

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF
ST. STEPHEN - ST. PATRICK
DECEMBER 15, 2019**



**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
SUNDAY - 3:00 PM
DECEMBER 15TH**

Rev. Douglas Cunningham, Administrator

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019

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@syrдио.org
Website: www.ccssp.com

As announced or by appointment



Please contact the rectory to make arrangements.

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

Weekly Stewardship Report: Last Sunday, December 8, 2019



Regular Collection: Envs: \$2,358. Loose: \$435. Total Regular Collection: \$2,793.

Stewardship Report

Diocesan Collections: CCHD-\$5. Cathedralicum-\$13. **Other Income:** ImmConc-\$288. Christmas-\$15. MemSanct-\$120.

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

Altar: \$176. Salaries: \$1,400. Total Bills Paid This Week: \$1,576.


Thank you for your TIME, TALENT & TREASURE! Bills To Pay Next Week: \$3,414.



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

RCIA  **Interested?**

Are you, or someone you know, interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith?

If so, contact our parish office, 692-3911, for Kathy Cusick.



THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

Lectio: Mary with Dr. Brant Pitre Mother of the Messiahs

In the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah prophesies about the coming Messiah and the Messiah's mother. Since Jesus—the anointed one of God, who saves his people from their sin—is truly the foretold Messiah, then his mother, Mary, is truly the Mother of the Messiah. **Parish Code: CFMRYY**

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!



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 food & monetary donations.



DECEMBER
Here is a list of priceless gifts to give for Christmas:

- To your enemy - forgiveness
- To your opponent - tolerance
- To your friends - your heart
- To children - a good example
- To your father - deference
- To your mother - conduct that will make her proud of you
- To yourself - respect
- To everyone else - charity.

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.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: Fr. Doug's New Mailing Address is:
447 Summerhaven Drive N, East Syracuse, NY 13057

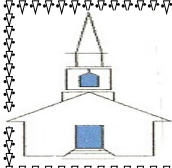
Please notice additional announcements on our church bulletin boards.

Please Pray For Our Following Friends and Family in the Military:

2nd Lt. Trevor Jones, PVT2 Averi Hull, Major Corrine Miller, Devon McGill, Sgt Megan Ballard, Joshua Lilley, PV2 James McGill, Sgt Heather Fox, LCpl John Larkin, Jr., USMC, Major Caleb Miller, A2C Derek Lescord, Sgt Jacob Rau, Major Joy Thomas, SSgt Michael Hetzler, A1C Brendan Schneider, Daniel Morehouse USMC, SSG Steven Gross, Sgt Nicholas Stone, Major John Thomas, USMC SSgt Dan Votra, SSgt Justin Blaisdell, LCDR Paul McDonald, LCDR Marvin Joel Scott III, Brett Hayes, 2nd Lt. Emily Steele USAF, OS3 Jonathan Schneider, Sgt Zachary Reardon USMC, 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.



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.ccssp.com  Our face book page: www.facebook.com/ccssp

Parish Council

Chairperson - John Mihalko
Vice-Chairperson - Dan Burke
Secretary - Peg Orzel

PARISH STAFF

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, 5 th 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)



Whitney Point

Greeters: Earl Markham, Chris Broderick
Next Sunday: Colleen Mihalko, Pat Tredo
Lector: Dot Hathway **Next Sunday:** Ingrid Jordak
Altar Servers: Aidan Lynch, Lucca Lynch
Next Sunday: Ian McMullen, Grace Russell

Marathon

Bob Barry, Marie Joseph
Kathleen Allen, Colleen Brown
Lector: Shelley Warnow **Next Sunday:** Roseanne Holland
Volunteers
Arianna Silva, Brandon Tyrrell

Eucharistic Ministers: Kathy Bensley, Roger & Ann Calice
Next Sunday: Dot Hathway, Emily Jordan, Ingrid Wennerod
Children's Liturgy Leader: Cecelia Carstens **Next Sunday:** Emily Jordan

Dawn Odinek, Chris Broderick, Kathy Cusick
Cindy Barry, Don Barry, Karen Standish
Dec Ushers: Mike Reilly, Don Atwood

→ If you would like to be on the ministry schedule and have received training or would like to receive training, please contact Justin VanTassel at jvantassel@gmail.com or 607-343-9577.

Ministry Sign Up Sheets for Christmas Eve Masses are posted at entrance of each church.

This Week In Our Parish

Today, Dec. 15th

Correction - No Formation Classes Today

3:00pm - Annual Christmas Pageant followed by dish to pass dinner - Whitney Pt. Church

Tuesday, Dec. 17th

9:30am - CCSS-SP's Hospitality Committee Meeting - Whitney Point Church Hall

Wednesday, Dec. 18th

7:00pm - Advent Penance Service - Whitney Point Church

Thursday, Dec. 19th

7:00pm - Adoration - Whitney Point Church

Sunday, Dec. 22nd

12:00-2:00pm - Christmas Basket Distribution - WP Food Pantry

Whole Community Catechesis Readings and Questions for Discussion

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?

ADVENT 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!!



Our **Annual Christmas Pageant** is **TODAY, December 15th, 3:00 PM**

at our Whitney Point Church with a dish to pass dinner following. All are welcome and invited.

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.



THE ST. STEPHEN'S/ST. PATRICK'S Hospitality Committee 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!

The Sanctuary Candle Burning for the month of December in our Whitney Pt Church is In Memory Of:
Hilmut Melzer & Daina Frėimanis by Vella Melzer
In Memory of... **Our Marathon Church: Richard & Joyce Niggli** by Children & Grandchildren

Are you new to the Parish?

Welcome to our church!

We are glad you are here!!!

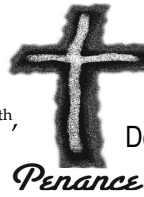
Feel free to ask questions, introduce yourself, pick up a Welcome Bag at the church entrance and read through our Volunteer Ministry Booklet. We have a lot going on for different age groups. We are looking forward to getting to know you better and have you participate in worship and events.



CCSS-SP's Advent Penance Service

is Wednesday, December 18th, 7:00pm, at our Whitney Point Church.

Prepare the way this Advent with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fr. Doug and other priests will be available to hear confessions.



"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, Cincinnati



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.

