



Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025

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

Joy

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 Third Sunday of Advent

December 13 & December 14, 2025

Saturday, December 13, 2025 @ 5:30 pm

Frank and Rita Dreher –Larry And Kye Sun

Sunday, December 14, 2025 @ 10:00 pm

Lee and Bud Rausch – Rocky and Jim Rausch

Jose' Roberto Silveria – Theresa Harty

Tuesday, December 16, 2025 @ 5:30 pm

The People of St. Mary's

Thursday, December 18, 2025 @ 9:30 am

The People of St. Mary's

December 20 & December 21, 2025

Saturday, December 20, 2025 @ 5:30 pm

Mike Cudzey – for Healing – Marion and Tom Rysedorph

Sunday, December 21, 2025 @ 10:00 pm

Jose' Roberto Silveria – Theresa Harty

Phyllis Casey

Tuesday, December 23, 2025 @ 9:30 am

The People of St. Mary's

Thursday, December 25, 2025 @ 9:30 am

The People of St. Mary's

Remembering in our thoughts and Prayers...

Mike Cudzey, a long-time parishioner, cannot be with us. has moved to hospice at The Wesley Community in Saratoga. Please pray for him. If you wish to send him cards and wishes, his new address is: [Wesley Community, 2 Springs, Room 221, 131 Lawrence St, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866](#)

Please pray for our sick



Michael Stephen Allen

Christine Anderson

Bill Ayers

Joan Campbell

Chad Cardoza

Maureen Cellery

Madison Chesterman

Mike Cudzey

Chamylla Stephanie De Frees

John DeLap

Ann Devaney

Dom Devaney

Michelle Dymond

Anna May Gregg

Amy Gumlaw

Stacy Hyson

Kate Hockford

Elizabeth Hrifko

Bethany Jenest

Seth Kaminski

Sara Messineo Kent

Cathy Lavoie

Barry and Jeanne Litt

Gina Lo Presti

Alice Loughlin

Avin Meyette

Joseph Messineo

Mamie Mazzatti

Thomas O'Grady

Nancy Quinn

Peter Quinn

Cory Roberts

Jake Rysedorph

Marion Rysedorph

Tom Rysedorph

Linda Schaefer

Masresha Schaefer

Colin Sullivan

Philip Sullivan

Michele Sweet

Linda Walsh Linda Walsh

Rita Labrum

Charleen Papa

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Wednesday, December 17	St. Henry's	6:30 pm
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RECONCILIATION (Individual Confession)

Tuesday, December 16	St. Joseph's	1:00-7:00 pm
Wednesday, December 17	Immaculate Conception	1:00 – 5:00 pm
Thursday, December 18	Immaculate Conception	1:00 – 7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, December 24	St. Joseph's	4:00 pm
	St. Mary's	5:30 pm
	St. Henry's	4:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, December 25	Immaculate Conception	10:00 am
	St. Henry's	10:00 am

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Wednesday, December 31	St. Joseph's	4:00 pm
	St. Mary's	5:30 pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Thursday, January 1	Immaculate Conception	10:00 am
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THE MEANING OF THE FOUR ADVENT CANDLES

First Candle (Hope/Prophecy Candle): Represents the hope and promise of the Messiah, echoing the prophecies of the Old Testament. This candle is typically purple.

Second Candle (Peace/Bethlehem Candle): Represents the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and the peace of the coming of Christ. This candle is typically purple.

Third Candle (Joy/Shepherd's Candle): Represents the joy of the shepherds at the news of Jesus' birth. This is often a rose-colored candle, symbolizing the pause in penitential prayer on Gaudete Sunday.

Fourth Candle (Love/Angel's Candle): Represents the love of God and the angelic message of "Peace on Earth". This candle is typically purple.

PRAYER OF ST. MARY'S COMMUNITY

My church is composed of people like me

I help make it what it is

It will be friendly if I am

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them

It will do great work if I work.

The prayer goes on to say more about our parish community and our part in making it what it is.

In the Albany diocese, we are at a difficult time dealing with Bankruptcy and the priest abuse scandal. We are also facing reduced parish participation and donations in a climate of demographic decline...

As individual parishes in the diocese, we have been asked by the Bishop to review and analyze parish financial information, building/repair needs, current/potential outreach programs, and clergy wellness/availability. Our parishioners on our Parish Council and a special committee formed to review and analyze our parish needs are working to help answer [where we go from here](#).

Today, I just want to make everyone aware that looking at our parish financials shows that we have not been able to meet our parish expenses for the past 3 years. This year looks like it will be the same. Looking at all our expenses and all our income including weekly collections and donations made directly to the parish, we are short \$500 per week.

In order for our parish to survive, one of the requirements is that we must be able to sustain ourselves including a balanced budget. We have been looking at our expenses and have been taking steps to reduce expenses and control costs. We will continue to do this, but we ask for your help in meeting our financial needs.

Collections

For us to cover parish expenses, our weekly collection must meet	\$2500
Our Collections for December 6, 7 & 8, 2025	\$4990

Important Note Regarding the Diocesan Appeal Collections

Please make sure that [your name](#) and [St. Mary's 09-08](#) appear on the check. If you do not receive an acknowledgement of your contribution, please call the office (518-766-2701) and let Dee know. This reminder notice is on the bulletin board.

EVENTS



St. Mary's



Sunday, December 14 after Mass is our next coffee hour. Get your mug ready!

Sunday, December 21 after Mass we will have our parish Greccio put on by the children of our Parish.

Saturday, December 20 and Sunday, December 21 Father Cronin will be saying Mass at St. Mary's

Learn About Your Faith

Faith Formation

It is the Season of Advent, a time to prepare ourselves for Jesus coming to earth as a little child. Come to Confession and Mass.

The school year 2025-2026 class schedule is published on the last page in the "Religious Education" section of our bulletin. Additionally, updates that are not included in the bulletin are emailed to parents. Please check your email for these.

Our Journey of Faith

Our "Learning About Our Faith" sessions will resume in January after the holidays and a new schedule for 2026 will be posted on the bulletin boards and added to the "Religious Education" section of the bulletin.



Until then, enjoy the holidays, your family, celebrate your faith and eat as many cookies at one person can eat.



In Our Community

IMMIGRATION – Refugee Update December 13 –14, 2025

*I delivered a full truck this past week of all the winter gear we had in our Choir Loft AND a load of personal/health materials that Father John brought me from Immaculate Conception on Sunday. They are much appreciated as we are certainly now in winter.

As we were loading those on the dock, a young black woman who had called earlier, drove up with 4 bags of kids' clothes and two bags of toys. She was so glad to donate and quietly acknowledged the gratitude behind the need. It caused us to pause and think about how perhaps the needs may be recognized more by those who may have HAD needs in their own lives.

*Mohammad, (our liaison with Senator Schumer's office on the Ukrainians), reviewed USCRI plan to try and set up PRE PLANNED personal goods and foods "totes" for their clients. Given that the number in family and the job situation is known, totes could be filled ahead of time for pickup on a schedule, to avoid the time it would take for a family representative to come to the pantry, pick out the goods, possibly with having to bring children along. Not that children are not welcome, but more the case of having one's hands full. He cited the case of one family of ten where the father is working but a larger than normal allotment would be needed above and beyond supplies from other sources. And sadly, it also means one less risk in being on the street at this time of indiscriminate stops by ICE.

*I also met Claire who is an **ESL (English as a Second Language)** staffer there. They are set to start their next ESL class after the New Year. Interesting conversation among us on fact that she had contacted Senator Gellibrand's office earlier in YEAR and just now finally got a response. OF COURSE, IT WAS A PRO FORMA LETTER, thanks for contacting me etc. with no direct answer on her concern.

QUESTIONS AND THOUGHTS

- We need a better way here perhaps a few more calls, etc. that make it **CLEAR** that we don't have time to wait for months for answers on this issue.
- Perhaps some publicity on how our **elected officials** **DON'T** respond.
- I do understand they are busy-----but-----so are we!!

*The Afghan from Rensselaer who had to report to ICE at Malta on Monday. This is a perfect example of bureaucracy at its worst, probably thanks to DOGE, where ALL papers, filings, applications are so backed up that any further requests for clarification also gets no response. Which then leads to changes in deadlines or cancelations of automatic extensions for working papers not getting through (as of Oct. 30th, automatic extensions have been stopped!!). Fortunately, he had ALL his paper in order, they realized their particular situation being Afghan and an attorney was involved.

*Lastly do you know who the "Shadow President" is? And his stance on Immigration? you might want to check that out. After all its about **YOUR** children's and grandchildren's futures.

*Lastly, yes, I will take any donations through the holidays. In new year we will know more about the Pre-Package plan mentioned above.

And don't forget, Prayer is great but prayer with ACTION is better! *Ken*

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." **Mother Teresa**

Religious Education

Schedules, Updates, and Announcements

Learning About Our Faith

Learning About Our Faith sessions will resume in January after the holidays. At that time, a new schedule will be posted here.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
10/5 – Class 10/12 – No Class- Columbus weekend 10/19 – Class (Decorate Pumpkins) 10/26 – Class (Blessing the Pumpkins)	11/2 – Class (Greccio Practice) Daylight Savings Time Ends 11/9 – Class 11/16 – Class 11/23 – No Class (Thanksgiving Break) 11/30 – No Class (1st Sunday of Advent)	12/7 – Class (Practice) 12/14 – Class (Practice) 12/21 – Grecco! And Christmas Break
JANUARY 2026	FEBRUARY	MARCH
1/4 – Class 1/11 – Class 1/18 – No Class 1/25 – Class	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 5/9 – First Holy Communion	

Any questions, please call the office (518) 766-2701.