newly founded University of Naples to continue his studies. It was there that he came in contact with the Dominicans who influenced him greatly and who made plans for Thomas to join their newly founded order. Thomas' intellect shone forth at that time as he openly engaged in discussions, and his reputation for brilliance became widely known. Among his many works, Saint Thomas is best known for the *Summa Theologica*, or "Summary of Theology," which he never completed. One tradition stated that when he was celebrating Mass in 1273, he had a vision. He later told his scribe, Brother Reginald, that he could no longer write. When Brother Reginald asked him why, he responded, "Reginald, I cannot because all that I have written seems like straw to me." Saint Thomas was not only brilliant, but he was also a man of deep faith, who loved God, never stopped contemplating the truths of faith, and courageously introduced new methods by which God became better known and understood. His life of prayer produced a wellspring of supernatural truth that was then organized by his intellect and articulated in ways never seen before. Thomas' humility and sincerity come through in a story told by one early biographer who relates that as Brother Thomas was praying one morning before the crucifix, he anxiously implored the Lord as to whether or not his writings were correct. Jesus spoke to him saying, "You have written well of Me, Thomas, what shall be your reward?" Thomas replied, "Nothing but You, Lord."

With Love and Prayers...  **Fr. J.T.**

Reminder:

E-TOWN: The Capital Campaign funds have been diverted from Installing New Windws in the rectory to replacing two Propane Furnaces in place of the Steam Boiler that burned out in October. The Diocese was very gracious in permitting the use of those funds in this regard. The leftover funds could still be used towards the replacement of the windows if needed. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Pastor or Parish Trustees. **Thank You**

**ARCHBISHOP ROMERO'S
"OPTION FOR THE POOR."**

Speaking in the synagogue in Nazareth, Jesus used Isaiah's prophetic terms, long since seen as referring to the coming Messiah, to describe his mission. Jesus said he had been sent, among other reasons, "to bring good news to the poor." The success of Jesus' mission, particularly with the poor who had no political power except that conferred by their sheer numbers, made Jesus a "dangerous" person to the religious authorities of Israel and eventually resulted in his crucifixion. The Christian gospel is still dangerous when its truth is put into practice. This is seen in the case of Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was murdered when, like Jesus, he reminded people of the needs of the poor and the oppressed in El Salvador. The story begins in 1979 when a young priest, Father Grande, was shot and killed on the streets of El Salvador. His "crime" was that he spoke out against the government, which brutally suppressed all forms of protests and executed thousands of innocent people using its notorious "Death Squads." When Fr. Grande's great friend, Bishop Oscar Romero, was chosen to be the new Archbishop, the authorities thought he would keep quiet on the question of the oppressed poor in that country. Instead, Archbishop Romero became an outspoken defender of the poor and a critic of the state-supported "Death Squads." To honor the memory of his martyred friend, Archbishop Romero refused to appear in any public ceremonies sponsored by the army or the government. He soon became the voice and conscience of El Salvador. His words and actions were reported throughout the whole world so that everybody knew the atrocities happening in El Salvador. Archbishop Romero's fight for human rights led to his nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize. On March 24, 1980, at 6:25 PM, as Romero was offering Mass in a hospital chapel, a shot from the back of the church struck him in the chest, killing him instantly. Thus, Archbishop Romero died as a martyr for the gospel of Christ. As we reflect today on Jesus' words about his mission, let us remember Archbishop Romero and continue to strive to live out faithfully, in our world and our daily lives, the "dangerous" truths of the "good news" which is Jesus' gift to us today.

**DIOCESAN JOB POSTING
Insurance Claims Representative**

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking an **Insurance Claims Representative**. The position is responsible for processing Workers Compensation claims with the Third-Party Administrator, maintaining records and producing necessary reports. The position also supports the administration of property/liability and auto insurance.

An associate's degree in business is preferred. Experience with NYS Workers Compensation and other insurance is preferred. Candidates should possess excellent verbal and written communication skills, have the ability to work independently and manage/establish priorities to meet deadlines. Proficiency with Microsoft Office including Word and Excel is required. Candidates should have the ability to learn new software. Starting Pay Range: \$44,815 - \$54,581 Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to: Human Resources Office, Diocese of Ogdensburg, P.O. Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or e-mail ksnover@rcdony.org.



Pray Your Rosary

...because Mary asked us to...

