

Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach



Christmas - The Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 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
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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

Jim Gallagher

Sean McKinley

Barbara Perry

Kathy Warren

The virgin shall be with child and bear a son and he shall be called



Mass/Communion/Reconciliation Schedule

Parish Celebrations of the Lord's Day

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

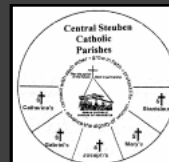
Weekday Masses:

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

Wednesday - 5:00 p.m.

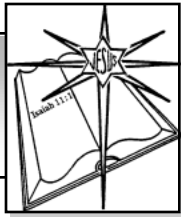
Scripture/Communion Services
Monday - 9:00 a.m.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation
1st and 3rd Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.



A member of the
**Central Steuben
Catholic Parishes**

Diocese of Rochester



Scripture REFLECTIONS



For several months, our days have been getting shorter. With the arrival of Christmas, our days will be getting longer and brighter. This is no coincidence. The Church purposely celebrates Jesus' birthday now because He is the light of the world. Even the Gospel passage for Christmas Day refers to Jesus as the light shining in the darkness.

This message is so important for us to hear because at times we have dark moments. These dark moments can have many different causes. Sometimes they are caused by our own sinfulness. At other times the darkness comes because of sickness, or suffering, or the death of a loved one. Sometimes the dark moments leave us thinking that life has no meaning.

As Christians, we know that we have someone to turn to in moments like these. Jesus decided to be born and take on human flesh because He knows we need hope in the dark moments. Have we ever suffered? Jesus has too. Have we grieved the death of a loved one? So did Jesus. Have we experienced the shame of our sinfulness? Yes, we have. Even though Jesus never sinned, He felt the weight of our own sins on the cross. Jesus experienced human darkness and He conquered it.

Today we celebrate much more than the birth of a baby. We celebrate what this birth means. No longer are we alone in our dark moments. Jesus is even there, pointing us to the light.

St. Mary's Giving Tree

Gifts of clothing donated by parishioners were distributed to twenty-five area families on Thursday, December 14. Each family had been interviewed by Social Ministry Coordinator Karen Grimmer to assure that special needs and sizes were met.



Surprise Card Shower for Mary Carol Wall

A record 170 Parishioners surprised Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Coordinator Mary Carol Wall at a Card Shower in her honor at the Sunday, December 17 Pancake Breakfast. The event was organized by Amy Badeau (l) and Nancy Cardona. Al and Evie Hanning hosted the Pancake Breakfast.



Jennifer Watches portrayed St. Lucy at our recent Advent Dinner and Prayer.

Follow the Light A Christmas Poem

Get up
like the shepherds in those days.
Set out for the child
born for you.
Be full of expectation
like the shepherds in those days.
For the divine child
is worth being expected.
Be full of amazement
like the shepherds in those days,
Because amazement
creates gratefulness.
Have yourself changed
like the shepherds in those days.
For faith and hope
can also change your heart.
Follow the light
like the shepherds in those days.
For the light of the Holy Night
will lighten your darkness.
Have confidence in the message
like the shepherds in those days.
For it will lead you
through the deep valleys of your life.
Then come back
like the shepherds in those days,
And give to the people
what HE who became man
gave to you.

Margild Kaiser



Christmas Greetings from St. Mary's Staff

Deacon Ray Defendorf
Pastoral Admin.

Merry Christmas! On behalf of our Parish Staff, I wish you all the best in this holy season of grace and peace. This is not only a time of family celebrations and new life, but a time of reaching out to others. If you are visiting us this Christmas, we extend our warmest welcome!

It's our parishioners who make a St. Mary's a welcoming place! As a parish we work hard to make room for all, not just because it is a courteous thing to do, but because it is who we are! Each week the first page of our bulletin carries our Parish Mission Statement to remind us of who we are- "A welcoming oasis of peace, love and outreach."

As you've probably noticed, we've made some changes to our worship space over the past few months. We've moved our sanctuary (the altar, ambo and presider's chair) forward and surrounded it with chairs. This has allowed our choir to join us in the assembly and allowed people to choose to literally gather around the altar. As you might expect, some love the changes while others don't. On one thing we all agree: "This may be our Worship Space but the PEOPLE of St. Mary's are the Church!"

Recently, Bishop J. Terry Steib of Memphis, wrote that a parish is "home, not just a building; it is also a community of faith, the gathering of the faithful, the "people of God." In baptism, we are received into God's family. Church is the home where that family gathers to celebrate God's unconditional love.

Throughout our lives, church is the home where we mark the pivotal moments that tell us who God is and who we are because of God's love. We are like homing pigeons returning time and again to celebrate births and deaths, Baptisms and Marriages, Confirmations and Eucharist with God's family. These sacramental moments are spent together in addition to our regular "family" gatherings at Sunday Mass, Faith Formation classes and Youth Group sessions, Committee meetings, parish dinners, bereavement luncheons, coffee hours and pancake breakfasts, choir and bell choir rehearsals, Lenten Retreats, RCIA sessions and so many other vital things as Christian Catholics.

A number of people are no longer comfortable in their home; some are not even certain that the Catholic Church is their home today. Sometimes it is the circumstances of life that cause people to feel estranged or separated. Occasionally it is that an individual carries a deep pain that is rooted in some difficult situation of the past or worse, they feel that who they are is unacceptable.

We are called to BE church--God's Family to one another. In giving us this Church, God gives us a spiritual home on earth. It is a precursor of the home we will have for all



Fr. Peter Anglaere
Parish Priest



Barbara Bailey
Bookkeeper



Michelle Ferrara
Bulletin Editor



Betty Gerych
Choir Director



William Grimmer
Liturgy/Organist



Karen Grimmer
Parish Life/Sec



George Hoffman
Maintenance



Mary Carol Wall
Youth Minister



Deacon Ed Wight
Parish Deacon



Fr. John Wydeven
Helping Priest

eternity. There all walls and barriers will come down and we will dwell fully in union with God and all God's people. Our task while in this earthly home is to do all we can to help each other grow into the home we will share in heaven.

Christmas is often a great "homecoming" for many who have been away from Church or God. Do you know someone who is not "at home" in our parish? Do you know someone who has just drifted away? Someone who feels alienated or shut out? Please tell them that we are here for them and that our parish is a "home" where they can always expect a warm welcome (and an apology if needed)! Our Pastoral Staff is ready to assist anyone who needs our help. May we always reach out to others so they too can be at home with us!



Christmas Concert

Thursday night's Concert by our Choir and Bell Choir was nothing short of outstanding. Saint Mary's is truly blessed by these marvelous musical groups and by the talent and dedication of our Choral and Bell Choir Director **Betty Gerych** and organist **Bill Grimmer**. If you were fortunate enough to receive the Choir's new CD for Christmas, great! If not, copies are still available at the parish office and from choir members.

Have a blessed Christmas. Serve each other well!

Christmas 2nd Collection will be Matched

Our second Collection at Christmas Masses will be matched by a parishioner up to \$2000. This collection will be used to fund necessary plumbing repairs at the Rectory. Renovations to the bathrooms and main waste line will include replacement of fifty year old plumbing and fixtures in the two upstairs bathrooms and downstairs half bath. Your generosity to this special collection is appreciated. These repairs will take place in January while Father Peter visits his family in Ghana.

Church Name: St. Mary's Church

City, State: Bath, Ny

File Name: 06-0323

Phone: 607-776-3327

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