

Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 29, 2007



Our Parish Office

32 East Morris Street
Bath, NY 14810
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Other times by appointment
Office: 607-776-3327
Fax: 607-776-3409
Email: bstmaryc@dor.org

Our Parish Staff

Deacon Ray Defendorf
Pastoral Administrator
E-mail: RDefendorf@DOR.org
Rev. Peter Anglaere
Regional Parish Priest
E-mail: peteranglae@yahoo.com

Fr. John Wydeven

Weekend Assistance

Deacon Ed Wight

Parish Deacon - 776-3258

Barbara Bailey

Parish Bookkeeper/Secretary
E-Mail: BBAiley@DOR.org

Michele Ferrara

Parish Secretary/Bulletin Editor
E-Mail: MFerrara@DOR.org

Betty Gerych

Choir and Bell Choir Director

Bill Grimmer

Organist

Karen Grimmer

Parish Life/Social Ministry Coord.
E-mail: Kgrimmer@DOR.org

George Hoffman

Custodian

Mary Carol Wall

Youth Ministry/Faith Formation
Coordinator - 776-6944
E-Mail: Avocawalls@usadatanet.net

Our Parish Council

William MacNamara

Chairperson - 556-3690

Rosemary States

Vice-Chairperson - 776-7520

David Binkowski - 776-4789

Mary McConnell

Secretary - 776-3265

Jim Galagher

Stewardship Chairperson - 776-6810

Sean McKinley - 329-4436

Barbara Perry - 776-6920

Kathy Warren - 776-4074

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

SHARING ONE FAITH
Catholic Missions in America



Today's second collection is the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. It supports missions here in the United States. There are many places in America - Appalachia, the Deep South, the Southwest, the Rocky Mountain states - where the Catholic Church struggles just to keep parishes open to educate children in the faith. Last year, Home Missions gave more than \$3 million to dioceses along the Gulf Coast devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Please God, there will be no repetition of these disasters. But Catholic parishes in rural America still struggle to offer Mass, the sacraments and religious education. Some dioceses are terribly short of priests, sisters, and the money needed to run parishes. Please give generously to help your fellow Catholics here in America.



Scripture
REFLECTIONS

God's Unlimited Warranty

Have you ever purchased an item advertised to last for many years, only to find that it came with a very limited warranty? Almost assuredly the item will fall apart shortly after the warranty has expired. The reality is that the manufacturer has sacrificed quality in hopes of getting another sale down the road. Instead, the manufacturer has probably sacrificed the trust of a customer, who may look elsewhere for something better.

Today's Gospel reading from John is what one could consider an unlimited warranty from God. Jesus makes the firm, unequivocal statement regarding his believers: "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand." What a beautiful promise, and all that is asked of us is to love one another, be good, and give thanks to God. How much easier could it be?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that the teachings of Jesus fulfill the promises made since the time of Abraham, and are brought together in the Beatitudes (CCC 1716). Jesus doesn't just promise the kingdom of heaven to the righteous; he guarantees it to those who are poor in spirit, sad for the wrongs of the world, gentle in nature, hungry for righteousness, merciful to the helpless, pure in heart, peaceful, and persecuted for their faith. Where do you find yourself in relation to God's promise?



©2007 Liturgical Publications



ALLEGRIA



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

- SUNDAY** April 29, Fourth Sunday of Easter
9:00 a.m. In Memory, Rusty Burkland
By Mr. & Mrs. Henry Cullen & Family
- MONDAY** April 30, Easter Weekday
9:00 a.m. Communion Service
- TUESDAY** May 1, Easter Weekday
9:00 a.m. In Memory, Mary Seidel
By Amy and Pat
- WEDNESDAY** May 2, Athanasius, bishop, doctor
9:00 a.m. In Memory, Margaret Davy Mulhair
By Gertrude Laux
- THURSDAY** May 3, Philip and James, apostles
9:00 a.m. In Memory, Eugene & Constantine Frank
By Hilda Volz
- FRIDAY** May 4, Easter Weekday
9:00 a.m. In Memory, Willy Frank
By Hilda Volz
- SATURDAY** May 5, Easter Weekday
4:00 p.m. In Memory, Joyce Walsh
By John & Suzanne Walsh & Family
- SUNDAY** April 29, Fourth Sunday of Easter
9:00 a.m. In Memory, Rusty Burkland
By Mr. & Mrs. Henry Cullen & Family

There are many Mass intentions available in the upcoming months (Stipend \$10). Please call the office to schedule.

Weekday Mass/Communion in our New Visitation Chapel



PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

- SUNDAY** April 29
10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour hosted by Geri Galvin & friends
10:30 a.m. Religious Education
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101
- MONDAY** April 30
9:00 a.m. Rural Health Meeting, Room 203
6:00 p.m. Bell Practice
6:30 p.m. 1st Eucharist Parents Meeting, Room 205
- TUESDAY** May 1
4:00 p.m. Bell Concert
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts, Room 202
7:00 p.m. Charismatic Prayer Group
- WEDNESDAY** May 2
9:00 a.m. Rural Health Meeting, Room 203
- THURSDAY** May 3
5:30 p.m. Weight Watchers, O'Malley Hall
6:00 p.m. Scrap booking, Room 101
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Rooms 202 / 203
- FRIDAY** May 4
- SATURDAY** May 5
2:00 p.m. NA Dance, Hall
- SUNDAY** May 6
10:30 a.m. No Coffee Hour
7:00 p.m. Religious Education
AA, Room 101

It's time once again to start planning for our annual International Food Festival!

There will be a meeting held this Tuesday, April 24th at 7:00 pm in O'Malley Hall. Please attend and help our parish in the planning of this important event.



Assembly Schedule

May 5th - Sat. 4:00 p.m. - Willing Hearts
May 6th - Sun. 9:00 a.m. - Precious Blood II
To form or join an assembly, call 776-3327



SAINT MARY'S PARISH

"A Parish of Very Good Stewards"

Thank you for - Making Parish a Priority!
April 21/22

Sacrificial Gifts totaled: \$2076.00 THANK YOU!
Second Collection for Insurance: \$65.25

This weekend's Second Collection - Catholic Home Missions



WOMEN'S
Retreat

St. Mary's Annual Women's Retreat at Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua will be held the weekend of May 18 - 20. This weekend has been reserved for all the women of our five parish cluster. For information contact Kathy Donnelly at 566-2617.



Happy Birthday To You

04/29	Emily Simms	05/02	Mary Kulikowski
04/29	Robert Castrilli	05/03	Marjorie Rumsey
04/30	Amy Collmer	05/03	Virginia Gallagher
04/30	John Mckinley	05/03	Antonio Pellegrino
04/30	MaryAnn Squires	05/04	Stanley Wraight
04/30	Michael Castrilli	05/04	James Fagan



The Sanctuary Light above the Tabernacle is burning for the intentions of Dick and Donna Robinson by Florence Mulcahy.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT WEEKEND

May 5 and 6

All parishioners are encouraged to commit or recommit to the Stewardship of their Time and Talents to the Ministries of St. Mary's Parish, their family and our Community.

The Bells of Saint Mary's

BELL CONCERT

Monday, May 1, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.
Saint Mary's Church





SENT TO SERVE

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

Celebrating Your Stewardship

Last weekend at both Masses, we celebrated the Stewardship of St. Mary's Parishioners. The colorful and creative banners that adorned the wall of the church provided a visual reminder of the numerous ways that you give back your time and diverse talents to the Lord. Thanks again to **Joyce Swackhammer** and **Rosemary States** for assisting in the creation of these banners and also to **Jim Gallagher** who has guided our Stewardship Committee in bringing these ministries into focus over the past six months.

This week, you'll be receiving a letter from Jim and the Committee inviting you to renew your commitment to sharing your time and talents as good stewards of the ministries of St. Mary's parish. The letter will include a Commitment Card which you will be asked to return during the weekend Masses of May 5 and 6. Following the collection, you will be invited to come forward in the same fashion as you do for our Can and Quarter collections. But instead of money, you will return your Commitment Card which will be blessed along with your monetary offering. Additional Cards will be available in the pews for those who forget to bring the card with them to Mass.

Because every day of our life is a gift from God, Stewardship is not something that can be "retired from". So everyone, regardless of age or infirmity will be asked to commit or recommit to respecting the importance and value of their gift of life and the time and talents they have received from God. Some will recommit themselves only to the loving care of their families. Some will commit to community service through a civic or not-for-profit organization. Hopefully, most will also commit or recommit themselves to stewardship through one or more of our parish ministries.

Thank You for Celebrating with Us

Pat and I are most grateful for all who helped us celebrate our silver anniversary of ordination last weekend. It was truly a blessing to celebrate with you at a joyful Mass and a Pancake Breakfast. We were deeply touched by your expressions of support.

As some of you may know, in addition to the significant stress brought on by still unsettled conditions in the parish, Patty has also had some health concerns including shortness of breath and fatigue. Since she has a family history of heart problems, her doctor recommended several tests including a cardiac stress test and a cardiac catheterization to check for suspected blockages. The stress test had indicated the possibility of a blockage, but the catheterization determined otherwise. While this is the best possible news, the fatigue has not significantly abated and she will continue to explore diagnosis and treatment options with her doctor.

Once again we were overwhelmed by the prayer support we have received from parishioners and friends from throughout the country. God is so good and we are so blessed.

The Celebration Continues

This Friday and Saturday Pat and I will attend the annual convocation of permanent deacons with Bishop Clark. The convocation and a special mass celebrating the 25th anniversary of the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Rochester will take place at Sacred Heart Cathedral. On Friday evening, several members of my ordination class will gather for dinner. Four deacons with Southern Tier roots were part of this first ordination class including **Deacon Bill Dougherty** of Elmira Heights, **Deacon Stan Douglas**, formerly of Elmira, **Deacon George Welch** a former elementary school principal in Elmira who now serves as Director of Pastoral Care at St. Joseph's Hospital and myself. Bill and Stan have both reached the mandatory diaconal retirement age of 75 but remain active and involved in ministry.

The Convocation and Ministry Day

On Sunday - Tuesday of the past week, priests and pastoral administrators from throughout the Diocese of Rochester gathered at the Crown Plaza Hotel for our annual convocation with Bishop Matthew Clark. On Wednesday, we were joined by pastoral associates, youth ministers, deacons and others in ministry. **Karen Grimmer** and **Mary Carol Wall** joined Fr. Peter and me for the program which featured internationally known spiritual writers **Fr. Richard Rohr, OSF** and **Timothy Radcliffe, OP**. Both provided much food for thought. I hope to share with you some of their insights in future columns. But for now, a few quotes and questions that found fertile soil in my heart.

"A major challenge that we Christians face is how to be a part of the world, but not of it. How then, as Christians can we share in the hopes and dreams of our fellow human beings (including the basic needs of food, clothing, shelter and economic freedom) while challenging (when necessary) our inbred cultural ideals of competitiveness, entitlement, and reliance on military might to solve complex social and economic problems?"

"We live at the end of probably the most violent century in the history of the world and the tide of violence seems to grow on a daily basis. The post 9/11 world has become addicted to both redemptive and religious violence."

"If you love, you'll be crucified. If you don't—you're dead already."

Timothy Radcliffe, OP

"Hope is living without resolution—and holding on"

"People who live without spirituality, live in a profound sense of scarcity."

Richard Rohr, OSF

Have a graced week. Serve one another well

Deacon Ray

Church Name: St. Mary's Church

City, State: Bath, NY

File Name: 06-0323

Phone: 607-776-3327

Contact/Editor: Michele Ferrara or Deacon Ray Defendorf