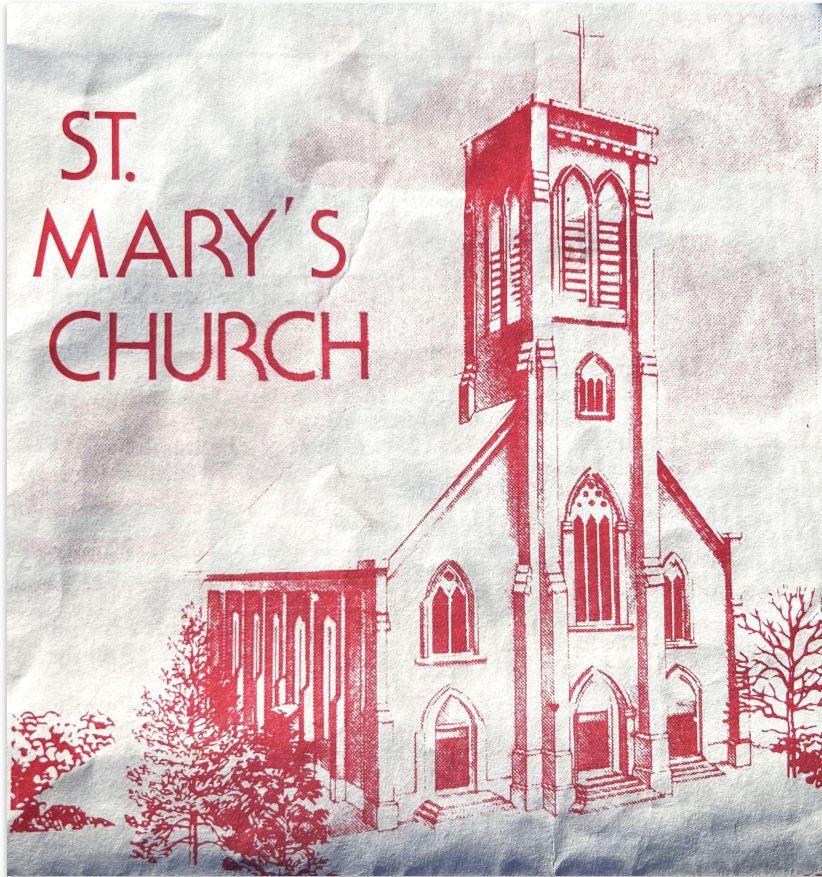




ST. MARY'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH

God First. Loving Others. Making Disciples.



Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9-4

*St. Mary's Church
is open for daily prayer*

Adoration
Wednesdays 1-6

Reconciliation
Wednesdays after 12:10 Mass or by
appointment

Clergy

Father Scott VanDerveer, Pastor
ext. 120 fatherscott@stmarvsglensfalls.org

Deacon David Powers
ext. 135 deacondve@aol.com

Rev. Joe Manerowski, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Liam Condon, Assisting Retired Priest

Staff

Gary Patton
Business & Operations, Cemeteries
ext. 116 gpatton@stmarvsglensfalls.org

Alison Hancock
Volunteer Coordinator
ext. 111 ahancock@stmarvsglensfalls.org

Charlie Kaszuba
Bookkeeper
ext. 130 ckaszuba@stmarvsglensfalls.org

Ben Rowley
Music
ext. 113 browlev@stmarvsglensfalls.org

Amanda Jansen
Communications
ajansen@stmarvsglensfalls.org

Lisa Patton
Baptisms, Weddings, Confirmation, Next Gen
lpattton@stmarvsglensfalls.org

Mary Ann Thombs
Next Generation Assistant

Jean & Gordon Paul
RCIA Coordinators (Forming New Catholics)
jpaul@stmarvsglensfalls.org

Weekly Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.

11:15 a.m.

Wednesday: 12:10 p.m.

Thursday: 12:10 p.m.

www.stmarvsglensfalls.org | [@stmarvsglensfalls](https://www.instagram.com/stmarvsglensfalls)

December 29, 2024 • FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

St. Mary's Church

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Dear Parish Family,

As you read in last week's Sharing Spot, Pope Francis has challenged Catholic parishes around the world to invigorate and reimagine the way parish Pastoral Councils work in light of the worldwide Synod that got input from a billion Catholics about what ways from their vantage point they see and feel the Holy Spirit at work in the Church.

The concept of a Parish Council came more than 50 years ago with the renewed understanding of Vatican II that every Catholic was on a spiritual path, not just the clergy. Each person's baptism gave them an invitation and responsibility to take an active role in their faith. So the work of a vibrant parish was not just for the clergy to accomplish, but for everyone who is baptized into this faith.

Over time, in some instances, certain parish councils devolved into being almost like a board of directors for the parish, where a few invested people wound up making a lot of decisions around a boardroom table with the pastor. (You could picture how that could make an amusing backdrop for episodes of a sitcom on parish life.)

Over the course of decades these groups evolved into something much more suited to letting God lead the discussion: what we know today as the "Pastoral Council." The difference in this model from the parish council is that the Holy Spirit is in charge of presenting the pastor, through prayer, with the issues that are most in need of consultation. This way, the most difficult puzzles that the parish and community face are presented to the Council, making it much more like a discernment group than a board meeting. It also makes it clear that the group is advisory and consultative, and not like a board of elders in a Protestant church. Big improvement! Still, this means that same 8- 12 people are regularly being consulted, which can wind up getting circular and siloed.

After hearing the Pope's challenge to reimagine this process, at one staff brainstorming session last year it occurred to us to go out to the small groups with a list of questions in the style of those that were asked at the Synod and include not just a dozen people around a table but expand that to include a hundred or more people in the process.

It wound up working so well, we decided to enlist Alison, Ben, Gary, Amanda, Judy and our parish trustees to once again split up the list of small groups and over the course of the a week earlier this month go with clipboards, notepads, pens and open ears to listen to nearly 100 St. Mary's parishioners share their responses to three questions.

(1) What keeps you at St. Mary's?

(2) What do you need from a parish that you're not getting here?

(3) For three years Fr. Scott has said that donating 5% of our income is what it takes to have a vibrant parish. What is standing in the way of every parishioner giving at that level?

What we heard gave us a lot of input to mull over. On February 18, we plan to take the pages of notes from listening to parishioners in small group sessions and organize them into themes. These in these themes we will look for patterns and echoes and begin to see what possibilities might be calling us to devote our energy and attention.

Our experience of this version of pastoral consultation filled our minds with fresh ideas and stirred our hearts. In a future Sharing Spot, I will share with you some of the particulars that came out of the small group suggestions once we have a chance to process and organize the responses.

Thank you to all the Small Group members for your candor, your creativity and for the love you have for God and for St. Mary's.

Here's to a blessed 2025...

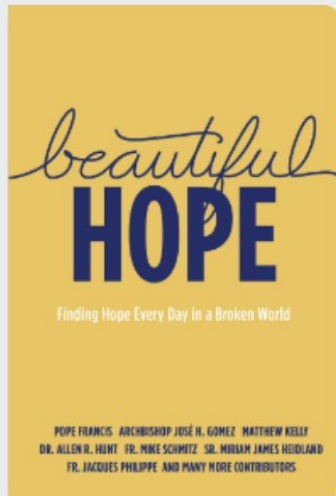
Fr. Scott 😊

Winter/Spring 2025

Small Group Plan

Beautiful Hope

Week of January 12: Wishful Thinking?
Week of January 19: Choosing Hope
Week of January 26: Hope in the Church
Week of February 2: Hope in Action
Week of February 9: Finding Hope
Week of February 16: Becoming Hope



33 Days to Eucharistic Glory

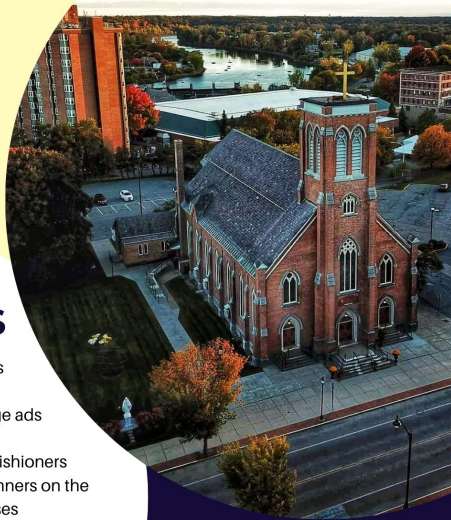
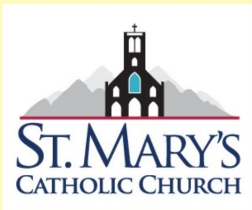
Week of February 23: Beginning Your Journey
Week of March 2: The Eucharist is the Answer
Week of March 9: The Eucharist and the Pilgrim
Week of March 16: The Eucharist and the Saints
Week of March 23: The Eucharist and You
Week of March 30: The Eucharist and History
Week of April 6: The Moment of Surrender
Week of April 13 or 20*: Living Your Consecration
*Holy Week may be very busy for you, as a Small Group feel free to pause for the week and finish after Easter



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- "Parishioner-owned business" banners on the ads of parishioners' local businesses
- Opportunity to sponsor livestream broadcasts

Contact

Amanda Jansen
ajansen@stmarysglensfalls.org
(518-792-0989 ext. 113)

Class of 1975 Reunion

The SMA class of 1975 is starting to plan their 50th reunion!

We are looking to reconnect with all members of the class. If you were in the SMA class of 1975, would you contact Peggy Goss Limmer:

518-744-0853 or

peggy@2957@yahoo.com

The reunion is being planned for
October 2025

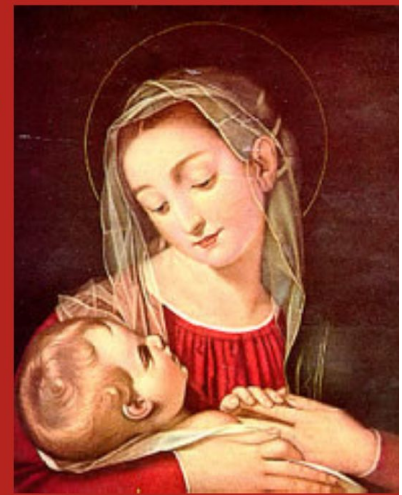
Garden Sound Concert

January 11th
in the Church
7 PM

Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God

JANUARY 1st

12:10 PM Mass



Please submit parish announcements for future bulletins 2 weeks in advance to Amanda Jansen - Communications Coordinator at ajansen@stmarysglensfalls.org

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SCAN ME



SMA Spotlight

Bravo!



Congratulations to all our students for their wonderful performances at this week's Christmas Concerts! Dressed in smiles and festive Christmas outfits, the students shone brighter than any Christmas tree around! A huge thank you to Ms. Dove and Mr. Rowley for the enthusiasm and skill they bring to their jobs each and every day, the results of which we all get to enjoy! Many thanks, too, to all of those behind the scenes who made the evening run smoothly.



In Need!!

Our popular Noah's Ark preschool and PreK programs are looking for help! If you'd like to spend your days working with bright, busy children ages 3 to 5, please reach out to Noah's Ark Director Beverly Kerpka or SMA Principal Marielena Hauser (518-792-3178 or

bkerpka@smsarcs.org or mhauser@smsarcs.org) for more information on how to apply.

Openings are for a part-time aide position, Monday through Friday, noon to 5 pm, and a full-time aide position, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. Classroom experience preferred, but not required. Come aboard the Ark!

@smsaschool  

Mass Intentions

December 28th - January 5th

Saturday, December 28th - 4:00 PM Mass

❖ For all Parishioners

Sunday, December 29th - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:30 am Mass

❖ For all Parishioners

11:15 am Mass

❖ For all Parishioners

Wednesday, January 1st - 12:10 pm Mass

❖ For all Parishioners

Thursday, January 2nd - 12:10 pm Mass

❖ For all Parishioners

Saturday, January 4th - 4:00 PM Mass

- ❖ John Butler by Laurie and Mike Butler
- ❖ Helen Fontaine by Betty Charles
- ❖ Claude Charlebois by Cathy Vesterby and Lucy Auger
- ❖ Nancy Morrissey by David Morrissey and Family

Sunday, January 5th - The Epiphany

8:30 am Mass

- ❖ Frank Grassia by Edward and Susan Kelly
- ❖ Harry Underwood (Anniversary) by Beverly Underwood and Family
- ❖ Kathleen Deutsch by Mark and Maria Polidore
- ❖ Connor C Kasin by James Tucker

11:15 am Mass

- ❖ Harry G LaPoint (Anniversary) by Family
- ❖ Peter Marcantonio (Birthday) by wife, Joanna
- ❖ Joseph Puzzulo (10th Anniversary) by Puzzulo Family
- ❖ Dr. M. Patrick Hogan by Children and Grandchildren

Weekly Report

December 16 - December 22

GIVING at ST. MARY'S

Numbers not available at this time!

MASS ATTENDANCE

Merry Christmas!

St. Mary's Food Pantry



Open Fridays from 9am- 1pm

FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED THIS WEEK:

Tuna Fish
Spaghetti Sauce
Cold Cereal
Potato Packets
Vegetable Oil
Spaghetios / Ravioli

Thank you very much to our parishioners for their extraordinary generosity during the holiday season!



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