

# Saint Mary's Parish

*A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach*

Easter: The Resurrection of the Lord

April 8, 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

**Bill Grimmer**  
Music and Liturgy  
E-mail: Williamgrimmer@hotmail.com

**Karen Grimmer**  
Parish Life/Social Ministry Coordinator  
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

**Mary McConnell**  
Secretary - 776-3265

**Jim Galagher**  
Stewardship Chairperson - 776-6810

**Sean McKinley** - 329-4436

**Barbara Perry** - 776-6920

**Kathy Warren** - 776-4074

# Today we Celebrate! Christ is Risen!

Easter Blessings and a heartfelt and sincere welcome to the many visitors that are joining us today. Easter is one of a handful of Sundays when our church is filled to capacity. I always find it curious that a church which on any given Sunday has too many empty pews can be filled to the gills at Christmas and Easter! It makes me wonder what's going on. Is it that for some reason or other, even though we pride ourselves as being "A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach" many people do not feel welcome here? Some may feel uncomfortable because of a divorce or remarriage outside the church, some because of a handicap, or unorthodox lifestyle. Some are upset, I'm sure, about the sex scandals of recent memory, and some may be frustrated with rigid interpretations of rules and what may be perceived as a reactionary climate in the church these days. Some may have just fallen out of the habit of coming. Or some locals may have tired of what may seem like years of sporadic bickering within our parish family.

And still on this glorious day in dramatic numbers, many feel a need to be here to celebrate. ALLELUIA! If you are a guest or infrequent visitor or someone who has been away from the Church for many years, welcome. Please be assured that both my door and Fr. Peter's door are open to you if you need to talk about whatever it is that has kept you away from the Church. Maybe it's time to come "home" again.

Recall that the first Easter was a most confusing day. When Mary Magdalene arose before dawn, she awoke with a bitter taste of despair in her mouth. Her world - a world then seemingly without Jesus - was joyless. When she went to pay her respects at the tomb where her dear friend had been buried, she found it empty. Fearing that

vandals had stolen his body, she must have been at her breaking point. No wonder she wept! No wonder, she mistook Jesus for a gardener, that is, until he called her by name. The world would never again be the same.

Easter is still about Christ being unexpectedly discovered alive in our midst - calling us by name. Do you feel it too? Do you hear the Lord calling you to a life of faith and hope? And how do you respond to this awesome news?

There is a wonderful scene in *Tom Sawyer* when the church gathers for a memorial service for Tom and two of his friends who are believed to have drowned. In fact, Tom and his buddies have been hiding out, and slip into the choir loft to enjoy their own funerals! After so many eulogies, Tom decides to stroll down the main aisle! The mood in the church is transformed from mourning to rejoicing. The one who they thought was dead was alive after all!

That's what we celebrate on Easter! The boisterous, undignified beginnings of our faith: a grief-stricken wake at which the corpse walks in and turns all tears into laughter, and grief into dancing! From that day forward, Jesus' followers would never again take the world quite so seriously. They would live joyfully, preach fearlessly, and sing enthusiastically from the prisons and street corners of life. Sure, they knew they might face great trials and sufferings perhaps even because of their faith, but they also were confident that for them too, death would not be the end of life. The One who promised eternal life to his followers can be trusted, for the tomb could not contain him!

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ALLELUIA!



## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**SUNDAY** April 8, Easter Sunday, Resurrection of the Lord  
9:00 a.m. Special Intention for the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Bob & Rita Denno

**MONDAY** April 9, Easter Monday  
9:00 a.m. *No Communion Service or Mass today*

WEEKDAY MASSES WILL BE HELD IN THE NEW CHAPEL LOCATED IN THE ZIMMER CENTER. USE PARKING LOT ENTRANCE

**TUESDAY** April 10, Easter Tuesday  
9:00 a.m. To the Honor and Glory of God

**WEDNESDAY** April 11, Easter Wednesday  
9:00 a.m. In Memory of Margaret Minichello  
By the People of St. Mary's

5:00 p.m. For The Sick and Infirm of our Parish  
By the People of St. Mary's

**THURSDAY** April 12, Easter Thursday  
5:00 p.m. For an Increase in Vocations to the Priesthood and Permanent Diaconate


**FRIDAY** April 13, Easter Friday  
9:00 a.m. In Memory of the Living and Deceased Benefactors of Saint Mary's, Bath

**SATURDAY** April 14, Easter Saturday  
4:00 p.m. In Memory, Joyce Walsh  
By Evelyn Walsh

**SUNDAY** April 15, Second Sunday of Easter  
9:00 a.m. Divine Mercy Sunday  
In Memory, Nicholas & Phyllis Bottoni



## PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

**SUNDAY** April 8  
No Coffee Hour  
No Religious Education   
AA, Room 101

7:00 p.m.

**MONDAY** April 9  
6:00 p.m. Bell Practice  
7:15 p.m. Choir Practice

**TUESDAY** April 10  
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts, Room 202  
7:30 p.m. Charismatic Prayer Group, DP room

**WEDNESDAY** April 11  
9:30 a.m. Wellness Council, Room 201  
6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Team Meeting

**THURSDAY** April 12  
5:30 p.m. Weight Watchers, O'Malley Hall  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Rooms 202/ 203

**FRIDAY** April 13

**SATURDAY** April 14  
1:00 p.m. NA, Room 101

**SUNDAY** April 15  
7:00 p.m. No Coffee Hour  
No 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 on Tuesday, April 24th at 7:00 pm in O'Malley Hall. Please attend and help our parish in the planning of this very important event.



### Assembly Schedule

April 14 - Sat. 4:00 p.m. - Willing Hearts  
April 15 - Sun. 9:00 a.m. - Heavenly Hash  
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!  
Palm Sunday: March 31/April 1, 2007

Sacrificial Gifts totaled: \$3,395.60 THANK YOU!  
Second Collection for Heating \$522.00  
Easter Flower Donations: \$125.00



Gift cards for Tops, P&C and Kwik Fill are sold after mass and throughout the week in the parish office. St. Mary's receives 5% of the face value for every card we sell. They are great for gifts or for your own use!



## Happy Birthday To You

04/08	William MacNamara	04/10	Theresa Rodbour n
04/08	Thomas Prescott	04/12	Cathy Gallagher
04/09	Charles Hero	04/12	Mary Beebe
04/09	Diane Bly	04/12	Gregory Palmer Jr.
04/09	Rita Moretti	04/13	Logan Stratton
04/10	Alex Olesen	04/14	Al Hanning



## Widowed, Divorced or Separated?

If you are looking for peer support that can help you on your journey of healing from your loss, **Beginning Experience of Rochester** is offering a healing weekend, April 13-15 at Rotary Sunshine Camp in Rush. Beginning Experience is a Catholic founded organization that has helped thousands of people heal from their hurt. For information or to register for the weekend call (585)987-1750.

## STEWARDSHIP EVENTS CALENDAR

### Banner Making Party

Monday, April 16 and Tuesday, April 17  
7:00 P.M. O'Malley Hall

Celebration of Parish Stewardship  
Weekend Masses: April 21 and 22

Commitment Weekend: May 5 and 6

# Today we Celebrate! Christ is Risen!

So rejoice, my friends! Christ is calling you today to new life, to new possibilities, to great joy! Don't fail to answer his call. Christ has risen, and so should you! So should we all...

One of the symbols we use to celebrate the mystery of dying to new life is the Easter Lily. Buried months earlier into the earth's darkness, a seemingly dead bulb has quietly erupted into a majestic white trumpet flower. From what appeared to our senses to be death, new life has prevailed. Hope abounds for Christ has shown that even death can be conquered. With God, all things are possible. Thanks to those whose donations to our Ester Flower Memorial Fund have allowed us to fill our sanctuary with these beautiful reminders of resurrection.

Many parishioners have returned gifts of time, talent and treasure to God this past week. I am especially grateful to **Betty Gerych** and our **Choir and Bell Choir**. As you may have heard rumored, the past few weeks have been difficult ones for these folks who throughout the year provide exceptional music at our Sunday Mass. Nevertheless Betty, the choir and Bell Choir placed service to God and our parish first. Following the Easter Vigil, Betty and the choir will take what I sincerely hope will be a very short hiatus. The Bell Choir will continue to prepare for its annual Bell Concert on April 21.

I also want to thank **Betty Langendorfer, Barb Perry and Mary Carol Wall** and others who assured that liturgical ministers were in place throughout the Triduum. Mary Carol, along with **Karen Grimmer, Mary Faucett**, catechists **Mary McConnell, Penny Ruest, Vivian Strache** and other volunteers helped organize an intergenerational **Palm Sunday Hunger Meal**. The portion sizes and variety of rice dishes served to participants, graphically demonstrated the ever widening gap between the people of "third world" and "first world" nations such as the United States. The program included a presentation by several young people on the struggles of the emerging third world nation of Niger.

## How Blest We Are!

The glory of our parish Triduum liturgies and the stark lessons of our Hunger Meal each remind us of just how blessed we are. In the fifty days of Easter, how will steward and celebrate the blessings? Will we use the talents and gifts that we have received in praise of and service to the God and all who crave the joy that our particular song brings or, for whatever reason, withhold this gift? Will we respond generously when asked to share our financial resources to feed the poor among us and our Time and Talents as Stewards of the Easter message. The choice is ours.

On Holy Thursday, at the conclusion of the Mass of the Lord's Supper, Fr. Peter carried the Blessed Sacrament in solemn procession to our new Daily Mass Chapel located in the Zimmer Center near the parking lot door. We will begin having weekday Mass in the new Chapel on Tuesday morning. I'll have much more on the Chapel in next week.

Have a blessed Easter week. Serve one another well.

*Dean Ray*



## Scripture REFLECTIONS

### An Easter Lesson from the Starship Enterprise

**D**ata is an android who serves aboard the Starship Enterprise in the television series **Star Trek: The Next Generation**. In one episode Data creates another android who comes to be seen as his daughter. She is like all androids, except she has the capacity to feel, whereas Data is totally logical and rational. Lol, as she is known, makes several mistakes in learning to be a proper member of the Enterprise crew but is soon accepted somewhat as a new child.

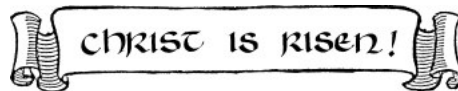


When Lol is confronted with conflicting emotions, however, her systems begin to break down and although great efforts are taken to save her, she eventually needs to be deactivated. In a very touching scene, Data tells his daughter it is time to say good-bye to which she replies, "Thank you for my life."

When Data returns to his post the crew is unsure what to say or how to respond. Captain Picard tells Data that the crew is saddened by his loss, to which Data replies, "There is no need to be sad. Her presence so enriched my life that I downloaded her program into mine. I took her memory and put it into me, so now she will always be part of me."

#### Is this what Jesus asked of his apostles?

Is it what Jesus asks of us during the Easter season - to take his story that so enriches our lives and download it into our own; to absorb his memories into ourselves so they live on? Memories of Jesus need to be incorporated into our lives but it can be difficult to live them out because we are told they are not rational or logical. Just as the women in today's Gospel, we are told the story we wish to incorporate into our own is preposterous. But Easter is the day we are asked to choose - do we accept the Jesus story and download it into ourselves or do we reject it as nonsense?



**A**lice's Rest Comfort Home in Avoca, still needs about 30 trained volunteers before it is able to reopen. Alice's welcomes terminally ill patients to spend their remaining days in a comfortable rural setting attended to by registered nurses, volunteers and their families. Currently about 45 volunteers have been recruited and trained.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry of caring and hospitality, or know of a terminally ill person (regardless of faith tradition) who would benefit from Alice's Rest, please contact **Jean Crawford** or **Sue Dominic** at 566-3420 or email: [alicesrestfoundation@yahoo.com](mailto:alicesrestfoundation@yahoo.com). Alice's Rest Comfort Home is located at 8904 Cook Road in Avoca.

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