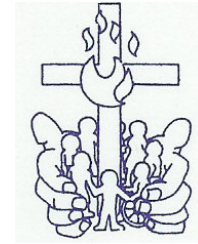


**Please remember!**

- Continue to pray!
- Continue to respectfully communicate to Bishop Kmiec your support for St. Mary
- Continue to support the efforts of the Strategic Planning Committee
- Continue to be the loving , hospitable people you have always been!



St. Mary Roman Catholic Church  
5 Saxton St.  
Lockport, NY 14094

# Save St. Mary!

## Appeal Process Underway

With the issuance of the official decree from Bishop Kmiec ordering the closing of St. Mary’s Parish, our appeal process has officially begun. Our canon lawyer, Philip Gray, will formally notify the Bishop of our appeal to reverse his decision. The Bishop is allowed thirty days to answer the appeal. If his reply remains unfavorable, the appeal will then continue to the Vatican for resolution.

Throughout these past several months, your loyalty and dedication have been constant sources of energy and inspiration to the Strategic Planning Committee. Mr. Gray has also been inspired by what he terms the greatest response he has encountered in similar situations. Your strength of purpose is testimony to the great love you hold for your parish.

As you know, we have also retained the services of a civil attorney, George Muscato, to pursue a civil action to protect our rights to the property and assets of St. Mary’s and to prevent their sale during the appeal process.

The generosity you have shown has enabled us to remain current in our payment of attorney’s fees. The additional expense of the pending civil action requires the procurement of additional funds to continue our efforts to “Save St. Mary!” The Strategic Planning Committee is planning a fundraiser , but in the meantime, any donation you feel comfortable making will greatly assist us in our efforts. Please remember that your donations are tax deductible and can be made payable to “St. Mary’s Appeal, Inc.” and mailed to the church or dropped in the collection basket.

The addition of so many new families to our family has blessed us in many ways - not the least of which is the blessing of worshipping with new friends who also recognize the welcoming and loving qualities of our parish. The presence of our new parishioners is a witness to God’s grace, even in the most difficult of times.

### Did You Know?

In 1905 Father August Wiese, with his outstanding ability for finances, eliminated the church debt and at the same time was able to make extensive improvements to the church properties. His accomplishments included the addition a new communion rail, stained glass windows, new confessionals, the purchase of the stations of the cross from Munich, Germany, repair and replace the church roof, and install a new heating system for the church, rectory, and school. In 1909 the parish purchased an organ made by the Tellers Company of Erie, Pa, for \$1,850. In the same year, Fr. Weise celebrated the golden jubilee of the parish. Fr. Weise, in his retiring way, was very charitable to all who sought his confidence, regardless of race or creed. He was known to have helped many financially to receive an education.

Father John H. Christman (1930-47), despite the Great Depression, led St. Mary’s in an eight-year renovation program. The exterior facing of red brick, which was made in Lockport more than fifty years earlier, was replaced with a tan iron spot brick made in Pennsylvania by the Falston Brick Company. More than 100,000 bricks were used. Parishioners donated a dime for each brick. *(to be continued)*

#### Strategic Planning Committee

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