



Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

February 8, 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



Sent to Serve

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

Transition Process Begins in Parish and Region

There is a lot happening within the parish and within our region that I want to share with you. In this column I'll provide information on a transition that you are probably already aware of (my retirement) and some potential movement on transitions that may be in our not so long term future.

Bishop Clark Accepts My Retirement Request

In mid January, I wrote to Bishop Matthew Clark to officially state my desire to retire as pastoral administrator of St. Mary's effective June 30, 2009. Last week I received a letter from the Bishop accepting my request. If it is God's will, I'll continue to serve as a permanent deacon until 2019 (my 75th birthday) in a new, unpaid diaconal assignment..

Parish Profile Submitted to Diocese*

On Friday, I submitted a profile of our parish to the Priest Personnel Committee. The profile, which includes information on our parish staff, lay ministries, building and grounds, finances, etc., will be available to all priests and current or potential pastoral administrators who may be interested in applying for the position of pastoral leader of St. Mary's. The profile will also include comments from our staff, Parish Council, Finance Council and parishioners.

On Tuesday evening, Fr. Dan Holland of the Priest Personnel Committee will meet with our Parish Council to outline the transition procedures and seek their input on the qualities that they would hope for in their next pastoral leader. Then, on Wednesday morning, Barbara Pedeville of the Diocese's Human Resources Department will meet with our professional and volunteer staff members to offer similar input. Later that day, I will meet person-

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* Copies of the Parish Profile are available in the Parish Office.

Story for Today Me Too!

By Dr. Constance M. Popp



Tensions were running high in the summer school "conflict resolution" class, especially between two men. Both were probably in their mid-30s, returning to college after being away for some time. The class dealt with difficult issues, using volatile topics to help participants learn not to judge issues solely with their emotions. Simple listening could enable a conflict to end in peace rather than violence.

On this particular night the issue was abortion and during the video presentation Bill charged out of the room declaring, "This is bull crap." He returned the following week, still belligerent, retorting angrily throughout class. Finally Tom told him to shut up and listen, ending with, "I'm sick of your arrogance, your comments and I'm sick of you."

"You wanna take this outside?" Bill challenged.

My intervention only seemed to aggravate the situation as Bill again stormed out of class. I called the next day asking if he would see me. In listening to Bill's story, a critical piece of information prompted me to contact Tom, asking him to also meet with me. When I heard from Tom a story amazingly similar to Bill's, I knew they needed to talk face-to-face. Inviting them to a neutral place, the three of us sat in a room to share life stories that began with great hesitation and distrust.

But when Bill revealed his struggle with drugs, saying that Narcotics Anonymous had saved his life, Tom confessed his addiction to alcohol and credited AA with changing him forever. For a moment, Bill hung his head in silence. Then rising from his seat and looking Tom directly in the eye, he said, "My brother," holding out a hand to his "enemy," who shook it gladly.

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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. 8 Fifth Sunday of Ord. Time
 9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Mary Giblin by Lucian & Betty Signore & family

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

TUESDAY Feb 10
 5:00 p.m. In Mem. of Art Moran by Jim & Eva Russo

WEDNESDAY Feb 11
 9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Mary Giblin **By Jean's nursing classmates**

THURSDAY Feb 12
 9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Rosa Fiordo By Jim & Pat DeSorbo

FRIDAY Feb 13
 (Mass at St. Gabriel's at 8:30a.m.)

SATURDAY Feb 14
 4:00 p.m. In Mem. of Allen Kitt By Kitt Family

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

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.

OUR SAINT MARY'S



Because We Love Our Parish We Support It!

January 24/25 - Attendance: 253
 Sacrificial Gifts totaled: \$3,702
 Heating: \$644
Children's Collection: \$24.15
 In addition to helping us meet our payroll expenses, your stewardship gifts helped us pay towards snow removal.

Thank you for Making Parish - a Priority!



PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

SUNDAY Feb. 8
 8:15 a.m. Pre Mass Choir Practice, Chapel
 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
 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. 9

TUESDAY Feb. 10
 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. 11
 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts 201,203, 204A
 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts 204B, 205

THURSDAY Feb. 12
 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. 13

SATURDAY Feb. 14
 1:00 p.m. NA - 204

SUNDAY Feb. 15
 8:15 a.m. Pre Mass Choir Practice, Chapel
 10:00a.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



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
"Rising very early before dawn, he went off to a deserted place to pray."
 Mark 1:35

Today's readings all offer a stark look at the human condition. Taken alone, the passage from the Book of Job is downright depressing! Reading it, we can recognize ourselves at the most difficult times in our lives. Perhaps Job even describes how you are feeling today.

Happily, we are not given this passage alone. The responsorial psalm immediately answers Job's despair: "Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted." Then Paul and Jesus both help us put our hard work and great efforts into context.

Why do we continue on the journey of faith? Why do we move forward as disciples? Jesus, faced with crowds of people in great need, pushes on to more villages in order to proclaim the good news there, saying, "For this purpose I have come." Paul sums it up for all of us: "All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a



Prayer List

Fran Abbey, Bonnie Baran, Marie Benishin, Ruth Cochran, Henry Cullen, Fran Cummings, Majorie 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!

2/8 Roger Ruest	2/11 Mary Faucett
2/8 Stacey Brezinski	2/11 Paige Manciocchi
2/9 Daniel Fiordo	2/11 Gabrielle Merry
2/9 Gertrude Laux	2/11 Braedyn Ordway
2/9 Larry Crossett	2/14 Katelyn Merry
2/10 Bruce Squires	2/14 Brad Ordway
2/10 Jamie Wall	



Assembly Schedule
 February 14- Sat. 4:00 p.m. Precious Blood 1
 February 15 - Sun. 9:00 a.m. Heavenly Hash



Notre Dame Retreats

Consider a weekend retreat at Notre Dame.

This year's Retreat Theme is
Be all you can be! Be Holy!

Men's Retreat
 Feb. 27 - Mar. 1

Contact: Al Hanning - 776-9269

Story for Today Me Too!

Continued from Page 1
 Bill and Tom helped expel one another's demons, casting them out through openness to one another's struggle. Perhaps what was possible for them is possible for all of us if we would only give it a try.

ally with Mrs. Pedeville to offer my perspective.

The Posting of Parish Openings

The next step in the process will occur in late February or early March when notice of the 1st Round of parish leadership openings is posted and distributed to all priests and potential pastoral administrators. They will have about two weeks to red our parish profile and discern whether or not to express interest in the position. This is done by letter to the Committee's director, Fr. Michael Conboy.

Priest Personnel Makes Its Recommendation to Bishop Clark

A week or so after the application period expires, the Priest Personnel Committee will meet to discuss openings throughout the Diocese and review the profiles of those who have expressed interest in each opening. Based on these discussions, the Committee will try to find the best available fit between candidates and parish profiles and make recommendations to Bishop Clark - who will make the final decision as to who is appointed where.

After making his decisions, the Bishop will personally contact those to be appointed and invite them to accept the position. (Note: All appointments become effective on the last Tuesday of June at 6:00 p.m.). He will also call the current pastoral leader (in this case me) so that parishioners can be informed of the appointment on the next weekend (or sooner if the grapevine is as effective as ours.)

Over the ensuing months the newly appointed pastoral leaders will meet with the outgoing leaders, parish staff and councils to insure a smooth transition.

Regional Considerations

In the midst of our individual parish's transition to new leadership, it is important for you to know that our Central Steuben Catholic Parishes are linked also in a state of transition. As parishes and planning throughout the Diocese of Rochester (and nationwide) are linking with neighboring parishes to form clusters and multi-site parishes, until now, the CSCP (the ABC parish of Addison, Bradford and Campbell, St. Gabriel's and St. Mary's) have been under very little pressure to do so. All this could change as transitions and other challenges facing us

over the next few years come into clearer focus.

Councils Meet with CSCP Planners

On Saturday morning, members of Parish Councils, Finance Committees and staffs from all five CSCP parishes met to review several rapidly approaching transitions which may speed up decisions facing our mutual future. These include my retirement on June 30, the end of St. Gabriel's pastoral administrator **Maureen O'Neil's** first term in June, 2010 and Bishop Clark's retirement in 2012. There is no assurance that the next Bishop of Rochester will continue to involve local parishes in the decision-making process that we have come to expect. There is also no assurance that a different bishop would allow small parishes such as ours to stand alone or even share a priest.

Several other challenges will face our parishes in the foreseeable future. For one, the notion that CSCP parishes can rely on the availability of two priests and one retired priest indefinitely, is unrealistic. Within the next few years, fifteen priests will retire. One will be ordained.

Another fact cannot escape our attention. St. Mary's and St. Gabriel's - two of the Southern Tier's smaller parishes, are among only six stand-alone parishes remaining in the Southern Tier and Ithaca. Throughout the Diocese, only huge parishes with 2,000 or more households remain un-clustered. It is clear that the "writing is on the wall."

As I write this article, it is not assured that a consensus can be reached on how we will proceed and, if so, on what timetable. Be assured however that you will hear more on this issue very soon.

Saint Mary's Stewardship Campaign

Stewardship Commitment Forms continue to be received and the results compiled. To date about 80 of our 350 households have returned the form - so you can see we have a way to go. If you have not as yet returned yours, please do so this week.

On the very positive side, many parishioners have increased their financial commitment to our parish and many have also committed to continue their current ministries. If you indicated a desire to try a new ministry, someone from that ministry will contact you.

Public Policy Sunday

Today (Sunday), I've been invited to preach with Linda Crowe, of the Bath Health Ministry at St. Thomas Episcopal Church's Public Policy Sunday. Bob Colomaio will speak after Communion here at St. Mary's.

Have a good week. Serve one another well.

Deann Ray



Thank You for your contribution of \$180.08. It will go to help the needy.



The Sanctuary Light is burning in memory of Jose Rola Fragosa by Charles & Carmen Rola



This Week's Study of The Gospel of Mark

Week of February 8, 2009
Suggested Scripture Reading:

Chapter of Mark to be read: 9

Reflection Question:

Mk 9:2-13

What was your most "mountaintop" experience? How do you feel when you are on the mountaintop? What helps you feel close to God? How would you deserve your relationship with God now?

Mk 9:14-30

How can you live with the full reality of evil and yet with a strong awareness of **God's transforming power?** In what way do you that tension now??

Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed

Coffee Hours are a St. Mary's tradition worth saving. But volunteers are needed immediately or this tradition will end. Sign up in O'Malley Hall or call the office. It's easy.



To the ladies that counted money on Monday's in 2008

A Special Thank You to
Mary Faucett

&

Al & Evie Hanning
for all that you do for St.

Mary's

Saint Mary's Church

32 Eat Morris Street

Bath, New York

Contacts: Paula Gardner - 607-776-3327

Deacon Ray Defendorf - 607-426-