



Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

The Twenty-first Sunday of Ordinary Time

August 24, 2008

Our Parish Office

32 East Morris Street
Bath, NY 14810
Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Other times by appointment
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Email: bstmaryc@dor.org

Our Parish Staff

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Pastoral Administrator
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Custodian
Mary Faucett
Parish Life Volunteer
Paula Gardner
Office Volunteer
E-Mail: PGardner1@DOR.org
Mary Carol Wall
Youth Ministry/Faith Formation
Coordinator - 776-6944
E-Mail: Avocawalls@peoplepc.com

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 - 556-3690
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
Kathy Warren - 776-4074



"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven. Whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven"



Scripture REFLECTIONS

From where does human authority come? It is so easy for leaders to forget it comes from God, to think they got authority from their own achievement, wealth or knowledge.

In today's first reading, God makes Eliakim the master of the king's palace. The king at the time was Hezekiah, one of the greatest kings to rule after King David. Eliakim was his right hand man, his spokesman in many negotiations with others nations.

In the Gospel, Jesus makes Peter the head of his church on earth. We can see the parallels between the two men. The Lord gives Eliakim the key of the House of David and tells him that no one will open what he has shut or shut what he has opened. Jesus gives Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven and tells him that whatever he binds or loosens on earth will be bound or loosed in heaven.

Neither man is king; both are stewards of the king. It is in the second reading that we see everything explained: All things are from God, through him and for him.

Story for Today **HURRICANE**

By Dr. Constance M. Popp

In 1985 Rubin "Hurricane" Carter was released from prison after serving nineteen years for three murders he did not commit. Carter's turbulent background, from juvenile reform school to three life-term sentences is a story of transformation from tragedy to redemption.

Carter, an African American and contender for the middleweight professional boxing title, was twenty-nine in 1966 when he was accused of the triple shooting deaths of three Caucasians at the Lafayette Bar and Grill in Paterson, New Jersey. Convicted on coerced testimony that was later recanted, Carter and codefendant, John Artis, were granted a new trial in 1976 only to have the same witness deny his recantation, causing Carter and Artis to be re-sentenced to three life terms.

In 1985, new attorneys filed a petition in federal court with the resulting ruling: "[These] convictions were predicated upon appeal to racism rather than reason, and concealment rather than disclosure?. To permit convictions to stand which have as their foundation appeals to racial prejudice? is to commit a violation of the Constitution as heinous as the crimes for which these petitioners were tried and convicted."

Appearing on Larry King Live, Carter was asked how he could laugh so easily after twenty years of his life had been taken from him. Carter replied, "I turned that prison into an unnatural laboratory of the human spirit?. You learn from those kind [sic] of conditions that you can grow beyond yourself, that there's something else that's so powerful, something else that can handle this thing that I can't handle in my own weak state myself-that there is something."

How deep are the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable God's judgments and how unsearchable God's ways that a man who was imprisoned unjustly for two decades could say, "If I have learned nothing else in life, I've learned that bitterness only consumes the vessel that contains it."

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Mass/Communion/Reconciliation Schedule

Parish Celebrations of the Lord's Day

Saturday - 4:00 p.m. ✦ Sunday - 9:30 a.m.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

1st and 3rd Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.

Weekday Mass/Communion Services

Monday (Scripture/Communion) - 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday and Thursday - 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday - 5:00 p.m.

Friday - 8:30 a.m. (St. Gabriel's, Hammondsport)



A member of the
Central Steuben
Catholic Parishes
Diocese of Rochester



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

SUNDAY Aug 17, Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time
 9:30 a.m. In Mem. of Dori O'Connell
 By Deb & Bill Brinkus
 Chris & Scott Howard

MONDAY Aug 18, Monday
 9:00 a.m. Scripture/Communion Service

TUESDAY Aug 19, Tuesday
 5:00 p.m. In Mem. of Helen Opila
 By Henrietta & Sam Powell

WEDNESDAY Aug 20, Wednesday
 9:00 a.m. Intentions of Mary Giblin
 By her family

THURSDAY Aug 21, Thursday
 9:00 a.m. Intentions of Geri & Jim Galvin
 By Barb, Agnes & Janice

FRIDAY Aug 22, Friday,
 (Mass at St. Gabriel's at 8:30a.m.)

SATURDAY Aug 23, Saturday
 4:00 p.m. Intentions of Geri & Jim Galvin
 on their 50th Anniversary
 By Geri & Jim Galvin

SUNDAY Aug 24, Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time
 9:30 a.m. In Mem. of Arthur John Maher
 By Deacon Ray Defendorf

Beginning in January 2009, a weekend Mass each month will be offered for the "Members of the St. Mary's Memorial Fund." Donations to this fund will be used to support parish ministries and capital projects.



PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

SUNDAY Aug 17
 8:30 a.m. Pre Mass Choir Practice, Chapel
 11:00 a.m. Post Choir Practice, Church
 3:00 p.m. Sunday Supper, Hall
 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101

MONDAY Aug 18
 6:00 p.m. Keuka Lake Players 201 & 205

TUESDAY Aug 19
 6:00 p.m. Weight Loss Challenge - 101
 7:30 p.m. Bath Daycare Preschool Graduation—Hall
 7:30 p.m. Prayer Group - Rectory

WEDNESDAY Aug 20
 6:00 p.m. Keuka Lake Players 201 & 205

THURSDAY Aug 21
 5:30p.m. Weight Watchers - Hall
 7:30p.m. Prayer Group—Chapel

FRIDAY Aug 22
 6:00 p.m. Keuka Lake Players 201 & 205

SATURDAY Aug 23
 1:00 p.m. NA - Hall

SUNDAY Aug 24
 8:30 a.m. Pre Mass Choir Practice, Chapel
 11:00 a.m. Post Choir Practice, Church
 3:00p.m. Sunday Supper, Hall
 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101

Parish Picnic & Mass

The parish picnic has been rescheduled for Sunday, August 31 in St. Mary's Pavilion
 1:00pm Mass
 2:00pm Picnic
 Bring a dish to pass

Meat & Beverage will be Provided.

NO 9:30 a.m. Mass
 NEXT SUNDAY

Catholic Charities Steuben "40 Week Club"

The 40 week club gives Catholic Charities an opportunity to help raise critical dollars needed to support their Anti-Poverty and Child Day Care Programs.

Please support this important work.
 Tickets Available in the Parish Office.



SAINT MARY'S PARISH "A Parish of Good Stewards"

Thank you for Making Parish a Priority!

Sacrificial Gifts totaled: \$4269.58
 Maintenance \$983.65

Today's 2nd Collection: Can & Quarter
Next Week's 2nd Collection: Air Conditioning

In addition to helping us meet our payroll expenses, your stewardship gifts will help us pay our annual Insurance bill of \$28,960.

Confirmation Day is October 1, 2008



Bishop Matthew Clark will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with us on Wednesday, October 1. Preparation will begin soon for children, teens and adults who wish to receive this sacrament. Please contact Mary Carol Wall this week to register for Confirmation.



Happy Birthday To You!

08/17 Randy Crocker	08/21 Steven Olsen
08/18 Judy Snell	08/21 Eithen Ormsby
08/19 Bob Abbey	08/22 Michael Crotty
08/20 Rod McConnell	08/22 Cheryl Crocker
08/21 Dallas Armentano	08/23 Michael Bly
08/21 Teresa Perry	



Prayer List

Bruce Ayers, Fran Cummings, Bob Denno, Mary Fisher, Michael Furlong, Mary and Jack Giblin, Deb Griffin, Nancy Holzer, John Hurley, Joseph Kish, Jim Lamprecht, Logan Manciocchi, Deacon John Prave, Theresa Rodbourn, Cindy Travers, and Stan Wraight.



Assembly Schedule

Aug 23- Sat. 4:00 p.m.
 Willing Hearts
 Aug 24 - Sun. 9:30 a.m.
 Heavenly Hash

To join an assembly call 776-3327

Turning Point September Need

Soup

St. Mary's Youth Group



Rummage sale time is here again. The Youth Group is looking for good useable items for this sale. If you can donate something, you can drop it off in the garage or if you need something picked up, contact the parish office. 776 - 3327.

Joseph's Hammer



Joseph's Hammer is a ministry of St Gabriel's in Hammondsport and volunteers from other area churches that completes construction projects for needy neighbors throughout the area.

Joseph's Hammer is seeking funds and new volunteers. Place donations in the little house that is located in the back of the church.



SENT TO SERVE

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

"The Gates of Hell will Not Prevail"

Over the years, I've had the opportunity to travel in the Holy Land on eight occasions. Today's gospel brings back a powerful memory of a visit to the place where Jesus spoke the words that are recorded in the reading.

Caesarea Philippi is a Roman town built on an ancient site of pagan worship. It is partially restored today and you can see remnants of the former imperial city as well as the more ancient sacred place of pagan worship.



When I hear the gospel reading I can see Jesus standing there before the shear wall of stone against which the pagan temple was build. At the foot of the rock face is a cave out of which mysteriously flows a stream. (It comes underground from Mt. Hermon to the north). The ancients believed that this was the entrance to the underworld of darkness and evil.

It was with his back to this huge rock cliff that **Jesus looked at Peter and said "You are Peter, petros, (the rock) on which I will build my church." It was not to the rock wall of the ancient temple and belief system that Jesus spoke, but the living breathing human being, Cephas, whom Jesus renamed "Peter." And, Jesus went on to say, "the Gates of Hell shall not prevail against it."**

His listeners knew immediately that Jesus was making a geographical reference to the very place where they were standing. Jesus was telling his followers that the false idols and fears of that generation would be superseded by his followers, lead by Peter.

From that time on "Peter" has lead the church into the future on uncharted ways, inspired by faith and trust in the Lord only. We know how the church spread from that humble and powerful beginning, but we continue to live in the joyful expectation that Jesus Holy Spirit is guiding our journey in faith through the ages. The challenges of our times are not small, but neither are they the first ones that people of faith have had to experience. We stand in the long tradition of faith filled people who read the signs of the times and, with the guidance of

the same Spirit and the inspiration and commitment of "Peter" travel into the future with faith, confidence and hope in the Lord. The ministry of Peter is as important today as it ever was. We are blessed with his example and leadership.

Our parish community here at St. Mary's is but one of many hundreds of thousands around the world which listen to the voice of the shepherd and give praise and thanks for what God is doing in our hearts and in our midst.

Occasionally, in the history of most every faith community, there are struggles and even internal conflicts that cause great hurt. But healing and reconciliation happens when people concentrate on keeping their minds and hearts on the Lord and the work God has entrusted to us. We dare not give into discouragement, doubt or despair? The Gates of Hell will not prevail against us.

Lands of the Bible Cruise

Speaking of the Holy Land, Pat and I, along with several pastoral leaders from throughout the Diocese invite you to join us in November 2009 on a "Lands of the Bible" Cruise. Our itinerary includes an overnight flight to Athens where we will visit the Acropolis and the biblical city of Corinth before boarding the *mv Cristal*, a new 471 passenger cruise ship. We'll dock at Port Said for a visit to Cairo (the Egyptian Museum and the Pyramids at Giza) then on to the port of Ashod in Israel. For two days we'll visit sites in Jerusalem and Bethlehem returning to the ship each evening for dinner and overnight. Our next port is Haifa where we'll disembark to tour the Galilee with stops at the Mount of the Beatitudes, Tabgha (the site of the miracle of the loaves and fish), a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and renew our baptismal vows at the Jordan River. After a day at sea we'll visit the Isle of Patmos where John wrote Revelations and then to Ephesus, Turkey where St. Paul established a Christian community on his first missionary journey. After a visit to Piraeus we'll return to Athens for our return trip home.

I'll have brochures available shortly. Pleased let me know if you'd like more information.

Have a good week. Serve each other well.

Deacon Ray

Building Faithful Citizenship



A Reflection for August 124, 2008

The call to be informed, conscience-driven citizens does not begin and end in election years. Volunteering in our communities, being a principled worker or employer, spending and investing in ethical ways, staying informed and engaging in reasoned dialogue on important issues are only a few of the daily activities that impact the health of our society. Living our faith is a daily challenge to grasp "the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God.

The U.S. Catholic Bishops encourage us to follow several steps in forming our consciences:

- A desire to embrace goodness and truth that is reflected in our willingness to study Scripture and the teachings of the church.
- Examining the facts and background information of our choices
- Prayerful reflection

Question for Reflection:

Are my opinions of candidates and issues shaped by good conscience formation and a desire for the common good?

Thank You!



On behalf of the Columban Sisters working in various parts of the world, thank you for the wonderful welcome that you extended to me during my recent visit to St. Mary's. It was a privilege to be able to share my mission experiences with you, and to assure you that your financial gifts (\$1,098) and prayerful support are deeply appreciated.

It is generosity such as yours that enables the Missionary Sisters of St. Columba to continue our cross-cultural missionary work. You may be assured that you and all our benefactors are constantly remembered in prayer. May God reward each of you and may you be blessed abundantly in the months and years ahead.

Sister Virginia Mozo

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