



## FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 4, 2024

**Monday, February 5-St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr**  
12:00pm (SPJ) - Mary Brown and Husband by the state  
**Tuesday, February 6**  
**St Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs**  
11:00am (SE) - *Holy Hour*  
12:00pm (SE) - Joseph L Huttig by Mary Anne Allen  
**Wednesday, February 7**

*No Scheduled Mass*

**Thursday, February 8**  
12:00pm (SPJ) - For the Souls of the Faithful Departed  
from the Willsboro / Essex parish

**Friday, February 9**  
12:00pm (SPN) - Msgr Stephen J Wojciechowski  
by the Estate

**Saturday, February 10**  
3:30pm (SE) - *Holy Hour with Confessions*  
4:30pm (SE) - Pro Populo

**Sunday, February 11**  
8:30am (SPN) - For the Souls of the Faithful Departed  
from the Westport parish  
10:30am (SPJ) - Special Intentions for Rose Mary Rogers  
by John O'Hara

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

### Readings for the Week of February 5

Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Ps 132:6-10/Mk 6:53-56  
Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Ps 84:3-5, 10-11/Mk 7:1-13  
Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10/Ps 37:5-6, 331, 39-40/Mk 7:14-23  
Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13/Ps 106:3-4, 35-37, 40/Mk 7:24-30  
Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Ps 81:10-15/Mk 7:31-37  
Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Ps 106:6-7, 19-22/Mk 8:1-10  
Next Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11  
1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45

### THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

**Readings: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39**

I was struck by the sense of mission in the readings today and the contrast between the slave whose service is drudgery in the first reading and Peter's mother in the Gospel. If you have ever been ill, you know how tired and weak it leaves you, even after the illness leaves you. But Jesus heals completely. He restores Simon Peter's mother to complete health. She then joyfully serves them. She has a mission; her life has meaning. She finds her joy in taking care of her family and guest. Jesus can heal and transform our infirmities too, whether they are physical or spiritual. We, too, have a mission. We are called to follow, to become holy as he is holy. If we allow Jesus to grasp us by the hand, we shall be transformed, and find our joy in following Jesus and telling others about our

### Last Weekend's Collection

**Saint Elizabeth— Attendance: 28**  
Envelopes: \$267.25; Plate: \$46.00  
Total: \$313.25  
Respect Life: \$62.00

**Saint Philip Neri— Attendance: 32**  
Envelopes: \$480.00; Plate: \$88.00  
Fuel: \$100.00  
Total: \$668.00  
RTRespect Life: \$207.00  
Solemnity of Maruy: - \$25.00

**St Philip of Jesus— Attendance: 41**  
Envelopes: \$690.00; Plate: \$31.00  
Total: \$721.00  
Respect Life: \$126.00

### SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

The monthly fuel collection will take place next weekend.  
Your anticipated generosity is greatly appreciated!

### CONFIRMATION CLASS

**TODAY 2/4-Class #18** Are you talking to me?  
(Getting to Know God Through Prayer)

**2/11-Class #19** Who is Mary?  
(Meeting the Mother of God-and Your Heavenly Family)

### WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE

World Day for Consecrated Life **will be celebrated on Friday, February 2, 2024.** Men and women, who are called to the Consecrated Life, radically dedicate their lives to Jesus Christ publicly to show the world that they are called to witness His call to love and to proclaim the Gospel message that brings the message of hope to the world. They profess vows of chastity, poverty and obedience that express complete self-gift to Jesus Christ.

**Parishes across the Diocese of Ogdensburg will celebrate World Day for Consecrated Life over the weekend of February 3-4, 2024.** Please pray for all those living this radical life of following Jesus. Be sure to thank them on their special day, especially those who serve in your parish and school community. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

### \*\* PARISH OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE\*\*



Catholic Community of

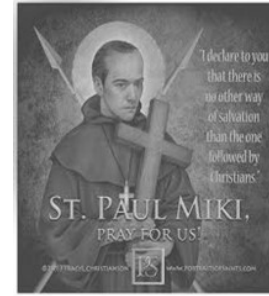
Westport, Elizabethtown, Willsboro and Essex

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God's Blessings on all the Married Couples of our Parishes!

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



The 11th-century Japanese courtesan, Sei Shonagon, once said, in what is considered the world's oldest novel, that a saint is one "who has really given up all thoughts of the world". In a sense, she is right. Her compatriot, **Paul Miki**, who was martyred in Nagasaki in 1597, and the **other twenty-five martyrs of Japan whom we honor on 6th** would have had to renounce the world, and focused instead on Christ, and "the life of the world to come". So, yes, the saint looks beyond this world and their present life. But, in another sense, the saint cannot be one who has really given up all thoughts of this world but care for the salvation of the world. As St Thérèse of Lisieux, who is patron saint of the missions, famously said "love was the true motive force which enabled the other members of the Church to act; if it ceased to function the apostles would forget to preach the gospel, the martyrs would refuse to shed their blood. As St Paul Miki said moments before his execution: "Having arrived at this moment of my existence, I believe that none of you thinks I want to hide the truth. That is why I declare to you that there is no other way of salvation than the one followed by Christians". So, the martyr sheds his blood in order to witness to the most important things in life, truths worth dying for, and his witness is an act of love for others, hoping that we might thus be convinced of the Faith for which he died – faith in the Crucified Christ, in the power of his resurrection, in the truth and necessity of his Word. St Paul Miki's dying words were: "I hope my blood will fall on my fellow men as a fruitful rain". Such was his love for us that motivated his sacrifice. As we contemplate his witness today, let us do so with humility and open hearts, open to the Truth he loved and preached. Through his intercession, may we be roused to greater faith and hope in Christ and his promises that we too may end our journey of faith well.

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

### REMINDER:

I request all of you to consider offering Mass Intentions for your loved ones, both the living and the deceased. This is the great and practical way of letting them (living) know of your prayerful support and for the eternal peace of those deceased. Mass Intention envelopes can be found at the entry ways of each Church. Please fill them in with a \$10 offering for each intention and drop them in our regular weekend collection or mail it to the office. If you wish to have more than one Mass celebrated for the same intention just specify the number in the same envelope rather than using more envelopes. Thank you.

### Things to Ponder.....

**Be kinder than necessary!**

### THE IGNATIAN WORK OUT FOR LENT 2024 SE Parish Hall Every Saturday of Lent @ 2 PM Starting February 10, 2024

#### 1. God Has Created Me for Some Good

- 1.1 I know the plans I have for you. (Jeremiah 29: 11-14)
- 1.2 You Have Searched me and know me (Psalm 139:1-6)
- 1.3 My Soul Longs for You (Psalm 42: 1-2)
- 1.4 God is Love (1 John 4:7-12)
- 1.5 I do What I hate (Romans 7:15)

Describing the exercises St. Ignatius of Loyola suggest that they're to help us to know the difference between true and false desire. That is to say, "To overcome oneself and to order one's life without reaching a decision through some disordered affection". For him, spiritual exercises were not about earning God's love. They were about removing the detours that distract us from knowing it intimately. **The first group of 10 exercises focuses on the theme of seeing myself as God sees me.** The texts from this group of exercises are about getting a "God's eye-view" and getting out of the patterns that prevent me from seeing myself as a beloved child of God. We will be doing the first 5 exercises that are mentioned above this coming Saturday. I humbly request those planning to attend to bring along a notebook and pen to note down if something that strikes you for reflection and read the above scriptural passages from the Bible to get a familiarity, even though we will be reading them that day. You are more than welcome to purchase this book (Ignatian workout for Lent) online and the author is Tim Muldoon. Thank you.

### THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

Please pray for our 2023-2024 seminarians:

- Deacon Carter Pierce—4th year Theology (1)
- Deacon Douglas Shermer—4th year Theology (1)
- Tyler Fitzgerald—2nd year Theology (2)
- Dennis Ombongi—2nd year Theology (3)
- Kevin McCullouch—1st year Theology (2)
- Venes Laine—1st year Theology (3)
- Michael Lennox—1st year Theology (1)
- 1. Mount St. Mary's Seminary
- 2. Saint Vincent Seminary
- 3. Pontifical College Josephinum

### PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord of the harvest, we raise our voice in prayer begging for generous hearts willing to respond to Your call to labor in Your vineyard today.

The need for laborers—for priests, deacons, and religious in this local Church is great.

Provide us with men and women whose hearts are centered on the Eucharist and whose desire is to lay down their lives so that the people of the North Country and beyond may be "*Christ-led, Christ-fed, and Hope-Filled.*"

Through the intercession of Mary, Queen of the Apostles, grant a new outpouring of you Holy Spirit on our Diocesan family, so that we may truly grow as the Body of Christ.

This prayer we make in the name of Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Rev. Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg



## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 11, 2024

### Monday, February 12

No Scheduled Mass

### Tuesday, February 13

11:00am (SE) - Holy Hour

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

### Wednesday, February 14 – Ash Wednesday

8:30am (SPJ) - Msgr Stephen J Wojciechowski  
by the Estate

12:05pm (SE) - Mary Brown & Husband by the Estate

### Thursday, February 15

12:00pm (SPJ) - Special Intention for Rose Mary Rogers  
by John O'Hara

### Friday, February 16

11:00am (SPN) - Holy Hour

12:00pm (SPN) - For the Souls of the Faithful Departed  
from the Westport parish

### Saturday, February 17

3:30pm (SE) - Holy Hour with Confessions

4:30pm (SE) - Joseph L Huttig by Mary Anne Allen

### Sunday, February 18

8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo

10:30am (SPJ) - Finn Jaquish by Patti & Judy

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown

(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro

(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex

(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

### Readings for the Week of February 12

Monday: Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67-68, 71-72,75-76/Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-15, 18-19/Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-6, 12-14, 17/2 Cor 5:20—6:2

Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-6, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-6/Lk 5:27-32

Next Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-9/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

### THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

**Readings: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45**

Are you amazed at the courage of the leper in today's Gospel? Lepers were excluded from the community, they were to "dwell apart", as the first reading tells us. Yet this leper dared to approach Jesus. People must have been shocked at his approach and even more shocked at the fact that Jesus touched him. What about us? Are we afraid to approach Jesus with our deformities, with our sins? For it is not leprosy that separates us from the body of Christ, but rather our sins. Can we approach Jesus through the priest in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and say with the leper "if you wish, you can make clean." The season of Lent begins this coming Wednesday with Ash Wednesday. Let us turn to the Lord and allow him to make us clean by taking away our sins that we too may rejoice and sing his praises.

### Last Weekend's Collection

**Saint Elizabeth – Attendance: 28**

Envelopes: \$802.25; Plate: \$121.00

Fuel: \$135.00

Total: \$1,058.25

Respect Life: \$45.00

**Saint Philip Neri – Attendance: 32**

Envelopes: \$110.00; Plate: \$47.00

Fuel: \$15.00

Total: \$172.00

The Church of Central & Eastern Europe: \$10.00

**St Philip of Jesus – Attendance: 47**

Envelopes: \$955.00; Plate: \$254.50

Fuel: \$315.00; Easter Flowers: \$50.00

Total: \$1,574.50

Respect Life: \$5.00

The Church of Central & Eastern Europe: \$50.00

### CONFIRMATION CLASS

**TODAY 2/11-Class #19 Who is Mary?**

(Meeting the Mother of God-and Your Heavenly Family)

**No Classes 2/18 & 2/25...Enjoy the Break!**

### FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

The combined parishes are planning to begin a class to prepare students for First Communion. Please contact Fr Justin or Sarah Bosley at text 518-637-5735 or call 518-962-8996.

### THE IGNATIAN WORK OUT FOR LENT 2024

**SE Parish Hall Every Saturday of Lent @ 2 PM**

### 2. God Has Created Me for Some Good

1.6 Depart from me, a Sinner (**Luke 5:4-8**)

1.7 Repent and Believe in the Good News (**Mark 1:4-15**)

1.8 This is the sort of fast that pleases me. (**Isaiah 58:6-9**)

1.9 Ask and it will be given to you. (**Matthew 7: 7-11**)

1.10 Be Holy, for I am Holy. (**Leviticus 19:2-4, 17-18**)

Describing the exercises St. Ignatius of Loyola suggest that they're to help us to know the difference between true and false desire. That is to say, "To overcome oneself and to order one's life without reaching a decision through some disordered affection". For him, spiritual exercises were not about earning God's love. They were about removing the detours that distract us from knowing it intimately. **The first group of 10 exercises focuses on the theme of seeing myself as God sees me.** The texts from this group of exercises are about getting a "God's eye-view" and getting out of the patterns that prevent me from seeing myself as a beloved child of God. We will be doing the last 5 exercises of the first group that are mentioned above this coming Saturday. I humbly request those planning to attend to bring along a notebook and pen to note down if something that strikes you for reflection and read the above scriptural passages from the Bible to get a familiarity, even though we will be reading them that day. You are more than welcome to purchase this book (Ignatian workout for Lent) online and the author is Tim Muldoon. Thank you.

### Things to Ponder.....

**Never underestimate the power...**

**...of a kind word or deed!**

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

ASH  
WEDNESDAY



Remember that  
You are dust, and to  
dust You shall return.  
Ecclesiastes 3:20

I recently came across the story of a little girl who went to **Ash Wednesday** service with her family and was confused as she listened to the words spoken during the distribution of ashes: **remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return**, so after the service she asked her mother what it meant. So, her mom decided to tell her the creation story of how God formed mankind out of the dust of the earth and how God then blew into his nostrils the breath of life and how this dust had now become a human being. She then tries to tell her daughter what the prayer actually means, that one day everyone will die and return to the dust from which they were created but that one day God will raise us up from the dead and we will become glorified as he is glorified and become even better than we are today, but for that to happen we have to turn away from sin and live good lives. The little girl seemed okay with that answer until the next morning when she awoke from her sleep and screamed for her mom: Come quickly - I think someone's under my bed. Her mother looked under the bed and said that's nothing but dust. "I know" she said, but after you told me we were created from dust and will return to dust and after seeing all that dust I was sure someone had to be either coming or going. Hopefully we're not as confused as that little girl - but know that those of us who repent of our sins and live good lives - will one day be united with our Lord in the kingdom. When you and I become "marked" for Jesus - we are going to be his witnesses - and people everywhere are going to know - where we have been when they see ashes on our forehead - Have the courage to wear this badge of honor - throughout the day so other people will know that - a great fast in the church - has begun. Wear this cross as a proud follower of Jesus - just as he was willing to wear - his cross for us - when he became nailed to it. Wishing you all a Blessed Lenten Season.

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

### REMINDERS:

**...THANKS-** Though I don't say it aloud every weekend, I wish you all to know that I am very grateful (on behalf of our parishes) to all who dedicate their valuable time with cleaning the Church or using the talents to enhance our weekend worship especially to our **musicians** in Westport (year around) and Elizabethtown (summer).

**...STATIONS OF THE CROSS-** Followed by **Noon Mass** on Tuesdays in E-Town, Thursdays in Willsboro, and Fridays in Westport.

**...HOLY HOUR with Confessions:** Mondays at 11 am in Willsboro (Sacristy) Tuesdays at 11 am in E-Town, Fridays at 11 am in Westport (Sacristy) and Saturdays at 3.30 pm in E-Town...Thank you.

### From Bishop Terry R. LaValley...



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Soon after learning that I was to be the next Bishop of Ogdensburg, I discovered that I needed to select an Episcopal motto, a brief phrase that would express the theme of my future ministry as a bishop. I was inspired to select two simple words of invitation by Jesus to his disciples: Follow Me. These words continually challenge me to be a faithful disciple of Jesus in my journey of faith in this life, in good times and bad. They motivate me in my ministry as your bishop to offer the best possible guidance in all our earthly journeys of discipleship.

Lent 2024 calls each of us to follow the poor, humiliated and rejected Jesus. We recommit ourselves to grow ever closer to Him, particularly at this moment in history when such a commitment encounters so many challenges. Are we willing to follow Jesus even through the real struggles we face in trying to be faithful today? Can we overcome the weariness, frustration and confusion that wells up within us because the way of following Jesus has clearly become the Way of the Cross?

This Lent can be a pivotal juncture in our faith journeys. First and foremost, we must grow closer to Jesus and discover the hope and confidence that such a relationship brings. We ask ourselves what concrete steps am I willing to take this Lent to strengthen our relationship with Jesus? Does my prayer life need to be tweaked? Am I committed to participating even more attentively at Eucharist? Will I celebrate the Sacrament of Penance more regularly, spend time in Eucharistic Adoration, read Scripture; and assist in my parish's outreach to the needy.

These Spiritual Exercises are among many others that help us tend to our relationship with our Lord. With ongoing growth in my prayer life and nourishment by the Sacraments, I can confidently participate in the mission of Christ, knowing Jesus is always by my side. Let us seek the intercession of Mary, Our Lady of Hope and Mother of the Eucharist, in our Lenten efforts to draw closer to Jesus and His Body, the Church.

God's blessings and prayers for a fruitful Lent for you and your loved ones!

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

### LENTEN RULES FOR FASTING & ABSTINENCE

Everyone 14 years of age or older is bound to ABSTAIN from meat on Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

- ♦ Everyone 18 or older, and under 59 years of age, is bound to **FAST** on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- ♦ On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted. When health or ability to work is seriously affected, the law does not oblige.
- ♦ Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed minimal penitential practices.





**FIRST SUNDAY  
OF LENT  
February 18, 2024**

**Monday, February 19**

11:00am (SPJ) - *Holy Hour with Confessions*  
12:00pm (SPJ) - For the Souls of the Faithful Departed  
from the Willsboro / Essex parish

**Tuesday, February 20**

11:00am (SE) - *Holy Hour with Confessions*  
12:00pm (SE) - Msgr Stephen J Wojciechowski  
by the Estate

**Wednesday, February 21**

9:00am (SPJ) - Mary Brown & Husband by the Estate

**Thursday, February 22**

*No Scheduled Mass*

**Friday, February 23**

11:00am (SPN) - *Holy Hour with Confessions*  
12:00pm (SPN) - Amady N & Gertrude Clark Montville  
Families by Nancy Montville

**Saturday, February 24**

3:30pm (SE) - *Holy Hour with Confessions*  
4:30pm (SE) - Robert & Mayfred Dewyea  
by Dawn & Paul Fenton

**Sunday, February 25**

8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo  
10:30am (SPJ) - Special Intention for Rose Mary Rogers  
by John O'Hara

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

**Readings for the Week of February 19**

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8-10, 15/Mt 25:31-46  
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-7, 16-19/Mt 6:7-15  
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32  
Thursday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-6/Mt 16:13-19  
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-8/Mt 5:20-26  
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48  
Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15-19  
Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

**THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION**

**Readings: Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15**

Today's Gospel from Mark is very short and seems to speak about a time of transition. Jesus spends 40 days in the wilderness, where he is tempted, but also, where he is ministered to by the angels. He then enters that other wilderness of society to proclaim the good news: that the kingdom of God is at hand and call humanity to repentance. We have entered a 40-day journey of Lent. It is a time of preparation for the coming kingdom: a time of repentance, reconciliation and letting go of those things that keep us from a right relationship with Jesus. Let us spend time in prayer, fasting and almsgiving, that we will come to know better the way of the Lord as we journey toward the celebration of Easter.

**Last Weekend's Collection**

**Saint Elizabeth — Attendance: 28**  
Envelopes: \$412.25; Plate: \$77.00  
Fuel: \$210.00  
Total: \$699.25

The Church of Central & Eastern Europe: \$10.00

**Saint Philip Neri — Attendance: 27**  
Envelopes: \$325.00; Plate: \$83.00  
Fuel: \$55.00  
Total: \$463.00

**St Philip of Jesus — Attendance: 48**  
Envelopes: \$1,185.00; Plate: \$140.00  
Fuel: \$138.00  
Total: \$1,463.00

**CONFIRMATION CLASS**

**No Classes 2/18 & 2/25...Enjoy the Break!**

**FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION**

The combined parishes are planning to begin a class to prepare students for First Communion. Please contact Fr Justin or Sarah Bosley at text 518-637-5735 or call 518-962-8996.

**THE IGNATIAN WORK OUT FOR LENT 2024  
SE Parish Hall Every Saturday of Lent @ 2 PM**

**2. Christ Calls me to Service.**

- 2.1 The sick need a doctor (**Matthew 9: 10-13**)
- 2.2 Come and see (**John 1: 35-39**)
- 2.3 Glad tidings to the poor (**Luke 4:16-19**)
- 2.4 Washing feet (**John 13:3-8**)
- 2.5 Let the party continue (**John 2:1, 3-11**)

Describing the exercises St. Ignatius of Loyola suggest that they're to help us to know the difference between true and false desire. That is to say, "To overcome oneself and to order one's life without reaching a decision through some disordered affection". For him, spiritual exercises were not about earning God's love. They were about removing the detours that distract us from knowing it intimately. **The second group of exercises focuses on choosing to follow the beautiful paradox that is Christ.** This group invites us to see him as a paradigm of faith, the one who shows us the way to trust God even in the face of suffering, for the sake of a love that saves us. We will be doing the first 5 exercises from this second group this Saturday as mentioned above. I humbly request those planning to attend to bring along a notebook and pen to note down if something that strikes you for reflection and read the above scriptural passages from the Bible to get a familiarity, even though we will be reading them that day. You are more than welcome to purchase this book (Ignatian workout for Lent) online and the author is Tim Muldoon. Thank you.

**Things to Ponder.....**

**Remember, no one makes it alone.  
Have a grateful heart and be quick  
to acknowledge those who help you!**



**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**



The Feast of the "Chair" of St. Peter liturgically recalls the day he took up his episcopal ministry in Antioch, where he served before coming to Rome. He was Pope from Jesus' ascension (May 19, 30 AD), but he didn't immediately go to Rome. The early Christians not only celebrated Peter's heroic martyrdom as a feast but also celebrated the day in which he started to guide the first Christians in the place Jesus' believers were first called Christians. To celebrate **the feast of St. Peter's Chair on 22<sup>nd</sup>**, however, is something more specific than honoring Peter's ministry as a whole. The chair was the ancient symbol of teaching authority. Teachers would sit and all their students would stand, the exact opposite of what happens today. In the Gospel, the evangelists tell us on several occasions that Jesus "sat down and began to teach" the crowds. The chair became a symbol of teaching authority and in some ways that remains today, when we refer to the person who has the "chair of philosophy" or "chair of theology" or even the "chair" of a particular meeting. To celebrate the feast of the Chair of St. Peter is to rejoice in the teaching authority Christ has given him for the sake of his body the Church. Jesus gave Peter the "keys of the kingdom of heaven," to bind and loose on earth, and that even greater authority over the sacraments points to the authority he has to teach authoritatively in Jesus' name. We retain the expression of the Pope's teaching ex cathedra (literally "from the chair") to highlight his most solemn teachings to us, applying Christ's words and wisdom to the present age. On this Feast, the whole Church needs to focus on what this Feast means and give God thanks for the gift of papal infallibility when teaching definitively on matters of faith and morals. To be truly Catholic, we need to hold fast to Peter's confession of faith through his successors in continuity. And we need to give thanks for how the Holy Spirit hovers over the chair and how the saints support the Petrine teaching authority.

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



**ELIZABHTOWN THRIFT SHOP**

St. Elizabeth's Church has received a donation of \$1,224.20 from the thrift shop which represents 1/4 of their proceeds from the month of January. Immense gratitude and sincere thanks to all associated the the workings of the shop.

**\*\* PARISH OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE\*\***



Catholic Community of Westport, Elizabethtown, Willsboro and Essex  
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**REMINDERS:**

**...STATIONS OF THE CROSS-** Followed by **Noon Mass** on Tuesdays in E-Town, Thursdays in Willsboro, and Fridays in Westport.

**...HOLY HOUR with Confessions:** Mondays at 11 am in Willsboro (Sacristy) Tuesdays at 11 am in E-Town, Fridays at 11 am in Westport (Sacristy) and Saturdays at 3.30 pm in E-Town...Thank you.

**...I request all** of you to consider offering Mass Intentions for your loved ones, both the living and the deceased. This is the great and practical way of letting them (living) know of your prayerful support and for the eternal peace of those deceased. Mass Intention envelopes can be found at the entry ways of each Church. Please fill in the information with a \$10 offering for each intention and drop them in our regular weekend collection or mail it to the office. If you wish to have more than one Mass celebrated for the same intention just specify the number in the same envelope rather than using more envelopes. Thank you.

**THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG**

Please pray for our 2023-2024 seminarians:

- Deacon Carter Pierce—4th year Theology (1)
- Deacon Douglas Shermer—4th year Theology (1)
- Tyler Fitzgerald—2nd year Theology (2)
- Dennis Ombongi—2nd year Theology (3)
- Kevin McCullouch—1st year Theology (2)
- Venes Laine—1st year Theology (3)
- Michael Lennox—1st year Theology (1)
- 1. Mount St. Mary's Seminary
- 2. Saint Vincent Seminary
- 3. Pontifical College Josephinum

**PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

Lord of the harvest, we raise our voice in prayer begging for generous hearts willing to respond to Your call to labor in Your vineyard today.

The need for laborers—for priests, deacons, and religious in this local Church is great.

Provide us with men and women whose hearts are centered on the Eucharist and whose desire is to lay down their lives so that the people of the North Country and beyond may be "Christ-led, Christ-fed, and Hope-Filled."

Through the intercession of Mary, Queen of the Apostles, grant a new outpouring of you Holy Spirit on our Diocesan family, so that we may truly grow as the Body of Christ.

This prayer we make in the name of Christ, our Lord.  
Amen

Rev. Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg

**THE FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM**

To volunteer in this program you can live in one of the five counties listed:

Franklin, Essex, Clinton, St. Lawrence and Jefferson  
The Foster Grandparent Program is a local program that shows you how you can apply the skills and wisdom you have acquired throughout your life to make a difference in the lives of others. Get involved in the community and build relationships to last a lifetime. For more info contact Melissa Howard, Volunteer Coordinator PHONE: (518) 359-7688, EMAIL: [mhoward@cathcharities.org](mailto:mhoward@cathcharities.org)



**SECOND SUNDAY  
OF LENT  
February 25, 2024**

**Monday, February 26**

11:00am (SPJ) - *Holy Hour with Confessions*  
12:00pm (SPJ) - For the Souls of the Faithful Departed  
from the Willsboro / Essex parish

**Tuesday, February 27**

11:00am (SE) - *Holy Hour with Confessions*  
12:00pm (SE) - Msgr Stephen J Wojciechowski  
by the Estate

**Wednesday, February 28**

*No Scheduled Mass*

**Thursday, February 29**

12:00pm (SPJ) - Kristina Knox by Margaret Smith

**Friday, March 1**

11:00am (SPN) - *Holy Hour with Confessions*  
12:00pm (SPN) - Herbert & Mary Dowdle Clark  
Families by Nancy Montville

**Saturday, March 2**

3:30pm (SE) - *Holy Hour with Confessions*  
4:30pm (SE) - Special Intention for Kimberly Bennett  
by Harry & Cecile Denton

**Sunday, March 3**

8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo  
10:30am (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Sayward  
Family by Carolyn, Jane & Nick  
(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown  
(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro  
(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex  
(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

**Readings for the Week of February 26**

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13/Lk 6:36-38  
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23/Mt 23:1-12  
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14-16/Mt 20:17-28  
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 16:19-31  
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-21  
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46  
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-4, 9-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32  
Next Sunday: Ex 20:1-17/Ps 19:8-11/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25

**THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION**

**Readings: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18  
Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10**

The Gospel reading of the Transfiguration read in conjunction with the first reading of Abraham's willingness to trust God and sacrifice his only son reminds us of the incredible love the Father has for us. He loves us so much that he provides the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, for the remission of our sins. Truly if God is for us, who can be against us? Yet so often we hesitate in doing what is right or difficult out of fear: fear of what others may think, fear of failing in our endeavors, fear of living fully and following God's call, whatever that may entail. This week can we step out of our comfort zone and try something new. Maybe it is visiting a lonely neighbor, or perhaps it is inviting someone to Mass or offering to pray with someone. Perhaps it is going to confession for the first time in a long time or reconciling with someone in your family. Whatever the challenge, remember how much the Lord loves you.

**Last Weekend's Collection**

**Saint Elizabeth – Attendance: 33**  
Envelopes: \$888.25; Plate: \$160.00  
Fuel: \$60.00; Easter Flowers: \$5.00  
Total: \$1,113.25

The Church of Central & Eastern Europe: \$110.10

**Saint Philip Neri – Attendance: 35**  
Envelopes: \$198.00; Plate: \$50.00  
Fuel: \$65.00  
Total: \$313.00

The Church of Central & Eastern Europe: \$35.00

**St Philip of Jesus – Attendance: 56**  
Envelopes: \$555.00; Plate: \$138.00  
Easter Flowers: \$40.00  
Total: \$733.00

The Church of Central & Eastern Europe: \$20.00

**CONFIRMATION CLASS**

**No Class 2/25...Enjoy the Break!**

**FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION**

The combined parishes are planning to begin a class to prepare students for First Communion. Please contact Fr Justin or Sarah Bosley at text 518-637-5735 or call 518-962-8996.

**THE IGNATIAN WORK OUT FOR LENT 2024  
SE Parish Hall Every Saturday of Lent @ 2 PM**

**2. Christ Calls me to Service.**

- 2.6 Blessed are you. (Luke 6:20-23)
- 2.7 Calming the storm. (Matthew 8:23-27)
- 2.8 Feeding Five Thousand. (Luke 9:12-17)
- 2.9 Not in this House. (John 2:14-16)
- 2.10 Seeing Jesus in a new way. (Matthew 17:1-7)

Describing the exercises St. Ignatius of Loyola suggest that they're to help us to know the difference between true and false desire. That is to say, "To overcome oneself and to order one's life without reaching a decision through some disordered affection". For him, spiritual exercises were not about earning God's love. They were about removing the detours that distract us from knowing it intimately. **The second group of exercises focuses on choosing to follow the beautiful paradox that is Christ.** This group invites us to see him as a paradigm of faith, the one who shows us the way to trust God even in the face of suffering, for the sake of a love that saves us. We will be doing the last 5 exercises from this second group this Saturday as mentioned above. I humbly request those planning to attend to bring along a notebook and pen to note down if something that strikes you for reflection and read the above scriptural passages from the Bible to get a familiarity, even though we will be reading them that day. You are more than welcome to purchase this book (Ignatian workout for Lent) online and the author is Tim Muldoon. Thank you.

**Things to Ponder.....**

*He who plants kindness gathers love!*



**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**



"First Friday" of the month is often marked by a special devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus since Jesus died for us and won our salvation on a Friday. Every Friday of the year, and not only the Fridays in Lent, is a special day of penance as stipulated in the Code of Canon Law: "The penitential days and times in the universal Church are every Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent" (Canon 1250). Jesus made the following 12 promises to St. Margaret Mary in favor of those who consecrate to the Sacred Heart, in a spirit of reparation, the **First Friday of each month**. 1. I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life. 2. I will establish peace in their homes. 3. I will comfort them in all their afflictions. 4. I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death. 5. I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings. 6. Sinners will find in My Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy. 7. Lukewarm souls shall become fervent. 8. Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection. 9. I will bless every place in which an image of My Heart is exposed and honored. 10. I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts. 11. Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart. 12. I promise you in the excessive mercy of My Heart that My all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in My disgrace, nor without receiving their sacraments. My divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment. The Church grants **Ple-nary indulgence (explained under reminder) to those who attend Mass and receive Communion in honor of The Sacred Heart of Jesus on the First Friday of each month for nine (9) consecutive months.** In our journey of faith, may we have a special devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

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

**LENT, SEASON OF TRANSFORMATION  
Presented by Holy Cross Parish**

**Dates: Feb 26, Mar 4, 11 and 18; Time: 6:30 pm**  
Emmaus Room at St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh  
During Lent, we strive to free ourselves from all kinds of clutter-material and spiritual-in order to focus on God and turn back to him with our whole hearts. If this "turning back" is genuine, it will be a reorientation, a transformation. To help us enter into this season, Amy Ekeh guides readers in exploring three key moments in the life and ministry of Jesus. The result will be a better understanding of the authentic transformation that God calls each of us to embrace as individuals and as a community and a renewed desire to live God's own outward-looking, self-emptying, laying-down-one's-life kind of love. Please register for the day or evening session to: [plattsburghsec@rcdony.org](mailto:plattsburghsec@rcdony.org) or call the Parish Office at 518-563-0730. Suggested donation for study guide is \$5.00.

**REMINDERS:**

**...What is a Plenary Indulgence?** A plenary indulgence is a particularly powerful way to obtain remission of punishment -- on earth or in purgatory -- that would have resulted from sins that were already forgiven. It covers all sins, mortal or venial, that the recipient has committed up to that time, if the person sincerely repents, detests their sins, and fulfills all requirements such as going to confession, receiving the Holy Communion, and praying for the intentions of the Holy Father.

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**...HOLY HOUR with Confessions:** Mondays at 11 am in Willsboro (Sacristy) Tuesdays at 11 am in E-Town, Fridays at 11 am in Westport (Sacristy) and Saturdays at 3.30 pm in E-Town...Thank you.

**THE HOLY ROSARY**

In a world where the frenetic pace of modern life seems never to slow down, it's easy to get lost amidst the whirlwind of responsibilities, worries, and commitments that surround us. Amidst this seemingly endless chaos, finding moments of peace and tranquility becomes a constant quest for many of us. It is in this context that spiritual practices play a crucial role, offering refuge for the weary soul amidst the storm of everyday life. One such practice, deeply rooted in the Catholic tradition and enriched by the wisdom of venerable figures like St. Padre Pio, is to place the rosary under the pillow during sleep. At first glance it may seem like a simple, even trivial gesture, but it is precisely in this simplicity that its depth and meaning lie. In the vast spiritual panorama, there are simple practices that hold deep and transcendental significance. One of them is the ancient tradition of **placing the rosary under the pillow during sleep.** I would like to share with you a few compelling reasons to adopt this sacred practice in our daily lives. **Firstly**, the rosary under the pillow serves as a spiritual anchor amidst life storms. In the silent hours of the night, when thoughts seemed to dance around our minds like leaves in the wind, the tangible presence of the Rosary reminds us of the promise of divine protection. It's as if each bead of the Rosary were a link of security, connecting us to God's love and mercy, even in the darkest moments. **(To be continued...)**

**CHRISM MASS**



All the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are invited to join Bishop LaValley in the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils, and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism

for use in all the churches of our Diocese. This ritual symbolizes that we are one family in Christ. The Chrism Mass will be held on Thursday, **March 21, 2024, at 11 a.m.** at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, New York. The Chrism Mass may be viewed at <https://www.rcdony.org/livemass>. The Chrism Mass program will be available at the same link shortly before the Liturgy.