

Parish Staff

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Parochial Vicar

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Parish & Finance Office

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Nancy Kavanagh

Administrative Assistant
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Monday-Thursday
8:00am-4:30pm
Friday
8:00am-11:00am

Shawn Gillen-Caryl

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ana.haff@dor.org

Tom Techman

Funeral Ministry
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Richard White

Parish Ministries
Coordinator
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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 facebook.com/sacredheartauburn



December 28, 2025

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC – BENEATH THE SURFACE
By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini-reflection: If any four-word sentence encapsulates what we can expect from the Christian life, it is this: God had other plans.

Other Plans

I don't know exactly what kind of life Mary and Joseph envisioned when they were first betrothed — back in those simple times when they were just like any other couple who had hopes, dreams and no angels telling them what to do.

Whatever their plans were, I think it's safe to say that the future God had in store for Mary and Joseph was not one either of them expected. I would imagine they both anticipated something a little quieter. A little more stable (no pun intended). A little less tumultuous.

It exhausts me simply to read through the chaos of their movements in today's Gospel. Flee to Egypt, return to Israel (but not Judea! Herod's son is there! Divert to Galilee! Divert!). Settle in Nazareth (let me remind you, this is all happening with a baby in tow, and without the aid of a minivan). Take a deep breath, but don't get too comfortable — now it's almost time to lose your kid in Jerusalem. Then you'll have about 20 years off before he starts raising people from the dead, and that's when things start to get *really* crazy.

The story of the Holy Family is the ultimate example of the phrase "God had other plans." If any four-word sentence encapsulates what we can expect from the Christian life, it is this.

I thought I was meant for that job, but God had other plans. I thought I would live in this place, but God had other plans. I thought I was supposed to become this person, but God had other plans.

We can do all the right things. We can make all the right choices. We can say, over and over again until our voice wears out, "Thy will be done." But all we can know for sure is that God has other plans.

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Calendar of Events Week of December 28, 2025

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Monday, December 29, 2025

Tuesday, December 30, 2025

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

All Parish Offices Closed

Thursday, January 1, 2026

All Parish Offices Closed

Friday, January 2, 2026

All Parish Offices Closed-No Mass or Adoration

Saturday, January 3, 2026

Sunday, January 4, 2026

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

December 27/28-Cans of Soup

January 3/4-Bags of Flour or Sugar

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

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

**All Correspondence should be addressed to:
St. Alphonsus Food Pantry**

90 Melrose Rd.

Auburn, NY 13021

Thank you for your continued generosity!

“Oh, Come Let us Adore Him”

Eucharistic Adoration is a Catholic practice of spending time in prayer and devotion before the Blessed Sacrament (the consecrated Eucharist) to worship God, who is present in the Eucharist. It's a way to deepen one's relationship with Jesus Christ and to receive spiritual strength and nourishment.

Eucharistic Adoration is every Friday at St. Alphonsus Church beginning with the 7:30am morning Mass and concluding with Eucharistic Benediction at 8:00pm.

Adoration will begin again on Friday, January 9th with 7:30am Mass with Adoration to follow.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP FOR 12/14/25

Sacred Heart Church

Regular Collection \$7,071.50

St. Alphonsus Church

Regular Collection \$2,681.00

St. Ann's Church

Regular Collection \$1,217.00

Due to the early submission date for the bulletin, the information for December 21st 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.

**New Year's Eve
Wednesday,
December 31st**

5:00 pm

St. Alphonsus Church

**New Year's Day
Thursday, January 1st**

10:30 am

St. Alphonsus Church

All Parish Offices Closed January 2nd
No Mass or Adoration



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.

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.

A Prayer for Peace

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the true King of peace. In You alone is found freedom. Please free our world from conflict. Bring unity to troubled nations. Let Your glorious peace reign in every heart. Dispel all darkness and evil. Protect the dignity of every human life. Replace hatred with Your love. Give wisdom to world leaders. Free them from selfish ambition. Eliminate all violence and war. Glorious Virgin Mary, Saint Michael the Archangel, Every angel and saint: Please pray for peace. Pray for unity amongst nations. Pray for unity amongst all people. Pray for the most vulnerable. Pray for those suffering. Pray for the fearful. Pray for those who are most in need. Pray for us all. Jesus, Son of the Living God, have mercy on us. Jesus, hear our prayers. Jesus, I trust in You! Amen.

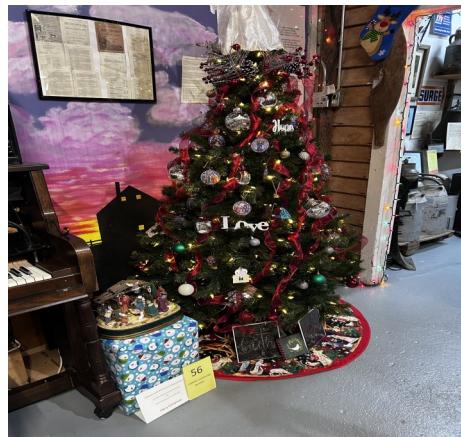
The 2025-2026 Catholic Ministry Appeal has begun. Please prayerfully consider donating to this years CMA and help us reach our goals. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Please make checks payable to:

12/19/25	Donors	Pledged	Goal	%
ANN	13	\$6540	\$10,000	65%
SH	102	\$25,863	\$47,000	55%
SA	75	\$15,560	\$37,000	42%

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



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.

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.

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!

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 28, 2025

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

Monday, December 29, 2025

8:30 am (Sacred Heart)

+Ken Kanya by Friends of Former Holy Family Parish Life

12:15pm (St. Alphonsus)

+Deceased Members of the Gioia Family

by Dr. & Mrs. Gioia

Tuesday, December 30, 2025

8:30am(Sacred Heart)

+Special Intention of Deb Nettie

12:15pm(St. Alphonsus)

+Bud Zanowick by Wife & Daughters

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

New Year's Eve

5:00pm(St. Alphonsus)

+For the People of St. Alphonsus Parish

Thursday, January 1, 2026

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

10:30am(St. Alphonsus)

+Paul Viggiano by Family

Friday, January 2, 2026

All Parish Offices Closed—No Mass or Adoration

Saturday, January 3, 2026

4:00pm(Sacred Heart)

+William Fulton by Liz Secaur

+Harry Flanigan by Family

4:30 pm (St. Alphonsus)

+Sister Lucy Walawender by Family

Sunday, January 4, 2026

8:30 am (Sacred Heart)

+Helen Oyer by Family

9:00 am (St. Ann)

+Ann Metzler by Family

10:30 am (St. Alphonsus)

+Michael "Duke" Pagano by Terri & David

11:00 am (Sacred Heart)

+Tom Patterson by Michelle Lawler

5:00pm(St. Alphonsus)

+Carli Bitterman by Mom

+Tom Patterson by Linda Carr

The Memorial Candles

**Week of
December 28, 2025**

**Sacred Heart Church
Tabernacle Candle**

John Melnick

by

Family

**For Those Who Have
Recently Died**

Keith Ahart

Ormie King

*Eternal rest grant
unto them,*

O Lord;

*and let perpetual
light shine upon them*

St. Alphonsus Church

Tabernacle Candle

Gary Casterline

by

Family

St. Alphonsus Church

Our Lady Of

Perpetual Help Candle

The Borza, Guido, &

Moschetti Families

By

Nancy

St. Alphonsus Church

St. Joseph Candle

Alan Wilson

by

Georgia & Family

*May God's peace be upon you
and remain with you throughout the year!*

Fr. Stephen, Fr. Mike,

the staff and volunteers of

Sacred Heart, St. Alphonsus

and St. Ann

The Solemnity of Mary
December 28, 2025

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, is celebrated every year on January 1 – New Year's Day, to honor Mary's role as the mother of Jesus Christ. The day is set aside to reflect on the role of Mary as a model of faith and obedience to God's will. It also emphasizes the importance of Jesus' birth and his nature as both divine and human.

In his Apostolic Letter, *Marialis Cultus*, Pope Paul VI explained: "This celebration, placed on January 1 ...is meant to commemorate the part played by Mary in this mystery of salvation. It is meant also to exalt the singular dignity which this mystery brings to the "holy Mother...through whom we were found worthy to receive the Author of life." It is likewise a fitting occasion for renewing adoration of the newborn Prince of Peace, for listening once more to the glad tidings of the angels (cf. Lk. 2:14), and for imploring from God, through the Queen of Peace, the supreme gift of peace."

So, as we enter the new year, let us ask Mary, Mother of God, to bless us through the gift of Jesus so that He can guide us through the difficult paths of the future and let us prayerfully celebrate this day through prayer and reflection.

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Mary Mother of God



immaculate conception
full of grace
assumption
intercede
venerate
rosary
pure
Mary

perpetual virginity
divine grace
privileges
devotion
prudent
church
Fiat

Blessed Mother
annunciation
admirable
faithful
amiable
Heaven
Nate

Mother of God
Original Sin
undefiled
merciful
chaste
honor
Kyra

Sunday, Dec 28, 2025 Take notice of the poor among us

On the walls of the North American headquarters of the Divine Word Missionaries there is a painting from China that depicts the Holy Family living as Chinese peasants. What's especially interesting is that the painting shows them to be *poor*. In their small hut some paint is peeling from the walls, clothes are patched, and the table has seen better days. While Saint Joseph was probably not desperately poor, he and his family belonged to the vast majority of people who were outside the small elite who controlled most of the wealth and pulled the strings in ancient Palestine. So when Jesus talked about bringing Good News to the poor, he was talking about a whole lot of people, including his own family. What can you do to uplift the poor in your own family and beyond?

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 (17). *"Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus."*

Monday, Dec 29, 2025 Boundaries will set us free

The Russian composer Igor Stravinsky once wrote, "The more constraints one imposes, the more one frees one's self." It may sound paradoxical, but boundaries are necessary in life as well as in art. They provide a structure, a space in which we can most fully explore what it means to live and work and create. Far from restricting our freedom, limits actually give us our freedom. How is this so? Recall a time when you gave yourself unlimited time to finish a project. Did you? Our loving creator gave us commandments for this very reason. They are the constraints that allow us to learn fully who we are—and who God is. FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 (202). *"The way we may be sure that we know Jesus is to keep his commandments."*

Tuesday, Dec 30, 2025 A matter of importance

"The world and its enticement are passing away." These words from scripture evoke the dualism so much favored by certain New Testament writers, reflecting a mode of thought in which there continues a never-ending battle between good and evil, the world of darkness and the world of light.

Christians believe that the battle is won, the world is redeemed. Yet anyone who has lived long enough knows that redeemed as "the world" may be, it is foolish to expect that worldly things provide us with all we need. This is what Saint Paul means when he speaks of the "things that really matter." We, too, in moments of clarity—after a close call with illness or death—come to recognize what is most important to us. And they are rarely the things that occupy most of our time, energy, or worry. Take time today to reflect on what truly matters in your life. SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40 (203). *"Do not love the world or the things of the world. ... the world and its enticement are passing away."*

Wednesday, Dec 31, 2025 In with the new

Just before midnight most people will be awake and anticipating the end of one year and the beginning of a new one. But when scripture talks about endings and beginnings, it means more than putting up a new calendar. The last hour means a new world is about to begin. God has done something new in Jesus. We are reborn to new life through

him. "Consider all the past as nothing," says Saint Francis de Sales, "and say, like David; 'Now I begin to love my God.'" How will you begin to love your God tonight, tomorrow, and every day? SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18 (204). *"It is the last hour."*

Thursday, Jan 01, 2026 Peace offering

In a world torn by hateful discourse, violence, and war, we have been given the Prince of Peace to show us how to live in harmony. God's peace begins within us and then extends to our families, workplaces, schools, churches, marketplaces, and halls of government. We can begin spreading peace with a simple prayer, like the one found in the Book of Numbers: "The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!" With our hearts set on God's peace we can begin to take steps to resolve the small and large conflicts in our lives. What a welcome gift that would be at the start of this new year. OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD; SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 (18). *"When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son."*

Friday, Jan 02, 2026 Divine revelations

In sin we reject part of our humanity—the humanity of the Garden of Eden, where there is no shame or guilt but an open acceptance of God's love. Fortunately for us, God meets our rejection by continually offering to restore our humanity and share in his divinity. As Saint Basil the Great points out, "It did not suffice God merely to call us back to life, but he has also granted us the dignity of His Godhead." The love God holds for us is so unchangeable it not only brings us back from death and sin but also shows us a path to sharing in God's divinity. That is a truth worth remembering. MEMORIAL OF BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS, DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28 (205). *"Let what you heard from the beginning remain in you."*

Saturday, Jan 03, 2026 What's in a name?

In the gospels the name of Jesus carries lots of weight. God gave Jesus his name, which means "salvation," before Jesus was conceived. People healed in the name of Jesus. Jesus was present to those who gathered in his name. For his disciples their mission was to proclaim his name to all nations and bring the love of Christ to the world. Thus, living in the name said who you were, what you believed, and what you were to do. "Jesus is the way that you must walk, and the truth that you must believe, and the life that you must live," says Saint John Eudes. Consider what you can do each day to live more fully in the name of Jesus. MEMORIAL OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS 1 John 2:29-3:6; John 1:29-34 (206). *"Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen at a © 2025 TrueQuest Communications. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition.


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."