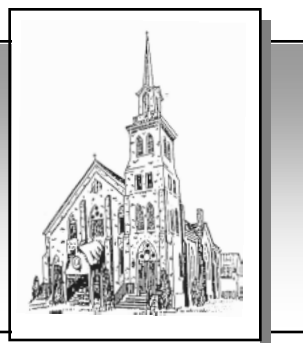


Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 18, 2007



Our Parish Office

32 East Morris Street
Bath, NY 14810
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Other times by appointment
Office: 607-776-3327
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Email: bstmaryc@dor.org

Our Parish Staff

Deacon Ray Defendorf

Pastoral Administrator
E-mail: RDefendorf@DOR.org

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Regional Parish Priest
E-mail: peteranglaa@yahoo.com

Fr. John Wydeven

Weekend Assistance

Deacon Ed Wight

Parish Deacon - 776-3258

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Parish Bookkeeper/Secretary
E-Mail: BBailey@DOR.org

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Parish Secretary/Bulletin Editor
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Bill Grimmer

Music and Liturgy
E-mail: Williamgrimmer@hotmail.com

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Parish Life/Social Ministry Coord.
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Custodian

Mary Carol Wall

Youth Ministry/Faith Formation
Coordinator - 776-6944
E-Mail: Avocawalls@usadatanet.net

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

Our "Elect" Lead Us to a Richer Appreciation of the Gift of Faith



During the Season of Lent, our focus may be on personal sacrifices like giving up candy or a favorite TV show, or adding Mass to our daily prayer ritual. But during this special liturgical season, the Church, through a series of rites and specially chosen scriptural readings, focuses its attention (and hopefully ours) on the preparation of its "Elect" to receive the Easter sacraments.

Just who are the "Elect"?

In church vernacular, the "Elect" are the men and women, boys and girls who have over the past year been on a journey of faith called the RCIA or Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The journey will culminate for the un-baptized when they receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil - the Church's most beautiful Eucharistic Celebration. The Easter Vigil is also a celebration of welcome for baptized Christians of other faiths who wish full communion with the Roman Catholic Church and baptized, but otherwise "un-churched" Catholics who wish now to be "Confirmed" in their faith and, if they have not previously done so, receive their First Communion. These "Elect" receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

How were they "Elected"?

Early in Lent, special rites took place in churches throughout the world. Following the homily, "Catechumens" (un-baptized) and

"Candidates" for full membership in the Roman Catholic Church, were introduced to their parish congregations by their sponsors and the RCIA teams who, for several months, had provided them spiritual guidance and instruction in the teachings and traditions of the faith. The sponsors testified to their diligence in pursuing a strong bond with God and the community of the faithful. Then, the congregation was asked to endorse them as potential members of the Catholic/Christian Community and send them to another ceremony - Rite of Election. At this ceremony they would be formally welcomed by the bishop and personally sign the Book of the Elect - signifying their desire to fully embrace the Roman Catholic faith and actively live as members of the body of Christ.

And so, last weekend, on the Third Sunday of Lent, our "Elect" Denise Crossett, David, Joshua and Stephanie DuBois, Paula Gardner, Willard Hughes, Marilyn Hultzman, and Wayne Patterson returned to us after having been "elected" and prayed over by Bishop Clark.

Lent - A Time of "Purification"

During the Lenten weeks that follow, our newly "Elected" continue their study and preparation with the added blessing of their parishes at Rites called "Scrutinies" that take place during Sunday Eucharist follow-

Continued on Page Three

Mass/Communion/Reconciliation Schedule

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

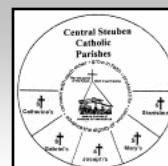
Lenten Weekday Masses:

Tuesday, through Friday at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday Evening at 5:30 p.m.

Scripture/Communion Service
Monday Morning - 9:00 a.m.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. during Lent



A member of the
**Central Steuben
Catholic Parishes**
Diocese of Rochester



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

SUNDAY
9:00 a.m. March 18, Fourth Sunday of Lent
In Memory, Joyce Walsh
By Bob & Audrey McGunnigle

MONDAY
9:00 a.m. March 19, Joseph, husband of Mary
Communion Service

TUESDAY
9:00 a.m. March 20, Lenten Weekday
In Memory, Faye Lee
By the Wall Family

WEDNESDAY
12:10 p.m. March 21, Lenten Weekday
Special Intentions for the Anniversary
Of Doris & Dutch Hoag
By Susanna & Scott Ovenshire

5:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
5:30 p.m. In Memory, Thomas Kashmere
By his mother Gen and family

THURSDAY
9:00 a.m. March 22, Lenten Weekday
In Memory, Irene Wilcox
By Sam & Henrietta Powell

FRIDAY
9:00 a.m. March 23, Lenten Weekday
In Memory, Charles Musso
By the Musso family

2:15 p.m. Taylor's - For the residents of Taylor's
4:00 p.m. Lakeview - For the residents of Lakeview

SATURDAY
4:00 p.m. March 24, Lenten Weekday
In Memory, Antonio DeSorbo
By Dorothy & William Dinehart

SUNDAY
9:00 a.m. March 25, Fifth Sunday of Lent
In Memory, Nick Bottoni
By the Gallagher family



PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

SUNDAY
10:00 a.m. March 18
Coffee Hour hosted by Jerry & Jill Gaudino
10:30 a.m. Religious Education
1:00 p.m. Sunday Supper, O'Malley Hall
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101

MONDAY
6:00 p.m. March 19
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
7:15 p.m. Reconciliation Mystagogia, Room 205
Choir Practice

TUESDAY
5:00 p.m. March 20
6:30 p.m. Staff Meeting, Rectory
6:30 p.m. Quota Club Dinner
7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts, Room 202
Charismatic Prayer Group

WEDNESDAY
6:00 p.m. March 21
6:45 p.m. Lenten Dinner - Meatloaf
Hosted by Al & Mary Gaudino & Karen Grimmer
Lenten Program: Speaker - Mark Clark
"Stewardship - Returning Your Treasure to God"

Thursday
5:30 p.m. March 22
7:00 p.m. Weight Watchers, O'Malley Hall
Boy Scouts, Room 202/203

FRIDAY
March 23

SATURDAY
1:00 p.m. March 24
7:00 p.m. NA, Room 101
Relay for Life Kickoff Event, Hall

SUNDAY
10:00 a.m. March 25
10:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast - Hosted by K of C
1:00 p.m. Religious Education
7:00 p.m. Sunday Supper, O'Malley Hall
AA, Room 101



Liturgical Assembly Schedule

March 24 - Sat. 4:00 p.m. - Lake Country Disciples
March 25 - Sun. 9:00 a.m. - Precious Blood II
To form or join an assembly, call 776-3327



YOUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS

Upcoming Second Collections

March 17/18 - Can & Quarter
March 24/25 - Insurance
March 31/April 1 - Heating



SAINT MARY'S PARISH

"A Parish of Very Good Stewards"

Thank you for - Making Parish a Priority!

March 10/11 2007

Sacrificial Gifts Totalled: \$3277.71 THANK YOU!

Heating - \$508.25



The Sanctuary Light above the Tabernacle is burning in memory of Helen Kolo by her sister, Joan



Happy Birthday To You!

03/19	Darrien Olesen	03/21	Jeffrey Palmer
03/19	Laura Rossman	03/22	Ryan Masti
03/19	Keegan Or dway	03/22	Sarah Dickson
03/20	Marcia Shaver	03/23	Timothy Jones
03/21	Kevin Desrosiers	03/24	Christian Venuti

Lenten Spiritual Enrichment Series

Wednesday, March 21

"Stewardship - Returning your Treasure to God"

Speaker: Mr. Mark Clark

Director of Stewardship - Diocese of Rochester



Tuesday, March 27

(NOTEDAY CHANGE)

"Mother Theresa - A Lifetime of Stewardship"

Speaker: Linda Schaefer

Nationally Known Speaker and Author of "Come and See" a Photojournalist's Journey into the World of Mother Theresa.



Stations at 5 p.m. ♦ Mass at 5:30p.m. ♦ Dinner at 6:00

“Elect” Lead Us *Continued from Page One*

ing the homily. Last Sunday, the “Elect” stood before the congregation who, with hands outstretched blessed them and prayed for their continued spiritual growth. The Prayers of the Faithful included additional prayers especially for them and Fr. Peter also prayed a prayer of “exorcism” asking God to assist them in the “purification” of their heart and spirit as they prepare for the Easter Sacraments.

This Sunday they will be presented printed copies of the “Nicene Creed” - the statement of faith that Catholics proclaim each week at Mass and next weekend, more prayers and blessings will be offered and the “Elect” will be presented with a copy of the “Lord’s Prayer.

For those of us who have been lifelong Catholics, these Rites should remind us of the great gift of faith that we have received with little personal effort—a faith that perhaps we have taken for granted. Let’s decide to make this time of “purification” of our “Elect” , also a time of personal purification and renewal for us.

As we enter the last two weeks of Lent, are we more appreciative of the gift of our Catholic Faith than we were on Ash Wednesday? And on Easter, when our “Elect” step forward to fully join us at the Lord’s table, will we share with them a renewed spirit of hope and thanksgiving for the gift of membership in the Church and the privilege of Christian discipleship?



Scripture REFLECTIONS



Today’s Gospel is one of the best known and most loved of all of the parables of Jesus. The story of “The Forgiving Father” or “The Prodigal Son” (depending on which name you want to use) is so much a part of our Christian milieu that even the youngest members of our faith can share some aspect of the story if asked.

What is often missed about the parables is that the listeners can be any (and at some point all) of the characters. This is true of today’s Gospel parable as well. We can be the prodigal son. We can be the elder son. We can be the servant who answers to the father’s commands. And we can also be the loving father who forgives. The roles are ours at different points in our lives.

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO THE CHRISM MASS



Tuesday, April 3 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester

During this beautiful Mass, Bishop Clark will bless the Holy Oils used in churches throughout the Diocese.

We will leave St. Mary’s at 4:15 p.m. and car pool to Rochester with a stop for dinner. If you would like to drive or join us on this Pilgrimage, please call the office by April 2 776-3327.



THE SACRED TRIDUUM

By Bill Grimmer - Music and Liturgy Coordinator

It’s time to drag out that word again at this time of year: the “TRIDUUM”. If you remember, Triduum is a Latin word meaning three days and it’s the highlight of the liturgical year for the Church. Here at St. Mary’s we will be celebrating the Triduum with all of its rites beginning on the evening of April 5th and concluding with the most important Liturgy of the year, The Easter Vigil on Saturday April 7th.

This is a three-day celebration of the central mystery of our faith: The passion, the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. No other festival of the year can compare to it. These are our high holy days. In fact they are so holy that the Church does NOT put an obligation to attend because it is the hope of the Church that we will attend because we want to. The Pascal Triduum also invites us to share intimately in Christ’s Pass-over, by our personal participation in the movement, the life dance, from death to new life, and from sin to grace. The Liturgies of the Three Days are powerful because they not only commemorate the past, they also bring about new life in the present. The People of God renew their baptismal vows and our newest members celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation during these days. Our presence would greatly support them as they take these courageous steps.

Because the Triduum surpasses other days in the calendar, it is held above all other solemnities, feasts and holy days. So we at St Mary’s interrupt the normal flow of daily activity to make this time sacred and special. We cancel all other parish activities, we suspend meetings, we do not hold regular parish office hours. With the exception of life and death emergencies, even the celebration of the Sacraments is put on hold and most importantly, the Eucharist is not celebrated at all on Good Friday.

It is essential and important that we know that the Triduum is ONE celebration marked with three liturgies within it. It begins on Holy Thursday Evening with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper, then continues on Good Friday with the celebration of the Lord’s Passion and Death and culminates in the Easter Vigil on the night of Holy Saturday. Again, these three liturgies are like one great liturgy celebrated over the course of three days. Together these three liturgies tell one complete story. Each Liturgy highlights certain aspects of the Paschal Mystery and so we would like to encourage you to attend this wonderful celebration.

Please know that you are warmly invited to attend and take part in this special Triduum in our parish. Again this year we will be joining with our brothers and sisters from St. Gabriel’s.

As the last few weeks of Lent unfold, please prayerfully consider attending our celebration. Many of our parishioners put in hours and hours to prepare to fully celebrate what belongs to us: the liturgy of the Triduum. Next week’s bulletin will highlight each day’s celebration and what you can expect as you worship with us. If you would like to help assist at the liturgies, there are sign-up sheets in the back of Church or please contact me. Together, we can make the Paschal Mystery of Christ come alive again in our parish.

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