

SMC Newsletter January 2022

Happy New Year's St. Mary's!! It had been quite a year. Fr. Lou and I are so grateful for our past year with you, and we are hopeful that our church community will receive many blessings this current year. Please check out our Church's **new photo gallery** to see St. Mary's pictures from 2021, <https://www.stmarysluzerne.org/photo-gallery/>. Please send me any information you would like included for next month. Many blessings, Patty



An Update from the ECW

The next ECW meeting will be Sunday, January 16th after church. Topics to be discussed include a review of our Christmas event, the formal election of new officers, and what our focus and activities might be in the first part of the new year.



An Update from Meryl on the 2021 Advent Food Drive

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who filled bags for our Advent Food Drive in support of the local food pantry.

An Update from Meryl on Birthdays and Anniversaries.

The birthdays for January are:

Lakota Bala Jan 19th, and Vicki Smail Jan 26th.

The anniversaries for January are:

Father Lou and Patty Midura Jan 18th.

Please give Meryl your birthdate so we don't forget anyone's birthday! You do not need to give the year! Please notify Meryl of any upcoming anniversaries. Photos are also welcome from these occasions.



Bible studies-Advent

Fr. Lou will continue to have a **service at 10am on Wednesdays - followed by a Bible study** in the Parish Hall. We will be studying the readings for the weekly Sunday service. **Please join us!**

Epiphany is this Thursday, January 6th. The Epiphany is the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12). The liturgical color is green.



DOK

There is a meeting for the DOK on Sunday, January 9th after church. Thank you to everyone who donated winter clothing to the Albany Refugee Resettlement Ministry and the St. Francis Mission in our Albany Diocese. **We were able to bless one family at the St. Francis Mission with a \$100 gift card and we have a rack of coats and two bags of additional winter wear to donate to the Albany Refugee Resettlement Ministry.** Thank you for your generous spirit. A special shout out goes to Peter and Nancy Watts who gave MULTIPLE donations from their winter coat foundation.



First Fruits Sunday Report

Thank you to everyone who sent in their pledges for 2022. **We had 21 pledges and \$62,010 was pledged.** In 2021, \$55,760 was pledged by about the same number of people. We have a wonderful congregation.

Coffee Hour Update.

Coffee hour is every Sunday after church. **Please sign up to volunteer for January with Jennie or Patty.** Jennie's email is violin1965@hotmail.com, #518-696-5129. Patty's email is midurapatty@gmail.com, #802-989-3213. We need 1-2 volunteers per Sunday!!

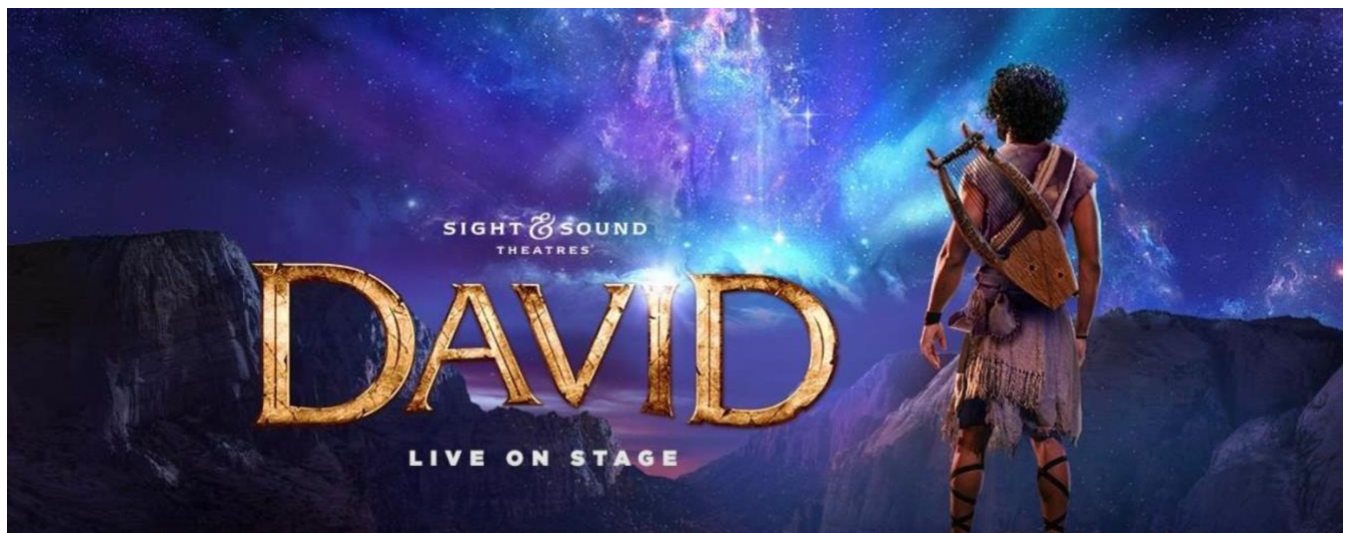


Prayer Requests.

****Please Pray for:** Heather, Joshua, Andrew, Bridget, Jim, the Hughes family, Blanca Sckell and family, Linda & Mason, The Haramut family, Amy H. & Maddie, Sylvia C., Sharon K., Jeff R., Michaela, Carol, Mary-Carol and Deacon Alan, Maxine and her family, Jennifer, Kailee and Dante, Paul B., Mary W., Mark M., Marissa, Shaunna, Marika J., Eduard & Mariana, Joyce L., Jack G., Sonia, Carole, Greta H., Peter & Nancy W., our community's youth, the men and women in law enforcement and in the armed forces of our country, the victims and families of the COVID-19 pandemic, those who need healing from the virus, healthcare workers and first responders who are confronting this disease, and those who are struggling with isolation or emotional distress due to the pandemic. All those whose needs are known only to our Lord.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer. Retired Bishops William Love, Daniel Herzog, and their families. For Bishop Smith and the Standing Committee, and for Holiness of life in every Episcopalian. Additionally, please see: <https://albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/prayer/jnml>

****It is time to update the prayer list. Please contact Erich Kaminsky by email at erichkaminsky@yahoo.com or by phone or text at 518.502.4075 with updates.**



Live Theatre Trip.

A trip to see **the story of DAVID** is being organized by Ruth. We would go in Sept and spend one or two nights. We would also see the replica of the Ark of the Covenant. Carpooling would be the best way, or we could rent a small bus or a 14-passenger van. I need to know if you are interested because we need at least 20 to get group tickets. This is live theater and is a great experience. You feel like you are there. Just let me know if there is an interest before I plan this. Thank you, Ruth



Odds and Ends.

The Greening of the Church for Christmas was beautiful. Thank you to Cathy Littlejohn, Kathy Crannell, Barbara Breen, Fr. Lou, Lorraine, and Gary Newton.

The Jesus doll is available for visiting youth. In the back of the church is backpack with a Jesus doll, a journal, and a Jesus stories book that is waiting for a child to take home and enjoy for a week. He has already enjoyed spending time with the Lagace's and the Midura's grandchildren.

An update from Meryl on Operation Christmas Child. (see below)

A Twitter quote from Nicky Gumbel in 2022, a prayer of gratitude for 2021 from the Book of Common Prayer, a note from Fr. Lou and Patty, a comment from Fr. Lou about his Sunday sermon, and an invite to a Men's breakfast.

A note from Ruth:

A NEW DAY

Grandfather, our creator. I thank you
for this morning, this new day!
A day that has never been before
and shall never be like it again.
I thank you for providing the sun
to pull back the veil of night
bringing warmth to earth--sacred home!

Grant me today the wisdom of patience,
to appreciate the diversity of life you have gifted.
May I, from the heart, see through the eyes of others
to vision the day's journey they trod,
to have empathy for the difficulties
they endure---to help preserve their life.

Grandfather, of all that is, the universe
the elements of the sky and earth==
creator of all life on our precious planet--
give me the wisdom to see all as family,
as relatives circling together, connected.

May each see another new day,
Not hurt but brightened by my presence!

Nakoma



Nicky Gumbel ✓

@nickygumbel

Fear less, trust more;
take less, give more;
whine less, thank more;
talk less, listen more;
hate less, love more.

#2022

1. A General Thanksgiving (2007 Version)

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

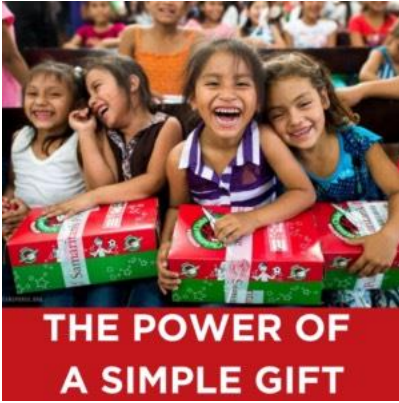
Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen.*

A note from Fr. Lou and Patty.

We want to thank all the church volunteers for all the hard work you have done this past year. We cannot emphasize this enough. Your humble service done with grace glorifies His name and shows how much you love and care for the St. Mary's and the Lake Luzerne/Hadley communities. We are honored to be part of this congregation and we appreciate the time, talent, and treasure that you devote to Christ's church. May God bless you all. Remember - God is good all the time.

Operation Christmas Child.



Thank you everyone who took part in the Operation Christmas Child event last year. We had a wonderful response and packed more boxes than ever before!!!

Our boxes were all sent to The Dominican Republic which shares the Island of Hispaniola with Haiti in the Caribbean.

The Dominican Republic has a population of more than 10 million people. 30% live in poverty and 20% live in extreme poverty, with many people live in shacks in shanty towns. They makeup 50% of the population.



A typical area of a shanty town in Dominican Republic do

There is also thriving tourist industry in the county which accounts for 50 % of the income on the island but sadly it is only shared with 20% of the population. That leaves the other 30% to be only slightly above the poverty of the rest of the country.



In contrast to the poverty in the county. This is an example of the tourist area.

The adjoining country is Haiti which is the poorest county in the Western Hemisphere. Many Haitians seek a better life in the Dominican Republic adding to the poverty problems.

So, imagine the joy on the faces of the children who receive our boxes and for the opportunity for them to hear, regardless of their situation, there is a God who loves them. Please continue to pray for these children.



A comment about last Sunday's sermon from Fr. Lou

I was scrolling through my Bible reading and found the very quote I was referencing this past Sunday in my sermon. **I was saying that life is better compared to train tracks, meaning blessings and trials are happening side by side and at the same time, versus individual hills and valleys.**

Here is the quote from Nicky Gumble's *Bible in One Year* app - which I highly recommend. Also, if you have never read the *Purpose Driven Life*, I also highly recommend it.

"Pastor Rick Warren says that he used to think that the Christian life was a succession of battles and blessings, whereas now he thinks of life as being on two tracks. At any given moment in life there are usually blessings, but also battles to face.

He gives the example of the huge blessing that came to him through the publication of *The Purpose Driven Life*, which became the fastest-selling Christian book of all time. It gave him enormous influence. But at the same time, he found out that his wife, Kay, had cancer. On one track of his life there was great blessing; on the other track there was a massive battle to face."



Men's Breakfast

There will be a Men's Breakfast on Saturday, January 15 at 9am. Father Lou would like to invite all the men of the parish to eat together and have fellowship. Father Lou will provide waffles, fruit, coffee, tea, and juice. You may bring additional food items to share if you want.