



Exaltation of the Cross

St. Mary's Church Est. 1852
PO Box 435
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

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

Mass Intentions Exaltation of the Cross

September 13 & September 14, 2025

[Saturday, September 13, 2025 @ 5:30 pm](#)

Al Reha – for Healing – Beth Wing

Rachel Rysedorph – for Healing – Theresa Harty

[Sunday, September 14, 2025 @ 10:00 pm](#)

Path Tomchik – Maureen Cellery

Marty Neyen – Beth Wing

Paul Tomchik – Mary Tomchik

[Tuesday, September 16, 2025, 2025 @ @ 9:30 am](#)

Fran Hotaling – Theresa Harty

[Thursday September 18, 2025 @ 9:30 am](#)

For the People of St. Mary's

September 20 & September 21, 2025

[Saturday, September 20, 2025 @ 5:30 pm](#)

Frank and Rita Dreher – Larry and Kye Sun

[Sunday, September 21, 2025 @ 10:00 pm](#)

Lee and Bud Rausch– Rocky and Jim Rausch

Paul Tomchik – Mary Tomchik

[Tuesday, September 23, 2025, 2025 @ @ 9:30 am](#)

For the People of St. Mary's

[Thursday September 25, 2025 @ 9:30 am](#)

Tom O'Brien - -Theresa Harty

Please pray for our sick



Seth Kaminski, Cory Roberts, John DeLap, Bethany Jenest, Danielle Hilton, Amy Gumlaw, Joan Campbell, Alice Loughlin, Philip Sullivan, Madison Chesterman, Chad Cardoza, Jeanne and Barry Litt, Elizabeth Hrifko, Sophia Rysedorph, Kate Hockford, Anna May Gregg, Linda Walsh, Linda Schaefer, Colin Sullivan, Masresha Schaefer, Michael Stephen Allen, Christine Anderson, Jake Rysedorph, Charleen Papa, Rita Labrum, Sharon Banks, Dom Devaney, Ann Devaney, Peter Quinn,

Stacy Hyson, Bill Ayers, Michelle Dymond, Tom Rysedorph, Marion Rysedorph, Gina Lo Presti, David Labrum, Chamylla Stephanie De Frees, Nancy Quinn, Michele Sweet, Maureen Cellery, Thomas O'Grady, Stanley Giniewski, Mary Sager, Avin Meyette, Mike Cudsey, Sara Messineo Kent, Joseph Messineo

Collections

September 6 & 7, 2025

\$3324

EVENTS

St. Mary's

Learn About Your Faith

OUR JOURNEY OF FAITH

What is Faith? Who is God? Why does God care about me? What do Catholics really believe? Never made your First Communion, or Confirmation? Interested in learning more? St. Mary's will be holding hour long gatherings in the Parish Rectory or Parish Hall Monday evenings from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm beginning September 8.

Anyone planning to attend should call the Parish office (518)766-2701. So that we have the right number of handouts. The first seven sessions are:

<u>Session Number</u>		<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Complete</u>
1	Mon	9/8/2025	Catholic Beliefs – Jesus	✓
11	Mon	9/15/2025	Catholic Beliefs - The Papacy	
5	Mon	9/22/2025	The Nicene Creed	
2	Mon	10/6/2025	Catholic Beliefs - The Bible	
3	Mon	10/20/2025	Catholic Beliefs - Scripture & Tradition	
20	Mon	10/27/2025	The Early Church & Church History	

The full curriculum is the last page of the bulletin and also posted on both bulletin boards.

St. Mary's Picnic Barbecue

We Need Help!!

We are looking for a couple of volunteers to:

- help shop for the Parish barbecue items;
- help on the day of the picnic to carry soda, water, food, etc. from the Parish rectory to the picnic;
- and, to set up.

If you think you can help, let Dee know 518-766-2701.

When: September 21
Time: 12 Noon
Where: Nassau Sportsmen Club
Cost: No Cost

The parish will provide the Hot Dogs & Hamburgers & Soda & Water. We are asking parishioners to bring a Covered dish – sharing size and to let us know how many people are coming so we can prepare food and drink. The sign-up sheets for the covered dish and attendance is on the front door tables.

The picnic barbeque announcement is posted on both bulletin boards.

In Our Community

IMMIGRATION – Refugee Update September 13 - 14, 2025

***In your pews you will find a copy of the USCRI [ESSENTIAL ITEMS SHOPPING LIST](#), as we discussed in the past couple weeks. This is the one that we can use going forward to accumulate daily living needs for them. Depending on your capability, add to your own shopping list and then drop that item in the back of church. Most likely I will be doing runs every two weeks. Diapers and Feminine Products are two of the most needed items.

*** What if I still have household items? Please see me. we can work out a process depending on what it is. We are stockpiling blankets, etc. here in church for the fall.

*** Over a week ago as reported, I contacted all three of my legislators regarding the Ukrainian Case. On Monday I received a message from Senator Schumer's office that they had called CRI to find out more about this. Tuesday, I received a message from CRI that they HAD received the Senators call and were now, based on that going further to "investigate" why this happened. When a non-profit (or nearly anyone) gets a legislator inquiry it places them in a position where they are more empowered to seek answers, etc. and the net is cast wider so to speak. It does not mean the situation is resolved. I have not received responses from the other two!

Unless you are willing to stand up and call, write, etc., you are NOT doing your duty as a citizen to keep America the country that we all hope it should be. I also would emphasize that our legislators are also available for help for other needs that someone might have. GIVEN THAT YOU WILL FIND THEIR PHONE NUMBERS BELOW

Thanks to all of you for your kind work in this area.

Blessings, *Ken*

"Whoever saves one life, saves the world entire." – Thomas Keneally

OUR LEGISLATORS CONTACT NUMBERS

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

ALL OF THE ABOVE HAVE EASY TO USE EMAIL PAGES ON THEIR WEB SITES WITH A SIMPLE FORM TO FILL OUT AND INCLUDE YOUR MESSAGE.

Reminders...

Learn About Your Faith Begins
Faith Formation 2025-2026
Catholic University Collection
Eucharistic Ministers

Monday nights, 6:30- 7:30 in the Rectory
Begins Sunday, September 28 in the Parish Hall
Sunday, September 28, 2025

If you are unable to perform your duties on your scheduled time,
please call another Eucharist Minister or Lector to replace you.

FAITH FORMATION

It is that time of year again for Faith Formation classes to resume. We begin on Sunday, September 28th in the Parish Hall. The classes are from 8:45 am to 9:45 am for all grades, K through 10th, with Mass at 10 am. Tuition is still \$60.00 for one child - \$5.00 more for each additional child.

Parents and family can show our children how their Catholic faith is not just a religion, but a way to live life. Faith Formation classes help to show how to do this. We welcome our parents to share in their children's faith learning experience here at Faith Formation. Please come and join us.

For any questions or concerns please call the Parish Office at 518-766-2701.

SPECIAL PRAYERS

† Let us pray for the families, friends, and teachers; the victims of the Annunciation Catholic School mass shooting.

† Let us pray for peace: peace in the world and in each of our hearts. Pope Francis

† For all healthcare professionals, first responders and others involved in caring for the sick or injured, that God would give them strength and wisdom as they perform their duties with diminishing staff and heavy patient loads, let us pray to the Lord.

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALBANY 2025 COLLECTIONS

COLLECTION	DATE
Catholic University Collection	Sunday, September 28, 2025
Mission Sunday	Sunday, October 19, 2025
Campaign for Human Development	Sunday, November 16, 2025

St. Mary's, Nassau – What do Catholics really believe?

September 2025

RCIA 2025

OUR JOURNEY OF FAITH

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3	Mon	10/20/2025	Catholic Beliefs - Scripture & Tradition	
20	Mon	10/27/2025	The Early Church & Church History Who's Who in the Church	
14	Mon	TBA	The Sacraments - Marriage	
15	Mon	TBA	The Sacraments - Holy Orders	
16	Mon	TBA	The Sacraments - Anointing of the Sick	
17	Mon	TBA	The Sacraments - Social Justice and Dignity of Life	
18	Mon	TBA	The Mass	
19	Mon	TBA	Mary	
21	Mon	TBA	Purgatory	
		TBA	The Saints	
22	Mon	TBA	Conversion, The Laity, Your Special Gifts	
23	Mon	TBA	Prayer Life, Discernment, Holiness, Evangelization	
4	Mon	TBA	What is Lent	
6	Mon	TBA	The Way of the Cross	
7	Mon	TBA	The Lord's Prayer	
8	Mon	TBA	The Meaning of Holy Week	
9	Mon	TBA	Catholic Beliefs - The Eucharist	
10	Mon	TBA	Catholic Beliefs - Morality	
12	Mon	TBA	The Sacraments - Baptism & Confirmation	
13	Mon	TBA	The Sacraments - Penance & Reconciliation	

If you think you might want to attend some of these meetings, call the parish office 518-766-2701 to learn more. The meetings will be held in the parish rectory (across from the church on Route 20) or in the downstairs meeting room in the parish hall (depending on number of people).

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

September 2025

St. Mary's Church

One Minute Meditations

St. Lawrence Justinian

Born into a noble Venetian family, St. Lawrence Justinian desired sanctity from an early age. He entered the Order of the Augustinian Canons Regular of St. George, where he became known for his zeal, penitential lifestyle, and deep charity—especially toward the poor. He eventually became the general of the order. Recognized for his holiness, he was appointed Bishop, and later Patriarch, of Venice by the pope. He served faithfully until his death at the age of seventy-five.

Jesus turns sorrow into joy

Each September, the Church celebrates the Exaltation of the Holy Cross—not because we glorify suffering, but because the Cross reveals a Love that is total, faithful, and fearless. Christ embraced suffering, rejection, and death—and triumphed over them. His Cross is the ultimate sign that love is stronger than pain. When we bring our trials and sorrows to Jesus, He transforms them—through a kind of divine alchemy—into strength, healing, joy, and even glory. In Him, suffering is never the end of the story.

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

Holiness in everyday life

Pier Giorgio Frassati — to be canonized on September 7 — was known for blending intense spirituality with fun—he loved mountain climbing, practical jokes, and friendship. He taught that holiness can be simple, joyful, and practical, woven into daily life. In a 1923 address to young people, he summed up the Christian life: "Our religion is based on charity, which is nothing other than the most perfect Love." He proposed three ways to live that love: by example, through compassion, and by joyful invitation.

By example: Blessed Pier believed that our lives should reflect our faith without needing words. "We Catholics must strive to have our whole life guided by Christian moral law," he said. That includes building our schedules around the Eucharist, practicing reverence, treating others with dignity, and living generously. These everyday choices silently proclaim who we are—and whose we are.

With compassion: Blessed Pier encouraged personal, thoughtful acts of

love: visiting the lonely, offering a kind word, or putting others first. He reminded us that holiness begins with small, intentional acts of compassion.

By joyful invitation: Blessed Pier's faith was magnetic, marked by laughter,

"Jesus is with me. I have nothing to fear."

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

adventure, and prayer. He urged others to draw people to Christ with warmth and sincerity: "Persuade [those who are far from the Church] to follow the ways of God." A quiet chapel visit or simple prayer can be a powerful invitation to grace.

He urged Catholics to stay rooted in the Eucharist: "Approach the Eucharistic Table as often as possible... from which you will draw strength." His life reminds us that sainthood is not about perfection, but about choosing love—daily, faithfully, and joyfully.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

In the Nicene Creed, professed at every Sunday Mass and solemnity, we affirm belief in "all things visible and invisible"—a direct reference to spiritual beings, including angels. Throughout Scripture, angels appear as messengers, protectors, and servants of God's will. Jesus' words in Matthew 18:10,

Why do Catholics believe in angels?

referencing angels who "behold the face of [His] Father"—form the basis for the Church's belief in guardian angels. These faithful spirits, who remained loyal to God, continue to watch over and guide us. Belief in angels is not optional but a vital part of Catholic teaching and tradition.

Hearing God's voice in the everyday

Discernment isn't limited to religious vocations—it's a way of seeking God's will in all areas of life. Whether you're considering a marriage, a job change, or a move to a new city, discernment helps you respond to God's loving plan with clarity and peace. Here are three tips to avoid common pitfalls:

Learn to recognize His voice: It's difficult to discern God's will if we don't know His character. A healthy relationship with God—nurtured through prayer and Scripture, especially the Gospels—helps us become familiar with His voice. The more time we spend with Him, the easier it becomes to distinguish His promptings from fear, pressure, or personal bias.

Take a practical step: Discernment requires action. You can't always think your way to clarity. Take the interview, visit the new city, introduce your intended to your family. These steps don't commit you for life—they give you real-world experience that sharpens your perspective and brings peace to your decision-making.

Narrow your focus: Too many options can paralyze progress. At some point, discernment involves commitment and trust. Begin by eliminating options that clearly don't fit. The path may shift as you go, but each step—taken prayerfully—leads you closer to the right destination. God's guidance is often gradual but unmistakable.

from Scripture

Luke 16:19-31, Doing the good we ought to do

In this Gospel passage, Jesus tells a parable aimed at those who are indifferent to the suffering around them. A rich man enjoys daily luxury while Lazarus, a poor and sick man, lies just outside his gate, starving and ignored. Though the rich man likely passed by Lazarus often—and even knew his name—he offered no help.

After death, their roles are reversed. Lazarus is carried to the side of Abraham, a place of comfort and honor. The rich man finds himself in torment and pleads for relief. He asks Abraham to send Lazarus with water,

and later to warn his brothers. Both requests are denied.

Jesus' parable does not condemn wealth but the failure to love. The rich man's sin was not what he did, but what he refused to do. He saw suffering and remained unmoved.

This passage challenges us to examine our own hearts. Do we see those in need and look away?

True Christian living means turning prayer into mercy, and faith into action. When we love as Christ commands, the reward is eternal joy.

Q & A Why do Catholics display crucifixes instead of crosses?

Jesus is risen in glory, having conquered sin and death. Yet we, though united to Him in Baptism, remain on our earthly journey, still vulnerable to temptation and suffering. The Crucifix stands as a powerful reminder of the cost of sin and the price of our redemption.

More than a symbol of pain, the Crucifix reveals the depth of God's mercy and love: "*God so loved the world that He gave His only Son*" (John 3:16). It reminds us that Jesus is "*a compassionate high priest*" (Hebrews 4:15) who knows human suffering firsthand—rejection, sorrow, and even death (cf. Psalm 22:14; 69:20).

In every Catholic church, the Crucifix also points to the reality of the Eucharist. The sacrifice of the Mass is not separate from Calvary—it is the same sacrifice, made present to us (*Catechism*, 1545). Christ offers Himself to the Father, and we receive the fruits of that offering: grace, healing, and strength.

The Crucifix is not just a symbol—it is the visual proclamation of love that saves, heals, and invites us into deeper communion with Christ.

Feasts & Celebrations

September 12 – The Holy Name of Mary. Mary has many titles. Begun in Spain in 1513, this feast celebrates her as the Blessed Virgin and is the counterpart to the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. Pope Innocent XI extended this feast to the entire Church after the King of Poland, with Mary's protection, defeated an advancing Muslim army in Vienna in 1683.

September 14 – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (c. 326). St. Helena (mother of Emperor Constantine) discovered what is believed to be the True Cross while on pilgrimage in Jerusalem. On that site, Constantine built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher.

September 16 – Saints Cornelius and Cyprian (c. 253). A renowned theologian and orator, he was ordained a priest and served as the bishop of Carthage. He helped Pope St. Cornelius defend the Church against the Novatian heretics. Pope Cornelius was exiled and died from harsh treatment in 253. Cyprian was arrested for refusing to worship idols. He was exiled and subsequently beheaded.

September 19 – St. Januarius (c. 305). Not much is known about this saint, except that he was the Bishop of Benevento, Italy, and that he was martyred with six companions under the Diocletian persecutions. For reasons unknown, a vial of his blood has miraculously liquified annually, several times a year, since at least 1389.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)