

**THE EPIPHANY
OF THE LORD
January 7, 2024**

Monday, January 8 – The Baptism of the Lord
12:00pm (SPJ) - Special Intention for Rose Mary Rogers
by John O'Hara

Tuesday, January 9
11:00am (SE) - Holy Hour with Litany
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
12:00pm (SE) - Joseph L Huttig by Mary Anne Allen

Wednesday, January 10
No Scheduled Mass

Thursday, January 11
12:00pm (SPJ) - Lucy Belzile by Nancy Belzile

Friday, January 12
12:00pm (SPN) - For the Souls of the Faithful Departed
from the Westport Parish

Saturday, January 13
4:30pm (SE) - Lucy Belzile by Nancy Belzile

Sunday, January 14
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 January 8

Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 9-10/Mk 1:7-11
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-8/Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 25-26/Mk 1:40-45
Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-19/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: 1 Sm 9:3-4, 17-19; 10:1/Ps 21:2-7/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10
1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42



**Pray the
Rosary
to end
abortion**

Rallies will take place on **January 20th at noon** your local time.

January 22nd, 2024 marks the second anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade. Our efforts are making an impact—not only in the eyes of Our Lady, but also on the people around us.



Thank you for supporting this noble cause. Your devotion to protecting the unborn will surely be blessed by the infant Jesus.

Rosary Rally to End Abortion
Saturday January 20th
Noon
in front of Planned Parenthood
66 Brinkerhoff Street
Plattsburgh NY

***** December 24 Collection *****

Saint Elizabeth – Attendance: 35
Envelopes: \$707.25; Plate: \$18.00
Fuel: \$60.00
Total: \$785.25
Immaculate Conception: 12.00
Retirement Fund for Religious: \$30.00

Saint Philip Neri – Attendance: 27
Envelopes: \$575.00; Plate: \$76.00
Fuel: \$5.00
Total: \$656.00
Solemnity of Mary: \$5.00
Retirement Fund for Religious: \$50.00

St Philip of Jesus – Attendance: 38
Envelopes: \$920.00; Plate: \$72.00
Fuel: \$25.00
Total: \$1,017.00

***** Christmas Collection *****

Saint Elizabeth – Attendance: 31
Envelopes: \$605.00; Plate: \$120.00
Total: \$725.00

Saint Philip Neri – Attendance: 52
Envelopes: \$117.00; Plate: \$190.00
Total: \$307.00

St Philip of Jesus – Attendance: 39
Envelopes: \$425.00; Plate: \$207.00
Total: \$632.00

***** Last Weekend's Collection *****

Saint Elizabeth – Attendance: 31
Envelopes: \$608.25; Plate: \$72.00
Fuel: \$35.00
Total: \$715.25
Holy Christmas: \$25.00
Solemnity of Mary: \$43.00

Saint Philip Neri – Attendance: 35
Envelopes: \$1,520.00; Plate: \$97.00
Fuel: \$180.00; Christmas Flowers: \$10.00
Total: \$1,807.00
Retirement Fund for Religious: \$27.00
Holy Christmas: \$25.00

St Philip of Jesus – Attendance: 41
Envelopes: \$345.00; Plate: \$265.00
Fuel: \$10.00
Total: \$620.00
Holy Christmas: \$25.00
Solemnity of Mary: \$60.00

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY

The monthly fuel collection will take place next Sunday. Thank you in advance for your anticipated generosity!

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

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

CONFIRMATION CLASS

TODAY—01/07 Class #14 Why have I been chosen?
(Sealed and Sent in Confirmation)
01/14 Class #15 Why do I have to go to Mass?
(Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist)

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...



The exciting adventure of these Wise Men from the East (**Epiphany**) teaches us that faith is not born of our own merits, thoughts, and theories. Rather, it is God's gift. His grace helps us to shake off our apathy and opens our minds to ask the important questions in life. Questions that challenge us to leave behind our presumption that everything is fine, questions that open us to what is beyond us. For the Magi, that was the beginning: the restlessness of those willing to ask questions. Filled with yearning for the infinite, they scan the heavens, find themselves marveling at the brilliance of a star, and experience the quest for the transcendent that inspires the progress of civilizations and the tireless seeking of the human heart. The star left them with a question: Where this child is been born? Brothers and sisters, the journey of faith begins whenever, by God's grace, we make room for the restlessness that keeps us awake and alert. It begins when we are willing to ask questions, when we are dissatisfied with our daily routine and take seriously the challenges of each new day. When we step out of our comfort zone and decide to confront the uncomfortable aspects of life: our relationships with others, unexpected events, projects needing to be undertaken, dreams to be realized, fears to be faced, physical and mental sufferings. Let us open our hearts to restlessness, let us ask God for the courage to continue our journey, and let us finish in worship! Let us not be afraid, for this is the path of the Magi, the path of all the saints throughout history: to welcome our restlessness, to set out and to worship. May we never stop our restless questioning; may we never interrupt our journey by yielding to apathy or convenience; and in our encounter with the Lord, may we abandon ourselves to the wonder of worship. Then we will discover that a light shines even in the darkest nights: the light of Jesus, the radiant morning star, the sun of justice the merciful splendor of God, who loves every man and woman, and all the peoples of the earth.

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

****NEW ~ PARISH OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE****



Catholic Community of
Westport, Elizabethtown,
Willsboro and Essex
~ Like and Follow ~

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS 2023

If you would like a record of your contributions for 2023 from any of our 3 churches for tax purposes, please fill out the form below and 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: _____

WHY WAS JESUS BAPTIZED?

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 8th) concludes the Christmas Season and transitions us into the beginning of Ordinary Time. From a Scriptural point of view, this event in Jesus' life is also a transitional moment from His hidden life in Nazareth to the beginning of His public ministry. As we commemorate this glorious event, it's important to ponder a simple question: Why was Jesus baptized? **First**, by accepting the baptism of John, Jesus affirms all that John has said and done and affirms his sacred role of preparing the way for Jesus and for a new era of grace. **Secondly**, it has been said that when Jesus entered the waters of baptism, He was not baptized by the waters, rather, His Baptism was one in which all the created waters of this world were, in a sense, "baptized" by Him. By entering into the waters, Jesus sanctified water and poured forth His grace making all water the future source of salvation. **Thirdly**, the Baptism of Jesus was an epiphany. It was a moment of manifestation. As He emerged from the waters, "Heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him like a dove. And a voice came from Heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'" This manifestation of the sonship and divinity of Jesus took place in a physical, audible, and visible form so that all present there would know, without question, that Jesus was the Son of the Father. Thus, His baptism is a way in which the Father introduced His Son and His Son's mission to the world. As we commemorate Jesus' baptism liturgically, we celebrate the fact that our Christian baptism was the beginning of this new unity with the Holy Trinity. But we also celebrate our oneness with God, which is renewed every time we make an interior act of repentance for our sins. If we fully understood what happens every time, we acknowledge our sins and repent of them, we would never grow tired of repenting. Every time we acknowledge and repent of our sin, we meet Christ anew, receive a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and affirm and deepen our adoption by the Father in Heaven.

7 STEPS TO BRING PEOPLE BACK TO CHURCH

7. Close the loop. Closing the loop means ultimately finding out what they need: Confession, RCIA, or catechesis. That will most likely involve engaging a priest. So, find a good priest, engage in a conversation, and say "Hey, Father, can we have you over to dinner with this other couple or with this individual? Or can we meet you somewhere for dessert, for coffee with this other person?" I will tell you as a priest, I have seen again and again and again, when fallen away Catholics or someone who's disengaged are invited to sit at a table with people that love them, and also with a priest, it can be a game changer. These are seven easy steps that anyone can do, and I hope to God that we're all doing the first one, that we're fasting, we're sacrificing, we're praying for those who have fallen away. Dear brothers and sisters, God wants you to bring back the lost sheep of Israel. God wants you to be His hands, His feet, His heart, His voice. And He wants you to be a saint and to call others to do so. Let's look for that opportunity to be the saint that God is calling us to be and to bring others with us. (Please refer to earlier bulletins for the other 6 steps)



SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 14, 2024

Monday, January 15

No Scheduled Mass

Tuesday, January 16

11:00am (SE) - Holy Hour with Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary
12:00pm (SE) - The William & Ellen Keenan family by the Estate

Wednesday, January 17

12:00pm (SPJ) - For the Souls of the Faithful departed from the Willsboro / Essex parish

Thursday, January 18

12:00pm (SPJ) - Roger Belzile by Nancy Belzile

Friday, January 19

12:00pm (SPN) - Msgr. Stephen J Wojciechowski by the Estate

Saturday, January 20

4:30pm (SE) - Special Intentions for the Corbo Family by Yvonne Lesperance

Sunday, January 21

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 January 15

Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23/Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1-2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6
Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-13/Mk 3:7-12
Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2-3, 6, 11/Mk 3:13-19
Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21
Next Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-9/1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20

REPORT MISCONDUCT

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

Things to Ponder.....

How you say something is as important...

...as what you say!

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth — Attendance: 33
Envelopes: \$468.25; Plate: \$90.00
Fuel: \$120.00
Total: \$678.25
Holy Christmas: \$100.00
Solemnity of Mary: \$85.00

Saint Philip Neri — Attendance: 16
Envelopes: \$120.00; Plate: \$23.00
Total: \$143.00
Holy Christmas: \$10.00
Solemnity of Mary: \$49.00

St Philip of Jesus — Attendance: 23
Envelopes: \$1,335.00; Plate: \$106.00
Fuel: \$220.00
Total: \$1,661.00
Solemnity of Mary: \$60.00
Respect Life: \$100.00

CONFIRMATION CLASS

TODAY—01/14 Class #15 Why do I have to go to Mass?
(Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist)
01/21 Class #16 What does it mean to say "I do"?
(Marriage, a Sign of God's Love)

Women's Lenten Study

RECLAIMING FRIENDSHIP

Discover God's plan for friendship
How to navigate toxic relationships
Let God reshape how you see and experience intentional relationships
Explore what it takes to have deep connections for the long haul

February 15th to March 21st

THURSDAYS 10:00 - 11:45 AM or 6:30 - 8:15 PM

ST JOHN'S CHURCH DWYER / MCAVOY PARISH CENTER

Contact: Janice Tobin C/T 518-569-5370
Suggested Donation of \$20.

9 DAYS FOR LIFE: January 16-24



9 Days for Life, the annual novena surrounding the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children, will take place this year January 16 through January 24. Participants can download the novena or sign up to receive it by email or text: www.9daysforlife.com

Don't forget to patronize and thank our advertisers!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins Jan 18th, Thursday. The chosen theme for this year is 'You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbor as yourself' (Lk 10:27). For more than a century it has been celebrated every year by Christians of all Churches and ecclesial communities in order to invoke the extraordinary gift for which the Lord Jesus himself prayed at the Last Supper, before his Passion: "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21). The practice of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was introduced in 1908 by Fr Paul Wattson, the founder of an Anglican religious community who later entered the Catholic Church. The initiative received the blessing of Pope St Pius X and was later promoted by Pope Benedict XV, who encouraged its celebration throughout the Catholic Church. The unity we pray for requires an inner conversion that is both common and personal. It is not merely a matter of cordiality or cooperation, it is necessary above all to strengthen our faith in God, in the God of Jesus Christ, who spoke to us and made himself one of us. It is necessary to enter into new life in Christ, who is our true and definitive victory; it is necessary to open ourselves to one another, understanding all the elements of unity that God keeps for us and gives us ever anew; it is necessary to be aware of the urgent need to bear witness among the people of our time to the living God, who made himself known in Christ. The Church's journey, like that of the peoples, is in the hands of the Risen Christ, victorious over death and over the injustice that he suffered in the name of all. He makes us share in his victory. Let us join together more intensely in prayer during this Week for Unity, so that the common witness, solidarity, and collaboration among Christians may increase, in the expectation of the glorious day on which we shall profess together the faith handed down by the Apostles and celebrate together the sacraments of our transformation in Christ.

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



****NEW ~ PARISH OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE****

Catholic Community of Westport, Elizabethtown, Willsboro and Essex

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS 2023

If you would like a record of your contributions for 2023 from any of our 3 churches for tax purposes, please fill out the form below and 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: _____

ORDINARY TIME The Catholic Liturgical Year

While the word "ordinary" in popular usage is used to describe things that are nondescript or dull, ordinary rather means customary, regular, and orderly. Ordinary Time may also be called Ordinal Time, which means numbered time. Ordinal comes from the Latin "*ordinalis*," which is a word meaning "showing order, denoting an order of succession." Hence, Ordinary Time is the standard, orderly, counted time outside of the other liturgical seasons. There is nothing "dull" about Ordinary Time!

What is Ordinary Time?

Ordinary time is the longest liturgical season in the Catholic Church, encompassing either 33 or 34 weeks each year. Because other liturgical seasons begin or end with movable feasts, the length of Ordinary time can vary slightly; however, 33 weeks is the more common length. The weeks are numbered, e.g., the first Sunday of Ordinary Time, the second Sunday of Ordinary Time, and so on. Ordinary time is technically one liturgical season, though it is divided into two periods. Prior to the Second Vatican Council, when the term "Ordinary Time" was formally established, the two time periods were merely referred to as "the Season after Epiphany" and "the Season after Pentecost."

The liturgical color of Ordinary Time is green; however, other appropriate colors are worn on particular feast days.

Season after Epiphany or Ordinary Time after the Baptism

The period of Ordinary Time used to be referred to as the Season after Epiphany. That title and the sometimes-used titles "Season after the Baptism" or "Ordinary Time after the Baptism" are still useful in identifying the time period. While the Epiphany and the Baptism are celebrated on separate days, the two descriptions (after Epiphany and after the Baptism) are not contradictory. In the modern Roman rite, Epiphany is celebrated on the first Sunday after January 1 and the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated the following Sunday except if Epiphany falls on 6th or 7th of January in which case the Baptism of Lord is celebrated on the following Monday like this year. This period of Ordinary Time lasts until the day before Ash Wednesday, which is Shrove Tuesday. This portion of Ordinary Time focuses on the childhood of Jesus and then on the public ministry of Christ.



Pray the Rosary to end abortion

Rallies will take place on **January 20th at noon** your local time.

January 22nd, 2024 marks the second anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade. Our efforts are making an impact—not only in the eyes of Our Lady, but also on the people around us.



Thank you for supporting this noble cause. Your devotion to protecting the unborn will surely be blessed by the infant Jesus.

Rosary Rally to End Abortion
Saturday January 20th
Noon
in front of Planned Parenthood
66 Brinkerhoff Street
Plattsburgh NY



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 21, 2024

Monday, January 22

12:00pm (SPJ) - Communion Service followed by
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &
Recitation of the Rosary

Tuesday, January 23

11:00am (SE) - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
followed by Communion Service at noon

Wednesday, January 24

No Scheduled Mass

Thursday, January 25

12:00pm (SPJ) - Communion Service followed by
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &
Recitation of the Rosary

Friday, January 26

No Scheduled Mass

Saturday, January 27

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

Sunday, January 28

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 January 22

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7-10/Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-30/Mk 4:1-20

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

Friday: 2 Tim 1:1-18 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-3, 7-8, 10/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-17/Mk 4:35-41

Next Sunday: Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/1 Cor 7:32-35

Mk 1:21-28

9 DAYS FOR LIFE: January 16-24



9 Days for Life, the annual novena surrounding the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children, will take place this year January 16 through January 24.

Participants can download the novena or sign up to receive it by email or text: www.9daysforlife.com

Things to Ponder.....

Doing the best at this moment puts you in
the best place for the next moment!

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth — Attendance: 25

Envelopes: \$562.25; Plate: \$5.00

Fuel: \$205.00

Total: \$772.25

Holy Christmas: \$25.00

Saint Philip Neri — Attendance: 35

Envelopes: \$300.00; Plate: \$70.00

Fuel: \$45.00

Total: \$415.00

St Philip of Jesus — Attendance: 54

Envelopes: \$495.00; Plate: \$265.00

Fuel: \$164.00

Total: \$924.00

Solemnity of Mary: \$10.00

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND



The Diocese of Ogdensburg Respect Life Second Collection will be held in our parishes next weekend. The collection supports efforts that affirm & promote the respect of human life from fertilization to natural death. In the past, grants have helped Gabriel Projects, Birthright, Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center, NYS

Right to Life affiliates, Pregnant and Parenting programs, Respect Life Fair booths and various educational efforts. Thank you for your anticipated generosity.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

TODAY Class #16 What does it mean to say "I do"?

(Marriage, a Sign of God's Love)

1/28-Class #17 Who's calling?

(Holy Orders & Vocational Discernment)

LENTEN PROGRAM IN PLATTSBURGH

Women's Lenten Study

RECLAIMING FRIENDSHIP

Discover God's plan for friendship
How to navigate toxic relationships
Let God reshape how you see and experience intentional relationships
Explore what it takes to have deep connections for the long haul

February 15th to March 21st

THURSDAYS
10:00 - 11:45 AM or
6:30 - 8:15 PM

ST JOHN'S CHURCH
DWYER / MCAVOY
PARISH CENTER

walking with purpose

Contact: Janice Tobin C/T 518-569-5370
Suggested Donation of \$20.

Don't forget to patronize and thank our advertisers!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



This feast not only celebrates Saint Paul, but it also specifically celebrates his **Conversion**. Think about that glorious conversion. Those three days that Saul spent in Damascus after encountering Jesus on the road changed his life. During those three days, he pondered Jesus' words, fasted, prayed, listened, thought, and changed. Facing the truth within his soul might not have been easy, but he did it. From that time on, the zeal that he had poured into persecution became zeal for the spreading of the Gospel. The first three years after his conversion were spent in Arabia, perhaps in prayer, study, and preparation for his new mission. God used this time of solitude to bring about a deeper conversion in Saul's heart and to form him into a powerful instrument. After three years, he returned to Damascus and then continued to travel far and wide, proclaiming Jesus as the Christ. Over the approximately twenty-seven years that followed, Paul arguably became the greatest evangelist in the history of the world. At least thirteen of the twenty-seven New Testament books are traditionally attributed to Paul, providing us with much of what we know about Jesus. His letters are not only historical in nature, but they are also rich in theology, providing the sturdiest foundation for all that we believe as Christians today. It's easy to see Saint Paul in the bright light of all that he accomplished. But one truth we must never forget is that he was only a man. He was a man who experienced a profound conversion and dedicated the rest of his life to the will of God. Saint Paul must be a model for each of us. You are just as capable of living a radical Christian life as was Saint Paul. Allow God to fill you with zeal so that God may use you in glorious ways.

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

****NEW ~ PARISH OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE****



Catholic Community of
Westport, Elizabethtown,
Willsboro and Essex

~ Like and Follow ~

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS 2023

If you would like a record of your contributions for 2023 from any of our 3 churches for tax purposes, please fill out the form below and 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: _____

THE IGNATIAN WORK OUT FOR LENT 2024

LOOKING AHEAD—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

This year, I was planning to do myself an Ignatian Workout for Lent and then I thought maybe I could do this on a parish level, if at least a couple of people could benefit from this. This book that I am planning to use has exactly 40 exercises for each day of 40 days of Lent with **PRAYER** and **ACTION** at the end of each one. Since it's not fair to ask you to join me every day, I thought of having **5 exercises** done on every Saturday starting **February 10th at St. Elizabeth's Parish Hall at 2 pm**. Since I need **8 Saturdays** for its completion, I will be **starting with Saturday** before Ash Wednesday and **end with Holy Saturday on March 30th**. This one-hour exercise will follow with **Holy Hour at 3:30 in SE Church** with meditation and self-examination which ends with Holy Eucharistic Celebration at 4:30 pm. Some of you may think "Oh... dear... it's a long haul" and yes... I agree with that, especially for those planning to attend the Mass on the same evening. Then I thought just to myself, if I could watch a 3-hour long movie in a theatre or sit for a concert for that many hours or even drive 3-4 hours non-stop, or sit 14 hours for a flight home, it's not a big deal for me personally. Some sort of Sacrifice and Commitment is needed anyway in our spiritual life, and this is not even 1% of what our Lord underwent for our salvation. That being said, I respect all your commitments and obligations and hence you are more than welcome to join me just for the workout or both (Holy Hour) or for the whole afternoon with Mass. Thank you.

ELIZABETHTOWN THRIFT SHOP



Double thanks are due to the thrift shop for their generous donations to St. Elizabeth's Parish! We missed getting this monthly donation in the bulletin in December. So...in December the parish received \$2,589.81 and in January we have received \$2,202.84.

What an incredible gift each month to the parish! Many thanks, again, to the volunteers, those who donate and those who shop. If you have a few free hours weekly or monthly, consider giving the Thrift Shop a few hours of your time.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREES

A special "**Thank You**" to all those who took envelopes from the SE Giving Tree and sent your donations to the Community Food Shelf in Elizabethtown. Your generosity donated over \$1500.00. In addition, some of you also donated turkeys and hams. In December 290 people in 109 families were served, of which 80 were elderly, 128 were adults and 82 were children. Additionally, 65 generous Christmas baskets were assembled and given out. Also, a word of gratitude to all who supported and donated gifts from the giving trees in Westport and Willsboro. May God bless you for blessing those in need with your kindness and generosity.





FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 28, 2024

Monday, January 29

No Scheduled Mass

Tuesday, January 30

11:00am (SE) - *Holy Hour*

12:00pm (SE) - Msgr Stephen J Wojchiewski
by the Estate

Wednesday, January 31

No Scheduled Mass

Thursday, February 1

12:00pm (SPJ) - John Remancus by Margaret Smith

Friday, February 2—First Friday

The Presentation of the Lord

11:00am (SPN) - *Holy Hour with Litany of the Most
Sacred Heart of Jesus*

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

Saturday, February 3

4:30pm (SE) - Special Intention for Dorothy McDevitt
by Yvonne Lesperance

Sunday, February 4

8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo

10:30am (SPJ) - Deceased Relatives of 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 January 29

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-7/Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3/Ps 86:1-6
Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5-7/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10-12/Mk 6:7-13

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

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9-14/Mk 6:30-34

Next Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-6/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23
Mk 1:29-39

THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

Readings: Dt 18:15-20/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28

In today's Gospel, the people listening to Jesus recognize that his teaching is different. He teaches with his own authority, not quoting previous teachers or commentaries. The other who recognizes his authority is the evil spirit. The evil spirit has no other option but to obey Jesus' command and leave. The question is, do we ourselves trust the authority of Jesus? So many of us struggle with sins and bad habits. Do we trust our Lord enough to approach him with these things that tie us down and that keep us trapped in our sins or do we try to overcome them by our own willpower alone? Jesus wants to give us the grace we need. Let us bow down before him and worship and not harden our hearts. Let us avail ourselves of the authority that he has given to our priests, and approach him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and open ourselves to the grace and mercy of the Lord.

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth—Attendance: 21

Envelopes: \$498.25; Plate: \$7.00
Total: \$505.25

Saint Philip Neri—Attendance: 31

Envelopes: \$2,165.00; Plate: \$21.00
Fuel: \$25.00
Total: \$2,211.00

St Philip of Jesus—Attendance: 45

Envelopes: \$455.00; Plate: \$97.00
Fuel: \$35.00
Total: \$587.00

CONFIRMATION CLASS

TODAY 1/28-Class #17 Who's calling?

(Holy Orders & Vocational Discernment)

2/4-Class #18 Are you talking to me?

(Getting to Know God Through Prayer)

THE IGNATIAN WORK OUT FOR LENT 2024

LOOKING AHEAD—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

This year, I was planning to do myself an Ignatian Workout for Lent and then I thought maybe I could do this on a parish level, if at least a couple of people could benefit from this. This book that I am planning to use has exactly 40 exercises for each day of 40 days of Lent with **PRAYER** and **ACTION** at the end of each one. Since it's not fair to ask you to join me every day, I thought of having **5 exercises** done on every Saturday starting **February 10th at St. Elizabeth's Parish Hall at 2 pm**. Since I need **8 Saturdays** for its completion, I will be **starting with Saturday** before Ash Wednesday and **end with Holy Saturday on March 30th**. This one-hour exercise will follow with **Holy Hour at 3:30 in SE Church** with meditation and self-examination which ends with Holy Eucharistic Celebration at 4:30 pm. Some of you may think "Oh...dear...it's a long haul" and yes... I agree with that, especially for those planning to attend the Mass on the same evening. Then I thought just to myself, if I could watch a 3-hour long movie in a theatre or sit for a concert for that many hours or even drive 3-4 hours non-stop, or sit 14 hours for a flight home, it's not a big deal for me personally. Some sort of Sacrifice and Commitment is needed anyway in our spiritual life, and this is not even 1% of what our Lord underwent for our salvation. That being said, I respect all your commitments and obligations and hence you are more than welcome to join me just for the workout or both (Holy Hour) or for the whole afternoon with Mass. Thank you.

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.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Feast of the Presentation of our Lord (February 2nd), forty days after the birth of Jesus, shows us Mary and Joseph who, in obedience to the Mosaic Law, go to the Temple of Jerusalem to offer the Child, as the firstborn, to the Lord, and to 'redeem' him through a sacrifice. It is one of the cases in

which the liturgical season reflects history because, today is precisely forty days since the Solemnity of the Lord's Christmas; the light of Christ, which characterized the cycle of Christmas feasts and culminated in the Solemnity of Epiphany, is resumed, and extended in today's feast. In the encounter between old Simeon and the young mother Mary, the Old and New Testament are united admirably in thanksgiving for the gift of Light, which shone in the darkness, preventing it from prevailing. Christ the Lord is the Light to enlighten all peoples and the glory of his people Israel (cf. Lk 2:32). In the East, this Feast is called the **Feast of the Encounter**: indeed, Simeon and Anna, who find Jesus in the Temple and recognize in Him the long-awaited Messiah, represent the humanity that finds its Lord in the Church. It is a beautiful encounter with God, who comes to save man in need of salvation. The liturgy of this feast wants to show to us, in effect, that the life of a Christian is like an offering to the Lord, translated into the procession of lit candles that are consumed little by little, while illuminating. Christ is prophesied as the Light that brings out the darkness from darkness into the world. This visible sign is intended to mean that the Church finds in the faith the One who is "the Light of men" and welcomes him with faith to bring this "Light" to the world. We are invited to give our Lord, once again, our lives, thoughts, works, our whole being. And we can do it in many ways. We are also called to remember our participation in the mission of Christ, which was given to us in Baptism, is strictly linked to our personal surrender.

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

Things to Ponder.....

**Never deprive someone of hope;
it might be all they have!**

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS 2023

If you would like a record of your contributions for 2023 from any of our 3 churches for tax purposes, please fill out the form below and 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 Bishop Terry R. LaValley...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

One might ask: "Is there a declared war on the preborn?" It is unlikely that there ever existed a war with one side totally and completely incapable of any form of self-defense whatsoever. That is the dilemma of the preborn today. Our nation will never be a "shining city on a hill," as President Ronald Reagan once said, as long as the bottom of that hill is littered with the corpses of tens of millions of its innocent preborn babies.

My sisters and brothers, we now live in a society that speaks persuasively about protecting the environment and rescuing species on the brink of extinction. But then it promotes and funds the mass killing of unborn children and contemplates the killing of the sick and elderly in the name of their "dignity." A persevering effort is needed to present to God our united will to put an end to the carnage resulting from abortion.

Today, people of faith are facing a multitude of threats to religious liberty. Bringing our religious beliefs to bear on public policy is not just a privilege, but a right. Regardless of what some of our political leaders say, Believers can't be silent in public life and be faithful to Jesus Christ at the same time. Equality begins in the womb!

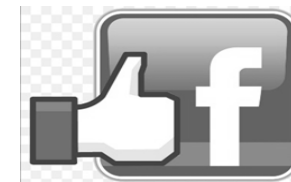
The Church of Ogdensburg continues to hear the silent scream of the baby in the womb and seeks to defend and protect the right to life of every child. Colleen and John Miner, Directors of our Respect Life Office, coordinate the steps we take in promoting and protecting the dignity of every human life.

Every year at this time, we are given the opportunity to support the effort this local Church makes in promoting the Culture of Life. These include, most recently, helping five Gabriel Projects in Potsdam, Brasher Falls, Massena, Plattsburgh and Ogdensburg. Needed help was offered to the Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center, Malone Catholic Charities, 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 2024 Respect Life Collection and for all your efforts to build a Culture of Life by changing hearts and minds.

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

** PARISH OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE**



Catholic Community of
Westport, Elizabethtown,
Willsboro and Essex

~ Like and Follow ~

Don't forget to patronize and thank our advertisers!

