Catholic Community of
St. Stephen - St. Patrick
DECEMBER 15, 2019

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
SUNDAY - 3:00 PM
DECEMBER 15TH
December 15, 2019

I really liked the way the 3 readings for this week conveyed a theme of anticipation. We start off with Isaiah describing the anticipation of our going home, of our being with God. We are in the wilderness now, in this life, separated, anticipating the time when we can be with God forever in heaven. We then move on to James who encourages us to be patient. We could choose to look at this and focus on what we do not have today, on what we lack. To focus on the suffering we must endure in this life. But I choose to focus on what is to come. Not the farmer waiting for the rains, waiting for his fruits to grow, but rather focusing on what will come, focusing on the promised fruit. Lastly, we hear from Matthew, who in turn is describing John who, even though he is in prison, is still waiting in anticipation for the “one who is to come.” Anticipation, waiting, patience. These seem to be words that can easily slip from our minds during this hectic time of year. It is all too easy to slip into the Black Friday, consumer, materialistic mentality that is thrust upon us everywhere we look while missing the reason for the season, Jesus. We spend countless hours looking online, waiting in store lines, and racking our brains for the perfect gift for our loved ones. While there is nothing inherently wrong with this, we need to guard ourselves against making sure this isn’t the focus on this season, this Advent Season. This season of anticipation, of wonder, of expectation, of longing for being with our God, of being close to our savior. Christmas is a magical time of year, a time to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. My prayer for myself and all of you this Advent season is that we don’t rush that celebration. We don’t wish it was here too quickly, that we wait patiently and enjoy the anticipation of the coming of our Lord. That we focus on Jesus this Advent season, on what his coming has meant for us, on what he did for us on the cross at Easter, on the special day when the virgin gave birth to a son and called him Immanuel. Think about it EVERY DAY, spend time reflecting on what he means to you, what he has done in your life, what it will be like to one day hear well done good and faithful servant. Wait in anticipation so when the day finally comes, it will truly be a day for celebration, a culmination of expectation resulting in overwhelming joy at the birth of our Lord and Savior. A day truly worthy of a King.

Pax Christi,
John
2019 Hope Appeal - The Diocese has extended the deadline to
December 30th. THANK YOU to those who have made a pledge.
There are many services the diocese provides to our parishes, schools, and to all
Catholics that would be difficult for even the most prosperous parishes to undertake
on their own. This includes support for educating seminarians, Catholic Charities, campus
ministry, parishes and schools, formational ministries, pastoral assistance, evangelization
and communications. Each gift brings us closer to our goal!

**Balance remaining: $3,380.00**

*Regular Collection: Last Sunday, December 8, 2019*


**Total Regular Collection: $2,793.**


**Because of your contributions, we were able to pay the following bills this week:**


**Total Bills Paid This Week: $1,576.**

Thank you for your TIME, TALENT & TREASURE!

**Weekly Stewardship Report:**

**Stewardship Report**

**Diocesan Collections:**

**Other Income:**

**Food Pantry**
- During the month of November we were able to serve 412 individuals and 50 families with Thanksgiving meals.
- We are very grateful for your generous donations of food and money as well as a $500 grant from Gault Chevrolet.
- A special ‘shout out’ to those who participated in the Friendship Tree November Challenge. Sixty plus individuals/groups each provided 30 items which included food, personal care items and cleaning and baby supplies.

**Food For The Poor**
- On Sunday, January 5th, Rev. Anthony P. Palazzolo will be our Celebrant and speak on behalf of Food For The Poor, at all three of our Masses. He has to fly in to Syracuse and we are looking for volunteers from our three churches, one to pick him up at the airport and one to bring him back. We won’t have any details until Fr. Palazzolo calls our parish office with the information. If you have time and are able and willing, please call the parish office. Thank you!

Fr. Ted Gerken, age 86, former Pastor of Resurrection Church in Germantown, died December 2, 2019.

He was born August 8, 1933 in Whitney Point, NY, the son of the late Jack and Esther Gerken. He was well respected and loved by those he served with as a St. Columban Priest.

He was active in the formation of priests, missionary work, teaching College English and serving in the parishes of Vestal, Liverpool, Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Ballston Spa, NY.

Please keep him and his family in your prayers. His funeral Mass was celebrated December 10, 2019 in Hudson, NY.

On Saturday, January 25th, *JazzHappens Band* will be performing at St. Margaret’s Parish Hall, 14 Copeland Ave., Homer. Please join us for an evening of wonderful music and fellowship! We will also have Coffee, Soda, Water, and Baked Goods.

**Cancellation Notice** - If we need to cancel Sunday or Tuesday morning Mass, or any scheduled event in our parish due to the road conditions, there will be a recorded message on the office number and it will be posted on our Facebook page.
Mission Statement for The Catholic Community of St. Stephen - St. Patrick
We are a Roman Catholic Community of faith, welcoming the strength found in diversity. We are committed to using our time, talent, and treasure in proclaiming the Kingdom of God through prayer, fellowship, and service. We experience our unity at the Eucharistic Table of the Lord, and our direction from the Word of God.

If you know of parishioners that have not been able to come to Mass because they are ill, hospitalized or homebound, please let the Parish Office know so our Hospitality Groups can provide contact with them through visits and cards, or any spiritual needs such as communion, and perhaps they would like to receive a copy of our bulletin.

If you know someone that is ill, facing surgery, or some other kind of difficulty, and needs our prayers, please call Dottie Angel at 656-9230 or Pat Canfield at 849-6978. They will lead the Prayer Chain we have at The CC of St. Stephen-St. Patrick Church. Supporting each other with the Power of Prayer is the best medicine.

If you are not on our Prayer Chain and would like to be, please call our Parish Office, 692-3911.

Our bulletin & OLPH’s can be viewed online at www.ccsssp.com

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ccsssp

PARISH STAFF
Chairperson - John Mihalko
Vice-Chairperson - Dan Burke
Secretary - Peg Orzel
Director of Faith Formation - Cecelia Carstens, 323-5114
Ministry Coordinator - Peg Orzel, porzel10@yahoo.com
Church Organist/Music Director - Jennifer Cafferty
Maintenance - (Please call parish office w/maintenance concerns)

Parish Business/Office Manager - Mary Wied Bulletin Deadline: Tuesday, Noon - Phone, Mail or Email, ststephenstpat@syrdio.org

Daily Mass Schedule & Intentions
Sunday Dec. 15 8:30 AM Whitney Point…for Joanne Cunningham, Birthday…by Mary Sculley for Green & Lee Families…by Family
10:30 AM Marathon…for George Hinman, 5th Anniv. …by Claire Hinman
12:00 PM OLPH…for Paul F. Powers…by Pam Maroney
Tuesday Dec. 17 8:30 AM Whitney Point…for Lorraine Hunt…by Ron & Jackie Burroughs
Sunday Dec. 22 8:30 AM Whitney Point…for Elsie Zelsnack…by Elsie Poyer
10:30 AM Marathon…for Stephen H. Zelsnack, Jr. …by Mom, Dad & Zelsnack Family
12:00 PM OLPH…for Joseph Ricca…by Pat & Terri Fedele

Readings for the Week of December 15 through 22, 2019:
Today: Is 35:1-6a,10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11
Monday: Nm 24:2-7,15-17a; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Gn 49:2-8-10; Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
Friday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
Saturday: Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45
Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

The readings for today, Third Sunday of Advent, begin with CYCLE A’s #884, in our Journeysongs Hymnals.

WP Ecumenical Food Pantry: M-Th & Sat, 10am-Noon & Thurs Eve, 6-8pm. Closed Fridays, Holidays, & when school is closed for inclement weather. Food Pantry Chairperson: Roger Calice Clothing Bank: M, Tu & Sat, 10am-Noon. Mobile Food Pantry: 1st Friday of Month at WP Church parking lot. Truck arrives around 10:00am (unless holiday)

Parish Council
Chairperson - John Mihalko
Vice-Chairperson - Dan Burke
Secretary - Peg Orzel
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Ministry Sign Up Sheets for Christmas Eve Masses are posted at entrance of each church.
Welcome to our church!

Are you new to the Parish?

Welcome Bag at the church entrance and read through our Volunteer Ministry Booklet. We have a lot going on for different age groups. We are looking forward to getting to know you better and have you participate in worship and events.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

meets on the third Tuesday of every month in our Whitney Pt Church Hall. Our next meeting is this Tuesday, Dec. 17th, 9:30am. We invite young and older, male and female and from all three church locations to join us. All are welcome!

This Week In Our Parish

Christmas Pageant

Reading 1 - Isaiah 35:1-6, 10
In the day of the Lord, all sorrow and mourning will cease.

Reading 2 - James 5:7-10
Be patient, and be ready; the coming of the Lord is near.

Gospel - Matthew 11:2-11
Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the kingdom that are being worked through him and praises John as more than a prophet.

Adults: What would Jesus see to praise about you right now?

Children: What good thing have you done so far during Advent to be like Jesus?

THE ST. STEPHEN’S/ST. PATRICK’S HOUSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Reading Questions for Discussion

What would Jesus see to praise about you right now?

What good thing have you done so far during Advent to be like Jesus?

Our next meeting is this Tuesday, Dec. 17th, 9:30am. We invite young and older, male and female and from all three church locations to join us. All are welcome!

Christmas Star Program - If you were not able to bring your gift to church by today, but plan on purchasing it, please let Peg know (607-372-7036). We hope to complete shopping on Thursday for any missing gifts. Distributions of gifts and food is next Sunday, December 22nd.

Thank you for your participation in helping local families.

ATWENT READING MATERIAL - A variety of booklets are available on the church tables for your use during Advent. Please select one that appeals to you, take it home and read it during the Season. May we all have a wonderful Advent!!

“THE LIGHT is on for You” - The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered as part of the “Light is on for You” Campaign on Monday, December 16th. Our parish will not be participating. Our nearest Churches that are:

- St. Anthony’s Church, Cortland, from 4 - 5:30 PM and after Mass from 6 - 7 PM.
- Most Holy Rosary, Maine, 4 - 7 PM.
- St. Margaret’s, Homer, from 4 - 4:45 PM and from 5:30-6:30 PM.

Advent and formed.org - Looking for ways your family can enter into the Advent season together? Grow closer to Christ this season with reflections. Sign-up at formed.org/advent to receive a daily message to dive into the depths of God’s Word. You can also opt in to receive children’s reflections with new Brother Francis episodes to include the whole family.

CCSS-SP/OLPH Christmas Masses

Tuesday, December 24th, Christmas Eve:
5:00pm-Marathon Church / 10:00pm - Whitney Point Church

Wednesday, December 25th, Christmas Day:
9:00am at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Cincinnatus

A Family Perspective

The question put to Jesus in today’s gospel is also put to us today: “Are you the one?” Are you the one who will give guidance to the children in your life or must they look to TV sitcoms, films, videos and music lyrics for direction? Are you the one? Will you be the one?

Come and Visit with Jesus

Did you know that every Thursday evening for one hour, you can come and spend sometime with Jesus? Eucharistic Adoration is just that; a chance to be within His presence and talk to him one on one. Come for a short amount of time or stay for all of it. Every Thursday, unless indicated, at 7pm, in our Whitney Point Church.