



*Lord,*  
during this season of Lent,  
*quiet my heart,*  
strip away what I do not need,  
*and draw me closer to You.*  
Amen.

## *First Sunday of Lent*

*“One does not live on bread alone.”*

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](mailto:stmarysnassau1@gmail.com)

Phone – 518-766-2701

Barbara Wurzburg – Associate for Faith Formation

Email – [stmarysnassaufaithformation@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysnassaufaithformation@gmail.com)

Phone – 518-801-7605

Linda Ridzi – Associate for Faith Formation

Email – [ridzilinda@gmail.com](mailto: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 <sup>st</sup> Friday, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00 pm
Saturday	Vigil Mass 5:30 pm Every 1 <sup>st</sup> 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>

<b>Mass Intentions First Sunday of Lent</b>
February 21 & February 22, 2026
Saturday, February 21, 2026 @ 5:30 pm Frank and Rita Dreher – Larry and Kye Sun
Sunday, February 22, 2026 @ 10:00 pm Lee and Bud Rausch – by Jim and Rocky Rausch Emilia Sousa Gomes – by Rosemarie Silveira Derima
Tuesday, February 24, 2026 @ @ 9:30 am For the People of St. Mary's
Thursday, February 26, 2026 @ 9:30 am For the People of St. Mary's
February 28 & March 1, 2026
Saturday, February 28, 2026 @ 5:30 pm Frank and Rita Dreher – Larry and Kye Sun
Sunday, March 1, 2026 @ 10:00 pm Paul Tomchik – by Wife, Mary Tomchik Emilia Sousa Gomes – by Rosemarie Silveira Derima
Tuesday, March 3, 2026 @ @ 9:30 am For the People of St. Mary's
Thursday, March 5, 2026 @ 9:30 am For the People of St. Mary's

**Please pray for our sick**



Michael Stephen Allen  
Christine Anderson  
Bill Ayers  
Joan Campbell  
Chad Cardoza  
Maureen Cellery  
Madison Chesterman  
Barry and Jeanne Litt  
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  
Masresha Schaefer  
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  
Cathy Schaefer  
Colin Sullivan  
Philip Sullivan  
Michele Sweet  
Linda Walsh  
Rita Labrum  
Charleen Papa

## 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 February 14 & February 15, 2026 **\$2045**

### *Important Notes Regarding the Diocesan Appeal Collections*

Any donation to the Diocesan Appeal that is made January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026 is credited to the 2025 Diocesan Appeal. The collection schedule begins July 1 of the calendar year and ends June 30 of the following year.

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*

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.
- Wash and iron the linens.
- Keep the sidewalk in front of the Church and Rectory clean of snow. ***This is required by the Village.***
- Shovel snow and spread salt on the walkways into the Church – when needed.

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.

If you would, please call the Rectory 518-766-2701. Speak with Dee or leave a message.

As the weather warms and more activities are scheduled, more volunteers will be needed. Please consider helping. We will be posting more activities as we find the need.

*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



February 22	Video, Discussion, Reflection after 10 am Mass **
March 1	Video, Discussion, Reflection after 10 am Mass **
March 6	1st Nocturnal Adoration following Stations of the Cross 6:00 pm-
March 7	Closing of Adoration
March 15	Video, Discussion, Reflection after 10 am Mass **
March 22	Video, Discussion, Reflection after 10 am Mass **
April 2	2nd Nocturnal Adoration following Holy Thursday Mass
April 3	Closing of Adoration, Communion Service/Good Friday Service

\*\*Parish Hall with coffee and Treats

Holy Week Schedule		
Holy Thursday The Lord's Supper	7:00 PM	St. Mary's
Good Friday	7:00 PM	Immaculate Conception
Easter Vigil	7:00 PM	St. Joseph's
Easter	10:00 AM	St. Mary'
Easter	11:30 AM	Immaculate Conception

GOD THE FATHER TO SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA, *The Dialogue*

Do for your Neighbor what you Cannot Do for Me

I ask you to love me with same love with which I love you. But for me you cannot do this, for I love you without being loved. Whatever love you have for me you owe me, so you love me not gratuitously but out of duty, while I love you not out of duty but gratuitously. So you cannot give me the kind of love I ask of you. This is why I have put you among your neighbors: so that you can do for them what you cannot do for me—that is, love them without any concern for thanks and without looking for any profit for yourself. And whatever you do for them I will consider done for me.

## EVENTS

### St. Mary's

#### Fr. Cronin

Fr. Cronin will celebrate Mass at St. Mary's February 28 and March 1.

*And...*

Beginning this Tuesday, February 17 and continuing every other Tuesday, Fr. Cronin will be celebrating morning Mass at St. Mary's.

### Our Coffee Hour!

Coffee is perking. The weather "seems to be" cooperating! Meet in the Hall for some coffee and catch up.

Sunday, February 22  
after 10:00 Mass.

**Eat some cookies!**



**St. Mary's Blood Drive was a Huge Success!!** We collected **42** Units with **6** Power Red Donors and **16** first-time Donors. We are planning another later this year.

.....Thank you to Mary Ann and Frank for all their help

### Rice Bowls

#### *The Mission:*

Rooted in the history of the Eucharistic Congress, CRS Rice Bowl invites Catholics and faith communities in the United States to encounter God and our global family throughout Lent by practicing the pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in more than 130 different countries. Twenty-five percent of donations stay in the local diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Since 1975, CRS Rice Bowl has raised more than \$350 million.

(<https://www.crsricebowl.org/about-us>)

#### *The History:*

CRS Rice Bowl began during Lent 1975 in the Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania, as an ecumenical response to the problem of world hunger—specifically in response to the drought in the Sahel region of Africa. Monsignor Robert Coll coordinated the effort with leaders of Allentown's Protestant and Jewish communities.

(<https://www.crsricebowl.org/about-us>)

To learn about the Rice Bowl Organization including stories of hope and recipes from around the world, visit their website: <https://www.crsricebowl.org/>

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

## In Our Community

### Kurt's Community Kitchen

#### *February Freeze*



Come and join your neighbors for a free community meal.

**Where:** Grace United Methodist Church – 42 Church Street  
**When:** Thursday, February 26, 2026 (Note the change to Thursday)  
**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Menu:** Soup: Vegetable, Chicken Noodle, Corn Chowder, Tomato, Mulligatawny  
Grilled Cheese Sandwiches

**Cost:** Free

*Everyone is welcome!*

Posters are on the bulletin board

### Led by the Spirit

A Retreat for Men to Explore  
the Vocation to Priesthood

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**When:** Sunday March 8  
**Where:** St. Ambrose Church  
347 Old Loudon Road, Latham  
**Time:** 12:30 – 5:30  
Adoration and Confession to follow

**Registration:**  
[www.rcda.org/vocations](http://www.rcda.org/vocations)

Join the Albany Diocese Vocations Team for a daylong retreat centered on vocations to the priesthood. Attendees will interact with members of the Vocations Team and have time for prayer and fellowship as they learn more about this vital vocation and how to discern it.

Bishop Mark will be present to celebrate Mass and for discussion.

This information is posted on our bulletin board.

### *House Keeping Notes....*

#### **Rides & Communion**

If you know someone who does not attend Mass because they need transportation, please call the Parish office at 518-766-2701 with their name and phone number.

Do you know someone who cannot get to Mass but would like to receive communion? Call the Parish office at 518-766-2701 with their name and phone number.

## Eucharist Ministers and Lectors

The schedule for Eucharist Ministers and Lectors for the first quarter of 2026 has been confirmed and distributed to the participants. If you are unable to perform your duties on your scheduled me, please call another Eucharist Minister or Lector to replace you. Contact phone numbers were included with your schedule. 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

#### What can parents do when Faith Formation is cancelled due to weather?

As the first teachers of the faith, parents and grandparents play an important role. There are several things parents and grandparents can do during this time. Maybe things you already do.

#### Some suggestions

- For little ones 'you tube' has numerous stories (and songs) about Jesus and Saints in a cartoon version.
- For older kids, 'you tube' also carries stories of Jesus and the Saints.

Special interest are the young Saints that even adults can find awesome. There are many stories. These are just a few:

St. Carlos Actus, 15; St. Bernadette of Lourdes; 14, St. Jose' of Mexico became a martyr at just 14  
The 3 children of Fatima; Lucia dos Santos, age 9, and her two cousins, Francisco Marto age 8 and his sister, Jacinta age 6.

If you have not watched 'Chosen' yet, it is also on 'you tube'. Visualizing Jesus' human side and divinity in the gospels has a powerful and emotional impact.

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 10<sup>th</sup>, with Mass at 10 am

JANUARY 2026	FEBRUARY	MARCH
1/4 – Class 11 – Class 1/18 – No Class – Honoring MLK <b>1/25 – FAITH FORMATION CANCELED DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER</b>	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	

### 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

# LENT 2026

## St. Mary's Church

= a day of abstinence from meat



= a day of fasting and abstinence from meat



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>"Lent is the liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum). Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in fasting and prayer" (<i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>).</p>	<p><b>February</b></p>	<p><b>18 Ash Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>22</b> Stay after Mass and pray for a spiritually fruitful Lent.</p>	<p><b>23</b> Pray the Morning Offering before checking your phone.</p>	<p><b>24</b> "Peace begins with a smile" (Mother Teresa). Resolve to smile at everyone.</p>	<p><b>25</b> Pray for one specific person by name today.</p>	<p><b>26</b> Worry closes the heart. Replace it with trust, "Jesus, I trust in You."</p>	<p><b>27</b> Even when things go wrong, be patient, starting with yourself.</p>	<p><b>28</b> Fulfill a commitment or promise you've been putting off.</p>
<p><b>I March</b> Read Matthew 17:1-9. Where does God want to transform your heart, prayer, and life?</p>	<p><b>2</b> Today, pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, who always need our prayers.</p>	<p><b>3</b> Read the daily Gospel and meditate on one line that stands out to you.</p>	<p><b>4</b> Today, choose silence instead of complaining.</p>	<p><b>5</b> Pray for Christians experiencing persecution. Pray for a conversion of heart for the persecutors.</p>	<p><b>6</b> Return love for Love. Visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, where He waits in love.</p>	<p><b>7</b> Avoid gossip and change the subject when it starts. If it's untrue, unkind, or confidential, don't say it.</p>
<p><b>8</b> Read John 4:5-42. Where do you go when life feels messy? What if Jesus met you there?</p>	<p><b>9</b> If your responsibilities permit it, choose one weekday this week to attend Daily Mass.</p>	<p><b>10</b> Practice patience intentionally with one difficult person.</p>	<p><b>11</b> Skip a meal and donate the money saved from fasting to the poor box.</p>	<p><b>12</b> First thing today, tell God, "Thy Will be done!" — and really mean it!</p>	<p><b>13</b> Give up a small luxury — drive-thru coffee, streaming, take-out meals — just for today for God.</p>	<p><b>14</b> Do a hidden act of service without seeking thanks.</p>
<p><b>15 Laetare Sunday</b> The priest wears rose for the halfway point of Lent. Enjoy a small treat to celebrate.</p>	<p><b>16</b> Holy Week and Easter are busy times for parishes and ask how you can help.</p>	<p><b>17 St. Patrick's Day</b> Pray for missionaries and catechists who, like St. Patrick, bring the faith to every corner of the world.</p>	<p><b>18</b> Experience God's mercy and attend Confession this week.</p>	<p><b>19 St. Joseph's Day</b> Say an extra prayer for your father. Don't forget the priests — spiritual fathers.</p>	<p><b>20</b> Buy food or hygiene items for a local pantry.</p>	<p><b>21</b> Take a mini-retreat. Reserve time to silence your phone, light a candle, and be with Jesus.</p>
<p><b>22</b> Stay after Mass and pray for the intentions of the Pope and your bishop.</p>	<p><b>23</b> Give the gift of a spiritual bouquet — a note recording prayers said for someone who needs them.</p>	<p><b>24</b> Think before you speak, especially before responding in annoyance or anger. recall the presence of God.</p>	<p><b>25 The Annunciation</b> We celebrate Mary's "yes," which opened the way for Christ's coming. Pray the Rosary in her honor.</p>	<p><b>26</b> Set out a box and fill it with gently used items, books, or clothes. When it's full, bring it to its destination.</p>	<p><b>27</b> Abstain from recreational screen-use between 12:00pm and 3:00pm in honor of Jesus' final hours on the Cross.</p>	<p><b>28</b> Visit a church or chapel for 10 minutes of quiet if possible.</p>
<p><b>29 Palm Sunday</b> Read Matthew 27:11-54, accompanying Jesus through His trial, Passion, and Death.</p>	<p><b>30</b> This whole week, practice the Heroic Minute and get up the moment your alarm rings.</p>	<p><b>31</b> Say grace slowly and intentionally, with gratitude, before meals today.</p>	<p><b>1 April</b> Today is the day, Judas plotted to betray Christ. Take time to seek forgiveness or to extend it, if needed.</p>	<p><b>2 Holy Thursday</b> Visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Thank Him for the Eucharist, the Mass, and the Priesthood.</p>	<p><b>3 Good Friday</b> Pray the Stations of the Cross. Your presence and love today consoled Him then.</p>	<p><b>4 Holy Saturday</b> Thank God for His blessings this Lent. Consider which practices you will continue.</p>



IMMIGRATION -REFUGEE REPORT  
FEBRUARY 21-22, 2026

American immigration council estimates that 73,000 immigrants are now held in detention in the us. As of mid-2025, an estimated 71% had no criminal record.

The primary sites are ERO (Enforcement and Removal Operations) El Paso Camp East, TX., Adams County Correctional and Stewart Detention Center, GA.

This is the highest number of detentions in recent history in the us.

Congress has authorized 45 billion dollars in new detention funding with an estimate this could triple over next 4 years.

Since this system makes it more difficult for people to get their cases heard, it pressures them to accept deportation.

The current rate is for every person released 14 give up and accepts deportation.

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The third Bill being introduced here in NYS this year affecting Immigration etc. is the **Access to Representation Act (ARA)**. (A270/S141). This would establish a right to counsel in immigration court under a universal representation model, ensuring that those who cannot afford a lawyer will be provided one. The ARA will equip the State to protect the rights of immigrant New Yorkers.

This week we have included the email etc. for our State Senator Jake Ashby and Assemblyman Scott Bendett along with our federal legislators. These are *the five most important* people at both legislative levels we are connected to.

For the STATE BILLS we contact Ashby and Bendett. We can contact them AT ANY TIME on these Bills. I urge you to take a few minutes to go online and read the bill **summaries**. To do this, simply put the Bill's name or number (NY State Senate Bill S141 or A270) in your search line and pull up. There will be a **summary** to give you the basics on the Bill. Then if you choose you can read the actual bill draft BUT you will see that is written in "legalese". The **summary** is the most important part for us.

Needs. Let's now focus on these.

- Personal goods, Diapers;
- Rice, cooking oils;
- Window drapes, (heavy);
- Twin sheets, blankets

Checklists for these are in entrance of church. Just add to your grocery list and bring to church where I pick them up.

Next week I will try and do a summary of where the us Conference of Catholic Bishops are at on this whole issue.

Prayer into Action .....*Ken*

We need the **courage** to learn from our past and not live in it. Sharon Salzberg

## OUR FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATORS CONTACT INFORMATION

### Federal Representatives

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

### State Representatives

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

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.