

# Saint Peter's Catholic Church

114 Cornelia Street  
Plattsburgh, New York 12901

Parish Office: 518.563.1692

Fax: 518.566.9420

Religious Education: 518.563.3278

spchurch1692@primelink1.net

www.saintpeterschurch.org

Seton Academy: 518.825.7386

Seton Middle/High: 518.561.4031

www.seton-academy.net

www.setoncatholic.net

## Pastor

Rev. John Yonkovig

## Parish Office Staff

Patti Cormier  
Denise Tetreault

## Spiritual Life

Deacon Mark Bennett, Director  
Deacon Frank Bushey

## Religious Education

Therese Moen, Director

## Youth Director

Alison Cryster

## Music Ministry

Permelia Provost  
George Shnob

## Trustees

Carol Kipp  
Joseph Giroux

## Pastoral Council

Vicki Howard, Chairperson

## Finance Council

Garry Holt, Chairperson

## Cemetery & Maintenance

Michael Rascoe  
Karl Costin

## Priests In Residence

Msgr. Joseph G. Aubin  
Msgr. Robert Aucoin

Office Hours are  
Monday-Friday  
8:30am - 4:00pm



## Liturgical Celebrations

### **Weekend Mass Schedule**

Saturday Vigil at 4:00pm  
Sunday at \*\*8:00am, 9:30am & 11:00am  
\*\* Mass is Signed for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

### **Daily Mass Schedule**

6:45am & 12:05pm, Monday - Friday  
8:15am Saturday

### **Reconciliation**

Saturday 2:45-3:30pm  
Wednesday 12:30-1:00pm

### **Eucharistic Adoration**

6:00-8:00am 1st Sat. of the Month  
7:30-8:00am Thursday  
12:30-1:00pm Friday

### **Baptism and Marriage**

Please call the Parish Office

Second Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2009

## A Letter from St. Peter's Parish Council

Recently Jeremy Eppler, who is a graduate of St. Peter's School and Seton Catholic, contacted our Parish Council about a wonderful project he is involved with in Nicaragua. Our Parish Council is eager to help the Parish of the Holy Face. Jeremy's proposal is found below. On the weekend of Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> our "glass bowls" will be found at the doors of the church. Any gift you wish to make to help build this new parish center in Nicaragua will be gratefully received.

The Lord of hosts says this:

*"Think carefully about your behavior. Go up into the hills, fetch timber and rebuild the House; and I shall take pleasure in it, and manifest My glory there... because while my House lies in ruins, each of you is busy with his own house".*  
*Haggai 1, 7-9*

### Statement of Need

As a former Mission of Hope, AmeriCorps and Peace Corps volunteer from Plattsburgh, Jeremiah A. Eppler now works for a development agency in Managua, Nicaragua. The parish he attends has a longstanding history of service to the community. Located in the neighborhood of "Costa Rica", the Holy Face Parish is surrounded by bleak opportunities for local youth: Drug rings, prostitution, casinos, and strip clubs, each of which outnumber all alternatives for primary and secondary education, healthy extracurricular activities, youth development and spiritual guidance.

A "diamond in the rough", Holy Face works to provide opportunities for its community. However, the present infrastructure at the parish is insufficient to meet its current capacity needs, much less allow for growth. Last year, the parish school was forced to close due to the discovery of asbestos in the roofing, posing a serious health threat to its children; the parish center/rectory withstood a major earthquake three and a half decades ago. Although the structure has been condemned, a lack of financial resources obligates the parish to continue to utilize the building.

### Community Proposal

In order to improve its service to the community, Holy Face has begun plans for an infrastructure construction

project to include a multi-use building – to serve as an elementary school during the day and offer a space for night classes, youth development and parish group meetings in the evenings – and a stable parish center/rectory. The parish will build upon its greatest asset – the people – by growing its existing population (youth groups, group councils, Charismatics, and Neo-Catechumenal Way) and reopening the school. Once the installation of both buildings is complete, the infrastructure will sustain itself based on human capital and the incoming financial resources that currently allow the parish to function on a daily basis.

The parish council has assigned a "Pro Construction Committee" to develop the project proposal, to elaborate development plans, to fundraise locally, to oversee implementation and to guarantee transparency. Each procedure must be approved by the committee, the council and, most importantly, the community.

Holy Face Pastor Silvio Fonseca, a Nicaraguan native who served and studied his thesis for several years in Washington D.C., is working to form strategic parish-to-parish alliances. For any questions, please contact Fr. Silvio <padresilviofonseca@yahoo.com> and/or Jeremiah A. Eppler <eppler14@hotmail.com>.

We appreciate your support!



### St. Peter's Christmas Schedule

#### Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve

4:00pm Mass with Organ and Brass

6:00pm Children's Mass

\*\*8:00pm Mass with Contemporary Choir

\*\*12:00am Midnight Mass with Brass, Strings and Organ

\*\* *preceded by Carols*

#### Friday, December 25 Christmas Day

11:00am Mass with Contemporary Choir

### A Journey with Mary and Joseph

#### A Child's Prayer

In my heart, Mary and Joseph, I will journey with you and others for "Las Posadas."

Carrying lanterns, we sing joyfully and walk along with brave Joseph.

He leads poor, tired Mary on her little donkey. From house to house we go, asking to come in, to find a quiet place for the young mother who is about to give birth.

"We have no room. There's no room for you!"

On and on, we travel in hope, following an angel. Finally, on the ninth night, on December 24, we find shelter for the holy pilgrims.

Your holy child is born in a borrowed stable.

We will feast and sing and rejoice.

The long, hard journey has ended.

This newborn child shall bring us so much joy.



We welcome our newly registered parishioners...

David & Roxanne Bova  
Michael & Olga Godlewski

All of us at St. Peter's Parish extend a prayerful and grateful welcome to all of our new parishioners. Together we may live as faithful disciples of the Lord Jesus.



We pray for those who have recently entered eternal life. May the angels lead them into paradise.

Beatrice Gilman  
Roland Jean



### Super Sunday Experience

All 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:45 AM. in Seton Academy located on St. Charles Street for a morning of

Religious Instruction. For further questions please contact Miss Therese Moen at 563-3278 or e-mail [stpetersdre@primelink1.net](mailto:stpetersdre@primelink1.net). Fall classes will end on Dec.13 and will resume on January 24.

### Retirement Fund for Religious— This Weekend

Religious face rising costs. Data submitted to the National Religious Retirement Office reveals that the average annual cost of care for women and men religious age 70 and over has more than doubled since 1989.

The number of religious over the age of seventy is 35,000 in 2009. Your donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides critical support to religious institutes in meeting the escalating costs of elder care.

The religious of the Diocese of Ogdensburg recognize the economic difficulties that the people of the North Country are experiencing as a result of the present economic downturn. We are grateful for any contribution that you make for the care of our members at this time in our history.



### News From Seton Academy

#### Advent Project for the Holy Childhood

The students of Seton Academy are participating in the Holy Childhood Advent box project. They were given the boxes at the beginning of Advent and throughout the season, they put money that will be sent to the Diocesan office for the Holy Childhood. They are also praying for the children of Nepal during Advent. This project helps them to foster global awareness.

#### Seton Academy's Christmas Program

Seton Academy's annual Christmas program will be **Wednesday, December 16** at 6:30 PM. All students are participating in this celebration of the Birth of our Savior. This will be the highlight of our Advent season. It is an inspiring and fun-filled presentation.

#### Spirit Night at Papa John's

Seton Academy's next spirit night at Papa John's is **Monday, Dec. 21**. Please call between 5:00 and 9:00 and mention Seton Academy. 15% of your order will go to Seton Academy.

#### A Living Memorial

When words aren't enough to express sympathy to the family of a departed loved one, in lieu of flowers that soon fade and die, a gift to the "Adopt-A-Student" Program will keep his/her memory alive in the prayers and Masses of students. And, this gift enables a child in Seton Academy to learn that he too will one day return to his heavenly home with Jesus. Also, thank you for suggesting the program when preparing an obituary notice. *We loved them in life, we remember them in death.* Thank you.

Sister Helen, SSJ

### Christmas Movie



Children's Ministry would like to invite the children to a night for a Christmas Movie: The Muppet's Christmas Carol! Please join us on **Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>** in the Upper Room from 6:30 PM-8:00 PM. For any further questions, please contact Miss Therese Moen in the Office of Religious Education at 563-3278 or [stpetersdre@primelink1.net](mailto:stpetersdre@primelink1.net).

### Youth Group

The High School Youth Group will be winding down this semester with Christmas Caroling throughout the neighborhood! On **December 13** from 6:30-8:30, we will be spreading the joy of the holidays with song, followed by hot cocoa and treats! Please meet in the Upper Room for this special event!

### The Giving Tree

Thank you to the 300 people who have taken a gift request from our Giving Tree. Please make sure that the gift card is firmly attached to the package and return it to the Giving Tree area by **Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of December**.



### Prayer for Our Troops

O God of Mercy, we beg You now to protect in a special way those who are fighting for us and the country we love. Bless them and take care of them. If they are tired, give them strength. If they are wounded and suffering, give them comfort. If they are lonely, touch them with Your gentle hand and let them know that You are near them. Amen.



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Annual Keeseville-Peru Ecumenical Choir Concert

The Keeseville-Peru Ecumenical Choir will be performing two concerts. The first concert will be **Saturday, December 12**, at 7:30pm at St. John the Baptist Church in Keeseville. The second concert will be **Sunday, December 13**, 7:30 pm at St. Augustine's Church in Peru. The choir is directed by Jeanette Woodruff and accompanied by Carol Bachand. The choir will be performing a variety of sacred and secular Christmas music. Admission is free.

### Christmas Party

The Rockside Senior Citizen Club will be holding a Christmas Party on **Saturday December 19<sup>th</sup>** at 600pm at the Rainbow Wedding & Banquet Hall ( White Room) in Altona. The meal will be Prime Rib or Chicken Breast. The cost is \$20.00 per person, Music will be by the Back Roads Band. Tickets are on sale now, but limited. Please call Cathy Coty @ 236-7376 or Gladys Rabideau 236-7207.

### Annual Charity Ball

St. John's Second Annual Charity Ball is scheduled for Friday, **February 12, 2010**. This year, the proceeds will be shared equally - half will go toward **St. John's Special Needs Access Entrance** and half will go to support the **Healthy Beginnings** program. Tickets would make a lovely Christmas gift both to your loved one and to charity and will be available for a donation of \$50 per person For more information, call St. John's at 563-0730.

## IN OUR PARISH

### • Advent Penance Services

St. Peter's - **Thurs., Dec. 17** at 7 p.m.,

### • The Widows' Might

The Widows' Might ministry offers a support group to women of any denomination who have been widowed by the loss of a spouse, a companion or a beloved mate. The next meeting for the group will take place on **Wednesday, Dec. 23**. The meetings run from 7-8:00pm in the Emmaus Room.

### • Light Weigh

For information on this spiritual growth weight loss program, that has been a blessing to many, call Sue Holt at 561-2782 or check out [www.lightweigh.com](http://www.lightweigh.com). The next meeting is **Wednesday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>** at 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

### • New Beginnings

Are you divorced, going through a divorce or separated? New Beginnings meets **every Thursday** in the Upper Room at 7:00 p.m. under the direction of Deacon Frank Bushey.

### • Christian Meditation

Advent: ...A time to wait, a time to Listen. God Seeks the quiet of our heart to speak in the stillness of our soul. The practice of "Christian Meditation" offers that time, join us **each Thursday**, 6:00 to 7:30pm St. Peter's Chapel (for more information phone 561-3421).

### • Young Adult's Activities

Lord's Day Celebrations will take place in the Upper Room at 2:45 p.m. on **Saturdays**, followed by 4:00 p.m. Mass. Also, there will be a Chaplet to the Infant Jesus every Monday night in the Upper Room at 9:30pm.

## The Copenhagen Climate Change Conference – The World is Watching!

Delegates and leaders from around the world will be at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference starting December 7<sup>th</sup> through December 18<sup>th</sup> in hopes of negotiating a new climate treaty. The last time such an illustrious group came together for that purpose was in 1997 when the Kyoto Accord was written.

According to the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, Catholic church leaders, supporters, aid agencies and advocacy groups are joining forces to urge world leaders for climate justice at talks in Copenhagen. Caritas Internationalis and CIDSE represent 180 Catholic agencies campaigning for a new deal on climate change that puts the needs of the poor first. They're bringing representatives and bishops from 25 countries to Copenhagen to lobby governments to seize a once in a generation chance to leave a green legacy for future generations. These include Mexico, Zambia, South Africa, North America, the Pacific Islands, Mozambique, Kenya, and Europe.

Caritas Internationalis Secretary General Lesley-Anne Knight will be at the talks. She said, "World leaders must agree to legally binding commitments to cutting greenhouse gasses and to paying for the damage that climate change is having on poor communities. They must set a new vision with a shared responsibility to the Earth. We must all live more sustainable less excessive consumerist lifestyles."

Some interesting websites that are available to follow the progress of the Copenhagen Conference are:

- <http://en.cop15.dk> – official conference site, send a greeting to leaders of the world,
- <http://www.catholicsandclimatechange.org> – Catholic Coalition on Climate Change,
- <http://adoptanegotiator.org> – following the negotiators for specific countries,
- 350.org - climate action site,
- [Hopenhagen.org](http://Hopenhagen.org) - sign a climate petition.



### Third Sunday of Advent

Pretty practical advice from John the Baptist in this week's Gospel: if you have two cloaks, share one; if you have food, do the same; be honest, don't cheat; don't lie about others.

Practical advice is the kind of thing elders would dole out to children and grandchildren. Be polite; wait your turn; say "thank you"; wash your hands before meals; take a walk; have regular check-ups. You know the routine.

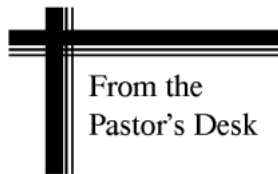
While the simple practical advice of our elders was meant to situate us in a wholesome life that was respectful of self and others, the practical advice of John the Baptist has a great end in mind. The actions he promotes are directed toward the coming kingdom of God. John's vision takes in the whole world and extends beyond his moment in time. He is foreseeing a day when God's justice will reign supreme. He is asking his listeners to begin now to make that justice happen.

The kind things we do at this time of year are to be more than simple acts of charity. Donating food, bringing gifts for the poor, contributing to agencies that help those in need are all good things. But if we see our actions for what they can be-giving from what has been given to us to the many who have less-we then begin to understand our place in the kingdom of God. If we have more than someone else, it is always incumbent on us to share. That is the practical advice that John lays out for his listeners as preparation for the coming of the Messiah. And just to make it clear, John adds that this Messiah is coming with his winnowing fan to separate wheat from chaff. God's justice will not be denied.

©2009 Liturgical Publications Inc

### Evangelization Rejoice in the Lord!

Like last Sunday, John the Baptist prepares our hearts with joyous expectation of the coming of the Messiah. He made it clear that his role was to prepare the way for "one mightier than he was coming." Jesus would be the one who would "baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire". What rejoicing this message is! As disciples of Jesus, we try to carry and live out the message that a life of faith and good deeds is what our baptism in the Spirit is about. How do we live that out? As St. Paul tells us in Philippians: "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." What ways this week can you share some of resources with others e.g. food, clothing, time, presence? Pray for those who will receive your gifts.



### From the Pastor's Desk

In 1926 three bells were installed in our bell tower. The largest weighs 1,300 pounds and is named 'Pierre-Marie'. The middle bell weighs 600 pounds and is named 'Jeanne-D'Arc' and the smallest bell weighs 375 pounds and is named 'Bernadette'. For over nine decades they have been calling people to Mass and announcing joyful and sorrowful events.

In late summer a problem developed with one of the pull ropes. The Verdin Company based in Cincinnati, Ohio sent their regional representative to investigate. He explained how the swinging of over a ton of brass (combined weight of 3 bells) in the belfry is taking its toll on the structure. He suggested that the 'hammers' within the bells be electrified. This would allow the bells to be rung without the swinging of the bells - only the 'hammer' or striker would move. The sound would be the same and it would be programmed so that "The Angelus" or the "DeProfundis" could be played as well as simple tolling.

The Finance Council reviewed the \$15,290.00 proposal. The bells are a beautiful part of the church that we do not want to lose. The upgrading or electrifying of these bells is a tribute to our ancestors who sacrificed for their original purchase. The proposal was also sent to the Diocese for review and was approved. A contract with Verdin has been signed. Donations will be sought and ordinary income will be used to pay for this major improvement. Most likely by Christmas the vibrant sounds of our bells will be proclaiming Christ's birth!

*Fr. John*

### Little Rock Scripture Series Continues with the Mysteries of the Rosary.

Focus on the biblical stories that provide background for the mysteries of the rosary. The stories of Jesus are the best way to focus our prayer, and the rosary has provided a traditional format for doing this over the centuries. After an overview session, there are four remaining sessions, each devoted to a set of mysteries—Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious. Sessions will begin on **Tuesday, January 12** in the Chapel and continue until February 9<sup>th</sup>. A suggested donation of \$10 is requested and you may sign up by calling the parish office at 563-1692 or filling out a registration form in the Atrium.

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Monday, December 14 *Saint John of the Cross***

6:45am Belanger Family by M&M Norton  
 12:05pm Dorothy Sidden by Patricia Coleman

**Tuesday, December 15**

6:45am Wilfred Germain by his wife Gert  
 12:05pm Edward Richardson by M&M David Pombrio

**Wednesday, December 16**

6:45am Isadore Defayette by Richard & Sheila A gu glia  
 12:05pm Lena Tremblay by Bob & Validia Seymour

**Thursday, December 17**

6:45am James LaBombard by Anne & Paul LaPierre  
 12:05pm Loretta Drollette by Oliver Family

**Friday, December 18**

6:45am Pamela Frederick by M&M Edward Darrah  
 12:05pm Drew Hamel by Linda and Jim Bracy

**Saturday, December 19**

8:15am George & Gladys Langlois by the Family  
 4:00pm Mose & Nora Facteau by their daughter Marilyn

**Sunday, December 20 *Fourth Sunday of Advent***

8:00am For the People of the Parish  
 9:30am Jake DeCelle by his wife and family  
 11:00am Roland Racine by Pat Racine

A \$10 offering is customary for each Mass.  
 Please contact the Parish office for available times.



**Readings for the Week of December 13**

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/  
 Lk 3:10-18  
 Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/  
 Mt 21:23-27  
 Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32  
 Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/  
 Lk 7:18b-23  
 Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17  
 Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25  
 Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25  
 Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/  
 Lk 1:39-45

©Liturgical Publications Inc

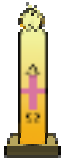
**Vigil Candles for this Week**

In Memory of **Deceased Members of Irene Nephew Family**  
 by Irene & Betty

In Memory of **Francis & Beatrice Gilmet**  
 by family

In Memory of **Angelo & Mary Ferrari**  
 by Don & Mary Garrant

You may contact the Parish Office  
 to secure a time for a seven day vigil candle  
 -- \$10 is the offering.



Please remember in your prayers  
 all of our parish family and friends who suffer  
 physically, emotionally or spiritually.

**God's Plan for Giving ... Tithing**

December 7 2008.....\$15,647.35  
 December 6, 2009 .....\$14,858.83  
 Including Electronic Transfers  
 Building Fund.....\$4,786.00

**Thank you for your generosity and  
 commitment to stewardship.**

**Lake Champlain 2010 Bus For Life  
 March for Life in Washington D.C.**

Anyone interested in joining the Diocese of Ogdensburg trip for the  
 Right to Life March in Washington DC this upcoming January is  
 encouraged to register ASAP! This bus will be taking high school  
students, leaving Plattsburgh the night of January 21, returning on the  
 24th. Contact Alison in the office for more information or pick up a  
 flyer in the Atrium.

If you would like to be in contact for the Champlain Valley bus for  
adults, please contact Karen Smith at 566-6229.

**Vocations**

“What ought we to do?” the crowds ask  
 John, and he sends them to fulfill their calling.  
 Doing the ordinary extraordinarily well is a  
 step toward welcoming Jesus. If you are  
 considering a vocation to religious life or  
 priesthood, talk to your pastor or visit  
 www.myvocation.net to contact Fr. Doug  
 Lucia or Fr. Bryan Stitt.

**Family Promise Benefit**

There will be a benefit concert performed by the Gibson Brothers  
 for the Family Promise Network on **Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> of January**  
**2010** at the Chazy Central Rural School. The concert will begin at 7:00  
 pm. Tickets are available from Family Promise, 36 Brinkerhoff S,  
 Dick's Country Store, Churubusco, Guma's Restaurant, West Chazy,  
 Adirondack Trading Company, Plattsburgh, and Homestead Restaurant,  
 Chazy.

**IRA Charitable Rollover Extended!**

This is a gift opportunity for individuals  
 age 70 ½ or older. You can give our parish up  
 to \$100,000 from your IRA assets while avoid-  
 ing the normal tax on IRA withdrawals. For  
 additional information call Janice Shoen at  
 (315)393-2920 or email  
 jshoen@diogodensburg.org.