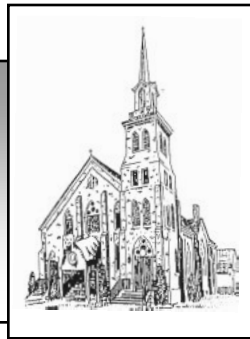


Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

July 29, 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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Fax: 607-776-3409
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Our Parish Staff

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Regional Parish Priest
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Deacon Ed Wight
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Youth Ministry/Faith Formation
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Our Parish Council

William MacNamara
Chairperson - 556-3690

Rosemary States
Vice-Chairperson - 776-7520

Mary McConnell
Secretary - 776-3265

Jim Gallagher
Stewardship Chairperson - 776-6810

Sean McKinley - 329-4436

Barbara Perry - 776-6920

Kathy Warren - 776-4074



Scripture REFLECTIONS

OUR FATHER

By Father Jeffrey Day

I once was on a retreat at which the retreat master suggested something unusual. He asked us to pray the "Our Father" backwards, saying each phrase in reverse order.

When we do this, using the phrases in today's Gospel passage from Luke, we begin with the words, "Do not subject us to the final test." In other words, we begin by saying, "Spare me Lord!" This is a good starting place for any prayer. After this phrase, we make our petitions for forgiveness. This is a logical step to make after asking the Lord to spare us.

Notice that by praying the phrases backwards, we are concerned about forgiving others before we ask God to forgive us. Then we ask for daily bread. This is important because we'll need energy to fulfill the next task, namely, helping to make God's Kingdom come about.

As we continue to pray "backwards" we finally come to the most profound phrase, the phrase that we so often take for granted if we hurry the prayer. We end by saying, "Our Father."



For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened
Lk 11:10

Jesus revealed that we are in an intimate relationship with God. He called God, "Abba", which means, "Daddy." It is so awesome that we are allowed to refer to God in such a personal way, and yet so often we rush right past those words. Slowly meditating on the phrases in reverse order allows us to rest with the Father at the end.

Last week's "Hands of Christ Vacation Bible School" was great fun. Were not sure who enjoyed VBS more, the kids pictured at right or the adult and teen volunteers. Thanks to Mary McConnell, Judy and Jess Harris, Livvy Truth, Tina and Tess McKinley, Paula Gardner, Father Peter, Deacon Ray, Jaimie Wall, Bob Colomaio, Betsy Carisetti, Carol Roote, Fran Koehler, Vivian Strache and Mary Carol Wall who helped plan it, prepare it and pull it all off! A lovely new banner was made, and displayed last weekend in church, songs were learned, crafts were made, prayers were said, Mass was celebrated, and so much more!

Vacation Bible School



Summer Mass/Communion/Reconciliation

Parish Celebrations of the Lord's Day
Saturday - 4:00 p.m. ♦ Sunday - 9:30 a.m.

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday ♦ Thursday ♦ Friday - 9:00 a.m.
♦ Wednesday 5:00 p.m.

Scripture/Communion Services
Monday - 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



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

SUNDAY July 29, 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:30 a.m. In Memory, Rita Regan
By Rita Regan

MONDAY July 30, Weekday
9:00 a.m. Communion Service

TUESDAY July 31, Ignatius of Loyola
9:00 a.m. Carl Peck by Jim and Geri Galvin

WEDNESDAY August 1, Alphonsus Liguori, bp., doctor
5:00 p.m. In Memory, Betty Colomaio
By Freida & Rosa Fiordo

THURSDAY August 2, Weekday
9:00 a.m. For the Sick of our Parish Family

FRIDAY August 3, Weekday
9:00 a.m. For the People of Our Parish

SATURDAY August 4, John Mary Vianney, priest
4:00 p.m. In Memory Wilber Robbins
By Anne Robbins

SUNDAY August 5, 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:30 a.m. In Celebration of the 60th Wedding Anniversary
Of Al and Mary Gaudino
By The Family

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

Weekday Mass/Communion in our New Visitation Chapel



SAINT MARY'S PARISH
"A Parish of Very Good Stewards"
Thank you for - Making Parish a Priority!
July 21/22

Sacrificial Gifts totaled: \$2,242.00 **THANK YOU!**
Insurance: \$239.00

This week's second collection: Youth Ministry

Next week's second collection: Ghanaian Scholarships

Becoming a Roman Catholic Christian

The parishioners of St. Mary's Church, Bath, NY cordially invite you to share in their journey of faith. This journey toward baptism (if you have not previously been baptized) or full communion in the Roman Catholic Church takes place through a process called the Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults or RCIA.

During your journey with us, you will meet weekly with a team of friendly, down-to earth people - some of whom have walked the same RCIA path as you will be walking.

The journey begins when you let Deacon Ray or Father Peter know that you might be interested. We'll explain the process, answer your questions and welcome you into our community. Then, at Easter (or perhaps earlier if you are already baptized and regularly worship with a Catholic spouse etc.) you will share the sacraments and full membership in the Roman Catholic Church.



The Sanctuary Light is burning this week at the request of Sylvia Cummings for the intentions of her grandson Daniel.



PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

SUNDAY July 29
No Coffee Hour

9:00 am. Willing Hearts Summer Choir Practice, Chapel
11:00 am. Building and Grounds Committee, Rectory
1:00 pm. Carol Von Hagn Retirement Party, O'Malley Hall
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101

MONDAY July 30
6:00 p.m. Tae Kwon Do, O'Malley Hall

TUESDAY July 31
1:00 p.m. Southard Youth Program. Summer Crafts, O'Malley Hall

WEDNESDAY August 1
6:00 p.m. Tae Kwon Do, O'Malley Hall
6:30 p.m. The Light Weigh, Room 101

THURSDAY August 2
1:00 p.m. Southard Youth Program. Summer Crafts, O'Malley Hall
5:30 p.m. Weight Watchers, O'Malley Hall
5:30 p.m. Parish Council Retreat - Madigan's - 12484 E. Lake Road

FRIDAY August 3

SATURDAY August 4
6 a.m.-6 p.m. Youth Group Food Tent, Campbell Rest Area
1:00 p.m. NA, Rm. 101

SUNDAY August 5 **Coffee Hour** Hosted by Al and Mary Gaudino in celebration of their Wedding Anniversary
9:00 am. Willing Hearts Summer Choir Practice, Chapel
11:00 am. Building and Grounds Committee, Rectory
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101



Happy Birthday To You

07/29	LaVerne Gove	08/01	Jane Rohrbach
07/29	Caitlin Wall	08/01	Micheal Beyler
07/30	Mary Ellen Johnson	08/01	Patricia Finnerty
07/30	Vivian Strache	08/01	Joseph Sheehan
07/30	Frederick Muller	08/02	Richard Kerr
07/30	Andrew Ferrara	08/03	Helen Kish
07/30	Andrew DuBois	08/03	Susan Parulski
07/30	Dennis Dinehart	08/04	Isaiah Mattison
07/31	Katherine Alger	08/04	Matthew Baroody



Assembly Schedule

August 4 - Sat. 4:00 p.m. - Willing Hearts

August 5 - Sun. 9:30 a.m. - Willing Hearts

To form or join an assembly, call 776-3327



Angel Food Ministries has a solution for those of us who have trouble meeting our monthly food budget. For \$25, participants can purchase a box of food that include: a variety of meats, pasta, vegetables and a dessert. Retail value is about \$60. The food is ordered and paid for on August 4 and may be picked up on Saturday August 18th at First Baptist Church or at the Kanona United Methodist. Order forms are available at the parish office.



SENT TO SERVE

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

Talking to "Daddy"

In this weekend's gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray. While he gives them specific words, the message of Jesus teaching concerns the tone and attitude we bring to prayer.

The word Jesus uses for God in the popular translation we use at Mass is "Father". I'm sure that you've heard that a more correct translation from the original Aramaic "Abba" would be "Daddy." Jesus wants us to know that we don't have to use formal language when we talk to God in prayer. We can be as familiar and intimate as a young child might be with his or her daddy. Isn't that great news for those of us who struggle always to do what is right. Prayer is not the words that we use, but an intimate, heartfelt sharing of our joys and struggles with our loving creator "daddy" God.

A Mom had been teaching my three-year old daughter The Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go sob. The mother listened with pride as her daughter carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer: "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some E-mail. Amen."

Thank God, Heaven doesn't use voice mail! Most of us have now learned to live with "voicemail," as a necessary part of our daily lives. But have you ever wondered what it would be like, if God decided to install voice mail? Imagine praying and hearing the following:

Thank you for calling Heaven. For English, → Press 1.
For Spanish, → Press 2, and for all other languages, → Press "0".

Please select one of the following options:

- Press 1 for Requests. → Press 2 for Thanksgiving.
- Press 3 for Complaints. → Press 4 for all other inquiries.

I am sorry; all of our angels and saints are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us and we will answer it in the order it was received. Please stay on the line.

If you would like to speak to:

- God, Press 1. → Jesus, Press 2. → Holy Spirit, Press 3.

If you would like to hear King David sing a Psalm - → Press 4.

→ To find a loved one that has been assigned to Heaven, → Press 5, then enter his or her social security number, followed by the "pound" sign.

(If you receive a negative response, hang up and try area code: 666)

→ For reservations at Heaven, Please enter J-O-H-N, followed by the numbers 3-1-6. (Can't remember Jhn 3:16? Check the signs at sporting events.)

→ For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth, life on other planets, and where Noah's Ark is, please wait until you arrive.

→ Our computers show that you have already prayed today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow. The office is now closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday. Please pray again on Monday, after 9:30 A.M.

→ If you are calling after hours and need emergency assistance, please contact Fr. Peter Anglaere at St. Mary's Rectory in Bath.

Thank you and have a heavenly day! Serve one another well!

Deacon Ray

STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Your Gifts of Time and Talent are Needed



Building and Grounds Committee

St. Mary's Building and Grounds Committee will meet today (Sunday, July 29th) at 11:00 a.m. in the Rectory.

This Committee offers its expertise in a variety of skill areas to assist in the maintenance and upkeep of our Church properties. In anticipation of the use of our facilities by the Knights of Columbus in September, upcoming projects will include: new lighting in O'Malley Hall and a new storage building adjacent to O'Malley Hall. New members are welcome.

Campbell Rest Stop Food Tent

Saturday, August 4 from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Youth Group will be staffing the **Campbell Rest Stop** to provide food and drink to travelers. We need:

- People to help throughout the day
- Donations: hotdogs, rolls, bottled water, cans of soda, and home baked goods that don't have icing (ex.: muffins, cookies, banana bread, brownies, etc.). They may be dropped off at the rectory, or give us a call and we will pick up any donations. 776-3327.

Liturgical Assemblies

New Assembly Informational Meeting

Sunday, August 12 at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel

Several new Liturgical Assemblies are forming to serve at our weekend Masses. Each team will need ten or more people to serve as greeters, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, altar servers, cross bearers, and ushers. Both individuals and family groups are needed. You may either form your own group with family and friends or let us assign you to a new or existing Assembly. Organizational help and training will be provided. Please call the office and plan on attending a brief informational meeting on Sunday, August 12 at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

R.C.I.A. Team

A team is forming to journey with prospective Catholic Christians as they prepare for Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. The team will meet in late August for prayer and planning, then meet weekly with Catechumens and Candidates for full membership in the Catholic Church. Team members will fill a variety of roles including, teaching, faith sharing and hospitality. This is not only a great way to share your faith, but also grow in your knowledge of the faith. People who have recently joined our parish family through the R.C.I.A. process are especially encouraged to participate. For information, please contact Deacon Ray 776-3327.

Health Ministry Needs Volunteers

Volunteer health care professionals and people with clerical and hospitality skills are needed to provide free health care services to people without health insurance at the Health Ministry of the Southern Tier's Bath Community Care Center on Liberty Street Volunteer as little as 3-4 hours per month. Call 776-8085, Ext. 218.

Church Name: St. Mary's Church

City, State: Bath, NY

File Name: 06-0323

Phone: 607-776-3327

Contact/Editor: Michele Ferrara or Deacon Ray Defendorf