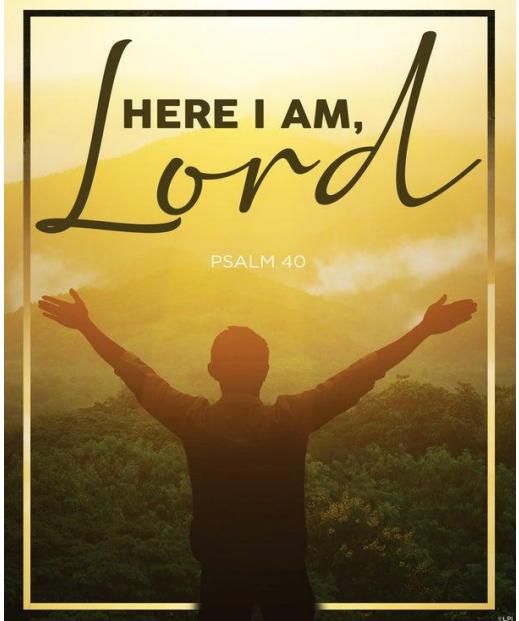


## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time January 15, 2023



### Upcoming Events

**Farewell to Fr. Matt:** Please join us this Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center in Chestertown at St. Isaac Jogues

### Church of the Blessed Sacrament Bolton Landing

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

1/15 Phil Staats *Req. Maureen Mihalics*  
1/15 Ed Bartley *Req. Deacon Joe & Annette Tyrell*

1/15 Rita Faller *Req. Dawn Faller*

1/22 Andrew Rohs *Req. Henry Rohs*

1/22 Tom Mihalics *Req. Maureen Mihalics*

1/22 Rosemary & Nick Rausch *Req. Dawn Fallter*

**Offertory:** 1/8/23 \$1,526

**Diocesan Appeal:** We have collected \$14,105 which is 56.4% of our goal of \$25,008, with 37 gifts to date. We strive for 100% participation, not equal gifts. Thank you, your stewardship is truly appreciated.

## St. James North Creek

### Intentions & Mass Cards:

Please call Kathy DeBartolo at 518-494-7873

1/14 People of the Parish

1/21 & 1/28 Mass Intention Available

**Offertory:** 1/15/23 Will update next week.

**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.

**42<sup>nd</sup> 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. The Golden Opportunity Raffle will conclude Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> after the 5:30 pm Mass.

## St. Isaac Jogues

Chestertown/Hague

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

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

Sat, 1/28 Jim Mulholland *Req. Kathy DeBartolo*

**Offertory:** 1/14 & 1/15 \$3,355

**Diocesan Appeal:** Wow! We have collected \$15,968 which is 81.2% of our goal of \$19,659, with 52 gifts to date. We strive for 100% participation, not equal gifts. Thank you, your stewardship is truly appreciated.



Beginning Friday February 3rd: VITA - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (Free Tax Return Preparation for Qualifying Taxpayers) in Warren, Washington, & Northern Saratoga counties in February and March. This is free tax assistance for families and individuals whose household income is \$60,000 or less per year. Call 1-800-211-5128 to schedule an appointment. March 2<sup>nd</sup> will be at St. Isaac Jogues Parish Center. If enough people call to make an appointment, they possibly would open another date!

## Woman's Retreat

March 31<sup>st</sup> through April 2nd Dominican Retreat & Conference Center, Niskayuna, NY. This years 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

Can you imagine what kind of response I would get if I asked my three children, "Who would like to volunteer to clean up the kitchen after dinner today?" Six eyeballs staring at me like I had two heads! If I couch my request in terms of volunteerism, I have suggested that they don't have any real ownership in this matter. Perhaps they do sometimes think that their mother and I are simply hired hands to take care of them, but rest assured, I have not received a paycheck for services rendered lately.

When you and I give a donation of blood, we volunteer our time and blood to the Red Cross. The Red Cross does not employ most of us, nor do we own a part of the Red Cross. We can only volunteer ourselves for the cause.

As parishioners we are part of a parish family. We belong to our parish community. We do not visit on a Sunday morning, since we cannot visit a place that is home. The call of the body of Christ occurs in every parish and our response should be that of the psalmist, "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will." Real stewardship never counts the cost and never asks for volunteers. We step forward because we belong to something greater than ourselves and the head of that community is Jesus. After dinner at my house, someone needs to clean up the kitchen. In your parish community, someone needs to respond to the call of Jesus. In both cases, no volunteers are needed. We will rely on family instead.

## 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.

Know of my prayers always. Please stay in touch, my email always works: [matthew.duclos@rcda.org](mailto:matthew.duclos@rcda.org)  
God bless you, Fr. Matt