

Parish Notes

Genesee Valley

Parish extends open invitation to 'come home for Christmas'

St. Monica, Rochester — Parishioners of St. Monica's Church, 831 Genesee St., Rochester, are extending an open invitation to all former parishioners and friends to **Holiday Mass ushers needed at St. Joseph's in Wayland**

St. Joseph, Wayland — Special ushers are needed for the children's 5 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve and for Midnight Mass. Because of the number of people who come to the Masses as well as the special ceremonies which take place, Father Paul R. Schnacky will need to meet with all those interested in helping on Sunday, December 21, at 2:15 p.m. in the church.

Candlelight carol service set for St. Thomas More parish

St. Thomas More, Rochester — A candlelight Christmas carol service will take place at the church, 2617 East Ave., Brighton, on Sunday, December 21, at 4 p.m.

The afternoon service will include readings from the Old and New Testaments as well as

Parish recalls songs, prayers of monks during Christmas

Holy Trinity, Webster — Recalling the monastic prayers and songs of the dark hours of Christmas, the choir of Holy Trinity — along with lectors and other ministers — will be celebrating a service of lessons and carols

"come home for Christmas" and join the parish for a Christmas Mass and reunion.

This Christmas Eve, festivities will begin with a musical program of Christmas carols sung by the parish choir, starting at 11:30 p.m. Christmas will be heralded in by a formal proclamation followed by Midnight Mass celebrated by Father Robert Gaudio, pastor.

Immediately following Mass, a reception will take place in the church rectory where refreshments will be served.

Other Christmas Masses at St. Monica's will include a family Christmas Eve Mass at 6 p.m. on December 24, and a Christmas morning Mass at 10 a.m.

seasonal hymns and carols. Participating in the choral offerings will be the St. Thomas More Parish Choir, which is under the direction of John Lootens, and the Hand Bell Choir of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, which is led by Wanda Callhan.

on Sunday, December 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Dana Marsh and the members of the choir invite all the parishioners and neighbors to join them on this Sunday evening service before Christmas.

Southern Tier

Ithaca school needs money for new computer terminal

Immaculate Conception, Ithaca — The school is looking for money to be donated to cover the cost of an Apple IIe computer before the end of the calendar year. A gift of this type may not be deductible starting next year.

If you are interested in helping, please call the school at (607)273-2707.

There will be a Scripture class on December 18, at 7:30 p.m. in room 108 of the school, 317 N. Plain St., Ithaca.

The next pre-Cana session scheduled for

New, old altar servers to meet at St. Catherine of Siena

St. Catherine of Siena, Ithaca — Altar servers "new and old" are asked to attend a meeting on Saturday, December 20, at 10 a.m. in the church. Father Michael Hogan will assign servers for the three Christmas Masses: 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass and 10 a.m. on Christmas day. New altar servers will receive the special crosses they are to wear when serving.

Father Hogan has a gift for all the servers. Please plan to attend this short meeting.

This weekend will be the last weekend parishioners can select a gift tag from the Giving Tree, purchase the item on the tag, wrap the gift, put the tag on the gift and leave the gift under the tree. It is important to get gifts distributed on time for Christmas, so all gifts need to be brought no later than December 21. The Giving Tree is set up in the back area of the sanctuary.

Room 108 of the school is January 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Couples planning marriage must attend pre-Cana, preferably right after their engagements are announced.

Teen retreats available; cancer support group set

St. Patrick, Corning — Teen retreats are available throughout the year for students in the eighth through 12th grades. If you are interested, call the religious education office at (607) 936-3163.

A self-help support group for cancer patients and their families meets at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Corning every other Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Finger Lakes

Advent Reconciliation Service at Our Lady of the Lake set

Cayuga Team Ministry — An Advent Reconciliation Service has been scheduled for Our Lady of the Lake Church in King Ferry on Thursday, December 18, at 7:30 p.m.

The Christmas Eve Mass schedule is as follows: a 5 p.m. family Mass at St. Patrick's Church in Aurora; a 6:15 p.m. family Mass at St. Michael's Church in Union Springs; a 7:30 p.m. family Mass at St. Joseph's in Cayuga; and Midnight Mass at Our Lady of the Lake in King Ferry.

Christmas day Masses include an 8:30 a.m. service in Union Springs as well as a 9:30 a.m. Mass in Cayuga and a 10:45 a.m. liturgy in Aurora.

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THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

EDWIN SULEWSKI FUNERAL DIRECTOR

When a child dies are there ways to help brothers and sisters?

Brothers and sisters of a child who has died may need special love and attention. While parents are grieving it should be remembered that children also feel sad and afraid. Special care should be given in explaining the circumstances of the death to the children. Often brothers and sisters are afraid that they and others in their family will also die. In addition children should be included in as much of the ceremonies as they wish. They may have special prayers, poems or songs that they wish to contribute. It is not uncommon for grieving parents to compare the behavior of surviving children to the deceased—this is not fair and should be avoided as it can lead to resentment on the part of the child. Sensitive listening, permitting of emotions and support will strengthen family ties during the crisis of bereavement.

We purchase all forms of insurance to protect our family & assets. not because we expect the worst to happen but to be prepared. Doesn't it make sense then to prepare for what will happen. Let our trained counselors assist you with the many options available in planning for a worry-free future.
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