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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 80 Number 2

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 2, 2025

DISCUSSING DISCERNMENT



PHOTO BY SISTER MARY EAMON LYNG, SSJ

Bishop Terry R. LaValley chats with women who attended a discernment event on March 22 at St. Mary's Church in Canton. Full story on Page 3.

ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

PROMISE TO PROTECT



PLEDGE TO HEAL

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Learn more about what the Diocese of Ogdensburg is doing to keep children safe and how AI factors into child safety discussions.

FULL STORY, PAGES 7-9

Pope talks of mercy at 'crossroads' of life

By Kristina Millare
Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis on Wednesday highlighted the transformative power of God's merciful love for those who encounter him at the crossroads of life.

Since being discharged from Rome's Gemelli Hospital on Sunday, the Holy Father's weekly general audiences are suspended for the duration of his at-least-two-month convalescence in his Casa Santa Marta home in the Vatican.

In his written March 26 catechesis, titled "Jesus Christ Our Hope" and released by the Vatican, the pope said: "Jesus waits for us and lets himself be found

precisely when we think that there is no hope left for us."

Reflecting on the Gospel of St. John, the Holy Father noted that Jesus had the desire to start a conversation with the Samaritan woman "who has had five husbands and is now with a sixth who is not a husband" who came to draw water at Jacob's well in the town of Sychar.

"To go to Galilee from Judea, Jesus would have had to choose another road and not pass through Samaria," the pope said. "It would also have been safer, given the tense relations between the Jews and the Samaritans."

"Instead, he wants to pass through there, and stops at that

very well, right at that time!" he added.

According to the pope, the woman's "complicated and painful" history and questions on what "divided Jews and Samaritans" did not prevent God from wanting to love her and offer her the fullness of salvation.

"He gives the highest revelation: He speaks to her of the Father, who is to be adored in spirit and truth," he said. "He tells her: 'I am he, the one who is speaking with you' (cf. Jn 4:26)."

"It is like a declaration of love: The one you are waiting for is me, the one who can finally respond to your desire to be loved," the pope continued.

After the experience of feeling

understood, welcomed, and forgiven by God, the woman runs to her village to tell others about her encounter with Jesus.

"It is an image that should make us reflect on our search for new ways to evangelize," the Holy Father said.

"To go and proclaim the Gospel, we first need to set down the burden of our history at the feet of the Lord, to consign to him the weight of our past," he said. "Only reconciled people can bring the Gospel."

Encouraging people to not let their past prevent them from "setting out anew" in the journey of faith, the pope concluded his catechesis saying: "God is merciful and awaits us always!"

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That's not how I see it

The headline read, "elderly woman struck by car."

I wrote the story, but the newspaper's editor wrote the headline. While I don't recall her exact age, the woman who had been struck by the vehicle was in her 90s.

That woman called the newspaper office a few days later, and she was not happy.

"You called me elderly," she said, disgust dripping from her voice. "I'm not

elderly."

I understood her position. Her voice and speech made it seem like she was quite spirited and lively. The word "elderly" also carries a certain connotation, and I can understand someone not wanting the word applied to them. I'm not a fan of being reminded that I'm aging, either.

I also found it comical.

"If 90 isn't elderly, what is?" I asked.



**Darcy L.
Fargo**

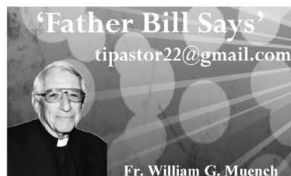
It can be hard when someone challenges the narratives we've written in our minds, and it can be hard to honestly examine who we are and where we are on our journeys.

For example, I like to think of myself as non-judgmental. So, I recoiled a bit when a friend recently pointed out a moment when I was judging a person unfairly. Similarly, I recoiled a bit when a trusted advisor reminded me how much God loves me when the narrative in my mind was telling me I was unworthy of that love.

My narratives have been challenged several times this Lent. That feels appropriate. Lent is the perfect opportunity for God to show me areas of my life where He's calling me to do better and be better, and it's the perfect opportunity for me to ask God to give me the grace and strength I'll need to do that work. Lent is a great time for God to show me His mercy and love, and it's a great time to lean into finding God's narrative and putting mine aside.

That's striking, too, and it never gets old.

Lamb of God



'Father Bill Says'
tipastor22@gmail.com

Fr. William G. Muench

During Lent, we meditate often on the crucified Jesus. In prayer, we use the image of Jesus as the Lamb of God who died for us. At each Mass, just before Communion, we praise Our Lord Jesus as we sing, "Agnus Dei," or "Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us." Each time we say or sing the "Gloria" at Mass, we speak of Jesus as the Lamb of God. I noticed today a preface that speaks of Jesus as "our Passover." To understand these images of Jesus, we must remember the Exodus of the Hebrew people from Egypt to the Promised Land as recorded in the Old Testament.

Today, let us remember this story. We must begin with Joseph, one of Jacob's twelve sons (Genesis 37). We are told that Joseph was Jacob's favorite son. So much so that this disturbed the other brothers. They even wanted to kill him.

The story tells us that there was an incident

when the brothers were all away from home, and they hatched a plot to kill Joseph. However, one brother, Judah, protected him. Judah convinces the others to sell Joseph to traveling merchants on their way to Egypt. They would sell Joseph into slavery.

In Egypt, in various ways, Joseph is noticed for his unique ability. He receives an important office in the land. This develops his opportunity to become reconciled with his brothers. Then Joseph brings his Hebrew family to Egypt, and a large Hebrew community develops there.

Years later, the Book of Exodus tells us, a prejudice develops against the Hebrews in Egypt. The Hebrews are forced into slavery. It is then that Mo-

ses comes along. I am certain that you remember the burning bush. God speaks to Moses from the burning bush, and God commissions Moses to go to Egypt to win freedom for the Hebrew people.

One part of the story always interests me. Moses asks God at the burning bush what his name is - he believes this will convince the Hebrews that he is sent by God. God tells Moses that his name is "I am." There is meaning here. "I am" is first person present tense of "to be." So, God is a person - like us - not some statue or some star or moon in the sky. And God is always present, always ready to act now. He's not some past figure and not some future possibility. God is always present.

Exodus tells us that Moses goes to Egypt, and he wins freedom for his Hebrew people through a series of plagues. The last of these plagues is the death of the first born. However, Moses is told that he should pro-

tect the Hebrew families. Each family is to procure a lamb and prepare it for a family meal. They are to take some of the blood from that lamb and put it over the house front door. The angel of death will see the blood of that lamb at the home of the Hebrew family and pass over (Passover) it. They would be saved by the blood of the lamb.

Jews everywhere continue to celebrate this festival of Passover every year. The Passover celebrates that "our people were once slaves, but God saved them." It celebrates God sending Moses and winning for them freedom and leading them to the Promised Land.

For us, Christians, our lamb is Jesus, who died for us. We are saved by the blood of Jesus, as were the Hebrews in Egypt. We are saved by the blood of Jesus. Our lamb, Jesus, wins for us freedom from sin through his suffering and crucifixion. We are saved by the Lamb of God, Jesus.

Women gather for day of discernment

By Mary Beth Bracy, consecrated virgin
Contributing Writer

It was a day dedicated to discernment.

On March 22, several young women attended a diocesan wide Women's Discernment Luncheon at St. Mary's Church in Canton. Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, a Sister of St. Joseph and diocesan Vocations coordinator, offered opening remarks in the Divine Mercy chapel.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley then led a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration for vocations — during which some young men were also present — and offered a reflection. Following, the young women gathered in the rectory for a luncheon, after which Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, a Sister of St. Joseph, spoke about "Discernment and Vocation."

Bishop LaValley began by reciting part of Psalm 139: "You formed my inmost being ... I praise you because I am wonderfully made ... my days were shaped, before one came to be."

"Vocations are my days in the Lord's book," he explained. "Vocations are a love story. It's all about relationship, all about falling in love with a Divine person, the Son of God, all about a friend, a Savior ... Jesus Christ who beckons everyone in the Gospel, 'Come to Me.'"

"Responding to God's call for each of us to be holy, as we discern God's call for each of us, we become mission driven."

Pope Francis talked about listening, discerning, and acting, Bishop LaValley continued.

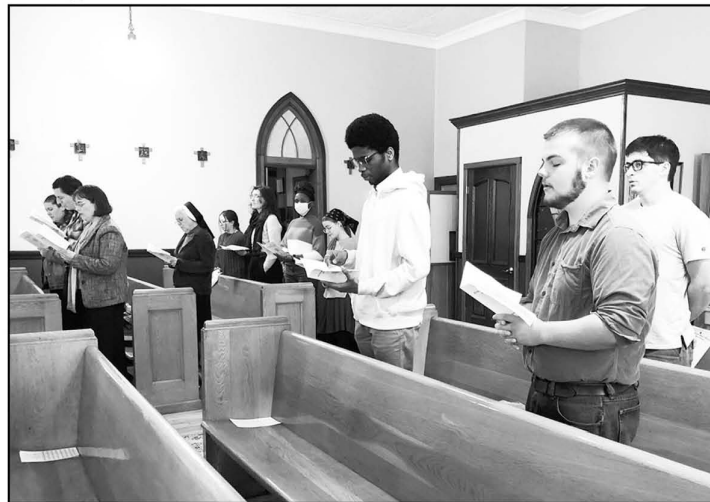
"Listening with absolutely all of our senses, paying attention to the world about us," he said. "We cannot keep our heads down to life. We must be countercultural and focus on more than the phone. See the face of Jesus in the person next to you. Pay attention."

"(We are) too busy. Every day we have the opportunity to see the Face of Jesus in another ... Take the time, listen as you meet, as you greet, as you



Photos by Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ

(Left) Hattie Taylor, pastoral associate for St. Mary's Church in Potsdam and St. Patrick's Church in Colton, chats with Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, a Sister of St. Joseph, at the women's discernment event held March 22 in Canton. (Right) Both men and women who are discerning their vocations gathered with Bishop Terry R. LaValley for a Holy Hour as part of the discernment event.



speak to other folks, a mission is blossoming, growing. Do I live my life in response to gift, not out of a sense of entitlement but gratefulness?"

Bishop LaValley told those gathered that when a priest originally asked him if he thought about becoming a priest, he laughed. Later, as he traveled in the Navy and taught catechism, he became more open to the idea. Another priest advised him, "Make the decision, stay focused and don't look back."

"We listen and move," Bishop LaValley shared, adding that we need to be attentive to what our superior, relative, pastor or sister say to us. "Listen and don't shrug them off. Be patient and listen. If we are always clicking with the remote, we can never listen with any depth. Discern God's plan for you and me. He's with you, He made you, He knows you, and He loves you in spite of it."

Bishop LaValley encouraged those in attendance to actively follow God's call.

"When we act, we enter the dance of life. Don't wait to be the perfect dancer," Bishop LaValley advised, quoting the song, "Just dance, dance." He

noted the example of Miriam in the Bible, she sang and danced. Though she found heartache, the dance was an outward expression of her joy in the Lord."

"Commitment is very difficult in the world," the bishop continued. "We rob ourselves of the joy to be had while life passes by. Keep your eyes on the Lord. We have companions to challenge, support and love us. Be still and know our God. Take a step. Rely on God's grace. God's mission for you will be realized."

During lunch, the young women enjoyed spending time together and getting to know each other, over delicious homemade soup and scones prepared by Sarah McIntosh. They also shared parts of their stories, where they've been and are dreaming of going.

Sister Bethany later reflected, "God calls us by name, He forms us and has a plan. The challenge is: What do you want of me Lord?"

"Where are you at in your journeys? God is calling us to a personal relationship," Sister Bethany said. "What is your relationship? Do you ever ask Him? Is there anyone else that can journey with me? Sharing

our struggles, that's important. It would be so nice if God would text and tell me!"

Sister Bethany encouraged the women to seek God in silence.

"We need some quiet time," Sister Bethany added. "Go home and see if you can spend 15 minutes in silence. It could be in church or going for a walk."

Sister Bethany shared that she is a horseback rider.

"It gives a sense of freedom to be, to be aware," she said. "Are you attentive to what's around you? Or are you just thinking of the next place? Take some walks just to be attuned. How are we present? Are we attuned?"

"Coming together, being able to listen on the journey (are) the tools that the saints used to discern." Sister Bethany recounted that St. Ignatius of Loyola was wounded; in his recuperation, he read lives of the saints and thought maybe I am called to be a soldier for Christ, he had a radical conversion.

St. Ignatius knew about the example that soldiers are called to and developed spiritual exercises.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Sister Marilyn McGillan died March 21



Sister Marilyn C. McGillan, APB

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated for Sister Marilyn C. McGillan, APB, on Monday, March 31, at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church, Watertown. Burial will follow in Glenwood Cemetery.

Calling hours will be on Sunday, March 30, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Precious Blood Monastery in Watertown.

Sister Marilyn passed away peacefully in the loving arms of Jesus on Friday, March 21, 2025, at Samaritan Hospital in Watertown at the age of 87.

Sister Marilyn was born and raised in Manchester, New Hampshire, on October 6, 1937. She was the daughter of Francis and Gertrude (Martin) McGillan.

Sister was predeceased by all of her siblings, Francis McGillan, Marguerite Donovan, Jean Anne Sweeney, and James McGillan. She

grew up in a home filled with deep faith, love and laughter.

An avid reader and gifted writer, Sister Marilyn graduated from St. Joseph High School for Girls in 1955. At that time, she wanted to enter monastic life, however her parents were adamant that she "either continue her education or go to work for at least one year." Subsequently, she worked for the Telephone Company. A year later, on the day she left her job, the chief engineer presented her with a gift and said, "We couldn't lose you to a better fellow!"

On October 1, 1956, the Feast Day of Saint Therese, Sister Marilyn entered the Monastery of the Precious Blood and later made her Perpetual Vows as a Sister Adorer of the Precious Blood in Manchester, New Hampshire, on June 27, 1961.

While there, she founded the Missionary Rosebushes of Saint Therese. This Apostolate continues to support third world seminarians even to this day.

In 1973, Sister Marilyn was invited to the Precious Blood Monastery in Watertown, New York, to help in the newly founded Community.

By 1975, Sister was elected Superior of the new Community, and, consequently, oversaw the construction of the new Monastery building, located at 400 Pratt Street.

In her 52 years in Watertown, Sister Marilyn assumed various leadership roles. These included superior, assistant superior, treasurer and

novice directress. Additionally, she was elected the President of the American Federation of the Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood, which consisted of six Precious Blood Monasteries in both the United States and Canada.

Sister Marilyn dedicated her life to Jesus. She viewed prayer as a way to take her all over the world to do God's work. Sister was a well-respected spiritual director, who was devoted to the Watertown community and the Institute of the Sisters of the Precious Blood.

Sister Marilyn believed with her whole heart and in her own words: "He called me to the most rewarding life I could ever have imagined." She served with fidelity, constancy, generosity and love.

Sister Marilyn is survived by many nieces and nephews who truly loved her. She will be greatly missed by her family, the community of Watertown and the many who knew her as a dear and loving friend.

The Sisters of the Precious Blood wish to acknowledge with appreciation the kind and dedicated care given by the palliative care coordinator Maggie-Anne Smith, PA-C, the doctors and nursing staff at Samaritan Hospital, Judy Maloney, Maryann Greenwood, the Sisters of the Cross of Chavand and Sister Marilyn's loving family in her last days.

Arrangements are with D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc. Online condolences may be made to www.dlcalarco.com

What is a Foster Grandparent?

Foster Grandparents are role models, mentors, and friends to children with exceptional needs. The program provides a way for volunteers age 55 and over to stay active by serving children and youth in their communities. They are placed in a classroom setting with a child or children who are in need of emotional support, development of basic learning skills, friendship, companionship, encouragement, individual attention, and unhurried help. The program currently has 40 volunteers and serves more than 100 kids per year.

The Foster Grandparent Program is hosted by the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and supported by AmeriCorps Seniors, a federally funded agency responsible for building volunteer based programs for over 50 years and counting.



Am I Qualified to be a Foster Grandparent?

All you need to join is the ability to give the kind of comfort and love that sets a child on the path toward a successful future. If you're 55 or older and want to share your experience and compassion, you have what it takes to be a Foster Grandparent.

You'll also receive a small bi-weekly, non-taxable stipend that cannot be held against any current benefits you may already have as well as paid mileage for your travel. Additionally, you receive paid holidays, vacations, sick and personal leave.



Sometimes when you get to be my age, you wake up and say what good am I and along came the Foster Grandparent Program that keeps me going!"

Ray Foote age 83 Foster Grandparent

Want more info about how to get started?

Contact Melissa Howard, Volunteer Coordinator

PHONE:
(518)359-7688

EMAIL:
mhoward@cathcharities.org

80 Park Street, Suite 2
PO Box 701
Tupper Lake, NY 12986

Funeral Mass planned for Dcn. Daugherty

A funeral Mass for Deacon Bruce Wayne Daugherty will be celebrated by Bishop Terry LaValle on April 2 at 10 a.m. at Holy Family Church in Watertown. A reception will follow at Elks Lodge 496.

Burial in East Newark Cemetery, Newark, New York, will be at his family's convenience.

Deacon Daugherty passed away at his home, in true Irish fashion, on St. Patrick's Day March 17, 2025, at the age of 72.

Born in Hastings, Nebraska, on July 25, 1952, he was raised on his family farm, the eldest son of five children born to Roger W. and Mary Lou (Smith) Daugherty. He was a graduate of Hastings High School (Class of 1970) and briefly attended the University of Nebraska at Kearney, before joining the Army in 1972.



Deacon Bruce Wayne Daugherty

It was at Kearney where he met his future wife, love of his life, and constant companion Elizabeth (Yanaitis);

they were married at St. Joseph's Church in Penfield, New York, on January 25, 1975. Stories of their wedding reception are still talked of fondly by those who were in attendance. The couple recently celebrated their 50th anniversary.

Deacon Daugherty would go on to spend 20 years serving his country before retiring in 1992 at the rank of Sergeant First Class. During this time, he received a bachelor's degree from Columbia College and eventually

his Masters of Science Degree in Counseling from SUNY Oswego.

Bruce was a member of the American Legion and Elks Lodge 496 (Watertown). His favorite pastimes were reading at least six books at a time, old Western movies, fishing, and telling jokes and stories to everyone within earshot. The loss of his retellings will be greatly missed but will certainly not be forgotten.

Most importantly to him, and his deep faith, he was ordained a Deacon in the Catholic Church in 2003 and spent the rest of his days serving at several area churches including Holy Family (Watertown), St. Mary's (Clayton), and St. Cyril's (Alexandria Bay). Being able to serve the wonderful people of the diocese, he could often be heard singing or joining in harmony with the choir, all to share "This little light of mine."

Service to others truly was his passion, and after retiring from the military he worked as an Adult Protective worker for Jefferson County and then as a Chaplain for NYS Corrections covering the Jefferson County Hub, serving mainly Cape Vincent and Watertown. Despite his Midwest

upbringing, and time spent across the globe in the Army, he spent the last 30+ years living in Watertown and Clayton. He genuinely loved and considered the North County his home due in great part to the presence of his children and grandchildren. They were a constant source of pride, happiness, and love in his life.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; his daughter, Christin M. (Anthony) Filippelli, and son, Daniel E. (Kelly) Daugherty, both of Watertown. He cherished the nickname "Grandpa Batman" given to him by his five grandchildren, Anthony, Joseph and Ian Filippelli, and Caitlin and Brendan Daugherty. Additionally, he is survived by two sisters and their husbands, Nancy (Kurt) Hoberg, Texas, and Elizabeth (Buddy) Hoffman, Florida; a brother, Brent Daugherty of New York City; one brother-in-law Stephen Yanaitis, Watertown; and one niece and several cousins. He was predeceased by his parents and his brother, Brian Daugherty.

In lieu of flowers memorial gifts may be directed to the Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601 and designated for the Bruce W. Daugherty Memorial Scholarship Fund (to be established).

Arrangements are entrusted with Cummings Funeral Service, Inc. and online condolences to Bruce's family may be posted at www.cummingsfuneral.com.

Rachel's Vineyard
after-abortion healing retreat

May 23-25 Guggenheim
Lodge, Saranac Lake, NY

Don't suffer alone. Join the confidential weekend retreat offering a safe place to share & heal. Contact Colleen 518-524-0774 or register online at www.rcdony.org/pro-life/rv-retreat

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Environmental Stewardship

More 'greening' Lent

Our Church blesses us with three tools for working up the garden of our souls in preparation for new life at Eastertime. Earlier reflections on "greening of Lent" were focused on prayer and fasting. This week's focus is on the third spiritual tool, almsgiving.

When we hear of "almsgiving," we may think of giving money to those in need. This is one crucial way of responding to our most vulnerable sisters and brothers. We can do that in our diocese through Catholic Charities and other local charities. We know God's family extends beyond our local communities to those in places in our world where people are suffering from the ravages of war, famine, flooding and fires and the effects of environmental degradation. Catholic Relief Services, among others, is a powerful way of reaching out to them.

What if giving alms responds to "the cries of the poor" but also responds to the cries of the earth? Listening and becoming more aware of the degradation of the earth and doing even small acts can be a way of giving to the economically poor among us who are often most impacted by pollution of the air, the water and the soil.

Refrain from ordering items on-line that require packing materials that need to be disposed of and fuel for transportation. Shopping locally can reduce our negative impact on the planet. Picking up trash on the roadside and/or taking along a bag for our own trash when traveling can help keep God's garden beautiful while protecting creatures from being harmed by them. Fasting from single-use plastics this Lent, such as drinking straws and take-out containers, can be "alms" to all life on the planet.

Giving alms both through monetary donations AND stewardship practices can contribute to new life this Easter within us and all of our neighbors.

Bishop's Public Schedule

April 2 – Parish Lenten Retreat at St. John the Baptist Church in Madrid and St. Mary's Church in Waddington

10 a.m. – Funeral Mass for Deacon Bruce W. Daugherty at the Church of the Holy Family in Watertown

April 3 – 11 a.m. – Council of Priests Meeting at the Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond in Norfolk

April 4 – 6:30 p.m. – Deacon Candidates Class on Canon Law at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

April 8 – 10 a.m. – Mass Celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope at the Plattsburgh Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Plattsburgh

April 9 – 6 p.m. – Lenten Soup Supper and Presentation at St. Angela's Cafe in Malone

Rest in Peace

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

April 2 – Pope John Paul II, 2005

April 3 – Msgr. Philias Garand, 1942

April 4 – Rev. Ronald Brabant, 1963; Rev. Francis J. Beyette, 1984

April 5 – Rev. Florence McCarthy, 1901; Rev. Amedee Lacasse, M.S.C., 1941; Msgr. Francis P. Devan, 1992

April 6 – Rev. Joseph E. Berard, 1942; Msgr. Arthur M. Gilbert, 1965

April 7 – Rev. Fabien Barnabe, 1883; Rev. Francois Cing-mars, 1902; Rev. James E. Duffy, 1934

April 8 – Rev. Benjamin Grom, M.S.C., 1893; Rev. Patrick Carr, O.S.A., 1901; Deacon John R. Murray, 2024

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victim Assistance Coordinator, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com; Phone: 518-569-0612; 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

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, the methods and means by which abusers commit abuse, and the five steps to prevent abuse from occurring and stop it from continuing. To arrange for training, call 315-393-2920 or email jgrizzuto@rcdony.org

Discernment day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"The discernment is at the heart," Sister Bethany said. "What is it that gives you a sense of peace or anxiety? It will come gradually."

Sister Eamon added, "When St. Ignatius read the lives of the saints he was at peace. Other reading disturbed him."

Sister Bethany also encouraged the women to reflect on their lives.

"A life unreflected is not worth living," Sister Bethany related. "Journalling helps us to reflect on it."

Several young women shared that journalling helps them to make sense of what is happening in their lives, and they are later able to go back and look to see how God has answered their prayers, so they are consciously grateful to Him. It also helps them deal with anxiety and be intentional about what God is calling them to.

Sister Bethany also recommended the Examen prayer – an Ignatian method of prayer that encourages reflection, gratitude, self-awareness and discernment – to help us consider how God calls us each moment. She invited attendants to spend some time each day considering the questions: "What is it I am grateful for today? A grateful heart is a happy heart. Where have I found God? Where have You challenged me? Be grateful for the grace God has given you. How might you do things differently? How are you called to new life?"

Above all, Sister Bethany shared to always remain within the loving presence and grace of God and to make prayer the bookends of your day – start and end. She recommended reading daily Scriptures from the Mass. Sister Bethany gave each of the young women a holy card of Jesus knocking at the door. In the painting, there is an interesting feature missing: there is no door handle on the outside, so it can only be opened from within. "God is waiting for our response."

The young women expressed gratitude for the formation of the discernment group and their desire to see it continue. The next meeting will be in May or June.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

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APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

AI: Deepfakes and child abusers

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Law enforcement has established that preferential-type child abusers, and sometimes situational-type child abusers, almost always maintain a "collection." Those collections generally consist of pornography, child pornography (better known as child sexual abuse materials, or CSAM), and "trophies," or "souvenirs" of the sexual abuse of a child.

Abusers, while perusing their collections, will often manipulate some of the photos or images of children for their own sexual purposes. Sadly, the abuser manipulation or editing of images of children has increasingly become more problematic with the use of technology. In fact, this abuse changed dramatically in 2023/2024 with the use of artificial intelligence, or what is commonly known as "AI."

BACKGROUND

Child abusers manipulating the images of children in their collections is not a new phenomenon. One early technique was the "cut and paste" method. With scissors, the abuser would cut a child's face or particular body part from a photograph. The clipping would then be pasted onto another photograph, which created a sexually suggestive depiction.

Another image manipulation technique involved child abusers filming videos of themselves in sexually suggestive poses or during a self-sexual activity. The molesters would then edit and combine the suggestive video of themselves into a second video with children, which essentially resulted in a video depicting child sexual abuse.

Additional image manipulation techniques were developed as an unintended consequence of the Internet and social media. By way of exam-

ple, for many years, parents should be aware of the danger of posting innocent images of their children on social media. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the term "sharenting" was dubbed to describe parents who "over-share" and frequently post numerous images and videos of their children's lives and interactions online. Unfortunately, child abusers troll social media, and the Internet in general, looking for images of children to capture and modify into something lewd and pornographic.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Artificial intelligence, or AI, is technology that enables computers and machines to simulate human intelligence and problem-solving capabilities. AI can perform tasks that would otherwise require human intelligence or intervention.¹

The logic Theorist was a program funded by Research and Development (RAND) Corporation, and initially designed to mimic the problem-solving skills of a human. It is considered by many to be the first artificial intelligence program and was presented in 1956 at the Dartmouth Summer Research Project on Artificial Intelligence (DSRPAI), which was hosted by John McCarthy and Marvin Minsky. In this historic conference, McCarthy, imagining a great collaborative effort, brought together top researchers from various fields for an open-ended discussion on artificial intelligence, the term which he coined at the very event.

From 1957 to the 1980s, AI continued to grow and flourish. Computers could store larger amounts of information and became faster, cheaper and more accessible. Machine learning algorithms also improved, and people got better at knowing which algorithm to apply to their problem. Today we live in the era of "big data," an age in which we have



the capacity to collect and sift through huge quantities of information too cumbersome for a person to process. Digital assistants, GPS guidance, autonomous vehicles, and generative AI tools, like Open AI's Chat GPT, are just a few examples of the AI that is exploding in world news, business and in our daily lives.

Of course, people with inappropriate, unsafe or abusive intentions are also taking advantage of the exploding AI technology. This was seen recently in January 2024, when innocent images taken of Taylor Swift were manipulated using an AI tool into "deepfake" sexually explicit content and were then posted online and viewed over 45 million times before they were taken down. In this same way, new AI technology has become more accessible and made it easier for child abusers to create and share explicit images of children.

AI - DEEPFAKES

AND CHILD ABUSERS

A deepfake is an artificial image or video (or a series of images) generated by a special kind of machine learning called "deep" learning, hence the name, "deepfake."³ This is much different than the use of apps like Photoshop, Face swap, Snapchat, etc., some of which are designed for amusement and clearly fake. Deepfakes are far more dangerous, as the application of deep learning that is used to produce the false image creates an environment in which humans frequently can-

not discern whether the images or videos are real or fake.

Today child abusers are increasingly using publicly available AI platforms to create and then distribute deepfake CSAM, which is criminally referred to as child pornography. For instance, in May 2024, the FBI arrested a Wisconsin man for creating and distributing approximately 13,000 "hyper-realistic images of nude and semi-clothed prepubescent children," several of whom were involved in sexually explicit conduct. Evidence from the Wisconsin man's laptop allegedly showed he used a popular "Stable Diffusion" AI model, first released in 2022, which turns text descriptions into photo-realistic images. This is only one example of many.

According to a U.S. Department of Homeland Security publication, AI allows for the creation of CSAM in a variety of ways:

- Abusers can use AI to take an image of a child and make it appear as though the child is nude or is engaged in sexual acts.

- Abusers can use AI to create an image of a child being sexually abused via text prompts. Abusers can use AI to teach other abusers how to engage with children online (i.e., grooming).

- Abusers can re-victimize CSAM victims repeatedly, by using AI to edit previously created and shared CSAM to create new CSAM.

CONCLUSION

Over the years, law enforcement has repeatedly found that child abusers are on the cutting edge of technology and use that technology for the sexual exploitation of children. If you become aware of any sexually explicit images or videos, please contact the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Cyber Tipline at <https://report.cybertip.org/>. You can also contact law enforcement.

PROMISE TO PROTECT



PLEDGE TO HEAL

Dear Friends in Christ,

For over four decades, April has been designated as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. It is a time when we come together to recognize and bring awareness to the child abuse and neglect epidemic in the United States. We focus on protecting children and promoting family wellness. We also recognize the role of supportive communities in ensuring child safety. In doing so, we must acknowledge the pain caused by the clergy abuse scandal in our own diocese and must strive to assist with the healing and reconciliation process for all victim-survivors. To each victim-survivor, I offer my most heartfelt apology.

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, the good news is that we continue to make significant progress. The policies and procedures we have implemented have been effective at preventing any recurrence of abuse. We must continue to examine and revise our operations with the goal of creating a culture of safety in our parishes, Catholic schools, and other Diocesan institutions. We must remain steadfast in our commitment to safety.

The Diocese encourages all who have been harmed by Church leaders to contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator, Terrienne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, at (518) 569-0612. Dr. Yanulavich will provide the pastoral care that is necessary to guide the healing process. She can assist with the intake process as well as reporting the allegation to local authorities.

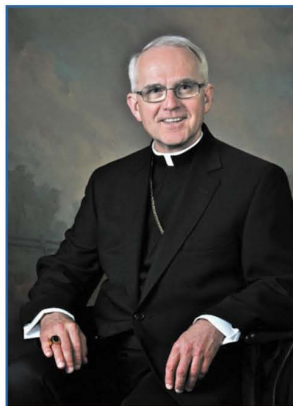
We continue to offer a comprehensive child protection policy through the Diocesan Safe Environment Office. Mr. John Morrison has headed that office since 2018 and during his tenure he has worked effectively with leaders in our parishes, Catholic schools, and other institutions to fulfill the mandates of the USCCB's *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. Later this year we anticipate that the USCCB will issue revisions to the *Charter*. Mr. Morrison will work with the Diocesan Review Board to update and revise our own policies and procedures so that those entrusted to our care are fully protected.

In June of 2024, the Diocese underwent an independent, on-site audit that spanned three days. The Diocese was found to be compliant with the requirements outlined in the *Charter*. I am grateful to all clergy, employees, and volunteers for their steadfast efforts in implementing our Safe Environment programs. Everyone has a role to play in protecting children and strengthening the communities they live in.

I ask for your prayerful support for all victim-survivors, wherever they may be on their healing journey. And may we continue to work together to ensure that every child grows up in healthy and supportive settings. Asking God to bless you abundantly, I am,

With a Shepherd's care and concern,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



**Reaffirm the gift of
Childhood.
Acknowledge the joy
of innocence.**

As the Lord watches over all of us, so too must we watch over each other. Impress upon each person the moral obligation to care for one another, to respect each other. As a parent nurtures and protects a child, we are also called to protect each other, and intervene if we observe wrong doing.



DIOCESAN STATISTICS 2023 to 2024



Roman Catholic
Diocese of Ogdensburg

- **3010** Students received Safe Environment Training in Catholic Schools and Faith Formation programs.
- **413** Background checks completed on clergy, employees and volunteers.
- **408** New clergy, employees and volunteers completed initial VIRTUS (Safe Environment) training in 54 live and online sessions.
- **251** Active clergy, employees and volunteers completed the VIRTUS (Safe Environment) monthly training bulletins and/or recertification modules.
- **0** Reported new allegations of sexual misconduct against clergy.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month



**Increase awareness,
communicate concerns,
report abuse, and save lives**

It is up to us as caring adults and parents, all of us, to identify risks, and to guide and protect the most vulnerable. Together, we can do this!

www.virtus.org

With particular focus this month, let us remember children who were not protected from abuse and reflect on ways that we can be better protectors. We are called to journey with victim-survivors as they work toward healing. Even small gestures can make a difference.

**TOGETHER,
WE CAN DO THIS!**

IF YOU SUSPECT A CHILD HAS BEEN HARMED OR IS AT RISK:

Mandated Reporters

1-800-635-1522

Non-Mandated Reporters

1-800-342-3720

IF YOU BELIEVE A CHILD IS IN IMMINENT DANGER OF ABUSE, PLEASE CALL 911

**EMERGENCY
DIAL 911**

Human Trafficking

The recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of persons by means of force, fraud, or coercion...for the purpose of exploitation.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/human-trafficking.cfm>

NATIONAL TRAFFICKING RESOURCE HOTLINE:
1-888-373-7888

REPORT ABUSE OF VULNERABLE ADULTS

Local: 518-402-6513

NYS Only

(Adult Protection Services):

844-697-3505

5 STEPS TO PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN



1. Know the Warning Signs of Adults

2. Screen and Select Employees and Volunteers

3. Monitor All Environments, including
Activities Involving Technology

4. Be Attentive to Children and Youth

5. Communicate Your Concerns

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
OR TO REGISTER FOR AN UPCOMING
VIRTUS PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN
TRAINING SESSION, PLEASE CONTACT THE
SAFE ENVIRONMENT OFFICE AT
(315) 393-2920.**

WWW.RCDONY.ORG/SAFE-ENVIRONMENT

This centerspread is provided by: **Diocese of Ogdensburg Safe Environment Office**

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Chicago Archdiocese sues over false abuse claims scheme

The Archdiocese of Chicago this week filed a lawsuit alleging a “racketeering enterprise” among a group of individuals who reportedly filed false abuse claims against a former priest to receive compensation from the Church there. The archdiocese said in a Monday statement that it had filed a lawsuit in Cook County circuit court “seeking injunctive relief and damages from participants of a wide-ranging racketeering scheme” that reportedly involved “more than a dozen” fraudulent abuse claims against disgraced former priest Daniel McCormack, who spent more than a decade in prison after pleading guilty to abusing young children. Lawyers for the diocese did not respond to requests for comment and for a copy of the lawsuit on Wednesday morning. The diocese said in its press release that some of the participants in the alleged scheme are “convicted felons and known gang members,” including allegedly one convicted murderer. The alleged fraudulent claimants are “associated by gang affiliation, friendship, or family,” the archdiocese said, with the conspirators reportedly working together to determine “what to say, how to pursue a false claim, how to embellish purported injuries, and how to reach attorneys.”

Indianapolis Archdiocese: Discolored host ‘not miraculous’

Following an investigation into a possible Eucharistic miracle at a local parish, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis announced Monday that scientific analysis indicated that the cause was natural, not miraculous. Last month, a post on X drew attention to what the post called a “potential’ Eucharistic miracle” after a parish in southern Indiana discovered a host with red spots on it, which the parish sacristan thought could be blood. The Archdiocese of Indianapolis said in a statement shared with CNA that laboratory analysis of common bacteria had caused the discoloration. “A biochemical analysis of a host from St. Anthony Catholic Church in Morris, Indiana, that was displaying red discoloration revealed the presence of a common bacteria found on all humans,” the statement read. “No presence of human blood was discovered.” The host had fallen and was later discovered with red spots, and biochemical analysis found that the discoloration was due to common bacteria and fungus. “The host had fallen out of a Mass kit used at the parish, and when it was discovered, red spots were present,” the archdiocese stated. “Following policy established by the Holy See, the host was submitted for professional, biochemical analysis at a local laboratory. The results indicate the presence of fungus and three different species of bacteria, all of which are commonly found on human hands.”

Pro-life groups praise plan to cut funding for Planned Parenthood

By Tyler Arnold
Catholic News Agency

Several pro-life organizations are praising President Donald Trump’s administration for plans to freeze tens of millions of dollars in federal taxpayer money that was intended in part for the country’s largest abortion supplier, Planned Parenthood.

Officials are mulling an immediate freeze of \$27.5 million from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Title X Family Planning Services Program for Planned Parenthood and other organizations that are yet to be named.

Congress allocated more than \$286 million for funding of the Title X program for the current fiscal year. The expected freeze would block about \$20 million that was expected to support Planned Parenthood affiliates, according to a Tuesday report from the Wall Street Journal.

Federal law prohibits direct federal taxpayer funding for most abortions but allows funds for abortion clinics if the money is spent on other services.

This move would not end all of the federal taxpayer money Planned Parenthood receives. The organization and its affiliates get hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayer funding annually.

Planned Parenthood received more than \$1.75 billion in federal tax money from a variety of sources between 2019 and 2021, according to a 2023 Government Accountability Office report.

Pro-life groups signal support

The news prompted positive feedback from several pro-life organizations.

Kristan Hawkins, the president of Students for Life Action, told CNA the move is a “great step forward in defunding Planned Parenthood.

“Rather than helping people with families, Planned Parenthood sells never having one and abuses Title X funds to market their real product — abortion,” Hawkins said. “... The Pro-Life Generation supports every

effort that tells Planned Parenthood to go fund themselves.”

Joseph Meaney, a senior fellow at the National Catholic Bioethics Center, told CNA that the report is “wonderful news” and said it is “scandalous that Planned Parenthood managed to obtain hundreds of millions of dollars in government funding annually for many years.”

“That organization has from its inception trampled on the human dignity of its ‘clients’ and violated the natural moral law regarding sexual morality and the right to life,” Meaney added.

Carol Tobias, the president of National Right to Life, told CNA the group is “extremely grateful” that the administration plans to cut funding for an organization that performs hundreds of thousands of abortions annually.

“Americans do not want their money being used to end the lives of innocent preborn children,” she said.

“We are also very encouraged that the president has said he will look into Planned Parenthood as an alleged supplier of aborted baby parts,” Tobias said. “Abortion is gruesome and the government should not be using taxpayer funds to prop up a business involved in performing abortions and promoting the deaths of preborn babies.”

Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America published a series of posts on X praising the plan, saying that “abortion is not family planning” and criticizing the standards of care at Planned Parenthood facilities.

Planned Parenthood Federation of America did not respond to a request for comment from CNA. However, the organization’s president, Alexis McGill, told the Journal that this plan is allegedly part of an effort to shut down its abortion clinics.

“The Trump-Vance-Musk administration wants to shut down Planned Parenthood health centers by any means necessary, and they’ll end people’s access to birth control, cancer screenings, STI testing and treatment, and more to do it,” McGill claimed.



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ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR

Ticonderoga – St. Mary's Church will be holding a Eucharistic Holy Hour for Vocations.

Date: April 3

Time: 5 p.m.

Features: St. Mary's Church has been designated as a pilgrimage location for the Jubilee Year of 2025. All are welcome to attend this Holy Hour and visit our church as a Pilgrim of Hope.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

FISH FRY

Plattsburgh – Holy Cross to have Fish Fries during Lent.

Date: Fridays, starting March 7

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30

Place: Holy Cross Parish Center

Cost: \$15 dine in

Menu: Haddock, fries, mac & cheese, coleslaw, roll with butter, beverage & dessert.

Contact: For more information call the parish office at 518-563-0730

LENTEN FISH FRIES

AuSable Forks – Come join the Au Sable Forks Knights for the best fried fish in the North Country.

Date: April 4

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30

Place: Holy Name Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$15, Children under 12, \$10

Features: Take-outs Available.

PANCAKE PLUS

Peru - Peru Knights of Columbus will serve a "Pancakes Plus" Breakfast.

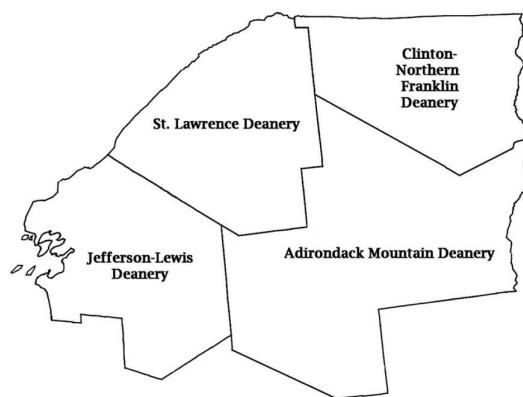
Date: April 6

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 5 to 11, \$5; under 5, Free; Take-outs, \$10

Menu: Pancakes, Waffles, French Toast, Fruit Sauce, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Bacon, Home Fries, Real Maple Syrup, Coffee, Orange Juice, and Milk.



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.

SPRING STUDY SERIES

Ellenburg Center – Join Our Lady of the Adirondacks for 9 sessions using Fr. Michael Gaitley's Guidebook "Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told"

Date: April 25 to May 16 and resuming May 30 to June 27

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8

Features: Video presentations of the material and discussion encourage participants to enter a fuller understanding of God's astounding love and forgiveness available to every person. What hope and joy this brings, allowing us to trust our God absolutely in all circumstances and to become merciful ourselves in response to difficult challenges. Light refreshments included. While donations are always appreciated, all materials for this series are free.

Contact: Sarah Anderson at 518-534-9976 to register for classes.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Plattsburgh – Heartwell Homestead's 2nd Annual Golf Tournament to be held.

Date: Aug. 22

Place: The Barracks Golf Course

Contact: For more information and details go to <https://www.HeartWellHomestead.org>

SAVE THE DATE

Plattsburgh – Eastern Region Commissioned Lay Minsters are invited to celebrate with Bishop Terry LaValley a 2025 Year of Hope Pilgrimage.

Place: St. Peter's Church

Date: Sept. 14

Time: 2 p.m.

Contact: For more information call 518-563-0730 or e-mail PlattsburghSEC@rcdony.org

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

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: April 6

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

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

Date: April 12, May 3

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

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: April 13

Time: 8 a.m. to noon

Place: St. James Community Room

Cost: Adults, \$10; Seniors, \$8; Children under 10, \$5; Family of 4, \$30

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

Contact: For more information call 315-493-3224

PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Clayton – All are invited to come to St. Mary's Church for Exposition, Adoration, Morning Prayer, and the Rosary. Opportunity for Confession is also available.

Date: Each Saturday through April 12

Time: 10 a.m.

Features: In addition to our own intentions, we will pray for Seminarian Tyler Fitzgerald who will be ordained to the Diaconate this May.

Contact: For more information contact the parish office at 315-686-3398.

SSJ LENTEN RETREAT

Watertown – Register now for the annual Sisters of St. Joseph Lenten Retreat.

Date: April 13

Time: 2 p.m. to 4

Place: St. Anthony's Church

Features: Join us for an afternoon of prayer as we reflect on our call to be "Witnesses of Hope" Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ, Diocesan Director of Catholic Education. There will also be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, time for personal prayer, and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Contact: register by emailing Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, smelyngssj@yahoo.com or Sister Bethany Fitzgerald srbethssj@gmail.com.

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Watertown – 9 Day Novena to begin Good Friday by praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Date: April 18

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Patrick's Church

Features: Brief background of Divine Mercy Sunday and then the praying of the Chaplet in the church. The Chaplet is prayed everyday at home for the following 8 days until the Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration on April 27.

Contact: For more information call Judy Boulton 315-783-7349 or Kim Tyler at 315-486-4542 www.thedivinemercy.org

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Houseville – The Feast of the Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated with celebrants Fr. Douglas Decker and Fr. John Ojuok as homilist.

Date: April 27

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Schedule: The Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament will take place at 2 p.m., followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 3 p.m. Adoration will continue at 3 p.m., followed by the Homily, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction, the Blessing of Holy Cards and Petitions, and Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image. The program concludes with a reception in the church hall.

Contact: Call 315-348-6260 for more information.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Watertown – Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated.

Date: April 27

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Patrick's Church

Features: According to the Divine Mercy message from Jesus to Saint Faustina, to fittingly observe the Feast, always be merciful to others, go to confession during Lent and receive communion on the Feast of Mercy. Publicly celebrate the Feast of Mercy. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, singing of the

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Chaplet of Divine Mercy, brief confessions, and a procession. Please note that the celebration is not a mass.

Contact: For more info on how to prepare call Judy Boulton 315-783-7349 or Kim Tyler 315-486-4542 www.thedivine-mercy.org

LIVING STONES EVENT FOR CLM

Watertown — The Commissioned Lay Ministry Association of the Jefferson-Lewis Deanery presents Living Stones: "Jubilee Year-Rediscover Hope".

Date: May 8

Schedule: Welcoming remarks, 5:15 p.m.; Mass at 5:30, dinner immediately following and concluding with the program.

Cost: \$10 per person if attending dinner, no charge if only coming to the program.

Features: The program will be led by Fr. Garry Giroux with his presentation "As we await the Blessed Hope".

Contact: Register at: www.rcdony.org/clm-event

ST. LAWRENCE

FISH FRY

Gouverneur — Every Friday during Lent St. James School will have a Fish Fry.

Date: Every Friday through Lent.

Time: 4:30 p.m. until gone

Cost: \$15, Eat in or take -out

Features: Dinner includes fried fish, choice of macaroni and cheese or french fries, cole slaw, dinner roll, beverage and your choice of dessert.

Contact: Gouverneur area delivery available. Call 315-287-0130

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

Ogdensburg — The Legion of Mary will pray the rosary with devotions for First Saturday.

Date: April 5

Time: 8 a.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

Features: Rosary with devotions

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

Massena — Sacred Heart Church to have first Saturday Rosary Devotion.

Date: April 5

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Features: First Saturday Rosary Devotion to OUR Lady of Fatima. Confessions will be available. Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Massena — First Saturday of the month, men's prayer group to meet for Mass and Adoration.

Date: April 5

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

MONTHLY BRUNCH

Norfolk — Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond's will have their monthly Knights of Columbus Brunch.

Date: April 13 (Second Sunday of each month)

Time: 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: Father Amyot Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$10; under 12, \$5; under 5, Free; Omelets, add \$3; Take-outs available

Contact: For more information contact Grand Knight Gil Gonthier 315-212-5166.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

ENGAGING FAMILIES

Massena — Spring LEAD event to be held for Parishioners already engaged in or who would like to be trained in how to engage families, how to engage in adult faith formation and the OCIA process.

Date: April 5

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

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Contact: Register at www.rcdony.org/leadevent. For more information contact Cathy Russell at 315-393-2920 or crussell@rcdony.org

CHRISM MASS

Ogdensburg — Join Bishop LaValley in the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils, and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism

for use in all the churches of our Diocese.

Date: April 10

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: This ritual symbolizes that we are one family in Christ. All are welcome to attend. Those unable to participate in person may view the Mass via livestream at <https://www.rcdony.org/livemass>.

JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE EVENT

Lake Placid — "The Eucharist is my highway to heaven." In honor of Carlo Acutis, the soon-to-be canonized teenager of Italy, the Diocese of Ogdensburg is hosting a day of Miracles, Prayer, and Hope.

Date: April 26

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

Place: St. Agnes Church and School

Features: Pray with our Eucharistic Lord alongside Catholics from around our diocese, explore an exhibit of Eucharistic miracles, and join Bishop LaValley for a Holy Hour of Hope, including a procession with Jesus among the faithful and consecration of the Diocese of Ogdensburg to the Eucharist. There will also be opportunities for attending Holy Mass, inspiring talks, all day Adoration and Confession. This event is for whole families.

Contact: The event schedule, prayer resources, bulletin blurbs, and more information may be found on the Jubilee page of the Diocesan website at <https://www.rcdony.org/jubilee2h>.

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

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

Date: 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

CLM RETREAT

Ogdensburg — All Commissioned Lay Ministers and Candidates are invited to register for the CLM retreat.

Date: May 2-4

Place: Wadhams Hall

Cost: Single, \$240 pp; Double, \$190 pp; Suite (double bed), \$220 pp; Suite, \$340 pp; Commuter, \$100. All costs include all meals.

Speaker: Father Leagon Carlin

Contact: Register at www.rcdony.org/ffmretreat

LIFE-GIVING WOUNDS RETREAT

Utica — Healing retreat for adult children of divorce or separation.

Date: May 16-18

Place: Good News Center

Cost: \$100-\$150 per person (shared or single rooms) Scholarships are available.

Features: Come for a greater understanding of the wounds left by your parents' divorce or separation, for advice concerning love and trust of others, and for an experience of Christ and community that will lead to deeper self-understanding and healing. The retreat is cosponsored by the Dioceses of Ogdensburg and Syracuse.

Contact: To register, please go to <https://LGWsy.eventbrite.com>. If you have any questions, please direct them to Erin Miller at emiller@syrodio.org or 315-472-6754 opt. 1 or Steve Tartaglia at startaglia@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Saranac Lake — After-Abortion Healing retreat to be held.

Date: May 23-25

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Features: If you are suffering after an abortion, you're not alone. Join others on a weekend retreat of hope and healing.

Contact: For more information call Colleen 518-524-0774, email cminer@rcdony.org or register online: rcdony.org/pro-life/rv-re-treat

CAMP GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake — Camp Guggenheim registration is now open.

Dates: Session 1 - (11-14 yrs old) - July 6 to July 11; Session 2 - (12-15 yrs old) - July 13 to July 18; Session 3 - (12-15 yrs old) - July 20 to July 25; Session 4 - (12-15 yrs old) - July 27 to Aug. 1; Session 5 - (16-18 yrs old) - Aug. 3 to Aug. 8

Cost: \$425, scholarships are available

Features: Don't miss this opportunity to grow in your faith while enjoying a full camp experience in beautiful Saranac Lake!

Contact: To register go to: www.rcdony.org/youth/camp To inquire about financial aid please email Jeannie Grizzuto at jgrizzuto@rcdony.org

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake — Registration for Family Guggenheim is now open.

Date: Session 1: Aug. 14-17; Session 2: Aug. 21-24; Session 3: Oct. 10-12

Features: Family Guggenheim welcomes families to come enjoy a special weekend in the beauty of the Adirondacks. Expect fun family workshops and activities that will have you working and laughing together. Celebrate Christ's presence in your lives through liturgy and special prayer services. Take time for great outdoor activities like paddle boat rides, beach volleyball, and hiking. You are never too young or too old to enjoy being family at Camp Guggenheim!

Contact: Registration is open now at <https://www.rcdony.org/fg> Financial assistance is available. For more information, contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org.

How the Filet-o-Fish became a Lent tradition

By Daniel Payne
Catholic News Agency

Few people associate McDonald's with the season of Lent, but the fast-food chain has played a small but iconic role in Lenten history — at least in the United States.

Known primarily for its burgers and chicken nuggets, the restaurant's "Filet-o-Fish" sandwich is also a classic mainstay on its menu — and it first arose in the early 1960s as a way to boost sales on Lenten Fridays.

According to the company, Lou Groen, an early franchisee based in Cincinnati, ran a McDonald's in a heavily Catholic neighborhood and observed a decrease in sales at his Mc-

Donald's restaurant on Fridays during Lent. He proposed to founder Ray Kroc that he allow the restaurant to begin selling fish sandwiches, as a way to draw in observant Catholics on Fridays.

Kroc was dubious about adding fish to the menu. Groen would later claim that Kroc told him: "I don't want my stores stunk up with the smell of fish!"

He and Groen decided to run a test: They'd sell Groen's fish sandwich on a Friday alongside what Kroc dubbed the "Hula Burger" — a meatless sandwich consisting of grilled pineapple with a slice of cheese on top.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the Filet-o-Fish won out. In fact, it won massively: In its corporate

history McDonald's says the fish sandwich sold 350 orders, while only six customers purchased a "Hula Burger."

A few years later, the fish sandwich was the first new dish officially added to the original McDonald's menu.

The company says it has since become a "popular menu item." At one point McDonald's even advertised the sandwich with an anthropomorphic, sharply dressed piece of cod known as "Phil A. O'Fish."

The sandwich remains an indelible part of American fast food culture, though it appears to have fallen somewhat out of favor in recent years: AllRecipes earlier this year polled a group of chefs about the "best fast-

food fish sandwich," and the Filet-o-Fish ranked 10 out of 11. Earlier this month, meanwhile, Taste of Home ranked the Filet-o-Fish at the bottom of its list of fast-food fishwiches.

Still, due to its legendary roots, the Filet-o-Fish's place in both fast-food and Catholic history is assured. Kroc himself must have been aware of its looming historicity in the early 1960s: McDonald's says that he was so sure of the success of his Hula Burger that he "made a side bet with his first grillman Fred Turner that the loser would buy the winner a new suit."

"Fred got a new suit," company historian Mike Bullington said, "and McDonald's got the Filet-O-Fish."

Students restore St. Peter's Basilica in Minecraft

By Courtney Mares
Catholic News Agency

Minecraft, the popular video game known for its blocky, pixelated graphics, has launched a new educational edition that challenges students to explore and restore St. Peter's Basilica.

Michelangelo's dome, Gian Lorenzo Bernini's colonnade, and the ancient tomb of the Apostle Peter have been recreated within Minecraft's iconic digital world of 3D cubes and retro gaming aesthetic.

Microsoft and the Vatican unveiled the game, "Peter Is Here: AI for Cultural Heritage," at a press event in Rome on March 18. The project is the latest step in their collaboration on an AI-enhanced experience of St. Peter's Basilica.

Cardinal Mauro Gambetti, the archpriest of St. Peter's Basilica, placed the educational video game under the patronage of St. Joseph, who was "the educator par excellence of the child of God."

"Those who play with

St. Peter's Basilica in Minecraft Education have the opportunity to try their hand at creative architectural interventions, to discover the history of the basilica, to restore it, and to enter into the hidden meanings that it holds," the cardinal said.

Designed for students aged 8-18, the game allows players to take on roles of skilled craftsmen and restoration workers responsible for maintaining St. Peter's Basilica. By completing restoration tasks, they earn golden papal key tokens while learning about the basilica's history, art, and architecture.

Eleven-year-old Michael Sterpi was one of the lucky students selected to test out the game.

"I play Minecraft on Xbox and PC at home," Sterpi told CNA. "This game is like really, really, cool. With each block, they made the whole Vatican!"

Sterpi, who has been studying the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis in school, said he thinks that Carlo "would love this game."

Yet, the student from

Rome's Jesuit-run Massimiliano Massimo Institute was quick to point out that nothing can replace seeing St. Peter's Basilica in person.

"The real thing is much better, obviously," he said.

The new Vatican edition is part of Microsoft's larger effort to bring cultural and religious history to life through digital learning in Minecraft Education.

"Introducing complex topics to students in an immersive 3D virtual world makes challenging concepts easier to understand," Allison Matthews, head of Minecraft Education at Microsoft, said at the game's Rome premiere.

"We've created a lot of classroom-ready resources that educators can download to make it very easy," she added.

Minecraft Education also features other religious and cultural sites, such as Syria's Monastery of St. Elian — an ancient Christian church destroyed by the Islamic State — available in the UNESCO's History Blocks

edition of the game. A different edition lets students explore the monuments of ancient Rome.

The game's launch comes at a time when video games are often viewed with skepticism, especially in educational settings.

Mauro Antonelli, the head of Italy's technical secretariat for the Ministry of Education and Merit, acknowledged a need to "counter gaming addiction" among young people today but called the initiative an example of how technology can serve educational purposes.

"It is really a paradigm shift — gaming is often seen with a negative connotation," he said.

The Vatican's involvement reflects a growing interest in artificial intelligence, social media, and digital tools that engage younger generations.

In April, the Catholic Church is expected to canonize Carlo Acutis, a 15-year-old who loved video games, as the first computer-coding saint during a worldwide gathering of teenagers at the

Vatican.

Franciscan Father Enzo Fortunato, the director of communications for St. Peter's Basilica, also suggested that the Minecraft game could become the official game of the Vatican's next World Children's Day event in September 2026.

"Peter Is Here" is available in the Minecraft Education lesson library for all licensed users. A trial version can be downloaded for free by logging in with an Office 365 or Microsoft 365 Education account.

The game offers two distinct modes. In "Restoration Mode," players work on key sections of the basilica, including restoring the Vatican Obelisk, exploring St. Peter's Tomb, reinforcing the colonnade, and repairing Bernini's baldacchino.



SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

He came to free us

Shame, disgrace, confusion, anger, indignation, fear, pity and remorse express only some of the feelings that may have been pulsating through the woman in today's Gospel who was caught in the act of adultery. In our current way of thinking, we might ask why no one is representing her and why wasn't the man also publicly humiliated. But none of that matters.

Jesus offers the only answer: "Let the one among you who has no sin be the first to cast a stone at her." But, before saying those famous words, Jesus bent down and wrote in the sand. When pressed again about how he would dispose of her case, Jesus speaks those words and bends down again and continues writing.

On hearing this sto-

ry, we get caught up in wondering what Jesus wrote. As people have done for years, we can speculate. Some say he wrote the sins of the accusers in the sand; some say he was just doodling as a child would when he doesn't want to answer a question. What he wrote does not matter. His compassion for the woman is the real game changer.

Clearly, this woman made bad life choices. Sin imprisoned her. When we say the word imprisoned, we think of a jail. But we can imprison ourselves in many ways. Life choices and belief systems can imprison us, can trap us. For example, if we are cynical, we see life through a lens of cynicism. If we are proud, we see ourselves as better while others are inferior. If we are cheats, we are

April 6

Fifth Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Isaiah 43:16-21

Philippians 3:8-14

John 8:1-11

always looking for ways to best someone else. If we are lustful, our eyes wander looking for our next conquest. If we are envious, we are always checking out what others have and formulating plans to have what they do. Many other shackles can imprison and confine us.

Read closely to the words of Isaiah in the first reading: "do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing... do you not perceive it?"

That is exactly what Christ came to do: to free us. That's exactly what Jesus did for the adulterous woman. He freed her from her shackles.

It would be great if we could imitate the adulterous woman. I do not suggest that we sin as she did. I do suggest that we would improve our lives if, as she did, we could recognize the wrong we have done and decide to reform. Likewise, it would be great if, as she did, we seek God's forgiveness, in other words, approach the sacrament of reconciliation.

Confession makes some people uneasy. We easily forgive ourselves or excuse ourselves. In fact, we expertly forgive or excuse ourselves. In making an excuse, we do not admit any sin or error on our part. In forgiving ourselves, we play God. Forgiving ourselves and making excuses ultimately lead to unhappiness.

Secondly, we quickly say "I live a pretty good life, at least I don't do this, that or the other thing as so and so does." True, but in looking at sin

and our reactions to sin, the issue is what we do wrong, not what someone else does wrong. Like the adulterous woman, we need to admit our shortcomings, our sins, our failures. In doing so, we don't have to beat ourselves over the head. Rather, an honest admission of our weaknesses and a heartfelt desire for forgiveness will go a long way in helping us achieve our goals.

The saints were in close touch with the reality and beauty of the sacrament of reconciliation. St. Augustine is quoted as saying: "The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works."

Perhaps, the great orator Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen expressed it best when he said: "Far better to say, 'I am a sinner' than to say, 'I have no need of God or religion.' The empty can be filled, but the self-intoxicated have no room for God."

CALLLED TO SERVE

Have you been living in a cave?

"They were in a dark place at the start of the season."

So said Joe Calipari, coach of the Arkansas basketball team in a post-game interview during March Madness. Calipari's Razorbacks had just defeated St. John's of New York to advance to the Sweet 16.

Those of you who care little about basketball, stay with me.

The sideline interviewer did not follow-up on the "dark place" line. The meaning was left to the imagination of the viewer.

I suspect he was talking about his team members caring about their per-

sonal accomplishments on the basketball court and not the team's. Calipari said he had to debunk his players of their egos and start thinking like a team.

From a sports perspective, I bought what Joe said, even though his team beat my favorite team in the tournament.

What if "dark place" meant something different? My mind likes to play this game from time to time.

What if he was referring to the personal, spiritual growth of his players? What if they were in a "dark place" because they had not found direction, found hope for

their lives? What if they had not yet found Jesus?

A few days later I was part of an adult faith formation class that was headlined Ongoing Formation. This was an episode in the Living Faith series hosted by Franciscan Father Columba Jordan from FORMED.org.

Father Jordan talked about you and me becoming guilty of "passive consumerism." He contends too many of us are willing to attend Mass each week, or occasionally, and get some religion. We are content

to believe we know Jesus because we heard a homily or two.

"We need to let our head catch up with our heart," he says. "We need to engage in that adventure of knowing" Jesus.

A number of suggestions follow. Father Jordan suggests reading all the prayers of the Mass, some of them change from day to day, as a way we can participate more fully. Reading a chapter each day, or night, from the Bible will help us to become acquainted with Jesus.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

We can take advantage of the Bible studies and series offered by our parishes to expand our minds and learn more about the Church and about God.

"You are the primary person in your faith formation," Father Jordan says. We should take advantage of the variety of opportunities offered by our parish and various electronic sources.

You may be in one of those "dark places" in your life. Turn to Jesus for his light.

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



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
info@rcdony.org

Lent & Ramadan

The fact that in 2025 the Christian Lent and the Muslim Ramadan coincide was seen as an opportune moment to promote dialogue and exchange. The goal is to reconnect with oneself and recognize the value of one's fellow human beings, every person one knows, regardless of their faith, culture or language. This also happened at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Hyderabad, a Catholic healthcare facility known for its leadership and excellence in the Pakistani province of Sindh.

To fully experience Lent and Ramadan, the Catholic and Muslim staff of the hospital and students of the adjacent Midwifery school have decided to meet every Friday for a shared time of reflection and to celebrate the moment of breaking the fast together. In the dining room of the dormitory of the St. Elizabeth Midwifery School, Catholics and Muslims on duty meet to share a modest meal of rice and vegetables, dates and fruit.

"It is much more than just a shared dinner. Experiencing these moments together, each in their own faith, is an initiative that strengthens the human, spiritual, and professional bonds between people. In this way, the hospital becomes a place of work and service to humanity, where dialogue is practiced, mutual respect is deepened, and the deep motivations of one's faith are sought in order to fully live the mission one fulfills," Father Robert McCulloch, an Australian missionary of the Missionary Society of St. Columban and a member of the hospital's board of directors, told Fides.

In a Catholic institution inspired by the values and principles of faith and service, Catholic employees fast every year during Lent and participate in the Stations of the Cross. Given the increasing presence of doctors, nurses and staff of the Muslim faith at the hospital, they now wanted to share this experience with other faithful. "It is an extraordinary testimony of faith and openness to others. St. Elizabeth's Hospital and its Catholic and Muslim staff are thus at the forefront of manifesting and promoting religious harmony in Hyderabad," said Father McCulloch.

Work continues at the hospital on the construction of the "St. Elizabeth Palliative Care Day Centre," a special unit that will provide palliative care for cancer and terminally ill patients. Such care is already offered free of charge by the hospital through a home service in the region and will soon be available within the hospital as well. The new inpatient center for such patients will be the first in all of Pakistan. Article from FIDES missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

*Please remember the Pontifical Mission Societies
of the Diocese of Ogdensburg INC. when
writing or changing your will.*

OBITUARIES

Black River – Francis (Miller) Danks, 92; Private burial in Black River Cemetery.

Carthage – Betty Jean (Cowles) Matice, 75; Memorial Services March 21, 2025 at the Lundy Funeral Home.

Chasm Falls – Joan M. Hutchinson, 90; Mass of Christian Burial May 23, 2025 at St. Helen's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Malone.

Gouverneur – Theresa (Gebo) Tracy, 91; Graveside Services March 25, 2025 at Maple Grove Cemetery, Richville.

DeKalb Junction – Elaine J. (Barr) Brunet, 93; Graveside services July 12, 2025 at St. Henry's Cemetery.

Massena – Patricia L. (Munson) Jandrew, 67; Funeral Services March 28, 2025 at Donaldson Funeral Home.

Massena – Florence M. (Girard) McLean, 95; Mass of Christian Burial March 29, 2025 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Marilyn E. (Jackson) Tarbell, 84; Funeral Services March 28, 2025 at Donaldson Funeral Home.

Mooers – Ronald L. Trombley, Sr., 92; Funeral Services April 1, 2025 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Rouses Point.

Newcomb – Luc J. Poulin, 75; Mass of Christian Burial March 27, 2025 at St. Therese Church; burial in St. Therese Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Bonita "Bonnie" Anne (Winter) Wright, 71; Mass of Christian Burial March 29, 2025 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Peru – Bernadette Theresa (Light) Dalton, 98; Mass of Christian Burial March 25, 2025 at St. Augustine's Church.

Peru – Barbara J. (Giguere) Martin, 77; Mass of Christian Burial March 28, 2025 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Doris M. (LaTour) Duso, 88; Funeral Services March 25, 2025 at Brown Funeral Home.

Port Leyden – Benjamin Charles Platt, 68; Mass of Christian Burial March 29, 2025 at St. Martin's Church.

Rouses Point – Aline (Bechard) Bedard, 89; Mass of Christian Burial March 27, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Champlain.

Saranac Lake – Cheryl "Cheri" A. Rommel, 63; Funeral Services March 30, 2025 at Fortune-Kough Funeral home.

Watertown – Carol J. (LaDuke) Dulmage, 90; Mass of Christian Burial March 24, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Timothy John Keegan, 74; Mass of Christian Burial March 29, 2025 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Vincent N. Marzano, 56; Mass of Christian Burial April 1, 2025 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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**United States Bankruptcy Court
for the District of Vermont
In re Roman Catholic Diocese
of Burlington, Vermont, Case No. 24-10205-HZC**

**Claims Notice for Survivors of Sexual Abuse and Others
With Claims Against the Roman Catholic Diocese of
Burlington, Vermont**

If you were sexually abused by any person connected with the Diocese, a Catholic parish, or Catholic school within the geographic area of the Diocese, or have any claim against the Diocese, you must file a claim by **April 4, 2025**.

For more diocesan information: visit vermontcatholic.org

For the bankruptcy docket: visit
<https://case.stretto.com/diocesefburlington>

For U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Vermont
information: visit vtb.uscourts.gov

For advice about your rights: contact an attorney



Adoration in the Diocese of Ogdensburg

The following is a list of Adoration hours and sites across the Diocese of Ogdensburg. If your parish offers Eucharistic Adoration or if this information is incorrect email news@rcdony.org

Holy Angels Church, Altona

After 8 a.m. Mass
Dedicated to Vocations and the church

St. Patrick's Church, Brasher Falls

Wed. & Fri. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

St. Mary's Church, Canton

Tues. 4:10 p.m. to 5:10
Fri. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ending with Divine Mercy Chaplet

St. Vincent of Paul, Cape Vincent

First Friday of the month

St. James Church, Carthage

Wed., 3 p.m. to 6
Thurs., 10 a.m. to 11
First Friday, 10:15 a.m. to
7 a.m. Saturday morning

St. Patrick's Church, Chateaugay

Wed. 5 p.m. to 6, Adoration
First Friday 8:30 a.m., Communion
Service followed by Adoration for
Vocations

All Saints Church, Chaumont

First Thursday of the month 3 p.m.

Sacred Heart Church, Chazy

At various times as needed, please
contact parish 518-846-7650 for more
information

St. Mary's Church, Clayton

First Fridays after 9 a.m. Mass

St. Francis of Assisi, Constable

Second Friday of the Month, 5 p.m. to 6

St. Mary's Church, Constableville

First Fridays 6 p.m.

St. Stephen's Church, Croghan

First Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 including
prayer for Vocations

St. Joseph's Church, Dannemora

Wed. & Fri. 11 a.m. before noon Mass

St. Elizabeth's Church, Elizabethtown

Summer 9 a.m. to 10
Winter 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

St. Edmund's Church, Ellenburg

Monday after 5:30 p.m. Mass

St. Mary's of the Fort, Fort Covington

Tues. 5 p.m. to 6, Sat. 9 a.m. to 10
except when it's a First Saturday

St. Hedwig's Church, Houseville

First Sunday following 11 a.m. Mass

Immaculate Conception, Keeseville

Sun, 1 p.m. to 4

St. Agnes Church, Lake Placid

Tues 1 p.m. to 5:30,
Vocations Emphasized

St. Peter's Church, Lowville

First Friday of the month with
intention to Vocations

St. Bernard's Church, Lyon Mountain

First Friday of the month after 9 a.m. Mass

St. Peter's Parish, Massena

Held at Sacred Heart Church
Thursday 12:45 p.m. to 1:45
First Friday 2 p.m. to 6

St. Ann's Church, Mooers Forks

after 8 a.m. Mass
Dedicated to Vocations and the church

St. Augustine Church, North Bangor

Thurs. 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

St. Andrew's Church, Norwood

Fri after 8:30 a.m. Mass until noon

St. Mary's Cathedral Parish, Ogdensburg

Entryway for the Deacon Winter Chapel
Thurs. before First Friday from 7 p.m. to 8
Adoration each Wed. 3 p.m. to 6 and
Fri. 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

St. John's Church, Plattsburgh

Holy Family Basement
Wed., Thurs., Fri., 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

St. Martin's Church, Port Leyden

Rectory Chapel
Wed. Mornings after Mass for 30 minutes

St. Mary's Church, Potsdam

Tues. 12:45 p.m. to 4:30
First Friday 8:30 a.m. to 9:30

Church of the Assumption, Redford

Tues. & Thurs. 11 a.m. before noon Mass

St. Ann's Church, St. Regis Falls

First Saturday, following 4:30 anticipated
Mass

St. Andrews Church, Sackets Harbor

Fri. 3:30 p.m. to 4:30

St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus

Parish, Tupper Lake

Monday 7 p.m. to 8

Holy Family Church, Watertown

Monday's following noon Mass

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, Watertown

1 hour prior to Mass, First Friday of the
Month

St. Anthony's Church, Watertown

First Sunday of the Month 2 p.m. to 3

St. Patrick's Church, Watertown

Every Thurs. after Noon Mass until 7 p.m.

St. Ann's Church, Wells

Half an hour after Sunday Mass every
Third Sunday of the month.

St. Philip Neri Church, Westport

Half Hour every other Fri. (before Mass
Winter/after Mass Summer)

St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro

Full Holy Hour on First Fridays (before
Mass Winter/after Mass Summer)

Cardinal Dolan explains why we genuflect

By Walter Sánchez Silva
Catholic News Agency

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the archbishop of New York, explained one of the expressions of reverence Catholics make in church — genuflection — and why they make this sign.

In a video posted on X, the cardinal commented that this past St. Patrick's Day, March 17, a woman who stopped to talk to him after Mass told him that, although she is not Catholic, she loves the Church and enjoys attending Mass but doesn't understand the various postures people take. The cardinal then decided to explain them to his viewers, beginning with genuflection.

"Here's the first posture that we Catholics always do. When we come into church, we look for the tabernacle, where the real presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is reposed, and we genuflect!" the archbishop of New York explained.

"We go down on one knee. We genuflect. Why? That's the ancient sign of adoration, the ancient sign of esteem, the ancient sign of worship," he continued.

The cardinal pointed out that "when you hear the name of Jesus, every knee on earth and in heaven should bend, as St. Paul taught. That's genuflection — we do it to Jesus, really and truly present in the most Blessed Sacrament."

"I'm afraid that beautiful tradition of genuflection to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament may have faded a little," that cardinal noted. "We can't let that happen; it's a great act of devotion."

In conclusion, Dolan recalled that "St. Thomas Aquinas said: 'You know what? Satan doesn't have knees because he genuflects to no one.' Well we do. We genuflect to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament."

No. 274 of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal specifies "a genuflection, made by bending the right knee to the ground, signifies adoration, and therefore it is reserved for the most Blessed Sacrament, as well as for the holy cross" on Good Friday.

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