



Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

Third Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2009

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: bstmary@dor.org

Our Parish Staff

Deacon Ray Defendorf
Pastoral Administrator
E-mail: RDefendorf@DOR.org
Rev. Jim Jaeger
Sacramental Minister
E-mail: JJaeger@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: PaulaGardner@DOR.org
Mary Carol Wall
Youth Ministry/Faith Formation
Coordinator - 776-6944
E-Mail: Avocawalls@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 - 566-3690
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
Stan Skolny - 377-6023
Kathy Warren - 776-4074

Story for Today The Verdict

By Dr. Constance M. Popp

The Verdict, possibly Paul Newman's finest performance, portrayed the journey from despair to hope of an aging, alcoholic, ambulance-chasing lawyer who is given a case "easy to settle." A prestigious Boston hospital is being sued by the family of a woman whose anesthesiologist made a "mistake" during childbirth, causing her to emerge from surgery in a vegetative state. After years of watching their loved one deteriorate, the family sues the hospital, which is quite willing to settle and avoid a scandal.



But Newman's character discovers a conscience long dormant and refuses the settlement. Although nearly destitute himself, he tries the case, believing his profession to be more than a "marketplace." Adversity abounds as a doctor, once willing to testify, disappears on vacation; a distraught nurse, forced to falsify medical records, fears testifying and a traitorous girlfriend reports each strategy to opposing counsel.

"So much of the time, we're just lost," Newman pleads in his closing statement. "We say, 'Please, God, tell us what is right, tell us what is true.' There is no justice. The rich win; the poor are powerless. We become tired of hearing people lie and after a while we become dead. We think of ourselves as victims and we become victims. We become weak. We doubt ourselves, we doubt our beliefs, we doubt our institutions, we doubt the law."

"But today," he entreats the jury, "you are the law-not some book, not the lawyers, not a marble statue or the trappings of court. These are just symbols of our desire to be just. They are in fact a prayer, a fervent and frightened prayer. If we are to have faith in justice, we need only to believe in ourselves-and act with justice-for I believe there is justice in our heart."

The foolishness of God, wiser than human wisdom, also believes in justice, a justice that can drive the moneychangers from the temple of our hearts.

Parish Councils Meet to Review Plans for Transition Communications

The Parish Councils and Forums of St. Gabriel's, St. Mary's and the ABC Parishes of St. Catherine's, Addison, St. Stanislaus, Bradford and St. Joseph's, Campbell, of the Central Steuben Catholic Parishes met on Saturday, March 7, 2009 to discuss the process for communicating to parishioners in the five CSCP parishes the and answering their questions concerning the new pastoral plan recently submitted to Bishop Matthew Clark.

On February 7, the councils reached consensus on the new pastoral plan which is aimed at assuring the availability of the Eucharist to all Catholics in our region for years to come.

If the plan is approved by Bishop Clark: **St. Gabriel's and St. Mary's will become a parish "Cluster" administered by one pastoral leader in July 2010 with a vision of becoming a new parish with two worship sites in July 2012.**

The ABC Parishes, already clustered under a single pastoral leader Fr. Patrick Connor, will commence a legal process that will result in the three parishes becoming new parish with three worship sites in July 2010.

At the March 7th meeting, parish council members from each of the five parishes viewed a power point presentation that shortly after Easter will be viewed and discussed at Masses and Town meetings in each of the CSCP churches. **A proposed bulletin series "Because you asked . . ." will also be initiated to answer parishioner questions concerning the transitions taking place within their own parish and throughout the region.**

The meeting is sponsored by the CSCP Planning Group Implementation Committee.

Mass/Communion/Reconciliation Schedule

Parish Celebrations of the Lord's Day

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

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Lenten Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.

Weekday Mass/Communion Service

Monday ♦ Wednesday ♦ Thursday - 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday - 5:00 p.m.

Friday - 8:30 a.m. ♦ **St. Gabriel's, Hammondspport**



A member of the
Central Steuben
Catholic Parishes
Diocese of Rochester



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

SUNDAY Mar. 15 Third Sunday of Lent
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Stan Wraight
By the Harris family

MONDAY Mar. 16
9:00 a.m. Scripture/Communion Service

TUESDAY Mar. 17
5:00 p.m. In Mem. of Guy Castrilli
By Rita Evelyn Glenn

WEDNESDAY Mar. 18
5:30 p.m. In Mem. of Bob Denno
By Geri & Jim Galvin

THURSDAY Mar. 19
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Mary Giblin
By Knights of Columbus

FRIDAY Mar. 20

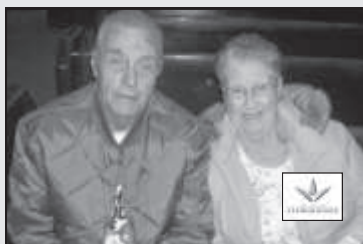
SATURDAY Mar. 21
4:00 p.m. In Mem. of Rosa Fiordo
By Mike Bock

SUNDAY Mar. 22 Fourth Sunday of Lent
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Mary Giblin
By Ann Stever

(Mass at St. Gabriel's at 8:30a.m.)

One weekend Mass each month is offered for the "Members of the St. Mary's Memorial Fund." Your gift to our Memorial Fund will support many parish ministries and capital projects. Your loved one will be remembered monthly at a scheduled Mass. Please consider this option. when requesting a Mass Card. Suggested minimum gift is \$10.

MY SAINT MARY'S



Jim and Bea Drake

Because we Love Our Parish
We Support It!

March 7/8 ♦ Attendance: 238
Sacrificial Gifts totaled: \$ 3,174
Heating Collection: \$465

Children's Collection: \$8.85

In addition to helping us meet our payroll expenses, your *stewardship* gifts helped us pay our unemployment insurance bill of \$919.

**Thank you for Making
Parish - a Priority!**



Assembly Schedule
March 21 - Sat. 4:00 p.m.
Lake Country Disciples
March 22 - Sun. 9:00 a.m.
Luminaries



PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

SUNDAY Mar. 15
8:15 a.m. Pre Mass Choir Practice, Chapel
10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
10:15 a.m. Post Choir Practice, Church
10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Room 101
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101

MONDAY Mar. 16
5:00 p.m. Daycare - Hall

TUESDAY Mar. 17
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts, Room 203
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, Rooms 204A/B
7:30 p.m. Prayer Group, Rectory

WEDNESDAY Mar. 18
6:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner and Program, Hall
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts, 201,203, 204A
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, 204B, 205

THURSDAY Mar. 19
9:00 a.m. Red Cross Training
5:30p.m. Weight Watchers, 101
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts,203 Boy Scouts, 205
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, 204A
7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus

FRIDAY Mar. 20

SATURDAY Mar. 21
1:00 p.m. NA - 204

SUNDAY Mar. 22
8:15 a.m. Pre Mass Choir Practice, Chapel
10:00a.m. Coffee Hour, Hall
10:15 a.m. Post Choir Practice, Church
10:30 a.m. The Passion Narratives, Room 101
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101



Scripture REFLECTIONS



CHANNELING ANGER

by Fr. Jeffrey Day

Sometimes people think that merely being angry is sinful. This is not the case, however. Anger is a feeling, and feelings are morally neutral. Morality plays a role once we begin to act upon our feelings. Our actions - including thoughts - can then be judged as sinful or not.

Today's gospel passage sheds some light on this for us. Jesus is very angry because people had used His Father's house inappropriately. He was scandalized by what people had done. He could have allowed His anger to become an occasion for sin. He probably had enough anger that He could have killed some of those who were desecrating the temple. But we know that Jesus never sinned. Rather than sinning, Jesus allowed the anger He felt to become a source of energy for Him to do something positive. So He cleansed the temple. He drove the moneychangers and the animals out. He didn't make any apologies for it either.

In modern times, we have seen Christians who peacefully protest. They have taken the anger that they feel and have let it become a positive source of energy for change. As long as we are alive, we are going to find something to be angry about. Our task is to learn how, with the grace of Christ, to channel that energy into a something positive.



Happy Birthday To You!

- 3/15 Madelyn Czajkowski
- 3/18 David Davis
- 3/19 Marcia Shaver
- 3/20 Marcia Shaver
- 3/21 Kevin Desrosiers
- 3/21 Jeff Palmer

Prayer List



Bonnie Baran, Marie Benishin, Ruth Cochran, Henry Cullen, Fran Cummings, Margaret Emmick, Mary Fisher, Glenn French, Paula Gardner, Jack Giblin, Esther Gerhart, Nancy Holzer, Margaret Anne Jenkins, Joey Kish, Carlo Marano, Fr. **Gerald O'Connor**, Theresa Rodbourn, Mary Rose, Diana Sermonis, Betsy Sheehan, and Rob Wilson



Sanctuary Light

Is burning for Dr. Coleman Glenn by his wife Evelyn Glenn

Notre Dame Retreats

Women's Retreat May 15 - May 17
Contact: Paula Gardner - 776-3327





Sent to Serve

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

ANGER

Justified and Unjustified

I've just experienced one of those frustrating moments that are all too common to those who expect that their computers will always run efficiently, never crash and outsmart then when they forget to "save." While I may be angry at having spent two and a half hours on this column - only to have it disappear into who knows where, my anger is primarily aimed - not at the great injustice such as that which riled Jesus - but at myself.

Before visiting the Holy Land and viewing a scale model of the temple area, I believed that **Jesus' temper tantrum at the temple probably** had something to do with people selling raffle tickets or holy cards on sacred ground. But I have since learned that Jesus was actually incensed at the temple leaders who had found a **"Catch 22" way of stealing from the poor families** who visited the temple to make simple sacrifices as required by Jewish law.

The families came to Jerusalem to offer simple sacrifices to God at the temple. They would purchase a pigeon or a small lamb at a booth leased to concessionaires by the temple officials. But, because Roman coins were not allowed in the Temple area, they first had to **change their money into "Temple coins"** which were sold by, you guessed it - the same **temple officials. These "church people"** charged exorbitant fees to change the money needed by the faithful to fulfill the required temple rites. It was if I demanded that everyone wear a special hat if they were to receive the Sacraments. No special hat, no Sacraments.

But you had to buy the hat only from me and, **since I held the monopoly on "church hats" I** charged \$1,000 for each hat and pocketed the money. No wonder Jesus got so angry. The temple leaders who were suppose to help the people fulfill their religious duties, were instead cheating them.

Over the past several years we have too often experienced betrayal, greed and the abuse of authority from people in positions of trust within our churches, our government and in the private sector. Most recently, we have seen the damage done to the economy by people who placed their own need for power and wealth above the needs of the people they serve.

Jesus' anger with the temple authorities was certainly justified as is the anger felt by millions of Americans whose savings and pension funds have tanked in recent months.

But there is another kind of anger that we see displayed in our church communities that is troubling. Fr. Jim described it last weekend as the tendency of some church people to **make "mountains out of molehills."**

Any change is greeted with resistance and sometimes, overt disrespect. You would be **stunned by the horror stories I've heard** from my fellow pastoral administrators about the reaction of some church people when they discover that someone other than a priest has been assigned as their pastoral leader.

As a deacon and a man, I have not personally experienced to any degree the disrespect that has been given to some of my female colleagues. Typically these pastoral administrators are woman religious who have dedicated their lives to the Church. But often they are lay women who have raised their families, paid their own way **through St. Bernard's or another school of** theology, and worked as pastoral associates for wages that would be considered well below entry level in any school district, health care institution or industry.

They have unselfishly accepted God's call to ministry and the Bishop's call to assume leadership in a parish, only to find themselves rejected and occasionally verbally abused by people who feel empowered to call the shots at the parish level and second guess the Bishop at the diocesan level.

There was a time that people priests and religious on pedestals sometimes deserved, sometimes not. Now some church people seem to relish doing everything possible to knock people in church ministry off anything resembling a pedestal. It is a scandal and a great hurt to the Church.

Let me conclude by saying that as I approach my 50th year of lay ministry and 27th year of ordained ministry, I am grateful for every day of ministry - even the tough ones. I thank you my parish family, my spouse and best friend Pat, my children and our all forgiving God for sticking with me through the good times and bad..

If you are harboring anger toward me or any other person, Lent is a good time to bury the hatchet. It is the right thing to do.

Have a good Lent. Serve one another well!

Deacon Ray

St. Mary's Parish presents
A Sunday Morning ♦ Adult Faith Formation Series

The Passion Narratives Of Palm Sunday & Good Friday



Instructor: Deborah Brinkhus

Sunday, March 22

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

St. Mary's Zimmer Center ♦ Room 101

Deb Brinkhus, a life-long learner, earned a Master of Arts Degree in Theological Studies from St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry

This three-session series will offer a basic overview of the Old and New Testament. Sessions are open to people of all faiths who wish to learn more about the Bible.



This Week's Study of The Gospel of Mark

Week of March 15, 2009

Third Sunday of Lent
Suggested Scripture Reading:

Chapter of Mark to be read: 14

Reflection Questions:

[Mk14: 1-11] Why do you think **the woman spent a year's wages on perfume?** What is the biggest problem you have in making money decisions?

[Mk 14:32-42] If you knew you had only a few days to live, what would you do with the time? With what decision are you struggling at the moment? Who do you call on when you need help in **knowing God's will? How do you know when you've identified God's will for you?**



Wednesday Night's Lenten

Dinner and Discussion will feature a special Irish Menu.

Mary Faucett's Leprechauns are fixin' a Corn Beef and Cabbage Feast.

Join us for 5:30 p.m. Mass, 6:00 p.m. Irish Dinner and stay for part two of our series on Lectio Divina. Our speakers again will be Deacon George and Paula Welch.

Saint Mary's Church

32 Eat Morris Street

Bath, New York

Contacts: Paula Gardner - 607-776-3327

Deacon Ray Defendorf - 607-426-