

**Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse**  
**Eastern Pastoral Care Area 4**  
**Route20Catholic.org – Facebook @Route20Catholic**  
**St. Joan of Arc, St. Bernard, St. Mary, St. Joseph**  
**The Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
**December 19th, 2021**

**Masses this Week:**

**Sat., Dec. 18, 4 PM, Vigil – St. Joan’s**  
Thelma Belitz by Fran Belitz  
**5:30PM, Vigil – St. Joseph’s**  
Michael Pisiak by Family

**Sun., Dec. 19, 9 AM – St. Bernard’s (L-s)**  
David Guido by Henty Family  
**11 AM – St. Mary’s (L-s)**  
For the People of the Parishes  
A special intention for Darlene Goodman by James Goodman

**Mon., Dec. 20, 8 AM – St. Bernard’s**  
Janet & Martin Connor by Harter Family

**Tues., Dec. 21, 8 AM – St. Mary’s**  
Suzanne McDonald by Fran and Jimmy Gargiulo

**Wed., Dec. 22, 8 AM – St. Bernard’s**  
People of the Parishes & Andrea LaVonne Curtis

**Thurs., Dec. 23, 8 AM – St. Mary’s**  
Joyce LaChapelle by Fran and Jimmy Gargiulo

**Fri., Dec. 24, 4 PM, Vigil – St. Mary’s (L-s)**  
Charles Lloyd by the Family

**Fri., Dec. 24, 4 PM, Vigil – St. Bernard’s**  
Anthony J. George by Charleen George

**Fri., Dec. 24, 6 PM, Vigil – St. Joan’s**  
For the Sick and Homebound in our PCA

**Fri., Dec. 24, 8 PM, Vigil – St. Joseph’s**  
Father Vincent Kelly by Father Hage

**Fri., Dec. 24, 10 PM, Mass during the Night – St. Mary’s**  
Father Paul Carey by Father Hage

**Sat., Dec. 25, 11 AM, – Christmas Day, St. Bernard’s (L-s)**  
Donald Belfield by Family

**Sat., Dec. 25, NO SAT. Vigil Masses bc Christmas Day**

**Sun., Dec. 26, 9 AM – St. Bernard’s (L-s)**  
Terence Mangan (7<sup>th</sup> Anniv.) by Kate & Tom McNamara  
**11 AM – St. Mary’s (L-s)**  
Charles Lloyd by the Family

**This Week’s Events**

**Sat., Dec. 18, 1pm** – Gerow Funeral, St. Joseph’s

**Sun., Dec. 19, 2pm** – Seminarian Lessons & Carols, Cathedral

**Sun., Dec. 19, 7pm** – AA Meeting, St. Joan of Arc

**Mon., Dec. 20, 4-7pm** – Light Is On Campaign, St. Bernard’s

**Tues., Dec. 21, 5:30pm** – Holy Hour w/Confessions, St. Joseph’s

**Wed., Dec. 22, 4:30pm** – Dinski Baptism, St. Mary’s

**Wed., Dec. 22, 7pm** – AA Meeting, St. Bernard’s

**Wed., Dec. 22, 7pm** – Advent Adult FF Series, St. Bernard’s

**Thurs., Dec. 23, 5:30pm** – PCA Christmas Pageant, St. Joseph’s

**The Recitation of the Most Holy Rosary**

**Sat., Dec. 18, 7am** – St. Bernard’s, Waterville

**Sat., Dec. 18, 3:30pm** – St. Joan’s, Morrisville

**Thurs., Dec 23, 7pm** – St Bernard’s, Waterville

**FROM THE DESK OF FATHER HAGE**

We have been hearing a lot about St. John the Baptist in our Sunday readings during the Advent season. He is one who is crying out in the desert, “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” As believers, we prepare the way for the Lord primarily by how we live, and not so much by what we say. An authentically lived Christian witness is the most powerful way someone can have an encounter with the Lord. Our holiness of life is what will attract people to faith. The one thing that can cloud an authentically lived Christian witness is sin. Sin can obscure God’s image within us. Sin is a reality, but it is a reality that we, as Catholics, are not afraid to face up to. Hence, the gift of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Each time we celebrate this sacrament of mercy, we receive the grace to leave behind that which holds us down. In the confessional we take a step toward more perfect freedom and more convincing authenticity. Why is that? Because in the Sacrament of Reconciliation we celebrate the fact that God’s mercy is greater than our sin. This Advent season, I invite you to return to the Lord in a renewed way by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Even if you have not been in a while, have no fear! I will be happy to walk you through it when you arrive. There is nothing that brings me greater joy than hearing someone’s confession because I get to see them walk out of the confessional with a renewed confidence in God’s love for them. All you have to do is come. Remember, God’s love and God’s mercy is greater than our sin. Put your trust in His mercy. I hope to see you this Monday, December 20 at St. Bernard’s in Waterville when I will be available to hear confessions in the church for the entire PCA from 4pm to 7pm. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will also be taking place while confessions are being heard, so even if you do not want to celebrate the Sacrament that evening, you can still stop by and say a prayer in front of our Eucharistic Lord. This will be a “night of mercy!” St. Joan of Arc, St. Bernard, St. Mary, and St. Joseph, pray for us!

**Advent Light Is On Campaign**

Father Hage will be prepared to hear Confessions for an extended period on Monday, Dec 21 from 4pm until 7pm at St. Bernard's in Waterville for the entire PCA. Father Hage will expose the Blessed Sacrament on the high altar at 4pm, so parishioners can adore the Blessed Sacrament while they wait in line to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He will do Solemn Benediction at 7pm to conclude this special offering. Please take advantage of this unique opportunity to receive God's mercy this year.

**Holy Hour w/Confessions**

This week’s PCA Holy Hour will take place at **St Joseph’s in Oriskany Falls at 5:30pm on Tuesday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>**. These PCA Holy Hours involve Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, *the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation*, and Solemn Benediction and take place every Tuesday at 5:30pm on a rotation.

## **LIVING NATIVITY (Rescheduled)**

Mark your calendars!! Together, our PCA will be hosting a Christmas Pageant that parishioners of all ages, and from all 4 parishes will be able to enjoy! Join us on Thursday, December 23rd for a "Drive By" Christmas Pageant near St. Joseph's Church in Oriskany Falls from **5:30-6 PM**. As you drive around the park, you will be able to witness the Nativity scene with live animals at the gazebo and hear the voices of our children as they sing Christmas carols (parishioners are more than welcome to get out of their cars and sing with them!). Make this part of your family Advent activities as we prepare for the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **PCA Christmas Mass Times 2021**

4pm Vigil Mass at St. Mary's in Hamilton;  
4pm Vigil Mass at St. Bernard's in Waterville;  
6pm Vigil Mass at St. Joan of Arc in Morrisville  
8pm Vigil Mass at St. Joseph's in Oriskany Falls;  
10pm Mass during the Night at St. Mary's in Hamilton;  
11am Christmas Day Mass at St. Bernard's in Waterville.  
*\*The 4pm Christmas Vigil Mass at St. Mary's and the 11am Christmas Day Mass at St. Bernard's will be live streamed on our Facebook page @Route20Catholic.*

## **Saturday Vigil Masses Update for the Weekend of Dec 25/26**

December 25th is a **Saturday** this year (2021). Please note that **all Masses** celebrated at whatever time on December 25th are Masses of the **Nativity of the Lord**. Consequently, Vigil Masses for the Feast of the Holy Family are not to be celebrated on December 25th because this feast ranks lower on the table of liturgical days than the Solemnity of Christmas. This means that Church Law does not allow our pastor to celebrate the Saturday Vigil Masses at St. Joan's and St. Joseph's on Saturday, December 25th because it would still be Christmas Day. Our pastor will celebrate the Sunday Masses at St. Bernard's and St. Mary's on Sunday, December 26th, and all in the PCA are encouraged to attend these Masses as part of their Sunday obligation that weekend. Both the Nativity of the Lord and the Feast of the Holy Family are days of precept (obligation).

## **SYRACUSE DIOCESE:**

### **Syracuse Seminarians Lessons & Carols**

The seminarians of the Diocese of Syracuse cordially invite you to join them for the Solemn Celebration of Advent Lessons & Carols at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, December 19th at 2pm. The ticket process will go directly to the St. Thomas Aquinas Fund, Inc. for the support of seminary education. [You can purchase tickets on this link.](#) Masks will be required and six foot social distancing observed when seating parties.

### **December 19, 2021: Fourth Sunday of Advent (LK 1:39-45)**

A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Mary was excited about her first pregnancy and rushed to tell her cousin. Sadly children are often seen as a liability, "another mouth to feed" or an "obstacle to my career." It is said "Christmas is for children." It is more accurate to say "Christmas is for adults to appreciate the gift of children!"

## **"Rejoice in the Lord always."**

What brings joy to your heart? Is Christ there? Christ is always calling us into a deeper relationship; a relationship where we will find the fullness of that joy. Call Father Jason Hage (315) 470-1468 or write: [vocations@syrдио.org](mailto:vocations@syrдио.org).

## **ROUTE20CATHOLIC:**

### **Children's Liturgy of the Word**

CLW is for all children in grades Pre-K, K, and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade. It is offered each week during the 9am Mass at St. Bernard's & the 11am Mass at St. Mary's. These sessions include prayer, a Gospel related craft with a quick lesson, and sometimes singing!

### **Advent Adult FF Series**

"I'm Not Ok. You're Not Ok. But It's Ok!" by Chris Padgett. "If they really knew me" ... How many times have we thought that? We put on a face that says we're OK, but, we are a mess. We don't think life can be better, so we learn to excel at being average. What if life could be lived differently? This book offers that hope. No one is perfect—we're in good company—and there is a God who sees that we are not OK and wants to be with us anyway. Break through the barriers, face your insecurities, and find true peace so you can become the-best-version-of-yourself. Every Wednesday during Advent at 7pm with Fr. Jason Hage. St. Bernard's Church, Waterville  
Live-streamed on Facebook @Route20Catholic

### **New Beginnings**

Advent would be a great time to consider a new beginning. If you have ever considered joining the Catholic Church or being confirmed in the Faith, now is a good time to start the exploration to see if it is right for you. We are just beginning our RCIA process for this year, so contact Deacon Paul at [dpaullehmann@gmail.com](mailto:dpaullehmann@gmail.com) or call him at (315) 794-1393.

### **ALPHA!**

We are only a couple of weeks away from the launch of one of the most exciting initiatives to date for Route20Catholic! It is called Alpha, and it will begin on Wednesday, January 5th and run every Wednesday right up to Ash Wednesday. It will be hosted by St. Mary's for the entire PCA. The sessions will always begin with dinner and a talk followed by small group questions. The goal of these sessions is to facilitate deeper conversion with the support of the faith community, and is open to all. Please consider participating as well as inviting at least one family member or friend who you think could benefit from this offering. This will be a transformative experience for the parishioners of our four parishes. Please RSVP to [Route20Catholic@syrдио.org](mailto:Route20Catholic@syrдио.org), if you would like to participate.

### **Prayer Warriors**

Is prayer a deep part of your life. As prayer warriors we are listening to Gods call to help others. We pray a prayer that is select each month and Father gives us an intention. We pray that intention all month. We have also incorporated St. Joan's prayer chain into our prayer warriors. We hear the needs of others and pray for their intention as well. Please come join us. Contact Katie Rowlands [katiger12@yahoo.com](mailto:katiger12@yahoo.com) All are welcome!

**Vocation Awareness**

“Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste”. Mary was not afraid, she had faith and trust in God, and she acted on that faith and trust. If you are being called to the priesthood, deaconate, or religious life, through the intercessions of our Blessed Mother, may you have the strength and courage to trust and act on God’s call. Call Father Jason Hage (315) 470-1468, or write: [vocations@syrdio.org](mailto:vocations@syrdio.org).

**PCA PARISHES:**

**ST. MARY:**

**Basket of Cheer Raffle Winner**

A huge thank you to everyone that supported St. Mary’s ARS through buying tickets for the “Basket of Cheer” raffle or by donating items to fill it. Our fundraiser was a big success and Gary Will was the lucky winner of the basket!

**Grassroots Book Group**

We will be taking a little Christmas/New Year’s Break on Thursday, December 23, and Thursday, December 30. We are looking forward to our new book discussion beginning on Thursday, January 6, 1-2PM at St. Mary’s Church Hall. New members are always welcome to join our group. Our first book of the new year will be THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, A SHORT HISTORY, by Hans Kung. Details to follow!

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Christmas Flowers**

Each year as we gather to celebrate on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, our worship is enhanced by poinsettias, trees, and greens. The altar rosary societies for our churches rely on your generosity to help make this possible. Your gift may be made in memory of departed loved ones and/or in thanksgiving for God’s blessings. Please place your donation in the envelope marked “Flower Offering” and place in the collection bin (or send a check to the parish office with “Christmas flower offering” in the memo).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Ministers for Liturgy**

**4 PM (12/18) – St. Joan’s**

Lectors: Paula Curtis – First Reading

Lisa Rusch - Second Reading

Altar Servers: Joshua Tomcho

Greeter: Roseann Narehood

Counters: Chris Doroshenko and Elaine Gray

**6 PM (12/18) – St. Joseph’s Lector: Linda Osterhout**

**9 AM (12/19)– St. Bernard’s**

Ushers/Hospitality: Katrina & Matt (son) Townsend

Lectors: Diane Bootie – 1st Reading

Lurena McNamara – 2nd Reading

Altar Servers: Rylan & Connor Stanton

**11 AM (12/19) – St. Mary’s**

Lectors: Gary Will – First Reading

Sue Lehmann – Second Reading

Altar Servers: Katelyn Simpson & Ciara Sparber

Live-Stream: Reagan Hope

Ushers: Jimmy Gargiulo & Dan Martin

Gift Bearers: Fran & Jimmy Gargiulo

**ROUTE20CATHOLIC FINANCIAL REPORTS**

\*\*\*\*\*

**St. Joan’s Financial Support – 12/11**

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Weekly Offertory               | \$ 480.00  |
| Christmas Offering             | \$ 20.00   |
| Christmas Flowers              | \$ 60.00   |
| Hope Appeal 2021 Amount Raised | \$7,932.50 |
| Hope Appeal 2021 Goal          | \$6,389.56 |

\*\*\*\*\*

**St. Bernard’s Financial Support – 12/12**

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Offertory               | \$ 2,923.00 |
| Cathedraticum                  | \$ 232.00   |
| Holy Day                       | \$ 230.00   |
| Christmas Flowers              | \$ 64.00    |
| Knights of Columbus            | \$ 580.00   |
| Insurance                      | \$ 100.00   |
| Hope Appeal 2021 Amount Raised | \$13,245.00 |
| Hope Appeal 2021 Goal          | \$14,486.96 |

*The Sanctuary lights for the month of December at St. Bernard’s are lit in memory of #1 Anthony George by Charleen George & #2 James & Veronica Morgan by Family*

\*\*\*\*\*

**St. Mary’s Financial Support – 12/12**

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Offertory               | \$ 2,215.43 |
| Online Giving                  | \$ 450.00   |
| Cathedraticum                  | \$ 10.00    |
| Tohatchi                       | \$ 12.00    |
| Youth Group                    | \$ 10.00    |
| Christmas Offering             | \$ 20.00    |
| Christmas Flowers              | \$ 295.00   |
| Thanksgiving Offering          | \$ 575.00   |
| Immaculate Conception          | \$ 280.00   |
| Clerical Fund                  | \$ 40.00    |
| Fuel                           | \$ 150.00   |
| Hope Appeal 2021 Amount Raised | \$12,639.00 |
| Hope Appeal 2021 Goal          | \$16,792.82 |

*The Sanctuary light for the month of December at St. Mary’s is lit in memory of Rocky Faraone by Betty Faraone  
The greens on the altar were given by Sylvia Roe in memory of her mother, Millie Palermo.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**St. Joseph’s Financial Support – 12/11**

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Weekly Offertory               | \$ 856.00  |
| Extraordinary                  | \$ 5.00    |
| Holy Day                       | \$ 37.00   |
| Christmas Offering             | \$ 20.00   |
| Christmas Flowers              | \$ 55.00   |
| Knights of Columbus            | \$ 120.00  |
| Fuel                           | \$ 30.00   |
| Hope Appeal 2021 Amount Raised | \$4,135.00 |
| Hope Appeal 2021 Goal          | \$6,090.10 |

\*\*\*\*\*

**COVID-19 Update**

As you know, New York State has instituted a mask mandate in all public places effective December 13th to January 15th. It is being done as a safety precaution and out of the utmost concern for one’s neighbor. Bishop Lucia informed pastors and parish administrators that he expects all parishes in the Diocese of Syracuse to cooperate with this important public health matter and comply with the mask mandate. After consultation on the guidelines, all public offices in the Diocese of Syracuse must again implement mask wearing in its public spaces immediately