

Our Christian Walk

The Gazette Of Grace Winter Jan-Feb-Mar Issue 2022

Serving The Community Of Our Lady Of Grace

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Happy New Year to the Our Lady of Grace Family!

By Polly VanNostrand, Trustee

At the start of a new year, many take time to reflect on the past. I am grateful for all those who keep faith in the OLG community. Those who give of their time and talents weekly or have taken the time to ask 'how can I help' or said 'yes' when they were asked. Father Jerry Gingras was one of those people who said 'yes'. His kindness and leadership guided us through the first year of uncertainty, as we built the foundation for our Network of Parishes with Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph's. His letters gave weekly hope and the simplicity of his ending message summed up the mission of Christ, "... be well, do good deeds, and say your prayers."

Christine Goss, our Director of Evangelization and Catechesis, and Dave Wetzel, our Director of Administration and Finance, and Donna Mayer, OLG Pastoral Associate for Administration; all said 'yes' to their positions during the summer of 2021. If you have not introduced yourselves to them yet, please do the next time you see them at mass. The work they do is critical to the growth and longevity of OLG.

Longevity of service to the OLG community. John Lorenc. We have been truly blessed to have John as a trustee for the last 6+ years. He stepped down in November. John's prayer-filled vision of what the community of OLG is capable of becoming, as part of the Mission of Jesus, is unwavering and beautiful. His willingness to take the time to help and guide the next generation is selfless and vast. We are better because of it. John, as you (and Lorraine) regain some of your time, we wish you majestic scenery and unexpected adventures. *Thank you for everything.* Now we look forward to 2022 and are grateful to Peter Trolio for saying 'yes' to serving Our Lady of Grace as trustee. Peter will help guide us into this next year, as OLG celebrates our 100th birthday.



OLG Mission Statement

We are a welcoming community of believers, being disciples of Christ through worship, the Sacraments, ongoing faith formation, evangelization and Christian service to others!

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My Walk With God by Terry Hynes

My name is Terry Hynes, I am 28 years old and I live in Saratoga Springs, New York. I was born in Latham New York, moved to Malta when I was 2, and then to Burnt Hills with my parents and little brother Riley, at the age of 5. I grew up in a Catholic family. My Mom was/is a believer in Christ, but my Dad never became a follower. (I prayed each day that my Dad and brother would come to believe.)

My father did not want me to be baptized as an infant. Growing up, I had always believed, but I never really knew just who God truly was and what He did for me. My first visit to a church was for a distant family funeral. The second visit was for a family wedding. I had always thought that churches were for weddings and funerals. I never knew that it held a much bigger purpose.

My parents were divorced when I was 13, and my life changed dramatically. I attended Young Life Club when I was 16, a Christian Club that helps bring young adults closer to Jesus in a fun way. My mother hosted the club meetings at our house. Although I enjoyed going to club every Monday night, singing songs, playing fun silly games, I never knew the main purpose of Young Life until I was senior. When I was 17, I was called to something more and started attending mass with my Mom some weekends. We weren't able to go every week because of my brother, Riley's schedule. I started going to church more often after I graduated from high school.

I was up at Lake Champion with my Burnt Hills Young Life friends, a Young Life summer camp where kids would have the best week of their lives. Definitely the best week of my life, it was there that I finally gave my life to Christ. I received a NIV (new international version) Bible, given by the camp volunteers. In 2013, I told my Mom that I wanted to be baptized, something I wished happened to me a long time ago. My Mom managed to connect me with Sister Kathy, who helped to guide my every step of this new journey. My stepdad, Jim, is my Godfather, LeeAnn was my sponsor, and I had great support from other family members.

It's easier to be baptized as a baby than it is when you're an adult. As an adult, you have to go through a year of training. I started my journey on Easter, and had to wait twelve months to be baptized because there was so much to learn. I attended classes every Thursday night, and met with Sister Kathy during mass every Sunday. I also signed my name in a big book with others, both young and old, who were preparing for Baptism.

In April 2014, I was finally baptized on Easter Saturday, and received my first communion that same night. My journey to Baptism really brought me closer to knowing God, His Son Jesus, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. I learned how much God loved me, and why He sent his Son to earth to die for me. Through this experience, I had finally begun to realize why I was questioning myself in the mirror. I was always kind and generous to people, but there was something missing in my heart..... it was Jesus, the last piece to my puzzle.

Today, I am an active parishioner at OLG. I love weekly Mass. I help with the collections, lector: and serve as a greeter and decorator. I join my church group one day a month at the Regional Food Bank located at Albany Shaker Road. I also volunteer at Burnt Hills Young Life, the club that that helped me give my life to Jesus.

People ask me if I ever thought of becoming a Deacon, or a Catholic Priest. The truth is I have, but being a Deacon or a Priest is a huge responsibility. There would much to give up in life in order to follow this path, and it's still something I continue to think about each day. If I were to be called to the priesthood or deaconate, God will let me know, He always has ways of speaking to me. In closing, I thank God for everything that He has done for me, and has given to me. I would still be lost if He hadn't found me. My soul would still feel dead if He hadn't given me life. Today, God continues to walk alongside me, as he does for all those who also believe.



New Vestments by Barry Lupe

Fr. Jerry had ordered new vestments from Belgium and asked me if I was interested in buying a set for OLG in memory of my wife, Marcia. I thought about it for a quick moment and enthusiastically said “yes.” I had been friends with Fr. Jerry since he first arrived at ICC. He would often celebrate the 7:00 a.m. daily mass where I picked up my carpool riders.

I feel blessed he thought enough of Marcia that I might want to honor her memory in this fashion. The green (Ordinary Time) chasuble arrived at OLG the second Sunday of advent. The picture shows Fr. Leo and myself seeing it for the first time, while I hold a prayer card of Marcia. Keep a look-out for the new vestments when Ordinary Time returns.



OLG Helping Hands decorated the giving tree with dozens of tags. The tree is empty now, but see all the love that surrounds it!



Busy Hooks and Needles

Sandy Wedge, Jeanne LaChance and their knitting elves worked feverishly to create their “store” of goodies. For weeks they met at church or worked in their homes to provide a variety of both baby and adult items for sale. All proceeds went to Helping Hands who were also very busy contributing to those in need.

Kids Korner

Hey Kids.....

God is: the ultimate Artist.

One of the greatest pleasures artists experience is to see expressions of delight and enjoyment when people appreciate their artworks.

Is not God the ultimate Artist, who all other artists try to imitate? (Psalms 86:8). God has created a living interactive exhibition. His awe-inspiring landscapes can actually be entered. His ever-changing seascapes are there for our recreational pleasure. Each day, He paints a new sunrise and sunset for us to enjoy. His exhibition includes living portraits of people and animals for

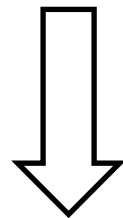
companionship. His fruit-bowls are bursting with flavor and His flowers literally smell of perfume.

God receives great pleasure from watching His sons and daughters delight in His many artworks. When time is taken to enjoy and savor an artwork, it always pleases the Artist.



Artists derive great pleasure from those who appreciate their creation.

“You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.” Revelations 4:11



Hey Kids!

This Newsletter would love to publish your artwork!

**Please send via email your vision
Of something spiritual in your life!**

Welcome and Congratulations to these children who received the Sacrament of Baptism



Sept. 18 - Connor James Gadbois son of Daniel and Danielle Gadbois

Oct. 10 - Lochlan James Manning son of Gregory and Brittany Manning

Oct. 17 - Sofia Rose Scheffler daughter of Michael and Stacey Scheffler

Oct. 17 - Robert Francis Dolezal son of Emil and Anne Dolezal

Nov. 21 - Kaitlynn Anne Landry daughter of Travis and Danielle Landry

2022 Our 100th Anniversary



Can you believe that you and I are here to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Grace Church? **One Hundred Years** of parishioners coming and going, changes in leadership from Rome to our humble community, and spiritual paths carved for us, our fellow Christians both yesterday and today.

Steve Zarelli is our contact volunteer for forthcoming celebratory events. Please call him with your ideas and/or skills as we come together this year to honor all those who walked before us in this beautiful community.

Steve: 518-399-8919 or stevezarelli@gmail.com

Nurse's Corner

By Nancy Michela, RN

It is, Hi Neighbor Month!

Social connections are so important to your health! The Centers of Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has a tool kit for community preparedness and a “to go” kit in case of an emergency. Neighbors can be a vital source of assistance during an emergency.

The tool kit can be found at <https://www.ready.gov/community-preparedness-toolkit>

The “to go” kit should have the following:
Food, water and medical supplies to last at least 72 hours

- Assistive technology- Wheel chairs, walkers, hearing aids/batteries contacts, eyeglasses, asthma inhaler, epinephrine injector, blood glucose monitor/accessories
- ALL medications/prescriptions
- Medical and First-Aid supplies
- Infant/Child care supplies including toys/blankets
- Pet supplies including food and toys/beds or blankets.
- Food that does not need refrigeration or special preparation. One (1) gallon of water per person per day.

These items can be stored in a moveable travel bag or suitcase or plastic bin or duffle bag.

UPDATE these supplies every 6 months or as the family needs change.

For more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/prepyourhealth/>

The Gardeners of Grace



As we celebrate our 100th anniversary this year, we would love to have our spring grounds shaped up and looking beautiful. Do you like to dig in the garden, or plant flowers, or just play in the dirt? We need your hands and ideas!

Please contact Dave and Ann Pearce if you can help out in any way to brighten our surroundings. A map of various areas will be provided in the gathering space, in spring, to sign up.
Dave and Ann 518-399-3608 or pep416@aol.com

Annual Retreat by Diane Simpson

The Annual Women's Retreat for our three Parishes takes place the first weekend of February at the Dominican Retreat House in Niskayuna.

My personal experience when entering the Retreat house is a sense of warmth, peace and a letting go of my daily routine and worries. The "to do" list is behind me.

The Retreatants are excited to have time to immerse themselves in prayer, enriching their personal closeness to Jesus "which cannot be described."

Staff creates an atmosphere of homecoming with love, wonderful meals and snacks. The opportunity to meet with them and the presenter is always available.

Those attending develop friendships by becoming Prayer Partners, and meeting in small group sessions after a conference, with free time available in the evening to chat over tea and cookies. I often say it is like a sleep-over for adult women!

The themes of the weekend open our minds and hearts as we discover the richness of our own spirituality. It raises us to a new level of knowledge and understanding of scripture, awakening us to think of what small actions will make a difference in someone's life.

Due to Covid the 2021 Retreat was virtual. It worked very well. The 2022 Retreat is planned to have 20 Retreatants in person, but with Covid still increasing the Retreat may be virtual again this year.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. 518-399-9322 or enercony@earthlink.net

Newsletter Distribution

This newsletter will be sent to all parishioners who have an email on file. Hard copies will be sent to the homebound. If you would prefer a hard copy instead of email, please contact the office, Donna 518-399-5713.

New Beginnings

By Caitie Lashbrooks

Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

The start of a new calendar year brings a new mindset to us all to set goals that will lend to bettering ourselves. A great deal of the social media I interact with has been filled with individuals sharing their creative and ambitious goals for the new year, and those who are identified as "influencers" encouraging you to join them in their goal. The impact that these influencers have on me had me pondering what will be my goals for this year of 2022.

My spiritual resolution is to take time to read the gospel for Sunday mass ahead of time and reflect on it to better enter into the Liturgy of the Word!

For my spiritual resolution, I quickly understood that God may have a better plan for me that I have not given Him time to share with me. As I pondered, I said a quick prayer and knew that my spiritual resolution had been on my heart for a while. Ever since we were able to physically attend mass post the start of the pandemic, I had started writing down what stuck out to me from the readings and the homily each Sunday mass. This allowed me to apply the Word to my life and faith journey each week. To take this a step further this year, I will be spending intentional time reading the upcoming Sunday gospel prior to mass. Having attended one mass with this practice, I enjoyed seeing what stuck out to me when I read it on my own compared to when I heard the gospel proclaimed at mass.

The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis have all submitted spiritual resolutions published in the Jan. 1st/2nd bulletin and encourage everyone to think how they will grow in faith this year. I believe the beauty of having a spiritual resolution is the fruit and grace that comes from it as you do it. I am looking forward to seeing how The Word comes more alive to me over the course of this year and how that changes me and my ministry with our young people.



My Spiritual New Year's Resolution for 2022

By Sarah Stygles,
Coordinator of Family and Elementary Faith Formation

In this season of New Year's resolutions, I think it is important to not only meditate on new or re-visited habits that lead to a healthier lifestyle, but also a healthier spiritual life. I was asked to share my Spiritual New Year's resolution in our tri-parish bulletin, but thought it may be fun and helpful to expand upon this information in Our Lady of Grace's newsletter, Our Christian Walk!

This year I am striving to acknowledge how God is present in my day to day life. It's so very easy to be caught up in the bustle of normal life, keeping our heads down, moving from one task to the next that we miss the little miracles that happen each day. My plan is that I will use two different tools to help keep my focus; my "Star Word", and my day planner.

Let's first focus on the concept of a Star Word! Within my position at our tri-parish community I'm offering a spiritual practice for anyone interested. In the month of January, on the At Home Formation bulletin board (next to the name tag table in the entrance of the church), there is a take-home lesson regarding Epiphany. This lesson includes an individualized "Star Word" handwritten on a star image.

A "Star Word" is a word that may seem like it's been randomly selected, but in fact has been selected for you by the Holy Spirit. The idea behind this practice is that by focusing on a specific God-sent word, we look for God in our midst. We change our perspective, and focus our attention amid all the distractions of daily life, while we seek to find the meaning of our word and when/why/how it "pops up". Within the take-home lesson there are tips and ideas on how to use your star word, and how to pray with it.

Other than my star word practice, I also plan on using my day planner to help keep my focus on my spiritual New Year's resolutions. Alongside my daily schedule I plan to jot down a list of things I'm grateful for, the ways I've felt God's presence during the day, and occurrences of finding my Star Word. As I write this article, I can say I am amazed by the amount of times my word has already popped up this year, and we are only 4 days in! Once your focus gradually shifts towards the divine, it's so much easier to experience God's presence, which in turn causes the rest of the day's tasks to seem much lighter!

If you'd like to join me in the Star Word practice or would like more information, stop into the church to grab your Epiphany lesson packet, or you can email me: formation@icglenville.com

Peace always to Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Grace, & Saint Joseph's

OLG Ministries

We have updated the ministry list for our parish and as you know, since the onset of Covid, our ministries have not changed....but we do need new faces. The list is available at entryway. Please take one and decide where your gifts can enrich both your spiritual journey and our community.

Open communication is the key to our success as a parish. Ministry leaders, please keep our trustees, Polly Van Nostrand and Peter Trolio, up-to-date of all your activities as well as any changes. Thanks for your dedication and voice!





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Note From Editor:

We welcome your comments, suggestions and contributions. We would like to use this newsletter to share the faith and Christian action of our parishioners. Please send stories about your ministry, e-mail photos; tell us about a person, or bible passages which have had a positive influence on you or your family, your poetry, your journey. We are published quarterly, with deadlines as follows:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Jan-Feb-Mar	Nov 25
Apr-May-Jun	Mar 1
Jul-Aug-Sept	Jun 1
Oct-Nov-Dec	Sept 1

Our Family of Parishes:

Saint Joseph's Website:
<http://www.stjosephschurchscotia.net>

Immaculate Conception Website:
<http://www.icglenville.com>

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You can access the weekly bulletin and this
newsletter with all current parish activity at:
<http://www.olgchurchbl.org>