

A message from our parish Trustees and Administration, December 2021:

- We hope that you are healthy and finding ways to be alert, creative, happy, and safe as we walk through the time of the pandemic.
- Weekend Mass is celebrated Saturday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 9:30 am in St. Mary's Church. We always look forward to seeing you.
- Msgr. Jim Lang, also works in the Bishop's Office as the Diocesan Vicar for Parishes has been offering pastoral support for the St. Mary's Family of Faith since July 1, 2021. He looks forward to the day when the entire parish family will be able to gather each weekend for Mass and for other purposes too.
- Faith Formation programs and preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation, First communion, and Confirmation are underway. For further information you may contact Mary Lou Lauchert through the Faith Formation Office in the Parish Center.
- Our historic church needs ongoing maintenance for your safety and sense of joy at this beautiful place of prayer. Recently we repaired the main and side steps of the Church and initiated a plan for repointing the stone work. In addition, the parish center (school) flat roof has been fixed and the trees that were causing problems have been properly trimmed. Please direct facility questions to the rectory term at 315-853-2935.
- People ask about the finances, we hope that all will see the financial report soon. Essentially the parish is holding its own in this time of COVID. Your generosity is a blessing. We are always happy to respond to your questions.
- The Annual Diocesan Hope Appeal is open. You may recall that it has been moved from the spring to the fall. For those able to help, St. Mary's needs to raise another \$15,000 to meet our goal. This Appeal, which contains funds that are restricted to the donors intentions, provides for all of the ministries that crss lines of multiple parishes and ministries.
- COVID-19 has provided more than a few challenges for use of the Parish Center Gym. We promised you that we would choose the safest way forward in continuing programs that use the Gym. We are following the lead of the Department of Health, the insights of area school leadership, and physical education staff. Many issues continue to surface. First, we have had a now-resolved problem with COVID transmissions in the preschool. Second, COVID transmission and the need of masking, social distancing. Third, the question of insurance for groups that are not specifically connected with the parish. Fourth, sanitizing the building in general and the gym. Fifth, is limiting those using the gym, and staying away from the entry to the preschool or religious education Center. Safety first.
- Upcoming Christmas masses are listed on the website.
- Finally, a short background note on Msgr. Jim Lange. He is a classmate of Father Croghan's. Ordained to the priesthood in 1975 he has served as a parochial vicar to Our Lady of Lourdes in Utica and St. Mary's in Rome. He then served as Chaplain/Director at Hall Newman Center at SUNY Oswego and St. Thomas More Chapel at Syracuse University. In 1998, the bishop appointed him to his current roles as the Diocesan Vicar for Parishes, Director of Planning, and Docesan Director of Campus Ministry. A native of the Syracuse Area (Liverpool and Baldwinsville), he is the eldest of five brothers who are the sons of Gene and Rita Lang. He holds degrees from Wadhams Hall Seminary College and St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore. He is happy to be here at St. Mary's and is looking forward to meeting you.