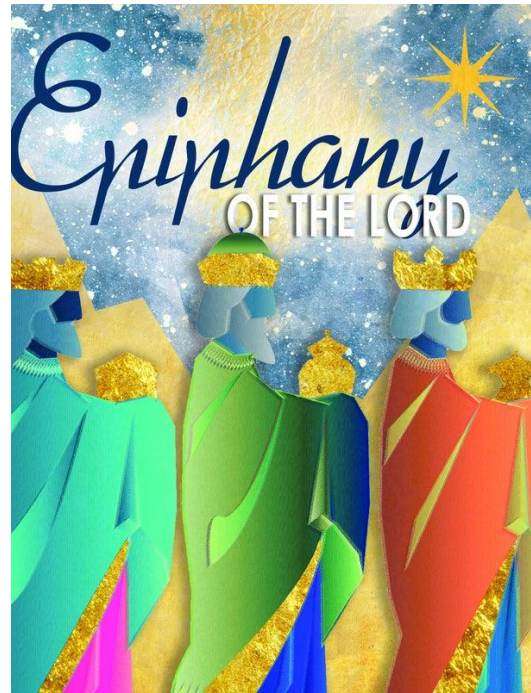


Epiphany of the Lord



Upcoming Events

Farewell to Fr. Matt: Please join us Sunday, January 15th after the 10:30 am Mass at Blessed Sacrament to say good bye to Fr. Matt. Please join us in wishing him well.

Pastoral Council Meeting: Thursday, January 19th at 6:30 pm.

Church of the Blessed Sacrament Bolton Landing

Intentions & Mass Cards: Please call Rita Whitney at 518-338-6858.

1/8 Mimi Roessler *Req. Dawn Faller*

1/15 Phil Staats *Req. Maureen Mihalics*

1/15 Ed Bartley *Req. Deacon Joe & Annette Tyrell*

1/15 Rita Faller *Req. Dawn Faller*

Offertory: 12/24 & 12/25 \$3,241
1/1 \$1,261

Diocesan Appeal: We have collected \$9070 which is 36% of our goal of \$25,008, with 43 gifts to date. We strive for 100% participation, not equal gifts. Thank you, your stewardship is truly appreciated.

Thank You for the Beautiful Luncheon: Many thanks go out to all who made the day so wonderful. Beautiful fellowship and wonderful food. Job well done!

St. James

North Creek

Intentions & Mass Cards:

Please call Kathy DeBartolo at 518-494-7873

1/7 People of the Parish

1/14 & 1/21 Mass Intention Available

Offertory: 12/24 \$851

12/31 \$1,891

Diocesan Appeal: We have collected \$5,381 which is 74% of our goal of \$7,252, with 21 gifts to date. We strive for 100% participation, not equal gifts. Thank you, your stewardship is truly appreciated.

42nd St. James Golden Opportunity Raffle: Support the major fund-raising event for the Parish by taking a chance! Many people place several names on the same ticket! Grand Prize is \$10,000 or there is an option of deciding to split the grand prize between the last two tickets drawn. Both would receive \$5,000 each. The Contribution for the ticket is \$100. Only 200 Tickets available.

St. Isaac Jogues

Chestertown/Hague

Intentions & Mass Cards: Please call Kathy DeBartolo at 518-494-7873

Sun, 1/7 John & Nettie Buckley,

Hoopie & Joan Colton

Beth & Kevin Colton

Req. Delia LaSalle & Family

Sat, 1/14 Jerry Merkel *Req. Janet Early*

Offertory: 12/24 & 12/25 \$3,193

12/31 & 1/1 \$3,280

Diocesan Appeal: Wow! We have collected \$15,368 which is 78% of our goal of \$19,659, with 50 gifts to date. We strive for 100% participation, not equal gifts. Thank you, your stewardship is truly appreciated.



Keep in touch with us
VIA EMAIL AND TEXT MESSAGE

What is it used for?

- Sending notifications (emails and/or text messages) of cancelled events due to bad weather
- Distributing the weekly bulletin
- Staying in touch with seasonal parishioners
- Publishing events

How do I sign up?

Two easy ways:

- Go to northernpoints.flocknote.com, enter your name and email and/or phone number, select your parish from the list, and verify your email address
- Text "NORTHERN" to 84576 and follow the steps you receive on your phone



PLEASE DON'T THROW OUT YOUR RELIGIOUS CHRISTMAS CARDS!

Please...If there is no writing on the back of the picture, please cut the picture off of the card and bring it to the box in the narthex. We have a beautiful way to recycle them.

Woman's Retreat

March 31st through April 2nd Dominican Retreat & Conference Center, Niskayuna, NY. This year's theme is "Make My Joy Complete" (Philippians 2:2). The Guest Director is Mary Reddy Reichley, OPA, D. Min. Enjoy hours away from daily routine for rest, quiet, learning and reflection, inner healing, growth, prayer, and sharing. Open to all faiths and all ages. *Call Ginny Raymond @ 518-251-3515 or Pat Audi 518-792-3447 for more information.*

Recognizing God in the Ordinary Moments

Showing Up

I broke my foot once, when my second child was only 12 weeks old, and I was about to move houses. For six weeks I was confined to a chair, a shrieking newborn in my arms, a toddler running circles around me, and my right foot rendered useless by a plaster cast. I couldn't do anything without assistance. I couldn't eat or get a drink or change my clothes or feed my children.

My family was in dire straits. A lot of people offered help, but there was a core group of friends and family members who really saved us.

These are the people who turned up in my driveway with empty vans and cooked meals. These are the people who blocked off their Saturdays to haul furniture, mow our lawn, and run after unruly kids. These are the people who said: "Here I am. Give me a job."

If you've ever really, really needed another person's help, you know that "showing up" means more than saying: "Let me know what you need." It means saying: "I'm already here. Tell me what to do."

So often, I pay lip service to the idea of submission. "What do you want, God?" I ask, and I secretly hope that what He wants isn't one of those things that I'm not willing to give.

What if I really strove to "show up" for God? What if I was ready to give what He asks of me, whatever it is?

Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will. — Psalm 40
©LPi

Parting Thoughts

Dear Parishioners,

As I approach the conclusion of my time here with you, at least in this phase, I'm brought to reflect on the experiences we've had together. This semester has been very unique in the sense that the majority of my time was doing "school work" through the Safe Environment Office in Albany. Those hours were spent listening to survivors of abuse, developing the Hope and Healing initiatives in each of our regional diocesan vicariates, working with our seminarians and aspirants, and getting to know our local processes.

When planning for this semester last spring, I couldn't have imagined what the parish environments would be like. Although I was familiar with Blessed Sacrament in Bolton Landing, St. Isaac Jogues in Chestertown and Hague and St. James in North Creek were all new experiences for me. It's impossible to adequately express in writing the impact each of you has had on me personally. I am grateful for your kind welcome into each parish community, the collaboration with our various efforts during the fall and especially through Advent and Christmas, and your true example of what it means to be a faithful disciple of Christ, which at times means enduring challenges for the sake of the parish family.

My thanks also go to Fr. John for his collaboration and trust, to Barb for her teamwork and seemingly endless energy, to Susan for her expertise, to the liturgical staff and volunteers, including the musicians, sacristans, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, volunteers for social events, decorators, cleaners, and on and on.

I humbly ask for your forgiveness for things that I have said or done that I shouldn't have, and for things that I haven't said or haven't done that I should have. I'm still very much in the "learning" part of the priesthood and you have helped me to grow.

To attempt to answer the question that I've had throughout these weeks: "will you come back next summer?" My answer has been: "at this point, there is nothing to indicate that I won't be here in July." My program concludes in Rome on June 16, then there's a week for a conference followed by an ordination, which brings me back to the area at the beginning of July. The phrase comes to mind: "we plan, God laughs!" I would absolutely love to return for ministry at these parishes.

This weekend (January 7/8) is my last one at St. James and the 4:00 parishioners at St. Isaac Jogues. Next Sunday (January 15) will be the last time with the 9:00 parishioners at St. Isaac Jogues and Blessed Sacrament. My flight is January 21.

I am encouraged by your love for Christ, your love for your parish community, and your love for each other. By continuing to put God at the center of our lives, we will continue to grow in service to Him and others.

Keep in touch with my prayers always. Please stay in touch, my email always works: matthew.duclos@rcda.org
God bless you,

Fr. Matt