

 St. Cyril of Alexandria 28 Walton St. Alexandria Bay, NY <hr/> Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday 10:00 a.m.	The Catholic Community of Alexandria 17 Rock St. Alexandria Bay, NY 13607 315-482-2670 pastor@stcyrils.org www.stcyrils.org Rev. Douglas G. Comstock, Pastor Bernard Slate, Deacon Joel Walentuk, Deacon	 St. Francis Xavier 43596 State Route 37 Redwood, NY <hr/> Sunday 8:30 a.m.
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Liturgy Schedule for Week of December 24, 2017

Saturday, Dec. 23, 2017	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
5:00 p.m.	Frank Cavallario by his wife, Connie Cavallario	
Sunday, Dec 24, 2017		
10:00 a.m.	David Tuttle by the Felicia Family	
	Christmas Eve	
5:00 p.m.	The Members of our Parish Family	(SC)
7:00 p.m.	The Deceased Members of our Parish	(SFX)
Monday, Dec. 25, 2017	Christmas Day	
10:00 a.m.	The Intentions of the Celebrant	(SC)
Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2017		
8:00 a.m.	<i>No Liturgy</i>	
Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017		
8:00 a.m.	Richard Durand by Deacon Bernie Slate	
Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017		
8:00 a.m.	Mike Bresnahan, Sr. by Ruth Fisk	
Friday, Dec. 29, 2017		
8:00 a.m.	The Intentions of Peter Beattie by Mom & Dad Ringer	
Saturday, Dec. 30, 2017	Feast of the Holy Family	
5:00 p.m.	Keith Irwin by Tony & Kathy Folino	
Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017		
8:30 a.m. (SFX)	Mr. and Mrs. John George by the Estate of Emma George	
10:00 a.m.	Anna Marie Damrath by Mike & Barb Bresnahan	
Monday, Jan. 1, 2018	New Year's Day Mary, the Mother of God	
10:00 a.m.	Blessings on our Parishioners in the New Year	

Sacrament of Reconciliation in Preparation for Christmas

Monday	Dec. 18	6:00 p.m.	Penance Service at St. Cyril's, Alexandria Bay
Tuesday	Dec. 19	6:00 p.m.	Penance Service at St. Mary's Church, Clayton
Wednesday	Dec. 20	5:00 p.m.	Confessions at St. Francis Xavier, Redwood

Our Stewardship

December 16 - 17, 2017

Envelopes	\$2,279.00	Diocesan Priests' Retirement	\$1,735.00
Plate	\$680.00	Christmas Flowers	\$140.00
Youth		Religious Retirement	\$85.00
Electronic Giving	\$526.36	Fuel Collection	\$185.00
Total	\$3,485.36	Total Fuel Contrib. to Date	\$13,551.00
Last Year	\$1,614.00	Total Fuel Goal in '17-'18	\$20,367.00

Scripture Study

Our Scripture Study Program continues in St. Mary's Parish Center this Wednesday, December 27th at 7:00 p.m. Gene Kleinhans (Catholic Community of Alexandria) and Sandy Geiss (St. Mary's of Clayton) are facilitating this adult discussion class.



Christmas 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I have asked the youth of our Diocese to provide me with a cover design for this year's Christmas card. I received many fine pieces of art, many of which were captioned with verses from Scripture. One citation that surfaced on a few cards is from St. Luke's Infancy Narrative: **"The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.'" (Luke 2:10)**

What an appropriate message for each of us to reflect upon this Christmas. We should give careful attention to this angelic proclamation that offers such hope and heavenly happiness to all people. Fear, bad news and division seem to be having their way in our world today. In the midst of such darkness, we remember that there is no reason to be afraid because God brings Good News of great joy for all of God's people through His Son, born of Mary.

"Do not be afraid." I need not provide a list of serious concerns that today cause so many to fear what tomorrow may bring. No matter the heartache, this is a season of hope and joy. Jesus is the One who rescues humanity from sin and delivers us from the condition of alienation from God. With His birth, the Christ Child brings an unfathomable gift that we must unwrap to enjoy. He brings salvation to all humanity. But in order to enjoy the salvation won for us, our personal encounter with Jesus must be tended to through a lifelong journey of love and service.

Just a few weeks ago, I consecrated the Diocese of Ogdensburg to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. We know that Mary submitted humbly and totally to God's will, even without fully understanding it. By saying "yes" to God's mysterious will, she enabled salvation to enter the world through the birth of her Son. We must tug at her sleeve, she who desires so much to lead us, all of us, to Jesus.

We want to follow Jesus. Christ-led and Christ-fed, we can be hope-filled and not weighed down by the menace of evil. As we celebrate the birth of our Savior and greet a New Year, let us unwrap the gift of salvation offered by making Mary's words our own: *"Let it be done to me according to thy word."*

May the Christ Child bring you and your loved ones the Gift of Love, the Blessing of Hope and the Promise of Peace. A blessed Christmas and joy-filled New Year!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Bishop of Ogdensburg

The Prince of Peace

In Isaiah's prophecy about the coming Messiah, he says:

*"For a child is born to us, a son is given us; Upon his shoulder dominion rests;
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:5).*

It is sometimes difficult to see how Jesus could be the all-powerful God who acts in human history and be the embodiment of peace in a world filled with war and violence. But this is not necessarily the kind of peace He's talking about. (John 14:27)

The Hebrew word for "peace," *shalom*, is often used in reference to an appearance of calm and tranquility of individuals, groups, and nations. The Greek word *eirene* means "harmony and concord"; Paul uses *eirene* to describe the objective of the New Testament church. But the deeper, more foundational meaning of peace is "the spiritual harmony brought about by an individual's restoration with God." *Shalom* is the gift of salvation, the bounty of Messianic blessing.

Because of Christ's sacrifice, dying for our sins, we are restored to a relationship of peace with God (Romans 5:1), "the deep, abiding peace between our hearts and our Creator that cannot be taken away (John 10:27-28) and the ultimate fulfillment of Christ's work as 'Prince of Peace.'"

Christmas teaches us the truth that the gift of peace has already been granted to us in Jesus: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you." The instruments of peace lie within us, but we often instead choose anger, bitterness, retaliation, or punishing silence. Christmas, however, hearkens us with the truth that the gifts of world and inner peace are already ours...mercy, forgiveness, humility, compassion, gentleness and patience. Prayer: *Prince of Peace, calm our anxiety, soothe our anger and open our hearts to the Holy Spirit of reconciliation.*

Wishing you all a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Judy Pearson