



Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

February 15, 2009

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: JJaeger@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

St. Gabriel's and St. Mary's Councils Reach Consensus on Plan to Cluster in 2010 and Become a New Parish in 2012

On Saturday, February 7, 2009, at a joint meeting of the Central Steuben Catholic Parishes Planning Group and the Parish Councils and Forums of St. Gabriel's, St. Mary's and the ABC Parishes of St. Catherine's, Addison, St. Stanislaus, Bradford and St. Joseph's, Campbell, consensus was reached on a pastoral plan recommendation to Bishop Clark aimed at assuring the availability of the Eucharist to all Catholics in our region for years to come.

If the plan is approved by Bishop Clark, **St. Gabriel's and St. Mary's will begin work on becoming a parish "Cluster"** administered by one pastoral leader by July 2010 with a vision of becoming a new parish with two worship sites in July 2012.

The ABC Parishes, already clustered under a single pastoral leader Fr. Patrick Connor, will commence a legal process that will result in the three parishes becoming new parish with three worship sites in July 2010.

To facilitate these transitions, a transition plan will be developed by the individual parishes working in conjunction with the CSCP Implementation Committee. The plan will include a timetable of specific activities to be accomplished within the parishes and a communications plan to assure that parishioners understand the reasons behind this decision and the long term benefits to Catholics throughout the region.

Following the meeting, which was held at **St. Mary's O'Malley Hall**, the following statement was read and distributed at all Masses in the five CSCP parishes:

A Statement from our Parish Council and the Central Steuben Catholic Parishes Implementation Committee

As you are aware our five area parishes have been involved since 1997 in a pastoral planning process to help Bishop Clark deal with the challenges of diminishing numbers of priests and its impact on the sustainability of the churches throughout the diocese.

This is not a challenge unique to our diocese. What is unique is that our bishop has taken the approach of forming Planning Groups in each region of the diocese that have been charged with considering these challenges and possible solutions.

Other dioceses have taken the approach of announcing church closures by edict. Bishop Clark has faith in the ability of the people of his diocese to consider the situation, review options, weigh consequences and present him with thoughtfully deliberated recommendations.

Our Central Steuben Catholic Parishes Implementation Committee has done that.

At a meeting on Saturday, February 7, 2007, the Central Steuben Catholic Parishes Implementation Committee and the Parish Councils or Forums of our five Churches reached consensus on the following plan to be submitted to our Bishop.

Beginning in July 2009, St. Gabriel's and St. Mary's will begin working toward becoming a two parish cluster in July 2010 with the vision of becoming a single parish with two worship sites by July 2012.

Beginning Immediately, St. Catherine's, St. Joseph's and St. Stanislaus will commence a process leading them from a cluster to a single parish with three worship sites by July 2010.

In the near future, our parish council and planning group will hold informational sessions to discuss this recommendation and, following the approval of Bishop Clark, announce a timetable for its implementation.

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

SUNDAY Feb. 15 Sixth Sunday of Ord.
Time
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Mary Giblin
By Robert & Jean Cuffney

MONDAY Feb 16
9:00 a.m. Scripture/Communion Service

TUESDAY Feb 17
5:00 p.m. In Mem. of Earl Thornbloom
By Marj Thornbloom

WEDNESDAY Feb 18
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Helen Hunter
By Cheryl & Olivia Damion

THURSDAY Feb 19
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of John Joseph
By Lance & Mary Ann Squires

FRIDAY Feb 20
(Mass at St. Gabriel's at 8:30a.m.)

SATURDAY Feb 21
4:00 p.m. In Mem. of Andrea Stevens
By Marcy Karwoski

SUNDAY Feb. 22 Seventh Sunday of Ord.
Time
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Stan Wraight
By Mark Fiordo & family

One weekend Mass each month is offered for the "Members of the St. Mary's Memorial Fund." Your gift to our Memorial Fund will support many parish ministries and capital projects. Your loved one will be remembered monthly at a scheduled Mass. Please consider this option. when requesting a Mass Card. Suggested minimum gift is \$10.



PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

SUNDAY Feb. 15
8:15 a.m. Pre Mass Choir Practice, Chapel
10:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast
10:15 a.m. Post Choir Practice, Church
10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Room 101
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101

MONDAY Feb. 16 Office Closed

TUESDAY Feb. 17
4:00p.m. Quota Club, Hall
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts, Room 203
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, Rooms 204A/B
7:30 p.m. Prayer Group, Rectory

WEDNESDAY Feb. 18
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts, 201,203, 204A
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, 204B, 205

THURSDAY Feb. 19
5:30p.m. Weight Watchers, 101
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts,203
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, 204A
6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, 205
7:30p.m. Knights of Columbus, 202

FRIDAY Feb. 20

SATURDAY Feb. 21
1:00 p.m. NA - 204
1:30 p.m. Travel Meeting with Ray, Hall

SUNDAY Feb. 22
8:15 a.m. Pre Mass Choir Practice, Chapel
10:00a.m. Coffee Hour, Hall
10:15 a.m. Post Choir Practice, Church
10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Room 101
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101



Prayer List

Fran Abbey, Bonnie Baran, Marie Benishin, Ruth Cochran, Henry Cullen, Fran Cummings, Marjorie Dillon, Margaret Emmick, Peggy Evans, Mary Fisher, Glenn French, Jack Giblin, Esther Gerhart, Margaret Anne Jenkins, Joey Kish, David Lamphier, Lila Marano, Fr. **Gerald O'Connor**, Theresa Rodbourn, Diana Sermonis, Betsy Sheehan, and Rob Wilson



Happy Birthday To You!

2/15 Bill Brinkus	2/18 Elizabeth White
2/16 Kathy Donnelly	2/19 Freida Fiordo
2/16 Justin Harris	2/19 Tessie Rankin
2/16 Michael Ormsby	2/20 Veronica Cummings
2/17 Denise Crossett	2/20 Alexis Ignatz
2/18 Tom Crossett	2/21 Barbara Makitra
2/18 Gerard McLaughlin	2/21 Jo Slovak
2/18 Katelyn DuBois	2/21 Gary Jacobs

Notre Dame Retreats

Men's Retreat Feb. 27 - Mar. 1
Contact: Al Hanning - 776-9269

MY SAINT MARY'S



Because I Love
My Parish
I Support It!

February 7/8
Attendance: 267

Sacrificial Gifts totaled: \$3,913
Faith Formation: \$325

Children's Collection: \$24.47

In addition to helping us meet our payroll expenses, your stewardship gifts helped us pay our snow removal and the Catholic Courier bills.

Thank you for Making Parish - a Priority!



Assembly Schedule
February 21 - Sat. 4:00 p.m.
Willing Hearts
February 22 - Sun. 9:00 a.m.
Luminaries



Deacon Ray and Pat Defendorf invite you to join them on a

Lands of Bible the Cruise



Informational Meetings

Saturday, February 21, 1:30 p.m.

St. Mary's O'Malley Hall, Bath

Sunday, February 22, 1:30 p.m.

Corning Public Library

Monday, February 23, 7:00 p.m.

St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira

Cusick Meeting Room

RSVP and Questions: 607-426-1150

Email: DeaconRay@stny.rr.com

Twelve Terrific Days of Guided Travel to the Lands of the Bible.

Including: Roundtrip Air from NYC ✦ Chartered Cruise Ship ✦ Deluxe Motorcoaches ✦ Guided Shore Excursions ✦ Breakfast Lunch and Dinner when aboard Ship ✦ Study Guide ✦ Lecture Program on St. Paul ✦ Entrance Fees

Departs: November 11, 2009



Celebrating 35 Years
of Safe and Secure
Christian Travel

St. Mary's Venture Crew Fundraiser
February 17 at Bath Pizza Hut
For Tickets Contact: Todd Martin or
Angie and Greg Longwell



"The Joy of St. Mary's"

We've learned that the "The Joy of St. Mary's" DVD that we distributed in January, does not work on all DVD players. Please contact the office for a replacement DVD recorded in your format.



Sent to Serve

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

A Proud Moment

Last Saturday's joint meeting of the CSCP Implementation Committee and the five Parish Pastoral Councils/Forums was a day of special pride for me.

I was proud of this parish and the ability of our parishioners to step forward in times of special need with optimism and faith.

I was proud when members of our Parish Council recognized that - as the larger of the two parishes that will be effected by clustering, St. Mary's must be keenly sensitive to the needs and feelings of others and be very flexible in sharing in our fair portion of any changes that may result from a clustering relationship with St. Gabriel's.

I was proud of the people representing St. Gabriel's Forum and their pastoral leader Maureen O'Neil for putting their own desire to keep the status quo and recognizing that by working together we can insure the future of both faith communities.

I was proud of the progress made throughout our region by members of the CSCP Planning Group and Implementation Committee. Five years ago, I would not have thought it possible for some members to approach the planning process with confidence that our work was indeed significant and our future was not pre-determined by the Diocesan Pastoral Center.

I was proud that our parishioners have so far been positive about the news that we and the parishioners of St. Gabriel's are already one in faith and have approached this transition with faith in the work of the Holy Spirit.

Lastly, I was proud of the generous service of:

- Mary Faucett who prepared and served a wonderful continental breakfast and lunch to our 45 guests;
- Paula Gardner, our full-time office volunteer who facilitated the printing of the joint statement so that people throughout the five CSCP parishes could get the news immediately and at the same time. And,
- Our CSCP Representatives Al Hanning, Barbara Perry and Betty Langendorfer and former CSCP rep Paul Wolfe whose leadership, vision and willingness to serve will impact the Catholics of our region for years to come.

Have a good week. Serve one another well.

Story for Today

Uniquely Wrinkled

By Dr. Constance M. Popp



A Dominican sister handed each of us a baggie containing six items- two raisins, two grapes and two apple slices. We were instructed to go off by ourselves and truly observe one raisin, one grape and one apple slice-look at it, appreciate it, admire it. Then we were to eat the remaining raisin, apple and grape.

After the reflection people commented:

"To look at something individually is to appreciate its uniqueness rather than to see it as just one of a bunch."

"Flavor is not released until it is "broken."

One small and wrinkled raisin reminded a woman of her grandmother. How could one raisin be of much use? How could one grandmother? This grandmother's silent presence so permeated her life, however, that even a simple raisin could evoke a memory.

In sharing these reflections with those who were about to volunteer at the local meal program, I realized three life-lessons:

1. We are to look at individuals and appreciate their unique presence rather than observing a bunch of homeless people.
2. We must allow ourselves to be broken open by their stories, which we may not want to hear, in order to release flavors never tasted before.
3. We need to experience our own wrinkles amid a sea of wrinkled-ness and appreciate all of it, even if the unique creation I am with remains silent.

If people can be challenged and changed by contemplating a raisin, grape and apple, how much more should we to be inspired by a human being and human interaction?

It is our perception that makes others unclean; we are called to change those perceptions and take on Jesus' attitude by curing the "unclean" in each of us to heal that which is leprosy in the world. A "bunch" can be eliminated and destroyed but a unique individual can be touched, receive compassion, and be cured.



"Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him and said, 'I do will it. Be made clean.'" Mark 1:41



This Week's Study of The Gospel of Mark

Week of February 15, 2009
Suggested Scripture Reading:

Chapter of Mark to be read: 10

Reflection Question:

[Mk 10: 1-11] What do you like best and least about weddings? How were the Pharisees trying to test Jesus by their question? How can you apply the principles of marriage underlined here? Do you think Jesus would respond the same way to someone in a troubled marriage who is sincerely asking the question in verse 2?

[Mk 10:46-52] How do you respond when a beggar approaches you on the street?

St. Mary's Parish presents
A Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation Series



Bible Basics

Instructor: Deborah Brinkhus

February 15 + February 22
and March 8

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

St. Mary's Zimmer Center + Room 101

Deb Brinkhus, a life-long learner, earned a Master of Arts Degree in Theological Studies from St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry

This three-session series will offer a basic overview of the Old and New Testament. Sessions are open to people of all faiths who wish to learn more about the Bible.

Saint Mary's Church

32 Eat Morris Street

Bath, New York

Contacts: Paula Gardner - 607-776-3327

Deacon Ray Defendorf - 607-426-