

St. Mary's Church
86 Church Hill Road
Waterford, NY

We want to connect
with you!

Check out our website
smaryscrescent.org

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Parish Office:
518-371-9632
smcsec@nycap.rr.com

Faith Formation Office:
518-371-9521
smcsecff@nycap.rr.com

**"Alone we can
do so little;
Together we can
do so much!"**

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St. Mary's
CRESCENT
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Volume 4, Issue 2

February 2018

150 Years of Mission and Ministry

The history of our church begins in 1868 and has been compiled from various documents on file at the church and in the historical archives from the Town of Halfmoon and Clifton Park. Our parish has traveled back and forth across Church Hill Road throughout the years, our current church is the third structure that has housed the congregation of St. Mary's, Crescent (known earlier as The Expectation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish).

"In the year of our Lord, 1868, a half dozen or so of Catholic families living in the Crescent area worked to start St. Mary's Parish." This quote was taken from an early history of our church, author unknown. Our parish was established in April 1868 by the Most Reverend John Conroy, the 2nd Bishop of Albany and was known as The Expectation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish. It was an out-mission to St. Patrick's Church in Cohoes, NY from 1886 to 1927.

There is much research, but no true explanation as to how the parish was originally named The Expectation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Feast of the Expectation of Mary had its roots in Spain where it originated in the late 600s. The Feast Day is celebrated on December 18.

A small church was built on the site of our current church where six families attended Mass. In 1885, Rev. Brady, the pastor, wrote a document describing this first church as a two-story wooden frame with the church attached. It consisted of a main altar, a picture of the Sacred Heart, a cabinet organ, the Stations of the Cross, a stove, and one and a half dozen cane bottom chairs. He and his sister lived upstairs above the church. They were able to access their residence by climbing the stairs to the choir loft. There was a barn behind the house/church which had horses, a buggy, a sleigh and blankets.

People traveled to church in wagons and sleighs to which bells were attached to warn pedestrians of their approach. Some of the roads were covered with wooden planks to make travel easier, especially on muddy springtime roads.

The early church congregation covered a wide area: Crescent, Halfmoon, Rexford and Clifton Park, as they are known today. In 1886, the seat of the parish was transferred to the newly established St. Patrick's Church in Cohoes, NY thus making the church an out-mission from 1886 to 1927.

During that time, in 1915, Rev. Leo O'Haire founded St. Leo's Church, a separate parish with its mission at Dunsbach Ferry. Mass was celebrated at St. Leo's once a month and at The Expectation of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the other three Sundays. Marriages and confirmations were held at St. Bernard's Church in Cohoes.

The first baptismal register dated October 1, 1927 shows that the name of the parish changed from The Expectation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St. Mary's Church at that time. A resident pastor was appointed even though there were only 25 families.

The second church, with the rectory and church joined by a breezeway, was started across the road in 1922, completed in 1928, and dedicated on November 4, 1928. The first church building was used as a meeting hall until it was demolished in 1963 to make way for the building of the third church, which is the present church building. By 1936, there were more than 50 families attending the church.

Parish history continued on next page...



Stained Glass Window of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The main theme depicts Mary enjoying her peaceful rural surroundings, along with symbols associated with the blessed Mother.

The red and yellow behind the lily which she is holding represent a sunset over her Village; with its purple shadows, the lily is a symbol of virginity and of purity.

The dove represents the Annunciation with two additional birds to give a feeling of life and movement.

The fleur-de-lys at the base of the window signifies another symbol of the Virgin Mary, and is also a symbol of the Holy Trinity.

The crescent moon shown in yellow refers to the Virgin Mother, whose glory is borrowed from the son of righteousness, Jesus Christ, as the light of the moon is reflected from the sun.

The lily flowers at the bottom right and left are growing in pots and flowering most profusely and also represent the Virgin Mary.

Our Parish History, continued...

The second church (demolished in the late 1990's) became known as the Rev. Leo P. Brady Memorial Hall. Scout functions, plays, dinners and several church affiliated group meetings were held there. The Altar Rosary Society, Holy Name Society, CYO, and Girl & Boy Scout Troops were formed in the years from 1960 to 1967.

In 1963 and 1964, new housing developments along the Northway brought more people to the area, thereby changing it from a rural area to a suburban community. Plans for a larger church to accommodate the growing parish were moving fast.

The third church, which is our present building, was built on the site of the first church and was much larger than the second one, seating about 400 people. Ground-breaking took place April 5, 1964 and the dedication of the third church took place on December 20, 1964.

The number of families had grown to 570. In 1967, it was necessary to divide the parish by forming a new parish at Elnora, now known as St. Edward the Confessor, because of the increase in housing developments in this and other parts of Saratoga County.

St. Mary's Parish Center was completed in 1974 and included a gymnasium, kitchen, classrooms and office space. Although some Sunday School (Faith Formation) classes had been held in the Leo P. Brady Memorial Hall, now all Faith Formation classes were able to be held at St. Mary's. Prior to this, children were bused to the Parochial School at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Waterford.

During the 1980's, the layout of the church was changed to a more open floor plan. A courtyard was added with the church entrance in the rear of the church, a chapel was installed and stained glass windows depicting the seven sacraments were put inside the interior church. The stained glass window of the Blessed Virgin Mary was added over the location where the original entrance of the church and choir loft once existed.

From 1994 to 1998, renovations were made to the interior church. An elongation of the altar space, addition of a new octagonal-shaped altar table made of oak, and installation of stained glass windows depicting the Corporal Works of Mercy. The stained glass Palladian window which illuminates the baptismal font in the gathering space of the present Church was reinstalled. It had been behind the altar of the second Church and overlooked the Mohawk River. It stands as a symbol of endurance and resilience of the parish and parishioners of St. Mary's,

From 1998 to present, many improvements have been made. When the second church building was demolished in the late 1990's, a new garage was added next to the renovated rectory across the street from the third church. The rectory is the original building with updated interior and exterior changes. The former gym and kitchen in the parish center, now called the Parish Hall, have also had new lighting fixtures, painting and equipment to show movies/presentations with a sound system and a stage area added. Many meetings and social gatherings are held in this former Christian Youth Organization area.

In 2001, a major renovation took place to accommodate a growing population. The number of families in the parish was now over 1,000. A connector between the church and the parish center, an additional seating area, the gathering space which houses the baptismal font and an air-conditioned chapel with the Holy Tabernacle where Daily Mass is offered were all added. A statue of the Expectation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a tribute to our founding, stands in the foyer. It was sculpted by artist, Joseph Faul of Albany, NY. The piece weighs 2,000 pounds and is made of Indiana limestone. It was dedicated August 24, 2004.

In 2004, the people of the parish came together to renovate the duplex next door to the church, referred to as the House on the Hill. This home was renovated to house retired priests from our diocese. The project took two years to complete.

For 150 years, in spite of all of the interior and exterior changes, the warm and generous spirit of St. Mary's lives on in its parishioners and the ministries in which they serve. From the six founding families that worked together to build a church so that they could worship together, to the 1,300 families in the parish that are active in the many ministries of our parish today, St. Mary's continues to be an active, vibrant and welcoming Catholic community.

Many thanks to Anne Tremblay and John Scherer for their work in gathering this information over the years!

Anniversary Mass April 22, 2018 at the 10:30 am Mass



Join us as we celebrate, with Bishop Scharfenberger, our 150th Anniversary Mass! The Anniversary Mass will be on Sunday, April 22, 2018 at the 10:30 am Mass with a social in the Parish Hall to follow. All are welcome! Please come and celebrate with us the 150 years that St. Mary's has served the community as we look forward to the next 150 years of continued service and worship!

Lenten/Easter Update and Information

February 10/11, 2018: Book Giveaway Weekend! Don't miss coming to this weekend's masses to receive your FREE copy of the popular Matthew Kelly book, Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic! Available at the kiosk in the Gathering Area after all of the masses.

February 14, 2018: Ash Wednesday

- ◇ 9:00 am Mass with distribution of ashes
- ◇ 12:05 pm Service with distribution of ashes
- ◇ 6:30 pm Service with distribution of ashes



March 10/11, 2018: Lenten Food Drive! Please bring non-perishable food items, toiletries and/or gift cards to local food stores during this weekend for our Lenten Food Drive. Food and items can be placed in the boxes just inside the main doors of the church by the statue of The Expectation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

March 17, 2018: Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic Event! Join parishioners from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm as we break open the book Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic. Additional information will be available soon!

March 25, 2018: Palm Sunday - Palm will be distributed at all of our weekend Masses. Saturday, March 24 at 4:30 pm and Sunday, March 25 at 8:00 am and 10:30 am. (FREE Palm Sunday Breakfast between and after Masses on Sunday - Tickets needed in advance, keep an eye on the bulletin for details.)

March 29, 2018: Holy Thursday Mass at 7:00 pm at Corpus Christi Church in Round Lake, NY. As we have for many years, we will be celebrating Holy Thursday and Good Friday together with Fr. Rick Lesser and the parishioners of Corpus Christi Church.

March 30, 2018: Stations of the Cross at 3:00 pm at St. Mary's, Crescent
The Good Friday Service at 7:00 pm at St. Mary's, Crescent

March 31, 2018: The Easter Vigil Mass at 7:30 pm

April 1, 2018: Easter Sunday - Masses at 8:00 am and 10:30 am (10:30 am Mass will be Live Streamed into the Parish Hall to ensure seating for everyone!)

Live Streaming

In an effort to reach our homebound and those who are unable to physically be with us for the celebration of the Mass, St. Mary's, Crescent has begun Live Streaming our 10:30 am Sunday morning Mass. To watch the St. Mary's, Crescent 10:30 am Sunday Mass live in real time from wherever you are, follow these steps:

Go to our website: www.stmaryscrescent.org from your computer, tablet or smartphone. Scroll to the center of the page & you will see a box that says, "St. Mary's on YouTube."

If it is Sunday morning, between 10:30 am and 11:30 am and you want to watch Mass live in real time, click on the **Watch Mass Live** "button." If at any other time you want to watch an archived Mass, click on the **Watch Archived Masses** "button."

We went "live" as of December 3, 2017 and you can view each Sunday's Mass from that point through the present. Need help? Call Stephanie in the office at (518) 371-9632 x10 or email her at smcsec@nycap.rr.com.



Are you tech savvy? Would you be interested in serving during the 10:30 am Mass as a part of our Tech Ministry? We are looking for responsible people to serve as Tech Ministers and help out with the new Live Streaming capabilities that we have! Interested? Please contact Stephanie at 518 -371-9632 or via email at smcsec@nycap.rr.com



CLASSES STARTING FEBRUARY 28, 2018

Have you heard of Financial Peace University? This is not your typical money class - FPU is practical, entertaining and fun! Allow Dave Ramsey to entertain you to Financial Peace. The average family completing the course pays off \$5,000 in debt and saves \$2,000 in just 90 days. That's a \$7,000 change in position! Whether you are struggling to make ends meet, or you're a millionaire, FPU is for you!

To register or for more info, reach out to Stephanie at 518-371-9632 or via email at smcsec@nycap.rr.com.

This 9 week course begins on Wednesday, 2/28/18 at 6:30 pm. Classes are here at St. Mary's, Crescent in the Hall. Walk-ins welcome, but registering ahead ensures materials the first night!



Visit our Parish Kiosk!

St. Mary's Church, Crescent
In the Gathering Area of Church
pick up your FREE COPY of the book
Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic
by Matthew Kelly

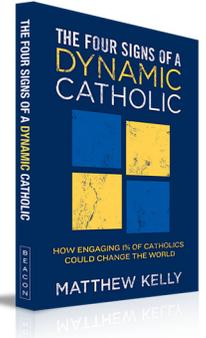
at the Weekend Masses of:

Saturday & Sunday

February 10 & 11, 2018

Saturday at 4:30 pm

Sunday at 8:00 am & 10:30 am



"Whether you are ready to let God take your spiritual life to the next level or want to help reinvigorate your parish, *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic* promises to take you on a journey that will help you live out the genius of Catholicism in your everyday life. The central idea in this book should change the way we live our faith and the way we teach our faith. This book is a game changer." -- www.dynamiccatholic.com



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86 Church Hill Road
Waterford, NY 12188

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WATERFORD, NY

Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil Mass

4:30 pm

Sunday Masses

8:00 am & 10:30 am

Contact Us

Phone : 518-371-9632

Email: smcsec@nycap.rr.com

www.stmaryscrescent.org

A Roman Catholic Faith Community committed to prayer, presence, witness, and support.