



Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

The Feast of the Holy Family

December 28, 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



The Feast of the Holy Family

St. Luke likes to include little homey details in his stories. One detail in today's Gospel passage has an interesting message for families. We are told that when Mary and Joseph presented their baby son at the temple, they offered the sacrifice of a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons, as the law of Moses prescribed.

Perhaps Luke was being kind by simply writing about the sacrifice this way. More likely, he knew his readers didn't need an explanation. But we do: The law of Moses in Leviticus 12:7-8, required that a sheep be sacrificed after the birth of a child. It went on to say that if a family could not afford a sheep, two turtle doves or pigeons could be offered instead.

In the very public setting of the Temple it is likely that most parents did everything they could to come up with the money to pay for a sheep. Mary and Joseph could not afford the best for their son. Of this we can be sure-it made no difference to their baby at all!

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
1st and 3rd 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 28 Holy Family Sunday
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Mary Giblin
by Henrietta and Sam Powell

MONDAY Dec 29
9:00 a.m. Scripture/Communion Service

TUESDAY Dec 30
5:00 p.m. In Mem. of Helen Hunter
By Anna Mae and Don Mills

WEDNESDAY Dec 31
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of John J. Hultzman
By Dorothy Hultzman

THURSDAY Jan 1
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Eliana DuBrin
By Mary Carol Wall

FRIDAY Jan 2

SATURDAY Jan 3
4:00 p.m. In Mem. of Harold McKinney
by Catherine Tetor

SUNDAY Jan 4 Epiphany
9:00 a.m. For members of the Memorial Fund

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

MONDAY Dec. 29

TUESDAY Dec. 30
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. 31 Office Closed

THURSDAY Jan. 1 Happy New Year

FRIDAY Jan. 2 Office Closed

SATURDAY Jan. 3
1:00 p.m. NA - 204

SUNDAY Jan. 4
8:15 a.m. Pre Mass Choir Practice, Chapel
10:15 a.m. Post Choir Practice, Church
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101

The Joy of Saint Mary's

**If you are not already involved,
please step forward. There is
something here for everyone.**

Paul Wolfe



St. Mary's is a special worship family and a friendly place to worship because the people, the parishioners are involved in the worship service plus any number of other activities. Marcia and I have visited some large city churches in our travels and find many of the people to be somewhat unfriendly or indifferent. When we met and talked to Father John Wydeven in Rhode Island, he spoke how he missed the friendliness and the many activities of St. Mary's.

St. Mary's welcomed me and even allowed me to serve as lector, most Sundays, even before I converted to Catholicism. Our assemblies, the youth group, the coffee hours, religious education, our seasonal programs, breakfasts and church dinners all make for a happy involved family. The people of St. Mary's are very welcoming, very supportive and helpful but most importantly very loving.

My involvement in St. Mary's, since I was confirmed here has led to a variety of opportunities and responsibilities including, serving on the parish council, having several Catholic children, helped start the assemblies under the direction of Father Hammond. I co-taught the RCIA program with Martha Stenta, produced the first and second pictorial book, and represented St. Mary's in the Central Steuben Catholic Parishes for many years from its inception. Working with the youth on several graduations, Easter and Christmas pageants were most enjoyable experiences.

If you are not already involved, please step forward. Some of the activities and ministries involve a little work but the rewards are well worth the effort.

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!

12/28 Cody Hutcheson	1/1 Rena Ruest
12/28 Paul Wolfe	1/1 Dale Thompson
12/28 Teresa Kohler	1/1 Paul Hogan
12/29 Ashlee Motsay	1/1 Esther Miller
12/29 Henrietta Powell	1/2 Michael Anderson
12/30 Bob Swackhammer	1/3 Jack Lyle
12/31 Fran Abbey	1/3 Rita Dwyer
12/31 Hailey Gaudino	



Prayer List

Bruce Ayers, Bonnie Baran, 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

January 3 - Sat. 4:00 p.m.
Willing Hearts
January 4 - Sun. 9:00 a.m.
Willing Hearts

To join an assembly call 776-3327

MY SAINT MARY'S



Because I Love My Parish
I Support it!

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

Because Santa was too exhausted to count (and an early Bulletin Deadline) donations received on December 20/21 and Christmas will be published next week.

Share the Joy of Stewardship

Our Parish Stewardship Commitment Weekend
is January 3/4, 2009





SENT TO SERVE

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

The Spirit of STEWARDSHIP

Building Peace with Justice



A Reflection for December 28, 2008

Throughout the Season of Advent we have celebrated the Spirit of Stewardship that gives life to our parishioners and their ministries. At weekend Masses we've listened to Al Hanning, Denise Crossett, Paula Gardner and Frieda Fiordo witness to the profound ways this parish has touched their lives. In bulletin articles, Barb Perry, Pam Colomaio and Kathy Warren have shared how God has touched their lives and nourished their family's faith through St. Mary's.

These witnesses will continue through the month of January during which we will be asked to renew your commitment to faithful stewardship of God's gifts and our parish family.

If you attended Christmas Mass with us on either Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning, you heard about a DVD produced by our Stewardship Committee entitled "The Joy of St. Mary's." The DVD includes nearly 300 photos of people and ministries that make St. Mary's such a wonderful place to worship, to grow in faith, and to serve God and our community. The DVD also includes an original "Christmas Song" written about St. Mary's and performed by our own singer/songwriter Brad Ordway and "All Saints Together" a song that I wrote and sang on the Feast of All Saints. A copy of this DVD is reserved for you in thanksgiving for your Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure. A certificate redeemable for the DVD will be included with a letter I will be sending you this week which will also include information about Parish Stewardship and a Commitment Card.

Then, next weekend, January 3/4, as the Church celebrates the Feast of Epiphany, you will be asked to make a pledge of commitment to return your gifts of time, talents and financial resources to God and the support of this remarkable parish. Epiphany celebrates the need of Christians to proclaim the Good News of God's love to all people.

Your commitment to financially support your parish over the next six months will help us operate in the black during this period of pastoral transition.

In May 2009, you will again be asked to renew and if necessary adjust (up or down) your financial commitment to St. Mary's for the fiscal year 2009/2010. With you cooperation, our Finance Committee will then be able to develop a responsible budget to present to our next pastoral leader.

Please prayerfully consider the scripture passage from St. Luke and the ways that

"From those who have been given much, much will be demanded; and from those who have been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."

Luke 12:48

you now give back a portion of your Time and Talents to God. Then complete the Stewardship Commitment Card

which you'll receive in the mail this week and bring it with you to Mass next week-end. Following the collection of your weekly offering of financial gifts, you will be asked to commit or recommit to the Stewardship of your Time and Talent gifts within your family, parish and community over the next six months.

Thank You!

Father Jim and I are extremely grateful for the many Christmas cards and gifts that we received during the past few weeks.

We pray that your Christmas holiday was truly blest and that you will face a New Year that may be one of great challenges, trusting fully in the God who has promised to be always faithful.

Serve one another well!

As we come to the end of a challenging year, the Feast of the Holy Family provides an opportunity to stop and appreciate the people who are family to each of us - the individuals, whether related by blood, marriage or simply love, who comprise the first building block of community. Knowing that we are loved frees us to love others in the expansive, nonjudgmental way of Jesus.

Imagine if each of us, as a gift of love to our families, committed ourselves to building a more peaceful, just world.

Twenty-five years ago in their document *The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response*, the U.S. Catholic Bishops reminded us that "Peace is both a gift of God and a human work. It must be constructed on the basis of central human values: truth, justice, freedom and love."

Reflection: Be attentive this week to your interactions with others. Are you constructing peace?

Is God Calling You?

Among the gifts you give and receive during this season, consider the unique gifts God has given you, and how God may be calling you to share those gifts? Is it possible that your gifts may best be utilized in a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life? Please pray about it during this beautiful season. For more information, contact:

Office of Vocation Awareness
585-461-2890, www.dor.org/vocations, or by e-mail vocations@dor.org

New Year's Day, January 1st is the FEAST OF MARY OUR MOTHER

A Holy Day of Obligation.

Holy Day Masses are Wednesday, December 31st

7:00 p.m. at St. Gabriel's

Thursday, January 1st

10:00 a.m. at St. Mary's



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

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