



Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2008



Our Parish Office

32 East Morris Street
Bath, NY 14810
Monday-Thursday 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. Jim Jaeger
Sacramental Minister
E-mail: Flaeger@DOR.org
Deacon Ed Wight
Parish Deacon - 776-3258
Barbara Bailey
Parish Bookkeeper/Secretary
E-Mail: BBailey@DOR.org
Dan Barefoot
Custodian
Mary Faucett
Parish Life Volunteer
Paula Gardner
Office Volunteer
E-Mail: PaulaGardner@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 - 566-3690
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
Stan Skolny - 377-6023
Kathy Warren - 776-4074



Kathy Warren

Mike and I would like to share with you what it means to us to be a part of St. Mary's parish family and what motivates our family to give our time, talent and treasure.

Mike and I came from different faith backgrounds but decided after attending St. Mary's that this is where our faiths were to become one. Looking back at that time we were observers of parish life....watching...and preparing for the future!



After our two children (Allison and Andres) joined our family St. Mary's really became an integral part of our family life. We met other parents, parishioners, and clergy as we began our journey of raising children in the Catholic faith. Starting with baptism, but actually from the moment we walked through the front doors with our children, we felt support, interest and caring that has multiplied over the years. St. Mary's has become vital in all aspects of our lives.



Allison, Mike and Andres Warren

Right around the time of our youngest child's first communion, Mike started mentioning that he was interested in the RCIA. I truly believe that through his involvement in raising his children to be strong in their faith he was moved by the spirit of St. Mary's. Thus he began his own personal journey into the Catholic faith.

Deacon Ray was absolutely key in this process for Mike. He reached out a welcoming hand and heart to Mike and was by his side through the process. It was a moving and informative experience for Mike, with many meaningful memories.

Christmas at Saint Mary's

Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24 ✦ 3:30 p.m.
Families with young children will especially enjoy this Mass. Children's "Pageant" at Gospel. Christmas Carols led by St. Mary's Choir.

Christmas Day
Saturday, December 25 ✦ 10 a.m.
Christmas Morning Mass with Carols by Deacon Ray and Pat Defendorf



The Joy of Christmas at Saint Mary's

As a family, we have enjoyed so many times here at St. Mary's - from the Wednesday Masses and dinners during Lent to the Boy Scout auction we worked at a few weeks ago. Our son, Andres, summed it up well. During the afternoon of the Scout auction, he was the designated "pop getter". When someone ordered soda, it was his job to get it from the cooler. Andres thoroughly relished this task. Looking at Mike and I, he said "Mom, this is really fun!"

We are so grateful for the warmth and caring that we have felt at St. Mary's. That is why we strive to fulfill our responsibilities as Christians to support St. Mary's with our time, talent, and treasure.

Kathy Warren

Mass/Communion/Reconciliation Schedule

Parish Celebrations of the Lord's Day

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

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Advent Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.

Weekday Mass/Communion Service

Monday ✦ Wednesday ✦ Thursday - 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday - 5:00 p.m.

Friday - 8:30 a.m. ✦ St. Gabriel's, Hammondspport



A member of the Central Steuben Catholic Parishes Diocese of Rochester



LITURGICAL CALENDAR



PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

SUNDAY Dec 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Relatives & Friends by Helen Opila

MONDAY Dec 22
9:00 a.m. Scripture/Communion Service

TUESDAY Dec 23
5:00 p.m. In Mem. of Rosa Fiordo
By Gail & Jack Lyle

WEDNESDAY Dec 24 Christmas Eve Mass
3:30 p.m. In Mem. of John Walsh
By wife, Evelyn

THURSDAY Dec 25 Nativity of the Lord
10:00 a.m. In Mem. of Ginger Moran on the Third anniversary by her family

FRIDAY Dec 26

SATURDAY Dec 27 Holy Family Vigil
4:00 p.m. In Mem. of Gerard Saur
by Margaret Saur

SUNDAY Dec 28 Holy Family Sunday
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Mary Giblin
by Henrietta & Sam Powell

SUNDAY Dec 21
8:15 a.m. Pre Mass Choir Practice, Chapel
10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
10:15 a.m. Post Choir Practice, Church
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101

MONDAY Dec 22

TUESDAY Dec 23
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts - Room 203
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts - Rooms 204A, 204B
7:30 p.m. Prayer Group - Rectory

WEDNESDAY Dec 24 Office Closed

THURSDAY Dec 25 Merry Christmas

FRIDAY Dec 26 Office Closed

SATURDAY Dec 27
1:00 p.m. NA - 204

SUNDAY Dec 28
8:15 a.m. Pre Mass Choir Practice, Chapel
10:15 a.m. Post Choir Practice, Church
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101

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 many parish ministries and capital projects.



Happy Birthday To You!

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 12/22 Cynthia McConnell | 12/25 Jesus of Nazareth |
| 12/22 Terry Ruest | 12/26 Anthony Russo |
| 12/23 David DuBois | 12/26 Ashley Russell |
| 12/23 William Ormsby | 12/26 Keith Russell |
| 12/23 Martin Donnelly | 12/27 Michelle Carpenter |

MY SAINT MARY'S



Because I Love My Parish I Support it!



Thank you for Making My Parish - a Priority!

December 14/15, 2008

Attendance:
Sacrificial Gifts totaled: \$2,905.25
Heating : \$700.21
Christmas Flowers: 200.00

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

In addition to helping us meet our payroll expenses, your stewardship gifts last week helped us pay Utility Bills of \$3498.00.



Prayer List

Bruce Ayers, Bonnie Baran, Bertha Benedict, Marie Benishin, Henry Cullen, Fran Cummings, Victor Desrosiers, Margaret Emmick, Peggy Evans, Mary Fisher, Glenn French, Jack Giblin, Esther Gerhart, Joey Kish, David Lamphier, Jim Murray, **Fr Gerald O'Connor, Deacon John Prave**, Theresa Rodbourn, Diana Sermonis, Dorothy Sincerbox, Rob Wilson and Mark Wray.



Assembly Schedule

December 20 - Sat. 4:00 p.m.
Willing Hearts
December 21 - Sun. 9:00 a.m.
Heavenly Hash

To join an assembly call 776-3327

OUR Faith OUR FUTURE

Please Help St. Mary's Reach our Catholic Ministry Appeal Goal of \$23,449

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| M/M Mark Alger | Mrs. Mary Langendorfer |
| M/M John Ambrosino | Ms. Mary Latour |
| M/M Elton Badenau | Mrs. Gertrude Lagan |
| Mrs. Barbara Bailey | M/M Frank Leckinger |
| M/M Joseph Baroody | M/M Douglas Little |
| Mrs. Sophia Baxter | Mrs. Janice Luta |
| Mrs. Marie Brennan | M/M Jack A. Lyle |
| Ms. Kathryn Bink | Mrs. Bernice Lynch |
| M/M Norbert Binkowski | Mrs. Maman Lynch |
| M/M William Binkov | Ms. Karin Mackuga |
| Mrs. Rosemary Bruce | M/M William MacNamara |
| M/M Bruce Curry | Mrs. Janet Madigan |
| M/M John Carpenter | M/M Carlo J. Marano |
| Mrs. Guy Castelli | M/M Frederick Martini |
| Ms. Rosemary Claremont | M/M Gene Mattioli |
| M/M Joseph Clancy | Ms. Rosanna McBride |
| Mrs. Margaret Cagrawill | Mrs. Cynthia McConnell |
| M/M Robert Colombo | M/M John H. McKinley |
| M/M Lawrence Crockett | M/M Sean McKinley |
| Mrs. Sylvia Cummings | Ms. Mildred Miller |
| Mrs. Veronica Cummings | M/M John Miller |
| M/M Rick Czajkowski | Ms. Quentin A. Michalek |
| Doc/Mrs. Ray DeFondort | M/M George Miller |
| M/M James DiSorbo | Mrs. Patricia J. Murphy |
| Mr. James Desrosiers | Mr. James Murray |
| M/M William Dinehart | Mr. Lawrence Murray |
| M/M James Dudden | Mrs. Betty Orrant |
| Ms. Rita Dwyer | M/M William Ormsby |
| Ms. Mary Eaton | Mr. Richard Palmer |
| Mrs. Margaret Eichenrohr | Mr. David Pambilo |
| Ms. Timothy Farrell | Mrs. Barb Perry |
| Ms. Mary Faucett | Mrs. Henrietta Powell |
| M/M David Fiedler | M/M John Pranko |
| Ms. Freida Fiondo | Mr. Richard Pruner |
| Ms. Mary R. Fratangelo | Mrs. Tossie Rankin |
| Mrs. Edna Friedland | M/M Harold Rodbourn |
| M/M James Gallagher | M/M Richard Rohrbach |
| M/M James Galen | Ms. Carmen Rola |
| M/M Alfred P. Gaudino | M/M Gerald Rumney |
| Ms. Deana Gerrych | Mrs. Thelma Rusak |
| Mrs. Lou Geyer | Mr. Joseph G. Schuster |
| Mr. John Giblin, Sr. | and Mr. Robin Kelley |
| M/M Mike Glas | M/M Robert Serrak |
| Mrs. Evelyn Glenn | Ms. Bianca Shaper |
| Mrs. LaVerne Gove | Mrs. Betty Shaw |
| M/M Walter L. Gronick Jr. | M/M Mark S. Shaw |
| Mrs. Mary Ellen Hall | M/M Joseph Sheehan |
| M/M Arland Hanning | M/M Lyman Shels |
| Mrs. Agnes Harvey | Mrs. Sharon Shikhaner |
| Mr. Charles Hero | Mrs. Dorothy Sincerbox |
| Ms. Terry Hochweter | M/M Casper Sirocik |
| M/M Eugene Holdis | Mrs. Gertrude Smith |
| Mrs. Nancy Holzer | Ms. Jordan Snell |
| Ms. S. Holzer | Ms. Pamela Southard-Pak |
| Ms. Kay Hopkins | M/M Lancy Spangle |
| M/M Richard Hopkins | Mrs. Antonette Stever |
| Mrs. Gretchen Hubbard | Mrs. Rita Sullivan |
| M/M Daniel Hubbard | M/M Robert Swackhammer |
| M/M John Hultman | M/M Clyde G. Teller |
| M/M David Hunter | M/M Warren Tator |
| M/M Daniel Hutchison | M/M Dale Thompson |
| Mrs. Mary Jane Jaeger | Mrs. Margaret Thomblom |
| M/M Alan Johnson | Mr. Joseph Waldron |
| M/M Robert Jones | M/M Walter Volz |
| Mr. Robert J. Kalknek | M/M James G. Wall |
| Mrs. Marcella Kanowski | Mrs. Evelyn Walsh |
| Mrs. Genevieve Kahlmer | M/M Michael Warren |
| M/M David Karborski | M/M Chauncy Watcher |
| M/M Arnold Kish | Mrs. Elizabeth White |
| M/M Donald Knowles Sr. | M/M Paul Wolfe |
| Mr. Edward Kuhnien | M/M Robert Yano |
| Mrs. Mary Kulkovick | Mr. Walter Zydzoncz |

Donors 143 / Pledged to Date \$19,201 / Percent of Goal 82.8%

Records recorded by CMA through December 15, 2008



Share the Joy of Stewardship
Our Parish Stewardship Commitment Weekend
is January 3/4, 2009



SENT TO SERVE

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

Inner Peace in the Midst of Chaos

The office is in chaos. It is a good chaos - a chaos based on goodness and generosity. But chaos nevertheless. Hundreds of wrapped presents have made their way from the church to the floor of the front office. Paula Gardner is getting them sorted and organized for distribution on Monday to about 40 families.

In addition, the kind hearted Paula also took it upon herself to assure that four additional children whose home and belongings were destroyed by fire late last week, would not be forgotten on Christmas. Working with the Red Cross, WVIN, the Bath Fire Department and Santa Claus himself, she has orchestrated an outpouring of generosity that few would have imagined possible.

Since our weekend Masses when Paula's efforts to assist the Thompson Family were first announced, people have been stopping by the office with checks to assist the family. After hearing of Paula's efforts on WVIN, individuals and church communities have been dropping off gifts clothes, toys and household necessities.

Last weekend I preached on the possibility of remaining peaceful at the center of our being - even in times of great chaos. Over the past few weeks, I've tested this hypothesis and have found it to be accurate. The secret though is to , as Paul says, "pray constantly." So each time my computer froze in the midst of a major project, I pleaded with God to give me patience. Each time I interrupted one responsibility to hurry to another, I pleaded to God for strength. And, each time that I found myself too involved, too busy or too rushed to respond with full attention to Pat or the folks at

the office who requested my ear (and mind), I asked God to make them go away. When they didn't, I asked God to help them forgive and be super patient with me. Eventually they did . . . and were.

Advent is a time of expectant waiting for the Prince of Peace, while clinging to the small remnants of peace embedded in our frail, all too human bodies. It is also a time to marvel at the outpouring of good will that is so generously showered on thousands of people who face the challenges and yes, the chaos of trying to survive, pay the rent and feed their families 365 days a year. My chaos, is often self inflicted. There's is too often societal.

In this week's Gospel, Luke tells the story of a young Hebrew girl who set aside her fears and faced the chaos of becoming the unwed mother of our Savior. In Advent, and at all times of chaos God's promise is the same as it was too Mary: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. . . . For nothing is impossible for God"

Will we respond to the challenges and chaos of our lives as Mary did? "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done unto me according to your Word."

An advance word of thanks to all who will be generous Stewards of Time, Talent, and Treasure during the coming week as we prepare to celebrate the Joy of Christmas at St. Mary's. I am so blest o have you as friends and parishioners.

Have a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas

Today we light yet another candle on the Advent wreath. The Lord is coming! Are your hearts ready? You still have time to prepare!



Advent is the season that we watch and wait for the Savior, a time of preparation for the Christmas season. It is a season of joyful anticipation, but not everyone is filled with joy. The experts among us report that domestic violence increases dramatically during the holiday season. The stress of anticipating the Christmas season can put people in a tailspin. Examples of this are doing one or all the following in excess: spending money, eating, drinking, partying or running around, neglecting or acting uncharitably toward family members who cannot or will not behave as we might expect. Violence is often part of family life when the pace picks up, when emotions are high, when the normal world looks loving and you sense your family is not.

Our liturgy in this season often focuses on the family life, on searching for ways to prepare spiritually and in exploring charitable options to make our families more Christ-like. The opportunities to become more ideal as a family are endless, but we have to always remember becoming ideal is an ongoing process. We need to look creatively at how forgiveness, personal kindness and healthy activities can improve our journey to come closer to the ideal as we await the coming of Christ.



Santa Claus made his annual appearance at the Knights of Columbus Children's Christmas Party last Sunday at O'Malley Hall. Twins Gabe and Ron Koehler and Sidney Austin were among the kids delighted with the gifts Santa brought to them.

St. Mary's Parish Custodian Dan Barefoot received the Bath Community Child Day Care's 2008 "Helping Hands Award" at the annual Catholic Charities Awards Dinner held on December 11 at the Bath Country Club. Day Care Director Darcy Cherry (right) presented Dan and his wife Kristin with an original painting by BCCDC toddlers titled "A Day in the World of Toddlers." The Barefoot's son Tyler attends BCCDC and his younger sibling Trevor will begin day care in January.

Saint Mary's Church
32 Eat Morris Street
Bath, New York

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