



Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

Easter Sunday

April 12, 2009

Our Parish Office

32 East Morris Street
Bath, NY 14810
Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Other times by appointment
Office: 607-776-3327
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Our Parish Staff

Deacon Ray Defendorf
Pastoral Administrator
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Deacon Ed Wight
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Mary Faucett
Parish Life Volunteer
Paula Gardner
Office Volunteer
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Mary Carol Wall
Youth Ministry/Faith Formation
Coordinator - 776-6944
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St. Mary's Choir

Aubri Ordway, Director
Assisted by Brad Ordway
Brent Franklin - Keyboard
Ellie Boutwell/Carl Johengen
Saturday Mass Organists

Our Parish Council

William MacNamara
Chairperson - 566-3690
Barbara Perry
Vice-Chairperson - 776-6920
Mary McConnell
Secretary - 776-3265
Jim Gallagher
Stewardship Chairperson - 776-6810
Denise Crossett - 776-5089
Sean McKinley - 329-4436
Stan Skolny - 377-6023

Happy Easter and Welcome Home to St. Mary's

Happy Easter to all St. Mary's parishioners, our friends and guests. We welcome you and rejoice in your presence here with us! This is the day on which we celebrate our victory over death. This day begins a season where we reflect upon the difference Christ's resurrection has made in our lives personally and in the life of the Church. Forty days of Lent have now spilled over into fifty days of Easter. During this season of light, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, and pray for all those actively anticipating the "Easter sacraments": Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist.

This Sunday our church will be filled to capacity, and that, of course, is a happy problem – one which we wish we suffered every weekend of the year. I also suspect that because of the crowding, the challenge of finding a parking space, the noise factor, many of you will find it just too easy not to return another Sunday, which is unfortunate. This is a community that is alive in Christ! We invite you to become more than just a nominal member. It is one thing to be a "fan" of Jesus, and quite another to be his follower. The first you can do from a distance; the second involves real commitment to a community of believers. Roman Catholic Christianity is not a "me and God" religion. We understand that together we find our salvation.

It is a very sad fact in the United States that the largest religious group in this country consists of non-practicing Catholics. Here at St. Mary's Church on a typical weekend, we see less than 300 hun-

dred people attending Mass when we have nearly 325 registered families. Only about half of those households give St. Mary's significant financial support in the course of a year. This is a very big challenge to those of us in parish leadership. We are called to preach the Good News, but too often we only have the chance to preach "to the choir". How best might we touch hearts and change lives, offer hope and meaning to those who know something is missing in their lives but can't identify what? Is religion more about tradition or is it truly about faith and salvation? I believe that is a question that each of us must grapple with. I invite you to engage in this discovery. It may be the most important decision you will ever make.

Is the Church perfect? Does it always live up to your expectations? Of course not! We are a community that recognizes our individual and corporate sinfulness; we know we are flawed. That's why we need each other. We have come to realize that we are our best selves together, because here in community we can receive the support we need to live out our faith. Here, we have our assumptions challenged and our complacency disturbed. Most importantly, it is together that we are the Body of Christ in our world. When any of our members are missing, we are incomplete and not as effective as we could be in fulfilling our mission.

Has the church hurt you? If so, we apologize deeply for our insensitivity or failure to meet an important need of yours. If we let you down, please give us another chance. Come and talk about what concerns you have; take the opportunity to clarify some misunderstandings. Open yourself to hear the call of the Lord and respond to his gift of loving mercy and redemption.



ALLELUIA!



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

SUNDAY April 12 Easter Sunday
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Mary Giblin
By Dick & Kathy McDonald

MONDAY April 13
9:00 a.m. Scripture/Communion Service

TUESDAY April 14
5:00 p.m. In Mem. of Gerry Rumsey
By Katelynn & family

WEDNESDAY April 15
5:00 p.m. In Mem. of David Murphy
By Bill & Dorothy Dinehart

THURSDAY April 16
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Bob Denno
By Freida Fiordo

FRIDAY April 17
8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Gabriel's

SATURDAY April 18
4:00 p.m. In memory of Richard Kershow
By John & Suzanne Walsh

SUNDAY April 19
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Helen Hunter
By Bernadina Mills

One weekend Mass each month is offered for the **"Members of St. Mary's Memorial Fund."** Your gift to our Memorial Fund will support many parish ministries and capital projects. Your loved one will be remembered monthly at a scheduled Mass. Please consider this option. when requesting a Mass Card. Suggested minimum gift is \$10.



PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

SUNDAY April 12 Sunday
8:15 a.m. Pre Mass Choir Practice, Chapel
10:00 a.m. No coffee hour
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101

MONDAY April 13
6:00 p.m. Tiger Cubs Room 202

TUESDAY April 14
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts, Room 203
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, Rooms 204A/B
7:30 p.m. Prayer Group, Rectory

WEDNESDAY April 15
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts, 201,203, 204A
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, 204B, 205

THURSDAY April 16
5:30p.m. Weight Watchers, 101
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts,203
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, 204A
6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, 205
7:30 p.m. K of C meeting

FRIDAY April 17

SATURDAY April 18
1:00 p.m. NA - 204

SUNDAY April 19
8:15 a.m. Pre Mass Choir Practice, Chapel
10:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast in Hall
10:15 a.m. Post Choir Practice, Church
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101

Due to an early bulletin deadline, your Sacrificial Gifts for the weekend of April 4/5 will be published in next week's bulletin.



Assembly Schedule

April 18- Sat. 4:00 p.m.
Willing Heart
April 19 - Sun. 9:00 a.m.
Heavenly Hash



The Sanctuary candle is burning for the welfare of Margaret Anne Jenkins by her Aunt Terry Hockreiter



Happy Birthday To You!

4/12 James Gallagher	4/15 Eileen Colomaio
4/13 Logan Stratton	4/18 James Dudden
4/14 Al Hanning	4/18 Megan Russell

Send a "Get Well" card to . . .

Henry Cullen VA Medical Center Nursing Care Unit Bath, NY, 14830	Fran Cummings Taylor Healthcare Rte. 54 Bath, NY 14830
Paula Gardner Absolute Care at Three Rivers 101 Creekside Drive, Painted Post, NY 14870	

EASTER



Bath Area Churches United Against Hunger
Bath Annual Turning Point Dinner
Local churches joining together to fight hunger in our community
Spaghetti Dinner
Saturday, May 9th 5pm-7pm
O'Malley Hall @ St. Mary's Church
To benefit Catholic Charities Turning Point Food Pantry.
Ticket price is \$8.00 adult/\$20.00 family



Prayer List

Bonnie Baran, Marie Benishin, Ruth Cochran, Henry Cullen, Fran Cummings, Margaret Emmick, Mary Fisher, Glenn French, Paula Gardner, Jack Giblin, Esther Gerhart, Laura Gilfoyle, Nancy Holzer, Margaret Anne Jenkins, Joey Kish, Connie Luna, Carlo Marano, Fr. **Gerald O'Connor**, Theresa Rodbourn, Penny Ruest, Diana Sermonis, Jeff Spara and Betsy Sheehan

Special Intergenerational Faith Formation Program
Next Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

HEARTSONGS



"Remember to Play After Every Storm."
Mattie J.T. Stepanek

Mattie Stepanek began writing poems at the age of three. Although he lived with a rare form of muscular dystrophy that took his life just three Weeks before his 14th birthday, **Mattie chose to "Celebrate Life!"** Experience the poems of this young ambassador for peace as creative educator Patricia Fazzone **visits St. Mary's** with a special Intergenerational Faith Formation program on the Sunday after Easter, April 19 at 10:30 a.m. Patricia will offer the **gift of Mattie's poetry**, inviting children and adults to express in word and image their own personal "heartsongs."



SENT TO SERVE

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

Their Story Seemed Like Nonsense

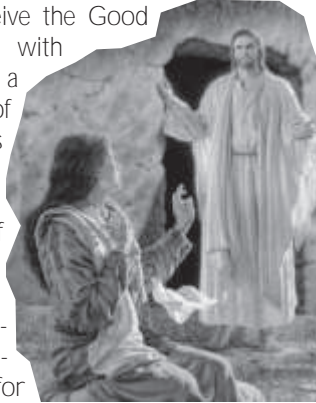
The women who went to the tomb early this morning returned with an astonishing report. So astonishing that everyone who heard it thought their report was nonsense. It is important for us to share in both of those emotions. Otherwise, we risk taking Jesus' resurrection for granted. Of course, Jesus rose from the dead. He said he would rise, and he did. We have heard this from our youth, we have seen the paintings. We have read the Gospels and seen the movies. Like the sunrise and the early growth of springtime, we remember the resurrection and we are comfortable with it.

But No, we need to be astonished; we need to experience the same feelings as those who thought the news was nonsense, outrageous, impossible. One of the fun things about my mother was that you could retell her an old joke and she would laugh heartily. She never remembered jokes and so she delighted in hearing them all over again. She never took them for granted, never got used to them, never became bored with them. So it must be with us.

Every time we hear the news of the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth we need to be astonished, amazed, delighted. It's like waking up and suddenly remembering it's our birthday, or that today is the first day of summer vacation - even though we already knew it when we fell asleep. In fact, that is a good way for us believers to hear the news of the resurrection. When we walked into church at Easter, we were asleep, unconscious, distracted. But now we have heard the Alleluia, the Exultat, the Gloria, and the Good News of the Resurrection. Now we are finally awake; we are finally alive because of the Good News of Jesus' resurrection.

The Good News is never old news. God didn't create us once; God is creating us always. God didn't save us once; God is always saving us. Peter hustled himself out to the tomb that same morning and saw that it was empty. I wonder if Peter did that very same thing everyday from then on. That's what we should do. Every morning when we get up, we should run ourselves out to the tomb and peek inside. Wow. The tomb is empty. Alleluia. Jesus is raised from the dead.

If we did receive the Good News again with every new day, a whole lot of other things would also change for us. That is of course the reason for doing it: everything has indeed changed for us. Everything is new for us. Christ is risen: we are saved. Death no longer has the last word over us. Weakness and failure and sin no longer determine our future and we dare not let them determine our present



This is the night, the Exultet sings, when the people of Israel escaped from slavery and passed through the flood. This is the night when the pillar of fire guided our ancestors into the Promised land. This is the night we were born, we were baptized, we were forgiven. This is the night when we will be received into heaven. St. Paul told us tonight that as we shared in Jesus' crucifixion at our baptism so are we united in Jesus' resurrection.

No more is it Jesus' resurrection that is nonsense, now it is nonsense to keep this Good News to ourselves. It is nonsense to remain fearful or depressed. Yes, things will still fall apart for us. Friends and family members will die. We will still miss opportunities to do good and sometimes we will choose to do things that are wrong. Evil and sadness will seem to pile up our life as in a tomb. But the women will still come back from that tomb and report that they find it to be empty. Yes, it is nonsense. God's love for us does not make sense; it is a miracle, a gift, and always a surprise. Let it be a surprise again tomorrow and next week and next month. Jesus is risen from the dead. Alleluia!

This is a very special Easter for me. At today's Mass Fr. Jim and I will baptize two children: Lucas Baroodly and my grandchild Jackson Gabriel Meek. What a wonderful day to celebrate life.

Have a blessed Easter. Serve one another well.

Deacon Ray



Building our Future TOGETHER



New Transition Team Meets

The first meeting of the Team that will assist St. Mary's and St. Gabriel's begin the process that will lead to the clustering of the parishes under a single pastoral leader in July 2010 took place on Thursday, **March 26.** Representing St. Mary's are Patty Baroodly, Ginny Gallagher, Al Hanning, Bill MacNamara, Mary McConnell, Barb Perry, Stan Skolny and Deacon Ray.

First Reconciliation



Four parish children Hailey Gaudino, Noah Glass, Emily Sestak, and Andres Warren received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday, April 4. A Penance Service with individual Reconciliation took place following a half day Retreat for the young people and their parents.

Easter Prayer

Lord Jesus, this Easter, may we remember why this season is celebrated above all others.

When we see eggs and rabbits, remind us of the joy brought by all new life, both through springtime in nature, and eternal life through your resurrection.

When we see bright ribbons and colors, may we remember the joy of this season, at the conclusion of Lent.

Above all, help us remember the greatest gift of all, your conquest of death and sin, which saved all of us from eternal death and opened heaven's gates for us all.

Saint Mary's Church

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Bath, New York

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