

# Saint Mary's Parish

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

The Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

February 12, 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. Frank Erb**  
Sacramental Minister  
**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 Coor.  
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

**Jo Slovak**  
Chairperson  
**Rosemary States**  
Vice-Chairperson

**Jim Gallagher**  
**Mary McConnell**  
**Sean McKinley**  
**William MacNamara**  
**Kathy Warren**

**In Residence**  
**Fr. John Wydeven**  
Catholic Chaplain - Bath VA



## Scripture REFLECTIONS

### Unexpected Miracles

At one time or another, we have all received unexpected gifts. Such gifts could be as simple as acts of kindness from strangers, a note from a long lost friend, or a few coins on the sidewalk. Such gifts could also be a life-saving organ donation or an unexpected tax refund. How do we handle receiving unexpected gifts? Is our first reaction to tell everyone about it, or do we offer our thanks to the one who gave it to us?

When a leper seeks out Jesus in today's Gospel reading, he surely must not have expected to be healed. A lifetime of being shunned by society because of a disease would harden most hearts. But Jesus, moved with compassion, heals the man yet tells him not to say anything, but instead to go to the temple and give thanks. Unable to contain his joy at an unexpected gift, the cleansed man instead tells everyone he can of the miracle.

Our very lives are indeed a miracle from God. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that every event and need can become an offering of thanksgiving. (CCC 2638) We offer thanks in grace before meals, and Jesus' message today is to remind us that we should stop and give thanks for all of God's gifts, whether small and seemingly insignificant or large and life-changing. In doing so, others will naturally see and want to share our gifts.

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### Volunteers to be Recognized at Mardi Gras Dinner

Parish Volunteers will be guests of honor at this year's Mardi Gras Dinner which is scheduled for Shrove Tuesday, February 28 at 6:00 p.m. in O'Malley Hall.



Karen Grimmer has planned a New Orleans' Menu which will include Jambalaya, Chicken Gumbo (Stew), Dirty Rice (Red Beans, Tomatoes and Rice), Black eyed peas, King's bread, salads and dessert.

The event is open to all parishioners who volunteer their time and talents to any parish ministry. Please call the parish office 776-3327 by Friday, February 24 so we can have an accurate count of those planning to attend.

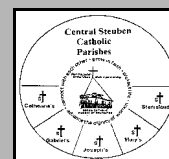
### Mass/Reconciliation Schedule

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

Tuesday and Thursday - 5:00 p.m. ✧ Friday - 9:00 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** February 12, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
9:00 a.m. In Memory, John and Barbara Kobus  
By Their Family
- MONDAY** February 13, Weekday  
9:00 a.m. Communion Service
- TUESDAY** February 14, Cyril, monk  
5:00 p.m. Rose Gulinello  
By The Russo Family
- WEDNESDAY** February 15, Weekday  
9:00 a.m. Communion Service
- THURSDAY** February 16, Weekday  
5:00 p.m. In Memory, Yolanda Fiordo  
By Christine Minichello  
7:00 p.m. Praise and Healing Mass
- FRIDAY** February 17, Weekday  
9:00 a.m. In Memory, Barbara Crowe  
By Lance and Mary Ann Squires
- SATURDAY** February 18, Weekday  
3:30 p.m. Reconciliation  
4:00 p.m. In Memory, Bernard Brogley  
By Betty and Bruce Carey
- SUNDAY** February 19, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time  
9:00 a.m. In Memory, Yolanda Fiordo  
By Tom and Jill Haynes



## PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

- SUNDAY** February 12  
9:00 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word  
10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, hosted by Carol and Allen Hall  
10:00 a.m. Registration for 1st Penance  
10:30 a.m. Religious Education, K-12  
5:00 p.m. Boy Scout Blue & Gold Banquet, O'Malley Hall  
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101
- MONDAY** February 13  
6:00 p.m. Bell Practice  
7:15 p.m. Choir Practice  
6:30 p.m. 1st Penance Parent's Meeting  
7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts, Room 202
- TUESDAY** February 14 ♥  
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Rectory  
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts, Room 202, 203
- WEDNESDAY** February 15  
7:00 p.m. Liturgy Meeting
- THURSDAY** February 16  
7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts, Rooms 202, 203
- FRIDAY** February 17  
7:00 p.m. NA, Room 101
- SATURDAY** February 18  
1:00 p.m. NA, Room 101
- SUNDAY** February 19  
9:00 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word  
10:00 a.m. No Coffee Hour  
No Religious Education  
7.00 p.m. AA, Room 101



## First Reconciliation

The Sacrament of First Reconciliation will be celebrated this year after Lent. Registration will take place this week, after Mass. There will be a Parents Meeting held on Monday February 13th. Contact Mary Carol at 776-6944 or avocawalls@usadata.net.net.



### *Come Praise and Worship the Lord*

St. Mary's invites you to join Deacon Ed on  
**Wednesday February 15 at 7:00**  
at a Praise and Worship Service followed by  
Prayers of Healing in St. Mary's Church.

Note: Beginning February 21, Charismatic Prayer meetings will move to Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Dick Perry Room



## SAINT MARY'S PARISH

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

Thank you for - Making Parish a Priority!

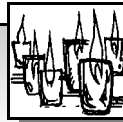
January 21/22, 2006

Sacrificial Gifts totaled: \$ 3733.00 THANK YOU!  
Second Collection for Heating Costs: \$870.49 - Matched  
Souper Bowl Collection: \$146.49  
402 People worshiped God at St. Mary's this weekend.

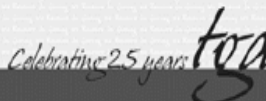


## Happy Birthday To You

02/11	Mary Faucett	02/16	Kathleen Donnelly
02/13	Heather Wolfe	02/16	Justin Harris
02/14	Bradley Ordway	02/17	Kathleen McDonald
02/14	Peter Skelly	02/18	Thomas Simms
02/15	William Brinkhus	02/18	Elizabeth White
02/15	Patrick Wall	02/18	Gerard McLaughlin
02/15	Mary Beth Boyd		



The Sanctuary Light above the Tabernacle is burning for the intentions of Jose Rola Fragosa by Carmen and Charles Rola



## ANNUAL DIOCESAN MINISTRIES APPEAL

Saint Mary's Diocesan Ministry Appeal Goal **\$27,244**  
To Date, 151 Parishioners have pledged . . . **\$16,270**  
Needed to Reach our Quota . . . . . **\$10,974\***

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

**Please return your pledge card this week.**



**Sent to Serve**  
Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

Last weekend was celebrated as Boy Scout Sunday in many churches. We at St. Mary's are blessed with excellent scouting programs thanks to the dedication of many adult leaders. Congratulations to these leaders and all the scouts who will be honored at the Blue and Gold banquet today (Sunday) at the high school.

**Homily Correction**

During my homily last weekend I described how one young mother reacted when her husband complained about the way she "handled things" around the house. In my homily I credited Rita Dwyer for depositing a bowl of ice cream on the complainer's head. While I was wrong to embarrass any of the ladies who helped me prepare my homily I was doubly erroneous in identifying the extremely gentle Rita as the ice cream pourer.

Rather than take the risk of misquoting another wonderful friend, you'll have to surmised for yourself who really "handled the situation." Clue, A room in our church basement is named after the poor fellow.

**Guest Columnist**

Occasionally over the past two and a half years I've reproduced columns written by Fr. Ed Palumbos who is pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Fairport, New York. Father Ed e-mails his "Said Ed" bulletin column each week to friends throughout the country. It is always insightful and well written.

When I asked Fr. Ed's permission to print his column on domestic violence and sin, he told me to expect strong reactions (positive and negative) from people who read it. As someone who also is occasionally asked "Why don't you ever preach about sin?", I believe that Fr. Ed is right on track. What do you think?

Have a great week. Serve one another well.

*Deacon Ray*



**The Church in the World**  
*Exploring Church Teaching on Today's Issues*  
By Fr. Ed Palumbos

**Sermonizing on Domestic Sin**

A few months ago someone came up to me after Mass and asked why we don't preach about sin any more. I do not know exactly why this person was wishing I would say more about sin from the pulpit. It may well have been a request for a diatribe from the pulpit about some favorite, easy to identify moral evil. The fact of the matter is, we do talk about sin often.

Sin is our failure to receive God's love as it is freely given to us. It is our human propensity to act in selfish ways. This

conversation did give me the occasion to reflect on the sin in our lives. But as I reflected more I thought that we don't often hear that Domestic Violence is a mortal sin and particularly the abuse of women.

A column found in the *Prairie Messenger* this past July inspires my words today. It was written by a priest sociologist, Andrew Greeley. The column spoke about the almost universal silence of Catholic clergy and hierarchy on this topic, the lack of which would seem to indicate that there are no serious sins regarding the abuse of women. To be fair, in years past, our Diocese has urged preachers to use material supplied by our Diocesan Women's Commission and other Anti-Domestic Violence organizations. But we don't hear enough condemnation or denunciation of such abuse as serious sin. Can we conclude that there is no such abuse in our world today? I think not.

Several times I have spoken in this column about the evil of domestic violence and I have sighted statistics that indicate the high prevalence of violence against women in our culture. But let me be explicit this week. Rape is always a grievous mortal sin, even spousal rape, especially a spousal rape. Date rape is a mortal sin, physical abuse of a spouse is a mortal sin. So is habitual verbal abuse. Incestuous abuse of daughters, sisters and nieces is a mortal sin. Sexual harassment in the workplace or anywhere else is a mortal sin.

Vile "sexual locker room" conversation that demeans women is also a serious sin. Job discrimination against women is a mortal sin. Treatment of women like they are sex objects is a mortal sin. Sexual exploitation of women is a mortal sin, so too is the practice of the rich and famous of replacing a loyal and faithful wife with a new younger and more attractive wife.

Is there a Priest, Bishop, Cardinal or Pope anywhere in the world who would argue publicly that any of these behaviors is not a mortal sin? I don't think so. Those sins are legion in our so-called "civilized" western world. Many delight in sweeping denunciations of "sins against the flesh" and "sins against life", but one hardly ever hears condemnation about sins against the flesh of women; against the bearers of life that are in our land. These abuses are routine and common place everyday. Perhaps our hearts will be more sensitized to this culturally accepted abuse. Maybe Pope, Benedict XVI will be the first to say that abuse of women is intrinsically evil and objectively disordered. I certainly hope so, I believe so.

*Fr. Ed Palumbos is pastor of Assumption Church, Fairport, New York*

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church Presents  
A Tribute to Paul Robeson**  
Featuring Bass-Baritone Kenneth Anderson  
**TODAY** (Sunday, Feb. 12) at 4 p.m.  
Free Will Offering



**Please remember our young people and their leaders who are on a diocesan retreat this weekend:**  
Cory Badeau, Christina Cardona, Anthony Ferrara, Jessica and Justin Harris, Colleen Sheehan, Jess Sokoloski, Eli Truth, James Wall, Theresa Young, Vivian Strache and Mary Carol Wall.