

Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach



The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

January 7, 2007

Our Parish Office

32 East Morris Street
Bath, NY 14810
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Other times by appointment
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Our Parish Staff

Deacon Ray Defendorf

Pastoral Administrator
E-mail: RDefendorf@DOR.org

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Regional Parish Priest

Fr. John Wydeven

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Betty Gerych

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Bill Grimmer

Music and Liturgy

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Custodian

Mary Carol Wall

Youth Ministry and

Religious Education

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E-Mail: Avocawalls@usadatanet.net

Our Parish Council

William MacNamara

Chairperson

Rosemary States

Vice-Chairperson

Mary McConnell

Secretary

Maryann Aston

Jim Gallagher

Sean McKinley

Barbara Perry

Kathy Warren



Scripture REFLECTIONS

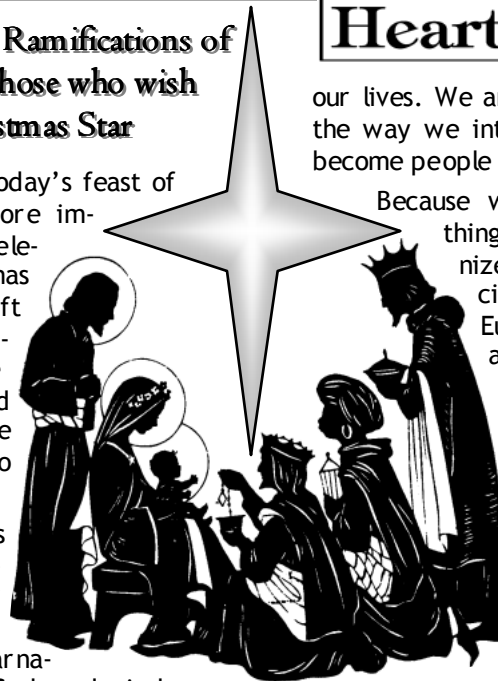
The Meaning and Ramifications of the Epiphany for those who wish to follow the Christmas Star

In many cultures, today's feast of the Epiphany is more important than the celebration of Christmas itself. Pageantry, gift giving and other festivities speak of the wonder of the Word made flesh and the visit by the magi to the manger.

For ourselves, today's feast offers the opportunity for deeper reflection upon the mystery of the Incarnation and the choice God made in becoming one like us.

The magi story has long been seen as symbolic of the saving works of God, revealed in Jesus Christ, extending beyond Jerusalem to all peoples, even Gentiles. The magi story shows us that the birth of Christ has a direct effect on every person of every time and place. Therefore, not only is salvation open to all peoples, but all peoples are changed by it. Life is no longer the same. That which was seen one way before now has a new face and meaning.

In essence, this is why the feast of the Epiphany presents such a challenge to our lives. Whereas the celebration of Christmas shows us the truth of the Word made flesh, the feast of the Epiphany demonstrates its impact on



Epiphany in our Hearts



our lives. We are challenged today to change the way we interact with our world and to become people who live the Incarnation.

Because we like to compartmentalize things, it is easier for us to recognize Christ in a manger, on a crucifix, in a painting or in the Eucharist. These concrete images allow us to see Christ as separate from ourselves in Christ's own time and space. Where we have difficulty is seeing Christ in the stranger, my neighbor, the poor, the abandoned, the drug addict, the homeless, the prisoner, and even in the person who has hurt me.

Therein lays the challenge of the Incarnation, the challenge of Christmas and Epiphany and indeed the challenge of being Christian.

An incarnational vision of faith demands that the needs of our brothers and sisters in need come before our personal need to amass wealth for wealth's sake. It demands that we constantly evaluate what we are doing and why we are doing it. We also need to be concerned about policy-making that affects our quality of life and the distribution of goods. The Christian agenda is a social agenda that has an impact on how all of us live in God's world.

The birth of Christ, in song and in art, appears innocent and sweet. This Epiphany, however, is a manifestation of something we have yet to grasp.

Mass/Communion/Reconciliation Schedule

Parish Celebrations of the Lord's Day

Saturday - 4:00 p.m. ✦ Sunday - 9:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday through Thursday - 5:00 p.m.

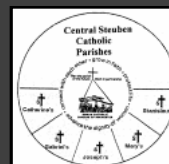
Friday - 9:00 a.m.

Scripture/Communion Service

Monday at 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 9:00 a.m. | January 7, Epiphany of the Lord In Memory, Tom Madigan By The Knights of Columbus |
| MONDAY 9:00 a.m. | January 8, Baptism of the Lord Communion Service |
| TUESDAY 500 p.m. | January 9, Weekday In Memory Jane Holmes By Don & Anna Mae Mills |
| WEDNESDAY 5:00 p.m. | January 10, Weekday In Memory, Grace Kimball By her daughter, Marcia Shaver |
| THURSDAY 5:00 p.m. | January 11, Weekday In Memory, Francis Cuffney By Robert & Jean Cuffney |
| FRIDAY 5:00 p.m. | January 12, Weekday In Memory, Yolanda Fiorido By Rosa & Freida |
| SATURDAY 4:00 p.m. | January 13, Weekday In Memory, Nick Bottori By Rita & Bob Demo |
| SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. | January 14, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time In Memory, Janet Beya By The Gallagher family |

There are many Mass intentions available in the upcoming months. (Stipend is \$10). Please call the office to schedule.



Liturgical Assembly Schedule

Jan. 13- Sat. 4:00 p.m. - Precious Blood i
Jan. 7 - Sun. 9:00 a.m. - Willing Hearts
To form or join an assembly, call 776-3327



YOUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS Upcoming Second Collections

January 6/7 - Maintenance
January 13/14 - Heating
January 20/21 - Can & Quarter



SAINT MARY'S PARISH

"A Parish of Very Good Stewards"

Thank you for - Making Parish a Priority!

December 23/24/25 2006

Sacrificial Gifts Totaled: \$2,804.50 THANK YOU!

Christmas Envelopes: \$3,291.00

Matched Donations for Rectory Plumbing Repairs \$480*

*Note: There is still time to donate and have your gift matched up to a total of \$2,000. This project is expected to cost approximately \$20,000 as all 50 year old plumbing infrastructure must be replaced.

December 30/31 2006

Because of an early bulletin deadline, we are unable to publish donation totals for last weekend Masses.



PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

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|---|--|
| SUNDAY 10:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. | January 7 - No Coffee Hour Religious Education Sunday Supper, O'Malley Hall AA, Room 101 |
| MONDAY | January 8 - No Choir or Bells |
| TUESDAY 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m. | January 9 Boy Scouts, Room 202 Parish Council, Room 205 Charismatic Prayer Group, Rectory |
| WEDNESDAY 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. | January 10 Girl Scout team meeting, Room 101 Praise Ensemble, DP Room RCIA, Rectory Dining Room |
| THURSDAY 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. | January 11 Weight Watchers, O'Malley Hall Boy Scouts, Room 202/203 |
| FRIDAY | January 12 |
| SATURDAY 1:00 p.m. | January 13 NA, Room 101 |
| SUNDAY 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. | January 14 No Coffee Hour/No Religious Education Sunday Supper, O'Malley Hall AA, O'Malley Hall |



Happy Birthday To You!

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 01/07 Matthew Dickson | 01/11 Barbara Ezzo |
| 01/07 Collin Muller | 01/12 Dorothy Sincerbox |
| 01/07 Timothy Farrell | 01/12 Eric Howell |
| 01/09 Martha Wraight | 01/12 Eric Howell |
| 01/10 Marilyn Hultzman | 01/12 Danielle Neu |
| 01/10 Arnold Kish | 01/13 Joshua Carpenter |
| 01/10 Ryan Thompson | 01/13 Donald Leger |
| 01/11 Harry Makitra | 01/14 Mary Perry |
| 01/11 Kenneth Boyd | 01/14 Eugene Hokula |
| 01/11 Nicholas Muller | 01/14 Pamela Snyder |
| 01/11 Catherine Mack | |



Hospice Volunteers Needed

Alice's Rest Comfort Home in Avoca, a ministry which welcomes terminally ill patients to spend their remaining days in a comfortable rural setting attended to by registered nurses, volunteers and their families is once again accepting new patients and volunteers. There is no charge to patients or their families for the use of this wonderful facility.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry of caring and hospitality, or know of a terminally ill person (regardless of faith tradition) who would benefit from Alice's Rest, please contact Jean Crawford or Sue Dominic at 566-3420 or email: alicesrestfoundation@yahoo.com Also visit their website: www.alicesrestfoundation.org



Sent to Serve

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

Epiphany Moments

The word epiphany means “manifestation.” Today we celebrate the manner in which Jesus was made manifest to the world. Most of the time we associate the Epiphany only with the coming of the Magi, as we heard in today’s Gospel passage. But there are actually two other epiphany moments that we celebrate in this Feast. Saint Peter Chrysologus writes that the second Epiphany moment we celebrate today is Christ’s Baptism with the accompanying appearance of the Holy Spirit above the waters. The third Epiphany is that moment Saint Peter speaks of is the first of Christ’s signs from Heaven, namely the turning of water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana. In each of these epiphany moments, the glory of God was revealed more and more and the true identity of Jesus became clearer.

In our own faith we have these kinds of epiphany moments. At times God seems hidden and distant, but then something happens which makes His presence seem very clear. I think this feast challenges us in two ways. It challenges us to find God’s presence in the ordinary things of everyday life where so often we don’t see Him. But we are also challenged today to make God manifest to others. Can other people see Jesus at work in us?

Christmas Thanks

Thanks to **Bill Grimmer**, **Betty Gerych** and the members of our **Bell Choir and Choir**, for exceptional music and to all who celebrated Christmas with us.

Thanks also to the boys and girls whose pageant helped me proclaim the Gospel at the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass and to **Stephanie Czajkowski**, **Mary Beth Boyd** and all the parents who assisted. Thanks also to all who helped us make the decoration transition from Advent to Christmas on Sunday, December 24. Because the Fourth Sunday of Advent fell this year on Christmas Eve, a team of people began work immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Mass so that the church could be decorated in time for the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass.

Special thanks to the generous parishioners who took part in our annual **Giving Tree** project and to our Social Ministry and Parish Life Coordinator **Karen Grimmer** who assessed the needs of the families to be assisted. Hundreds of clothing gifts were dispersed to 27 area families. Karen estimates that your purchases totaled about \$9,000.

Kudos also to the **Knights of Columbus** who again distributed hundreds of new and recycled toys to area kids.

Keep in Touch with Fr. Peter

Fr. Peter left last Saturday for his five week journey home to Ghana. Father will be checking his email whenever possible and I’m sure would love to hear from you. His “on the road” email address is peteranglaa@yahoo.com.

Have a blessed week. Serve one another well.

Welcome Father John O’Connor



This weekend and next we welcome Fr. **John O’Connor** as president of our Sunday Eucharist. Fr. John is the retired pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Brighton, NY a suburb of Rochester. He now lives in Dundee. In addition to our 9 a.m. Mass, Fr. O’Connor will also preside at the 11 a.m. Mass at St. Gabriel’s, Hammondsport.

During Fr. Peter’s absence, Fr. **John Wydeven** will preside at Saturday Eucharists at both St. Mary’s and St. Gabriel’s.

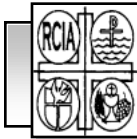
Vocation Awareness Week January 8 - 13

Following the star, the magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem in search of the newborn king. When they found him they prostrated themselves and gave Jesus homage. The glory of the



Lord was revealed to them. The glory of the Lord is revealed to us every day by the ministry of our priests, religious sisters and brothers.

Would you consider helping others to walk in the Light of the Lord in one of these vocations? Have you ever wondered if God may be calling you to the ordained or religious life? If so, please call the Diocese of Rochester’s **Office of Vocation Awareness** at 585-461-2890 or visit our website: www.dor.org/vocations



Becoming a Roman Catholic

Next RCIA Session - January 10

On Sunday, December 24 at the 9 a.m. Mass, we welcomed **Paula Gardner** and **Willard Hughes** as members of our Catholic Community at St. Mary’s. Both will continue to journey with us to the Easter Vigil when they will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) at St. Mary’s welcomes both those who have not been baptized and baptized Christians (like Paula and Willard) who wish to become full members of the Catholic Church. Together we learn about Catholic beliefs and are enmeshed in the traditions and liturgical practices of the Church. RCIA Sessions are held on Wednesday evenings through Easter in the parish rectory dining room. Our next Inquiry Session is Wednesday, January 10 at 7 p.m. Our topic will be **“The Vocation Sacraments - Holy Orders & Marriage.”**

There is still time to join the RCIA process. For more information, please contact Deacon Ray at 776-3327.

Epiphany

Church Name: St. Mary's Church

City, State: Bath, Ny

File Name: 06-0323

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Contact/Editor: Michele Ferrara or Deacon Ray Defendorf