



BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER,
TENDERHEARTED, FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER,
AS GOD IN CHRIST FORGAVE YOU.

Ephesians 4:32

The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 13, 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 *24th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

September 12 & September 13, 2026
Saturday September 12, 2026 @ 5:30 pm Robert J. Wing – Lily Wing
Sunday, September 13, 2026 @ 10:00 am Lee and Bud Rausch – Jim and Rocky Marion Rysedorph – For Healing – Theresa Harty Bill Ayer – Maureen Cellery Theresa Harty – for Healing
Tuesday, September 15, 2026 @ 9:30 am Michele Sweet – for Healing – Theresa Harty
Thursday September 17, 2026 @ 9:30 am For the People of St. Mary
September 19 & September 20, 2026
Saturday September 19, 2026 @ 5:30 pm Frank and Rita Dreher – Larry and Kye Sun Tom O'Brien – Theresa Harty
Sunday, September 20, 2026 @ 10:00 am Paul Tomchik – Mary Tomchik Marion Rysedorph – For Healing – Maureen Cellery
Tuesday, September 22, 2026 @ 9:30 am Mary Ellen Lito – for Healing – Theresa Harty
Thursday September 24, 2026 @ 9:30 am John and Staska Fitzgibbons – Maureen Cellery Peter St. Pierre – For Healing – Theresa Harty

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



St. Mary's Finance Update

Parish Brothers and Sisters,

As the finance committee continues to find ways to make our parish as prosperous as possible, we put together a 2026-2027 budget based on past contributions.

Over the last several months the collection has been lower than in years and months past. While we appreciate and need your support, we are only a parish of 80 members in regular attendance.

There are a few ways we can still cover our expenses.

1. We are working with the Albany Diocese on cutting our overhead and we are making great progress.
2. Increasing membership, which we all have been working on, we have many new members join recently.
3. Fund raising, which we are actively pursuing.
4. Members enroll in our auto payment system, which we can help you do. This way when you miss mass because of vacation or illness the donation continues to get to St. Mary's.
5. Each member can increase their offering by \$10 a collection.

The economy is difficult for us all. We are finding ways to cut costs and build funds. We are so close to being self-sustaining, but we will need all of us to do it.

You are a generous congregation who do so much for the community and each other. If you have ideas, please reach out to us anytime.

Yours in Christ,
The Finance Committee

Heavenly Father, as always we give thanks to you for all the gifts you have given to us, of which the greatest is your Son Jesus and your ever-present Holy Spirit.

You know our needs far better than we ourselves and you know what is best for our future. We ask you then to guide us in our duties as members of the finance committee in making decisions and plans that do the greatest good for our parish in accord with your will. Bless our efforts and allow the people of our parish to see them clearly as a means to provide for both the present and future of our church.

We ask all of this through Christ our Lord.

Amen
Fr. John Close

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 September 5 & 6 **\$4292**

The September 5 & 6 collections goal met our necessary weekly budget. *Thank You Everyone!*

EVENTS

St. Mary's



Knit Together

Come join us for an evening of fellowship and crafting.
We will be knitting/ crocheting needed items for the refugees.
This month we will be making washcloths!

Thursday September 24th

6:30 - 7:30 pm in the rectory

Please bring your cotton yarn and crochet/ knitting supplies!

Beginners welcome!

There is a poster on the bulletin board

St. Mary's Annual Picnic/Barbecue is only **7 days** away. **September 20!**

If you have not signed up yet, **it is time** – this way we can get enough food and drinks.

We are looking for picnic helpers



- To help with the shopping
- To help with the setup
- To help with the cooking
- To help with the cleanup



And..... there will be a 50/50 raffle!!

If you think you might be able to help, you can call or text Frank Ridzi 518-258-8752. The parish will provide the Hot Dogs & Hamburgers & Soda & Water. We are asking parishioners to bring a Covered dish – sharing size

The sign-up sheets for the covered dish and attendance is on the back-door table and picnic announcement is posted on both bulletin boards.

Parents & Grandparents

Faith Formation will be starting soon. The first class is scheduled for September 27. Keep an eye open for an email from Barb Wurzburg.

A Request for Help

St. Mary's received a call from a Hospice Care Navigator of St. Peter's Health Partners. She called inquiring if there were any parishioners who may be able to provide some support to a local elderly couple.

"They are home bound, a wonderfully lovely couple. They both no longer drive and could use some help with rides to the grocery store or appointments or even just some friendship and check ins. They have a strong friend group, but their primary local support will go to Florida around November." She is hoping to get any additional support from the Parish.

Please contact the rectory for details if you can help.



Fr. Cronin will celebrate Mass at St. Mary's the weekend of September 19 – 20.

St. Mary's Committees

Below is the list of our committees and the chair persons contact information. Your support and input are most necessary and welcome. Please consider participating.

Committee

Bereavement
Building & Grounds
Faith Formation
Coffee Hour
Fund-Raising
Liturgy
Technology
Volunteers

Contact

Joanna Towse 518-436-7857
Dominic Russomanno 518-915-3464
Barbara Wurzburg 518-766-4036
Antonette Perry 518-766-4345
Jen Clement 518-203-9130
Dominic Russomanno 518-915-3464
Ellie Russomanno 518-925-4687
Joanne Schnurr 518-794-7469

Reminder: Does someone need a ride to Mass? Help? Communion at Home? Please call the rectory and let someone know. We will get help.

Our Community

SUNNY Act

Solar Up Now New York
(S8512B/A9111B)

This year the NYS Legislature has passed the Solar Up Now New York (SUNNY) Act which will enable all New Yorkers to start generating their own power by plugging in solar panels that can be purchased on line or at a store. It is a small but important step towards more Solar for consumers. Please help all of us with this.

What does this mean for you: The SUNNY ACT will enable the use of small, portable plug-in solar devices, often called "Balcony Solar", which can be connected directly to a standard household outlet without any complex installation! These can be installed on balconies, patios, rooftops, or other accessible spaces and start generating electricity immediately

The SUNY Act is still on the Governor's desk. Please call NOW – 518-474-8390. Or <http://www.governor.ny.gov>

St Henry's is planning a 9-day Pilgrimage to Fatima& Lourdes in the Fall of 2027. The information is on the bulletin board and brochure is available at the rectory for those interested. An information night is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3. If you would like to know more now, contact Lisa Hutchinson at 518-573-7098 or email her at lisahutchinson367@gmail.com

From the Diocese

Each month the Diocese distributes a list of events happening within the parishes of the Albany Diocese. The events announcement is posted on the bulletin board. If you are interested in any one of them and would like more information, please call the rectory. 518-766-2701 or the event coordinator.



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

September 2026

St. Mary's Church

One Minute Meditations

St. Hildegard of Bingen

Born in 11th-century Germany to a noble family, St. Hildegard of Bingen experienced mystical visions from childhood, which she eventually embraced as a call to serve God and the Church. A Benedictine nun and later abbess, she became an influential spiritual leader, composer, writer, and scholar of the natural world. Popes, clergy, and political leaders sought her counsel. Recognized for the enduring depth of her theological writings, she is one of four women named Doctors of the Church.

Stay anchored in the storm

A change of seasons often brings new routines, shifting schedules, and unexpected demands. When plans change before lunch, an urgent project lands on your desk, or your to-do list grows faster than you can manage, pause. Remember that our lives, our future, our peace, and our hope rest securely in the hands of the One who calmed the storm.

"God is the friend of silence...The more we receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in our active life. We need silence to be able to touch souls. The essential thing is not what we say, but what God says to us and through us." – Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Living the Faith, sharing the Light

Jesus tells us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-15). These images show two aspects of living our faith: preserving the distinctiveness of our faith and making that faith visible in our actions. Both communicate God's love.

Keep the flavor: In the ancient world, salt preserved what was valuable and gave food its flavor. Jesus warns that salt can lose its distinctiveness. Our faith can, too, when distraction, compromise, or indifference weakens our relationship with Him. Prayer is not another obligation to complete. It is time invested in the relationship that gives everything else its meaning.

Light the lamp: Faith is meant to illuminate, offering direction, warmth, and hope. But like a lamp, faith needs fuel. Through the Mass and the sacraments, we are continually renewed in Christ and strengthened by His grace. Nourished by Him, we are called to carry His light beyond the church and into our homes, workplaces, parishes, and communities through lives of

compassion, courage, and service.

Share your gifts: God gives each of us different strengths. It can be tempting to keep these gifts to ourselves, yet true humility isn't hiding our gifts but using them to glorify God and serve the Church.

Serve in mercy: The Works of Mercy make our faith concrete. When we are attentively present to those lonely

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

("hungry") for love, support our parish's charitable outreach, or choose goodness over retaliation, we reflect God's love in personal, immediate, and practical ways.

Remember your first love: God calls us to live in His love, and to share it with others. Living in God's love is the secret to preserving the faith and living it well. Our starting and ending point is always God's love for us.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

The Confiteor is a prayer of repentance we offer at the beginning of Mass to acknowledge our sins and ask for God's mercy. The word Confiteor means "I confess," reflecting the prayer's opening words: "I confess to almighty God." As we say "through my fault," we strike

What is the Confiteor?

our breasts as a physical expression of sorrow and responsibility for our sins. This gesture reminds us that we worship God with both body and soul and helps prepare our hearts to participate more fully in the Eucharist.

Look closely; God is at work

We often expect God to work through dramatic signs or unmistakable miracles. Yet His providence frequently unfolds quietly and gradually. Pope Leo points to Jesus' parables of the Kingdom (Matthew 13:24-43) as an answer to an enduring question: Where is God, and how is He at work?

God's providence is constant, even when hidden: When events do not unfold as we hoped, we can assume God is absent or inactive. Jesus' parables invite us to trust that He is always at work, especially when His purposes are not immediately visible.

God works through what is small and ordinary: "God favors smallness, a sign of his discreet love, by which he

leaves us free to accept or reject him." For Pope Leo, wheat growing among weeds, yeast leavening dough, and a tiny mustard seed reveal a Kingdom that often advances quietly, patiently, and steadily.

We are called to imitate God: "God's way with us must also become the way in which we live." Building the Kingdom rarely requires extraordinary gestures. It begins with patience in difficulty, resisting rash judgment, fulfilling our responsibilities faithfully, and choosing love when it costs us. These ordinary acts become seeds through which God's Kingdom takes root and grows.

from **S**cripture

Matthew 21:28-32, The "yes" that matters

In this Gospel passage, Jesus tells of a father who asks his two sons to work in his vineyard. The first refuses but later repents and goes; the second readily agrees but fails to act. Jesus' point is clear: doing the Father's will matters more than merely professing obedience.

The parable challenges the religious complacency of the Pharisees, whose outward observance did not always reflect a heart open to God. By contrast, tax collectors and public sinners, though once far from God, responded to His mercy with repentance and conversion. Their former "no" became a genuine "yes," demonstrated not simply in words

but in a changed way of life.

This distinction remains essential for Christian discipleship. Faith cannot be reduced to appearances, good intentions, or religious language. A sincere "yes" to God takes concrete form through obedience, charity, repentance, and fidelity to our responsibilities. The parable is therefore both a warning against empty profession and a message of profound hope: our past does not determine our future. Whenever we turn back to God, He receives us with the joy of the shepherd who recovers the lost sheep (Luke 15:4-7).

sufferings with the same steadfast love.

September 21 – St. Matthew the Evangelist (1st Century). Also known as Levi, he was a notorious tax collector (Mark 2:14). Working for the Romans would have made him unpopular but very rich. Yet St. Matthew left everything when Jesus called him. He wrote the Gospel according to Matthew, addressed to Jewish converts to Christianity.

September 26 – Saints Cosmas and Damian (c.303). These saints were Arab brothers who studied medicine in Syria and lived their Christian faith by treating people without charge. They were martyred for their faith. Even in heaven, they continued to care for the sick and poor, as healing miracles were attributed to their prayerful intercession.

Q & A

How can I go to Confession after a long time away?

The Church encourages regular Confession (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1458), but travel and changing routines can make good spiritual habits easy to neglect. If it has been a while, come home to Reconciliation. Like the father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, God waits to welcome, forgive, and restore us.

Prepare your heart: An examination of conscience is more than listing failures. Consider where you have fallen short in loving God and your neighbor. Recognizing what sin has damaged helps begin the work of repair.

The priest will help: Feeling nervous is normal. The priest can guide you through the Sacrament, offer counsel, and help you receive God's mercy with confidence.

Penance begins healing: Penance helps repair the harm caused by our sin and directs us toward conversion and renewed faithfulness.

Grace offers a new beginning: Confession does more than forgive the past. Through absolution, we are reconciled with God and strengthened by grace to resist sin, grow in virtue, and begin again with greater freedom and hope.

Feasts & Celebrations

September 4 – St. Rose of Viterbo (1251). Born to poor parents in Viterbo, Italy, Rose used her gift of preaching to catechize her village. Though very young, she also spoke out in support of the pope against the anti-papal Ghibellines. The Poor Clares refused to accept her but allowed her burial there. She died at age eighteen.

September 15 – Our Lady of Sorrows. In Luke 2:35, Simeon predicted Mary's sufferings would be a sword piercing her soul. In her sorrow, Mary stood at the foot of the Cross, dignified and fearless while others ran away. Today, we can look to her to accompany us in our

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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IMMIGRATION - REFUGEE REPORT

September 12 - 13, 2026

27 September 2026 is the 112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

"The Gospel, invites us not to calculate: *even one*. Every child, every human being, possesses an infinite dignity." Pope Leo XIV

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.

what YOU would buy if you had nothing

SCHOOL SUPPLIES ARE NOW NEEDED

All the basics that will enable the kids to be prepared for school in September. While we are not the only ones supplying, fortunately, we are a part of the whole supply chain!

UPDATES

NEW NEED- Draperies, curtains, (heavy ones). We were just told that these are needed for interior use, as Muslim women remove their Hajibs in kitchen when preparing meals and if there are guests present, the curtains are closed so their hair is not exposed. So inside apartment /living quarters, interior drapes are needed and CRI is running out. If you see these at thrift store, etc. we have some funds and can reimburse you. I DO have a couple that came in last loads which I am delivering today on my drop (weds. Sept. 9).

Sewing machines still welcome.

USCRI is telling its clients to

"BE CAREFUL of who you are gathering with and as to *THEIR Status*, *THEIR* Green Card, etc.!

This means who your children play with, who you interact with, etc. If they are at risk **YOU** could be taken in as well."

"ALSO - Consider writing your lawyer's, contact persons, case manager's phone number on your arm. so that you have it if you are swept up and your papers and phone are taken away. That is not the time to trust your memory!"

Homeland Security - Claims 605,000 held.

ICE -Claims 443,000.

Administration still claims 1,9 million self - Deported.

Again, these numbers are suspect.....BUT we know they are continuing to pull people in.

Still no significant changes on US Bishops part to actively pursue discussion with Administration on Refugee /Immigration treatment, incarceration, deportation!!.

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU STILL DONATING BOTH GOODS AND FUNDS. YOU ARE THE THIN LINE CARRYING GODS GRACE TO THESE FELLOW TRAVELERS IN OUR JOURNEY HERE ON EARTH, UNLIKE THIS ADMINISTRATION WHICH IS INCREASINGLY SHOWING ITS RACISM.

And lastly, prayers for the 6 million Afghans being sent **BACK** to Afghanistan from Pakistan, etc. where they were sheltering after leaving their homes before. Many of them are now at risk for their lives. Pray that this is not a preview of what our Administration has in mind.....

Many Thanks

Ken

kmscallon@yahoo.com

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	
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	Castleton on the Hudson, NY 12033	
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2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 350
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<https://refugees.org/headquarters/>

To receive their newsletter, scroll all the way down the page, look for this box, and sign up.

