



Church of St. Mary at Clinton Heights
 163 Columbia Turnpike
 Rensselaer, NY 12144

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Email: office@stmaryny.org
Webpage: www.stmaryny.org
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The Parish of St. John the Evangelist/St. Joseph
 53 Herrick Street (PO Box 256)
 Rensselaer, NY 12144

Phone: 518-465-0482
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Webpage: www.sjesj.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnstjoseph

PARISH STAFF

Reverend Thomas F. Holmes, Pastor		518-449-2232	tfvh426@aol.com
Alfred Censullo	Deacon	518-449-2232, Ext. 20	deaconal@stmaryny.org
Maureen Billa	Pastoral Associate for Evangelization, Catechesis, and Administration	518-449-2232, Ext. 12	maureenbilla@stmaryny.org
Gina Gentile	Administrative Assistant to the Pastoral Associate for Evangelization, Catechesis, and Administration	518-449-2232, Ext. 16	gina@stmaryny.org
Ben Patten	Pastoral Associate - Operations	518-449-2232, Ext. 13 518-465-0482, Ext. 219	ben@stmaryny.org sjesjparish@aol.com
Carl Hackert	Director of Music	518-449-2232, Ext. 15	carlh@stmaryny.org
Terry Kois	Administrative Assistant - CSM	518-449-2232, Ext. 10	terry@stmaryny.org
Gina Gentile	Administrative Assistant - SJESJ	518-465-0482, Ext. 210	sjesjrecpt@aol.com

Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday - 4:00pm @ SJESJ
 Sunday - 8:00am @ CSM
 Sunday - 9:30am @ SJESJ
 Sunday - 11:00am @ CSM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday - 3:30pm - 3:45pm @ SJESJ
 Thursday - 5:00pm - 6:00pm @ CSM

Sacrament of Baptism

Call the Parish Office of the Church you wish to have your child baptized or visit their website for some additional information.

Sacrament of Marriage

Call the Parish Office of the Church you wish to be married one year before the wedding date or visit their website for some additional information.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Upon request and communally two (2) times per year.



PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Parishioners of St. John's/St. Joseph's and the Church of St. Mary,

The First Week of Advent our focus was on Hope. I felt a sense of hope just celebrating Advent with all of you this past weekend. The specialness of the season was obvious, with the music and the personal conversations after the masses.

With the decline in COVID and people being boosted, it seems that things are a little more normal coming into this new church year. I realize people are still testing positive with COVID, but I have a lot of hope that as time goes by, we will return, although slowly, to the past when there were more people in Church. I also have a lot of hope that our country or society will also turn the corner to becoming, in a big sense, more God-filled. I am hopeful people think how blessed they have been for the last three years, and will give thanks to God, and there will be a return.

I also am hopeful about being in both parishes and my future here (although I know "Sadie" may be my ace-in-the-hole). I am pleased with the response to her at the masses. After five months of being here, I feel more and more at home. And I thank you all. Our staff gives me hope, the volunteers at all the masses give me hope, and all your kindness gives me hope.

So, I am filled with hope in God, in God's people, and my hope is for more people turning back to God. Thank you for listening.

God Bless,
Fr. Tom

HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas

Saturday, December 24, 2022	4:00PM	SJESJ
Saturday, December 24, 2022	4:00PM	CSM
Saturday, December 24, 2022	8:00PM	CSM
Sunday, December 25, 2022	10:00AM	SJESJ

The Solemnity of Mary

Saturday, December 31, 2022	4:00PM	SJESJ
Sunday, January 1, 2023	8:00AM	CSM
Sunday, January 1, 2023	9:30AM	SJESJ
Sunday, January 1, 2023	11:00AM	CSM

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Advent Penance Service will be offered at **7:00pm** on the below dates and locations:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| • Tuesday, December 6, 2022 | Church of the Holy Spirit | East Greenbush |
| • Monday, December 12, 2022 | St. Mary's | Nassau |
| • Thursday, December 15, 2022 | Church of St. Mary's | Clinton Heights |

ADVENT EVENTS

Second Sunday of Advent - December 3rd & 4th - Blessing of Nativity Straw. Father Tom will be blessing the straw for your crèche at all Masses. All families are invited to take a quantity of straw home.

Third Sunday of Advent - December 10th & 11th - Blessing of Bambinelli (Christ Child). Anyone who would like their figurine blessed, please put an identifying mark on the bottom and place in the basket for Father's blessing during all Masses. You may retrieve your figurine after Mass to take home.

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 17th & 18th - We are again grateful this year for the generosity of our friends at **Wm. J. Rockefeller Funeral Home, Inc.** and **W.J. Lyons Funeral Home, Inc.** for giving us the gift of our yearly parish calendars.

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS
FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 4, 2022

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	INTENTION
Mon	12/05			No Mass
Tue	12/06	12:00 ^{PM}	SJESJ	+SAINT NICHOLAS, BISHOP
Wed	12/07	8:30 ^{AM}	CSM	+SAINT AMBROSE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
		6:30 ^{PM}	CSM	SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Thu	12/08	12:00 ^{PM}	SJESJ	SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Fri	12/09	8:30 ^{AM}	CSM	+SAINT JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATZIN
Sat	12/10	4:00 ^{PM}	SJESJ	+CORRIE SILIGATO, by Ann Ryan +CLARA CONCOLINO, by Sandy Raus +CHESTER MACCI, by his Family +DANIEL ATTURA, 4 th Anniv., & SANTA ATTURA, 1 st Anniv., by Maria
Sun	12/11	8:00 ^{AM}	CSM	+LAWRENCE J. MERACLE, by Jim & Terry Kois +BINK & PAUL COLLINS, by their Children +BETTY ALVARO, by Theresa Schillinger +ROBERT HINKELMAN, by Rosemary Vogt +MARY & SANTOS PANGILINAN, by Maria Pangilinan
		9:30 ^{AM}	SJESJ	+CARMEN GENTILE, SR., by his Family +CORRIE SILIGATO, by Frederick & Joanne Zalucki +EDWARD J. VERHOFF, by Frederick & Joanne Zalucki +EDWARD KAPPES, by his Family
		11:00 ^{AM}	CSM	+DIBLASIO & SERVIDONE FAMILIES, by their daughter

CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND TEEN ENSEMBLE



Any youth interested in singing at the 4:00pm Christmas Eve liturgy, please contact Maureen Billa at 518-449-2232, Ext. 12 or maureenbilla@stmaryny.org. There also is a signup sheet at the entrance of the Church.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE
REPORT FOR: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 26TH AND NOVEMBER 27TH COLLECTIONS	SJESJ	CSM	<i>Thanks to all who demonstrate such generous care for our parishes! Please remember our parishes in your will...we are: "St. Mary's Church, Clinton Heights, NY" or "The Parish of St. John the Evangelist/ St. Joseph"</i>
Offertory received from Regular Collection	\$2,040.50	\$2,431.00	
Offertory received from E-Giving	\$297.70	\$2,303.75	
Total offertory received from last week	\$2,338.20	\$4,734.75	
Budgeted weekly need from offertory	\$5,050.00	\$6,685.00	
Last week's difference ("- is shortfall; "+" is overage)	-\$2,711.80	-\$1,950.25	
Year to date actual offertory	\$69,465.36	\$142,713.20	
Year to date budgeted offertory	\$111,100.00	\$147,070.00	
Year to date difference ("- is shortfall; "+" is overage)	-\$41,634.64	-\$4,356.80	

EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS

2022/2023 Formation Year

Elementary Program (Grades - K-5)

- 9th Session, Sunday, 12/11/22; 9:30am - 10:45am
- 10th Session, Sunday, 12/18/22; 9:30am - 10:45am
- NO SESSIONS ON 12/25/22 or 01/01/23

Middle School Program (Grades - 6-8)

- 4th Session, Monday, 12/05/22; 7:00pm - 8:30pm
- 5th Session, Monday, 12/19/22; 7:00pm - 8:30pm

High School Program (Grades - 9-10)

- 5th Session, Monday, 12/12/22; 7:00pm - 8:30pm
- 6th Session, Monday, 01/09/23; 7:00pm - 8:30pm



FAITH FORMATION

DO YOU HAVE A CHILD IN COLLEGE?

Help them stay in touch with the parish. The parish would like to send a care package for finals week. The care package is full of well wishes, goodies and treats, in addition to updates on parish activities and a schedule of the upcoming liturgical celebrations. If you would like your child to receive a goodie package, please simply email their college mailing address to Maureen Billa at maureenbilla@stmaryny.org.



Tuesday, December 6, 2022 - Feast of St. Nicholas

All the young children and their parents are invited to celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas on Tuesday, December 6th, at 6:30pm at CSM in the Church. Come and hear the story of St. Nicholas told by St. Nicholas himself. Get a chance to visit with St. Nicholas, receive a gift and share in some goodies.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Celebrate the Church of St. Joseph's Christmas Festival of Lights bus trip on **December 17th**. Bus leaves for the National Shrine of our Lady of La Salette in Attleboro, MA from Yankee Trails (3rd Avenue Extension, Rensselaer) at 9:00am and departs for home at 7:00pm. Walk among 500,000 lights that develop this year's theme *Living Light* at the Shrine. The cost is \$50 per person. This includes the bus, driver tip, and donation to the Shrine. There is a limit of 54 paid participants. Call Marge Heffner at 518-283-0254 to save your spot.

ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE IN SONG

Celebrate the beauty of Advent with song and word on **Sunday, December 11th** at 1:00pm at Our Lady of Assumption (498 Watervliet Shaker Road, Latham). This one-hour program includes hymns and choral arrangements performed by "Friends in Harmony," a group of eight women united in friendship through their years of participation in church choir music. Balance out your busy days of Christmas preparations with the peace and stillness of this beautiful Advent program.

BLUE CHRISTMAS PRAYER SERVICE

Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 6:30pm - Advent Prayer and Reflection at Sacred Heart - 3 Catholic Way, Castleton

The season of Advent is meant to be a season of preparation and anticipation as we await the joyous celebration of the birth of the Christ child. Unfortunately, the reality for some is that this time of year brings feelings of loneliness and loss that can result from the passing of a loved one, a broken relationship, an unanticipated illness and this past year the uncertainty in our lives that have resulted from the ongoing tension in the world. This gathering is meant to provide an opportunity for anyone to come together in Church to support and pray as a community as we seek the comfort that can only be realized when we are able to release our personal struggles to God.



SJESJ NEWS

Honored for the Month of December

Bread and Wine: Deceased Members of the Siligato Family

Sanctuary Light: Deceased Members of the Siligato Family

Prayer Services - Queen of Peace Prayer Group

The Queen of Peace Prayer Group will meet in the Parish Office on Monday, December 12th and 26th at 1:00pm. All are welcome.

Cans & Bottles Still Wanted at SJESJ

SJESJ is still collecting cans and bottles for donation. They may be left on the left side of the carport, in the landing area, near the back door of the Parish Offices. If you can help, please consider dropping them off. If you have any questions please contact the parish office at 518-465-0482.

CoNSERNS-U

In this time of need, please remember those who don't have enough to eat and drop off food for CoNSERNS-U in the back of Church. Also, personal care items are always in demand.

SJESJ Christmas Tradition

Once again, Christmas Trees with ornaments containing the addresses of our elderly parishioners are on the tables in the back of church. Everyone please send out a few Christmas cards letting each person know they have not been forgotten as cherished members of our parish.

Advent Adoration Holy Hour

An Advent Adoration Holy Hour will take place from 5:00pm - 6:00pm on Wednesday, December 7th in the Church of the Parish of St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph.

CSM NEWS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Adoration will be on the Mondays listed below at **6:00pm in the Chapel**.

- December 5th
- December 12th



ADVENT EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND BENEDICTION

We will have Advent Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction at the Church of St. Mary on **Wednesday, December 14th, at 6:30pm**.

JOYFUL HEART PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting of the ABLAZE Prayer Group facilitated by Joyful Heart will be **Tuesday, December 6th**, in the St. Mary's Chapel, 163 Columbia Turnpike, Rensselaer, NY @ 7:30pm - 9:00pm for live worship music, meditating on the week's Gospel readings, and praying for each other's intentions. Please join us to praise Our Lord well! Any questions, please call Julie Teal at 518-477-7511.

GRIEF SUPPORT

The next meeting of the Grief Support Group will be **Tuesday, December 6th, at 1:00pm** at CSM in the Raphael Room. Meetings are scheduled for the 1st Tuesday of each month at 1:00pm.

REVERENCE OF LIFE MINISTRY

Christmas Giving Trees

Today is the final day for gift cards from Walmart and items for teenagers (some suggestions: ear pods, power pods, jewelry, nail polish sets, makeup/lip gloss kits, cell phone cases, Fujifilm Instax Mini 11 Instant Camera, leggings, hoodies, arts/crafts supplies/kits, hair products, sports related items, steel water bottles, Axe body care gift packs etc.). There is a Christmas decorated box at the entrance of the Church for you to drop your gift cards into and a bin for the items for teenagers. Thank you for sharing hope, peace, love, and joy during this Advent season!



CONSERNS-U

ST. MARY'S SUPPORT TO-CoNSERNS-U. Their pantry needs this week are: peanut butter, toiletries, dish soap, pasta and spaghetti sauce. Thank you so much for your continuous support.

Cans and bottles redeemable in New York can be donated at St. Mary's. Please rinse all containers. Leave caps on to prevent crushed bottles. (Open containers are still accepted.) Keep them in tied bags; nothing loose and place in the **green dumpster** by the **Church garage**. **Thank you for supporting CoNSERNS-U.**



LAY TRUSTEE

At the Church of St. Mary, we will be appointing a replacement for one of our two lay trustees who have served the maximum term. Our current Trustees are: Lora Santilli and Jay O'Connor. Lora has now served the maximum term of six one-year terms. Together with the Bishop (President), the Vicar General (Vice President), and the Pastor (Secretary/Treasurer), the two Lay Trustees form the officers of the parish corporation.

We are asking parishioners to give thought to a replacement for Lora and send their name to Ben Patten by either calling at 518-449-2232, Ext. 13 or email at ben@stmaryny.org.

The Trustees should function in the same manner as would any Trustee of a not-for-profit charitable or educational organization. They should be knowledgeable of the parish mission and familiar with parish programs. Since their major responsibility is a fiduciary one, they need to be part of the decision-making process and review and sign financial reports sent to the Diocese. It is not mandated but strongly encouraged that the Trustees serve as ex officio members of the pastoral council and finance committee.

An individual must meet the following qualifications to be considered for Trustee:

- Twenty-one years of age.
- A practicing Catholic.

In addition, the following criteria should be weighed when considering an individual for Trustee:

- Active involvement in the parish.
- Business acumen.
- Availability to attend meetings.
- Freedom from any conflict of interest either by occupation or by relationship to the Pastor/Parish Life Director/Administrator. Each Trustee will be required to certify annually to the parish corporation that no conflict of interest exists.
- Ability to function on a confidential basis when needed.
- Ability to interact collaboratively with the Pastor/Parish Life Director/Administrator, pastoral council, and any other significant persons or groups in the parish.
- Sensitivity to spiritual and pastoral issues.

MAINTENANCE PEOPLE

We are looking for two (2) reliable **maintenance people** to undertake upkeep and repair tasks in the interior and exterior of our parish communities. We will rely on you for the upkeep of our facilities by doing a variety of tasks. The two part-time positions will work 20 hours at the Church of St. Mary at Clinton Heights and 18 hours at The Parish of St. John the Evangelist/St. Joseph. These positions will report to the Pastoral Associate for Operations. For a more detailed description, please look at the Church of St. Mary and St. John/St. Joseph websites. Inquiries by December 15th. Please contact Ben Patten (518) 391-0086 or ben@stmaryny.org.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Remember that if East Greenbush Central Schools or Rensselaer Schools are delayed or cancelled on a given day, the daily 8:30am and 12:00 Noon Masses will be cancelled.



DIOCESAN WOMEN'S RETREAT

Unleashing Love Women's Retreat - *Awakening our hearts to share God's love.*

When: Saturday, December 10, 2022

Time: Check-in and Continental Breakfast at 8:30am; Event runs from 9:00am - 4:00pm

Location: St. Pius X Church, 23 Crumitie Rd., Loudonville, NY

Keynote Speakers: Sisters of Life

Retreat will include: Presentations, Reconciliation, Adoration, Rosary, Mass with Bishop Scharfenberger, box lunch, and beverages.

Register Here: <https://www.rcda.org/UnleashingLove>

Note: Credit / debit card users -- ignore PayPal and use the black button bar to pay via credit / debit card.



WE PRAY TO THE LORD

For Our Sick

Eric Allen	Jeremiah Coonley	Tiffany Gamache	Donald Kolb	Madison Chester Mann	Joan Roher	Michael Swahlan
John Amedio	Ida Connolly	Michael Garrigan	Linda Kolb	Frank Moore	Lisa Russom	Mark Welcome
Joseph Bradley	Mary Corvino	Sharon Griffith	Christine Krenzer	Roxanne Nicolla	Bev Ryan	Margaret Waterbury
Tom Brownell	Tasha D'Alessandro	Randy Grodner	Kassidy Krenzer	Richelle Olm	Mallorey Schaller	Mabel Whitcomb
Patricia Bruso	Judy Davis	Buddy Gutkaiss	Carol Laderas	Ralph Orciuoli	Gene Schultz	Kathy Winner
Denise Buono	Bernadette Dawson	Robert Guynup	Bud Melick	Devon Paigo	Marge Secor	Harold Wright
Marilyn Burt	Barbara Farrell	Ray Hannan	Helen Mertz	Inga Pepoy	Rich Sleasman	Joanne Zalucki
William Burt	Carole Farrell	Carol Hinkelman	Don Miller	Tommy Raus	Myranda Stevens	Michael Zenzen
Rosa Camaj	Cheryl Fisher	Robert Jenkins	Tina Milone	Nick Rizzo	Brady Sullivan	Rita Zenzen
Mary Beth Centrella	Scarlett McLeod Friot	Erica Kirsch	Michael Mann			

For Our Soldiers

Salvatore Abbamonte	Paul Bednarczyk	Keenan Krenzer	Brian Murphy
Mason Albert	Ryan Johnson	Sean Markham	Corey Russo
Andrew Barresi	Noah Keneston-Colby	Garrett McDonald	Arthur Thornton

Please let us know if, or when, we can remove someone's name, or if someone should be added to this list. Call the Parish Office at CSM - (518) 449-2232 or at SJESJ - (518) 465-0482.

SOLDIERS

During Advent, anyone interested in wishing our soldiers a Merry Christmas, please do so by dropping your cards in the assigned box at the entrance of the church. Our soldiers' names appear in our bulletin. Please return no later than December 11th, so that we can make sure that their families receive these Christmas wishes.

THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS FOR 2022

December - Volunteer Not-for-profit Organizations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.



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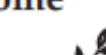
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