



## St. Mary's Church

13 Marvin Street • Clinton, NY 13323

315-853-2935

*Dedicated Service to God and our Community*

*Established 1850*

To all St. Mary's Parishioners:

A lot has happened here at St. Mary's in the last year during COVID.

Father Croghan retired last September. Father Esper became our new Administrator and unfortunately underwent surgery in October. Never really recovering, he went to his well-deserved final reward in February.

Father Tormey, expecting to fill in only for a few weekends as Father Esper recovered, has been with us ever since Father Esper's surgery. We have been blessed to have Father Tormey graciously consent to continue his ministry to our parish. In addition, Deacon Jim Henck from Chadwicks assists Father Tormey at least once a month.

Bishop Lucia visited us and St. Patrick's/St. Anthony's in Chadwicks to celebrate mass the last weekend in February. He assured both parishes that he was well aware of our situation and asked that we be patient until new Diocesan priest personnel assignments were made in a June – July timeframe.

During this time, Parish Secretary, Carol Marshall; Trustees, Evelyn Micciche & Jim Winkler; Finance Committee Chairman, Gabe Martini; together with many volunteers have been doing their collective best to keep things running smoothly in sustaining our faith community and beautiful church.

Currently two masses are offered each weekend: Vigil at 5:30 PM on Saturday and morning mass at 9:30 AM on Sunday. Since Christmas, thanks to the generosity of several parishioners, the vigil mass has been livestreamed via Zoom on our parish website ([www.stmarys-clinton.com](http://www.stmarys-clinton.com)). By 10:00 AM the next morning, that livestreamed mass has been archived for continued viewing on our website. This service will continue through the end of April (last livestream/archive date is April 24, 2021).

The church has been cordoned off to comply with CDC/Diocesan Guidelines. Sign-in sheets are used for tracking purposes, and volunteers sanitize the entire church after each service. More volunteers are always welcome to assist by sharing their time and talents. Feel free to assist in any way possible. Many hands make light work and should there be enough volunteers, workgroups will be established to lighten the load on the current workforce.

Guided by Mary Lou Lauchert, Director of Faith Formation, our religious education and sacramental programs weathered the many obstacles faced this year. Students have been learning at home or attending in-person classes. We're fortunate to have had the time and talents of our parish's corps of volunteer teachers to assist. As in 2020, reception of First Communion will be delayed. Thirty-three young students remain excited to receive the Eucharist and fully participate with us in the Mass. Bishop Lucia will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to 55 candidates on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Forced by COVID guidelines he will preside at two masses that evening to accommodate these young people and their families. Everyone should be proud that our faith traditions have been passed down by our young committed families and faith formation staff in these challenging times.

Our website is up and running and is continually updated thanks to the talents and efforts of Amy Bashant. It has an up-to-date listing of our various ministries, contact information, a copy of our weekly bulletins as well as all announcements involving our life in the parish.

It also contains a portal allowing you to sign up for online giving. Online giving, in addition to mailing your regular contributions to the rectory at 13 Marvin Street, is one more way to continue your financial support to our parish if you're unable to physically attend services. Unfortunately, regular expenses and upkeep of our facilities have not ceased during the COVID crisis and we have to continue our monetary support to ensure our facilities are ready to welcome everyone back once the world learns how to coexist with this virus.

You're invited to browse the site and become familiar with it – you'll find it the place to go to stay informed with life at St. Mary's in Clinton.

No computer or can't access the website for any reason? Give Carol a call at the rectory (315) 853-2935. You'll find her most cordial, whether it's mailing you a copy of our weekly bulletin, answering your question or dispatching your request to the proper person – she'll get the assistance you need.

Have a current e-mail address? Share it with us by e-mailing it along with your full name to [st.maryclintoninfo@gmail.com](mailto:st.maryclintoninfo@gmail.com) for inclusion in our database for future communications and news about life at St Mary's. Rest assured it will remain confidential!

We hope and pray everyone remains safe and healthy and the worst is behind us. With everyone's help, we'll get through these very trying times together. God's in control.

Thank you & God Bless,

The staff & volunteers at St. Mary's-Clinton