



SAINT ANN'S
A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



CONCORDIA NEWS

Concordia News

I.C. Good News – SPECIAL EDITION

Spring 2025

St. Ann's and I.C. Working Together to Harmonize Mass Times

Changes:

What Can We Expect?

By Father Clifford Auth

Prior to my ministry here as part of the Fayetteville Manlius Catholic Community, I served at St. Mary of the Assumption and St. Augustine's in Baldwinsville. Occasionally, we would receive a call late at night or early in the morning for an emergency at one of the hospitals. I would often stop at the B'Ville Diner for a piece of raspberry pie and a cup of coffee on my way back to the rectory.

Unfortunately, after COVID, this was no longer possible. In response to a changed customer base and a dearth in the labor force, the B'Ville Diner modified its hours of operation and was no longer open 24 hours. While this story pales in comparison to our current situation, it is worth noting that circumstances can act as a catalyst for change in any aspect of life, including our church.

In my Pastoral appointment from Bishop Lucia in July of 2024, I was instructed to create a weekend Mass schedule that one priest could accomplish for the parishes of Immaculate Conception in Fayetteville and St. Ann's in Manlius — the Fayetteville Manlius Catholic Community.

Our two parishes continue to be blessed with outstanding assistance and ministry from retired priests (Father Michael Carmola, Monsignor Ronald C. Bill, and Father Philip Hearn) and our Jesuit friends at Le Moyne Col-



Father Clifford Auth at St. Mary's Church, Baldwinsville, where he was pastor prior to his assignment here.

lege (Father Lou Sogliuzzo, Father Brian Linnane, and Father Jason Downer). While we hope that their presence continues indefinitely, we recognize this is a luxury not a certainty.

There are several factors driving the bishop's directive but two that are primary. First, a decrease in the number of priests. The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate reports that in 1965 there were 59,426 priests in the United States. In 2022, there were 34,344. Within our own diocese, there are 69 active priests serving 116 parishes. That's down from 196 in 2004, 126 in 2014, and 97 in 2019. Currently, there are only 20 priests under the age of 50 in our entire Diocese.

An additional factor affecting this change is rooted in the precepts guiding the life of the Church — Canon Law. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Faith. Because of its centrality in the life of the church, there are rules regarding the manner of its celebration, and the number of celebrations each day. A priest is generally allowed to celebrate one Mass per day, with the possibility of celebrating two or three times under specific circumstances, particularly when pastoral needs arise. (Cf. Code at Canon Law, Canon 905:1-2) These church laws aim to balance the pastoral need for celebration at various times with the need for reverence and communal participation in the liturgy.

In view of this, the Mass schedule will be changed effective July 1. The total number of Masses between the two churches will be reduced from seven to five. Each parish will lose one weekend Mass.

To ensure a fair and thoughtful approach to this process, the Project Concordia committee was created with representatives from both parishes. Concordia means harmony and peace, and together we are working in harmony to achieve this goal. This special issue of the I.C. Parish newspaper, the I.C. Good News, is addressed to the people of both St. Ann's and Immaculate Conception - The Fayetteville Manlius Catholic Community. Its primary purpose is to share information, statistics, insights, and opinions about the Mass changes as well as a timeline for the implementation of the decision.

I am ever grateful to our Project Concordia leadership team — Daryll Wheeler, Shawn Ward, and Sam Deeb — as well as its committee members from both parishes for their dedication to our common mission. A special thank you to I.C. Good News editor Kelly Ann Kelly for publishing this special edition, Concordia News. On behalf of Deacon Bob Street (Parish Life Administrator of St. Ann's), our ministry teams, parish councils, finance committees, and trustees, thank you for your continued investment of self into who we are becoming as Church.

What is Project Concordia?

Putting our Hearts and Heads Together

By Daryll Wheeler

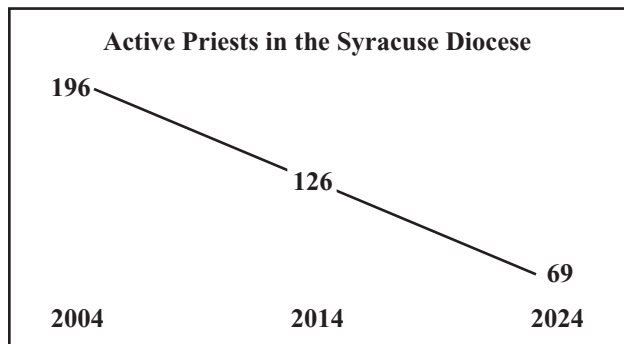
Father Cliff Auth recently invited several parishioners from St. Ann's and Immaculate Conception to "put our hearts together" as we begin the journey to bring our parishes into closer accord and choose a new Mass schedule. To reflect this attitude of fellowship and harmony, Project Concordia was the name selected for this new team.

The first goal of the team is to gather information from as many parishioners at both churches as possible about their Mass preferences and what they value about their favorite Masses. To that end, we created a brief survey and will hold listening sessions at both churches. From the information gathered, the team will determine the best Mass schedule possible that complies with Bishop Lucia's instructions.

Another goal of Project Concordia is to provide a means for the parishes to remain in communication as sister parishes. There are many good activities, programs, and liturgies occurring at both St. Ann's and Immaculate Conception, and it is our hope that parishioners would feel welcome at one another's events. Going forward, our team will continue as a standing committee to address any issues requiring collaboration that may arise in the future.

The leadership team includes Father Cliff, Kathleen Conway (I.C.), Shawn Ward (St. Ann's), Sam Deeb (St. Ann's), and Daryll Wheeler (I.C.). The two deacons, Deacon Bob (St. Ann's) and Deacon Craig (I.C.) are Ex Officio members of the team. Additionally, from St. Ann's Parish, Christine Huber, Nicole Moore, and Maria Pobleski have committed to helping Project Concordia. From I.C., Ellen O'Connor, Tim Rowland, Linda Ryan, Scott Schaal, and Stacy Zdep have graciously answered the call.

The timeline for discerning a new Mass schedule is short because our Music Ministries and Catechesis programs need to plan and publish their schedules for the coming year. The results of the survey and listening sessions will be shared with both parishes as soon as they are available. We expect the new schedule to be announced in early May. Thank you for your assistance and support.



Immaculate Conception
Church
400 Salt Springs Street
Fayetteville, New York 13066



The Project Concordia Leadership Team: Shawn Ward, Daryll Wheeler, and Sam Deeb.

How the Fayetteville Manlius Catholic Community Has Grown

By Kelly Ann Kelly and Arlene Stewart

Immaculate Conception Parish was founded in 1869 by Rev. James O'Reilly and served the Catholics of Fayetteville, Manlius, Jamesville, and LaFayette. St. Ann's Church became a separate parish in 1920, when Rev. Patrick Walsh was assigned by Bishop John Grimes to be the first resident pastor of Manlius. But the seeds of the Fayetteville Manlius Catholic Community were planted much earlier.

The true beginning of the Catholic community dates to the mid-17th century, when Jesuits arrived to preach to members of the Onondaga Nation. The first Mass in New York state was celebrated by Rev. Joseph Chaumonot and Rev. Claude Dablon in a bark chapel on Sunday, November 14, 1655, at Indian Hill. A stone monument and two historical markers mark the site at Indian Hill Memorial Park in the Town of Pompey.

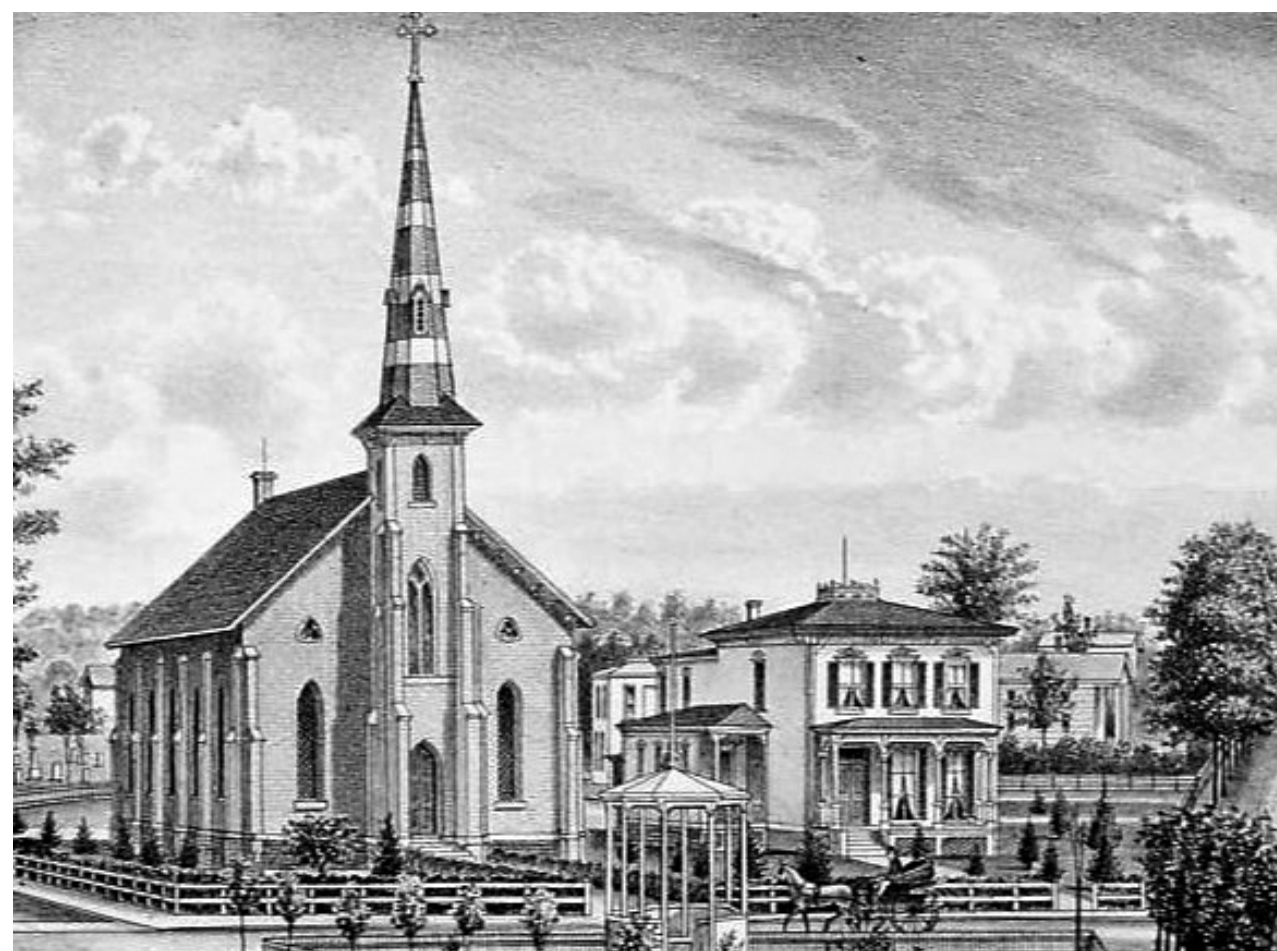
Missionary priests from New York City and Albany administered to the Catholics of Upstate New York in the early 19th century. Construction of the Erie Canal between 1817 and 1825 brought many Irish immigrants to the area. Rev. Francis Donohue was the first resident pastor of Onondaga County when he was assigned to Salina in 1827.

In 1841, Rev. Michael Heas (pronounced Hays) of Salina was sent to Syracuse to form St. Mary's Parish, which extended as far east as Fayetteville. Only a handful of Catholics lived in the F-M area at that time, but the Irish Potato Famine (1845-1852) changed that. Two million Irish people fled their country; most sought refuge in the United States. Many were attracted to Central New York by the promise of jobs on the canal, in the stone quarries, and in the lime kiln industry. The Irish left their homeland behind but carried with them an indomitable spirit and abiding faith as they made a new spiritual home for themselves in America.

In 1851, Mass was celebrated in the home of John Murphy of Manlius. From 1853 to 1869, Fayetteville and Manlius were missions of St. James in Cazenovia. The first Mass in Fayetteville was celebrated by Rev. James Cahill, pastor of St. James, in the home of John Farrell. Some sources say this happened in 1845, but it was more likely to have been 1854.

The Catholic population grew, and Masses were often celebrated in the Beard Hotel. In 1862, a serious attempt was made to build a church on Canal Street, but that lot was deemed unsuitable and was sold. A more desirable lot on South Manlius Street was then purchased but, due to lack of funds, sat vacant for many years.

In August 1869, Rev. James O'Reilly became the village's first resident priest and building a church for the 110 families of his parish was his top priority. In just three months, he raised \$3,000 and hired a builder. The cornerstone for the church was laid on Thanksgiving Day, November 18, 1869. The Church of the Immaculate Conception, 103 S. Manlius Street,



The original I.C. Church building and rectory, circa 1888.

was incorporated on November 4, 1870, and the first Mass was celebrated there on Christmas Day.

Rev. O'Reilly was a fierce protector of his flock. In those days, Catholics were persecuted by the Protestants, and the strong, young pastor was often called upon to protect parishioners walking through the village or to rescue one from a beating. In July 1879, Edward Gaynor purchased a wheat field on Genesee Street for the parish cemetery so he could bury his late wife, Catherine, in the village. Mr. Gaynor and some other men cut a path through the wheat for the burial. The rest of the wheat was left standing until harvest time.

Originally, Manlius, Jamesville, and LaFayette were missions of Fayetteville. The LaFayette mission was detached around 1873 and Jamesville was detached in 1912. Manlius remained a mission of Fayetteville until 1920.

In 1915, the Most Rev. John Grimes, second Bishop of Syracuse, arrived in Manlius to make inquiries about forming a separate parish for St. Ann's Mission Church. A very enthusiastic group of Catholic women belonging to a sewing/quilting circle greeted him. They promised to spearhead a fundraising campaign. With their positive thinking, they incorporated in 1917 with the hope of founding a parish, because many



Rev. James O'Reilly, the first pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish.

Manlius Catholics badly wanted their own church. Rev. Bartholomew Stack, the pastor of I.C. at the time, started a building fund for the Manlius church but was unable to raise enough money to begin construction. Masses were celebrated at Smith Hall on Seneca Street, now the Masonic Hall.

Bishop Grimes created St. Ann's as a separate parish in 1920 and assigned Rev. Patrick Walsh as the first pastor. When Rev. Walsh celebrated his first Mass at Smith Hall, there were about 50 people in the parish, about equal numbers of Irish and Italian families. Over the next few years, the parish grew and sponsored many successful fundraising events. Ground was broken for St. Ann's Church in April 1924, the cornerstone was placed on June 1, and the church was dedicated by the Most Rev. Daniel Curley, third Bishop of Syracuse, on December 7. Rev. Stack, who had tended to St. Ann's for many years before Rev. Walsh's arrival, died in his study at the I.C. rectory in September 1923. Rev. Walsh cared for the members of Immaculate Conception until their next pastor, Rev. William J. Christian, arrived.

The anti-Catholic sentiment that the first parishioners of I.C. encountered continued into the 20th century. During the 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan persecuted local Catholics. Large Klan rallies and cross burnings happened regularly in the town. Along Pompey Center Road, Catholics were often pelted with stones and harassed. The Italian immigrant families of St. Ann's were especially targeted.

More Historical Highlights

When Rev. Walsh was assigned to Manlius, he lived with local families until 1922, when he purchased a building to be the rectory. Built in 1813, that structure was the first occupied building in Manlius.

In 1943, Rev. J. James Bannon (ninth pastor of I.C.) arranged for four Sisters of St. Francis to teach catechism to the public-school children of the area. The Sisters taught religious education to hundreds of students in Fayetteville and the neighboring villages each week. To carry out their work, they received permission from their Superior General to own and operate a car, which was very unusual for religious women at the time.

In addition to serving as the pastor of St. Ann's for 26 years, Rev. Lynch was one of the best-known priests in the diocese. He was editor of the Catholic Sun, conducted a weekly radio program, and wrote six books.

St. Ann's congregation numbered more than 2,500 in the 1970s when Rev. Msgr. James Lutz was pastor. He expanded the religious education and youth programs, including CYO basketball. The religious sisters of St. Ann's taught 25 catechism classes per week, traveling between Manlius, Chittenango, Cazenovia, Bridgeport, and Jamesville.

Rev. J. Robert Yeazel (11th pastor of I.C.) established many popular ministries in the 1980s that continue to this day, including the Eucharistic Ministers, Coffee Sundays, Senior Luncheons, the Social Justice Committee, RCIA, and this newspaper, the I.C. Good News.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, St. Ann's Parish Minister Sister Baptiste Westbrook personally welcomed new Manlius residents with home visits and recruited many new parishioners. She also worked closely with the local Taiwanese community and created Bible study classes, retreats, and a choir especially for them.

By the mid-1990s, increasing enrollment at I.C. School led Rev. Gregory LeStrange (13th pastor) to build an addition in 1997, that doubled the number of classrooms at the school. Rev. Kevin Hannon was pastor of St. Ann's from 2001 until his death in 2010. He had previously served as associate pastor at I.C. and was popular at both churches. In 2008, he received an award from the Village of Manlius for his work with youth. He was succeeded by Rev. Clifford Auth, who was pastor of St. Ann's until 2017.

Rev. Brian Lang was St. Ann's pastor from 2017 to 2023. Then, Rev. John Kurgan, pastor of Holy Cross in DeWitt, became St. Ann's Canonical Pastor (for sacramental ministry) with De. Bob Street as Parish Life Director, providing day-to-day leadership and pastoral care.



The original St. Ann's Church, circa 1949. This building is now St. Ann's Parish Center.



Rev. Patrick Walsh, the first pastor of St. Ann's.



Rev. Bartholomew Stack, the fifth pastor of I.C. Parish, was the last pastor shared with St. Ann's until Rev. Clifford Auth was assigned to lead both parishes last year.

Through the years, both St. Ann's and I.C. continued to grow and prosper. From humble beginnings, the Catholic community of Fayetteville and Manlius has expanded to include nearly 3,500 families. Both parishes outgrew their original buildings in the 1960s and built bigger modern churches. Under the leadership of their third pastor, Rev. John Lynch, the current St. Ann's Church was completed in 1968. Meanwhile in Fayetteville, Rev. Msgr. M. Shields Dwyer oversaw construction of I.C. School in 1958, a convent in 1961, and the current I.C. Church in 1969. With the ministry of strong pastors such as these, hardworking assistants and parochial vicars, devout religious sisters and lay catechists, and dedicated deacons and trustees, both St. Ann's and I.C. thrived.

Membership in our parishes grew in each subsequent decade of the 20th century, even as the Church has faced daunting challenges, including demographic changes, economic recessions, the clergy sexual abuse scandal, a shortage of priests, and a pandemic. Through it all, the Catholics of Fayetteville and Manlius have persevered and kept the Faith. With the assignment of Rev. Clifford Auth as pastor of both parishes, we are called to work together, building on the legacy of our predecessors, to secure the successful continuation of our faith and our sacred mission to love and serve God and our neighbors. May our combined efforts, along with the grace of God, the loving example of our Savior Jesus Christ, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, yield rich spiritual rewards for our parishes now and long into the future.



The current I.C. Church. Fourteenth pastor, Rev. Thomas Ryan, oversaw a major renovation which included expanding the main entrance with this large gathering vestibule.



The current St. Ann's Church displaying the banner celebrating their 100th anniversary in 2020.

Frequently Asked Questions

By Daryll Wheeler

Why must we change the Mass schedules at St. Ann's and I.C.?

We have been asked to create one weekend Mass schedule between the two parishes that can be accomplished by one priest. As is referenced in Father Cliff's article, the primary reasons are a decrease in the number of active priests serving, requisites of canon law, and a directive from the diocese.

Is the conversation about weekend Mass schedules an indication that the parishes are unhealthy and could close?

Absolutely not! Each parish is deeply invested in its mission as evidenced by their continued growth, not only during these past 10 months but since their inception. It is the commitment of Father Cliff, Deacon Bob (Pastoral Administrator at St. Ann's), and the ministry teams of both parishes to collaborate with parishioners to ensure their future vibrancy.

What is the status of the parishes currently?

Both parishes are vital, making their budgets, and building back after the pandemic. Not only do they have wonderful parishioners, but also outstanding ministry teams comprising both deacons and lay people. With their continued investment of self, each faith community is building upon past success to secure continued success in the future.

How will the finances of each parish be handled?

Each parish is its own separate corporation. They will continue to be autonomous, maintaining their own finances, budgets, finance committees, and trustees. As it has been in the past, monies will not be comingled between the two corporations.

What about Faith Formation (religious education) and Youth Ministry?

Both parishes will continue to maintain their own

faith formation programs and youth ministries, as they always have. First Communion and Confirmation ceremonies will continue as they always have. While there may be some collaboration between programs and youth ministers when circumstances warrant, we have two dynamic youth ministry programs that will remain independent.

How will this affect our retired priests?

The new schedule will allow the retired priests to be less taxed, while supporting their continued participation in our liturgies.

What will be the effect on funerals, weddings, and Holy Days?

There will be no impact on funerals and weddings. We will continue to share Holy Days between the parishes.

What will happen to daily Masses?

Provided that we have the assistance of retired and extern priests (i.e., those from outside the Syracuse Diocese who are assisting us, such as the Jesuits of Le Moyne College), daily Masses will remain the same. If that changes, we will call together the Project Concordia Committee to discern with each parish how best to create a weekday Mass schedule that is fair and representative for both communities. The Masses for I.C. School will remain unchanged regardless of any change in priest assistance.

What about our Music Ministries?

We are meeting with the Music ministers of each parish and are grateful for their willingness to find common ground and equitable solutions.

Will there be staffing changes or will positions on the ministry teams be eliminated?

Our current process is only about the weekend Mass schedule. Provided that finances remain robust, we do not anticipate any staffing or personnel changes.

A Prayer for Times of Transition

By Joseph P. Shadle

God of Love,
You are with us in every transition and change.

As we enter into this new era with excitement and even some anxiety,

we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love.

We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us.

We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment.

We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work.

Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another.

We ask this in your Holy Name.



The Fayetteville Manlius Catholic Community at a Glance

	St. Ann's Church 104 Academy Street Manlius, NY 13104 315-682-5181 saintannschurch.com	I.C. Church 400 Salt Springs Street Fayetteville, NY 13066 315-637-9846 icfayetteville.org
Weekday Communion Services	Monday – Friday 7 a.m.	
Weekday Masses	Tues-Fri. 9 a.m.	Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m.
Reconciliation	Saturday 3 – 3:40 p.m. Or by appointment	Saturday 4 – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday Vigil	4 p.m.	5 p.m.
Sunday Masses	8 a.m. 11 a.m.	7:30 a.m. 9 a.m. 11 a.m.
Rectory Office Hours	Mon-Thur. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.* *New hours	Mon-Thur. 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Fri. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.** **receptionist only
Deacons	Dc. Robert Street	Dc. Craig Rheame
In Residence	Father Lou Sogliuzzo	Monsignor Ronald Bill Father Philip Hearn
Weekend Associates	Father Michael Carmola	Father Michael Carmola Father Jason Downer Father Brian Linnane
Staff	Debbie Sochan Savannah Laux Patty Clark Derek Lamb Corine Lamb	Kathleen Conway Ann Resig Meme Cavanaugh Stephanie Hausladen
Music Ministers	Kristina Vernyi	Sherrie Hale Andrea Ashline Jane Price
Catechetical and Youth Ministers	Renee Laux, K-10 Eneida Dentler, Youth Coordinator	Anne Marie Voutsinas, K-8 Gail Capozzi, Confirmation Clair Walters, Youth Minister (starting 06/25)
Principal		Nancy Ferrarone

I.C. & St. Ann's By the Numbers

	Immaculate Conception	St. Ann's
Families	2,179	1,302
Seating capacity	1,187	757
Average Weekend Attendance	837	468
Average Mass Attendance	209	156
Baptisms	55	18
First Communions	84	22
Confirmations	60	30
Elementary Faith Formation	243	106
Confirmation Preparation	105	99
OCIA	8	6
Marriages	12	1
Funerals	41	23
School Enrollment	242	n/a

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