



The 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 2, 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	Faith Formation 8:45 – 9:45 am Parish Hall before Mass Mass followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet – 10:00 am 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
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 1 & August 2, 2026

Saturday August 1, 2026 @ 5:30 pm

Al Reha – For Healing – Beth Wing

Sunday, August 2, 2026 @ 10:00 am

George Leffler – Sharron Anselment

Tuesday, August 4, 2026 @ @ 9:30 am

For the People of St. Mary

Thursday August 6, 2026 @ 9:30 am

For the People of St. Mary

August 8 & August 9, 2026

Saturday August 8, 2026 @ 5:30 pm

Sharon Banks – Linda Dellea

Sunday, August 9, 2026 @ 10:00 am

Paul Tomchik – Mary Tomchik

Tuesday, August 11, 2026 @ @ 9:30 am

For the People of St. Mary

Thursday August 13, 2026 @ 9:30 am

For the People of St. Mary

Please pray for our sick

Michael Stephen Allen
Christine Anderson
Elizabeth Hrifko
Joan Campbell
Joseph Messineo
Maureen Cellery
Madison Chesterman
Barry and Jeanne Litt
Thomas O'Grady
Alice Loughlin
Michele Sweet
Rita Labrum
Amy Gumlaw
Cory Roberts

Stacy Hyson
Kate Hockford
Chamylla Stephanie De Frees
Bethany Jenest
Seth Kaminski
Sara Messineo Kent
Cathy Lavoie
Masresha Schaefer
Gina Lo Presti
Philip Sullivan
Dom Devaney
Michelle Dymond
Marion Rysedorph
Ann Marie Waldron

Nancy Quinn
Peter Quinn
Jake Rysedorph
John DeLap
Tom Rysedorph
Linda Schaefer
Cathy Schaefer
Colin Sullivan
Ann Devaney
Linda Walsh
Anna May Gregg
Charleen Papa



REFLECTIONS

By Greg Sunter

The response of today's psalm is an excellent summary of the theme that runs throughout today's readings: *The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs*. The compassion of God is foremost in these readings—recognizing need within the people and responding with an overflowing abundance. In the gospel, the abundant response of God is the miraculous feeding of more than five thousand people with twelve baskets full of leftovers.

As it became late in the day, the disciples wanted Jesus to send the people away to the nearby villages so that they could buy food for themselves. But Jesus is moved with compassion for the people. He knows that as it is now evening they probably won't be allowed to enter any of the local villages and, even if they were, they probably didn't have money with which to buy food. So it is compassionate care that moves Jesus to act. Remember, he had tried to get away from the crowds to spend some private time mourning the death of John the Baptist. He was entitled to be frustrated and angry with them for intruding on his grief. Instead, when they tracked him down, he went ashore and healed them and taught them. When it came to the evening he went one step further in his compassion and made sure that all were fed.

At the time of writing, the gospel writer knew that his audience would be familiar with the Eucharistic meal. The words and actions of Jesus in this miraculous feeding event foreshadow the events of the Last Supper: he *took* the bread and fish, *gave thanks*, *broke* the bread, and *gave* it to the disciples to distribute. This event is a Eucharistic one just as much as the Last Supper.

Scriptural context – Food for all

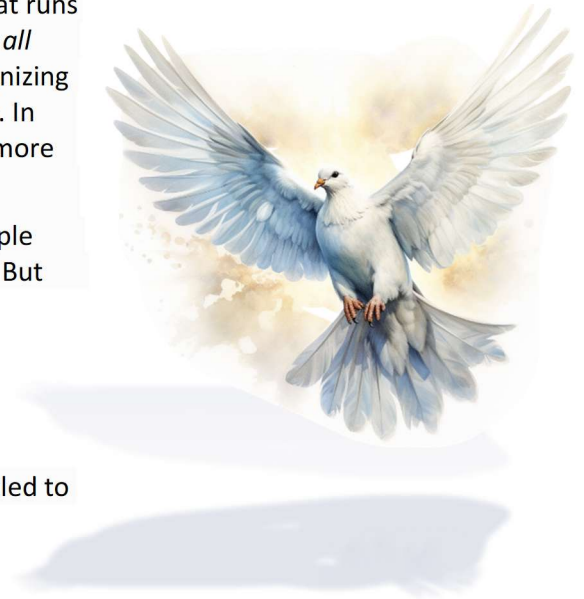
This miraculous feeding is the first of two such accounts in the gospel of Matthew. (It also appears twice in Mark and once in both Luke and John.) In this account, there are twelve baskets of leftovers. These baskets represent the twelve tribes of Israel. It is a metaphor for Jesus as the one who provides nourishment and satisfaction for the entire Jewish population. The imagery in the second story (Mt 15:32-39) emphasizes that Jesus also feeds and satisfies the gentile people. Between them, the two accounts present Jesus as the one who provides spiritual food for all.

Living the Gospel – Grieving John

The passage begins with Jesus receiving the news that his cousin, John the Baptist's death. In response, Jesus immediately withdraws to a lonely place where he can be alone with his disciples. His response to this terrible news is to take time out. He wants to go away to a quiet, lonely place to pray and grieve. He doesn't just take the news in his stride and carry on regardless; he steps back from the busy-ness of life to mourn. It's a lesson for us in times of stress and grief: the response Jesus models is to take time to grieve the loss.

Different View – A different miracle

A very different interpretation of this miraculous feeding suggests that what Jesus did was actually shame people into pulling out from under their cloaks the little bits of food that each of them were carrying. The scripture tells us that the event takes place in a 'lonely place'. People didn't tend to travel very far at all from home without taking with them a bit of food. This interpretation suggests that by his own generosity and willingness to share what little he had, Jesus shamed the crowd into sharing their own morsels of food and produce enough to feed the multitude that were gathered there.



REFLECTIONS

Questions for Adolescents

- Q. What are three different emotions Jesus might have experienced in the course of this passage?
- Q. Why might the people have been so determined in following Jesus?
- Q. How might the disciples have felt when Jesus told them to feed the loaves and fish to the people?
- Q. What message can you take from this passage that is applicable today?

Questions for Adults

- Q. What is the difference between the reaction of the disciples and the reaction of Jesus to the crowd?
- Q. When have you had to respond to the needs of others when you just wanted time alone?
- Q. When have you experienced a 'Eucharistic' meal outside the context of the Mass?
- Q. How do the words of Jesus, 'Give them something to eat yourselves', speak to us today?

LEO'S LENS

by Nick Brodie

Jesus did not ask the crowds for identification before he fed them. He encountered need and responded generously.

Pope Leo comments on how "Catholics are called to imbue every dimension of their existence with the charity of Christ." As the Pope noted, "living out the Gospel in the circumstances of daily life ... has given rise to the many benefits that the Church has provided over the years." Advances in education, welfare, healthcare, and so on, all flow from this straightforward principle.

But none of this is done for Catholics alone. Living out the Gospel means truly seeing that every person is "endowed with an inherent worth that calls for reverence, protection and care." As the Pope reminds us, we all have a part to play in "building a society in which the vulnerable, the suffering and the forgotten are always met with compassion, solidarity and love." They do not need to be Christian before they can be helped.

This, the Pope adds, especially "includes welcoming, protecting and assisting immigrants" who help build up the nations in which we live. "To receive them with compassion and generosity is not only an act of charity," he points out, "but also a recognition of the dignity that belongs to every human person."

(Quotes from Letter on the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of the USA: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/letters/2026/documents/20260625-lettera-anniversario-usa.html>)

Collection Obligations

FOR US TO COVER PARISH EXPENSES, OUR WEEKLY COLLECTION MUST MEET

\$2,500

Our collections are not consistent. Therefore, we are not meeting our necessary expenses. Additionally, some of our expenses are unforeseen or fluctuate.

Our Collections for July 25 & July 26

\$2261

The July 25 and 26 collections were approximately \$239 below our necessary weekly budget.

Diocesan Appeal 2025-2026

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Diocesan Appeal. We closed our 2025 assessment with less of a remaining balance than in the prior year!

Thank you.

EVENTS

Diocese

ANNUAL DIOCESAN MARRIAGE JUBILEE MASS

(For couples celebrating any special anniversary)

with Bishop Mark O'Connell

will be held

Sunday, September 27th, 2026

3 PM Liturgy with Reception

at

Christ Our Light Catholic Church

1 Maria Drive, Loudonville, New York

There will be opportunity for photos with Bishop during reception

Questions can be directed to:

518-453-6660

Marriage.Jubilee@rcda.org

Sponsored by the Office for Discipleship Formation

Couples marking any special wedding anniversary are invited to attend this celebration, which honors the enduring bond of love and strengthens the sense of community among couples within the Albany Diocese.

Bishop Mark will celebrate the Liturgy at 3 p.m. and greet couples and their guests at a reception in the Parish Hall at Christ Our Light immediately following Mass, with an opportunity for photos with each couple.

Please register* through your parish office:

call 518-766-2701 or email: stmarysnassau1@gmail.com

OR you may email your information directly to: Marriage.Jubilee@rcda.org.

➤ **Deadline is September 16.**

*forms are on the table.

Please print your names exactly how you want it to appear on your certificate (ex. John and Jane Doe)

St. Mary's

Does Someone You Know Need Communion Brought to Them?

Do you know of anyone who would like Communion brought to them?

Someone who has difficulty getting out?

Cannot attend Mass as often or at all? Needs a ride?

PLEASE.....call the rectory. Let someone know. We will make sure they get it.

Support our Parishioners....

St. Mary's has parishioners with a lot of personal talents and some with their own business. As members of the St. Mary's family, let us try to support them. Please consider them when you find that you require some service they may offer. Please call the rectory to have their talent or their business placed in our bulletin.

Alight Baby Bottle Drive



The 2026 **Alight Baby Bottle Campaign Drive** continues through September 7. Bottles are at the back door in the basket. Bring the filled bottle back by September 7 to be returned to Alight.

If you would rather donate by check, please make it payable to "Alight". There is a poster on our bulletin board.

Our Community

MYSTERY BOOKS & MAGAZINES



Thank you!!

Mystery books and Bible will be delivered this coming week and a subscription to National Geographic will start with the next edition!

Reminders....

Father Cronin Mass Schedule

Thursday Morning 9:30 am	Saturday 5:30 Sunday 10:00 am
August 6 August 20	Aug. 1-2 Aug 29-30
September 3	TBD

IMMIGRATION - REFUGEE REPORT

August 1 -2, 2026

REFUGEE NEEDS

NEEDS!! We will need foodstuffs and personal health goods for our refugees.

Food Items

Grains
Cereals
Cooking Oils
Rice
Beans
Canned Meals
Pastas

Household Items

Soap
Liquid Detergent
Paper Towels
Face/Wash Cloths – many will use and rewash
Diapers!

Please do not overthink this. Just stop and consider what YOU would buy if you had nothing.

UPDATES ON ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES

UPDATE ON Bill: S4814, - this is the senate bill that we asked you to write Senator Schumer and Senator Gillibrand on to EXTEND the date for Haitians and Syrians to stay here in America under Temporary Protected Status.

It has been introduced into the Senate and as of yesterday it has been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

July 27, was the official expiration date for them to stay in the US. I cannot tell you the next step at this point on when or if there will be a move by ICE to begin deportation process. I can tell you that based on latest news reports there are 200,000 Haitians and 2,000 Syrians. They are **employed** and **part of our workforce!!** It is estimated that they contribute 5.9 Billion to our economy!

If you have not yet contacted the senators *please do!* This is not as complicated as it sounds. Their phone numbers and emails are included as usual in this bulletin. Please try. Let me know if you have problems.

As I have said in earlier bulletins, this administration is moving as fast as possible on a wide variety of issues affecting Immigration and perhaps I have overloaded you with issues. So, I will now limit that in future. I only hope that some of you will respond when we have to carry out action steps like contacting our legislators.

Respectfully, Ken

kmscallon@yahoo.com

“The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil,
but by those who watch them without doing anything.”
Albert Einstein

OUR FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATORS CONTACT INFORMATION

Federal Representatives

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	

State Representatives

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