



Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

The Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

July 20, 2008

Our Parish Office

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

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Mary Faucett
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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 - 556-3690
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
Kathy Warren - 776-4074
Don Young - 566-3886



"Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?"
Matthew 13:27



Scripture REFLECTIONS

Today's Gospel offers the stories of the field planted with weeds, the amazing plant grown from a tiny mustard seed, and the effect of a small amount of yeast in a large amount of flour. Jesus brilliantly paints a picture of one of life's perennial mysteries: Why is it that evil people live among the good and even thrive? Jesus tells two seemingly unrelated parables about the mustard seed and the yeast that certainly address those questions. The smallest amount of good or evil can greatly affect everything around it.

Today's other readings provide an answer to the conundrum of good and evil: None of this is up to us. The reading from the Book of Wisdom reminds us there is no god like our God, who is master of all yet governs with lenience. In his Letter to the Romans Paul goes so far as to say we don't even know how to pray the way we should. We need to rely on the Holy Spirit to pray for us. What is up to us? To be the wheat that will be gathered in at harvest time.

Story for Today Babette's Small Feast

By Dr. Constance M. Popp

Babette, a refugee fleeing the French Revolution, is brought to a remote village on Denmark's desolate coast. Once a renowned chef in Paris, she becomes the housekeeper of two elderly women, daughters of the spiritual founder of an austere Christian sect. Babette arrives long after his death, and witnesses during her fourteen years with the sisters, the small congregation's fall into bickering and complaining.



Hoping to rejuvenate the community, the sisters decide to host a celebration honoring the 100th birthday of their father. As plans for the simple party begin, Babette learns that an old lottery ticket from France has won her 10,000 francs. Babette asks to prepare a French dinner for the celebration, which becomes "Babette's Feast" in the inspiring parable written by Isak Dinesen.

The sisters are agreeable at first but when they observe the amount of food and drink arriving from abroad, they tell the congregation of their fear that enjoying such a grand "feast" will bring shame upon them. The community's normal diet of boiled cod and ale-bread soup has sustained them thus far so they decide to simply "not enjoy" the food nor make any comments about it.

Babette prepares her exquisite dishes with love and care. Although the community is silent, an unexpected guest revels in what is placed before him. His comments are overwhelmingly complimentary, which enables the twelve guests to enjoy themselves just a bit. As the guests commune, a transformation occurs-laughter re-emerges, old times are remembered, apologies made, hurts forgiven and wounds healed. Appreciation replaces recrimination.

God's reign is like the smallest of things-a mustard seed and yeast dissolved in water and flour-and perhaps like a meal prepared with love for those who may never appreciate its uniqueness. Is it possible we are each to become like one small thing and find within our very smallness the kingdom of God which we seek?

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Mass/Communion/Reconciliation Schedule

Parish Celebrations of the Lord's Day

Saturday - 4:00 p.m. ✦ Sunday - 9:30 a.m.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

1st and 3rd Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.

Weekday Mass/Communion Services

Monday (Communion) and Wednesday - 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday and Thursday - 5:00 p.m.

Friday Mass at St. Gabriel's - 8:30 a.m.



A member of the
Central Steuben
Catholic Parishes
Diocese of Rochester



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

SUNDAY July 20, Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time
 9:30 a.m. **In Mem of Joseph O'Brien**
 1st Anniversary
 By Kathy & Jim Desrosiers

MONDAY July 21 Monday
 9:00 a.m. Scripture/Communion Service

TUESDAY July 22, Tuesday
 5:00 p.m. In Mem of Majorie Penn
 By Fr James Jaeger

WEDNESDAY July 23, Wednesday
 9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Earl Thornbloom
 By his wife Marge

THURSDAY July 24, Thursday
 5:00 p.m. For Parishioners
By St. Mary's

FRIDAY July 25, Friday
NO Mass at St. Mary's
 (Mass at St. Gabriel's at 8:30 a.m.)
 2:30p.m. Taylors Healthcare
 Int. of Mary Giblin
 By her Family

SATURDAY July 26, Saturday
 4:00 p.m. In Mem. of Mary Sutryk Saxe
 By Mary Eaton

SUNDAY July 27 Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time
 9:30a.m. In Mem. of Gerard Saur
 By Margaret Saur

August Mass Intentions are available.
 Please Call the Office. Mass Stipend \$10.



PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

SUNDAY July 20
 8:30 a.m. Pre Mass Choir Practice, Chapel
 11:00 a.m. Post Choir Practice, Church
 3:00 p.m. Sunday Supper, Hall
 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101

MONDAY July 21
 6:00 p.m. Tae Kwon Do - Hall

TUESDAY July 22
 1:00 p.m. John Southard Arts & Crafts - Hall
 6:00p.m. Weight Loss Challenge
 7:30 p.m. Prayer Group - Rectory

WEDNESDAY July 23
 6:00 p.m. Tae Kwon Do - Room 204

THURSDAY July 24
 1:00 p.m. John Southard Arts & Crafts - Hall
 5:30p.m. Weight Watchers - Hall

FRIDAY July 25

SATURDAY July 26

SUNDAY July 27 -
 8:30 a.m. Pre Mass Choir Practice, Chapel
 11:00 a.m. Post Choir Practice, Church
 3:00p.m. Sunday Supper, Hall
 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101



Prayer List

Bruce Ayers, Bonnie Baran,
 Fran Cummings, Bob Denno, Peggy Evans,
 Mark Fiordo, Rosa Fiordo,
 Mary Fisher, Mary and Jack Giblin,
 Esther Gerhart, John Hurley, Joseph Kish, Jim Lamprecht, Logan Manciocchi, Art Moran,
Jim Murray, Fr. Gerald O'Connor,
 Helen Opila, Deacon John Prave,
 Theresa Rodbourn, Father Richard Shatzel, Adam Weaver,

Catholic Charities Steuben "40 Week Club"

The 40 week club gives Catholic Charities an opportunity to help raise critical dollars needed to support their Anti-Poverty and Child Day Care Programs.

Please support this important work.
 Tickets Available in the Parish Office.



Happy Birthday To You!

07/20 Barbara McKinley	07/24 Mary Eaton
07/20 Pat Defendorf	07/24 Lael Truth
07/20 Noah Dieg	07/24 Larry Ryan
07/21 Steve Sheehan	07/25 Barbara Bailey
07/22 Gillian Oksinski	07/25 Flo Mulcahy
07/23 Betty Gerych	07/25 Keith Becken
07/23 Donna Gerych	07/26 Kevin Murray
07/24 Charles Banik	07/26 Bruce Carey

Turning Point July Collection



Cereal & Pancake Mix

May be left in the back of the church



SAINT MARY'S PARISH "A Parish of Good Stewards"

Thank you for Making
 Parish a Priority!

Sacrificial Gifts totaled: \$3018.46
 Can & Quarter: \$ 375
 Catholic Courier: 199.00

Today's 2nd Collection: Cemetery Upkeep

Next Week's 2nd Collection: Youth Ministry

In addition to helping us meet our payroll expenses, your stewardship allowed us to pay towards our Parish Life Activities.



High Adventure can be any exciting outdoor activity that you can participate in if you are 14 – 20 years old. These may be white water rafting, hiking, etc

Find Out More
 Dormann Library

July 30, 2008 at 7:00pm

Vacation Bible School



As the Vacation Bible School group posed for this picture they reflected on the meaning of the week and instead saying CHEESE, they said HOLY SPIRIT

Our Vacation Bible School group as they shared a time of prayer and renewal in the church





SENT TO SERVE

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

Unexpected Blessings

Former White House spokesperson and Fox News commentator Tony Snow died last Saturday.



Although much too conservative politically for my blood, I admired the man since hearing him speak at Chautauqua about four years ago. As White House spokesman, Snow had the difficult job of moving to the other side of the podium and facing difficult questions from his friends in the media. Although these encounters are sometimes **testy, Snow' sharp intellect and engaging humor** served him well and won the respect of both those who agreed and disagreed with his political stances.

This week, I received an email from a friend who, like Snow is suffering from a serious illness. The email included a wonderful essay that Snow had written about his cancer and the role that faith was playing in his embracing its reality. The essay is too long for even **this column, so I'll be sharing it in sections** over the next few weeks.

UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS

By Tony Snow

"Blessings arrive in unexpected packages, - in my case, cancer. Those of us with potentially fatal diseases - and there are millions in America today - find ourselves in the odd position of coping with our mortality while trying to fathom God's will. Although it would be the height of presumption to declare with confidence "What It All Means," Scripture provides powerful hints and consolations.

The first is that we shouldn't spend too much time trying to answer the "why" questions: Why me? Why must people suffer? Why can't someone else get sick? We can't answer such things, and the questions themselves often are designed more to express our anguish than to solicit an answer.

I don't know why I have cancer, and I don't much care. It is what it is, a plain and indisputable fact. Yet even while staring into a mirror darkly, great and stunning truths begin to take shape. Our maladies define a central feature of our existence: We are fallen. We are imperfect. Our bodies give out.

But despite this, - or because of it, - God offers the possibility of salvation and grace. We don't know how the narrative of our lives will end, but we get to choose how to use the interval between now and the moment we meet our Creator face-to-face."

So two of my media favorites, (the other being Tim Russert) have died in the past month. Russert died suddenly. Snow after a long and very public battle with cancer. Both Russert and Snow were able to live authentic faith driven lives in the public forum. Both celebrated their religious faith and were comfortable speaking of its influence in their thinking, speaking and living. Both men let their faith-light shine boldly. And the world is better for it.

UNFAIR a Huge Success!

My sincere thanks to all who supported **our St. Mary's UNFAIR. By all accounts, it was a huge success. Not only did it equal the amount raised at last year's International Food Festival, but it gave a well deserved year off to the many folks who are our core volunteers. They deserved a break - and generously gave to allow us to raise the money we need to support our ministries - so they could enjoy a break. Perhaps this is the way to go until a new generation of parish volunteers say "Hey, let's have a parish festival!"**

Sy Holzer was a multiple winner of our UNFAIR Raffle. Tickets bearing his name were drawn for both the \$1,000 and \$250 prize raffles. Helen Opila's ticket was drawn for \$500 in



food or gas certificates and Rita Dwyer will enjoy a dinner at the Rectory prepared by Fr. Jaeger.

Within the next few week's donors will be invited to a Wine and Cheese Reception to celebrate the work that they avoided by generously supporting the UNFAIR.

If you are reading this on Saturday night before Mass, I hope that you're planning on joining us at our parish picnic immediately following tonight's Mass.

Have a restful mid-summer week.

Serve each other well!

Deacon Ray

Parish Council, Finance Council and Staff to Discuss Stewardship

Our Parish Council, Finance Council and Staff will hold a Summer Joint Meeting on



Tuesday Evening, July 29 at the home of Janet Madigan on East Lake Road, Hammondspport. Our topic will be "Stewardship" and our hope will be to have a parish stewardship committee working to introduce and promote the "Treasure" portion of Stewardship at St. Mary's this September.

Mark Clark of the Diocesan Stewardship office will speak on the **topic and we will view the diocese's "Joy of Stewardship" DVD** and other available diocesan materials.

The setting will be casual beginning with a dish to pass supper at 5:00 p.m. The evening will conclude by 8:30 p.m.

Building Faithful Citizenship



A Reflection for July 20, 2008

Jesus likens the kingdom of heaven to a mustard seed and yeast - things unremarkable in themselves, yet with latent power to produce marvelous results. We, too, can help grow the kingdom in the here and now, by living Jesus' command to "love one another."

As we survey the political landscape, we can easily become cynical and withdrawn, convincing ourselves nothing can be done to change politics, rectify injustice, or alleviate lethal poverty. However, our Bishops remind us (in *Faithful Citizenship*) that we have a "moral obligation" to participate in political life. "We are called to bring together our principles and our political choices, our values and our votes, to help build a better world." (\$14)

A Question of Reflection: Imagine the power of millions of "faithful citizens" embedding their mustard seeds or yeast into the political life of our nation more than retribution?

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