

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT  
FEBRUARY 25, 2024**

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF  
ST. STEPHEN - ST. PATRICK**

**Rev. James Serowik, Pastor**

Second Sunday of Lent

February 25, 2024

P.O. Box 711  
Whitney Point, New York 13862  
(607) 692-3911 Fax: (607) 692-7171  
Parish Halls: WP(607)692-3357  
M(607)849-3630

Whitney Point: Monday-Thursday, 9AM-Noon

Email: [ststephenstpat@syrdio.org](mailto:ststephenstpat@syrdio.org)  
Website: [www.ccssp.com](http://www.ccssp.com)

Before or After Monday's 6:00PM Mass and  
Tuesday's 9AM Mass with Fr. Thomas.

Please contact the rectory to make arrangements.

**Pastor's Column**

This weekend's journey through the Lenten Season leads us up Mt. Tabor to the Transfiguration. We join Jesus, Peter, James and John as they went up this holy mountain. It is here that Jesus is revealed to us in all of his glory and majesty. It is here that everything makes sense to the disciples and to us. It is on this holy mountain that we are given a glimpse of what heaven will be like. In the words of Peter: "Truly it is good for us to be here." Jesus goes on to tell us that Mt. Tabor is not reality and that true glory and true happiness comes only by embracing our daily crosses. It was only after His suffering and death that Jesus was able to offer us the gift of salvation. As we have our Mt. Tabor experience every week at Mass, may we be grateful to God for this great gift and resolve to continue our Lenten journey toward Calvary to the Resurrection!

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!!

Fr. Jim



**Creation Care Tips:**

This Sunday's readings speak of sacrifice—Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac for God and God's sacrificing of his son Jesus for our sake. In this time of Lent, consider making a sacrifice that is ultimately helpful to others and the rest of creation. Giving up sugary treats may help you lose weight, but does it help anyone else? Whatever you sacrifice, see if you can turn it into a blessing for someone else; for example, if you give up eating out at a restaurant, give away the money you saved to someone who needs it more than you do.

**Are you new to the Parish? Welcome to our church!** We are glad you are here!!!  
Feel free to ask questions, introduce yourself, pick up a Welcome Bag at the church entrance and read through our Volunteer Ministry Booklet. We have a lot going on for different age groups. We are looking forward to getting to know you better and have you participate in worship and events.

**Please Take Note:** For our weekday services, if the school is closed for bad weather there will be no morning weekday Mass at Whitney Point. For Sundays or other events, please always check our answering machine and face book page and if you're on our parish's phoenixes, if you are not on our phoenixes and want to be please contact Peg Orzel at [porzel10@yahoo.com](mailto:porzel10@yahoo.com) or 607-372-7036, you'll be contacted for any cancellations or updates.



## Weekly Stewardship Report: Last Sunday, February 18, 2023

**Regular Collection:** Envs: \$1,350. Loose: \$1,460.77 Electronic: \$120. .... **Total Regular Collection: \$2,930.77**

**Diocesan Collections:** ChEastEurope-\$20. Black&Ind-\$103. **Other Income:** Flowers-\$45. MemSanct-\$40.

*The following bills were paid this week because of your contributions:* CathSun: \$88. Office: \$115. Utilities: \$112.

ChMaint: \$48. Salaries: \$1,500. .... **Total Paid: \$1,863.**

### 2023 Hope Appeal-You Strengthen the Fabric of Our

**Faith!** You may also make a secure gift online at

[www.syrdio.org](http://www.syrdio.org). Thank you to all those who have already donated! The balance is getting smaller but we still need others to donate and any amount will add up.

Please prayerfully consider to make a pledge.

2023 Assessment: \$ 18,174.00

Pledges To Date: \$ 17,500.00

**Balance Remaining: \$ 674.00**



THE CATHOLIC FAITH.  
ON DEMAND.

**We have a parish subscription to Formed.org. Enter our parish name and search for the titles.**

**The Three Temptations with Dr. Brant Pitre** - Reflect with Dr. Brant Pitre on the

temptations of Jesus in the desert as he gets to the heart of the meaning of Lent.

**The Hour of Our Death | Eternal Rest | Episode 3** - The Anointing of the Sick is one of the seven sacraments of the Church.

This session, we discover the role of this sacramental anointing in the spiritual struggle during serious illness, the final stages of our temporal life, and the hour of our death.

**Talking Back: Scripture's to Answer Common Fears | Fearless | Episode 3** - How can the Word of God help us face fear and

win back victory from the Enemy's control? Chris continues his conversation with Fr. Dave Pivonka about how people of faith address fear.

Scripture provides concrete ways to wield the power of God's Word against the fear of need, abandonment, vulnerability, condemnation, and more. Unlock the means for the Lord to free you from all fear.



**Banns of Ordination:** John Mihalko is a candidate for the

Sacrament of Holy Orders for the Permanent Diaconate.

Bishop Lucia formally asks the Catholic Community of

St. Stephen-St. Patrick/Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish

community to affirm his ordination on Saturday, May 11, 2024, and to accept

his ministry. He also asks that if anyone knows any reason why John should

not receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders to make such fact know to our

pastor Fr. Jim Serowik. **Criteria For Call To Orders - Final: Negative**

**Characteristics To Be Avoided In A Candidate For The Permanent**

**Diaconate:** Humanly, a person who lacks maturity, tends to be imprudent,

and is controlled by a poor self-concept and a rigidity that prevents growth

would not be a suitable candidate for the office of the Permanent Diaconate.

It will be inappropriate to ordain as an official minister of the Church a person

who tends to abuse Church authority, misrepresents the Church, and

approaches clericalism as a status symbol. Finally, a person who lacks a

commitment to genuine spirituality and is insensitive to the real needs of

others would not be a likely candidate to be a living sign of Christ the servant.

**VIRTUS at our Church: Initial Safe Environment Training:**

Saturday, March 16, 2024: 9:30 AM at St. Patrick's, Whitney Pt.

**Pre-registration is required by day before, March 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Please visit [www.syracusediocese.org/safe-environment](http://www.syracusediocese.org/safe-environment)

to register for a training session. Contact the Office of

Safe Environment with questions at 315.470.1421 or

email [safeenvironment@syrdio.org](mailto:safeenvironment@syrdio.org). → This is required for all employees

and volunteers that are around any children.



**Our Lady of Good Counsel, W. Main St.,**  
Endicott, is sponsoring a **Southern Tier Young**  
**Adult Group** for those in the range of 18-39ish to  
come out and have food, fellowship and fun  
together. We have a very modern gym at OLGC  
and we are starting off with a non-competitive  
volleyball night with refreshments and prayer.  
If you have participated in an OLGC event in the  
past and you may know young adults as peers,  
friends, children or grandchildren and your voice  
giving them an invitation or suggestive push to  
attend may be what they need to meet  
other Catholic young adults.

We want to offer an alternative to the normal  
happy hour and bar scene as a thing to do each  
Friday night, so our intent is to start up with  
volleyball and be open to whatever gatherings they  
may see fit. Please pray for this to be successful  
and to be a blessing for our young adults.

We all remember those days and know the  
challenges they face. We hope this is a positive  
influence to help them meet other Catholic  
Christians and to know Christ. Please contact  
Deacon Paul Heiland at (607) 748-7417 if you have  
any questions or comments.



**Please Pray For Our Following Friends and Family in the Military:** Pvt Ryan E. Eaton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Trevor Jones,

Sgt Avery Hull, Major Corrine Miller, PV2 Samuel Lilley, PV2 James McGill, Brett Hayes, A2C Derek Lescord,

LtCol Major Joy Thomas, LCpl John Larkin, Jr., USMC, Devon McGill, SSgt Michael Hetzler, Major Caleb Miller, Sgt Heather Fox,

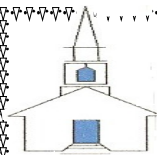
LtCol John Thomas, Daniel Morehouse USMC, LCDR Paul McDonald, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Emily Steele USAF, LCDR Maria Lescord, SSgt Dan Votra USMC,

SSG Steven Gross, SSgt Justin Blaisdell, LCDR Marvin Joel Scott III, A1C Brendan Schneider, OS3 Jonathan Schneider,

Sgt Zachary Reardon USMC and LCpl Isaac James Silvanic USMC **If you have a friend or family member serving our country and would like**

**their name mentioned weekly in our bulletin, to be kept in our prayers, OR for any changes, please contact our parish office.**

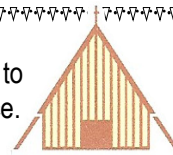




## Mission Statement for The Catholic Community of St. Stephen - St. Patrick

We are a Roman Catholic Community of faith, welcoming the strength found in diversity. We are committed to using our time, talent, and treasure in proclaiming the Kingdom of God through prayer, fellowship, and service.

We experience our unity at the Eucharistic Table of the Lord, and our direction from the Word of God.



If you know of parishioners that have not been able to come to Mass because they are ill, hospitalized or homebound, please let the Parish Office know so our Hospitality Groups can provide contact with them through visits and cards, or any spiritual needs such as communion, and perhaps they would like to receive a copy of our bulletin.



If you know someone that is ill, facing surgery, or some other kind of difficulty, and needs our prayers, please call Dottie Angel at 656-9230 or Pat Canfield at [pattycafe@yahoo.com](mailto:pattycafe@yahoo.com). They will lead the Prayer Chain we have at The CC of St. Stephen-St. Patrick Church. Supporting each other with the Power of Prayer is the best medicine. If you are not on our Prayer Chain and would like to be, please call our Parish Office, 692-3911.

Our bulletin & OLPH's can be viewed online at [www.ccssp.com](http://www.ccssp.com)  Our face book page: [www.facebook.com/ccssp](http://www.facebook.com/ccssp)

### Parish Council

**Chairperson** - Shelley Warnow, [dongirl1956@aol.com](mailto:dongirl1956@aol.com)

**ViceChair** - Dan Burke, [dburke1114@gmail.com](mailto:dburke1114@gmail.com)

**Secretary** - Sue Stevens

**Trustees** - Kathy Cusick, Ron Orzel

### PARISH STAFF

**Director of Faith Formation** - Sherry Dee, 759-1876

**Ministry Coordinator** - Peg Orzel, [porzel10@yahoo.com](mailto:porzel10@yahoo.com)

**Church Organist/Music Director** - Jennifer Austin

**Maintenance** - (Please call parish office w/maintenance concerns)

**Parish Business/Office Manager** - Mary Wied **Bulletin Deadline:** Tuesday, Noon - Phone, Mail or Email, [ststephenstpat@syrdio.org](mailto:ststephenstpat@syrdio.org)

### Daily Mass Schedule & Intentions

Sunday, Feb. 25 8:30 AM Whitney Point...for Michael Carroll & Elsie Carroll Zelsnack

by Elsie Poyer

for Bill Cummings by Pat & Terri Fedele

10:15 AM Marathon...for Dick Barry by Bob & Sharon Barry

12:00 PM OLPH...for Darlene Schmick by Ellie Auberger

Monday, Feb. 26 6:00 PM Whitney Point...for The People Of Our Parish

Tuesday, Feb. 27 9:00 AM Whitney Point...for The People Of Our Parish

Sunday, Mar. 03 8:30 AM Whitney Point...for The People Of Our Parish

10:15 AM Marathon...for Anne McEvoy by CCSS-SP's Hospitality Comm.

for Michael Joseph, Jr. by Marie Joseph

for Marge Carroll by John Carroll

12:00 PM OLPH...for Bernie Massar by Sharon Massar



### Readings for Feb. 25 through Mar. 3, 2024:

Today: Gn 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18;

Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38

Tues: Is:1:10,16-20; Mt 23:1-12

Wed: Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28

Thurs: Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31

Fri: Gn 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a; Mt 21:33-43,45-46

Sat: Mi 7:14-15,18-20; Lk 15:1-3,11-32

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25



**Mass Intention Offerings** -The offering for all Mass intentions (both living and deceased) is \$15 per Mass. If paying by check, please make payable to: CC of St. Stephen-St. Patrick Church. Call or stop in the parish office.



### Whitney Point

**Greeters:** Anne Ballard, Cathy Shoemaker

**Next Sunday:** Earl Markham, Cris Broderick

**Lector:** Gene Jordan

**Next Sunday:** Tom Nichols

**Eucharistic Ministers:** J. Mihalko, Cathy Shoemaker, Emily Jordan

**Next Sunday:** John Mihalko, Kathy Bensley, Ingrid Wennerod

**Tabulators:** Ron & Jan Orzel

**Next Sunday:** Dick & Kathy Bensley

### Marathon

Claire Hinman, Don Atwood

Bob Barry, Kathleen Allen

Rose Ann Holland

Kathy Cusick

Carol Niggli, Karen Standish

Tony Zelsnack, Wayne Niggli

Karen Standish, Wayne Niggli

Don & Terrie Atwood

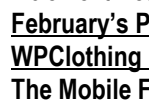
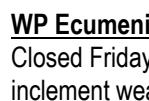
**Feb. Ushers:** John & Kim McCrory

**March:** Bob Barry, Syd McEvoy

→ If anyone notices any kind of church maintenance need from needing a bulb or battery for something, if something has fallen or is broken, to any major need, please call our parish office, so it can be taken care of asap.

**Please call the parish office if you would like to be added to our next ministry schedule beginning May 2024.**

Consider coming to **Coffee Hour** after mass in Marathon to visit/meet fellow parishioners and visitors. Coffee, milk, juice, and baked goodies are there for your enjoyment. Free will offering.



**WP Ecumenical Food Pantry:** M-Th & Sat, 10AM-Noon, Closed Fridays, Holidays, & when school is closed for inclement weather. **FoodPantry Chairperson:** John Mihalko  
**February's Pantry Need:** Canned fruit & Cereal  
**WPClothing Bank:** M,T & Sat, 10AM-Noon  
**The Mobile Food Truck** is at Fairgrounds the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Registration is required (begins the day before the truck) and is on-line or by calling the Southern Tier Mobile Food Truck Food Bank of the Southern Tier - NY (foodbankst.org) 607.796.6061



**Interested?** Are you, or someone you know interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith? If so, contact our parish office, 692-3911, for Kathy Cusick.

A guide was created to **Meals on Wheels** for seniors, covering what the program is, how to sign up, and what types of meals are offered. Please feel free to take a look: <https://www.retireguide.com/retirement-life-leisure/senior-housing/aging-in-place/meals-on-wheels/>

For those homebound, you can access our 8:30AM Sunday Mass: <https://www.youtube.com/c/CatholicCommunityofStStephenStPatrick>

**This Week In Our Parish** (Masses in "Daily Mass Schedule & Intentions")

**Today, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>** First Communion Rite of Enrollment-Presentation of the Word-WP Mass  
9:20-11:00AM - Faith Formation Classes - Whitney Point Church Hall

**Tuesday, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>** 10:00AM - Lenten Bible Study - Whitney Point Church

**Friday, Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>** 3:00PM - Stations of the Cross - OLP Church, Cincinnati  
6:00PM - Stations of the Cross - Whitney Point Church (1<sup>st</sup> 3 Fridays)

**Sunday, Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup>** 9:20-11:00AM - Faith Formation Classes - Whitney Point Church Hall

**Whole Community Catechesis**  
**Readings and Questions for Discussion**

**Reading 1-Genesis 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18**

Abraham obeyed God and prepared to offer his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice.

**Reading 2 - Romans 8:31b-34**

God's faithfulness is shown in his offering of his own Son for our salvation.

**Gospel - Mark 9:2-10**

Jesus is transfigured in the presence of Peter, James, and John.

**Adults:** How deeply do I believe that God is for me, and no one can destroy me?

**Children:** When you have important choices to make, do you and your family pray to make the right choice?

**A Family Perspective**

The apostles thought they knew Jesus, but when he changed in front of them at the Transfiguration, they were "afraid." In families, we cannot freeze relationships because change and growth are inevitable. Children grow up, parents grow old and spouses change. Transfigurations are all around us and within us. Relationships can only grow when we embrace the new and let go of the old.

**The Sanctuary Candle Burning**  
**for the Month of February**

in our Whitney Point Church  
is *In Memory Of:*

**Helmut Melzer &  
Daina Freimanis**

by Vella Melzer

**All are invited to our**

**EUCCHARISTIC MEAL (MASS)**

at 9:00 AM, followed by

**LENTEN BIBLE STUDY** with

Rev. Thomas Macauley, O.P.

Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>,

10:00 to 11:00 AM at the Whitney Point

Church Hall. ***The Epistle of St. James***

Please bring your Bibles and writing materials.



**Lent Prayer Services:** *Standing by the Cross of Jesus-Reflections by Women Religious and Lay Leaders at St. Anthony's & St. Mary's Parishes, Cortland.* Join us each Wednesday evening during Lent for a time of Eucharistic Adoration, Evening Prayer, and reflection!

The evening will begin with Exposition and then move into "Evening Prayer" from Liturgy of the Hours, with reflection on the theme of the series: "Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala" (John 19:25). Following the communal prayer, there will be time for Adoration and Confession, concluding with Benediction. **Wednesday, February 28th**

**7 PM at St Mary's,**

**Reflection by Liesl Moheimani,**

**St. Bernard's graduate student**

**Links for More Ideas, Activities & Resources**

Our Sunday Visitor - Lent around the world  
(Family Faith Builder)

[Catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com](http://Catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com) -

40 Ideas for 40 Days

[Media.ascensionpress.com](http://Media.ascensionpress.com) -

40 ways to get more out of Lent

Hallow.com - 40 day Community prayer challenge  
(With the Hallow App)

**Lenten Books** – Pick up books at the church entrances for your Lenten spiritual reading.

**OVERCOMING HUNGER**

In Akwangagwel, Uganda, the climate is very hot and dry. Farmers in this region depend heavily on the rainy season for a successful harvest. But lately, due to the changing climate, the rain has been coming later than it used to and is more inconsistent. Sometimes, when it does rain, it causes flooding and ruins the crops. Learn how Adolf and Florence have taken the matter into their own hands, implementing new farming techniques they learned from a Catholic Relief Services program to improve their farm and fight against hunger in their community.

Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to read this week's Story of Hope.



**Vocation View:** "This is My

beloved Son, listen to Him!" Could the Lord be calling you to proclaim His name as a priest or in consecrated life? Listen to Him and reach out to the Vocation Office email: [vocations@syrdio.org](mailto:vocations@syrdio.org) and follow us on Instagram @vocations Syracuse or call Fr. Jason Hage at (315)470-1468.

**A Message from**  
**Bishop Douglas Lucia:**

I would like to invite you to the **IGNITE 2024 Catholic**



**Men's Conference on Saturday, March 23, 2024.** We have an excellent lineup of speakers: Chris Stefanick, Jim Towey, and Deacon Ralph Poyo. Each one has years of international speaking experience and will surely fire up our passion for the Lord. As a cost saving measure, we are moving the conference to Bishop Ludden High School, in Syracuse. You can be sure that you will enjoy all the usual aspects of the conference: Mass, Confession, Adoration, vendors, and excellent food. Register today, and I look forward to seeing you on March 23rd! Please go to the event website for the bio's of the speakers, schedule for the day and to register. Register online at [www.ignitecatholicmen.org](http://www.ignitecatholicmen.org).

In the Name of Jesus,  
**Most Rev. Douglas J. Lucia,**  
**Bishop of Syracuse**



**WEEKLY JUSTICE CHALLENGE:** Sometimes we think about making big plans for Lenten sacrificing, only to fall behind with work, family, and other responsibilities. We find ourselves in the Second Week of Lent with no commitment to better prayer lives, doing good deeds, or practicing acts of self-denial. But it is never too late. Catholic Relief Services offers a great resource to parishes and families for praying, fasting and charitable giving—all in one simple project. What is so great about this project, known as Operation Rice Bowl (ORB), is that it makes all the right connections. When you put the money you would have spent on a CD or that mocha latte you crave into your Rice Bowl box, you participate in Jesus' sacrifice. CRS provides prayers to accompany your giving. And it uses the money you would have spent on yourself to help people in need across the world. Participating in ORB is an act of solidarity—standing with your brothers and sisters as one human family. Your challenge this week is to adopt Operation Rice Bowl. Boxes are available at our church entrances. Give up the extra energy drink, candy bar, movie, or trip to the mall. Put the money in your Rice Bowl, knowing it will be sent to CRS. You will be walking with Jesus while making a difference in the lives of others.