

Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

The Twenty-second Sunday of Ordinary Time

August 28,



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

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Sacramental Minister
Deacon Ed Wight
Parish Deacon
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Choir and Bell Choir
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Custodian
Mary Carol Wall
Youth Ministry - 776-6944
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Eileen Wayne
Faith Formation Coordinator
E-Mail: EWayne@dor.org

Our Parish Council

Jo Slovak
Chairperson
Rosemary States
Vice-Chairperson
Stephanie Czajkowski
Jim Gallagher
Mary McConnell
Sean McKinley
William MacNamara
Kathy Warren



Scripture REFLECTIONS

Jeremiah and Peter

Is This How God Treats Friends?



Jeremiah
1st Reading

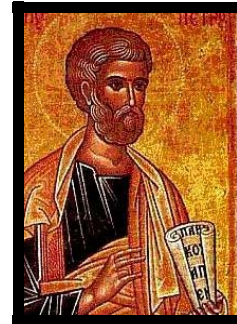
A Prophet's life is a dangerous one and Jeremiah's life was one great cauldron of pain. In today's first reading he is in crisis. Totally despondent and angry, he feels that God has abandoned him in his deepest need. Is this the reward he gets for being faithful? For railing against false prophets? Is this

how God treats friends?

I am reminded of St. Teresa of Avila who, in one of her own moments of pain, cries out to God, who answers her by saying "this is how I treat all my friends," to which she responds, "Yes, Lord, and that's why you have so few!" But both Jeremiah and Teresa plodded on. Both were consumed with the love of God.

How many times do people in ministry hear the words "I am so angry with God"? About 25 years ago Paulist Press published a book titled *May I Hate God?* Many people found the book helpful. The Psalms are filled with laments and anger toward God. When there is feeling there is life. We can be comforted in knowing that many prophets and holy people have cried out to God in anger. The sacred Scriptures are testimony that God listens, understands, and comforts in the midst of anger and despair.

If the gospels are about life, our life as well as the lives of Jesus and the disciples, some of our personal portraits are sketched



Peter
Gospel

in observing the behavior of those around Jesus. How fickle we are! Only last week we heard Peter declare that Jesus is the Messiah, Son of the living God," after which Jesus hands over the "keys." I guess Peter and his cohorts are still thinking that the keys will unlock power to help a messiah boot the Romans out and establish his own kingship. Still judging by

human standards.

Now that thinking has to be reversed. If you want to follow me you're going to have to suffer, says Jesus. What? Was that part of the bargain Peter felt had been struck by Jesus? Last week Peter was praised; now he is rebuked. Matthew is taking us on this roller-coaster of feelings, acceptances, affirmations, rejections, scoldings that take place between Peter, the disciples, and Jesus.

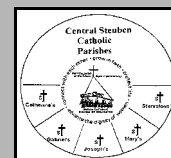
Peter, the Rock, future symbol of the solid foundation of the early church in last week's conversation with Jesus, now is a rock you stumble over. In telling Peter to "get behind him" Jesus is telling him to take on the posture of a disciple and "follow" Jesus. Jeremiah had to give up acceptance by his own people in order to gain God's offer of life. Following Jesus has always meant giving up something we hold in high value for the sake of the community. Joy is born from giving and receiving so that all may benefit and have life to the full.

Rev. George Fitzgerald, CSP

Mass/Reconciliation Schedule

Parish Celebrations of the Lord's Day
Saturday - 4:00 p.m. ♦ Sunday - 9:30 a.m.
Weekday Masses
♦ Tuesday and Thursday - 5:00 p.m.

Scripture/Communion Services
Monday, Wednesday, Friday—9:00 a.m.
The Sacrament of Reconciliation
1st and 3rd Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.



A member of the
**Central Steuben
Catholic Parishes**
Diocese of Rochester



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

SUNDAY August 28, 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:30 a.m. In Memory, Michael Cullen
By Mr. And Mrs. Walter Volz

MONDAY August 29, Martyrdom of John the Baptist
9:00 a.m. Communion Service

TUESDAY August 30, Weekday
5:00 p.m. In Memory, John Jozefick
By Veronica Cummings

WEDNESDAY August 31, Weekday
9:00 a.m. Communion Service

THURSDAY September 1, Weekday
5:00 p.m. In Memory, Carmalena Minichello
By Yolanda Fiordo

FRIDAY September 2, Weekday
9:00 a.m. Prayer Service & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
12:00 Noon Rosary
4:30 p.m. Benediction

SATURDAY September 3,
3:30 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation
4:00 p.m. In Memory, Dr. Julius Ogden
By Ann and Ted Stellweg

SUNDAY September 4,
9:30 a.m. In Memory, Michael Cullen
By Henrietta and Sam Powell



PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

SUNDAY August 28,
7:00 p.m. AA, pavilion

THURSDAY September 1,
7:30 p.m. Charismatic Prayer Group, Dick Perry Room

FRIDAY September 2,
9am-5pm Youth Group Rummage Sale
7:00 p.m. Bingo, Member in charge, Marge Eichensehr
7:30 p.m. NA, Room 101

SATURDAY September 3,
9am-5pm Youth Group Rummage Sale
1:00 p.m. NA, Room 101

SUNDAY September 4,
3-6 p.m. O'Malley Hall rental
7:00 p.m. AA, Pavilion



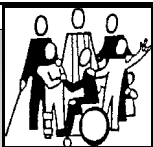
Happy Birthday To You

8/28	Sheri Neu	9/1	Florence McBride
8/28	Sean McLaughlin	9/2	Tim Quick
8/29	Carey Muller	9/2	Gregory Beyler
8/29	Robert Watches	9/2	Christina Pellegrino
8/31	Henry Cullen	9/2	Daniel Cummings
8/31	Amy Marling	9/3	Lucas Burns
9/1	Dominic Venuti	9/3	Sharon Shelhamer
9/1	Robert Shaner	9/3	Joshua Ordway
9/1	Heather Crowe		



Assembly Schedule

September 3- Saturday 4:00 p.m. - Willing Hearts
September 4- Sunday- 9:30 a.m. - Willing Hearts
To form or join an assembly, call 776-3327



SAINT MARY'S PARISH

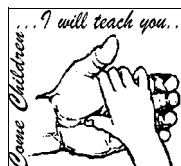
"Where Giving Is An Investment
In Our Faith and Our Future."

Thank you for - Making Parish a Priority!

August 13/14, 2005
Sacrificial Gifts totaled: \$3,751.00
Youth Ministry Collection totaled: \$200.00
310 People worshiped God at St. Mary's this weekend.

SUMMERTIME SECOND COLLECTIONS

Thanks to all who contributed to last week's Second Collection for the Can and Quarter collection for the needy of our community. Gifts to this collection totaled \$228.05 Next week's second collection will be for the monthly air-conditioning bill for the church.



Religious Education Registration

Registration for the 2005-2006 year of Religious Education will take place after the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, September 11th and Sunday, September 18th.

Music Ministers



St. Mary's Music Ministry will soon be starting up again after a well-deserved summer break. Our Choir will have it's first practice on Thursday, September 8, at 7:15 p.m. in the choir loft. Our talented Bell Choir will have their first practice on Monday, September 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the Church. Both music groups are always looking for interested parishioners who would like to join and add beauty to our liturgies. Please consider this your personal invitation to join. There is no age requirement; just a desire to sing and have fun! If you would like more information please contact Betty Gerych or Bill Grimmer, or just show up at our first rehearsals. You won't regret it!



Sent to Serve

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

A LIFE LIVED IN FAITH AND LOVING SERVICE

Last week I shared with you my thoughts as our family waited for the imminent passing of my mother, **Agnes Hart Defendorf**. This week, I hope that you'll permit me to tell you a little about this strong and faith-filled woman who died last Tuesday evening in the Hospice unit of **Highland Hospital** in Rochester.



Agnes was one of six children born to **Arthur T. and Catherine Albrecht Hart** of Rochester. Mom's strongly Catholic family included an uncle **Monsignor William Hart** who served as Vicar General of the Diocese of Rochester under **Bishop James E. Kearney**. The extended family also produced three other priests, **Fr. William Hart, Fr. Richard Hart** and Basilian **Fr. Bill Frankenberger**.

When mom was about eight, her mother died of tuberculosis. Arthur assisted in raising his family by his wife's mother and sister. Agnes was a good student. Following her high school graduation from **Nazareth Academy**, she was offered a scholarship by **Nazareth College**. But, her father declined the scholarship because "Girls don't need an education to raise a family." Mom took a secretarial job at Kodak. During the early days of WWII, while attending an Arthur Murray dance school with friends, mom met my dad **R. Elwood Defendorf**, a young rather brash member of the Army/Air Corps. They married and during nearly 30 years of marriage shared their love and Catholic faith with three children. I was the oldest followed two years later by my sister Linda and four years later by my brother Leo—whose name was inspired by "Leo and Mary" the "Dick and Jane" of my Catholic School Reader.

Shortly after Lee's birth Dad was Diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis—a then little known progressively debilitating disease of the central nervous system. Over about twenty-five years, Mom faithfully cared for my Dad as he progressed from cane to crutches to wheelchair. The last five years of his life, Dad was totally bedridden unable to feed himself or turn himself over. Throughout our childhood, Mom protected Dad's dignity and desire to be "head" of the family. At a time when few "handicapped" people were seen in public, our family lifted dad's wheelchair up the steps of Church, never missing a Sunday or Holy Day Mass. Mom and Dad were founding members of the **Rochester Area Multiple Sclerosis Society (RAMS)**. Each Thanksgiving and Christmas, we opened our

home to two residents of the Monroe County Infirmary who had MS and no family to care for them.

When Dad died in 1970, Mom was in her early 50's. Within a year she enrolled at **Monroe Community College** and then **Brockport State College**, where, in 1975 she received a degree in Social Work. Shortly after graduation, Mom began a twelve year career at the **Hurlburt Nursing Home** when she continued her life of caring for the infirm. Upon her retirement, Mom spent an additional 10 years volunteering at **Hill Haven Nursing Home** where her sister Mary was a patient. During these years, Mom served as a Eucharistic Minister to the Sick and Homebound at St. Charles Borromeo Church. Each week she would bring the Lord through Scripture and Holy Communion to several elderly and infirm parishioners.

Mom's home on Elwood Drive (named for my father by my grandfather, a contractor who built ours and several other homes on the street) was always a place of welcome and hospitality to all. The basement was converted to an "apartment" for grandchildren making the break from living at home and others (some relatives some not) who were "in transition".

Mom loved unconditionally and with patience, humility, gentleness and good humor that reflected her great faith in God and acceptance of her baptismal call. These great virtues made her only obvious flaw—a belief (inspired by my very conservative brother) that the O'Reilly Factor really was a "No Spin Zone" and Fox News really is "Fair and Balanced" tolerable. Before lapsing into a morphine induced sleep, a nurse asked, "Agnes how are you doing?" "I'm fine," she replied. "Is there anything I can do for you?" the nurse continued. "No." she murmured, then catching herself . . . "NO THANK YOU."

Mom died in a manner that most would only wish for—surrounded by family who have had ample opportunity to express to her their love and gratitude.

Mom's funeral Mass at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Greece, NY was truly a celebration of her life and the fulfillment of God's promise. **Bishop Matthew Clark** was kind enough to accept my invitation to preside. Her children and grandchildren fully participated in the celebration. I had the privilege of deaconing, proclaiming the Gospel and preaching. Several friends from near and far were able to join us at either the calling hours or Mass. Others who were not able to attend also sent assurances of prayer and consolation. Mom was laid to rest next to my dad at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rochester.

Following a funeral luncheon, Pat and I rejoined the guests at Catholic House in Chautauqua where Pat has been serving as House manager and sacristan. We'll be here until shortly before the end of the month.

Again, thanks for your prayers, friendship and support. Have a good week. Serve one another well.

Deacon Ray