



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



The Parish of St. John/St. Joseph  
53 Herrick St.  
Rensselaer, NY 12144

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

**Phone:** 518-449-2232  
**Fax:** 518-449-2234  
**Email:** [office@stmaryny.org](mailto:office@stmaryny.org)  
**Webpage:** [www.stmaryny.org](http://www.stmaryny.org)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/stmaryny](http://www.facebook.com/stmaryny)

**The Parish of St. John the Evangelist/St. Joseph**  
**53 Herrick Street (PO Box 256)**  
**Rensselaer, NY 12144**

**Phone:** 518-465-0482  
**Fax:** 518-449-7088  
**Email:** [sjesjparish@aol.com](mailto:sjesjparish@aol.com)  
**Webpage:** [www.sjesj.org](http://www.sjesj.org)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/stjohnstjoseph](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnstjoseph)

#### PARISH STAFF

<b>Reverend Thomas F. Holmes, Pastor</b>		518-449-2232	<a href="mailto:ftrtomholmes@stmaryny.org">ftrtomholmes@stmaryny.org</a>
Alfred Censullo	Deacon	518-449-2232, Ext. 20	<a href="mailto:deaconal@stmaryny.org">deaconal@stmaryny.org</a>
Maureen Billa	Pastoral Associate for Evangelization, Catechesis, and Administration	518-449-2232, Ext. 12	<a href="mailto:maureenbilla@stmaryny.org">maureenbilla@stmaryny.org</a>
Gina Gentile	Administrative Assistant to the Pastoral Associate for Evangelization, Catechesis, and Administration	518-449-2232, Ext. 16	<a href="mailto:gina@stmaryny.org">gina@stmaryny.org</a>
Ben Patten	Pastoral Associate - Operations	518-449-2232, Ext. 13 518-465-0482, Ext. 219	<a href="mailto:ben@stmaryny.org">ben@stmaryny.org</a> <a href="mailto:sjesjparish@aol.com">sjesjparish@aol.com</a>
Glenn Osborne	Director of Music	518-449-2232, Ext. 15	<a href="mailto:glenno@stmaryny.org">glenno@stmaryny.org</a>
Terry Kois	Administrative Assistant - CSM	518-449-2232, Ext. 10	<a href="mailto:terry@stmaryny.org">terry@stmaryny.org</a>
Gina Gentile	Administrative Assistant - SJESJ	518-465-0482, Ext. 210	<a href="mailto:sjesjrecpt@aol.com">sjesjrecpt@aol.com</a>

#### 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 St. Mary's,

From Crosswalk.com



First Sunday of Advent: This candle of Hope symbolizes promises delivered through the prophets from God, as well as the hope we have in Christ. God crafted a great rescue plan that He lays out in Scripture. This plan foretells years in advance the arrival of Christ. The Bible also gives us a glimpse of the future and promises that God will come down to create a new heaven and earth.

This first Sunday of Advent we read, pray, and reflect on the hope God's plan gives us (foretold by the prophets and fulfilled by the life and death of Christ), and we meditate on the promise of Christ's coming glory-filled return.

### A Prayer for the First Sunday of Advent

Father, let your hope arise in our hearts! Lift our eyes up to see that you alone are where our hope comes from. Help us to shake off the anxiety, discouragements, and distractions that have filled this year.

May we pause to remember that we have hope in you.

You know the end of our stories, and we give thanks because you have promised that it will be a victorious ending. Give us the grace we need to wrap up this year joyfully.

We invite your Spirit into this beautiful Advent season. Renew our sense of holy anticipation! Let us be those who are waiting eagerly for Jesus to come again. More than anything, we ask that you be glorified in this season of expectation. Amen.

May this First Sunday of Advent give us Hope,  
God Bless, Fr. Tom

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE REPORT FOR: THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

NOVEMBER 25TH AND NOVEMBER 26TH 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	\$3,254.50	\$2,918.00	
Offertory received from E-Giving	\$494.04	\$2,318.00	
<b>Total Offertory received from last week</b>	<b>\$3,748.54</b>	<b>\$5,236.00</b>	
Budgeted Weekly Need from Offertory	\$5,245.00	\$6,635.00	
Last Week's Difference ("-" is shortfall; "+" is overage)	-\$1,496.46	-\$1,399.00	
Year to Date Actual Offertory	\$76,640.07	\$147,914.00	
Year to Date Budgeted Offertory	\$115,390.00	\$155,970.00	
Year to Date Difference ("-" is shortfall; "+" is overage)	-\$38,749.93	-\$8,056.00	

## LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	INTENTION
Sat	12/02	4:00 <sup>PM</sup>	<i>SJESJ</i>	+ALPHONSO RAUS, by the Scipione Family +MARIE CENSULLO, by Sandy Raus +JEAN O'DONNELL, by Mary Ann West
Sun	12/03	8:00 <sup>AM</sup>	<i>CSM</i>	+DONALD LYMAN, by Rose and Sons +SHARON CICERO, by Linda and Ernie Tubbs +REVEREND DAVID R. LEFORT, by Larry and Carole Farrell +GEORGE SCHILLINGER, by Theresa Schillinger
		9:30 <sup>AM</sup>	<i>SJESJ</i>	+GIUSEPPE DETHOMASIS, by Mary DeMarco and Family
		11:00 <sup>AM</sup>	<i>CSM</i>	+JOHN N. EARING, by Rick and Judy McNamara +FRANK MOORE, by Frances Girzone
Mon	12/04			<i>No Mass</i>
Tue	12/05	12:00 <sup>PM</sup>	<i>SJESJ</i>	+REVEREND HAROLD MCKEON
Wed	12/06	8:30 <sup>AM</sup>	<i>CSM</i>	+SAINT NICHOLAS, BISHOP
<b>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin</b>				
Thu	12/07	6:30 <sup>PM</sup>	<i>CSM</i>	+THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Fri	12/08	12:00 <sup>PM</sup>	<i>SJESJ</i>	+THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Sat	12/09	4:00 <sup>PM</sup>	<i>SJESJ</i>	+CHESTER MACCI, by his Family +SUSAN GARRIGAN-BROOKS, by the Garrigan Family +ALPHONSO RAUS, by Thomas Concolino +CARMELLA SERVIDONE, by Sheila Millea
Sun	12/10	8:00 <sup>AM</sup>	<i>CSM</i>	+BINK & PAUL COLLINS, by their Children +WANDA J. KWIATKOWKI, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniv., by Mark and Susan Carey +FRANK MOORE, by Jack and Carol Spath +BETTY ALVARO, by Theresa Schillinger
		9:30 <sup>AM</sup>	<i>SJESJ</i>	+ANGELA DETHOMASIS, by The St. Anthony Society
		11:00 <sup>AM</sup>	<i>CSM</i>	+JACK DWYER, 6 <sup>th</sup> Anniv., by the Family +VIOLA MYERS, by Bob and Myrna Smith

## INCLEMENT WEATHER



Remember that if East Greenbush Central Schools or Rensselaer Schools are delayed or cancelled on a given day, the Wednesday, 8:30am Mass at CSM and/or the 12:00 Noon Mass at SJESJ will be cancelled.

## WE PRAY TO THE LORD

**The Parish of The Church of St. Mary at Clinton Heights and The Parish of St. John the Evangelist/St. Joseph**  
extend sincere condolences to the families of those who have died, especially

***William J. Thompson***

*"Grant them, O Lord, we pray, and all who sleep in Christ,  
a place of refreshment, light and peace."*

## EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS

### **2023/2024 Formation Year**

#### **Elementary Program (Grades - K-5 )**

- 10th Session, Sunday, 12/10/23; 9:30am - 10:45am
- 11th Session, Sunday, 12/17/23; 9:30am - 10:45am

#### **Middle School Program (Grades - 6-8)**

- 4th Session, Monday, 12/04/23; 7:00pm - 8:30pm

#### **High School Program (Grades - 9-10)**

- 5th Session, Monday, 12/11/23; 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 celebration. 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](mailto:maureenbilla@stmaryny.org)



### **CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS**



#### **Wednesday, December 6, 2023 - 6:30pm**

All the young children and their parents are invited to celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas this Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm in the Church at St. Mary's. Come hear the story of St. Nicholas told by himself, get a chance to visit with St. Nicholas, receive a gift and share in some goodies and hot cocoa.



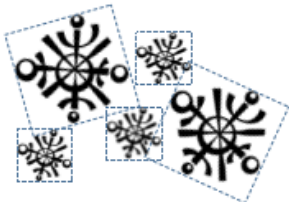
#### **Christmas Workshop**

Kids - ages 4-10 (pre-k through 5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 - 5:00pm



Parents, we know how busy this time of year is for you, so we are offering you an afternoon all to yourself. You may drop your children off at the Church of St. Mary for an afternoon of fun, games, crafts, and snacks, hosted by our High School youth. We will have activity stations set up and rotate the children to each station, making sure each child participates at each station.

Please register your child before Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, by contacting the Parish Office at 518-449-2232.



### **A REMINDER FROM THE OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS**



When school is delayed or closed due to weather conditions, it DOES NOT mean faith formation and youth ministry sessions and activities are cancelled. Sessions cancelled due to inclement weather will be posted on Facebook, Twitter, Church of St. Mary's web page ([www.stmaryny.org](http://www.stmaryny.org) - check the calendar under upcoming events) and through the School Closing Network, as Church of St. Mary NOT St. Mary's (channels 6, 9, 10 & 13).

Please Note: Weather conditions in the Capital District can vary substantially from one neighborhood to the next. Even though the building may be open or an event has not been cancelled, only you can decide whether conditions in your area will allow for safe travel. Please use your own best judgment regarding travel conditions in your area.

## SJESJ NEWS

### Honored for the Month of December

Bread and Wine: Carmen & Lois Gentile, Sr.  
Sanctuary Light: Carmen & Lois Gentile, Sr.

### Prayer Services - Queen of Peace Prayer Group

The Queen of Peace Prayer Group will meet in the Parish Office on **Monday, December 11, 2023** at 1:00pm. Please join us. 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. **There is a dire need for toilet paper and toiletries.** Also, personal care items are always in demand.

### First Friday Adoration

Adoration will not take place until the First Friday in January (**January 5, 2024**). It will be at 5:00pm in the Church of the Parish of St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph.

### SJESJ Christmas Tradition

Once again, Christmas Trees with ornaments containing the addresses of our elderly parishioners is 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.

## DIOCESAN APPEAL (BISHOP'S APPEAL)



**Diocesan Appeal**  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany

**2023 – 2024**

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

*"Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit." PSALM 51:14*

Throughout the diocese, parishes are being asked to reflect on their participation in the life of the diocesan church. Our parish community is not a stand-alone community; we are a part of the larger church. Our local diocese is committed to the mission of Jesus to take care of the poor, the needy, the young and old, to ensure we are formed in the faith, and the list continues. Our participation in the Appeal enables it to succeed. If you received a letter from the Diocese about the Appeal, please respond as best you can. If you have not heard but would like to, go to: [rcda.org](http://rcda.org) and click on the Diocesan Appeal tab on the bottom right or send it directly to the diocese: Diocesan Appeal, 40 North Main Ave. Albany, NY. 12203. There are also envelopes at the entrance of the Church. Thank you for whatever you can do.

Our 2023-24 Assessment is:

- Church of St. Mary - \$73,993
- Parish of St. John/St. Joseph - \$20,224

## THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS FOR 2023

### December - For Persons with Disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



## CSM NEWS

### Eucharistic Adoration

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

- December 4<sup>th</sup> - Chapel
- December 11<sup>th</sup> - Chapel
- December 18<sup>th</sup> - Chapel



### Grief Support

The next meeting of the Grief Support Group will be **Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00pm**, at CSM in the Raphael Room. Meetings are scheduled for the 1st Tuesday of each month.

## REVERENCE OF LIFE MINISTRY



### Christmas Giving

This year we will again support the CoNSERNS-U Holiday Store. We will be collecting gift cards for teenagers. **Walmart, Target, and Regal Movie Theatre gift cards up to a \$25 value are requested. The gift cards will be collected today, Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.** There will be a Christmas decorated box at the entrance of the Church for you to drop your gift cards into. Thank you for sharing hope, peace, love, and joy during this joyous season!

## ADVENT READING



We will be reading for Advent:

*"Advent and Christmas Wisdom from Pope Francis"*

We will be meeting at 7:00pm, starting this Wednesday evening December 6<sup>th</sup>, and then again on the 13<sup>th</sup>, & 20<sup>th</sup>.

Read ahead and share what you found interesting in the reading.

It is offered by Fr. Tom and Emilio Petroccione

\*Books available in Terry's Office Monday – Wednesday  
8:00am - 2:30pm

## ADVENT EVENTS

**TODAY - First Sunday of Advent - December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Father Tom will be blessing the Advent Calendars at all Masses. Please bring your calendar. If you do not have one, there will be calendars available at the entrance of the Church.

**Second Sunday of Advent - December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> - 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 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> - 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 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>** - We are again grateful this year for the generosity of our friends at **Wm. J. Rockefeller Funeral Home, Inc.** and for **W.J. Lyons, Jr. Funeral Home, Inc.** for giving us the gift of our yearly parish calendars. Please be sure to express your gratitude if you see them. Calendars will be at the entrance of the Church.

## MUSIC MINISTRY



**Christmas Choir:** Calling singers of all ages who would like to sing for one of our Christmas liturgies. Youth are invited to sing for the 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass. Rehearsals will be on Sunday mornings before Faith Formation in December. Adults are invited to sing for the 8:00pm Christmas Eve Mass with rehearsal on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm.

For more information, contact Glenn Osborne at [glenno@stmaryny.org](mailto:glenno@stmaryny.org).

## CONSERNS-U

**ST. MARY'S SUPPORT TO CoNSERNS-U.** Their pantry needs this week are: toiletries. 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.**



## WE PRAY TO THE LORD

### For Our Sick

Eric Allen	John Conte	Cheryl Fisher	Erica Kirsch	Michael Mann	Joan Roher	Mark Welcome
John Amedio	Nicholas Conte	Scarlett McLeod Friot	Donald Kolb	Madison Chester Mann	Bev Ryan	Margaret Waterbury
Joseph Bradley	Jeremiah Coonley	Tiffany Gamache	Linda Kolb	Roxanne Nicolla	Mallorey Schaller	Mabel Whitcomb
Tom Brownell	Mary Corvino	Sharon Griffith	Christine Krenzer	Richelle Olm	Gene Schultz	Kathleen White
Patricia Bruso	Tasha D'Alessandro	Randy Grodner	Kassidy Krenzer	Ralph Orciuoli	Marge Secor	Kathy Winner
Denise Buono	Judy Davis	Buddy Gutkaiss	Carol Laderas	Devon Paigo	Myranda Stevens	Harold Wright
Lynn Burdick	Bernadette Dawson	Robert Guynup	Edgar MacGregor	Inga Pepoy	Brady Sullivan	Joanne Zalucki
William Burt	Barbara Farrell	Ray Hannan	Helen Mertz	Peggy Petitmermet	Michael Swahlan	Michael Zenzen
Rosa Camaj	Carole Farrell	Carol Hinkelman	Don Miller	Tommy Raus	Rosemary Vogt	
Mary Beth Centrella	Jack Farrell	Robert Jenkins	Tina Milone	Chip Rausch		

### For Our Soldiers

Salvatore Abbamonte	Ryan Johnson	Garrett McDonald	Derek Terry
Mason Albert	Noah Keneston-Colby	Brian Murphy	Arthur Thornton
Andrew Barresi	Keenan Krenzer	Corey Russo	Zaish Sadiq
Connor Danz	Sean Markham		

*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.*

## PARISH REGISTRATION

**Please register** as a parishioner! We will automatically get you subscribed to **The Evangelist**, the diocesan newspaper. We will send you offertory envelopes or get you signed-up for e-giving so that you can track your contributions to the parish. You will be on our parish rolls to make things go smoothly when it is time for a wedding, baptism, funeral, or other needs. **You can call either Parish Office to register.**












**The Parish of St. John the Evangelist/St. Joseph**  
518-465-0482

**The Church of St. Mary at Clinton Heights**  
518-449-2232

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<p><i>In Memory of Fred and Gerry Nardacci</i></p>			

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<p align="center">At the request of the Parish and with approval of the Chancery, Albany Diocesan Cemeteries assumed responsibility for Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rensselaer on 8/2/21.</p> <p align="center">Visit <a href="http://www.CapitalDistrictCemeteries.org">www.CapitalDistrictCemeteries.org</a> for cemetery rules and regulations.</p> <p align="center">(518) 463-0134 <a href="mailto:info@ADCemeteries.org">info@ADCemeteries.org</a></p>	<div> <div data-bbox="495 1512 755 1711">  <p align="center"><b>Marshall G. Wagner</b> Director</p> </div> <div data-bbox="803 1459 1258 1806"> <p align="center"><b>Wm. J. Rockefeller Funeral Home</b></p> <p align="center">165 Columbia Turnpike Rensselaer, NY 12144 (518) 449-7047</p> <p align="center"><b>Our Family Serving Your Family In Your Hour Of Need</b></p> <p align="center">George W. Wagner Owner-Director</p> <p align="center">Michael J. Wagner Director</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1242 1512 1429 1711">  <p align="center"><b>Michael J. Wagner</b> Director</p> </div> </div>		