

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF SCHROON LAKE AND OLMSTEDVILLE

Rev. Richard S. Sturtz, Pastor

1114 Main Street, P.O. Box 368, Schroon Lake, New York 12870

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 13, 2009



Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Schroon Lake

Saint Joseph's Church, Olmstedville

Tel: (518) 532-7100 (OLL) or 251-2565 (SJC), Fax: (518) 532-7100, Email: ollsjcpastor@verizon.net

Prayer Line: Tel: 532-0115 or 532-9285 (OLL and 251-2458 (SJC) **Publicity:** Tel: 251-2264

Visit our parish web site at <http://ollsjc.grainofwheat.net/>

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Sat. (Ant.) 4:30pm (OLL)

Sun 10:30am (OLL)

Sun. 8:30am (SJC)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Sat. 3:15 to 4:00pm (OLL)

Sun 8:00 to 8:20am (SJC)

BAPTISM: By Appointment **MARRIAGE:** Arrange six months prior to the wedding date

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sat., Dec. 12	4:30pm (OLL)	Pete & Eleanor McKenzie by the Family
Sun., Dec. 13	8:30am (SJC)	Gloria Wenderoth by the Family
	10:30am (OLL)	For all Parishioners of both Parishes
Mon., Dec. 14	8:30am (OLL)	Arnie Leto by John & Kate Huston
Tue., Dec. 15	8:30am (SJC)	Thomas & Jennie McNally by Mr. & Mrs. Patrick McNally
Wed., Dec. 16		No Scheduled Mass
Thu., Dec. 17	5:00pm (OLL)	Anna Gregoire by Donna Luby
Fri., Dec. 18	8:30am (OLL)	Roberta & Pete McMullen by the Family
Sat., Dec. 19	4:30pm (OLL)	Arthur & Clara Richardson by the Richardson Family
Sun., Dec. 20	8:30am (SJC)	For all Parishioners of both Parishes
	10:30am (OLL)	Pete & Edna Welch & Bud Welch & Kim by John & Mary Ellen Welch & Family
	10:30am (OLL)	For all Parishioners of both Parishes

LAST WEEK'S INCOME

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Envelopes	\$2,339.00
Youth	8.25
Plate	<u>126.50</u>
TOTAL	\$2,473.75

Saint Joseph's Church

Envelopes	\$764.00
Plate	<u>50.00</u>
TOTAL	\$814.00
Parish Improvements	\$241.00

A STUDY OF RELIGION IN AMERICA

For the past few months, newspapers across the country have been reporting on the *Pew Forum Study of Religion in America*. The data regarding Catholics in the United States is sobering and challenging. While 25% of Americans are Roman Catholic, almost one of every three of us – 31% who were raised Catholic have left the Church. Presently, 10% of all Americans are “former Catholics” and 16% of our citizens practice no religion at all.

Meanwhile, one-third of all Catholics in the United States today are immigrants from other countries. It is interesting to note from the study that one-third of all Catholics and 45% of all Catholics between 18 and 29 are Latinos. We are indeed a faith community in great flux.

These percentages paint a daunting picture. Everyone who has family members or close associates who have abandoned their Catholic faith, find this is most disturbing. Recently, a pamphlet has been published which states that when someone we love leaves the Church, we need not feel guilty about their decision, but rather concentrate instead on positive steps we can take to bring them back. When it is available, that pamphlet will be inserted in the Sunday bulletin. In the meantime extend to them an invitation to join to attend with you Mass at Christmas. Sometimes that invitation is all that is needed to lead them back home.

WHAT YOUR CONTRIBUTION MEANS

Data submitted to the National Religious Retirement Office reveals that the average annual cost of care for women and men religious who are retired has doubled since 1989. The number of religious over the age of seventy is 35,000. The donation made to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides critical support to religious institutes in meeting the escalating cost of eldercare. Your generosity in contributing to their needs is greatly appreciated. Certainly, you can be assured of their prayers for you.

SCHEDULED PENANCE SERVICES IN NEIGHBORING PARISHES

Sunday, December 20th, at 2:00pm at Saint Mary's Church in Ticonderoga
and at 7:00pm at Saint Patrick's Church in Port Henry

Monday, December 21st, at 7:00pm at Saint Elizabeth's Church in Elizabethtown

Note: Private confessions will be heard at Our Lady of Lourdes in Schroon Lake on Saturday, December 19th, from 3:15 to 4:00pm and at Saint Joseph's in Olmstedville on Sunday, December 20, from 8:00 to 8:20am.

REJOICE IN THE LORD!

Last Sunday, John the Baptist prepared our hearts with joyous expectation for the coming of the Messiah. He made it clear that his role was to prepare the way for “one mightier than he was coming.” Jesus would be the one who would “baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.” What rejoicing this message is to us. As disciples of Jesus, we try to carry and live out the message that a life of faith and good deeds is what our baptism in the Spirit is all about. How do we live that out? As Saint Paul tells us in Philippians: “Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” What ways this week can you share some of your resources with others, such as good clothing, time, or just plain presence? Pray for those who will receive your gifts.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

Such annuities provide for your own and your family's financial future with a dependable, secure and unchanging life income. You write a check or give securities to the Diocese of Ogdensburg for the benefit of your parish, program or agency in the Diocese and the Diocese agrees to pay you a fixed payment for as long as you live. For more information, call Janice Shoen, Director for Development, at (315) 393-2920 or email jshoen@dioogdensburg.org