

Fifth Sunday of Lent



*“I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God,
The one who is coming into the world...John 11:27.”*

March 22, 2026

St. Mary's Church Est. 1852
26 Church St.
Nassau, NY 12123

WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S

We are happy that you decided to worship with us. If you are visiting just for today, we pray that God will be with you on your journey. If you are seeking a church to call home, we would be honored to welcome you into our parish community. If you are interested in joining our parish family, please call the parish office at 518-766-2701.

Rev. John Cronin – Pastor

Rev. John Close – Sacramental Minister

Dee McCumber – Parish Secretary

Email – stmarysnassau1@gmail.com

Phone – 518-766-2701

Barbara Wurzburg – Associate for Faith Formation

Email – stmarysnassaufaithformation@gmail.com

Phone – 518-801-7605

Linda Ridzi – Associate for Faith Formation

Email – ridzilinda@gmail.com

Joanna Towse – Music Minister

Phone – 518-436-7857



Parish Office Hours: Tuesday- Thursday 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

ST. MARY'S MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic Community of St. Mary's, Nassau, vow to foster the spirit of St. Francis by becoming instruments of God's peace to help each other grow spiritually. We choose to respond to our baptismal call to live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ through our commitments of time, talent, and treasure in the love and service of all people. Adopted by St. Mary's Pastoral Council, September 16, 2001.

Parish Happenings:

Sunday	Divine Mercy Mass 10:00 am Followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet – All are welcome to stay
Monday	Learn About Your Faith 6:30 – 7:30 pm at the Rectory
*Tuesday	Morning Mass 9:30 am St. Anthony Novena and Adoration until 10:30 am Bible Study 6:30 – 7:30 pm at the Rectory
Wednesday	Parking Lot Rosary 6:00 pm (Dress for the weather)
*Thursday	Morning Mass 9:30 am Recitation of Rosary after Mass
Friday	Every 1 st Friday, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00 pm
Saturday	Vigil Mass 5:30 pm Every 1 st Saturday, Rosary at 5:00 pm before Mass

*During the winter months, weekday morning Masses will be in the rectory at 9:30 am

St. Mary's Website: <http://parishes.rcda.org/St.MarysNassau>

**Mass Intentions
Fifth Sunday of Lent**

March 21 & March 22, 2026
Saturday, March 21, 2026 @ 5:30 pm Ann Wagner – by Dee McCumber
Sunday, March 22, 2026 @ 10:00 am Carol – by Our Church Community Mamie Mazzatti – The Russomanno Family
Tuesday, March 24, 2026 @ @ 9:30 am Charles Papa – by Charleen Papa
Thursday, March 26, 2026 @ 9:30 am For the People of St. Mary’s
March 28 & March 29, 2026
Saturday, March 28, 2026 @ 5:30 pm Milano Brothers Family – by Zucconi-Dellea Family
Sunday, March 29, 2026 @ 10:00 am Lee and Bud Rausch – Jim and Rocky
Tuesday, March 31, 2026 @ @ 9:30 am For the People of St. Mary’s
Thursday, April 2, 2026 @ 9:30 am For the People of St. Mary’s

Our hearts and prayers are extended to the family and friends of Ann Wagner.

Please pray for our sick



Chamylla Stephanie De Frees
Alice Loughlin
Michele Sweet
Michelle Dymond
Thomas O’Grady

Michael Stephen Allen
Christine Anderson
Bill Ayers
Joan Campbell
Chad Cardoza
Maureen Cellery
Madison Chesterman
Barry and Jeanne Litt
Gina Lo Presti
Philip Sullivan
Dom Devaney
Mamie Mazzatti
Charleen Papa

Stacy Hyson
Kate Hockford
Elizabeth Hrifko
Bethany Jenest
Seth Kaminski
Sara Messineo Kent
Cathy Lavoie
Masresha Schaefer
Colin Sullivan
Ann Devaney
Joseph Messineo
Rita Labrum
Amy Gumlaw

Nancy Quinn
Peter Quinn
Cory Roberts
Jake Rysedorph
Marion Rysedorph
Tom Rysedorph
Linda Schaefer
Cathy Schaefer
John DeLap
Avin Meyette
Linda Walsh
Anna May Gregg
Ginny Doherty

Collections

FOR US TO COVER PARISH EXPENSES, OUR WEEKLY COLLECTION MUST MEET \$2,500

Although some of the weekly collections do meet this amount, our collections are not consistent. Therefore, we are not meeting our necessary expenses. Additionally, as noted above, some of our expenses are unforeseen or fluctuate (fuel, maintenance, snow removal).

Our Collections for March 14 & March 15, 2026 \$2,175

Important Notes Regarding the Diocesan Appeal Collections

St. Mary's Diocesan Appeal assessment for July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026: \$30,576

Our Collections to Date: \$13,206

In order to meet this year's assessment, we need **\$17,370** by June 30, 2026.

If we do not satisfy our assessment for the year, it becomes a debt that is carried over to the next year. We then are obligated to pay that debt as well as the new assessment.

Please make sure that **your name** and **St. Mary's 09-08** appear on the check. This is an **important** edit that needs to be done so your donation is reported correctly by the Diocese. If you do not receive an acknowledgement of your contribution, please call the office (518-766-2701) and let Dee know.

We Need Volunteers

There are several activities that are being contemplated for this year. Would you consider joining our volunteer group? It does not consume a lot of your time and you would not have to volunteer for all the activities. It would **greatly** help St. Mary's. **We would love to be more active as a parish and in our community.** Please call the Rectory 518-766-2701 and speak with Dee or leave a message.

ALSO....

Would you be willing to donate a small amount of your time to help in some of the responsibilities of St. Mary's? As time has passed we find that there is not enough time and are not enough people for all that needs to be done to keep us looking good and in working order.

Would you be willing to give a couple of hours every other week to:

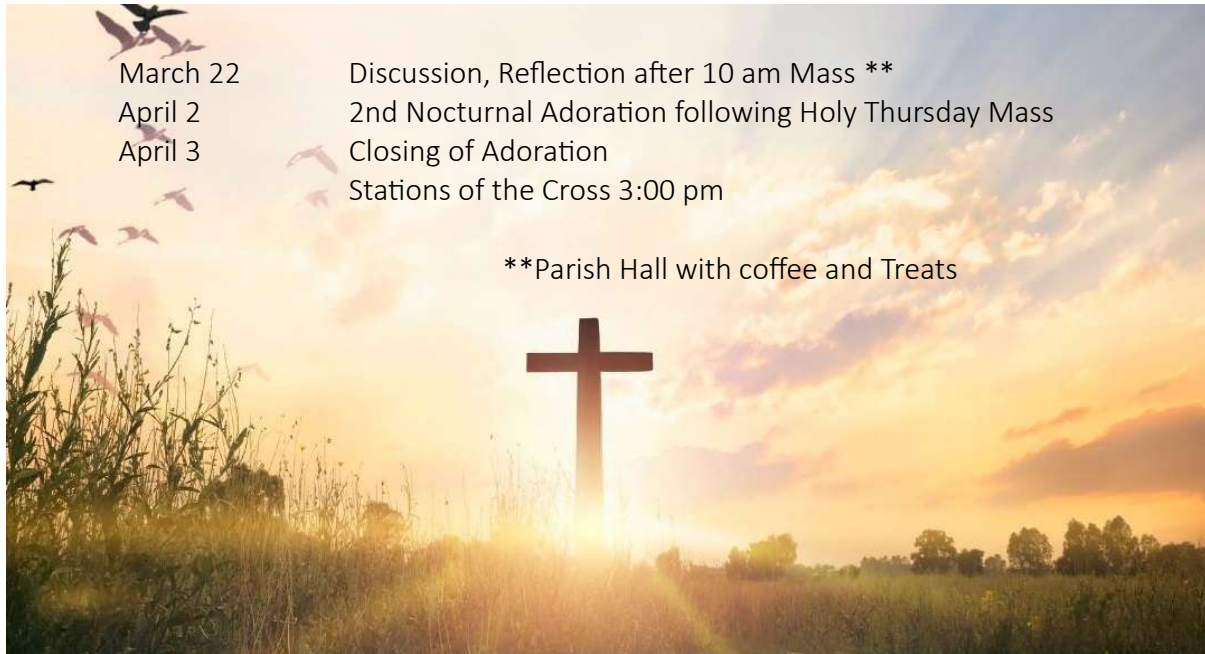
- Vacuum the upstairs and downstairs of the Church Hall. *Thank you, Jen!*
- Wash and iron the linens.
- As warmer months are approaching, grounds maintenance around the church, hall and/or rectory.

Perhaps a group could do one of the projects and finish with coffee or lunch. A team effort would make it easier and it would be a good way to routinely connect and keep in touch with each other.

Thank you

St. Mary's Lenten Adoration Retreat

Stations of the Cross for Lent begin February 20 at 6:00 pm followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and continuing every Friday at the same time



Please keep in our prayers our two parishioners, Suzy Redhead and Kim Krahforst-Langerly, who will be making their confirmation on Easter Sunday

Reconciliation Schedule		
St. Henry's	Monday, March 16	6:30 PM
St. Mary's	Thursday, March 19	6:30 PM
Individual Confession		
Immaculate Conception	Monday, March 23 Thursday, March 26	3:00 pm – 7:00 pm 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm
St. Joseph's	Wednesday, March 25	3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Holy Week Schedule		
Holy Thursday The Lord's Supper	April 2, 2026 7:00 PM	St. Mary's
Good Friday	April 3, 2026 7:00 PM	Immaculate Conception
Easter Vigil	April 4, 2026 7:00 PM	St. Joseph's
Easter	April 5, 2026 10:00 AM	St. Mary'
Easter	April 6, 2026 11:30 AM	Immaculate Conception

Thoughts for Our Daily Lives

During the Lenten journey, we have given up many things. Perhaps instead of giving up these things only during Lent, we can, as Pope Francis advised several years ago, dedicate ourselves to making this world a better place.

Thank you to all who signed up for an hour or more at the March 6 Nocturnal Adoration

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus took his three closest disciples—Peter, James, and John—with him and asked them to "keep watch" and pray with him.

He said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

Can we not give Him one hour of companionship during His moment of anguish?

Please offer Our Lord one hour of company by signing up for our next 'Nocturnal Adoration' commencing after Holy Thursday Mass to Good Friday morning 7 pm-8 am

Sign-up sheets will be found at each Church entrance.

Lenten Reflections

REFLECTION OF ST ANTHONY OF PADUA

St Anthony writes: "Christ who is your life is hanging before you, so that you may look at the Cross as in a mirror. There you will be able to know how mortal were your wounds, that no medicine other than the Blood of the Son of God could heal. If you look closely, you will be able to realize how great your human dignity and your value are....

Nowhere other than looking at himself in the mirror of the Cross can man better understand how much he is worth"

(*Sermones Dominicales et Festivi* III, pp. 213-214).

Lenten Viewing

Here is a great video about the conquest of Israel by Nebuchadnezzar

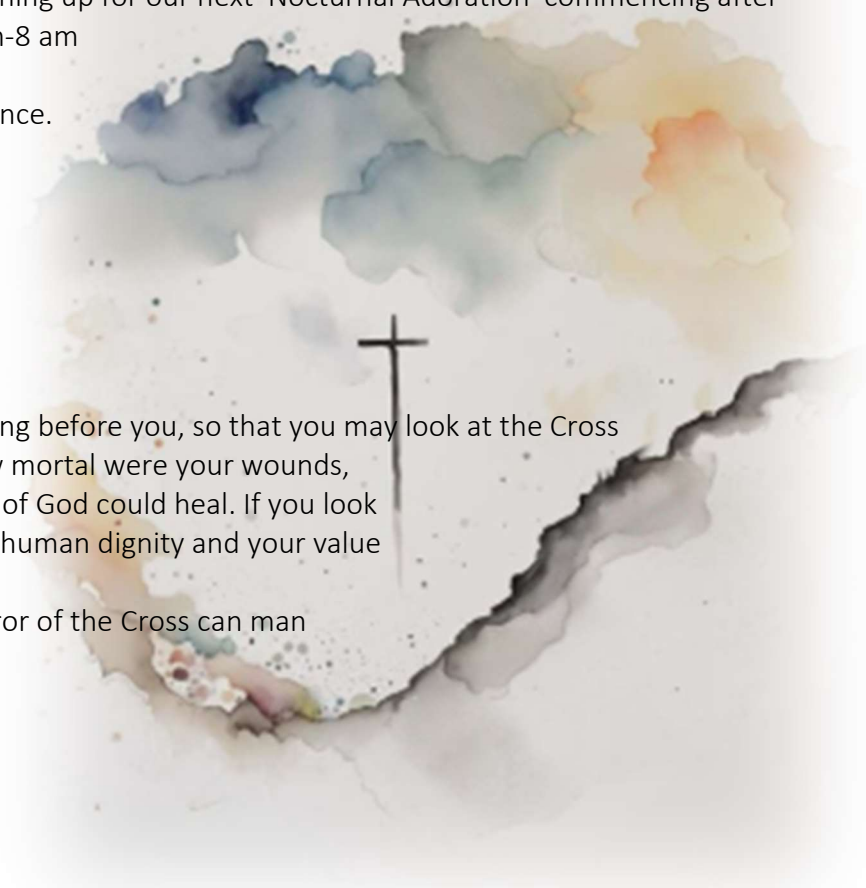
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nebuchadnezzar_II

And the Babylonian captivity:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdwPxjjxogY>

Excellent AI video about Fr. Johannes Reus, a Jesuit priest from Germany who had gone to Brazil in 1900 to teach and evangelize. He was one of those people who lay down their lives. His shrine is visited by over a million each year. Inspirational!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4VqAmf1b3UE>



EVENTS

St. Mary's

Fr. Cronin

Fr. Cronin continues to celebrate Mass every other Tuesday morning. The next Tuesday is March 31 The next Tuesday will be April 21. If all goes well with **Mother Nature**, Mass will be in the Church.



Coffee hmm!

Let's hear it for coffee! The weather is cooperating.... Mostly... It is trying.....It's March.... Meet in the Hall for some coffee, talk and treats.

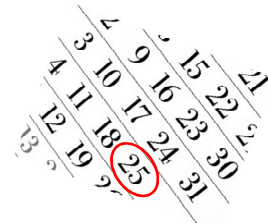
Sunday, March 22
after 10:00 Mass.
Goodies are served!



Hold the Date

COMING SOON – OUR ANNUAL SWEETS AUCTION!

SATURDAY, APRIL 25



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Reminders

April is Cemetery Spring Clean-Up Month

Each April is scheduled for clean-up. Believe it or not April will be here in just 3 short weeks! The leftover of winter debris from Mother Nature- and this year she gave us a lot-is picked up and discarded. Remember, if you have any decorations, please remove them so they are not taken away during the clean-up

Rice Bowls

Since 1975, CRS Rice Bowl has raised more than \$350 million and support the work of CRS in more than 130 different countries. To learn about the Rice Bowl Organization including stories of hope and recipes from around the world, visit their website: <https://www.csricebowl.org/>

Our Lenten Rice Bowls are on the table in the back of the Church.

In Our Community

The March 2026 edition of **OUR TOWNE** magazine ran a feature article on St. Mary's efforts in supporting refugee families. If you do not receive the magazine, they have a website: <https://ourtowne.net/#> On their home page is the most current publication. This is a PDF that once you select it, it opens and allows you to turn and read the magazine page by page. Our article is on page 20. It is also on our bulletin board.

HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL

Registration is open for the 2026-2027 school year! Holy Spirit School is now accepting registrations for the upcoming school year (Pre-K 3–Grade 5). We offer a nurturing, faith-filled environment where every child is known and valued. Visit www.hsseg.com for more information or call 518-477-5739, email: hsoffice@hsseg.com to schedule a tour.!

AN AFTERNOON OF LENTEN SONG WITH DAN SCHUTTE

When: March 29 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Where: Corpus Christi Catholic Church, 2001 Route 9, Round Lake
Ticket Price: \$15

Communications & Events from the Diocese

<https://www.rcda.org/>

"THE PASTORAL CENTER PRAYS THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS" IS AVAILABLE NOW

Bishop Mark suggested we produce a Stations of the Cross with employees at the Pastoral Center sharing reflections on each station. Our office produced it as a special edition of the Called to Serve Podcast making it easy to listen to at home, in the car, or even in a church or chapel as you walk the Stations, alone or in a group. It is now available on the Diocesan website: <https://www.rcda.org/stations-cross-podcast>

Bible Study: Sacred Heart of Jesus, North Albany – February 2026-September 2026 – the 3rd Sunday of each month at 10 am. Poster on bulletin board.

House Keeping Notes....

Eucharist Ministers and Lectors

If you are unable to perform your duties on your scheduled me, please call another Eucharist Minister or Lector to replace you. Please call Michele Sweet (518-336-4422) if you have any questions.

Learn About Your Faith

Our Journey of Faith

Our “**Learning About Our Faith**” The 2026 schedule is posted on the bulletin boards. The schedule has been included to the “Religious Education” section of the bulletin.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation school year 2026 class schedule is published on the last page in the “Religious Education” section of our bulletin.

Religious Education Schedules

Faith Formation

Faith Formation classes are from 8:45 am to 9:45 am for all grades, K through 10th, with Mass at 10 am

JANUARY 2026	FEBRUARY	MARCH
1/4 – Class 11 – Class 1/18 – No Class – Honoring MLK 1/25 – FAITH FORMATION CANCELED DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER	2/1 – Class 2/8 – Class 2/15 – No Class (Winter Break) 2/22 – Class	3/1 – Class 3/8 – Class Daylight Savings Time Starts 3/15 – Class 3/22 – Class 3/29 – Class (Palm Sunday)
APRIL	MAY	
4/5 – Class 4/12 – Class 4/19 – Class 4/26 – Class	5/3 – Last Class 5/10 – First Holy Communion	

Learning About Our Faith Schedule

Learning About Our Faith sessions meet Monday evenings in the Rectory at 6:30 pm.

Our Journey of Faith Learning About Your Faith			
Session		Date	Topic
11	Monday	1/26/26	The Sacraments - Baptism & Confirmation
12	Monday	2/2/26	The Sacraments - Penance & Reconciliation
13	Monday	2/9/26	The Sacraments - Marriage
14	Monday	2/16/26	The Sacraments - Holy Orders
15	Monday	2/23/26	What is Lent
16	Monday	3/2/26	The Sacraments - Anointing of the Sick
17	Monday	3/16/26	The Sacraments - Social Justice and Dignity of Life
18	Monday	3/23/26	The Way of the Cross
19	Monday	3/30/26	The Meaning of Holy Week
20	Monday		Catholic Beliefs - Morality
21	Monday		Prayer Life, Discernment, Holiness, Evangelization
22	Monday		Mary
23	Monday		Purgatory
24	Monday		Conversion, The Laity, Your Special Gifts
25	Monday		The Saints

IMMIGRATION – REFUGEE REPORT
MARCH 21-22,2026

NEW TO US!! CRI doing weekly food deliveries to clients! These have been instituted especially for families who have difficulty getting out for food, especially to local food banks. Think older people, those with young children, or who do not have family members able to do this if they are working or shall I say, are fearful of ICE? (not the kind of task that you want to worry about where you are unsure if you will be “stopped”.)

People can volunteer to help pack for these and even to deliver. This is done on Thursdays. You can find details on their web site. HERE is where our food donations go at CRI, and they also try and work with local food banks where possible. As mentioned before they also work directly with CAPITOL ROOTS so people can get fresh produce, etc. Please try and add to YOUR shopping list, and then drop those food items off in the back of church in the confessional room or that corner so as not to mix up with the local food bank donations

They are also looking for front desk volunteers. Basically, it is a secure position, locked glass door entry, welcoming people who are there for appointments with their Case Managers, etc. This main door is directly off Washington Ave. beside the Albany library.

Our needs have not changedbasically foodstuffs as on the check lists available in the back of church in the Refugee folders. AND OF COURSE, sewing machines. Thanks to our cash givers, I can now get 2!! sewing machines this week after checking sales! I and my wife will be meeting with The East Greenbush Methodist Church Women’s Group as soon as possible as they are interested in trying to take this Sewing Machine task on. More later that.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: In my most recent searches etc. including an AP news release on March 15th, and investigations by other organizations, what has been found is that the numbers the Trump Administration has been using for arrests, confinement and deportations are NOT ACCURATE in any way. They fluctuate from one month to next, do not match other figures cited, even supposedly actual deportation numbers at the border, and CANNOT BE TRUSTED. Even the Conservative Oversight Project which pushes for MORE DEPORTATIONS has said, “the numbers purported to be (derived) from actual statistics have no backup and have jumped all over the place.” the last actual numbers released “officially” are from OCTOBER 2025 before the Minneapolis ICE Operation.

Here’s the point this adds confusion intentionally and prevents legal aid, representation from being pursued in the courts on individual cases. The more confusion the easier it is for the administration to hide and move people, especially as they attempt to set up more deportation centers. It is a perfect example of how other autocratic systems have operated, indeed even to the point of “disappearing “people as has happened in some South American countries.

Lets not give up nowYOU can make a difference, Ken

Nothing is more destructive of human dignity than a rule which imposes a mute and blind obedience.

Anthony Eden

OUR FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATORS CONTACT INFORMATION

Federal Representatives

Legislator	Area Office	Phone
Senator Charles Schumer Website Contact Page	Albany Office. https://www.schumer.senate.gov/contact/message-chuck	518-431-4070
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand Website Contact Page	Albany Office https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/email-me/	518-431-0120
Representative Josh Riley- Website Contact Page	Leeds Office https://riley.house.gov/contact	518-625-2100

State Representatives

Legislator	Area Office	Phone
Senator Jake Ashby Contact:	https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/jacob-ashby 594 Columbia Turnpike East Greenbush, NY 12061 https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/jacob-ashby/contact	Phone: 518-371-2751
Assemblyman Scott Bendett Contact:	https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Scott-Bendett 1580 Columbia Turnpike Building 4, Suite 1A Castleton on the Hudson, NY 12033 bendetts@nyassembly.gov	Phone: 518-272-6149
NYS Senate Bill S141	https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/S141	
NYS Assembly Bill A270	https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/A270	

If you would like to be kept up-to-date with either bill- S141 or A270, there is a box on the right-hand side of the page where you can enter your email address to receive status updates. Additionally, you can cast a vote to support the bill.