



St. Mary's Church Est. 1852  
PO Box 435  
26 Church St.  
Nassau, NY 12123

*May you rediscover the wonders of your faith  
this Epiphany*

## 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>

Mass Intentions  
The Epiphany of the Lord

**January 3 & January 4, 2026**

Saturday, January 3, 2026 @ 5:30 pm

The People of St. Mary's

Sunday, January 4, 2026 @ 10:00 pm

Cathy Schaefer – for Healing – Marion and Tom Rysedorph

Barbara Yovine – for Healing – Frank and Linda Ridzi

Mamie Mazzatti – for Healing – Frank and Linda Ridzi

Tuesday, January 6, 2026 @ 9:30 am

Michele Sweet – for Healing – Theresa Harty

Thursday, January 8, 2026 @ 9:30 am

Rita Labrum – for Healing – Frank and Linda Ridzi

**January 10 & January 11, 2026**

Saturday, January 10, 2026 @ 5:30 pm

Barbara Eastman – by Stuart Eastman

Marjorie and Frank Ridzi – by Frank and Linda Ridzi

Sunday, January 11, 2026 @ 10:00 pm

Cathy, Bob, and Linda Schaefer – for Healing – Marion and Tom Rysedorph

Gene and Roslyn Borelli – by Frank and Linda Ridzi

Tuesday, January 13, 2026 @ 9:30 am

Mike Cudzey – by Frank and Linda Ridzi

Michele Sweet – for Healing – Theresa Harty

Thursday, January 14, 2026 @ 9:30 am

Kelly McGillycuddy – for Healing – Theresa Harty

Our hearts and prayers are extended to the family and friends of Mike Cudzey who passed away Tuesday morning, December 30, 2025.

**Please pray for our sick**



Michael Stephen Allen

Christine Anderson

Bill Ayers

Joan Campbell

Chad Cardoza

Maureen Cellery

Madison Chesterman

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

Cathy Schaefer

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

## 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 Christmas Eve Mass	\$4315
December 27 & 28, 2025	\$1863

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

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.

## EPIPHANY BLESSING OF CHALK

It has been a tradition in the Catholic Church to bless chalk at the Masses for Epiphany, and then use the blessed chalk as part of blessing one's home in the New Year.

The home blessing can be done as follows:

Use the blessed chalk to write: **20+C+M+B+26** above the doorways:

**2026** for the year;

**C, M, B** for the three Magi—Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar—and for Christus Mansionem Benedicat, Latin for “May Christ Bless this House.”

As you are writing, pray the following:

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

There is a basket with small baggies containing pieces of chalk and this blessing in the back of the church. Please take one and use it to bless your home for the coming year. You can return your chalk in the same basket for use next year.

*Thank you & Holiday Wishes*



The rectory staff wishes to thank all of St. Mary's for the continued support, kindness, and warmth given to both of us each and every day. Some things words cannot adequately express but our gratitude is immense.

*The very Best in the New Year*

*Tim & Dee*

*House Keeping Notes....*

### Offertory Envelopes

Envelopes are scheduled to be delivered sometime after January 1. **PLEASE** let us know if you do not receive yours. Call the office and leave a message or speak to Dee 518-766-2701.

### Rides

If you know someone who does not attend Mass because they need transportation, please call the office and let us know. Community worship and friendship is part of who we are. There is a personal connection by attending Mass at St. Mary's that is more than just worship. It's a sense of being valued as part of our community.

### 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.

### *Note to 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. Contact phone numbers were included with your schedule. Please call Michele Sweet (518-336-4422) if you have any questions

## *Learn About Your Faith*

### **Faith Formation**

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

### **Our Journey of Faith**

Our “**Learning About Our Faith**” sessions will resume in January after the holidays. The 2026 schedule has been created and is posted on the bulletin boards. The schedule has been included to the “Religious Education” section of the bulletin.

### **Special Prayers**

For peace in the Ukraine, Holy Land and the World

For all healthcare professionals, first responders, and others involved in caring the sick or injured, that God would give them strength and wisdom as they perform their duties.

### **In Our Community**

#### **IMMIGRATION – Refugee Report 2025** **January 3 – 4, 2026**

At this time, I want to provide you with a summary of what we have donated to the Refugees in 2025. This covers primarily St. Mary's, but there are goods, cash that came from Grace Methodist Church, Nassau and in December, Immaculate Conception who has joined us in this Cause.

As you will remember the catalyst for this was the arrival of 140 new refugees here in Albany who were the last allowed into the US before the current administration closed the door. They arrived without their standard allowance (\$1000.) for resettlement and without the assistance of Immigration staff who had been fired from their jobs. (But worth remembering that they had to sign to receive a loan from the US for their transportation costs to come here!).

Initially when we began we donated gift cards and cash to help them directly through Refugee and Immigration Support Services of Emmaus, Inc. Then later after I had investigated further we found the US Committee of Refugees and Immigrants who also works with those people. Since RISSE only has the capacity to take funds, we began donating directly to USCRI who has the capacity to accept household goods, personal goods, clothing etc. in addition to cards and cash. So as of July, I had switched us over to them having established a liaison with Shannon Kilbridge there. She has remained our primary contact though we now have “added” through our work, Sara, who oversees all the materials we bring for distribution and Mohammad, our liaison with Senator Schumer’s office in our attempt to find the Ukrainians working papers.

## IMMIGRATION – Refugee Report January 2026 Cont...

**Categories:** Given how you in your generosity have provided such a wide variety of goods, etc. I have broken the following down into these “categories”. Bags, (large, e.g. the big trash bags); Bags, (smaller, kitchen basket size); Boxes (these generally being the size you can carry in your arms or smaller); Totes, (the plastic shopping type); and then by what it is individually e.g. Strollers, Bikes.

Bags (large)	58
Bags (kitchen/totes)	50
Boxes	12
Boxes/bags (separate from above, odd sizes)	8
Bikes	13
Sewing machines	11
Strollers	14 (including 2 doubles that I special ordered)

### Other:

- Air Conditioner; Sterilizer (baby) Unit; 1 OVERSIZED bag of stuffed toy animals;
- 3 Ironing Boards; 1 Pak and Play; 1 baby swing;
- 18 soccer balls; and, countless tote bags for groceries

**Gift Cards and Cash:** (some cash was used for the Double Strollers, Sewing Machines – new, needed materials e.g. bike tire, replacement sewing machine cord etc., The rest was donated directly to RISSE and USCRI.)  
**\$5,020.00.**

We can be proud of the above donations from small churches like ours. I do know that we are the only Catholic Church that has been a consistent source for USCRI. I am not denigrating our fellow churches, many have other ways they work to support the community that are equally valuable to meet overall needs. And I know of one other denomination church that consistently donates food stuffs etc. to USCRI. But whatever caused me to watch the news that night in January and then see the follow-up article in the TU, and then to ask you what should we do about this, it's clear that we have chosen a pathway for us to follow for as long as we can do this.

As I have mentioned to a couple of you, Shannon Kilbridge, our Liaison, and I are meeting after the new year to review where they have to go in these dire times .....and I will bring that message back to you. However, a word of warning ....what we have accomplished in the past year for them may have been the easiest part . This Administration, in case you have missed it has NO INTENT whatsoever of making life easier for immigrants and refugees..... In fact, it appears that the goal is to get rid of them. And we will have to decide what our response as Catholics is going to be going forward.

*To a Better Year*      *Ken*

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.  
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead

## 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 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	

### 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