



Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 4, 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



The Epiphany of the Lord

Each church year, the feast of the Epiphany falls on the Sunday after the celebration of the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Epiphany Sunday celebrates the manifestation of God's salvation to all people through the birth of Jesus.

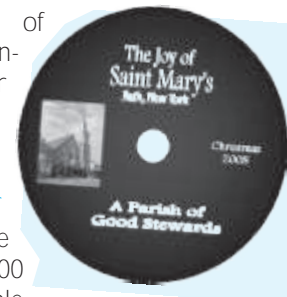
God's full revelation of universal salvation, of course, comes to fruition in the birth of Jesus. Just as prophesied by Isaiah, we hear in the Gospel reading from Matthew that the wealth of nations was brought to the infant Jesus. The Magi from the East came to do homage to Jesus, bringing with them their treasures, the "gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

In his Letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul tells the Christian community at Ephesus of his "stewardship" that was given to him for their "benefit." Paul saw himself as the steward of the good news that through Jesus, God's grace was now offered to both Jews and Gentiles. Much of St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians emphasizes the need for unity between Jews and Gentiles in the body of Christ.

Epiphany Sunday celebrates the manifestation of God's plan to save all people through his Son. Like Paul, we have been called to be stewards of this good news. Whenever we reach out to build unity among ourselves and our various communities of faith, others can see the glory of the Lord shining. By doing so, we give homage to the newborn Jesus.

Stewardship Commitment Weekend

On this Feast of Epiphany, we invite you to pick up your Free copy of the new DVD produced by our Stewardship Committee entitled *The Joy of Saint Mary's*. The DVD includes nearly 300 photos of the 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 song *Christmas at Saint Mary's* written and performed by our own singer/songwriter Brad Ordway and *All Saints Together* a song that Deacon Ray 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 was included with a letter mailed to you this week by Deacon Ray and our Stewardship Committee.

When you redeem the certificate, we hope that you will also return the Stewardship Commitment Form that you also received in the mail. Our parish depends on all of us to return a portion of the gifts of time, talent and treasure that God has bestowed on us. The form was designed to help you discern in what ways you will use these gifts at the parish level over the next six months. 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 your cooperation, our Finance Committee will then be able to develop a responsible budget to present to our next pastoral leader.

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

Advent 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 Jan 4 Epiphany Sunday
9:00 a.m. For Members of the Memorial Fund

MONDAY Jan 5
9:00 a.m. Scripture/Communion Service

TUESDAY Jan 6
5:00 p.m. In Mem. of James Hurson
By Wall Family

WEDNESDAY Jan 7
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Catherine Tetor
By Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Shellhamer

THURSDAY Jan 8
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Rosa Fiordo
By Evelyn Glenn

FRIDAY Jan 9
(Mass at St. Gabriel's at 8:30a.m.)

SATURDAY Jan 10
4:00 p.m. In Mem. of Art Moran
by Pat & Jim DeSorbo

SUNDAY Jan 4 Epiphany Sunday
9:00 a.m. In Mem. Of Art Moran
By Wall 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 be used to 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.

SUNDAY Jan. 4
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 Jan. 5

TUESDAY Jan. 6
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 Jan. 7
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts 201,203, 204A
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts 204B, 205

THURSDAY Jan. 8
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

FRIDAY Jan. 9 Office Closed

SATURDAY Jan. 10
1:00 p.m. NA - 204

SUNDAY Jan. 11
8:15 a.m. Pre Mass Choir Practice, Chapel
10:15 a.m. Post Choir Practice, Church
10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Room 101
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101

The community of St. Mary's has been an integral part of our family's spiritual, emotional, personal, and social life.

Ginny Gallagher



When Jim and I, along with Amy, moved to Bath in 1976, we were glad to be a part of St. Mary's Parish, since

both of our families had a devotion to the Blessed Mother. Within a month of our moving, Lyman Sheils had recruited Jim to be a part of a bingo team with Bob Sestak, Bob Roote and Ferd Stenta.

Along with Dawn Reagan, I joined the Rosary Society where we were the youngest members. When I was 6 months pregnant with Jeannie, I had an appendectomy. Bernie Spanneut heard of my plight and the Prayer Group, including Mary Giblin and Fran Abbey and many others, prayed for my recovery and the safe delivery of Jeannie. Martha Stenta brought over a meal for us. She told me not to reciprocate but rather to "Pass it on".

During the latter part of the '70s and much of the '80s, our spiritual life in the parish revolved around sacramental preparations for baptisms, first penances, first Eucharist, and confirmations. Our social life became very intertwined with St. Mary's parish activities. By the time Cathy started school, she already knew Sister Mary Agnes, Sister Barbara, Carol von Hagn, and Kathy (Francis) McDonald, etc.

After the close of the school, and a beautiful ending Mass by Father Bonin and Father O'Malley, Father Hammond asked us to participate on the Family Mass committee. Family Mass was a multi-generational small Christian community which included Mass, supper and a seasonal liturgical activity.

In 1986, I was hospitalized and once again St. Mary's parishioners prayed for my recovery. When Tim was born in 1988, parishioners prayed for a safe delivery.

During this time, our girls participated in the Youth Group and were altar servers.

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Happy Birthday To You!

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1/5 Mary Catherine Colomaio | 1/7 Collin Muller |
| 1/5 Dianna DuBois | 1/7 Matthew Dickson |
| 1/6 Blanche Shaner | 1/7 Timothy Farrell |
| 1/6 Erinn Muller | 1/7 John Miller |
| 1/6 Randy Brezinski | 1/8 Larry Putnam |
| 1/6 Elizabeth Hopkins | |

OUR SAINT MARY'S



Because We Love Our Parish We Support it!

Thank you for Making Your Parish - a Priority!

December 20/21 - Attendance: 301
Sacrificial Gifts totaled: \$2,910.50
Christmas Flowers: \$50
Can & Quarter: \$340.46

In addition to helping us meet our payroll expenses, your stewardship gifts helped us pay our quarterly pension bill of \$2,061.

Because of an early Bulletin deadline, donations received on Christmas, December 27/28 and the Feast of Mary our Mother will be published next week.



Prayer List

Bruce Ayers, Bonnie Baran, Bertha Benedict, Marie Benishin, Henry Cullen, Fran Cummings, 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

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(Later on, Tim and Jim became an altar serving team for the Lake Country Disciples.) We helped the Youth Group out with fundraising and other activities. I was



very privileged to be sent by St. Mary's as a chaperone to the NCYC in Kansas City which was a fantastic spiritual experience.

When Jim's dad died unexpectedly in 1992, we had the support of many parishioners in our grief. During the time that Jim's mother battled oral cancer from 1997 through 2004, we were sometimes MIA from St. Mary's, depending on time schedules for medications, etc. That is how we came to be "unofficial ambassadors" for the Central Steuben Cluster Parishes, attending Mass in the neighboring parishes. Once again we were grateful for the prayer support of our St. Mary's family, helping us through difficult times.

In 2003, Cathy and Gary were married at St. Mary's with Father Schatzel and Deacon Ray attending. What a glorious day!

Since then, Jim has served two terms on the Parish Council and I am a Monday money counter on Barb Perry's team (when I don't forget it is my week!). I continue to fill in when needed with Youth Group activities, baking, helping out at fairs, rummage sales, etc.

The community of St. Mary's has been an integral part of our family's spiritual, emotional, personal, and social life. We support St. Mary's by use of our time, talent, and treasure because St. Mary's has nurtured our children, provided opportunities for spiritual growth and maturity and comforted our family in its need.

Ginny Gallagher



This Week's Study of The Gospel of Mark

Week of January 4, 2009 - Epiphany
Suggested Scripture Reading:

Chapter of Mark to be read: 4

Reflection Question: [Mk 4: 35-41]
What emotions did the disciples feel as this storm raged on and on? What "storms" in your life does Jesus need to calm?



SENT TO SERVE

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

The 4% Stewardship Challenge

Within the last few days, all registered St. Mary's parishioners should have received our Stewardship Commitment Letter. In it, we ask that you consider making a pledge of financial support to your parish for the next six months. Stewardship is a response, made in faith and gratitude, to the God who is the Source of everything we have and enjoy. In the scriptures, God asks that we return to him a tithe, which is literally 10%, of our earnings. And the response of one who realizes God's gifts in his or her life is one of awe: "What return can I make to the Lord for all his kindness to me?" (Ps. 116:12).

In biblical times, these tithes were used to support the priests, and "the widows and orphans", i.e., those who had no other means of support. Today the church uses your gifts to do much the same. Your offerings pay the salaries of those who minister to you and your family, provides for the maintenance and upkeep of your parish buildings and equipment, subsidizes the religious education of our children and continuing faith formation of the adult members of our community, and are used to aid those in need. We are a tithing parish, giving an amount equal to 4% of our offertory collection to Catholic Charities Turning Point before we even worry about our own needs. As we make that commitment as a faith community, we ask you to do the same personally with regard to your household budget.

Stewardship – the gift of our time, talent and treasure – lies at the heart of what it means to be a Christian. We receive God's gifts, cultivate them responsibly, share them generously in loving justice with others, and attempt to make some return to the Lord out of deep gratitude for the many blessings we have received. **Stewardship isn't something we "do"; it is the way we are to live.**

It is our sincere hope that you will entertain this Stewardship Commitment request seriously and respond for at least the next six months with a sacrificial gift commitment of at least 4% of your net income.

What would that look like? If your take home pay is \$300 a week, it would mean that \$9 would go immediately into your weekly offertory envelope as your "first fruits". If your weekly take home pay is \$1000, your 4% tithe to the parish would be \$40. God asks for our first fruits – and be honest: if you are only giving from what's leftover in your pockets Sunday morning, many days it would only be lint!

We are a tithing parish, giving an amount equal to 4% of our Offertory collection to Catholic Charities Turning Point before we even worry about our own needs.

Yes, sacrificial giving is a sacrifice, and sacrifices hurt. But we need to trust that God will reward us for our faithfulness. If 4% right now is too great a stretch for you, consider volunteering 4% of more of your time each week to a parish or community ministry or perhaps your first hour's wages as a Stewardship gift to the church each week?

Remember that we are asking you to make this initial Stewardship Commitment for only the next six months. In late May or early June, you will be invited to reassess your giving level as our parish Finance Committee establishes a realistic budget to present to our next pastoral leader.

"Away Days" at Sea

For the next two weeks, Mary Carol Wall will replace me in this space. Pat and I will be heading South for some away days courtesy of Educational Opportunities Travel, the people that organize the pilgrimages I've led over the years. We'll be visiting the "holy cities" of San Juan, San Thomas and San Martine, all in the Caribbean. The trip will be a mix of vacation, scripture study and meetings. We will return on January 20.

Serve one another well!

Saint Mary's Church
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Bath, New York

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