

**Parish Staff****Pastor**

Father Stephen Karani  
fr.stephen.karani@dor.org

**Parochial Vicar**

**Father Michael Brown**  
fr.michael.brown@dor.org

**Deacon John Tomandl**

john.tomandl@dor.org

**Deacon Gregg Lawson**

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**Parish & Finance Office  
Mailing Address**

90 Melrose Rd.  
Auburn, NY 13021  
Parish Office 315-252-7271  
Finance Office 315-252-7111

**Nancy Kavanagh**

Administrative Assistant  
nancy.kavanagh@dor.org  
Monday-Thursday  
8:00am-4:30pm  
Friday  
8:00am-11:00am

**Shawn Gillen-Caryl**

Regional Finance Director  
shawn.gillen-caryl@dor.org

**Ana Haff**

Director of Faith Formation  
ana.haff@dor.org

**Tom Techman**

Funeral Ministry  
thomas.techman@dor.org

**Reconciliation**

Sacred Heart:  
Saturday 3:00pm  
St. Alphonsus:  
Saturday 3:30pm

**Sacraments**

*Baptism, Marriage,  
Ministry of the Sick:*  
Please Call Parish Office

**Holy Family Church**

85 North St.

**Sacred Heart Church**

90 Melrose Rd

**St. Alphonsus Church**

85 E. Genesee St.

**St. Ann Church**

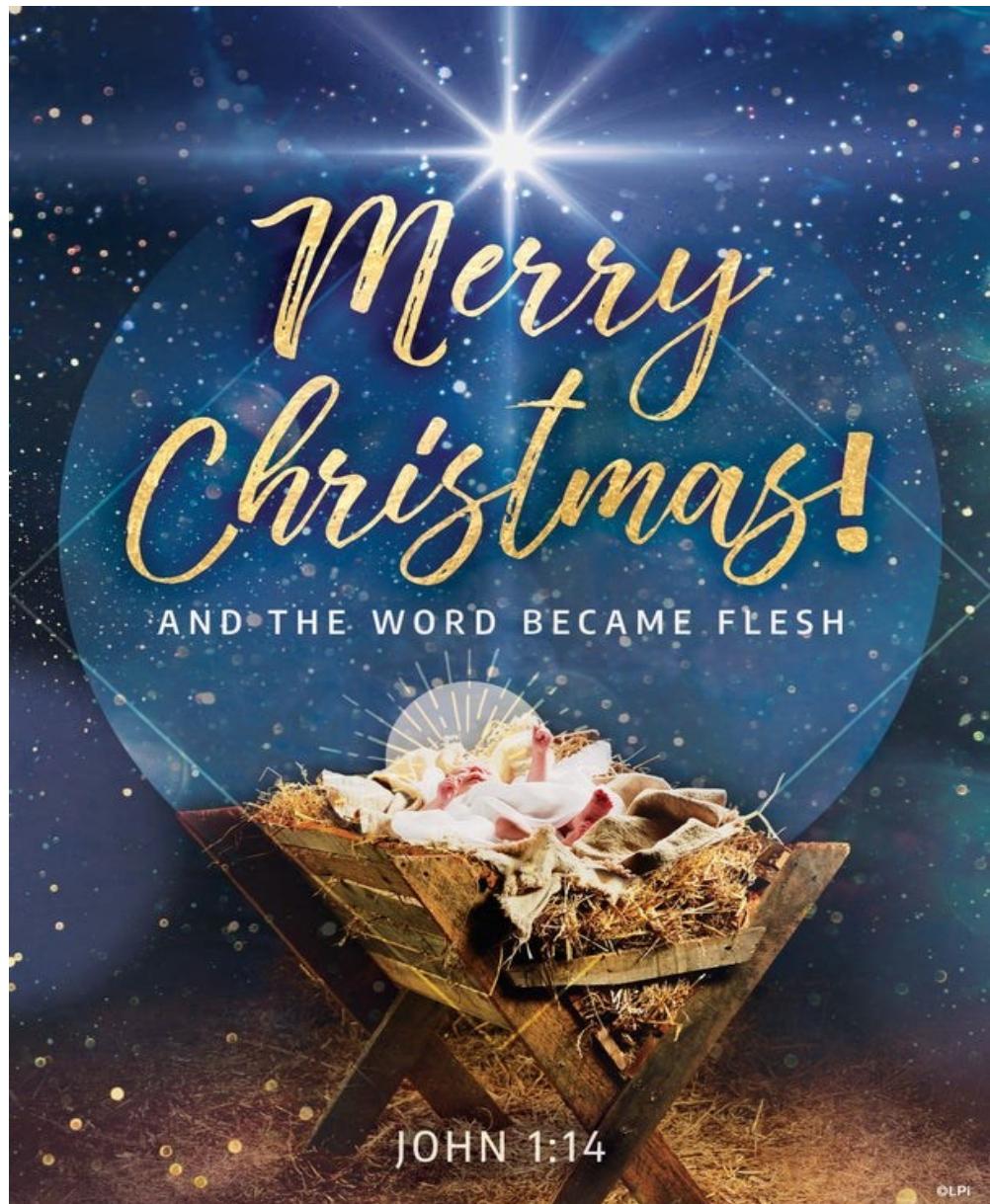
4890 Twelve Corners Rd.

**The Catholic Community of  
Holy Family \* Sacred Heart \* St. Alphonsus \* St. Ann**

[www.sacredheartauburn.org](http://www.sacredheartauburn.org) [facebook.com/sacredheartauburn](http://facebook.com/sacredheartauburn)



December 21, 2025  
Fourth Sunday of Advent



*May the blessing of the Lord be with you and your family as you celebrate the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ.*

*Fr. Stephen, Fr. Mike,  
the staff and volunteers of  
Sacred Heart, St. Alphonsus  
and St. Ann*

## Calendar of Events Week of December 21, 2025

**Sunday, December 21, 2025**  
**4th Sunday Sunday of Advent**  
12:30pm Children's Christmas Pageant

**Monday, December 22, 2025**

**Tuesday, December 23, 2025**

**Wednesday, December 24, 2025**

All Parish Offices Closed

**Thursday, December 25, 2025**

All Parish Offices Closed

**Friday, December 26, 2025**

All Parish Offices Closed

**Saturday, December 27, 2025**

**Sunday, December 28, 2025**

The “**Pack the Pantry**” item for the week of

**December 20/21-Boxes of Crackers**

**December 27/28-Cans of Soup**

Please bring these items to church and place them in our “**Pack the Pantry**” baskets or they can be brought to the:

### **ST. ALPHONSUS FOOD PANTRY**

**(PHYSICAL LOCATION)**

**1579 CLARK ST. RD. FINGERLAKES MALL**

Monday-Saturday

9:00 am-11:30 am

315-252-0710

**All Correspondence should be addressed to:**

**St. Alphonsus Food Pantry**

**90 Melrose Rd.**

**Auburn, NY 13021**

**PLEASE NOTE: Soup, Pasta Sauce, Coffee, Tea, Juice, Dish Soap, Laundry Soap, Tissues and Hand Soap are always needed and appreciated**

*Thank you for your continued generosity!*

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP FOR 12/07/25

**Sacred Heart Church**  
Regular Collection \$6698.00  
**St. Alphonsus Church**  
Regular Collection \$4942.00  
**St. Ann's Church**  
Regular Collection \$1919.00

**Due to** the early submission date for the bulletin, the information for December 14th will be in next week's bulletin.

*Thank you for your continued generosity!*

### **A Note on Sunday Collections**

We would like to thank all of our parishioners for their continued generosity and support to all of our parishes.

We have a small request when writing out your check for your Sunday collection: **please include your envelope number on the memo line.** This makes the process clearer and more efficient for our Monday morning counters.

We thank you for your understanding and continued support.



**The 2026 Daily Mass Record Book is open.** Please call the Parish Office at 315-252-7271 to schedule a Mass Intention or Tabernacle Candle. When requesting a candle and a Mass at the same time, please write two separate checks as they are deposited into two separate accounts. As a reminder, beginning in 2026 we can no longer have individual intentions on Holy Days of Obligation, i.e., Easter Triduum, Christmas, All Saints and All Souls Day etc. Each Mass will be “For the People of the Parish.” Thank you!

**The Memorial Candles**  
**Week of**  
**December 21, 2025**

**Sacred Heart Church**  
**Tabernacle Candle**  
Nick & Dorothy DeOrio  
by  
Family

**St. Alphonsus Church**  
**Tabernacle Candle**  
Balch, Norton, Laird &  
Cupelo Families  
by  
Family

**St. Alphonsus Church**  
**Our Lady Of Perpetual Help Candle**  
Carl & Katherine Festa  
By  
Kevin & MaryAnn Festa  
Leonard



The Catholic Community of Holy Family, Sacred Heart, St. Alphonsus and St. Ann invite you to our Wine Tasting Social on Friday, January 23rd, 2026, at Sacred Heart Parish Hall from 6:30pm-8:30pm. \$5.00 per person. Bring an appetizer and your favorite bottle of wine to share! We look forward to seeing you there.

**Intentions of the Holy Father  
Pope Leo XIV  
December**

**For Christians in areas of conflict**

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

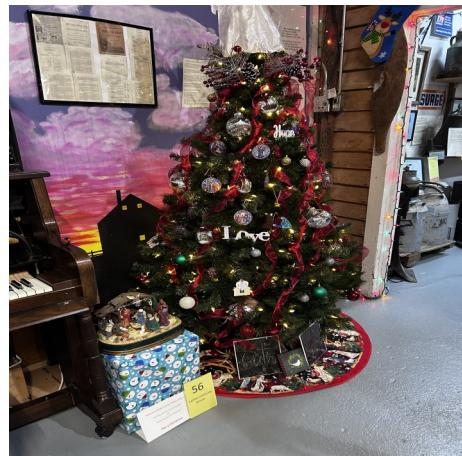
**The 2025-2026 Catholic Ministry Appeal** has begun. Please prayerfully consider donating to this years CMA and help us reach our goals. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Please make checks payable to: Catholic Ministries Appeal (not to your parish). They can be put in an envelope either in the collection basket or mailed to:

**Catholic Ministries Appeal,  
PO Box 6841  
Ithaca, NY 14851**

12/11/25	Donors	Pledged	Goal	%
ANN	12	\$3,690	\$10,000	37%
SH	92	\$14,898	\$47,000	32%
SA	66	\$12,950	\$37,000	35%

We would like to thank  
**Cuddy Financia Services**  
**315-252-3600**  
For Sponsoring an Ad  
In Our Weekly Bulletin



**The annual Festival of Trees** is currently on display at the Ward W. O'Hara Agricultural & Country Living Museum on Owasco Rd. The event features over 180 decorated trees from local organizations and is a popular holiday tradition in the Finger Lakes region. This year our theme is "Jesus is OUR Reason" since we, on Parish Life, are committed to being "Servants of Jesus" through the Parish Life committee. We added some beautiful stained glass replica ornaments and a few more photo ornaments of our events from this past year. Please stop at the museum and visit all the stunning trees-however **tree #56** is the BEST!! Ha ha. While there, you can vote on your favorite tree, from now through 01/31/26. I believe the museum has extended hours through the Christmas Season. Last year we made 15th or 16th place (which wasn't bad for our first year and out of 200 trees!) Our committee has loved coming together to decorate our tree.

**Reminder** our next Parish Life meeting will be on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM. All are invited. We are looking for new ideas for fundraisers, social gatherings or any other ideas you may have for Parish Life.

**NEW CATALOGS!!!** RADA Catalogs for Parish Life Fundraising are available in the vestibule of each of the Churches with instructions on the front for ordering online. If you have difficulty ordering or have any questions, please contact Karen Mahoney at 315-515-3151 or Missy Deyneka at 315-246-8945 for assistance. **\$5.00 Coupons** are now attached to the front of the RADA Catalogs for the Parish Life Fundraising that are available in the vestibule of each of our Churches!! Feel free to take advantage of this savings and know that you are helping our Fellowship events like the Picnic for free!! Thank you!

**PARISH  
&  
FAMILY  
ACTIVITIES**

**LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 21, 2025**

**Saturday, December 20, 2025**

**4:00pm(Sacred Heart)**

+Deceased Members of the Quinn & Gummerson Families *by Family*  
+Jama Kessler *by The Jorgensen Family*  
+Leonard & Ann Sikora *by Deb & Dave Sikora*

**4:30 pm (St. Alphonsus)**

+Joseph & John Carberry *by Family*  
+Maureen Burns *by Tim & Marsha Burns*  
+The Patella & Reginelli Families *by Family*

**Sunday, December 21, 2025**

**8:30 am (Sacred Heart)**

+Robert Restey *by Jeanne & David Trinca*

**9:00 am (St. Ann)**

+Carli, Ted, Mom & Dad *by The Tomandl Family*  
+For the People of St. Ann Parish

**10:30 am (St. Alphonsus)**

+Elsa Bernardoni *by Adele, Patty & Elaine Giacolone*  
+Mark Andrus *by Family*

**11:00 am (Sacred Heart)**

+Caroline Blowers *by Pat S.*  
+James Reilley *by The Morrissey's*

**5:00pm(St. Alphonsus)**

+Ted Tomandl *by Family*  
+Louis Daly *by Family*

**Monday, December 22, 2025**

**8:30 am (Sacred Heart)**

+Jay Dunham *by Jim & Mary Ann LaMay*  
+Jerry Secaur *by Family*

**12:15pm (St. Alphonsus)**

+A Prayer in Thanksgiving for Walter *by Geri*

**Tuesday, December 23, 2025**

**8:30am(Sacred Heart)**

+Dan Kerstetter *by Family*

**12:15pm(St. Alphonsus)**

+Deceased Members of the Rosetti Family  
*by Dr. & Mrs. Gioia*

**Christmas Eve**

**Wednesday, December 24, 2025**

**4:00pm(Sacred Heart)**

+Leo & Judy McGinn *by Family*  
+The Hogan, O'Leary & Lewis Families *by Family*  
+Matthew Tabone *by Family*

**4:00pm(St. Alphonsus)**

+Pat Cinotti *by Family*

**9:00pm(St. Ann)**

+For the People of St. Ann Parish

**Christmas Day**

**Thursday, December 25, 2025**

**10:30am(St. Alphonsus)**

+Al, Jean & Jim Salva & Joanne Francis *by Family*  
+Evelyn & Richard Cavanaugh & William DeTomaso  
*by Beverly*

**Friday, December 26, 2025**

**All Parish Offices Closed–No Mass or Adoration**

**Saturday, December 27, 2025**

**4:00pm(Sacred Heart)**

+Bob Lewis *by Family*  
+Richard L. Palazzoli *by Wife Mary & William & Frances Keller by Daughter Mary*  
+Gregory Redmond *by Family*

**4:30 pm (St. Alphonsus)**

+Jama Kessler *by Mena & Rick Hansinger*  
+Maureen Burns & Anne & John Burns  
*by Tim & Marsha Burns*  
+James Solomon *by Family*

**Sunday, December 28, 2025**

**8:30 am (Sacred Heart)**

+Charles & Nellie Gagliano & Son John  
*by Tom & Paula*  
+Barbara Wallace *by Family*

**9:00 am (St. Ann)**

+Paula Lyon *by The Howlands*  
+Susan M. Maurer *by The Callahan Family*

**10:30 am (St. Alphonsus)**

+For the People of St. Alphonsus Parish  
+Alan Wilson *by Georgia & Family*

**11:00 am (Sacred Heart)**

+The Reverend Thomas J. O'Keefe  
*by Parishioners Of Sacred Heart & St. Ann*  
+Gino Alberici *by Family*

**5:00pm(St. Alphonsus)**

+Giacomo "Jack" Speno  
*by Adele, Patty & Elaine Giacolone*  
+Donna Passarello *by Her Sons*

December 21, 2025  
Fourth Advent Candle/Sunday: Love

*“And in the end, everything else will turn out to be unimportant and inessential, except for this: Father, Child, and Love.” – St. (Pope) John Paul II*

The fourth candle of Advent represents **Love**, the ultimate love of God that He might send His only Son for us. This love is the foundation for the coming of Christ, who is God's ultimate gift to humanity. It invites us to reflect on how we share this love with our families, friends, and communities. Called the “**Angel’s Candle**,” the fourth candle of Advent is lit the Sunday before Christmas, and it is the color **purple**, leading us to eagerly await the new Kingdom of God on earth. This Advent, light the fourth candle on **Sunday, December 21, 2025**. This is the last week to prepare our hearts for the joy of Christmas. Are you ready?

References: [https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent/advent-candles.html?srsltid=AfmBOoqR5tZTM\\_Qzkd6J8r-59IRS19CJ Cv4E914z8qz1nIS6SrNWn1Vh#fourth-week](https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent/advent-candles.html?srsltid=AfmBOoqR5tZTM_Qzkd6J8r-59IRS19CJ Cv4E914z8qz1nIS6SrNWn1Vh#fourth-week)  
<https://hallow.com/advent/>  
[https://diocesan.com/product/cw\\_advent4\\_a\\_h/](https://diocesan.com/product/cw_advent4_a_h/)

## 4th Sunday of Advent

I	V	E	M	M	A	N	U	E	L	Birth
S	P	I	R	I	T	Z	H	W	H	Child
A	F	U	L	F	I	L	L	A	Q	Spirit
S	D	U	P	M	U	S	U	W	M	Angel
D	A	S	B	I	N	L	O	B	H	Dream
D	N	G	I	R	D	A	W	N	X	Wife
R	G	D	R	Z	L	Q	M	V	L	Son
E	E	U	T	W	I	F	E	E	I	Name
A	L	M	H	R	N	I	H	M	P	Fulfill
M	R	B	P	C	H	I	L	D	D	Emmanuel



SUNDAYKIDZ

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## Sunday, Dec 21, 2025

**Oh, what a beautiful morning!** Today we name the Messiah "O Radiant Dawn, Sun of Justice, Splendor of Eternal Light!" Anyone whose morning commute includes a sunrise or who has risen early to watch the sun come up knows why primitive peoples and even our oh-so-sophisticated selves find godliness in a sunrise. At the Easter Vigil we sang "May the Morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning!" While Christmas lights have been shining for weeks, today we can think of them explicitly as a reminder of God's gift of Light to the waiting world. We remember poet Gerard Manley Hopkins' wonderful "Oh!" at the sight of "God's grandeur" and this great renewal: "Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs / Because the Holy Ghost over the bent / World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings." **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (O RADIANT DAWN)** Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24 (10). "O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness."

## Monday, Dec 22, 2025

**A real superpower** Remember when we were kids and we used to play king of the hill? It was an important part of our social learning that the strongest among us would dominate. The same game is played out in world politics as nations rise and fall. The story of Christmas reminds us that Jesus is the world's only real superpower, though the nations play their games of supremacy for a time. History reduces all empires to dust, but the reign of God endures forever. "Christ has dominion over all creatures," says Doctor of the Church Saint Cyril of Alexandria, "a dominion not seized by violence nor usurped but His, by essence and by nature." Pay homage to the King of All by humbly serving others as he would.

### ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KING OF ALL NATIONS)

1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56 (198). "O King of all nations and keystone of the Church; come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!"

## Tuesday, Dec 23, 2025

**Embrace the gift of love** We end our observance of the O Antiphons today with praise for Emmanuel, our savior. "God is not distant: he is 'Emmanuel,' God-with-us. He is no stranger: he has a face, the face of Jesus," proclaims Pope Benedict XVI in his 2010 Christmas address. "This message is ever new, ever surprising, for it surpasses even our most daring hope." The one who is to come satisfies all of our greatest longings. We need look no further. All our fretting and straining for answers comes to an end with the birth of Christ. Are we ready for such good news? Can we let go of all the things we often think will bring us happiness—money, recognition, power, beauty, health—and embrace the simple, searing gift of love?

### ADVENT WEEKDAY (O EMMANUEL)

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66 (199). "O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!"

## Wednesday, Dec 24, 2025 Final preparations

It is no accident that scripture references the birth of John the Baptist on the day before we commemorate the birth of Jesus. John represents the culmination of Jewish prophetic hope for the Messiah, and his birth offers a fitting climax to the Advent season. John's father, Zechariah, sings praises on the occasion of his son's birth. Zechariah's song, or canticle, is recited daily during the morning prayer of the church's Liturgy of the Hours. It serves as a lovely closing refrain to the Advent season, our time to prepare for the coming of the Lord. Have you made yourself ready to be guided by God's compassion "into the way of peace"?

### ADVENT WEEKDAY

Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79 (200). "You will go before the Lord to prepare his way."

## Thursday, Dec 25, 2025 Live in the moment of Christmas

Today we celebrate the day God entered God's own creation by becoming human. How can we authentically honor this day? One way is to notice and truly relish our own experience of being human. So often we hurry through the hours, heedless of the many sensations to be enjoyed. This Christmas may we wake up appreciating the delicious warmth of our beds, the sparkle of our decorations, the aroma of our holiday meals, the laughter of family and friends gathered, the words and music of Christmas liturgy, the taste of the Word made flesh, the glory of the child in the manger, the everlasting embrace of love. At the end of the day, we will know something of what Emily Dickinson meant when she wrote, "To live is so startling it leaves little time for anything else."

## SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (14); Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14 (16).

"Today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord."

## Friday, Dec 26, 2025 The power and the glory

Saint Stephen's Day, commemorating the first Christian martyr, is celebrated the day after Christmas, serving as a reminder that just as the naked cross looms above the empty tomb, so also its shadow falls across the crib—Jesus' and our own. It is into human experience that the Christ is born, an experience that knows death, violence, and cruelty but a humanity also capable of love so true as to lay down life for a friend. Stephen was "filled with grace and power." It was a power we often forget we possess. It is the power of love, our greatest gift, that gives us the wisdom and strength to endure the worst that life can bring. How will you use your power in the coming year?

### FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696). "Stephen, filled with grace and power, was working great wonders and signs among the people."

## Saturday, Dec 27, 2025 Lend an ear

When we receive a piece of news, often our first impulse is to think, "I can't wait to tell ... !" We are social creatures, hardwired to live in community with other people, sharing our sorrows and our joys. Moreover, sharing has mathematical properties: It divides and multiplies. When we share bad news, our burden is lessened, and when we share good news, our happiness increases. Of course, the reverse is also true: When we don't have someone with whom to share our stories, sorrows increase and joys are diminished. As Saint Teresa of Calcutta once observed, "Loneliness is the most terrible poverty." Who do you know to be lonely? Take time to listen to their good news.

### FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST

1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697). "We are writing this so that our joy may be complete." **est just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time**


**Remember our Sick:**

Eleanor Hudo, Patricia Ricci, Josephine Silliman, Anthony Alberici, Carl Jr. & Cheryl Moore Festa, Tim Grazsko, Jamie Mazza, Pat, Jim Podolak, Mary Manuel, Olivia, Sue, Evelyn Gagliano, Kathleen, Bruce, Marilyn Castiglione, Allyza, John Salva, Stacy, Danielle, Lucy Pagano, Kevin & Maryanne Festa Leonard, Cortney Fedyshyn, Briana Dewitt, Joyce Blowers, John Clark, Cheryl Bellnier, Colleen Pinckney, Pat Gallagher, Gloria Cuddy, Tim Daly, Sue Daly, Carol Aldrich, Thomas Didio, Dave, Don & Joan Zeleznik, Mary Campbell, Mark Cole, Jonathan Arrowsmith, Lucas Mallory, Joe Schubach, Mary Warter, Gina DelPiano, Caleb Jones, Michael Fronzek, Carter Hergert, Joan Komanecy, Elizabeth Lane, Frances Lane, Siobhan Phillippe, Donna Romano, David Festa, and those listed in our Book of Petitions.

*"We pray for all those who are sick, especially those on our parish prayer list, those in nursing homes, assisted living, the hospital or the homebound. May they receive comfort, healing, and strength from God's grace."*

***Please call Nancy at 315-252-7271 to have names added or removed. Thank you!***


**We pray for the men and women of our Armed Forces serving U.S. and abroad:**

LCpl Brian Baxter USMC, Capt. Gregory Baxter USMC, Capt. DJ Benzing USAF, Lt. Col Joseph E. Brooks USAF, SSgt Tom Ellis Sr. USA, SSgt Angel Gonzalez USA, Col Eddie Gonzalez USMC, Pvt Zachary Gonzalez USMC, CWO4 Roger Graf USA, 1SGT Zachary Howell USA, SSgt James Johnson USMC, SFC Jason Mero USA, Pvt Justin Miller USA, E3 David Mirales US Navy, Lt Jg Richard Nelson IV, USN, E4 Adam H. Brooks, Airman Sarah Pasternak, USAF, Lt. Jack Hogan, USN, Airman Alex Gonnella, USAF., Major William Griffin USMC

*"We pray for the protection and safety of all military personnel, including police, fire, and corrections serving both at home and abroad, especially those deployed in dangerous situations."*