

# Saint Mary's Parish

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



The Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2006

## 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  
**Fr. John Wydeven**  
Weekend Assistance  
**Deacon Ed Wight**  
Parish Deacon  
**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 Coord.  
E-mail: Kgrimmer@DOR.org

**George Hoffman**  
Custodian

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

## Our Parish Council

**William MacNamara**  
Chairperson  
**Rosemary States**  
Vice-Chairperson  
**Mary McConnell**  
Secretary

**Maryann Aston**  
**Jim Gallagher**  
**Sean McKinley**  
**Barbara Perry**  
**Kathy Warren**



## Scripture REFLECTIONS

### Third Sunday of Advent



At this time of year, many holiday gatherings are being planned. For so long, we have waited for this occasion; to get together, to share meals and stories, all in the name of remembering the arrival of a child who would change our world forever. And just as important, we remember that this innocent child promised to return again someday. Within that promise, we were told to make ourselves ready, to be prepared. What, then, should we do?

For hundreds of years, the prophets had foretold of the coming of a king. Quietly, patiently, faithfully, the people waited. And now, a man named John was proclaiming that the time had arrived, and so too would this king. As word spread, people from all walks of life hurried to see John and to be cleansed of their sins by the waters of the traditional Jewish rite of baptism. As they came, they asked John what they needed to do in preparation. He answered each according to their profession, and to all according to their responsibility in this world.

During this season of Advent, we spend time wondering what we should do to prepare. John advised all to share their food and clothing with those who have none. These simple acts of charity are our responsibility as we are all the body of Christ and individually members of it. Therefore, if one suffers



in this Body, all suffer. The smallest act of charity, then, returns as a benefit to all. (CCC 952) ©Liturgical Publications Inc

## Advent Communal Penance Services

Sunday, December 17 \* 7 PM

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23 \* 4 PM

Sunday, December 24 \* 9 AM

## Christmas Masses

Saturday, December 23 \* 4 PM

Sunday, December 24  
9 AM \* 4 PM \* 10:30 PM

Monday, December 25 \* 10 AM

Saturday, December 30 \* 4 PM

Sunday, December 31 \* 9 AM

## Mass/Communion/Reconciliation Schedule

Parish Celebrations of the Lord's Day

Saturday - 4:00 p.m. ♦ Sunday - 9:00 a.m.

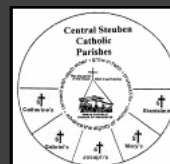
Weekday Masses:

Tuesday ♦ Wednesday ♦ Thursday ♦ Friday - 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday - 5:00 p.m.

Scripture/Communion Services  
Monday - 9:00 a.m.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation  
Advent Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.



A member of the  
Central Steuben  
Catholic Parishes



## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

- SUNDAY** December 17, Third Sunday of Advent  
9:00 a.m. In Memory, John Luta  
By his daughters, Pat and Amy
- MONDAY** December 18, Late Advent Weekday  
9:00 a.m. Communion Service
- TUESDAY** December 19, Late Advent Weekday  
9:00 a.m. Special Intention  
By Jim and Geri Galvin
- WEDNESDAY** December 20, Late Advent Weekday  
9:00 a.m. In Memory, John Finnerty  
By his wife, Pat Finnerty  
5:00 p.m. *To schedule this mass for your loved one, Please call the church office - 776-3327*
- THURSDAY** December 21, Late Advent Weekday  
9:00 p.m.. In Memory, Jack Hallifax  
By his daughters
- FRIDAY** December 22, Late Advent Weekday  
12:10 p.m.. In Memory, Geraldine  
By Geraldine
- SATURDAY** December 16, Advent Weekday  
4:00 p.m. In Memory, Cecelia Chester  
By Evelyn Walsh
- SUNDAY** December 17, Third Sunday of Advent  
9:00 a.m. In Memory, John Luta  
By his daughters, Pat and Amy

There are many Mass intentions available in the upcoming months. (Stipend is \$10). Please call the office to schedule.



### SAINT MARY'S PARISH

"A Parish of Very Good Stewards"

**Thank you for - Making Parish a Priority!**

December 2/3 2006

Sacrificial Gifts totaled: \$4631.75 THANK YOU!  
Second Collection for Catholic University: \$120.20  
Christmas Flowers: \$562.00  
384 People worshiped God at St. Mary's this weekend



### Liturgical Assembly Schedule

Dec. 16 - Sat. 4:00 p.m. - Willing Hearts  
Dec. 17 - Sun. 9:00 a.m. - Heavenly Hash  
To form or join an assembly, call 776-3327



### YOUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS

**Upcoming Second Collections**

December 16/17 - Can & Quarter

December 23/24 - Heating

Christmas - Matched Donation for Rectory Renovations



The Sanctuary Light above the Tabernacle is burning for the intentions of George Haar by Isabelle Miller.



## PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

- SUNDAY** December 10  
10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour hosted by the Czajkowski, Martin and Russell Families  
Religious Education  
10:30 a.m. Sunday Supper, O'Malley Hall  
1:00 p.m. AA, Room 101  
7:00 p.m.
- MONDAY** December 11  
5:00 p.m. Bath Community Day Care dinner & concert  
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir - Church  
7:15 p.m. Choir Practice - Church
- TUESDAY** December 12  
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts, Room 202  
7:30 p.m. Charismatic Prayer Group, Rectory
- WEDNESDAY** December 13  
6:30 p.m. St. Lucy's Day Parish Dinner  
7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Team Meeting, Room 101  
RCIA, Rectory Dining Room  
**The Meaning of Christmas and Epiphany**
- THURSDAY** December 14  
4:00 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal  
5:30 p.m. Weight Watchers, O'Malley Hall  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Room 202/203
- FRIDAY** December 15
- SATURDAY** December 16  
1:00 p.m. NA, Room 101
- SUNDAY** December 17  
10:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast hosted by Al and Evie Hanning  
10:30 a.m. Religious Education  
11:30 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal  
1:00 p.m. Sunday Supper, O'Malley Hall  
7:00 p.m. AA, O'Malley Hall



## Happy Birthday To You!

- |       |                    |       |                  |
|-------|--------------------|-------|------------------|
| 12/10 | Ryan Farrell       | 12/14 | Margaret Hogan   |
| 10/12 | Lenore Beyler      | 12/14 | Sean McKinley    |
| 12/11 | Jeff Calisto       | 12/15 | James Murphy     |
| 12/12 | Virginia Paige     | 12/15 | Steven Rusak     |
| 12/12 | Pamela Thompson    | 12/16 | Robert Denno     |
| 12/12 | Carol Roote        | 12/16 | Lois Geyer       |
| 12/12 | Lisa Saurbaugh     | 12/16 | Lori Fagan       |
| 12/12 | Maryellen Becken   | 12/16 | Francine Dimmick |
| 12/13 | Rita Sullivan      | 12/16 | Burns Kathleen   |
| 12/12 | Mary Fratarcangelo |       |                  |

### Little Angels Needed for Christmas Pageant

Angels, Shepherds, Mary and Joseph are needed for Christmas Eve Mass Pageant at the 4:00 p.m. Mass. Rehearsals are Sunday, December 17 at 11:30 a.m. (following Faith Formation) and Thursday, December 21 at 4 p.m. in Church.

The Pageant will be choreographed and directed by Mary Beth Boyd and Stephanie Czajkowski. Contact Stephanie at 776-2949.





## Sent to Serve

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

### Sorting Out the Christmas Mass Schedule

Catholic tradition names this third Sunday of Advent "Gaudete Sunday". As we light the rose colored candle on our Advent wreath we are reminded that the joy of Christmas is rapidly approaching. In fact, this year Christmas Eve is also the Fourth Sunday of Advent—which may result in some confusion. So here's how we'll celebrate both Advent and Christmas next weekend.

On Saturday afternoon, December 23rd at 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 24th at 9:00 a.m. we'll be celebrating the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Following this Sunday Mass, our liturgists will begin decorating the Church for our first celebration of at our Christmas Eve Children's Mass. At this joyous Mass, our youngest parishioners will assist me in proclaiming the Luke's Story of Christ's Birth. Once again our pageant will feature shepherds and sheep, a host of angels and of course Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. I am so grateful to Stephanie Czajkowski and Mary Beth Boyd for organizing and choreographing the pageant again this year.

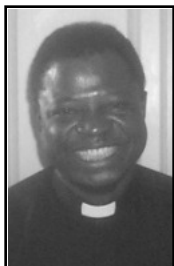
Sunday evening at 10:00 p.m. our Choir and Bell Choir will help prepare us for a 10:30 p.m. candle-light Mass with a selection of Christmas Hymns and Carols. Those who are nostalgic for the traditional Midnight Mass but appreciate getting to bed before two a.m. will especially enjoy this celebration - which most likely will end shortly before midnight.

On Christmas morning at 10:00 a.m., Pat and I will continue our tradition of leading worshippers in singing traditional Christmas hymns.

The weekend following Christmas will include the Feast of the Holy Family on Saturday and Sunday. This year, because it falls on a Monday, **New Year's Day (the Feast of Mary our Mother) will not be a Holy Day of Obligation.** I have asked Fr. John to preside at a New Year's Day Mass on Monday morning for those who wish to begin the year with Eucharist.

### Choir Concert ~ December 21 at 7:00 p.m.

One highlight of the Season is the Annual Christmas Concert by St. Mary's Choir and Bell Choir which will take place on Thursday December 21 at 7:00 p.m. The Choir's magnificent Christmas CD will be available for holiday giving.



### Fr. Peter to Visit Family in Ghana

Fr. Peter will be returning home to Ghana on December 30 and will not return to the parish until after the last weekend of January. In his absence, we will be privileged to welcome our Diocesan Chancellor Fr. Dan Condon as presider and preacher at three Sunday Masses. We have invited other priests to celebrate with us on the Feast of the Epiphany and on the following January Sunday. Father John will continue to preside at our Saturday Masses. Our daily Masses will move to 5:00 p.m. during January to accommodate Fr. John's work commitment at the VA.

## Journeying Home at Advent

Last weekend I shared with some of you the story of a man who returned to the Church after being away for many years. Shortly after his return, the man wrote an open letter to others who might be estranged from the Catholic faith of their youth. As Christmas approaches, and the scriptures invite the family home for Christmas, I am pleased to share it with you.

### My Journey Home to the Catholic Church

*By a Recently Reconciled Roman Catholic*

I left the Catholic Church for about fifteen years - the Church of my childhood, the Church of my mother, the Church of my grandmother. I left over a mixture of disagreement of church policy, and plain apathy. I don't remember a decisive moment when I came to the conclusion to leave. Rather, it was a gradual erosion over a period of several years. It was as if I simply let my faith slip from my grasp.

In the years I was away my life held many blessings, a wonderful marriage to a good woman and a precious child. For years my absence from church didn't seem to matter much. Then as I aged and some of life's setbacks and difficulties began to take their toll on my spirit, I began to feel an undeniable pull back to Catholicism. Not quickly yielding to this I would stifle the urges to return, telling myself it was weakness or that I could heal myself. But the call back continued, as did my increasingly negative outlook on life.

Once in a chance meeting I was given the business card of a church person. Looking at it later I thought that he might be the person to talk to about reconciling my differences with the church. Lacking the courage to act, I misplaced the card.

Years passed, in chance visits to churches for weddings or baptisms I would feel sadness over what I had lost. Listening to the radio one day on my way to work I heard a news report about the Catholic Jubilee Year. They were interviewing a bishop and he was calling wayward Catholics back to the church. His words had a deep impact on me - as if the message was specifically intended for me. My eyes filled with tears. I felt the need to act, but yet lacked the resolve.

Opening a book several weeks later, the long lost card reappeared. It was the business card of the church person I had met five years before. One apprehensive phone call began the process that has led me back to where I belong.

If you are in my former position as a disenfranchised Catholic I would encourage you to follow the urgings of your heart. Seek your own path back, and don't be afraid, once the need is felt the reunification is easy and fulfilling in a powerful way. Coming home is easy if you begin the journey. God will show the way.

If this is your story, Fr. Peter and I would like to help you on your journey home. If someone you know might appreciate reading this letter, copies will be available at the Church entrances over the Christmas holidays.

Have a beautiful Advent week. Serve one another well.

*Deacon Ray*

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