

# 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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 18, 2011



### 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](mailto: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. 17	4:30pm (OLL)	Pete & Eleanor McKenzie by the Family
Sun., Dec. 18	8:30am (SJC)	Michael Leddick, Jr. by Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Leddick
	10:30am (OLL)	For all Parishioners of both Parishes
Mon., Dec. 19	8:30am (OLL)	Paul R. Provoncha by Virginia Kugler
Tue., Dec. 20	8:30am (SJC)	James Brannon by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Savarie
Wed., Dec. 21		No Scheduled Mass
Thu., Dec. 22	8:30am (OLL)	Mr. & Mrs. Arthur J. Turcotte by Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Turcotte
Fri., Dec. 23	8:30am (OLL)	Zigmont Karkoski by Mr. & Mrs. Tony Bartolomeo
Sat., Dec. 24	4:30pm (OLL)	Living & Deceased Members of Our Lady of Lourdes
	7:00pm (SJC)	Living & Deceased Members of Saint Joseph's
Sun., Dec. 25	8:30am (SJC)	For the Pastor's Intentions
	10:30am (OLL)	For all Parishioners of both Parishes

### LAST WEEK'S INCOME

#### **Our Lady of Lourdes Church**

Envelopes	\$1,589.25
Holy Day	470.00
Plate	<u>119.25</u>
TOTAL	\$2,178.50
Religious Retirement	\$1,015.00

#### **Saint Joseph's Church**

Envelopes	\$1,656.00
Holy Day	302.00
Plate	<u>43.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,001.00
Religious Retirement	\$493.00

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday December 24<sup>th</sup> - Our Lady of Lourdes at 4:30pm**

**- Saint Joseph's at 7:00pm**

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> - Saint Joseph's at 8:30am**

**- Our Lady of Lourdes at 10:30am**

### COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICES

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> - Saint Mary's in Ticonderoga at 2:00pm**

**- Saint Patrick's in Port Henry at 7:00pm**

**Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> - Saint Elizabeth's in Elizabethtown at 7:00pm**

**Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> - Saint Mary's in Indian Lake at 7:00pm**

### PRIVATE CONFESSIONS

**(By Appointment Only)**

### THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

The Diocese of Ogdensburg's Retirement for the priests in the North Country has long been supported by each parish's contribution of 60% of its annual Christmas Collection to the Plan. Recent actuarial projections indicate this level of support will fall short of keeping the Plan fully funded in the future, primarily due to the impact on the Plan of negative investment performance in 2008-09. Beginning this year, parishes will contribute 100% of their Christmas Collection to the Diocese for support of the Plan. Currently 32 retired priests, and 13 active priests age 70 and older, are expected to receive pension benefits of \$735,000.00 in 2011-12. Your generous contribution not only supports current retirees, but will also help provide for the retirement needs of priests who will retire in the coming future. Say *thank you* to your pastor and all priests of the Diocese through a generous contribution to our Christmas Collection.

### OPEN YOUR HEART TO THE CHRISTMAS PROMISE

This time of year is full of promise and the Bethlehem star reminds us of our hope for a future of peace in our hearts and in the hearts of the world. But we cannot achieve this peace on our own. We must open our hearts to the promise of Christmas. *"One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again"* (Isaiah 2:4). Violence flourishes if the world accepts it as inevitable. The world can change if the love of the Christ child takes root in our hearts. Peace flows from hearts that love. *"The poor will eat their fill; those who seek the Lord will offer praise"* (Psalm 22:27). Peace spreads more easily when all have enough. These days the poor are everywhere and people are struggling to hold onto hope. If we each make our holiday charitable a year-round habit, perhaps the words of the psalmist will come true. *"The virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel"* (Isaiah 7:14). This Christmas we can once again rekindle our own sense of innocence and hope. Try to experience the new life promised with the birth of the Christ child and be like the young girl long ago who believed that nothing is impossible when God is involved.

## **A DWELLING PLACE FOR GOD**

King David wanted to build a house for God in thanksgiving for the gifts he had received. Saint Paul marveled at God's mysterious saving plan that was hidden for so many ages and gives glory to God. It was Mary's "Yes" to the angel that made possible the power of the Holy Spirit to "pitch his tent in our midst". Mary became the first tabernacle, the first dwelling place of the presence of the Incarnate Word. The promise of God's dwelling place is continued in us, the Body of Christ, who goes forth to be a Family of Faith in others. In this Christmas season, let us decorate our hearts with love and kindness, reaching out to those whose hearts are heavy, so that we may bring them hope out of despair.