

The Catholic Community of St. Stephen St. Patrick

Rev. Douglas Cunningham, Administrator

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018

P.O. Box 711
Whitney Point, New York 13862
Parish Halls: WP(607)692-3357
M(607)849-3630
(607) 692-3911 Fax: (607) 692-7171

Whitney Point: Monday-Thursday, 9AM-Noon

Email: ststephenstpat@syrdio.org
Website: www.ccssp.com

As announced or by appointment



Please contact the rectory to make arrangements.

The Visitation

FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent

Why did Mary leave her home, her family, to go to Elizabeth? There were probably multiple factors guiding her decision. Her village would not be forgiving for her premature pregnancy and would shame both her and her betrothed, Joseph. Getting out of town would provide both of them a measure of protection for the next few months. More importantly, by confirming Elizabeth's pregnancy with her own eyes, she would be verifying the words Gabriel had spoken to her. It wasn't that she didn't believe them, but it would help in this uncertain time of her life to have that kind of affirmation. Mary knew, because of the miraculous nature of their pregnancies, that Elizabeth would understand Mary's situation and wouldn't be judging her as immoral.

But I see a yet another reason, one that resonates with me during the Christmas season perhaps most strongly. Mary was a kind and loving girl, always ready to help another. By going to stay with her cousin, she would be able to help. Elizabeth was much older, past child-bearing age, and would likely need extra help. Mary was young and strong. Elizabeth had shut herself away, not ready to let others know of her pregnancy, possibly because she was unsure if she could carry this child to term and didn't need the villagers reminding her of her inadequacy. Mary could offer her cousin both physical and emotional support during this challenging time. Mary was a giver and would do what was necessary to serve one in need.

The unborn infant John danced in Elizabeth's womb, celebrating the coming of the Savior. His joy was contagious, causing his mother to proclaim her own joy. Mary, in turn, praised God for the joy he brings to the lowly. It was a very special time for Mary and Elizabeth, and now for us.

I can relate to the joy of those first movements wakening the womb. Until they are felt, a pregnancy doesn't quite feel real. The promise of a savior was, until that moment, just a promise; one that might or might not be fulfilled in their lifetime. But now it was a tangible reality, bringing a secret joy to the two mothers-to-be.

When I prepare to celebrate Christmas, I also hold a secret joy in my heart. In a few days, it will be time for the birth of the Savior and time to let the world know of this joy. But for now, I can best prepare by being the same kind of thoughtful, helpful person that Mary exemplified when she went to visit Elizabeth. I can bring joy to others, and that's the best gift to give anyone at Christmas.

Linda Crowley

Weekly Stewardship Report: Last Sunday, December 16, 2018

Regular Collection: Envs: \$2,592. Loose: \$351. Electronic: \$120.Total Regular Collection: \$3,063.
Because of your contributions, we were able to pay the following bills this week: Phone: \$281. YouthMinisExp: \$69.
Office: \$639. Tithing: \$674.(WPPPan) ChDecor: \$78. CathSun: \$114. ChR&M: \$315. Ch&RctGrnds: \$99.
Utilities: \$433. Salaries: \$1,200.Total Bills Pd This Wk: \$3,902.
Bills To Be Pd Next Week: \$1,389.

Thank you for your time, talents and treasure!



2018 HOPE Appeal -We still need \$2,855.00 to meet our goal. The Diocese of Syracuse has informed us that they will extend the deadline until December 30th with ONLY full payment pledges. There are extra envelopes at the entrances of our churches.

2018 HOPE Appeal Goal: \$18,570.02

Pledges To Date: \$15,715.02

Balance Remaining: \$ 2,855.00



Whitney Pt Ecumenical Food Pantry

During the month of **December** we are collecting **peanut butter & jelly** for the Whitney Point Ecumenical Food Pantry.

We are in need of any food donations. There are marked baskets at the entrances of our churches. Thank you for all your food & monetary donations.

FORMED

THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

The Story of the Nativity

Explore the Birth of Christ This fast-

paced look at the true story of the Nativity clears away misunderstandings about

Jesus' origin and is invaluable for learning more about the truth of Christmas. Explore the true story of Mary and Joseph, Jesus' miraculous conception, the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, the Star of Bethlehem, and more. Parish Code: CFMRYR

Join others from our parish for a weekend event, Power & Purpose at Steubenville Franciscan University

in OHIO - June 7 thru 9, 2019. It begins at approximately 5pm Friday, June 7th, and ends by 2pm Sunday, June 9th, 2019.

The theme is *"Dive into a life in the Holy Spirit. Draw us into a deeper relationship."*

If you are interested, contact Don Barry, dkekbarry@aol.com for further information. This event is open to adults 18 and over.



GET THE LATEST NEWS: Be sure to visit our parish website regularly: www.ccsssp.com and sign up for our FacebookPage: www.facebook.com/ccsssp to get the most up to date information on parish events for The Catholic Community of St. Stephen-St. Patrick and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Churches. Thank you to John Dee for the wonderful work on our Facebook Page.

We can do fundraisers to help cover the cost of registration, hotel and meals.

From the Steubenville website: "As children of God, we are called to live in the peace, joy, and love of the Holy Trinity. Yet many of us struggle to feel God's presence in our lives. We remain stuck in old patterns of behavior or ways of thinking that leave us feeling lonely, anxious and even hopeless. The good news is that we can be free! The Holy Spirit can lift us out of despair and give us a renewed sense of purpose.

The Power and Purpose Conference will introduce you to and draw you deeper into relationship with the Holy Spirit and empower you to live in freedom and joy."

→ Listen to some of the presentations from last years' Conference at

<https://steubenvilleconferences.com/events/ppc/?fbclid=IwAR1eDIZKMgPeMjHVwKXANuUlgTsaXQqPoNh8sraeTPk7LECaBRQAsIPrml>.

They are wonderful messages encouraging us to live our daily life in God's love.

CANCELLATIONS: If events at the Church need to be cancelled the event sponsor will contact the office and the phone message will indicate the cancellation. Please check the phone message on 692-3911 and church Facebook Page if things look 'iffy'.

Safe Environment Re-certification Training: "Entrusted to Protect, Dedicated to Restore"

The diocesan Child and Youth Protection Policy requires Safe Environment re-certification training (1 1/2 hour session) every five (5) years for: All clergy, All members of religious orders, All parish and diocesan employees, including those who have no contact with children, All volunteers whose ministry or role continues to place them in regular contact with children, young people, or vulnerable adults In addition to the re-certification session, all participants must pass a new criminal background check in order to complete their Safe Environment re-certification screening. There will be a Re-certification Training on

→ **Monday, January 21st, 3:00pm, at our St. Stephen's Church in Marathon.** A facilitator from the Diocese is willing to come here for anyone past due on their re-cert or any that will expire in 2019 can attend this session in Jan. → **Pre-registration is required.** safeenvironment@syrdio.org or call our office, 692-3911, but if you need to cancel your registration please contact the Safe Environment office at 315-470-1421.



If anyone notices any kind of church maintenance need from needing a bulb or battery for something, if something has fallen or is broken, to any major need, please call our parish office asap, 692-3911, so it can be taken care of asap.

Please Pray For Our Following Friends and Family in the Military: Major Corrine Miller, A2C Derek Lescord, Devon McGill, Joshua Lilley, PV2 James McGill, LCpl John Larkin, Jr., USMC, Sgt Heather Fox, Brett Hayes, Captain Caleb Miller, Sgt Megan Ballard, A1C Brendan Schneider, Daniel Morehouse USMC, Sgt Jacob Rau, SSG Steven Gross, USMC SSgt Dan Votra, Sgt Nicholas Stone, Lt Paul McDonald, Major John Thomas, Major Joy Thomas, LCDR Marvin Joel Scott III, 2nd Lt. Emily Steele USAF, OS3 Jonathan Schneider, Sgt Zachary Reardon USMC, SSgt Justin Blaisdell, SSgt Michael Hetzler, LCDR Maria Lescord, and our pastor, LtCol Douglas Cunningham.

If you have a friend or family member serving our country and would like their name mentioned weekly in our bulletin, to be kept in our prayers, please contact our parish office.



Remember Our Veterans

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 homebound, please let the Parish Office know so our Hospitality Groups can provide contact with them through visits and cards, and perhaps they would like to receive a copy of our bulletin.



Hospitalized or ill: Please notify rectory or email lcrowley@zfastest.net so we can provide for their/your spiritual needs.



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 and OLPH's can be viewed online at www.ccsssp.com.  www.facebook.com/ccsssp

Parish Council

PARISH STAFF

Chairperson - John Mihalko

Vice-Chairperson - Don Barry

Secretary - Brittney Penrose

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. 23	8:30 AM	Whitney Point...for Irene McDonald, Birthday...by Larry & Jean McDonald for Elsie Zelsnack...by Elsie Poyer
		10:30 AM	Marathon...for Dorothy Griep...by Jerry Griep
		12:00 PM	OLPH...for Clara Kiefer...by OLPH's Altar Rosary Society
Monday	Dec. 24	5:00 PM	Whitney Point...for Donald Cunningham, Srs. Maureen & Gen, Maria A. Kruse, Tess Kruse, Lazaro Baarde...by Fr. Doug
		10:00 PM	Marathon...for The People Of Our Parish
Tuesday	Dec. 25	9:00 AM	OLPH...for Anna Hunter...by Bill, Mary & Tyler Wied
Sunday	Dec. 30	8:30 AM	Whitney Point...for The People Of Our Parish
		10:30 AM	Marathon...for The People Of Our Parish
		12:00 PM	OLPH...for Special Mass Intention for local members of the clergy who have abused and for those who have been harmed..... by a participant in the Independent Reconciliation Compensation Program



Readings for the Week of December 23 through 30, 2018:

Today: Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Monday (morning): 2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16; Lk 1:67-79

Tuesday(Vigil): Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17,22-25; Mt 1:1-25

(Day:) Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-8

Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22



Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a,2-8

Friday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6,12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:41-52

The readings for today, Fourth Sunday of Advent, begin with #889,
the readings for Christmas Vigil begin with #890 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 **9:30am** (unless holiday)



SERVING THIS WEEK



Whitney Point

Greeters: Earl Markham, Chris Broderick

Next Sunday: Clements Family

Lector: Don Alexy **Next Sunday:** Roger Calice

Altar Servers: Nate Czebiniak, Jack Czebiniak

Next Sunday: Luke Czebiniak, Elizabeth Czebiniak

Marathon

Garret & Joyce Van De Weert
McEvoy Family

Lector: Mike Thayne **Next Sunday:** Brandon Tyrrell
Ryan Eaton, Stephen Eaton
Gunner Tyrrell, Alex Votra

Eucharistic Ministers: Kathy Bensley, Roger & Ann Calice
Next Sunday: Emily Jordan, Peg Orzel, Cathy Shoemaker

Karen Standish, Linda Caminiti, Kathy Cusick
Dawn Odinek, Geoff Tyrrell, Chris Brandstadt
Dec Ushers: Mike Reilly, Don Atwood

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MINISTRY SERVICE TO OUR PARISH!

This Week In Our Parish

Monday, Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve

5:00pm Mass - Whitney Point Church

Tuesday, Dec. 25th, Christmas Day

10:00pm Mass - Marathon Church

Thursday, Dec. 27th

9:00am Mass - Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

7:00pm - Adoration - Marathon Church



Whole Community Catechesis

Readings and Questions for Discussion

Reading 1 - Micah 5:1-4

The ruler of Israel is promised to come from Bethlehem.

Reading 2 - Hebrews 10:5-10

Through his obedience to God's will, Christ consecrated all.

Gospel - Luke 1:39-45

Mary visits Elizabeth, who sings praise to Mary and her child.

Adults: *When was it hardest for you to trust in God's plan, as Mary did? What can help you at such times?*

Children: *When is it hardest for you to obey a parent or teacher? What can help you obey with more trust?*

**The Catholic Community of St. Stephen-St. Patrick/
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Churches Christmas Mass Schedule**

Monday, December 24th, Christmas Eve, 5pm-Whitney Pt. Church
10pm-Marathon Church

Tuesday, December 25th, Christmas Day 9am - Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church



Watch Special EWTN Advent and Christmas Programming- EWTN is proud to bring you LIVE Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses from Rome and the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington, DC. Also, we will be airing inspiring musical performances, specials for children and teens and new holiday presentations that the whole family will enjoy. Watch or listen to EWTN TV and EWTN Radio on your local channel, online or even on your smartphone using our free EWTN App! Available on Spectrum/TWC Channel 98 and 460 or Radio on 88.7 FM. For more information, go to ewtn.com

SAVE THE DATES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 13 (?)– Parish Wide Vision Meeting at Marathon

January 15-Book Discussion at Marathon, 9:30AM.

Book to be given out at Christmas: The Biggest Lie of Christianity



Come and Visit with Jesus

Did you know that every Thursday evening, for one hour, you can come and spend some time 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.

This Thurs, Dec. 27th, is at our Marathon Church, 7pm.

The Sanctuary Candle Burning for the month of December in our Whitney Point Church is In Memory Of:

Helmut Melzer and Daina Freimanis
by Vella Melzer

and in our Marathon Church:
Bill & Helen Appleby by Family

In Memory of...

NYS Discernment Retreat, Jan. 2-4, 2019:

please join us in prayer for young men attending this retreat. Prayers, suggested Scripture and other resources are available online at <https://vocations-syracuse.org/forparishes/>.



Thank you for your continued support of vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the Diocese of Syracuse.



IGNITE 2019-There will be a Diocese Southern District kickoff event for the ELEVENTH IGNITE Catholic Men's Conference, sponsored by the Diocese of Syracuse, will be held **March 30, 2019**. We are looking for MEN to help promote this event in the Parish. WE CAN USE YOUR HELP IN PROMOTING THIS EVENT FOR CATHOLIC MEN!!

Date: Thursday, January 10, 2019

Where: St. Anthony of Padua, 300 Odell Ave., Endicott

Mass Time: 6:30pm with Fr. Joe O'Connor

Meeting Time: 7:00pm following the Mass

If you have any questions, please call Rick Sanguinito at 607-222-3509.

Parish Focus: TRUST When we pursue God, we find life—abundant life. Running from evil and pursuing God doesn't come naturally to most of us. Instead, it means we have to make a serious change. One change is step 4 in our ongoing study of trust.

4. Put God First in Your Life

It's easiest to put ourselves first. When something good happens, we want to congratulate ourselves with a reward. When something bad happens, we want to console ourselves or find someone to blame. In other words, we often have a "me-centric" starting place.

"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine." (Proverbs 3:9-10)

If we can trust God with the first of our wealth, we're truly showing how much we depend on Him. Handing over the first part of our paycheck takes a huge amount of faith, after all. But doing so means being God-centric.

To get there, though, we must make sure of a few things...(to be continued)