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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 79 Number 30

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOVEMBER 20, 2024

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



PHOTO BY KEITH BENMAN
Father Mark Reilly and Deacon Guy Javarone sort through items to be placed in a time capsule at Sacred Heart Church, Massena, on November 6. The time capsule was placed as part of the church's 100th anniversary celebration, which will also include Vespers and an organ recital. Read the full story on Page 3.

WELCOMING THE STRANGER



Increasing food insecurity in the North Country has increased the number of people seeking help from the St. Joseph's Outreach Center food pantry pictured here. The food pantry, and other outreach services, are offered to all in need, including individuals entering the United States. St. Joseph's Outreach Center is located in the former St. Joseph's Church on Military Turnpike in Plattsburgh. The center and its sponsoring parishes are heeding Pope Francis' exhortation to meet immigrants "with welcome and solidarity."

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Pope: Devotion to Mary 'points to Jesus'

By Kristina Millare
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis told pilgrims present at his general audience in St. Peter's Square on Wednesday that the Blessed Virgin Mary does not focus on herself but on her son, Jesus.

"Mary is always the mother that brings us to Jesus," the Holy Father said. "Mary does not only point to herself. She points to Jesus."

Continuing his catechesis on the relationship between the Holy Spirit and the Church as Jesus' bride, Pope Francis invited his listeners to reflect on the Mother of God's presence

and special role among Jesus' apostles.

"The disciples were gathered around Mary, the mother of Jesus," the pope said, reflecting on the passage of the Acts of Apostles read to hundreds of pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square.

"Her presence is different and unique among them all," he continued. "Between her and the Holy Spirit there is a unique and eternally indestructible bond that is the very person of Christ himself, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary."

During his Nov. 13 general audience, Pope Francis said

that Mary's support for Christian communities is not one that is confined to the past but has persisted "in every age of our history."

"The Mother of God is an instrument of the Holy Spirit in his work of sanctification," he said. "Mary is the one who said 'yes' to God and, with her example and by her intercession, pushes us to say 'yes' to him too."

As "the first disciple and figure of the Church," the Holy Father hopes that Christians today will allow Mary to "see Jesus," "open our hearts" to him, and "arise in haste" to help others in need.

Describing Mary, the pope echoed the words of the patron of his pontificate, St. Francis of Assisi: "Daughter and handmaid of the heavenly Father, the almighty King, Mother of our most high Lord Jesus Christ, and spouse of the Holy Spirit."

"The unique relationship between Mary and the Trinity could not be illustrated in simpler words," he said.

Before concluding his Wednesday audience and imparting his paternal blessing for pilgrims, the Holy Father concluded his general audience with renewed petitions for peace and prayer.

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One for the ages

"When a medical provider starts a sentence with, 'at your age,' nothing good ever follows."

While I was cracking a joke, I tends to be followed by some description of how my body is changing, usually in some way I wouldn't choose for myself.

"At your age, metabolism starts to slow down."

Great. That's exactly what I needed. I already gain two pounds if I so

much as look at a pizza.

"At your age, it takes longer to recover from these things."

**Darcy L. Fargo**

Ugh. Nothing says fun like being hurt or ill longer.

Last week, I was spending some time venting to a friend about a couple of these "at your age" sentences uttered by a medical provider in my direction recently. The conversation - combined

with all the happenings of my son's senior year of high school - had "left me with the sads," as I

like to say, about age and change.

"This stinks," I said. "I'm sick of all these changes I don't want."

"I feel like God gives us a lot of good changes, a lot of gifts at this age, too," my friend said.

I sort of glared at her.

"At our age, our kids start to turn into our friends, even if we still need to be their parents a lot, too," she said. "At our age, we start to feel confident that our experiences have helped us develop useful knowledge. At our age, we're not quite as excitable or quick to anger as we were in our younger

years."

I have a habit of jumping to extremes. When I'm first reacting to a situation, I view it in black and white - it's all awesome or all awful. Really, life is a lot grayer and more nuanced.

It takes me time and God's grace (sometimes expressed through the people around me) to change my perspective and become open to the nuances and gray areas.

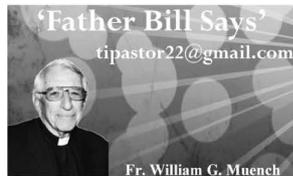
Maybe someday, I'll even get to an age where God gives me enough grace and perspective that don't jump to extremes.

I'm not at that age yet.

November days bring gratitude

November has two wonderful holidays each year - both involved gratitude. We all love Thanksgiving and getting the family together, thanking God for so much, thanking God for the family, thanking God for each other. This day is a unique opportunity to focus on gratitude, though we really should be making every day Thanksgiving Day - spreading gratitude everywhere and offering gratitude for being part of this family.

However, today, I would like to remember Veterans Day. This a day gratitude also - a day to celebrate in gratitude the dedication of so many men and women throughout the years who have been willing to serve this nation in the military. We honor and offer our gratitude for their sacrifice to protect our country and each one of us by their willingness to service. In a special way, this day

**Fr. William G. Muench**

honors those men and women who lived lives of service to our country. It is an important time to pause in prayer.

I must share with you an experience I had a while ago, when I spent a day visiting the United States Cemetery in Anzio, Italy. I was there with a retired Navy Chaplain and another priest friend who had served in the military before entering the priesthood. I must admit, it was a rather solemn day as we walked around this huge cemetery. It was certainly impossible to imagine that so many had died here. There were acres and acres of white crosses - innumerable men and women who died in that invasion of Italy - a place

just a little south of Rome - in 1944. It was rather difficult to pray; the sight was so awesome. It stays with me as an image of the many, many veterans that are remembered on this Veterans Day.

I would also like to take some time here to pay my respect and honor for the many priests who have served - and continue to serve - as chaplains in the various military service. So many of the chaplains during the years of this country also ministered during war time, and many lost their lives. Here I would like to remember in a special way a priest friend, a Navy chaplain, who died this past year, Father Joseph Sestito. Father Joe served during the time of the war in Vietnam. He retired as a Navy captain. But he was always Father Joseph to his people, his military parishioners.

Let me close this by inviting you all to join me in

praying for peace - peace for our country, peace for our world. I am one of those who has hope - hope that there will be a time when our young people will not have to march into war. Many say "impossible." I believe that I must pray and hope Jesus challenges us in the Beatitudes that "Blessed are the peace makers, for they will be called children of God." I believe that we really should do something in our own small way to bring peace to our particular communities. I am certain that it will make a difference.

Jesus taught us the two Great Commandments. He calls upon us to "Love God with our whole heart, our whole mind. And to Love our neighbor as ourselves." This means bringing harmony and peace to all those we meet. Pope Paul VI once called upon us all to "Give Peace a Chance."

NOVEMBER 20, 2024

Massena church to celebrate 100 years

By Keith Benman
Contributing Writer

100th anniversary events

Dec. 8 – Solemn Vespers at 3 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church.
Dec. 22 – Organ recital from 3-4 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church

The 100th anniversary of the first Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Massena and the constancy of the Catholic faith are being celebrated with a prayer service, organ recital and other events at the church this fall.

Solemn Vespers, also known as evening prayer, will be prayed on Sunday, Dec. 8, at the church and an organ recital on the refurbished organ will be held Sunday, Dec. 22. All Catholic parishioners as well as other Christians in Massena are being invited.

The reason for the celebrations is simple, according to St. Peter's Parish Pastor Father Mark Reilly.

"Out of respect," Father Reilly said. "We were handed something that we didn't ourselves build. It's significant. And I feel we have a responsibility to make sure we hand it on to folks coming along in the next century."

The church at 212 Main Street replaced an earlier Sacred Heart Church building, which opened for Mass in 1875 at a site about a quarter mile south of the current church.

One event celebrating the 100th anniversary has already occurred. It involved the enclosing of a time capsule behind the 1924 cornerstone plaque at the base of the rebuilt buttress on the church entrance's north side.

In early November, Father Reilly, construction workers and a few others gathered for the occasion. Items enclosed

included a holy relic of the parish's namesake, St. Peter; copies of the North Country Catholic and Massena Courier; the Catholic Church's liturgical guidebook for the year, called an Ordo; and church bulletins. Also included was the name of the anonymous donor who helped get the buttress project "over the line" financially. The time capsule will be opened in 2124.

The event both celebrated the 100th anniversary of the church and marked the completion of the rebuilding of the two stone buttresses. That in turn represents the completion of the parish's five-year, \$500,000 capital campaign. The first two projects were undertaken at the St. Mary's social hall, where a new elevator and roof were installed.

"As our Faith tells us, we're going to be here forever," said Deacon Guy Javarone, whose construction management firm helped oversee the projects. "And it's always important to keep our churches in great condition so they can be handed down to our children."

For the buttress project, R.E. Kelly of Bownmansville, New York, was the contractor and the time capsule vault was donated by Jefferson Concrete of Watertown.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



PHOTOS BY KEITH BENMAN/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

(Left) The refurbished cornerstone plaque that was installed on Nov. 6 at Sacred Heart Church, Massena, is shown. A time capsule installed behind it will be opened in 2124. (Right) Items readied for placing in the time capsule vault at Sacred Heart Church, Massena, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary.



BUILDING Our Mission to the Missions

The Black and Indian Mission Collection (BIMC) exists to help diocesan communities to build up the Church and preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American, Native American, and Alaska Native people of God.

Every year, it is the amazing generosity of Catholic faithful, just like you, who enable the Black and Indian Mission Office to support the following important priorities:

Enlivening Parish Life & Catechesis

Grant funds from the BIMC support parish-based catechetical programs, which form and train catechists who form children to be disciples of Jesus in the world and who put bibles and catechisms in kids' hands so they can learn the ways of the Lord and take their place around his altar.



Empowering Evangelizers

BIMC grant funds support African American and Native American ministries to sponsor events and formation that encourage living the Christian life in culturally appropriate ways. The religious sisters shown here, serve Native American Catholic communities across the United States.



Helping Educators Reach Kids

With your contribution to the BIMC, you will help support the placement of good teachers to educate African American and Native American children. In 2022, your generous donations reached over 5,000 students in more than 400 schools and parishes across the United States.



Encouraging Vocations

The church needs men and women to answer the call to the consecrated life and offer their witness as radical disciples of Jesus Christ. We need priests in order to have the Eucharist! Supporting the BIMC enables us to help encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life in African American and Native American communities across the country.



BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION COLLECTION
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Special Collection to be held with Catholic Campaign for Human Development Nov. 23-24, 2024
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Resources for the Advent season

By Marika Donders
Office of Evangelization

Advent begins Dec. 1. Happy New (Liturgical) Year!

The readings at Sunday Mass will be from Year C.

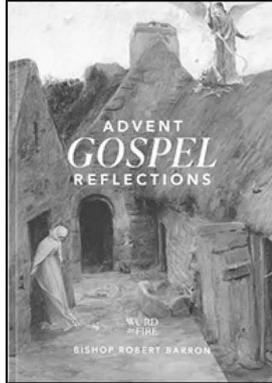
The following are available Advent resources to help you grow in faith during this season of waiting and preparing.



Arts and Faith: Advent (Loyola Press)

For each week of Advent and Christmas there is short video commentary on a work of art. There is an additional guided Ignatian style reflection to help you pray with the art-

work. There are also suggestions of how to use each week's video for catechesis of kids in ages 9~15.

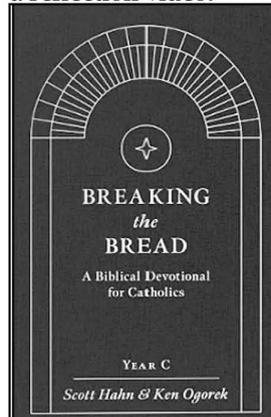


Advent Gospel Reflections by Bishop Robert Barron (Word on Fire Press)

As in previous years, this little book offers reflections on the Gospel reading for each day with space for journaling. Also included are reflections on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.

These are just some Advent resources. I would also recommend checking with your parish to see what Advent programs they may be offering, whether video

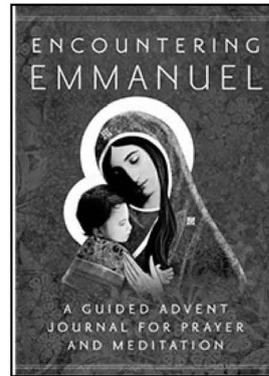
series from Formed.org, courses through the Franciscan Catechetical Institute or other series. You may also want to consider going to daily Mass when you can, praying the rosary or just taking time to read the daily readings, available online at <https://bible.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading>. These readings are also available via email or podcast and come with a reflection video.



Breaking the Bread: A Biblical Devotional for Catholics (St. Paul Center)

Although not a specifically Advent resource, this little book from St.

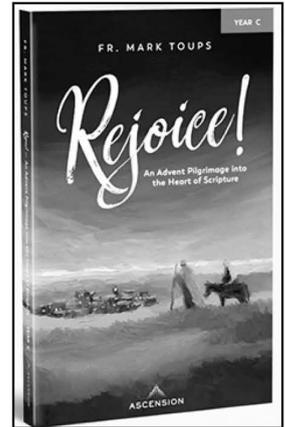
Paul Center is a devotional written by Scott Hahn and Ken Ogorek. It includes a reflection for the Sunday Readings, sacred art related to the readings, as well as Catechism and prayer sections. It's a great way to prepare and pray with the Mass.



Encountering Emmanuel: A Guided Advent Journal for Prayer and Meditation (Ave Maria Press)

Written by Heather Khym (Cohost of Abiding Together Podcast), this is a daily journal and guide through Advent, with guided meditations, art and reflection questions. This can be used as an individual

or with a group and includes access to weekly videos from the Abiding Together podcast (subscribe HERE).



Rejoice! An Advent Pilgrimage into the Heart of Scripture: Year C, Journal (Ascension Press)

Another daily journal focusing on the readings for Mass by Father Mark Toups. Each day gives you a word for the day, a reflection on the scripture readings and a prompt for journaling. As in previous years, weekly videos will be available on the Ascension Press YouTube channel.

Sacred Heart anniversary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The romanesque-style church was built in the early 1920s by skilled stone masons working with parishioners, who gathered the stones out of farmers' fields.

Today, parishioners say it's more than the stately, beautiful architecture that makes the church dear to them. It's what goes on there.

"God is the principal person in my life," said St. Peter's parishioner John Kozsan. "I mean, I was always taught that's the way you express

your love for God is going to Church."

Kozsan is an informal parish historian. His excitement at the upcoming celebrations at Sacred Heart was palpable as he provided information on the church during a recent interview.

Both Father Reilly and Kozsan acknowledge a lot has changed over the years in both the way Mass is celebrated at Sacred Heart and the church building itself. The biggest changes in liturgy came following

the Vatican II Council.

Physical changes to the church have included the installation of the beautiful stained glass in the clerestory – the upper part of the walls – sometime after WWII.

A recent change most parishioners will notice for the first time during the centennial celebrations will be the organ – it can be played again at its full capabilities. A two-year restoration project has made that possible. On Dec. 22, Parochial Vicar Father Lukas Gruber and parishio-

ner Devlin Germane will perform on the instrument joined by a choir.

Parishioners who have kept track of the organ project can't wait to hear it again.

"I am thrilled," said 95-year-old parishioner Elsie Scruggs. "I am absolutely thrilled, because that fine church deserves to have an organ played in it."

From 1965 to 1973 Scruggs was the assistant organist at Sacred Heart. In 1973 she was appointed head organist and for the next 20

years continued to play for weddings, funerals, Sundays and Holy Days. Often, she was accompanied by a "wonderful" four-part choir, she said.

The restoration of the organ, the buttress project, and the improvements at St. Mary's are all part of the parish's commitment to future generations, Father Reilly said.

"It's been a long relay since Christ rose from the dead," he said. "The buildings are outward signs of handing on the faith."

Welcoming the stranger: Aiding immigrants

By Keith Benman
Contributing Writer

Catholic parishes in the North Country are heeding Pope Francis' exhortation to meet immigrants "with welcome and solidarity."

As U.S./Canadian border crossings by migrants have increased during the past few years, parish food pantries and thrift shops have stepped up to assist. In addition, specific programs have been established to aid the newcomers.

"They need the same things people in our community have always needed," said Starr Burke, program coordinator at St. Joseph's Outreach Center in Plattsburgh. "They're lacking for food. They're lacking for clothing. They're lacking for housing. It's what we would do as outreach for anyone."

In addition to those traditional services, specific programs have been established to aid the newcomers. Those include the position of an immigration referral coordinator at St. Joseph's Outreach Center and English language learner classes.

Burke and others with experience serving immigrants say they can come from just about anywhere. Many are just passing through the area.

"Most individuals coming here, we are not their destination," Burke said. "A small number do stay in the area. Some of those have come here on U.S. work visas and are employed at local farms or companies."

Over the years, im-

Why are we helping?

By Father Christopher J. Looby
Pastor, the Catholic Community of St. Alexander, St. Augustine and St. James

Q: Why has the Catholic church made serving and protecting immigrants and migrants such a priority, not just here, but worldwide?

A: The Catholic Church's commitment to serving and protecting immigrants and migrants is deeply rooted in the Gospel message and the teachings of Christ, who calls us to "welcome the stranger" in Matthew 25:35.

From the very beginning, the Church has upheld the inherent dignity of every person, seeing each one as created in the image of God. Our responsibility to protect the vulnerable and marginalized, including those who seek refuge or

opportunity in new lands, aligns with Christ's mission to bring compassion and justice to all.

This commitment extends beyond our local outreach; it is a global call to solidarity. Migration often arises from deeply rooted injustices, such as poverty, violence, and lack of opportunity, and it is a priority for the Church to advocate for a world where everyone can live with dignity and security. Here at St. Joseph's Outreach Center, we reflect that global mission by supporting immigrants in practical ways, whether through language programs, employment support or other critical services. These efforts remind us that we are one human family, called by God to journey alongside one another with compassion and respect.

migrant numbers have ebbed and flowed with changes in immigration regulations in Canada, the United States and Mexico.

For example, asylum seekers crossing from the U.S. into Quebec province in early 2023 averaged 4,613 per month, according to Canadian government figures. A new agreement in March 2023 between Canada and the United States stemmed much of that flow. Since then, there has been a marked increase in the flow of migrants from Canada to the United States, according to U.S. Border Patrol figures.

St. Joseph's Outreach Center doesn't keep track of who is an immigrant and who is not when someone comes into their soup kitchen, food pantry or thrift store, Burke said.

"I am going to help the person that is in front of me to the best of my ability, period,"

she said.

However, tabulations are kept for people utilizing services specifically there for immigrants. The immigration referral coordinator at St. Joseph's Outreach Center referred about 500 individuals to other agencies in the past year. Those individuals are often migrants seeking help with immigration issues. But they also can be U.S. citizens or permanent residents

simply inquiring about getting a family member or other relative into the country to join them.

Burke estimates immigrants make up about 2 or 3 percent of those utilizing services at St. Joseph's Outreach Center. Services like that have seen a marked increase in demand in recent years, but Burke doesn't attribute that to immigrants.

"Just the economy has led to an increased

need for everybody," she said. "That's why we partner with community agencies to stretch our resources as far as we can," Burke said.

Nine of those community partners are listed at the St. Joseph Outreach Center's website. They range from private charities like Catholic Charities to government agencies like the New York State Office for New Americans.

The needs of immigrants vary widely.

"It's one thing if someone's just passing through and is trying to get to family somewhere else in the country," Burke said. "It's another if someone has nowhere to go and is homeless."

Burke and others who serve at parish community outreach centers are aware there is much misinformation and controversy surrounding immigrants. But the Gospel message and the teachings of Christ call them to action.

"I believe it's the duty of every human being," Burke said. "We should all be treated with the dignity we're entitled to."



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Environmental Stewardship

Relying on nature

The mental, emotional and physical benefits of walking in nature are well known; however, shortening daylight, colder temperatures and windier conditions can make such outings a challenge. Older individuals are especially sensitive to adverse weather that may discourage them from seeking the benefits of being outdoors as winter nears.

Researchers, however, have discovered that some of the health benefits offered by nature can be acquired by simply looking out a window at a natural landscape. Doing so, it is necessary to focus your attention on the details of the scene, rather than thinking about what is going on in your life or the world, and it is vital to shut off the radio, TV, or cell phone near you so as not to be distracted.

A bird feeder is considered to be the best object that you can have in your window view as wildlife activity is ideal to view rather than a static scene. A feeder that is set apart from your house is also preferable, as it forces you to go outside to fill it. Doing so, you are provided with the opportunity to stretch your muscles and get with fresh air.

Tracking the various species of birds that visit the feeder and their numbers is a good way to connect with their activities. Eventually, a person can understand each bird's routine.

There are many health benefits to being in fresh air as was demonstrated a century ago by the success of the tuberculosis cure centers that were so prominent throughout the North Country. Along with clean air, these patients never had access to 24 hour news channels on their radio and lacked cell phones and televisions. It is always better to focus your attention out a window rather than on a radio program or some LED screen and be traumatized by the issues of today.

By Tom Kalinowski
St. Bernard's Parish, Saranac Lake

Bishop's Public Schedule

Nov. 20 – 10 a.m. – Lay Employees' Retirement Plan Committee Meeting at Bishop's Residence

Nov. 21 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Nov. 22 – 11 a.m. – Mass and Election of the Major Superior at the Precious Blood Monastery in Watertown

Nov. 24 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Nov. 25 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Nov. 26 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Nov. 27 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is able to schedule sessions of the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. This required training addresses child abuse, methods and means by which abusers commit abuse, and steps to prevent abuse and stop it from continuing. To arrange training, call 315-393-2920 or email jgrizzuto@rcdony.org

To Report Abuse

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: 518-358-3145, Ext. 7179 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 bishops, contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

Sending us signs

Editor's Note: In celebration of the Eucharistic Revival, Father Bryan D. Stitt, director of Worship for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, will answer questions about worship, the Eucharist and related topics. To submit a question, email bstitt@rcdony.org.

Can our deceased loved ones send us signs?

Great question. My beloved St. Therese of Lisieux promised that

Rest in Peace

This week marks the anniversary of the deaths of the following clergymen who served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg

Nov. 20 – Rev. Robert Joseph Booth, 1939

Nov. 21 – Msgr. Joseph L. Tierney, 1968

Nov. 22 – Rev. Bernard Caraher, 1893; Rev. James F. Lamitie, 2010

Nov. 23 – Rev. Louis Brisson, 1963

Nov. 24 – Rev. Bernard McCabe, 1857; Rev. G.P. Berneche, 1950; Rev. Norman E. Poupore, 2014

Nov. 25 – Rev. M. C. Dubreuil, O.M.I., 1912



FROM WONDERING TO WONDER IN WORSHIP

With Father Bryan Stitt, Diocesan Director of Worship

she would spend her time in heaven showering the earth with roses. Another dear lady of the parish who recently passed away told me during our last visit that she wants to spend her time in heaven spreading joy. These two ladies are saying the same thing.

Before we get into the beauty of that reality, this column should come with a warning. It is never our place to try and initiate conversations with the dead. There are multiple condemnations of necromancy in the Bible and Catechism. They are rooted in the idea that humans have a tendency to try and control things. We might think we want to know what our loved ones are experiencing, but "eye has not seen, nor has ear heard, what God has ready for those who love him." (1 Cor 2:9) Since we can be de-

ceived, we should never expect communications or signs.

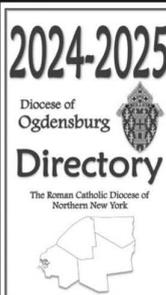
That being said, at times God does allow the thin veil between heaven and earth to be drawn back and for us to experience His grace. What a blessing it is when these things happen. They remind us that our loved one was and is real.

Sometimes it is a creature in nature, sometimes it's a vivid dream, sometimes it's even a vision in our prayer. But when they are good, they are always from and with God.

So we don't communicate with the dead, and we don't seek answers from them. So what do we do? We ask for their intercession. We pray for them. And of course, we remember them in ways great and small.

In this month of November – the month dedicated to praying for the dead, we thank the Lord for all that reminds us of our loved ones. We ask that they be with God forever and that we may see them one day. In the mean time, its good to acknowledge that we don't need signs. We have the One who is Lord of the dead and the living.

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House probes NIH after concealed study on lack of puberty blocker benefits

By Tyler Arnold
Catholic News Agency

A subcommittee in the House of Representatives launched an inquiry into the National Institutes of Health (NIH) after a grant recipient admitted that she concealed findings in a tax-funded study because it failed to show any mental health benefits for children who are prescribed transgender puberty-blocking drugs.

"In light of the NIH grantee's unwillingness to release the research project's findings, we ask that you provide documents and information to assist the committee's oversight of this matter," Rep. Lisa McClain, the chair of the Oversight and Accountability's Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services, wrote in a letter to NIH Director Monica Bertagnolli.

Johanna Olson-Kennedy, the leading researcher on the study, told the New York Times three weeks ago that she withheld the study's results because the findings could bolster criticism of puberty blockers being used on children. The drugs are designed to facilitate a gender transition of a minor by delaying his or her normal development during puberty.

Olson-Kennedy, who works as the medical director of the Center for Transyouth Health and Development at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, told the Times that she did "not want our work to be weaponized" by critics and lawmakers who want to prohibit doctors from prescribing these drugs to children.

The NIH allocated nearly \$10 million of taxpayer money for several projects, which included the research led by Olson-Kennedy to give puberty blockers to 95 children who suffered from gender dysphoria and analyze whether the drugs improved their mental health. The average age for a child enrolled in the study was less than 11 and a half years old and the researchers could not find any mental health benefits.

"We are alarmed that the project's principal investigator, Dr. Johanna Olson-Kennedy, is withholding publication of the project's research findings, which cast doubt on the efficacy of the 'gender affirming' model, because she believes the findings could be 'weaponized' by critics of transgender medical

interventions for children," McClain wrote in the letter.

McClain also accuses Olson-Kennedy of mischaracterizing the study to the Times by telling the reporter that the mental health of the children was "in really good shape" when the study began, even though the researchers previously reported high rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts.

"Deliberately mischaracterizing and withholding the results of the ... study has serious implications for the health and safety of children who are subjected to 'gender affirming' medical procedures, many of which are irreversible and hold lifelong implications despite lacking adequate scientific support for their efficacy or safety," the letter adds.

"NIH is responsible for overseeing its extramural research projects to ensure supported researchers practice transparency, exemplify scientific integrity, and are proper stewards of taxpayer funds," McClain wrote.

The subcommittee requested that the NIH provide all research grant applications and summary statements regarding the broader project about transgender youth, including progress reports, unpublished data, and certain communication documents.

Neither the NIH nor Olson-Kennedy responded to CNA's request for comment by the time of publication.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, a senior ethicist at the National Catholic Bioethics Center, told CNA that the House's inquiry into the grants "seems eminently sensible, given NIH policy that specifies that the results and accomplishments of the activities that it funds should be made available to the research community and to the public at large."

"This public duty constitutes a basic ethical obligation for researchers who are recipients of public funds (more than \$9 million in this case) made available through traditional NIH grants," Pacholczyk added.

Jane Anderson, the vice president of the American College of Pediatricians, which opposes the use of transgender drugs and surgeries on children, told CNA "it is crucial that all scientific information be released so families and youth can make truly informed decisions, especially when the research is taxpayer funded."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Nicaragua bars priests from anointing the dying in hospitals

The dictatorship of President Daniel Ortega and his wife, Vice President Rosario Murillo, is preventing priests from entering hospitals in Nicaragua to administer the sacrament of anointing of the sick to those who need it, according to lawyer Martha Patricia Molina, author of the report "Nicaragua: A Persecuted Church?" Approximately 10 priests from different dioceses have confirmed the situation to Molina, who nevertheless noted — in an interview with the Spanish edition of EWTN News — that a few other priests are allowed to enter hospitals, "but these are priests with some sort of ties to the dictatorship; they sometimes have the possibility of entering hospitals, but it's not something widespread," she explained. The lawyer commented that before this year the Sandinista dictatorship allowed priests to enter health care facilities. Security measures have been tightened without any justification and the persecution becomes more severe when priests try to enter with clerical garb, which is why many choose to try entering wearing secular clothing.

Bishops vote to advance two American causes for canonization

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) at its fall 2024 plenary assembly voted on Wednesday to advance the canonization causes of two faithful American women: Benedictine Sister Annela Zervas and Servant of God Gertrude Agnes Barber. The bishops voted overwhelmingly in favor of advancing the causes of both Zervas and Barber following presentations on their behalf by Bishop Andrew Cozzens of the Diocese of Crookston, Minnesota, and Bishop Edward Lohse of Kalamazoo, Michigan, the latter of whom appeared on behalf of Bishop Lawrence Persico of Barber's native Erie, Pennsylvania. The assembly cast a 206-7 vote in favor of Zervas and a 205-6 vote in favor of Barber, a laywoman, teacher, and special-needs advocate.

Knights surpass \$100 million in support of vocations

The Knights of Columbus announced Nov. 8 that its local councils have surpassed \$100 million in financial support for seminarians, postulants, and novices through its Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP). "For more than 40 years, RSVP has supported tens of thousands of men and women as they answer the Lord's call to serve the Church and the people of God," Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly stated in a release. "Our support for vocations speaks to the love Knights of Columbus have for the Eucharist, our parishes, and the Church." Founded in 1981, RSVP provides aid to seminarians and entrants into religious life so they can continue to discern their vocations despite financial burdens such as student loan debt. The Knights encourage local councils and parishes to raise money for seminarians in the area — for every \$500 a local council distributes to an individual, the Supreme Council refunds the local council \$100. Also, local councils provide nonfinancial support to seminarians and religious, whether through personal visits, correspondence, or invitations to council events.



**The Pontifical Mission Societies of the
Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.**

**The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director**

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
mbrett@rcdony.org

Widows challenge armed bandits

The 14 widows in question come from villages near Burkina Faso. Their husbands and even some of their children have been killed by armed groups who are terrorizing and emptying the villages in the Three Borders area, which includes Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, Africa. Without thinking twice, they decided to abandon the meager food distributions in the displaced persons camps in Makalonde and Torodi to return to their villages, abandoned by their inhabitants, in the hope of recovering the bags of millet and sorghum they had saved.

However, during their return, they were intercepted by the “bandits,” as the armed groups are called, who took from them the bags of food that they themselves had grown and stored. Despite being robbed of their livelihood, the 14 widows were not harmed, nor robbed of the little money they had. Thus, although they have returned to the precarious living conditions that characterize the thousands displaced by the attacks and threats of armed groups, they have not lost hope.

In Niger, there are more than 500,000 displaced people, along with refugees.

Although the widows have been threatened and robbed of what belonged to them, they have won a symbolic battle while unarmed. Millet and sorghum are staple foods in the border region and are fundamental to the cultural identity of the community. These women have defied the violence and rules imposed by the armed groups, doing what their husbands would have done: fighting with their hands and revealing the violence of the religious ideology that underlies these attacks.

This act of resistance, which took place in a small village in the Sahel savannah, will not be counted in the statistics of those killed or wounded by armed incursions, and will go unnoticed like so many other forms of silent violence that affect the social fabric of communities. These communities, invisible due to poverty and the neglect of the authorities, survive thanks to the extraordinary strength and dignity that only [poor farmers] know. The 14 widows, who carried food on their backs for their children, were also carrying the future of their people.

*Article by Mauro Armanin, from
FIDES missionary news service of
the Pontifical Mission Societies.*

CALL TO SERVE What’s taking place at the altar?

Altar servers are trained to help the priest or deacon set the table before the consecration and clear the table after Communion is distributed at Mass.

You may miss the setting of the table at the weekend liturgy because you are kind of busy.

Usually at the offertory of the Mass, while the priest or deacon assisted by an altar server is setting the table, you are singing a hymn and making an offering (the collection) to the church.

Nothing should be on the Altar of Sacrifice before the offertory with a few exceptions.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, it is known affectionately as the GRM pronounced germ, allows for candles, a microphone and a small crucifix to be on the Altar beforehand.

From the opening procession until the proclamation of the Gospel, only the Book of the Gospels should be placed on the altar.

The altar is set with a variety of vessels and a book from the Presentation of the Gifts through the purification of the vessels that were used

for Consecration and Communion.

Think of the table setting as a place for your honored guest to dine. I found a great quote online that was meant for a Thanksgiving feast table setting, but I think it appropriate for Mass too.



**Deacon
Kevin Mastellon**

When you think about it, good table setting is all about allowing your guests to have the best experience possible with your fabulous meal. It gives them the

tools they need, where they need them, to chow down in the most enjoyable way!

Chow down might be a little crass when we are talking about the Body and Blood of Christ, but you get the meaning.

I was trained that the server hands the vessels to the priest or deacon. The server never places an item on the table.

The first item is the corporal. The corporal is named because the word comes from the Latin “corpus,” meaning body. Sacred vessels containing the Body and Blood of the Lord are always placed on top of a corporal. A corporal is a linen cloth spread on the altar, resting on top of the white altar cloth.

Then comes the chalice, the goblet that will hold the wine, and the plate that holds the bread, called a paten.

The bread and wine are handed to the celebrant by the deacon. The deacon presents these gifts to be consecrated on behalf of all the people at Mass.

A variety of cups containing wine and patens containing bread may have also been placed on the altar. Finally, there is the Roman Missal, on a stand or not, placed wherever the celebrant finds convenient for reading.

The bread and wine are transformed by Christ through the priest celebrant to become Jesus’ body, blood, soul and divinity.

At Mass we have heard the Word of God and now look forward to receiving him at Communion. This is the “source and summit of the Christian life.”

When communion distribution is finished, the clergy purify the vessels. That’s our next topic.

*Deacon Kevin Mastellon
ministers in Watertown.
He is the Director of Permanent
Deacons for the
Diocese of Ogdensburg.*



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For Vocations*

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Vatican, Microsoft: Tour St. Peter's using AI

By Courtney Mares
Catholic News Agency

The Vatican and Microsoft have created a 3D digital model of St. Peter's Basilica using the latest in artificial intelligence to offer a new way to experience the nearly 2,000-year history of the tomb of St. Peter.

Accessible worldwide at virtual.basilicasanpietro.va, the free interactive platform allows anyone in the world to "visit" the virtual 3D model of St. Peter's Basilica, generated using AI from more than 400,000 high-resolution images of the basilica taken by drones using advanced photogrammetry techniques.

Microsoft's Vice Chair and President Brad Smith launched the 3D "digital twin" of the basilica at a press conference this week at the Vatican.

"It is literally one of the most technologically advanced and sophisticated projects of its kind that has ever been pursued," Smith said.

The digital platform expands access to people who may never have the opportunity to visit the Vatican but can now experience the beauty, history, and spiritual significance of one of the most important churches in the world.

The model makes it possible to "see this basilica as I think no generation has ever seen it before," Smith said.

The Microsoft president also announced the launch of an educational Minecraft game exploring St. Peter's Basilica expected in January 2025 and a new immersive in-person exhibition on the terrace of St. Peter's Basilica for the Catholic Church's jubilee year.

A look back at the 'old St. Peter's Basilica'

The virtual experience goes beyond just

showcasing the baroque splendor of today's St. Peter's Basilica, harnessing technology to take viewers back in time to its ancient origins from Nero's Circus to the ancient St. Peter's Basilica built by Constantine.

It begins with Caligula's first-century construction of a circus on Vatican Hill and the placement of an Egyptian obelisk at its center. That obelisk, now in St. Peter's Square, witnessed centuries of history — from Rome's bloody persecutions of Christians and the crucifixion of Peter to massive papal Masses with tens of thousands of pilgrims today.

"As you will see when you go through the exhibit or if you look at the webpage, it's fundamentally a story in three chapters," Smith explained. "The first chapter, in my view, begins exactly where it should — we are here today because St. Peter was here 2,000 years ago."

"So the first chapter of the story brings to life in new ways ... the story of his life, the story that is told in the Gospels."

The second chapter covers the transformations of the site of St. Peter's tomb over the course of nearly 2,000 years from Peter's burial and the construction of a church to its place as a center of Christian pilgrimage.

Around A.D. 160, a small funerary monument known as the "Trophy of Gaius" was built over Peter's grave, becoming a pilgrimage site. When Constantine legalized Christianity in the fourth century, he ordered a massive basilica to be built over this tomb, leveling the necropolis beneath.

The virtual tour allows one to imagine what it would have been like to

visit the old St. Peter's Basilica built by Constantine, one of the ancient world's most important sanctuaries, "a magnificent sepulcher ... to which countless people from every part of the Roman Empire come," Eusebius of Caesarea described in the fourth century.

More than 1,175 years after the completion of the original St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Julius II laid the first stone of the new Vatican basilica in 1506. Construction of the present St. Peter's Basilica took more than a century, inspiring works by artists like Bramante, Michelangelo, and Bernini. The basilica will celebrate the 400th anniversary of its consecration in 2026.

Online educational resource

One of the most exciting aspects of the 3D digital model is that it provides the opportunity for people who might never have the opportunity to visit the Vatican to see and experience St. Peter's Basilica, Smith explained.

"We're taking this story to the world," he said.

The new virtual platform serves as an educational resource that brings St. Peter's Basilica to students, teachers, and historians worldwide, providing interactive tools and audio guides in multiple languages.

Through immersive 3D tours, online visitors can navigate the basilica's mosaics, the cupola, the underground necropolis, and Peter's tomb. The digital model, or "digital twin," captures areas typically off-limits to visitors, providing a detailed look at the basilica's art, architecture, and history.

The concept of a "digital twin" — a digital

counterpart of a physical object — is commonly used in the manufacturing industry. For the basilica, however, it's a way to expand human understanding by capturing and sharing cultural heritage.

"When you think about this partnership, I think it's as extraordinary as the project itself, because it brings together one of the oldest and most important institutions in the world with the newest technology that humanity has created," Smith said.

'Pétros eni': An immersive exhibition for jubilee pilgrims

For those planning a jubilee pilgrimage to Rome, the Vatican will soon open a new exhibition titled "Pétros eni" ("Peter is here") using the 3D digital model developed by Microsoft and the digital preservation company Iconem. This ticketed, immersive experience, designed for the jubilee year, takes visitors on a journey through the basilica's history.

The exhibit starts up on the terrace of St. Peter's Basilica behind its massive dome designed by Michelangelo and continues inside some of the basilica's previously unvisited upper passages, allowing visitors to look down at the basilica's Altar of St. Michael below.

The exhibit's interactive digital displays showcase the intricate details of the interior of St. Peter's dome up close and two round theaters immerse visitors in what it would have been like to visit the basilica in different moments throughout the centuries.

In January 2025, Microsoft will release a Minecraft Education version of St. Peter's Basilica to reach younger audiences. In this digital repli-

ca, students will be able to navigate the basilica, explore its architecture, and learn its history through Minecraft's interactive environment. This version will allow students to "walk" through the basilica with their character and explore its features as part of their gameplay.

"Many schools now use Minecraft to teach a wide variety of skills or capabilities," Smith said, expressing hope that the Minecraft edition of St. Peter's Basilica will become a unique resource for Catholic and secular schools alike, offering new ways to engage with history and art.

AI-enhanced conservation

The digital twin also provides the Vatican with new tools for conservation. Using advanced algorithms from Microsoft's AI for Good Lab, the virtual model has revealed previously undetected cracks, missing tiles in mosaics, and other signs of wear that will help caretakers preserve the basilica.

"Our AI for Good Lab developed a special AI algorithm so it could scan these images and identify where there is, say, a crack in the wall," Smith explained.

The conservators "who are responsible for the preservation of this extraordinary building, who work on its restoration, now have all of this data and the power of AI to enable them to work even better," he added.



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Christ's kingship

A famous painting by William Holman Hunt entitled *The Light of the World*, completed in 1853, portrays Jesus standing, dressed as a king, knocking on a door covered with dead and overgrown foliage. He waits, lantern in hand. There is no handle or doorknob. Rather, he must wait until someone from the inside opens the door that can only be opened from the inside.



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

That door symbolizes each one of us no matter where we are on our spiritual journey. Jesus cannot, so to speak, come into our houses, our homes, into us unless we let him in.

Today's celebration is the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Just like the king in the painting, Christ our King, stands outside of us, our doors, waiting for us to let him in.

But who is that Christ,

what kind of king is he? Our readings give us a glimpse of this Jesus in his kingly role. Daniel's vision in the first reading portrays a Jesus

whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, a kingship that shall not be destroyed. Then, the Book of Revelation, the second reading, tells us that Jesus is the "ruler of the kings of the earth" "whom every eye shall see", "the beginning and the end."

This type of language seems to portray Jesus as a very strong ruler. With that in mind we could reasonably think and say "Well, that will never happen. There are way too many other rulers in our universe. Besides, his message is much too difficult and runs contrary to all that we hold dear."

Christ's kingship differs fundamentally

November 24

The Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

READINGS

Daniel 7:13-14

Revelation 1:5-8

John 18:33b-37

from secular kingship. Civil leaders want domination. Unfortunately, we see the theme of domination so often in civil and world leaders. Jesus claims that his leadership, one that we should imitate is rooted in service to others, not in domination.

Another difference in Christ's mode of leadership concerns the ego. So many leaders want to look good. Looking good can be important, but Christ the King tells us to accept ourselves as we are. Now, when we say to accept ourselves as we are, it does not mean e.g. if we are lazy, then just accept that. No, it means that we accept ourselves as



we are called, can transcend the struggles of this world. Yes, we live amid the struggles of this world, but we are called to go beyond this world. I know this sounds confusing, but look at it this way. We are on a staircase. We have one foot in this world, but the other foot is on the next step moving us upward. Sometimes we think we can run up the steps. Other times, we wonder if we can make it to the next step. The answer is simple. Yes, we can because that's where we belong, always on the next step.

To travel on this spiritual journey, to move from one step to the next, we need nourishment from this King of the Universe, Jesus Christ. When we receive the Eucharist, we are definitely on that journey, we are being given the boost to go to the next step. May this heavenly food transform us so that we may truly become what we receive.

we truly are: sons and daughters of God the Father, brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ. We are called to greatness. We need to accept and live that call.

In speaking with Pilate, Jesus makes it very clear that his kingdom is not of this world, his kingdom does not engage with the struggles of the world. Rather, his kingdom, to which

OBITUARIES

AuSable Forks – James Denton, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 5, 2024 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Clayton – Delina E. "Betty" (St. Pierre) Tubolino, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 16, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Gouverneur – Evelyn "Aunt Mary" Washburn, 108 ½; Funeral Services Dec. 14, 2024 at French Funeral Home.

Keeseville – Janet Wilthia (Roy) DeGroat, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 8, 2024 at St. John the

Baptist Church; burial in Evergreen Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain – Viviane (Therese) Boucher, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 15, 2024 at St. Bernard's Church.

Madrid – Wanda Jane Tyo; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 16, 2024 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Malone – Shirley R. (Perry) Boyea, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 14, 2024 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena – Gerald F. "Babe" LePage, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 13, 2024 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Charles J. Reynolds, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 15, 2024 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Joyce Mae (Everleth) Trombley, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 8, 2024 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in Rand Hill Rd Cemetery.

North Bangor – Douglas J. Turner, 71; Mass of Christian Burial

Nov. 15, 2024 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Richard W. LaVigne, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 16, 2024 at Notre Dame Church.

Peru – Pamela Joan "Pammie" Sears, 68; Funeral Services at Hamilton Funeral Home Chapel.

Plattsburgh – Patricia G. (Stone) Baker, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 13, 2024 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Todd Charles

Lawrence, 61; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 12, 2024 at St. Peter's Chapel.

Rosiere – John Neil Mason, 88; Services to be private; burial in St. Vincet de Paul Cemetery.

Watertown – Joan S. (Dasno) Cumoletti, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 16, 2024 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Leonard G. Spaziani, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 15, 2024 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

FRIENDSHIP GROUP MEETING

You are invited to our next Friendship Group Meeting, learn to meditate with the scriptures.

Date: Nov. 21

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Zoom

Features: Father Jonas Verdeflor, OMV will continue to guide us in Ignatian meditation and how to pray with the Scriptures. We will discuss chapters 8-14 of the book "Beloved Lover" by Father Gregory Cleveland, OMV and reflect on the beauty of God's love in the Song of Songs.

Contact: To order the book, please visit omvusa.org and enter SUMMER24 at the checkout to receive 10% off.

To sign-up for the Friendship Group, receive the meeting link and discussion questions, go to <https://mailchi.mp/sophiainstitute/friendship-groups> Questions? Contact Mary Beth Bracy at mbracy@sophiainstitute.com

BOOK CLUB:
DIVINE RENOVATION

Following up on the Divine Renovation Unlocked event last August, the Office of Evangelization will offer another opportunity to read and discuss the book *Divine Renovation: Bringing Your Parish from Maintenance to Mission* by Father James Mallon.

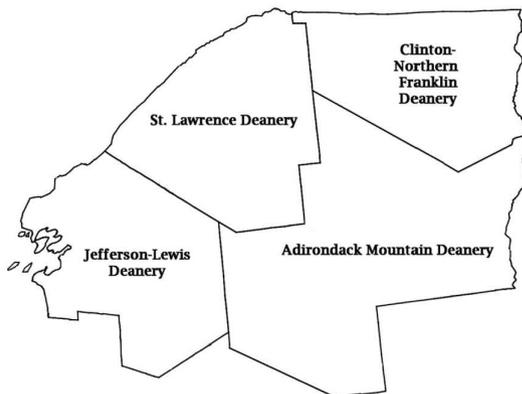
Date: 9 sessions starting Fri. Dec. 6

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Virtually via Microsoft TEAMS (similar to Zoom).

Features: We will read and discuss the book's 7 chapters in 9 sessions (one chapter per session, except for chapter 5 which we will break up in 3 parts.) The book can be purchased online from Amazon or second hand from AbeBooks or other second hand online book sellers (be sure to check the condition of second hand book).

Contact: For more information, contact Marika Donders mdonders@rcdony.org. To register for the book club: www.rcdony.org/dr



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese".

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,

Ogdensburg, NY 13669

e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

Items must be received in the NCC office by the Wednesday before publication.

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
AND CRAFT FAIR

Lake Placid – St. Agnes School to have a Christmas Bazaar and Craft Fair.

Date: Dec. 7

Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Features: Vendor space is available. A wonderful event to get you in the Spirit of Christmas.

Contact: For more information call 518-523-3771

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

CRAFT FAIR

Morrisonville – St. Alexander's Church to have a craft fair.

Date: Nov. 30

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Contact: For more information call Tina Packwood at 518-561-5039

CRAFT FAIR

Peru – St. Augustine's to have their fall into winter craft fair.

Date: Dec. 7

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Contact: For more information call Judy Ackey 518-561-5039

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Morrisonville – St. Alexander's Church in Morrisonville will be hosting the 2nd Annual Clin-

ton-Franklin Deanery Festival of Lessons and Carols.

Date: Dec. 8

Time: 3 p.m.

Features: The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a tradition dating back over 100 years at King's College, Cambridge. It combines the timeless beauty of Christmas carols with Scripture readings that summarize Salvation History. This event will feature a choir of over 30 voices from area churches, coming together to prepare for Christmas through music. There is no cost to attend, and all are welcome. Donations are accepted.

Contact: For more information, contact the St. Alexander's Parish Office at (518) 561-5039

SACRED HEART FRATERNITY

Plattsburgh – Come join our Franciscan Secular order, the Sacred Heart Fraternity.

Date: Second Sunday of the month

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. John the Baptist basement

Features: All men and women who want to live as St. Francis and live "Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel" can become part of the Secular Franciscan Order. Join us for prayer, fellowship, and formation. In addition, we do a retreat once a year and support in some

capacity an organization that helps people like a soup kitchen.

Contact: For more information call David Garratt: 518-578-8377

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Watertown – The St. Anthony Altar and Rosary Society will have a spaghetti dinner.

Date: Nov. 21

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children, \$7

Features: Take-outs available, please bring your own containers.

Contact: For more information call the parish center at 315-782-1190

HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY

Houseville - Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be observed the first Sunday of the month.

Date: Dec. 1

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus will be having a spaghetti & meatball dinner.

Date: Dec. 7

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8;

Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

CHRISTMAS

COMMUNITY TABLE

Clayton – Stop into St. Mary's Parish Center for the Christmas Community Table.

Date: Dec. 7

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cost: \$10 at the door

Features: Enjoy over 50 delicious dishes – everything from appetizers to desserts. Part of the Christmas in Clayton weekend with many venues in the village hosting events. Also stay for the Christmas parade Saturday at 6

p.m.

Contact: For more information, contact St. Mary's parish office at 315-686-3398.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Carthage – Pancake Breakfast to be held in support of Augustinian Academy, sponsored by the Carthage K of C Father John Cosmic #291 and Ave Maria Circle.

Date: Dec. 8

Time: 8 a.m. to noon

Place: St. James Community Room

Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$7; Children under 10, \$4; Family of 4, \$27

Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, French Toast, Ham, Sausage, Baked Goods, Juice, and Coffee

Contact: For more information call 315-493-3224

LENTEN CREATION RAFFLE

West Leyden – Tickets for a raffle at St. Mary's Nativity are now on sale.

Cost: \$5 a piece or 5 for \$20, They can be purchased after the 4 p.m. Mass, by calling the Parish office at 315-348-6104, online at <https://catholicparishesofsc.weebly.com/tithely-giving.html> or from any parish council member.

Features: During this past Lent, West Leyden native and parish council member Jeff Nellenback built a rustic sofa table, a bulky bench, and a wooden wall quilt. These will be raffled as a first, second and third prize with the drawing taking place on Dec. 21.

ST. LAWRENCE

FALL FESTIVAL

Waddington – St. Mary's to have a Fall Festival.

Date: Nov. 23

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center
Features: The Festival includes crafters and vendors, a silent auction, and bake sale. Lunch will be available. Free Admission.

Contact: For more information contact the parish at waddingtonsec@rcdony.org.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

SOLEMN VESPER

Massena — Sacred Heart Church will be celebrating 100 years with Solemn Vespers followed by a Wine and Cheese Reception.

Date: Dec. 8

Time: 3 p.m.

Features: Vespers will be held at Sacred Heart Church with the reception to follow at the Trinity Building. Displays from the past 100 years will be shown.

Contact: For more information call St. Peter's Parish at 315-769-2469.

ORGAN RECITAL

Massena — To help celebrate Sacred Heart Church 100 year anniversary, an organ recital will be held.

Date: Dec. 22

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

Contact: For more information

call St. Peter's Parish at 315-769-2469.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Ogdensburg — The Vocations Committee for the Catholic Churches of Ogdensburg (St. Mary's Cathedral and Notre Dame), Heuvelton (St. Raphael's) and Lisbon (Ss. Philip and James) is planning a Trivia Night.

Date: Jan. 3

Time: Doors open at 6 p.m.,

Trivia starts at 7 p.m.

Place: Martin Field House (Knights of Columbus)

Cost: \$20 per person and receive a free mulligan (answer).

Features: All funds raised will be donated to the Diocese of Ogdensburg to help offset the miscellaneous college costs for the seminarians. Join us for a night of fun and friendly competition in a contest of general knowledge across a variety of topics! Teams of up to 6 will compete for the bragging rights and the Grand Prize. All players are eligible for door prizes!

Contact: Register your team by Dec. 1. More rules and registration at www.saintmaryscathedral.net/trivia or by emailing vocation-sarenotrivial@rcdony.org

9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Routes can be between one hour and two hours. You can volunteer for one day a week or several. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Contact: If you are interested please contact Danielle Durant at 315-386-4730.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

ANDREW DINNERS

Come and join Bishop LaValley to learn more about being a priest. Any man of high school age and above is welcome to attend the Andrew Dinner sponsored by the Vocation Office. Parents are welcome to attend.

Schedule: St. Lawrence Sunday, Nov. 17 Brzana Hall, Ogdensburg; Clinton-Northern Franklin Sunday, Nov. 24 Emmaus Room, Plattsburgh

Time: The program begins at 5 p.m. followed by Holy Hour and dinner with Bishop Terry R. LaValley, and area pastors and priests.

Contact: If you are interested in attending, speak to your pastor and register at <https://www.rcdony.org/andrewdinner>.

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

Discernment is a call, listen with others. It is a journey of faith, traveling with companions. Are you a single Catholic man, of high school age or older, who is hearing the Lord's call to the Priesthood? You are invited to join fellow discerners and Father Howard Venette for the following gatherings.

Place: St. Mary's Church, Canton
Dates: Nov. 23; 2025: Jan. 25, March 22, May 3,

Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Features: Lunch will be provided at each of the church locations.

Contact: Registration required, please go to www.rcdony.org/priesthooddiscernment. For more information **contact:** Father Howard Venette — hvenette@rcdony.org



CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT WORKING ON THE MARGINS

The Catholic Church teaches the fundamental importance of paying workers a living wage that allows them to meet their basic needs. Cooperative businesses are co-owned by the employees, which gives workers greater say in how the business is run, including the wages and salaries that workers earn. Those principles animate the work of the organizations creating opportunities and fighting poverty with support from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD).

Seed Commons is a New York City-based national network of community loan funds that make cooperative businesses easier to start and less expensive than obtaining bank loans. Based on a "nonextractive" model, Seed Commons does not require borrowers to make payments on interest or principal until they can cover operating expenses, including market-rate salaries. With support from CCHD, Seed Commons helps workers become

cooperative owners who earn living wages at companies like a Chicago-based window manufacturer, which pays \$2/hour more than it did before it became a cooperative. The employee-owners now earn not only higher wages but profit-sharing checks as well.

Your support of CCHD helps workers become worker-owners who earn living wages and establish economic roots in communities that badly need greater employment and earning opportunities. When you give to the CCHD collection, you help not only national networks like Seed Commons but also organizations working to end poverty within your diocese, where 25% of your contribution stays to create opportunities in your own neighborhood.

To learn more about the collection for the CCHD and the way CCHD upholds the moral and social teachings of the Catholic Church, visit www.usccb.org/cchd.

2022-2023 GRANTS

Category	Dollars	Number of Grants
Community Development Grants	\$6,870,600	133
Strategic National Grants	\$3,725,419	14
Economic Development Grants	\$1,990,000	38
Technical Assistance Grants	\$189,127	7
Total	\$12,775,146	

2022 EXPENSES

Category	Dollars	Percent
Grants and Donations	\$11,971,000	79.68%
Allocations-Internal Grants*	\$2,517,344	16.76%
Promotions and Fundraising Expenses	\$482,838	3.21%
Program Costs	\$52,241	0.35%
Total Expenses	\$15,023,423	
Total Expenses Excluding Internal Grants	\$12,506,079	
Total Grants & Donations Including Internal Grants	\$14,488,344	

*Internal grants include a distribution from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development Collection for CCHD operations expenses and for USCCB Justice, Peace and Human Development's Education and Outreach program that includes engaging Catholics in our faith-filled call to address the root causes of poverty.

LEARN about those living in poverty who are working to improve their communities. • **ACT** and spread the word about poverty by sharing this flier. • **CONNECT** with the work of CCHD by supporting the collection. • **PRAY** for those who benefit from this collection.



Office of National Collections

3211 Fourth Street NE • Washington, DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3346 • www.usccb.org/cchd • www.povertyusa.org

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Special Collection to be held with Black and Indian Mission Nov. 23-24, 2024
Combined Collection

MEAL DELIVERY DRIVERS NEEDED

The St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging is seeking drivers for home delivered meals in Brasher Falls, DeKalb, Canton, Gouverneur, Morristown, Ogdensburg, Potsdam and Star Lake.

Features: These drivers deliver hot, nutritious meals to older adults. Many are homebound and receive a lunchtime meal Monday through Friday. A critical component of this program is the daily wellness check that is provided by this service. Drivers receive a mileage reimbursement. Typical deliveries take place between