

# Grace



/greɪs/ noun

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A gift of compassion, elegance, and forgiveness. Grace is choosing love over judgment, peace over pride, and humility over ego, making it the essence of a heart refined by kindness.

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

*Second Sunday  
of Ordinary Time*

## 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  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 17 & January 18, 2026

Saturday, January 17, 2026 @ 5:30 pm  
Jean Morje – for Healing – Theresa Harty  
Tom O’Brien– by Theresa Harty

Sunday, January 18, 2026 @ 10:00 pm  
Lee and Bud Rausch – by Jim and Rocky Rausch  
Susan Reuter – by Mamie Mazzatti  
Vicki Steedman – for Healing – Theresa Harty

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 @ @ 9:30 am  
Peter Wiegand – Theresa Harty

Thursday, January 22, 2026 @ 9:30 am  
Kelly McGillicuddy – for Healing – Theresa Harty

January 24 & January 25, 2026

Saturday, January 24, 2026 @ 5:30 pm  
Charles Wiegand– by Theresa Harty

Sunday, January 25, 2026 @ 10:00 pm  
Sharon Banks – by Theresa Harty

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 @ @ 9:30 am  
Marion Alber – Theresa Harty

Thursday, January 29, 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

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

## *St. Mary's Parishioners*

We would like to thank everyone who helped to make our Christmas Season so wonderful. It truly takes a village to support our parish.

As we move forward into 2026, we continue to experience financial shortfall. We understand you are experiencing the same financial challenges at home.

Financial Sustainability is necessary to survive as a parish in the Albany Diocese.

Factors we have no control over, repair of the rectory furnace at cost of \$849. We still need to repair the chimney at the rectory. Snow removal is an unknown expense depending on the weather. Thank you to our dedicated parishioners, who help shovel the walkways and throw salt on the ice.

Prayerfully consider increasing your financial support of your parish.

*Thank you,*

The Finance Council

### Collections

For us to cover parish expenses, our weekly collection must meet	\$2500
Our Collections for January 10 & 11, 2026	\$1906

### *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.



### **A Big Thank you From St. Mary's**

Did you notice that the three Kings arrived on the Epiphany?

Rose Lyman donated them to our parish this December. Rose and her husband Don (deceased) are former parishioners.

Thank you Rose for your generosity.

Our Nativity scene is now complete.

## EVENTS

### St. Mary's

**Ash Wednesday** Ash Wednesday is closer than you think. This year it falls on February 18. That is only **4 weeks** away. The schedule for distribution of Ashes is as follows:

#### Wednesday, February 18

Immaculate Conception	9:30 am	Morning Prayer with the distribution of Ashes
St. Mary's	10:30 am	Mass with the distribution of Ashes
St. Joseph's	12:10 pm	Mass with the distribution of Ashes

**Red Cross Blood Drive:** It has been a while BUT we are once again hosting 2 Red Cross Blood Drives. Our first drive is scheduled for February 14.

**When:** Saturday, February 14, 2026

**Where:** Parish Hall

**Time:** 9:00 am to 2 pm



How do I register?

Call the Rectory 518-766-2701

Call the Red Cross 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767 7)

Visit the Website: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

If you are "app savvy", download the free Blood Donor App.

Use sponsor coded: stmaryschurchnassau

When you donate blood the months of January and February, you will receive a \$20 gift card that can be used with a wide variety of merchants. All this information is posted on our bulletin boards.

### Fr. Close

For those of you who know Fr. Close, you know that one of the many pieces that make up his life is his dedication to the Stephentown Volunteer Fire Department. This past Saturday at their annual installation banquet and awards dinner, Fr. Close was recognized by the Board of Directors and Board of Fire Commissioners for 55 years of dedicated service. Congratulations and thank you Fr. Close.

### *Thank you*, St. Mary's

We received a very nice thank you letter from the Nassau Resource Center regarding our continued support, especially for our help with their Thanksgiving and Christmas meal programs. This year the Resource Center provided 151 families Thanksgiving meals with all the trimmings and extra Stewarts milk certificates. At Christmas the Resource Center served 510 individuals' dinners; Price Chopper or Hannaford gift cards; Stewart Milk certificates and extra Stewarts My Money cards along with special gifts for seniors at the senior housing complex.

Please take a moment to read the letter. It is posted on our bulletin board.

**Christmas Flowers** A list of Christmas flowers given in memory and honor of our loved ones are pages 10-12 of the bulletin and are posted on our bulletin board.

### *House Keeping Notes...*

#### **Rides & Communion**

Community worship and friendship is part of who we are.

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. There is a personal connection by attending Mass that is more than just worship. It's a sense of being valued as part of our community.

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

#### **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.

#### **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**

Faith Formation classes have resumed. 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 is posted on the bulletin boards. The schedule has been included to the "Religious Education" section of the bulletin.

#### **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

The holiday season concludes and as this new year opens to us, please take the time to visit and extend ourselves to those who need comfort and community.

We have these shawls in totes in the front entrance way next to the stairs. They were made by our ministry and have been blessed. You can use them for anyone in need and even as gifts. They have many other uses. Please help yourself. Please give them.

Some uses for the shawl ...

undergoing medical procedures; as a comfort after a loss or in times of stress; during bereavement; prayer or meditation; commitment or marriage ceremonies; birthing, nursing a baby; bridal shower or wedding gift; leading ritual; during an illness and recovery ministering to others; graduation, birthday, anniversary, ordination, holiday gifts; or just socializing...

There are endless possibilities.

## In Our Community

### Magnificat Meal

Hosted by the Gentle Woman of Praise Chapter of Magnificat is hosting a Magnificat Meal with Guest Speaker Gail O'Brien

- Where:** Wolferts Roost Country Club  
120 Van Rensselaer Blvd.  
Albany, NY 12204
- When:** Saturday, March 14, 2026
- Time:** 8:30 am – Check-in and Seating begins  
9:00 am – Breakfast and Program  
12:00 pm – Confession and Prayer Teams
- Cost:** \$33.00 Pre-Registration required. No tickets sold at the door

For more Information call Kathleen at 518-930-8380 (AFTER 6 PM) or e-mail:  
[albanymagnificat@gmail.com](mailto:albanymagnificat@gmail.com). Posters are on the bulletin board.

## IMMIGRATION – Refugee Report January 17 – 18, 2026

We have five Immigrants at USCRI who have completed their work to become naturalized citizens. The culmination of this is their official ceremony in which they officially complete that process. BUT!! These five are all originally from countries that have the no travel restriction. Therefore, they have been informed that since that is the case they will NOT be allowed to "travel" for their ceremony where ever that might be Therefore, since they cannot "travel", they cannot COMPLETE the process. So, they cannot become citizens at that ceremony. As a result, they will still have to retain their Green Cards and are NOT CONSIDERED CITIZENS but will remain in limbo.

*IMMIGRATION – Refugee Report Cont...*

Are you old enough to remember CATCH 22, By Joseph Heller? This is the classic circular reasoning as to why something cannot be completed.

YOU COULD DROP AN EMAIL ON THIS TO OUR SENATORS, YOUR REPRESENTATIVE, ETC. THINK ABOUT IT. We are not done here .....

Shoes, Boots, Winter footwear      Anything in this category we will take now. I will be going in to USCRI this coming Wednesday at which time I will take whatever I have from you. I will be meeting then on our plans for this coming year. Again, I urge you to be prepared. At the rate of deterioration in the whole immigrant/refugee situation we must prepare ourselves for the worst while we pray for the best.

This past week I registered St. Mary's in the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "YOU ARE NOT ALONE " Initiative. This is a nationwide campaign for migrants and their families. They called for Diocese's and any others to register and tell them what you are doing to help. I think given what we have accomplished TOGETHER here certainly merits being a part of this campaign. In the registration they asked what they can do to help and I have requested more detailed examples of what exactly that might consist of and how it might apply to us. Let's see what the response is as this is the Conference that would not even submit the request for information on the Mother Cabrini Pledge results. As I mentioned, the pop up simply said, try and reach us later.

New Year, Same Fight! Let us keep the faith, *Ken*

"Wisdom, compassion, and courage  
are the three universally recognized moral qualities of men.....Confucius

## 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.

## 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 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