

Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 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

Deacon Ray Defendorf
Pastoral Administrator
E-mail: RDefendorf@DOR.org

Rev. Frank Erb
Sacramental Minister

Deacon Ed Wight
Parish Deacon

Barbara Bailey
Parish Bookkeeper/Secretary
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Parish Secretary/Bulletin Editor
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Choir and Bell Choir

Bill Grimmer
Music and Liturgy
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George Hoffman
Custodian

Mary Carol Wall
Youth Ministry and
Religious Education
Coordinator - 776-6944
E-Mail: Avocawalls@usadatanet.net

Our Parish Council

Jo Slovak
Chairperson

Rosemary States
Vice-Chairperson

Stephanie Czajkowski

Jim Gallagher

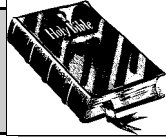
Mary McConnell

Sean McKinley

William MacNamara

Kathy Warren

In Residence
Fr. John Wydeven
Catholic Chaplain - Bath VA



Scripture REFLECTIONS



JOHN
the
baptist
appeared
in
the
desert

JOHN THE PRIEST

Mark's Gospel offers no background for John the Baptist. He simply appears in the Judean desert quoting Isaiah: "A voice in the wilderness" He apparently sees himself as some sort of fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy.

Luke supplies more background. John's parents both descended from priestly families. Hence he shares in the hereditary office. In the 1st century a group of Jews had rejected the corrupt line of priests that served the Temple. John seems to have joined this movement, which was known as the Essenes. If true, this means that John was a rebel who had turned from his father's faith. His doom's day message fits the Essene theology, as does the baptism of penance he preached.



Second
Sunday
of Advent

THE LORD DOES NOT DELAY

We stand today at the second weekend of our new liturgical year. Advent is a time for new beginnings and for anticipating what is about to happen. The days are growing shorter and shorter and although we have not seen winter's wrath just yet, we all know that it is sure to come.

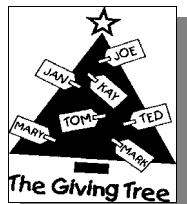
Many early Christians expected that the end of the world was coming soon. It was thought to be connected to Jesus' Second Coming. As years passed without either event, some began to question why God was delaying or if the Coming was a myth.

The author of second Peter doesn't try to defend the position but simply reminds his readers that God operates on a different time scale.

St. Mary's Giving Tree

The Christmas Giving Tree is set-up this weekend, so those of you who shop the day after Thanksgiving can get a head start.

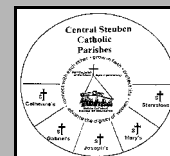
As in the past, parishioners are invited to purchase gifts for needy families as indicated on the gift tag. Please take as many cards as possible off the giving tree, purchase the requested gift, wrap it and place the tag that you took off the tree onto the package. Return the gifts to the church by the weekend of December 10th and 11th so they can be distributed well in advance of Christmas.



Mass/Reconciliation Schedule

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

Scripture/Communion Services
Monday and Wednesday - 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 9:00 a.m.	December 4 , Second Sunday of Advent In Memory, Stanley Czajkowski By Lance and Mary Ann Squires
MONDAY 9:00 a.m.	December 5, Advent Weekday Communion Service
TUESDAY 5:00 p.m.	December 6, Advent Weekday/Nicholas In Memory, Jo Warren By Ann Stever
WEDNESDAY 9:00 a.m.	December 7, Ambrose Communion Service
THURSDAY 5:30 p.m.	December 8, Immaculate Conception of Mary In Memory, Warren Hopkins By his wife, Betty Hopkins
FRIDAY 9:00 a.m.	December 9, Advent Weekday In Memory of Sally Fagan By Lance and Mary Ann Squires
11:00 a.m.	Infirmery - In Memory, Joyce McUmber By Pat Adamowicz
SATURDAY 4:00 p.m.	December 10, In Memory, James Harvey and Pete Luta By Agnes Harvey
SUNDAY 9:00 a.m.	December 11, Third Sunday of Advent The Opila and Spalnican Families By Helen Opila



PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

SUNDAY 9:00 a.m.	December 4 Children's Liturgy of the Word No Religious Education
10:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour Hosted by Jill and Jerry Gaudino
12:00 p.m.	Finger Lakes SPCA Auction, O'Malley Hall
7:00 p.m.	AA, Room 101
MONDAY 5:30 p.m.	December 5 Scrap booking with Lisa Caracci, Room 201
6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir practice
7:15 p.m.	Choir practice
7:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts, Room 202
TUESDAY 6:30 p.m.	December 6 Boy Scouts, Rooms 202, 203
WEDNESDAY 10:00 a.m.	December 7 Staff Meeting
7:30 p.m.	Charismatic Prayer Group, DP Room
THURSDAY 6:30 p.m.	December 8 Praise Music Practice
7:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts, Rooms 202, 203
FRIDAY 7:00 p.m.	December 9 NA, Room 101
SATURDAY 1:00 p.m.	December 10 NA, Room 101
SUNDAY 9:00 a.m.	December 11 Children's Liturgy of the Word
10:30 a.m.	Religious Education K-12
2:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
5:30 p.m.	Music Ministry Dinner
7:00 p.m.	AA, Room 101



Children's Liturgy of the Word

St. Mary's offers a special time during the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass for young children to hear the scriptures proclaimed in language they can understand. Children are dismissed following the opening prayer to their own Children's Chapel. They return during the offering. Parents are invited to join their young children during this time and occasionally serve as catechist. For more information contact Mary Carol Wall.



Happy Birthday To You

12/04	Edward Kuhnen	12/09	Katherine Fiedler
12/06	Felicia Clayton	12/09	Joseph Kish
12/07	Jeanne Glass	12/10	Lenore Beyler
12/08	James Galvin	12/10	Ryan Farrell
12/08	Mitchell Muller		



Assembly Schedule

Dec. 10 - Sat. 4:00 p.m. - Willing Hearts
Dec. 11 - Sun. 9:00 a.m. - Luminaries



SAINT MARY'S PARISH

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

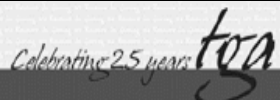
Thank you for - Making Parish a Priority!

November 27/28, 2005
Sacrificial Gifts totaled: \$2,808.50 THANK YOU!
Thanksgiving Envelope \$307
Faith Formation Envelope \$148 Heating Envelope \$35
321 People worshiped God at St. Mary's this weekend.

GIFT CARDS

St. Mary's receives 5% of the face value for every TOPS, P&C and KWIK FILL gift card we sell. These cards make great gifts - especially with gas prices so high.

Gift cards are sold after Mass and throughout the week in the Parish Office.



ANNUAL DIOCESAN MINISTRIES APPEAL

Saint Mary's Diocesan Ministry Appeal Goal \$27,244 To Date, 124 Parishioners have pledged 13,175 Needed to Reach our Quota 14,069*

* St. Mary's is required to make up the difference should we not reach our quota.

Please return your pledge care this week.



Sent to Serve

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

Advent and the Coming of Winter

Over the past few months we have witnessed the change in color of our leaves and the Fall harvest of fruits and vegetables in abundance. The death of fallen leaves, reminds us of a simple and yet profound lesson. All Summer long the leaves had been there catching the sun, providing shade and mostly going unnoticed, taken for granted. Suddenly in Fall they become a blaze of gold, red, orange. People stop to admire them and the beauty of the Fall season. The color had been there all Summer long, but was hidden by the leaves' chemistry. Now what was hidden came into full view and what a show! But now it is December and this beauty has yielded to Winter's cold arrival.

The challenge Jesus placed before His disciples and before all of us is: to find God in the ordinary, to be grateful and to be thankful for the almost invisible parts of our daily lives where God has been lurking all along. For God is present in every heart beat and breath, in every encounter; and in the annoying little brother and the demanding big sister, and the irritating neighbor, the inattentive spouse, the cashier with an attitude, the inconsiderate driver as well as in those moments in which we are affirmed, supported, appreciated and thanked. God is present in every moment if we but have the eyes to see and the ears to be attentive.

Attentiveness is what Advent is all about - a time to help us all to become more aware of the presence of God lurking everywhere. Advent is a time of anticipation and expectation of the Christmas joy that comes from knowing that God is in our midst. This Advent, lets focus on allowing God to comfort us and take away our fears as we wait in joyful expectation for the coming of Christ.

Daily Advent Meditations

Kathy Donnelly oversees our Catholic Cupboard Gift Shop. She has purchased copies of *Magnificat* - an excellent spiritual guide filled with daily meditations especially chosen for Advent 2005. The Catholic Cupboard is offering this excellent resource at a reduced rate of just \$2.00. Pick one up after Mass in the hall or at the rectory during the week.

Kathy also sent me an e-mail this week that inspired her already generous spirit. She found it on the Catholic World News website: www.cwnews.com

What Christian Charity Looks Like

While millions of Americans lazily begin working off the calories from a big turkey dinner, as others launch furious assaults on the local shopping malls, the New Orleans Times-Picayune gives this humbling re-

port from a country where things are a bit different:

The Kireka slum clings to a stony hillside above Kampala, Uganda, home to at least 5,000 impoverished refugees who live in hand-fashioned shelters bordered by outdoor latrines. The hillside is not only home, but work: Strip quarries line its face. Men dig out its larger rocks, while hundreds of women spend their days in stooped manual labor, pounding the rocks by hand into walnut-sized stones for sale as construction material. They earn about \$1.20 per day.

So American aid worker Amy Cunningham could scarcely believe it when she was summoned to Kireka last month for a festive celebration in which dozens of women handed over nearly \$900 in wages: their gift to victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

The story by Bruce Nolan goes on to tell about the AIDS epidemic that is scouring Uganda, the civil war that is killing women and children and stopping relief shipments. And this:

In a country where the average annual income is about \$300, Archbishop John Baptist Odama raised \$500 over several weeks among Catholics in northern Uganda in special collections for New Orleans relief...

Speaking of Generosity and Gratitude. . .

Heard from Betty Langendorfer on Sunday afternoon. She writes: "I just finished reading your homily on Gratitude and found it very inspirational. Anyone needing a lesson in gratitude should come down to New Orleans area and see the widespread destruction. Hope all is well in Bath."



New Friday 9:00 a.m. Mass

Father John Wydeven who resides in our rectory and serves as Catholic Chaplain at the Bath VA has begun celebrating Mass on Friday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Thank you Father John.

Morning Communion Services and Mass Moves to New Chapel

One of the consequences of winter in Bath, New York, is the rapidly escalating cost of heating the church. Beginning this week, our Monday and Wednesday Communion Services and new Friday morning Mass will take place in the Children's Chapel located on the 2nd floor of the Zimmer Center. If we find that people who cannot walk up the flight of stairs wish to attend, these services will be moved to a ground floor location such as O'Malley Hall. For the time being, Tuesday and Thursday 5:00 p.m. Mass and our monthly Charismatic Healing Mass will remain in the church.

Have a good week. Serve one another well!