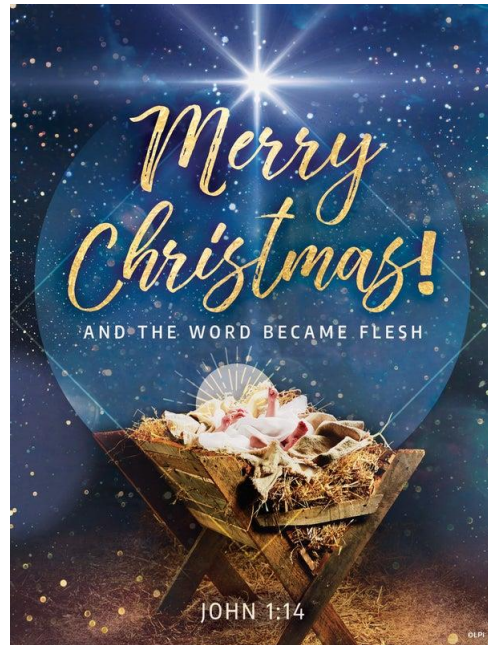


## Christmas & Solemnity of Mary



## Upcoming Events

**Fr. Matt's Last Weekend Celebrating Mass** will be Sat. & Sun., January 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. He will be returning to Rome. More to come!  
**Pastoral Council Meeting:** Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

## Church of the Blessed Sacrament Bolton Landing

**Intentions & Mass Cards:** Please call Rita Whitney at 518-338-6858.  
 12/24 & 25 Christmas Flowers Intentions  
 1/1 Mass of Thanksgiving *Req. Anne Helmstetter*  
**Collection:** 12/11 Offertory \$907  
**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.  
**Join Us for Brunch:** January 1<sup>st</sup> after the 10:30 am Mass in the Community Room and bring your family for good food and fellowship! Sign up in the back of church or call Ginette at 518-644-3145.

## St. James North Creek

**Intentions & Mass Cards:**  
 Please call Kathy DeBartolo at 518-494-7873  
 12/24 Tom & Eunice Kill *Req. Connie Fuller*  
**Collection:** 12/18 Offertory \$580  
**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.

## St. Isaac Jogues Chestertown/Hague

**Intentions & Mass Cards:** Please call Kathy DeBartolo at 518-494-7873  
 Sat, 12/24 The Colton & Buckley Family  
*Delia LaSalle & Family*  
 Sun, 12/25 Joe & Thomas Sr. Turcotte,  
*Joe DeMato Req. Turcotte Family*  
 Sun, 1/1 Mass Intention Available  
**Collection:** 12/18 Offertory \$2,196  
**Diocesan Appeal:** We have collected \$12,628 which is 64% of our goal of \$19,659, with 38 gifts to date. We strive for 100% participation, not equal gifts. Thank you, your stewardship is truly appreciated.



### 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](http://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

## Christ Our Savior is Born! Merry Christmas!

Heartfelt Thank You to all who contributed to transform the Churches from Advent into Christmas and for the generosity that was shown with the Giving Trees. Thank you to all who made the music joyous! A thank you to the families of St. Isaac Jogues for bringing the Christmas Story to life. A special thank you to all of you who bring the Light of Christ during the Christmas Season.

### 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 way to recycle the beautiful images.

## Christmas Prayer

God,  
 you became human through the obedience of a simple young woman named Mary. Mary is our model of faith. May we be faithful to your word as Mary was. Give us the courage to face each day with the yes that Mary gave to you. We ask this through the incarnate God, who comes to us again during this Christmas season.  
 Amen.



**A Sincere Note of Thank** to all who contributed to this beautiful event last Sunday with Lessons n' Carols.

Our 3 Churches, as well as other Ecumenical Churches, collaborated to make this a magical experience. Kudos to a job well done to our 3 music directors. It took the collaboration and inclusion of each person and group to achieve the final result. Thank you to all who made the fellowship afterwards extraordinary.

## Recognizing God in the Ordinary Moments

### Being the Sign

I think the real challenge of evangelization in the modern age is the reality that pretty much everyone has already heard of Jesus Christ — or, at least, they think they have.

To our 21st-century eyes, the angel who shared news of the birth of Jesus with the shepherds had an easy job. All he had to do was announce it.

Our baptism compels us to do the same — to announce the coming of Christ over and over again, always and everywhere. But our audience is not a group of illiterate shepherds in ancient Judea. Our audience is a world that has heard so much about Jesus they often claim weariness of his name. So how do we do it? If we walk into a crowd of strangers and tell them we want to talk about Jesus, their reaction will probably be either "I already know about Jesus, thanks," or "I've heard of him, and based on the behavior of those who claim to follow him, I'm really not interested in hearing more."

Because in the end, our very lives are how we "announce his salvation" in the present day. We announce it in our actions to strangers. We announce it in our treatment of people who have wronged us. We announce it in our interactions with those who disagree with us.

How long had the coming of the Messiah been foretold to the Israelites? So long that, no doubt, many of them despaired of his coming altogether. So, God had to give them a sign: "You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Now we are the sign.

The world has heard of Christ by now. But have they all seen him? It's our job to show them.  
 — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LP

**When School is delayed  
or Canceled, weekday morning Mass is  
CANCELED!**

