



# Saint Mary's Parish

## A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul

June 29, 2008

### 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: FJaeger@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: PGardnerI@DOR.org

**Mary Card Wall**  
Youth Ministry/Faith Formation  
Coordinator - 776-6944  
E-Mail: Avocawals@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 - 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

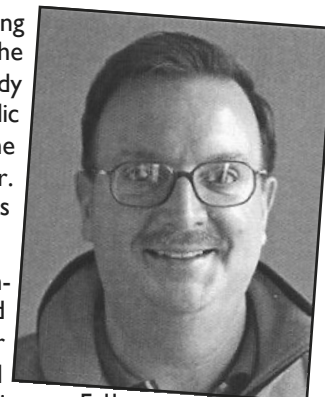
Today we welcome Fr. Jim Jaeger as priest and sacramental minister at St. Mary's and St. Gabriel's, Hammondsport.

Fr. Jim comes to us from St. Anne Church in Palmyra and St. Gregory's Church in Macedon, New York where since 2003, he has served as pastor and part-time chaplain at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Canandaigua. His other priestly assignments have included Holy Name of Jesus Church in Greece, NY, St. Margaret Mary Church in Irondequoit and St. Anne's, Hornell where he served for 4 years as parochial vicar with Fr. Elmer Schmidt. In 1994, he commenced a nine year pastorate at St. Anne's Church in Hornell where was involved

in the pastoral planning process that led to the formation of Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Parish. This is the parish at which Fr. Peter will serve as pastor.

Fr. Jaeger is Lieutenant Colonel and chaplain of the Air National Guard

107th ARW in Niagara Falls with 19 years of military service. He will reside in the St. Mary's Rectory.



## Story for Today

# Little Star

By Dr. Constance M. Popp

A mystical presence permeated the gathering that celebrated the life of one-year old Stella. Only eight weeks earlier she had been diagnosed with stage 4 neuroblastoma, a cancerous mass lodged in and around her spine.

Driving to the funeral I wondered at the enormity of losing this little girl and what could possibly be said about such a tragedy. I'd met Stella only once, at the hospital, visiting her mother Vanessa, a college friend. Brent, her father, held Stella in a rocking chair to comfort her small body, injected, inspected and invaded at every turn, both with caregivers attempting to help her and a disease trying to harm her.

As Brent eulogized his daughter, he found courage to



share the rawest pain and deepest love openly and eloquently. Asking his four-year-old daughter to stand on the pew and look around at the overflowing

church, he told her, "Maddie, all these people love you," ensuring her conviction that this was a time of celebration as well as mourning.

The presider related a Native American belief that after death, ancestors are turned into stars so they can twinkle and remind us of their continued presence in our lives. He referred to Stella as a "stellar" addition which had illuminated us all. As the recession began, simple notes of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" wafted down from the choir loft and a collective sigh echoed through the congregation.

Life brings us all to a prison at times. We seem like prisoners of circumstances beyond our control. We wonder how to escape and sometimes an angel appears to help us, like it did for Peter. Other times, instead of getting out, the answer lies in going in and we are taken to God's heavenly kingdom in a way we did not expect. For Vanessa and Brent perhaps both things happened simultaneously and it was their one-year-old Stella who taught them that the way out is often entered from within.

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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.



A member of the  
Central Steuben  
Catholic Parishes





## SENT TO SERVE

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

## Emerging Models of Parish Leadership

### Part 2

In last weekend's column I shared with you information emanating from the **National Ministry Summit** which took place in April. The conference drew over 1300 people in attendance (55% were lay leaders, 45% were priests and deacons). Participants from six continents and all fifty U.S. states explored the future of pastoral leadership. Research offered at the Seminar indicated that 44% of U.S. Catholic parishes share a pastor with at least one other parish and that 616 U.S. parishes (in 110 dioceses) currently employ the pastoral administrator-sacramental minister model of leadership that we have here at St. Mary's.

This week, I want to follow up with some surprising information shared by diocesan planning liaison **Deb Housel** at the June meeting of the **Central Steuben Catholic Parishes' Planning Group**. Deb presented a diocesan map illustrating the current parish and cluster formations throughout the diocese. Surprisingly, St. Mary's and St. Gabriel's were among only four non-clustered or merged parishes in the Southern Tier. (The others are St. Mary our Mother in Horseheads and St. Mary's in Elmira's Southside.) This is in spite of the fact that the combined weekend Mass attendance at St. Mary's and St. Gabriel's is eighth lowest in the diocese.

Deb also told us that throughout the Diocese of Rochester, most pastoral leaders (pastors and pastoral administrators) have responsibility for either multiple parishes (clusters) e.g. the ABC Parishes, or consolidated parishes with multiple worship sites e.g. All Saints Parish in Corning, Holy Family Parish (Dansville, Wayland, Cohocton, Perkinsville.) Our Lady of the Valley (Hornell and Rexville). Even Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester is now referred to as "The Cathedral Community" having merged with two neighboring parishes (Holy Rosary and Most Precious Blood both of which will close this June).

You also may have heard that the Diocese of Buffalo, which only two years ago invited parishes to take part in regional planning, are preparing for the immanent closing of as many as 77 churches. 42 churches in the Diocese of Syracuse are currently scheduled to close with very little if any input from the affected parishes.

With all this as background, at least three things are evident:

1. We are indeed blessed that over ten years ago Bishop Clark initiated a pastoral planning process for the diocese that allowed parishes within a geographic region to help determine how best to preserve their parish worship and ministries in the light of declining availability of priests (and priest pastors).
2. We are blessed that Bishop Clark and the Diocese of Rochester are becoming increasingly aware of the vitality of smaller rural parishes such as those that make up the CSCP and that he has strived to see that priests are assigned even though our numbers are much less than the national average Catholic parishioner to priest ratio of 1:3,000.
3. We at St. Mary's must remain vigilant in preserving and growing our lay ministries while continuing to engage in cooperative planning efforts with St. Gabriel's and the other CSCP Churches so that our mutual vitality continues even as the number of priests available for assignment to our region continues to decrease.

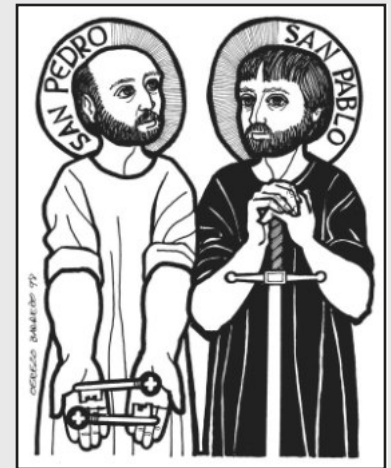
### Welcome Fr. Jim Jaeger

I am especially pleased this weekend to serve as deacon of our weekend Masses with our new priest/sacramental minister Fr. Jim Jaeger. I have known and respected Fr. Jim since being a part of the team for his Cursillo in the early 1990s. You will discover him to be a real "people person" with a warm, vibrant personality an infectious laugh and a dedication to ministry. All of us are delighted to welcome Fr. Jim to our parish staff. Special thanks to **Neil Fagan** and **Tony Colomaio** of Fagan's who donated new carpet for the upstairs rectory rooms in anticipation of Fr. Jim's arrival.

### Fr. Peter's Trip to Ghana

A week or so ago I heard from Fr. Peter who had been traveling to the homes and schools of those students that we have supported through our **Ghanaian Scholarship Fund**. He was looking forward to spending his last two weeks in Ghana with his mother in his native village. He will return to the diocese on July 1 and begin his term as pastor of **Out Lady of the Valley**.

Upon his return, Father Pe-



## Scripture REFLECTIONS

Today we are presented with two great apostles of the church, Saints Peter and Paul. We are all called to take up the missionary challenge of the church; to continue the spread of the Gospel. That challenge, however, always comes with a risk and sets us on a path of continual transformation. Each of us, in her or his own way, is called to stand apart from the familiar and the comfortable and venture into the way of Christ. Our contemporary culture presents new challenges and new ways to live as one called by Christ.

ter will be grateful to our custodian **Dan Barefoot**, his volunteer Dave from **Kinship Home** and the parishioners who helped move his things to the rectory in Hornell.

### Fr. Shatzel Hospitalized

Last week we received word that **Fr. Richard Shatzel** had been hospitalized in Syracuse for treatment of a Pulmonary Embolism in his lungs and kidney surgery. He was scheduled to have the surgery on Thursday at **Upstate Medical Center**. Please keep Father in your prayers. Get Well cards may be sent to:

**Fr. Richard Shatzel**  
**Good Shepherd Catholic Community**  
**PO Box 296, Main Street**  
**Aurora, NY 13026.**

Have a good week. Serve one another well.

*Deacon Ray*

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