

Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

The Twenty-first Sunday of Ordinary Time

August 21, 2005



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
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Email: bstmaryc@dor.org

Our Parish Staff

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Sacramental Minister
Deacon Ed Wight
Parish Deacon
Barbara Bailey
Parish Bookkeeper/Secretary
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Choir and Bell Choir
Bill Grimmer
Music and Liturgy
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Mary Carol Wall
Youth Ministry - 776-6944
E-Mail: Avocawalls@usadatanet.net
Eileen Wayne
Faith Formation Coordinator
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Our Parish Council

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



Scripture REFLECTIONS

"Who Do I Say He Really Is?"

In a recent survey, many people identified themselves as spiritual but not necessarily religious. They believed in a greater being, or higher power, or in God, but did not follow any particular religion or practice faith in any outward way. God was impersonal and distant, yet they tried to follow some sort of spiritual values and principles.

God reveals himself as the creator, the God of Abraham, Jacob and Isaac. He is the One who acts in time and history, doing great things for his people. He takes on our own flesh to save us. Christians know God in a personal way, speaking to him in our hearts, in our liturgies and in our way of life. We see his wisdom and greatness in all we see and in all we do.

Jesus asks the Apostles who they say he is. He is not an anonymous God, doing kind little deeds for people who occasionally acknowledge him. He proclaims the glory of God. He announces salvation. He gives his life, taking on evil in all its might, so that we might live. The core of our faith, the depth of our love is measured by how we answer: who do I say he really is?



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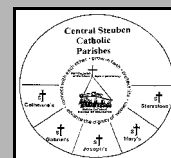
Wedding Jubilee Mass

Bishop Matthew Clark will honor couples who have been married 25, 30, 40, 50 or more years, Sunday, September 25th at 2:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester. A reception will follow. To receive an invitation, please contact Sylvia Mancuso 1-800-388-7177, x 1295 or 585-328-3228 x 1295 or email smancuso@dor.org. Responses for the Mass need to be received by Thursday, September 1st.

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 21, 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:30 a.m. In Memory, Michael Cullen
By Barb Bailey

MONDAY August 22, Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9:00 a.m. Communion Service

TUESDAY August 23, Weekday
5:00 p.m. In Memory, Andy and Dorothy Swabick
By Veronica Cummings

WEDNESDAY August 24, Bartholomew, apostle
9:00 a.m. Communion Service

THURSDAY August 25, Weekday
5:00 p.m. In Memory, Sister Monica Ann
By Veronica Cummings

FRIDAY August 26, Weekday
9:00 a.m. Communion Service
4:00 p.m. Mass at Lakeview Apartments
In Memory, Sue Angus
BY Janice Luta and Agnes Harvey

SATURDAY August 27,
4:00 p.m. In Memory, Dorothy Murphy
By family

SUNDAY August 28,
9:30 a.m. In Memory, Michael Cullen
By Mr. And Mrs. Walter Volz



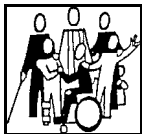
Assembly Schedule

August 27- Saturday 4:00 p.m. - Willing Hearts
August 28- Sunday- 9:30 a.m. - Luminaires

To form or join an assembly, call 776-3327



The Sanctuary Light above the Tabernacle is burning this week in memory of Michael Versage, requested by his family.



SAINT MARY'S PARISH

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

Thank you for - Making Parish a Priority!

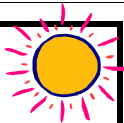
August 13/14, 2005

Sacrificial Gifts totaled: \$3,154.50

368 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 missionary work of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Gifts to this collection totaled \$440.07



PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

SUNDAY August 21, Can and Quarter collection
7:00 p.m. AA, pavilion

WED. August 24,
Noon-3 p.m. Pavilion rental

THURSDAY August 25,
7:30 p.m. Charismatic Prayer Group, Dick Perry Room

FRIDAY August 26,
7:30 p.m. NA, Room 101

SATURDAY August 27,
1:00 p.m. NA, Room 101

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



Happy Birthday To You

8/21	Steven Olesen	8/24	Michael Skelly
8/21	Teresa Perry	8/24	Dorothy Cullen
8/21	Donald Mills	8/24	Kathryn Biehl
8/22	Brandt Rice	8/24	Lyman Sheils
8/22	Kyla Burns	8/24	Marissa Oksinski
8/22	Michael Crotty	8/25	Benjamin Perry
8/22	Cheryl Crocker	8/25	Mary Gaudino
8/23	Michael Bly	8/26	Mitchell Alger

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!

HUH?



Bulletin Bloopers

Actual Church Bulletin Bloopers

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.



Sent to Serve

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

PREPARING TO SAY "GOODBYE"

I am writing this column on Monday night, August 15. It is the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is also the day I expected to say a final "goodbye" to the mother that my daughter Monica calls "Agnes of God."



"Agnes of God"

Since early Wednesday morning when my mother was taken by ambulance to Highland Hospital, my sister Linda and I have "camped out" in her hospital room. Early on, the prognosis of the resident physician was not positive. Tests given in the ER showed that pneumonia had become well advanced in her lungs. A life-long smoker, mom's Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (C.O. P.D.) had opened the door to the discomfort and disease which will most likely take her life.

After two days of aggressively fighting the pneumonia with antibiotics, her doctors concluded that they were fighting a losing battle. It was then that we made the very difficult decision to begin a plan of care that would allow mom to be comfortable and pain free during her last days of life on this earth. Since, mom has received morphine to slow her agitated breathing and reduce her discomfort, continuous oxygen, cooling cloths on her head, and the continuous presence of family members holding her hands and speaking words of love and faith.

Throughout these days and nights, Linda and I have been joined by mom's grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Each has, according to their age and ability, spoken words of love directly to Mom, prayed with her and said their "good byes." My children, Chris, Annie and Monica, drove to Rochester on Thursday night - arriving about midnight. Sitting close to Mom, (who was then still somewhat lucid) they shared humorous stories and sang family favorites for about an hour. The visit ended with a brief communion service in which mom received her 'viaticum' - food for the journey. (Earlier, hospital chaplain and my longtime friend Fr. Walt Plominski administered the Sacrament of the Sick.)

Sunday at midnight my brother Leo arrived from Topeka, Kansas to say his goodbyes, pray the rosary and join in our nightly vigils. Which brings us back to today, the Feast of the Assumption. Will tonight be the night? Or perhaps tomorrow or Wednesday.

Only God knows. But when the time comes, Mom will be ready and we will be confident that we have spoken the words that most need to be said and heard. "We love you mom. Thank you!"

Agnes H. Defendorf died at 8:35 p.m., August 16, 2005. May she rest in peace.

GOODBYE TO JO AND BONNIE

Even as I've waited from mom's call to new life, two dear friends received the call. Today, her family and friends commended Josephine Warren to the Lord's embrace. Tomorrow afternoon in Corning I'll preside at the funeral of Bonnie Hogan who was a parishioner of St. Patrick's Church where I served as pastoral moderator. Both were women of remarkable faith and generous spirit. God has truly been glorified by their lives.

THANK YOU!



Many thanks for your gracious and generous response to Sr. Peg Regan, SSND and the missionary work of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Once again this week our Summer Second Collection will serve missionary activities. Our monthly Can and Quarter Collection

helps us serve the needs of numerous people (very few are parishioners) who seek our assistance in times of unemployment or financial need. Remember that a very generous donor has offered to MATCH your gifts to the Can and Quarter collection.

Another parishioner has underwritten this month's ministry to the residents of the Steuben Health Care and Taylor Nursing Facilities. It costs about \$50 to provide Mass, Anointing, and Communion Services to the Catholic residents of these nursing homes each month. Thanks to this donor. If you'd like to underwrite a parish ministry, please contact the parish office.

Thanks also to all who have returned the 2005-2006 Sunday Giving Estimate Forms that we requested that you return before last weekend. Our Finance Committee will meet in September to complete a balanced operational budget. Your estimates will greatly assist them in this process. If you have not returned this form, please do so this week.

Have a good Summer week.