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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 80 Number 43

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 11, 2026

YouTube, revival preacher to speak at event

Father Jonathan Meyer, national preacher of the Eucharistic Revival and YouTube content creator, will be the keynote speaker for the Highway to Heaven 2026 event to be held May 16 at Sacred Heart Church in Massena.

At Highway to Heaven, Father Meyer will discuss the 14 Stations of the Eucharist, a devotion he helped develop. The event also includes an exhibit on the Shroud of Turin, musician Sarah Kroger and Mass with Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

CATHOLIC SCHOOL SPIRIT



Students at Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown celebrate Relay Race/Spirit Day as part of the school's Catholic Schools Week celebrations. Read the story on Page 6.

REMEMBERING MSGR. MCAVOY



Msgr. C. John "CJ" McAvoy died Thursday, March 5, at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg. Originally from Madrid and ordained in 1963, Msgr. McAvoy is remembered for his hard-working and pastoral nature and for his dedication to his parish and community.

FULL STORY, PAGE 2

Church has 'human and divine dimensions'

By Victoria Cardiel
Catholic News Agency

VATICAN CITY — Pope Leo XIV said March 4 that the Church cannot be understood solely from a human perspective but rather as the fruit of God's plan of love for humanity realized in Christ. He also emphasized that this does not imply the spiritual superiority of the Church's members.

"An ideal and pure Church, separated from the earth, does not exist; only the one Church of Christ, embodied in history," the Holy Father affirmed at the general audience.

The pope continued his cat-

echesis on the dogmatic constitution *Lumen Gentium*, one of the pillars of the Second Vatican Council, in which the Church is described as "a complex reality."

However, he clarified that this complexity does not mean the Church is "complicated" or difficult to explain. Rather, the Latin meaning of the word "complex" refers to "the orderly union of different aspects or dimensions within the same reality."

The pope noted that the Church is "a well-organized body, in which the human and divine dimensions coexist without separation and without con-

fusion."

Leo pointed out that the Church's human dimension is immediately perceptible, since it is "a community of men and women who share the joy and struggle of being Christians, with their strengths and weaknesses, proclaiming the Gospel and becoming a sign of the presence of Christ who accompanies us on our journey through life."

Yet this aspect, even together with its institutional organization, is not sufficient to describe the Church's true nature, because it also has a divine dimension. This, he explained, "does not consist in an ideal perfection or spiritual superi-

ority of its members, but in the fact that the Church is generated by God's plan for humanity, realized in Christ."

Therefore, the Church is "at the same time an earthly community and the mystical body of Christ, a visible assembly and a spiritual mystery, a reality present in history and a people journeying towards heaven."

He added that the human and divine dimensions "integrate harmoniously, without one overshadowing the other," forming a fruitful paradox: "She is a reality that is both human and divine, which welcomes the sinful man and leads him to God."

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I don't feel like it

"I need to write a column, but I'm not feeling very Jesusy right now."

While Jesusy is a made-up word, my friend knew exactly what I meant. I'm guessing you know what I mean, too.

I'm fairly certain we all have or have had times in our lives when we feel or have felt consumed by feelings that are not very Christlike, be it rage, despair, envy, jealousy, lust, pride or something else.

Being consumed by those emotions doesn't feel very good. I wasn't feeling very good when

I told my friend I wasn't feeling very Jesusy.

I'll be honest: I have a bad habit of allowing myself to be ruled by my emotions, especially when I'm feeling angry or hurt. I've been counseled by a priest I perceive as being pretty wise that the emotions themselves are not sinful, since they're gut reactions we don't exactly choose. It's what we do with them that can become sinful.

But, sadly, I'm very good at sinning.

Because I'm particularly talented at sinning, I

try to go to confession regularly. As I was spending time with Jesus this week and praying for the grace to surrender my big emotions and tough circumstances to Him, it occurred to me that there's a sin that I don't regularly confess but I very regularly commit. I regularly violate the First Commandment.

The First Commandment tells us, "I am the Lord your God; you shall have no other gods before me." I've historically looked at that and thought, "well, I'm not out there worshipping Zeus or anything. I'm good on that one."

Yet there I was allowing my negative emotions to rule my thoughts and ac-

tions, letting those negative emotions drive me. I was letting my big and negative feelings be the god of me.

I would love to sit here and say that I'm not going to do that anymore, but I also know my sinful nature is pretty strong, and it's likely going to take a lot of grace and a lot of work to let Jesus overcome my big feelings and my big mouth.

But I can say I'm very grateful to God for revealing to me this particular aspect of my sinful nature.

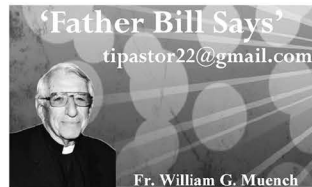
And I pray for the grace to allow Jesus to take the place of those big, negative feelings and to feel and be more Jesusy.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

'God does not wait for perfect'

As we now approach the middle of Lent, I believe it is a good time to consider how we are doing with Lent. It is time to put some new spirit into our Lenten promises – the prayers and mortifications that make up our program. So, how are you doing? Have you found a better relationship with the Lord Jesus? Do you think more about Jesus than ever before?

I know that during Lent, Jesus must be the center of our attention. Each Sunday we read the wonderful stories of the Lord. These stories give us the opportunity to remember how much the Lord cares about us. Remember the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus? In this story Jesus demonstrates His divinity to the apostles and to us. Jesus finds strength and support from God the Father through Moses and Elijah. Jesus promises that kind of support to each of us;

**Fr. William G. Muench**

he will walk with us no matter what life brings us.

In this second part of Lent, we will continue to discover the love of our Lord through the special Gospel stories of the Samaritan woman, of the man born blind, of the raising to life of Lazarus. Each Sunday we will be immersed in each of these stories, remembering that each of us are part of the story. Jesus wants us to recognize his great love for us and prepare us to walk with him through his Passion; we support him as we again experience the Lord's sufferings and death.

This is the time to make this sacred time of Lent a holy transformation of

who we are. This is the time to renew our readiness to become more alive in the Lord. This is our time to become more like Jesus.

I went searching for a Lent story, and someone offered me this, "The Cracked Bowl." In a small village, there lived an elderly woman who walked each day to the well with two clay bowls balanced on a pole across her shoulders. One bowl was perfect. The other had a long crack running down its side. Each day by the time she reached home, the cracked bowl had leaked half its water. It felt ashamed.

One morning, as she walked the dusty road, the cracked bowl finally spoke. "I am sorry," it said, "I am broken. I cannot do what I was made to do. I waste what you carry." The old woman smiled gently and said nothing. When they reached home, she invited the bowl to

look back along the path they had walked. Along one side of the road – its side – bright wildflowers were blooming.

"I knew about your crack," she said. "So, I scattered seeds along the road. Every day you water them. For two years I have gathered these flowers to place before the altar in our little church. Without your weakness, there would be no beauty."

The bowl was silent. Its flaw had become a gift.

Lent begins with ashes, an admission that we are fragile, cracked vessels. We fast, we pray, we give alms not because we are strong, but because we are not. God does not wait for perfect bowls. He plants seeds along the roads of our weakness. Lent is not about pretending we are whole. It is about walking honestly with our cracks and discovering what God has been growing because of them.

Remembering Msgr. C. John McAvoy

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

"(Msgr. C. John 'CJ' McAvoy) was a very pastoral man," said Bishop Douglas J. Lucia, bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse. "I was always impressed by how he was very much one who wanted to encourage the laity to get involved. And he was involved; he didn't sit on the sidelines. He was very active as a parish priest. He was down to earth, and very much about serving the people. That was his whole priesthood."

Msgr. McAvoy died Thursday, March 5 at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg. He was 88.

Bishop Lucia said he served as parochial vicar in Plattsburgh for three years when Msgr. McAvoy was pastor there.

"I remember sitting at the breakfast table with him one day, and I told him I was born in 1963," Bishop Lucia recalled. "He told me he was ordained in 1963. He used to say I knew how to make him feel depressed. I always knew how long he was a priest, and he always knew my age."

It was during Bishop Lucia's time as a parochial vicar in Plattsburgh that Msgr. McAvoy was named a Prelate of Honor with the title monsignor.

"He was so embarrassed about receiving that title," Bishop Lucia said. "His idea was that he was just doing what he was called to do - service. He served at St.

John's in Plattsburgh, but he also served and was very involved in Plattsburgh. He was involved in Rotary, and he was very civic and community minded."

Bishop Lucia said Msgr. McAvoy, originally from Madrid, "never forgot his roots."

"He spoke lovingly of his parents and all that he learned on the farm, the family homestead," he said. "And he lived that out. He was always close to his family and really wanted his parish to be that - a family."

Jim Dowdle, a childhood neighbor of the McAvoy family, said it was that family connection that he also recalled fondly.

"He was a kind man," Dowdle said. "A very, very hardworking man to my recollection."

Dowdle said he grew up on a farm a short distance from the McAvoy farm.

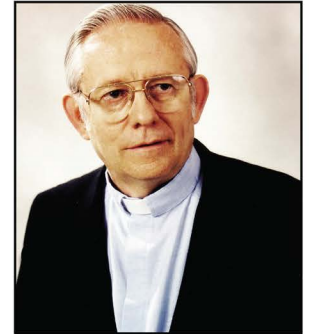
"The McAvoy's were neighbors," he said. "We were all dairy farmers. He was the youngest of the family. I remember (Msgr. McAvoy) working on the farm - doing chores and haying. It was hard work."

Dowdle said he fondly recalled the time around when his neighbor was ordained to the priesthood.

"After he was ordained, he had his first Mass in Madrid," Dowdle said. "I was only 5 or 6 years old. I remember going to the McAvoy home for a celebration after, and his chalice was on the table. That stuck with me. He was a very faithful man. He was a caring man - just

a nice man."

A complete obituary was not available ahead of NCC press time. It will be in next week's edition.



Msgr. C. John McAvoy

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Weekly Newspaper for the Diocese of Ogdensburg

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Hear from YouTube, revival preacher in May

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

While he'll be sharing his love of the Eucharist with the Diocese of Ogdensburg as part of the Highway to Heaven event on May 16, Father Jonathan Meyer has also been sharing that love throughout his priesthood, serving as a national preacher for the Eucharistic revival and creating content for YouTube.

"I was ordained a priest to evangelize the world," Father Meyer said. "That's what I want to do. And I can't expect people to come to me. I have to go to them where they are."

It was that desire that led Father Meyer, pastor of All Saints Parish in Guilford, Indiana, to begin creating content for YouTube.

"When COVID 19 came along, I wanted to continue reaching God's people," he said. "I realized the easiest way to do that was to use YouTube. We went on three times a day - two online Holy Hours and a Mass every day. From that, I also started extracting the homilies I preached and posting those online. I started doing daily devotional videos for Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, and I started getting a bit of a following."

While he's also featured in content produced by Dynamic Catholic and other entities, Father Meyer's content can largely be found on <https://www.youtube.com/@allparish>.

Father Meyer said producing the content has enabled him to



National Eucharistic Revival preacher Father Jonathan Meyer presents the Stations of the Eucharist on his parish's YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@allparish>. Father Meyer will be the keynote speaker at Highway to Heaven 2026, to be held May 16 in Massena. The event will also include a Shroud of Turin exhibit, musician Sarah Kroger and Mass with Bishop Terry R. LaValley. Register to attend the event at rcdony.org/h2h.

walk with others on the path to Jesus.

"It's like daily coaching," he said. "I could give a really big parish mission or one amazing 45-minute talk, or I can walk daily with someone and give them three to five minutes of spiritual encouragement every day. I truly believe it's been very, very effective. I love the fact that it's consistently bombarding people with truth, goodness and beauty. I love going out to the periphery - the edges of society - and not waiting for people to come to us. (Being on YouTube) allows for that. It's meeting people where they

"The Eucharist is my Highway to Heaven"
— St. Carlo Acutis

Highway to Heaven 2026

Sacred Heart Church
212 Main St. Massena, NY
Saturday, May 16

Featuring the Shroud of Turin exhibit, musician Sarah Kroger, and Fr. Jonathan Meyer, National Preacher of the Eucharistic Revival!

Space is limited. Register today!
rcdony.org/h2h

are."

Father Meyer will share the truth, goodness and beauty of the Eucharist here in the North Country as keynote speaker at Highway to Heaven.

"I'm a classmate and good friend of Father Bryan Stitt," he said.

"And the movie 'Miracle' (about the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team) is my favorite movie ever. I love the opportunity to come to the North Country! And I'm excited to talk about the Eucharist. I think - to some people - that sounds really, re-

ally boring. But it's the most revolutionary way to reorder and structure your life to find more enduring joy. I want to tell people that the way they live their lives with the Lord can be transformative and life-giving. Every young person, every elderly person and everyone in between should want to come."

Father Meyer plans to include discussion of the Stations of the Eucharist, developed as part of the Eucharistic Revival.

"It's a new devotion I'm working and collaborating on," he said. "It's a biblical walk from Genesis to Revelation. It's how God wants to transform our lives through the mystery of the Eucharist."

A seasoned youth minister and public high school cross country and track coach, Father Meyer said the presentation includes practical information meant to help people grow in relationship with Christ.

"Where I begin or where I presume people are beginning is a place of confusion or frustration of faith, luke-warmness of faith," he said. "That's where I started. And that's where I come from when I speak to people and present to people. I'm not very smart. I'm the opposite of a Bishop Barron or a Father Stitt. I'm trying to figure it all out."

To register for Highway to Heaven, visit rcdony.org/h2h.

Capacity is limited, and those who would like to attend are encouraged to register early.

CALLED TO SERVE

Let me introduce you to a microphone

If you do not wear a microphone and you are the celebrant or a deacon at daily or weekend Mass, ask individuals in various places in the hall or church, "Could you hear me well?"

Try to get a straight answer. Do not just ask your wife, husband or friends who sit up front. Ask strangers sitting far away from the sanctuary. And make sure you ask people who have or need hearing devices. Their answers will often be different from what you perceive. The truthful answer is often, "sometimes" or "no."

A microphone is used to amplify a voice through speakers to a large crowd or in a large venue. Like a big church or cathedral. The excuses for not using a mic are plentiful. They are all bogus. "It is a nuisance." "It doesn't work." "I'm loud enough, people can hear me without it."

My personal favorite is "I've been doing this for years; the audience will hear me fine."

Oh yeah.

The use of a microphone and speaker in a church has to do with the people in the pews not the presenter.

Some presenters do not like the sound of their own voice or have poor microphone technique. Get over it. If a minister or speaker does not mic-up, he or she runs the risk of delivering a less than stellar performance, reading or prayer.

We had no excuse in former years. I remember being in several plays in high school. It was a large auditorium, and the school did not have a speaker system in that space. The director would sit in the back row during rehearsal and regularly bellow that he could not hear the actors on stage.

We learned to project

our voices. Projecting your voice does not mean using your school yard voice, screaming, or yelling. It is a learned vocal technique that employs your voice box, lungs and diaphragm, among other things. Most people have not been trained in projection. Loud does not mean understood.

A speaker system will help ministers be heard even in the last pew. Without a mic, you are never loud enough or distinct enough to be heard.

Another issue for those who do not use a microphone is balance. I am not talking about falling

down balance, I am referring to audio balance. It becomes a major problem when others

in the sanctuary use a microphone, particularly if Mass or another liturgy is live-streamed or recorded for playback later.

Those with microphones, the presider and deacon at their chairs, the altar, the ambo, are at one level and the off-mic minister is at another. It almost sounds to the pew siter, if the parishioner can hear the speaker at all,



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

Rest in Peace

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

March 11 – Msgr. Edmund Charles M. J. DePauw, 1911
March 12 – Rev. Joseph L. Stickelmyer, 1984

March 13 – Rev. James Keveny, 1880; Rev. Ferdinand J. Ouellet, 1929; Rev. Joseph A. Bachand, 1950; Rev. Joseph N. Sestito, 2024

March 14 – Msgr. Maurice John Bellamy, 1958; Msgr. Edgar A. Gallagher, 1961; Rev. John Quinn, M.S.C., 1962; Rev. Joseph E. Turcotte, O.M.I., 1980; Rev. Edward C. Rivette, 1981; Rev. Timothy J. Soucy, 2009

March 15 – Rev. Charles J. McMorrow, 1898; Rev. Howard G. Goiser, 1984

March 16 – Rev. William A. MacDermott, 1913; Msgr. Noel V. Zimmerman, 1994

March 17 – Rev. Michael Froc, O.M.I., 1905; Rev. Francis X. Parisian, 1955; Deacon Bruce W. Daugherty, 2025

Bishop's Public Schedule

March 11 – 9:30 a.m. – Diocesan Department Head Meeting followed by lunch and the Diocesan Staff Lenten Day of Reflection at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

5:30 p.m. – Lenten Soup Supper at Martin Field Club (formerly the Knights of Columbus) in Ogdensburg

March 12 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 13 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

6 p.m. – Presentation to the students of Immaculate Heart Central by Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini at Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown

March 14 – 11 a.m. – Mass and celebration of Saint Joseph's Day at St. Anthony's Church in Watertown

March 15 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

11 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 16 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 17 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 18 – 11 a.m. – Council of Priests and College of Consultants Meeting at St. Mary's Social Hall in Massena

that the minister without a microphone is in another room, screaming. It is that noticeable.

And while I am at it, presenters must enunciate. Don't be pedantic, dull in your delivery. Slow down and pronounce words so they can be heard and understood. Hopefully over the sound system.

Put your mic on!

I'll go back to my seat now. Thank you for letting me rant.

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

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 lshoen@rcdony.org

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

Environmental Stewardship

Embracing challenges

There is a saying among mystics that "life does not happen to you, but it happens for

you." This is often a hard concept to accept, especially when everything around you seems to be going wrong. However, it is based on the premise that God is always with us and knows our every thought, movement and action.

We must remember that while we are here on earth, we are regularly presented with challenges to overcome, hardships to endure and obstacles to tackle. And we must trust that Our Lord has our best interests at heart, which is not easy when everything nearby seems to be in dissolving into a state of chaos. Trying to connect with nature when the temperatures are below freezing, the wind is blowing and there are piles of snow everywhere can be discouraging. Shoveling a pathway to the compost bin, plodding through a snow drift to restock a bird feeder, or taking a pet for a walk might seem to be futile endeavors as winter drags on.

These are the times when you should pause for a moment, take a deep breath,

smile and thank God for His Divine insight into your life. Lent is the season when we realize that it is by facing hardships and sacrificing daily comfort that we gain spiritual strength.

Some of us may choose to focus on ridding the environment of plastics, others may dedicate their time and efforts to general recycling, and still others aim to improve certain wildlife habitats and help select species of plants and animals thrive. Others may communicate with their legislators to support ways that protect the earth that has been entrusted to us.

Regardless of what issues confront you as you seek to harmonize with nature, know that God is there to bring you closer to Him. Trust in His ways.



Relay Race/Spirit Day brought Immaculate Heart Central students of all ages together to participate in grade-level relay races and a high school tug of war. The day was part of the school's celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

IHC celebrates Catholic Schools Week

By Mary O'Brien
IHC Advancement Director

Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown celebrated Catholic Schools Week a bit late due to weather issues, but winter didn't chill the celebration.

This year's Catholic Schools Week started off with a student favorite, jersey day, in honor of the kick-off of our "Souper Bowl." The Souper Bowl is an event in which classes earn prizes by bringing in the most amount of canned goods for the local food pantry.

Also part of the Catholic Schools Week festivities, students were treated to "Make your own Sundae" Day and Dress like your favorite Book Character Day.

Parents were invited to the school one day for coffee and donuts with Mrs. Mitchell, the principal, after drop-off. Probably the biggest day of FUN was the Relay Race/Spirit Day. Students in grades PreK



through 12 wore blue and/or white, IHC's school colors, and were involved in grade level relay races in the gymnasium finishing off with a Tug of War game with the high school students.

The final day culminated the week with a prayer service talking about unity and how proud Mrs. Mitchell has been with all the students this year and how they have worked together and helped each



(Left) Father John M. "Mickey" Demo, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Watertown, conducts a prayer service to cap off the Immaculate Heart Central celebration of Catholic Schools Week. (Above) IHC students participate in a school breakfast as part of the celebration.

other and cared for each other since our consolidation. Father John M. "Mickey" Demo, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Watertown, ended the prayer ser-

vice with a blessing for the students, teachers and staff of the school. Students and staff were then treated to a pancake breakfast in the gymnasium.

State Dept. fails to report religious freedom violations

By Madalaine Elhabbal
EWTN News

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) is calling out the State Department for failing to comply with the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA), the federal law that requires transmission of an annual report on religious freedom violations to Congress.

USCIRF also said the Trump administration's decision to suspend the refugee program and cap the refugee ceiling at 7,500 is hampering refugees fleeing the most egregious forms of religious persecution.

The State Department's noncompliance with the law's requirements has allowed a lapse in punitive measures for religious freedom violators, the commission said.

"As the Trump administration failed to release the IRF report and issue comprehensive designations by December 2025, any presidential action taken as a result of these designations terminates by the end of 2025 unless expressly reauthorized by law," USCIRF said in its March 4 annual report, which contained recommendations for the State Department to advance religious freedom around the world including increasing the ceiling on refugee admissions.

Under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, the State Department is required to release an annual report on international religious freedom conditions by May 1 each year. The ambassador at large for international religious freedom is required to assist the State Department in assembling the IRF report but the position remains vacant. The Republican-led Senate did not confirm the Trump administration's nominee for the position, Mark Walker, before the end of 2025.

The commission recommended the Trump administration promptly appoint an ambassador at large for international religious freedom and to fill vacant key roles related to international religious freedom.

USCIRF said the State Department's suspension of foreign aid "left hundreds of victims of religious persecution receiving support in immedi-

ate need of lifesaving assistance in countries such as Afghanistan, Burma, Egypt, Nigeria, and Vietnam." The commission recommended the State Department prioritize funding for foreign assistance programs that promote religious freedom.

The report said U.S. funding cuts "contributed to 11.6 million refugees, including many fleeing religious persecution, losing access to humanitarian assistance."

USCIRF said the Trump administration's decision to suspend the refugee program and cap the refugee ceiling at 7,500 "leaves little room to resettle refugees fleeing the most egregious forms of religious persecution." USCIRF said 130,000 conditionally approved refugees, including about 15,000 registered Iranian Christians, remain in limbo as a result.

The commission recommended the State Department increase the admissions ceiling for refugees, resume resettlement programs, and reestablish full asylum access for individuals fleeing religious persecution.

USCIRF urged the State Department to implement policy regarding visa restrictions on religious freedom violators, especially those originating from countries with special watch list and country-of-particular-concern (CPC) designations.

The commission's report recommended the State Department designate five new countries as CPCs: Syria, Afghanistan, India, Libya, and Vietnam, and to redesignate the 13 countries, including Nigeria, that were last placed on the watchlist in 2023.

USCIRF recommended that Algeria and Azerbaijan maintain their status on the special watch list, and to add nine countries to the list, including Turkey, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Qatar, and Uzbekistan.

The commission separately announced its recommendation for Turkey to be on the special watch list in February, as it had previously called for in 2025. The recommendation follows moves by the European Parliament and European Court of Human Rights in the past month to censure Turkey over its targeting of Christians.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Vatican secretary of state warns of Iran escalation

Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican's secretary of state, is warning that U.S. and Israeli bombings against Iran — and Tehran's ensuing military response — could trigger a global spiral of violence with unpredictable consequences. In an interview with Vatican News, the Holy See's official news outlet, on March 4, Parolin lamented what he described as a troubling weakening of international law. "Might has replaced justice; the force of law has been replaced by the law of force," he said. Parolin said he is concerned the world is drifting toward what he called a dangerous form of multi-polarism marked by the primacy of power and political self-reference. U.S. President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he launched the offensive after receiving indications Iran was about to carry out an attack and that action was needed to prevent retaliation against U.S. bases. Asked about the justification, Parolin said it can be difficult to determine who is right or wrong when analyzing the causes of a war, but he stressed that conflict "will always produce victims and destruction," with devastating effects on civilians. The Vatican secretary of state was particularly critical of the logic of preventive war, warning that if every state claimed a right to launch a "preventive war" according to its own criteria and without a supranational legal framework, the entire world would risk going up in flames.

Court: Schools can't hide transgender identities from parents

In a landmark decision on March 2, the U.S. Supreme Court held that the state of California cannot keep student "transgender" identities secret from parents, with the justices ruling that the secretive policies likely violate the First Amendment rights of parents whose children believe themselves to be the opposite sex. The 6-3 ruling was announced by the Thomas More Society, a religious liberty law firm that has represented parents and teachers through the legal fight, one that has spanned nearly three years and multiple courts. U.S. District Court Judge Roger Benitez originally ruled in the class action lawsuit on Dec. 22, 2025, that parents "have a right" to the "gender information" of their children, while teachers themselves also possess the right to provide parents with that information. Benitez issued an order at the time striking down California's secretive school gender policies. In January the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit blocked that order amid the ongoing lawsuit, which the plaintiffs then appealed to the Supreme Court. On March 2 the Supreme Court blocked the appeals court ruling, holding in part that California's policies "substantially interfere" with the "right of parents to guide the religious development of their children." Pointing to earlier precedent on parental rights, the court said that parents enjoy "the right not to be shut out of participation in decisions regarding their children's mental health."

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER

Malone – Knights of Columbus Council 308 will hold their Chicken and Biscuit Dinners.

Dates: March 11 and 25

Time: Beginning at 4 p.m.

Place: K of C Home, 41 Elm St.

Cost: \$13 for drive-thru, take-out, or dine in

Features: Proceeds benefit our charitable donations.

CORNED BEEF DINNER

Fort Covington – St. Mary's of the Fort parish to have their annual corned beef dinner.

Date: March 15

Time: 11 a.m. until sold out

Cost: \$17, take-out only

Menu: Corned Beef, Potatoes, Carrots, Cabbage & Dessert

FISH FRIES

AuSable Forks – The Au Sable Knights will be holding three fish fries every other Friday night.

Date: March 20

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

Place: Holy Name School/Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$15; Children under 12, \$10; Take-outs available.

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Altona – Holy Angles and St. Ann's parish to have a Palm Sunday Breakfast.

Date: March 29

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: Holy Angels Hall

Cost: Adults, \$15; Children 6-12, \$8; 5 and under, Free

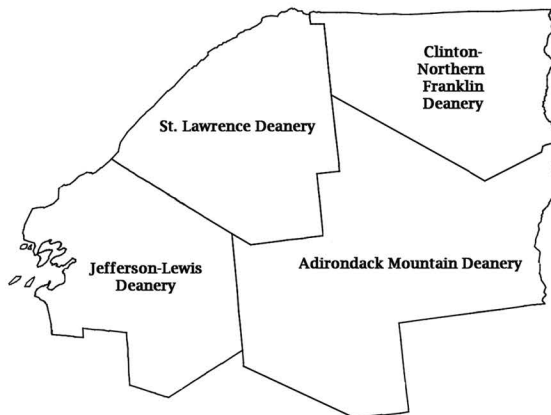
Features: Scrambled eggs, Egg Cups, Bacon, Sausage, French Toast, Pancakes, Biscuits with Sausage & Gravy, Golden-fried potatoes, Home-made sweet muffins, coffee, tea, juice, milk. Gift Basket Raffle, Bake Sale & Lottery Tree.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

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

Date: March 14, April 11



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@northcountycatholic.org.

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

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$12; Seniors, \$10; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free; Sauce or meatballs available for \$6 per quart

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

CORNED BEEF DINNER

Constableville – St. Mary's Youth Group will be hosting a corned beef and cabbage dinner.

Date: March 15

Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: Parish hall, Dine in or take out

Cost: Adults, \$15; Children under 10, \$7.50.

Contact: For questions or to make a donation call the parish office at 315-348-6104

LENTEN RETREAT

Watertown – All are welcome to attend the annual Sisters of St. Joseph Lenten Retreat.

Date: March 15

Time: 2 p.m. to 4

Place: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Dostie Hall

Features: Join us for an afternoon of prayer as we reflect on Christ's call to move from our blind sights to a deeper insight into His life, death and resurrection presented to us by Father Leagon Carlin who is studying at St. Paul's

University, Ottawa. His theme is: "Lead Kindly Light." There will be an opportunity for prayer and for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Contact: Register with Sister Mary Eamon (smelyngssj@yahoo.com) or with Sister Bethany Fitzgerald (srbethssj@gmail.com) by March 10.

IHC GALA

Watertown Immaculate Heart Central invites you to join them this year for their annual fundraiser (Golf Themed).

Date: March 21

Time: 6 p.m. to 10

Place: Bad Apple Social/Lves Country Club

Cost: \$60 per person, includes appetizers and band
Theme: Augusta After Dark Par-Tee and Online Auction

Features: Online Auction will open on March 13. Both ticket purchases and online bidding can be done through the Better World website. (immaculate-heart-central.betterworld.org/auctions/2026-augusta-after-dark-silent-a)

Contact: Mary O'Brien at (315) 788-4670 (IHC School) or mary.o'brien@ihcschool.org for any questions.

DRIVE THRU DINNER

Lyons Falls – St. John's Church will

have a drive-thru chicken and biscuit dinner.

Date: March 24

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6

Cost: \$13

Menu: Chicken with homemade biscuits, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable and dessert.

Contact: To reserve your dinner, please call 315-348-8945 or 315-348-8577 today!

DINNER

Constableville – Corned Beef and cabbage or Ham and potato dinner to support the Youth of South-ern Lewis County.

Date: March 29

Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Hall

Cost: Adults, \$15; Children under 10, \$7.50

ST. LAWRENCE

FISH FRY

Gouverneur – St. James School to have a fish fry every Friday during Lent.

Date: March 13, 20 & 27

Time: 4:30 p.m. until gone

Cost: \$15

Menu: Dinner includes fried fish, choice of macaroni and cheese or french fries, cole slaw, dinner roll, beverage and your choice of dessert. Dine in or Take Out.

Contact: Local deliveries available 315-287-0130

ALPHA

Massena – You are invited to Alpha.

Date: Tuesdays starting March 24

Time: 6 p.m. to 8:30

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: Join us for a free meal and great conversations as we explore life and faith.

Contact: For more information contact the Parish office 315-769-2469 or www.massencatholics.com

DIOCESAN EVENTS

IHC MYSTERY PLAYERS

The IHC Mystery Players will present the Way of the Cross around the Diocese and beyond.

Lent 2026 Prayer Schedule:

March 12, 7:30 p.m. at Corpus Christi, Round Lake; March 13, 7:30 p.m. at St. Michael's, South Glens Falls; March 14, 7:30 p.m. at St. Bernard's, Saranac Lake; March 20, 7:30 p.m. at Holy Family, Little Falls; March 22, 7:30 p.m. at St. Cecilia's, Adams; March 27, 7:30 p.m. at Pope John XXIII, Liverpool; March 29, 7:30 p.m. at St. James, Carthage; April 2, 8 p.m. at IHC, Watertown; April 3, 7:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's, Watertown

Contact: For mor information go to <https://www.ihcschool.org/mystery-players>

SURVIVING DIVORCE

Canton - The Family Life Office will be offering the Surviving Divorce program again starting in late February.

Time: Meeting dates and times will be determined by the needs of the participants.

Cost: The program is free but we happily accept \$25 donations to offset the cost of materials.

Features: Surviving Divorce features twelve video presentations that cover topics such as shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, and annulment and remarriage. This program is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later.

Contact: To register, go to <https://www.rcdony.org/survivingdivorce>. For more information, contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920.

GUGGENHEIM REGISTRATION

Camp Guggenheim registration and new staff application season is now open.

Dates: July 5 - July 10 for 11-13 year olds; July 12 - July 17 for 12-15 year olds; July 19 - July 24 for 12-15 year olds; July 26 - July 31 for 12-15 year olds; Aug 2 - Aug 7 for 16-18 year olds

Cost: \$450 per week
Contact: Register for camp at <https://www.rcdony.org/youth/camp/registration>

Archbishop hosts SiriusXM radio show

By Tessa Gervasini
Catholic News Agency

Archbishop Ronald Hicks of New York is hosting a program called "All Good Things with Archbishop Hicks" for SiriusXM's Catholic Channel.

About a month after Hicks was installed as New York's 11th archbishop at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Feb. 6, SiriusXM announced he is hosting the show. The program takes over the time slot previously held by former archbishop of New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan, who hosted "Conversations with Cardinal Dolan."

Hicks will host the weekly program alongside Father Dave Dwyer, host of the daily call-in show "The Busted Halo Show"

and executive director of Busted Halo Ministries. Dwyer also co-hosted the radio show with Dolan.

Hicks and Dwyer will discuss real-world issues, current events, and everyday life through a Catholic lens, according to a statement. The show will offer conversation rooted in Church teachings and lived pastoral experience. The program will highlight works of those fostering personal conversion and the transformation of society through evangelization, the statement said.

The show joins a number of other Catholic faith-based shows on the channel including "The Katie McGrady Show," "Catholic Guy with Lino Rulli," and "Frontiers of Faith."

The show is set to air at 2 p.m. ET Tuesdays on channel 129 and will be available on demand on the SiriusXM app. An inaugural episode aired March 3, according to the Archdiocese of New York.

Hicks was named archbishop of New York by Pope Leo XIV on Dec. 18, 2025, and brings a perspective from decades of service and ministry. He graduated from Loyola University Chicago in 1989 with a philosophy degree and went on to receive master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois.

He was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Chicago on May 21, 1994. Pri-

or to his appointment in New York, Hicks was appointed by Pope Francis on July 17, 2020, as bishop of Joliet, Illinois.

He has a history of ministerial experience in Latin America serving in El Salvador as the regional director of Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos, a charity that serves orphans in Latin America. He previously served as vicar general of the Archdiocese of Chicago and auxiliary bishop of Chicago.

Hicks also serves on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations and as the USCCB liaison to the Association of Ongoing Formation of Priests and the National Association of Diaconate Directors.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

DAY OF REFLECTION

Norfolk - All Catechists, Catechetical Leaders, Commissioned Lay Ministers, Youth Leaders and Candidates in Formation for Ministry are invited to a Day of Reflection.

Date: March 21

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mass will be at 9 a.m.

Place: Norfolk Parish Center

Cost: \$15 includes lunch (soup and sandwich)

Features: Presented by Sr. Janet Schaeffler, OP. The theme will be "In Step with Christ: Embracing

Discipleship and Accompaniment."

Contact: Register by March 12 at rcdony.org/dayofreflection

CHRISM MASS

Ogdensburg - All the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are invited to 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: March 26

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: This ritual symbolizes that we are one family in Christ. The Chrism Mass may be viewed at rcdony.org/livemass.

PUBLISHERS DAY

Plattsburgh/Brownville - All Cat-



echetical Leaders and Catechists are invited to Publishers' Day. Attend in person or virtually.

Date: April 25

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Contact: For more information Asoltero@rcdony.org for details. To register go to www.rcdony.org/publisherday



SAINT ANNE'S SHRINE

Center of Life, Light and Love

Hospitality Manager Job Opening

Saint Anne's Shrine, a Catholic spiritual retreat center and historic attraction situated on thirty-two pristine park-like acres on the shores of Lake Champlain in Isle La Motte, VT seeks a Hospitality Manager to oversee all aspects of the guest experience for all who visit with us.

Established in 1893 and conducted by the Society of Saint Edmund since 1904, the mission of Saint Anne's Shrine is to "serve as a welcoming place of peace and hope ministering to all God's people through prayer, devotion, hospitality, and spiritual renewal."

The Shrine provides the ideal setting for people of all ages to grow in their faith through pilgrimages, various retreats, and days of reflection.

The Hospitality Manager will lead a group of four to six employees, varying by time of year and schedule. The primary focus of the position will be understanding and meeting the needs of our guests focusing on food service, space, cabin and resource set-up and readiness, including housekeeping and special events, and oversight of our gift shop, and welcome center.

We seek an enthusiastic, energetic, and engaging person who enjoys tending to the details and providing a meaningful experience for all who visit our beautiful Shrine. A high school diploma is required, with a college degree preferred, with a focus in a hospitality related field a plus. Customer/client/guest care experience is required, as is experience leading others in a similar role or field.

This position is full-time, year-round and some evening and weekend work is required. A competitive salary and generous benefits package supplement the beautiful surroundings and meaningful work.

Please send your resume and letter of interest to: Joe Gallagher, Shrine Administrator, via email: jjgallagher@saintanneshrine.org.

Applications will be accepted until a Hospitality Manager is selected.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

Opening the eyes of the blind

"Do you enjoy wallowing in your ignorance?"

I remember one day in high school when our Jesuit English teacher asked the class that question. We deserved the question. Faced with a lazy group of male tenth graders, his normal abundance of patience was dwindling. We were, in fact,



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

like pigs wallowing in mud. That question, insulting as it may seem, made me understand that I had to take ownership for my life; it was up to me to see what the world, my faith, my opportunities had to offer and help shape my life. Wallowing in ignorance allowed me to keep my eyes shut

March 15

Fourth Sunday of Lent

READINGS

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

to the responsibilities of life. As a group, we basked in ignorance and refused to see the beauty of the life God had given us and our responsibilities to that life.

In our Gospel, Jesus cures a blind man, frees him from that blindness so that he can now see the world around him. In the process, he not only sees the world, but he also gains faith in the man who opened his eyes. The man suffered from both physical and spiritual blindness.

The physical gift of sight is a marvelous gift, one that we do not fully appreciate until that gift becomes damaged in some way. Just ask anyone who has had a cataract operation how much differently they see after the operation.

In today's miracle, Jesus opens the eyes of the man born blind, but he goes one step further. Not only can the man see the physical world, but now, too, he can grasp the spiritual world. The formerly blind man can see the world around him not only with physical eyes, but with the eyes of faith.

The Pharisees in the Gospel would have nothing to do with this man's newfound vision of the world and his blossoming faith in the one who cured him. Rather, they preferred to wallow in their ignorance and remain blind to Jesus, the man of faith. They could not make that leap from where they were to where they could and should be.

The excitement about Jesus teaches us that the more we learn about him, the greater he be-

comes in our lives. The more we learn about Jesus, the more we understand how different he is from us. I get so very disappointed when I hear people speak about Jesus as a wonderful person. He is indeed that, but he is so much more. He is God incarnate.

The difficulty with remaining locked in our human perception of Jesus as a great man is that we make him equal to us. That stage of understanding is ok as we mature. But we must get to the higher level of understanding. Some fear going there because they know that a greater understanding of Jesus will put more demands on them and perhaps require a change. We can put off changing our lives for another human being. Can we really put off changing our lives for our God?

Faith is a journey. When we stop looking for more, we remain stagnant. Paul tells us that we are children of the light and that our darkness was, like the man in today's Gospel, removed by Christ.

Blaise Pascal said it well: "In faith there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadow to blind those who don't."

As we make our faith journey through this year's Lent, may we grow in our relationship with Jesus so that like the man in today's Gospel, we can fall on our knees and say: "I do believe, Lord." Or like Doubting Thomas: "My Lord, and my God." Or like the man in the gospel: "Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief."

Your donations help our brothers and sisters through grants to these agencies:

- In the United States**
- Reveal Christ's love by welcoming suffering refugees . . . through the USCCB Migration and Refugee Services (MRS).
- Reveal Christ's love through legal aid to struggling immigrants . . . through the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC).
- Reveal Christ's love in ministry to people on the margins . . . through the pastoral work of the USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church.
- And Around the World**
- Reveal Christ's love to hungry mothers and children in Nepal and elsewhere . . . through the humanitarian work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the official overseas relief agency of the bishops of the United States.
- Reveal Christ's love by working for peace . . . through the public policy and education and communication work of the USCCB Secretariat of Justice and Peace.
- Reveal Christ's love to the victims of natural disaster . . . through the Holy Father's Relief Fund.

Help with an online donation

Funded Organization	Grant Amount	Percentage
Catholic Relief Services	\$7,939,217	57.62%
USCCB Migration & Refugee Services	\$1,832,127	13.30%
CLINIC (Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.)	\$1,221,418	8.86%
USCCB Cultural Diversity in the Church*	\$1,221,418	8.86%
USCCB Justice and Peace†	\$755,629	5.48%
Holy Father's Relief Fund	\$500,000	3.63%
Administration		
Promotion & Education Costs	\$291,423	2.12%
Administrative Expenses	\$17,185	0.12%

* The USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church includes Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers (\$854,992) and Asian and Pacific Island Affairs (\$366,426).
† The USCCB Secretariat of Justice and Peace includes International Justice and Peace (\$671,417) and education and communication activities (\$84,202).

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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Bishops: Revenge is not justice

"A fresh descent into the abyss of human depravity, where the sanctity of life, a sacred gift from God, is trampled upon with alarming impunity," is how the bishops of Sudan and South Sudan describe the massacre of civilians and soldiers that took place in Abiemnhom County in South Sudan, on Sunday, March 1 and in Ayod County, where 25 people were brutally killed on February 29.

"The blood of our brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, shed not on a battlefield but within their own communities, cries out to Heaven. We are profoundly disturbed not only by the scale of suffering but by the brazen disregard for human dignity that such acts represent," reads the message sent to Fides signed by members of the Sudan and South Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference (SSSCBC).

After expressing their solidarity with the population affected by the violence, the bishops launch an appeal to renounce the "culture of deadly revenge."

"With pastoral honesty, we must confront a painful truth: the culture of deadly revenge has taken deep root in parts of our society," they emphasize. "Cycles of retaliation, fueled by anger, collective blame, and historical grievances, continue to destroy families, weaken communities, and rob our children of their future. Revenge is not justice."

In their message, the SSSCBC makes an "urgent appeal to the authorities" to conduct a "thorough and independent" investigation to identify and bring to justice those responsible for the Ayod and Abiemnhom massacres. This is because "impunity feeds the repetition of crimes," while "Justice, instead, restores trust in the population."

The bishops conclude by addressing the victims and their families: "The Church is your family. We weep with you. We pray with you. We carry you in our hearts. We pray for the peaceful repose of the souls of the departed. May the angels lead them into Paradise."

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

Brushton – Allan C. LePage, 81; Memorial Mass Feb. 28, 2026 at St. Mary's Church.

Colton – Edward R. Dominy, 79; Mass of Christian Burial March 20, 2026 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Chateaugay – Donna F. (Selkirk) Holt, 88; Mass of Christian Burial May 23, 2026 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Constableville – Gail M. Frank, 80; Mass of Christian Burial March 10, 2026 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Lisbon – Mary "Jackie" LaBrake, 87; Mass of Christian Burial March 3, 2026 at Ss. Philip and James Church; burial in Oswegatchie Mausoleum.

Lyon Mountain – Richard Dashnaw Sr., 69; Mass of Christian Burial March 2, 2026 at St. Bernard's Church.

Massena – Melody G. (Clough) Deshaies, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 28, 2026 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Pine Grove Cemetery.

Massena – Mary Ellen (Nagy) Gibeault, 90; Mass of Christian Burial May 1, 2026 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morristown – Karen M. Moquin, 76; Mass of Christian Burial in spring at St. John the Evangelist Church.



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

Peru – Thomas Francis Sweeney, 91; Mass of Christian Burial at a later date at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Church Columbarium.

Plattsburgh – Mary E. (LaPoint) Orem, 89; Mass of Christian Burial March 5, 2026 at Our Lady of Victory.

Plattsburgh – Robert E. Racette, Sr., 96; Mass of Christian Burial March 7, 2026 at St. Peter's Church.

Saranac Lake – Charels Robert "Nick" McGrath, 72; Mass of Christian Burial March 6, 2026 at St. Bernard's Church.


Schroon Lake – Lillian Noxon Richardson, 96; Mass of Christian Burial March 5, 2026 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Tupper Lake – Kathleen (Moller) Mace, 77; Mass of Christian Burial March 7, 2026 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read local stories and commentaries
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

 Find us on Facebook!



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*Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg*

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for the Blessing of the Holy Oils,
and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism
for use in all the churches of the Diocese
symbolizing that we are one family in Christ
on

Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 11 a.m.
at St. Mary's Cathedral
in Ogdensburg, New York.

Rite of Election, Call to Continuing Conversion



Support the Works of the Holy Father through the

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Be a sign of hope.

From his first appearance after his election in May 2025, Pope Leo XIV has called upon Catholics to live in peace and unity with one another within the Church and to share this invitation to peace and unity with the whole world. Throughout history, Catholics have shared Christ's mission with the world by proclaiming the Gospel and performing works of mercy that bring comfort to the poor and vulnerable.

For centuries, Catholics have joined in these works by supporting the Peter's Pence Collection, which helps to fund the Holy Father's mission to proclaim Christ's message in the world. Our gifts to the collection are "concrete signs of hope" that fulfill the two aims of Peter's Pence: "1) **To support the Holy Father's mission**, which extends throughout the entire world, from the proclamation of the Gospel to the promotion of integral human development, education, peace, and brotherhood among peoples: thank also to the many activities of service carried out by the dicasteries, bodies and organs of the Holy See that assist him every day; and 2) **To support the numerous charitable works** in aid of people and families in difficulty, populations afflicted by natural disasters and wars, or who are in need of humanitarian assistance or support for development."

For more information on Peter's Pence, please visit the Vatican's Peter's Pence website:
www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html (English) or
www.obolodisanpietro.va/es.html (español).

"Together, as one people, as brothers and sisters, let us walk towards God and love one another."—Pope Leo XIV, Homily at Mass for the Beginning of the Pontificate of Pope Leo XIV, May 18, 2025

How You Can Help

PRAY

Pray for the Holy Father, for those he serves in compassion, and for the ongoing activities of the Holy See, all of which benefit from the Peter's Pence Collection.

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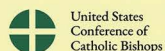
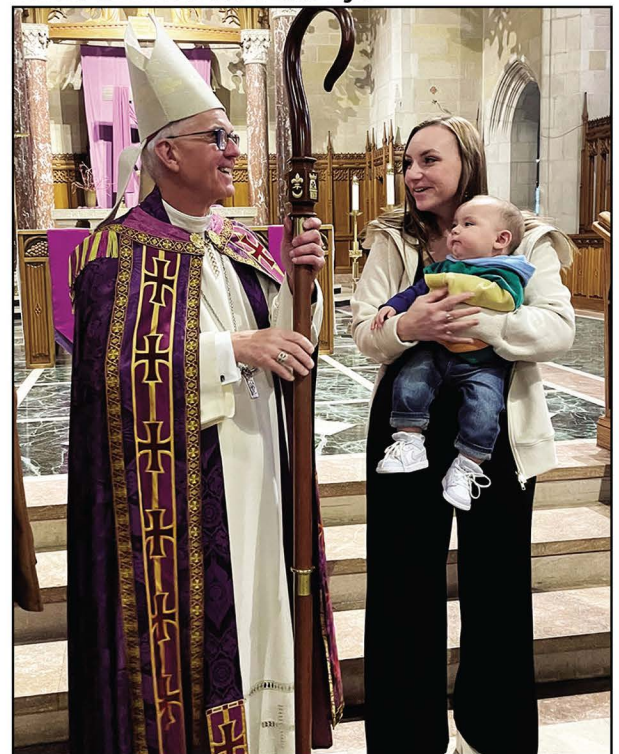
Share this bulletin insert with anyone who might be interested.

GIVE

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PHOTOS BY COLLEEN MINER/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion was celebrated Feb. 22 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. (Above left) Catechists and the elect from St. Bernard's Parish in Saranac Lake pose for a photo with Bishop Terry R. LaValley. Pictured are (back row) Dr. Maura Heardon-Fehlner, Bishop LaValley, Kailee McCormick with baby Matteo Arritea-McCormick, Isabella Celeste, Heaton McCormick, Deacon John Fehlner, (front row) Emmery Avery, Vashti McCormick with Waylon Dominy and Breccan Avery. (Above right) Paul Smith's College student Ben Bracher with his sponsors/Godparents Dan and Elaine Frechette from Saranac Lake. Ben is scheduled to be received into the Church at this year's Easter Vigil. (Below) Kailee McCormick with baby Matteo Arritea-McCormick. Kailee will be receiving her First Communion and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil.



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