

**INDIAN RIVER CATHOLICS**

**St. Mary's Church of Evans Mills—St. Joseph's Church of Philadelphia—St. Theresa's Church of Theresa**

8408 South Main Street, Evans Mills, NY 13637  
**Rectory & St. Mary's Parish Office** Phone: 315- 629-4678  
**Website Address for all Parishes:** www.ircatholics.org

**Pastor:** Monsignor Robert Aucoin **E-mail address:** msgraucoin@ircatholics.org  
**Deacon:** Patrick Donahue **E-mail address:** deaconpat@ircatholics.org

**Marriage:** arrangements must be made a few months in advance **Baptism:** by appointment  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confessions:** Saturdays 3:15-3:45 PM (St. Joseph's);  
before masses or by appointment (St. Mary's); Sundays 8:15-8:45 AM (St. Theresa's)

***First Sunday of Advent***

Sat.	Dec. 1	4:00 pm (PH) 5:30 pm (EM)	For Deceased Members of our Parishes For Faithful Departed
Sun.	Dec. 2	9:00 am (TH) 10:45 am (EM)	For the People of the Parishes For Faithful Departed
Mon.	Dec. 3	8:00 am (EM)	For Faithful Departed
Tues.	Dec. 4	8:00 am (EM)	For Faithful Departed
Wed.	Dec. 5	8:00 am (EM)	For Florence & Benjamin Olshfski by their family
Thurs.	Dec. 6	8:00 am (EM)	For Faithful Departed

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
**Holy Day of Obligation—December 7 & 8**  
**Friday 5:30 pm (EM) - Patricia Cooke by her family**  
**Saturday 10 am (EM) - For the People**

Sat.	Dec. 8	4:00 pm (PH) 5:30 pm (EM)	For Phyllis Donaghy by her friends For Faithful Departed
Sun.	Dec. 9	9:00 am (TH) 10:45 am (EM)	For the People of the Parishes For Julia Noone by her family

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- Dec. 6 6 PM Holy Hour at St. Joseph's
- Dec. 8 **Immaculate Conception—Holy Day of Obligation**
- Dec. 19 Blood Drive at St. Mary's Parish Center

**THERESA FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION DEC. 16**

Money you give the Food Pantry stays in Theresa, helping needy families at Christmas time and all year round. Please be generous Sunday, Dec. 16. And don't forget, at St. Theresa's we collect canned and dry foods for distribution. The basket is at the parking lot door.

Thanks to a generous donor we have been able to replace the security lights on the parish center in Evans Mills. We now have LED lights with a new time clock. They provide much better security as well as area lighting that will help those who are at the parish center for evening events. Thank you.

**AMAZON**—will pay our parishes 6% on all purchases you make. Just visit our website www.ircatholics.org and Click on Amazon icon

YOUR OFFERINGS	ST. MARY'S	ST. THERESA'S	ST. JOSEPH'S
<i>Weekly Needs</i>	<b>\$1,538.00</b>	<b>\$690.00</b>	<b>\$930.00</b>
<i>Nov. 24th &amp; 25th</i>	<b>\$847.00</b>	<b>\$444.00</b>	<b>\$726/00</b>

**Please Pray for the Sick & Homebound, Especially:** Josh Allen; Amanda Bernard; Don Briant; Susanne & John Bush; Randy Butler; James Cleary, Bernadette Call; Madeline Drake; Karen Hall; Nicholas Heldt; Dillon Hesse; Diane Hogue; Amy Huff, Terrie Kirk, Pat Kocyla; Barbara Lawler, Jacqueline May, Leslie M<sup>c</sup>Keever; Robert M<sup>c</sup>Keever; Jill McMahon; Jan Mady Mareth, Ella Grace Recor; Monine Rodriguez;; Addison Rounds; Jeanne Watson, Alice Wood.

***First Sunday of Advent*** – “Strengthen your hearts in holiness.” Are you being called to grow in holiness as a priest, deacon, religious brother or sister? Talk to Monsignor Aucoin or Fr. Doug Lucia at (315) 386-2543/ [dluca@rcdony.org](mailto:dluca@rcdony.org) or Cathy Russell, the Diocesan Vocation Coordinator at (315)393-2920, ext. 1450/[crussell@rcdony.org](mailto:crussell@rcdony.org). See us also on Facebook or at [www.myvocation.net](http://www.myvocation.net).

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS ANNUAL APPEAL: December 9** Support the Retirement Fund for Religious. A donor writes, “Your flyer touched my heart—seeing the retired religious, such memories surfaced.” Do you remember the sisters, brothers, or religious order priests who made a positive difference in your life? Today many are elderly and need assistance. Their religious communities struggle to meet retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Please give to next week's second collection

**Holy Hour** at St. Joseph's in Philadelphia on Thursday, December 6th at 6 PM. If you would like prayers for special intentions call 315-816-6657 or [kristinadean970@gmail.com](mailto:kristinadean970@gmail.com). Exposition, Liturgy of the Hour and Rosary led by Women of Grace and confessions.

**DECEMBER 2: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**Readings: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36** Jesus tells his disciples that at the end of time, people will be afraid. This is a logical response to the end of the world. But Jesus tells us to *stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand*. Our redemption is at hand. Jesus is coming. We await his coming. We prepare for his coming, not just as a little baby at Christmas, but as our Lord and King with power and glory at the end times. Jesus tells us to be vigilant. Let us pray together the words of St. Paul: *May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all ... to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen.*

**Menu for the Nutrition Meal Held at St. Mary's Parish Center. Open to residents of Evans Mills, Philadelphia & Theresa!!!!**

**Tuesday 12/04/18**

Chicken vegetable soup, tuna macaroni salad, Harvard beets, fresh apple, warm garlic bread & chocolate milk.

**Thursday 12/06/18**

Macaroni & cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans, mandarin oranges, wheat bread & milk. For reservations call 313-686-4440 or 315-785-3191.

**WE HAVE 4 EXTRA SAVE AROUND COUPON BOOKS. If you missed out on the fundraiser, you can still purchase a book. We have them in the parish office.**

**IHC—KNIT—IN SUNDAY, Dec. 9th at 1 PM at IHC, 1316 Ives Street. Patterns & yarn provided. Help keep a Syrian child warm this winter. Bring your orphan balls of yarn!**



- Positive momentum continues to grow for the *It's Our Church, It's Our Future* Capital Campaign.
- Currently, our parish has raised \$68,000 from 27 number of families.
- This week a letter will be sent out to anyone who has yet to make a sacrificial pledge for our church. For your convenience a pledge remittance envelope will be included with the letter.
- Keep in mind that the majority of the funds raised will go toward our special parish projects that are very much needed.
- Please be sure to respond soon so we can accomplish our goals.
- We are really counting on you to make this happen.
- Thank you in advance for your generosity!

### **Votive Candles at St. Mary's**

We currently have two racks for votive candles at St. Mary's. Each one uses a different kind of candle requiring us to have on hand both kinds of candles. Also, the candle "tree" is a little less secure in its method of holding the candles. So, once we have used our supply of the white votive candles, we will have available only the red votive candles, and we will remove the candle "tree." The charge for the votive candles will remain \$3.00.

### **"Dare to Prepare" Advent Retreat for Teen Girls**

St. Anthony's in Watertown is hosting a "Dare to Prepare" Advent Retreat for all Teen Girls ages 13+ on Saturday, December 8, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Retreat is sponsored by Young Women of Grace, and hosted by Mary Dillenback, Co-developer of Young Women of Grace Study, and Kathi Busky, facilitator. The day includes Mass, confessions, social time, interactive games, a special Christmas craft, and two presentations on the critical role women play in the world today through the gift of their feminine genius, as well as how to welcome Emmanuel by learning how to practice the presence of God. A talk, "Dare to Prepare For Your Future Spouse," will be given by Dayna Leader, Family Life Associate for Marriage Preparation and Enrichment. A light breakfast, pizza for lunch, and lots of homemade Christmas cookies will be available! Cost is just \$10 per girl. Visit the "Events" page at [www.womenograce.com](http://www.womenograce.com) for registration and more information. Questions call Mary Dillenback 315 771 1377.

### **St. Mary's Cemetery in Evans Mills and St. Michael's Cemetery in Antwerp**

The Cemeteries will be closed from December 1<sup>st</sup> through April for burials. The spring opening date will depend on the weather.

Town Meeting Regarding Merger of Parishes  
Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 6 PM – St. Mary's Parish Center

Monsignor Aucoin opened the meeting with a prayer. Present were Sandy & Francis Veivia, Lorna & John Delles, Noel Voos, Andrew & Joan Kilcer, Gail Patrick, Judy Stoffel, Denise Betterman, Robert & Mary Boucher, Veronica Petranchuk, Mary Jane Bertrand, Kimberly & Thomas Nowak, Kareta & Dennis Olshfski, Monica & Charles Lynch, Robert Cowan and Tammie Eggleston.

Monsignor explained the terminology as it relates to linked and merged parishes. He also explained how this will be implemented when we are associated with St. Paul's in Black River. There would be a worship site and Parish at St. Mary's and St. Paul's, a worship site and mission at St. Joseph's, and St. Rita's and St. Theresa's would become oratories.

Monsignor also presented the number of people attending weekend masses at St. Mary's, St. Joseph's and St. Theresa's. An average of 171 total attending all four masses. He further reviewed the financial status of all three parishes which reveals all are operating in a deficit. Envelopes are being prepared by Our Sunday Visitor and in updating our files a total of 144 sets of envelopes will be generated.

Monsignor also explained the present operations of the parishes and the changes if a merger occurs. At present there are 3 separate corporations, 3 sets of financial statements. Income and expenses are posted in three sections of the accounting system. A merger would result in one set of financial statements. Also, future sacramental records would be consolidated into one spiritual records book.

There was discussion as it relates to the naming of the new corporation. Judy Stoffel suggested we open that up to parishioners for discussion. Monsignor reviewed what has been his experience in the past with parishes being merged/linked.

Parishioners feel that we should move forward and asked Monsignor what the next step would be. He stated that he would meet with the Pastoral/Finance Council.

Parishioners suggested that, given both the present attendance at Masses and financial condition of the three entities, that we simply merge into one parish and only keep open St. Mary's Church, thus resulting in closing St. Joseph's and St. Theresa's. Maintaining three buildings, the parish center, and the rectory with current income no longer seems feasible. No one voiced any objections to keeping one church, St. Mary's, and closing the St. Joseph's and St. Theresa's, and keeping the parish name of St. Mary's. It was noted that St. Mary's building needs some structural work and that the parish should obtain professional advice about the work that is needed. Thus, the direction that Msgr. Aucoin will follow in further consultation with the pastoral and finance council is:

- Close St. Theresa's church building.
- Merge St. Theresa's with St. Mary's.
- Close St. Joseph's church building.
- Merge St. Joseph's with St. Mary's.
- Obtain professional opinion concerning needed structural work on St. Mary's Church.

There being no further questions, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.