



Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 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: bstmaryc@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

Work of Art

By Dr. Constance M. Popp



Sr. Joan Chittister

In her newsletter, *The Monastic Way*, Sr. Joan Chittister writes of her Benedictine order's annual rummage sale. It is a "public giveaway" as each sister is asked to part with an item that they themselves are fond of, but which someone else, not in the community, might be fonder of. Used as their traditional Lenten preparation, each community member parts with a practical article that someone else could actually use—"a new sweater, an old pen set, a jacket outgrown, a scarf still in its gift box."

On the appointed day, each soup kitchen guest receives a "coupon book" of six tickets to spend at the parking lot rummage sale. Tables are heaped with blouses, shoes, coats, knickknacks and, on this particular day, Joan saw "over against the fence at the far end of the parking lot, stack after stack of pictures."

As Chittister stood by her table filled with coats she wondered skeptically who would donate that kind of stuff, who would want any of it and what the community was going to do with all of it after the day was over. There were "pictures of everything: the Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls, tulips, sunsets, country scenes, the lake, whatever. Pictures. Hundreds of pictures taken right off bedroom walls."

Twenty minutes later, glancing up from her appointed coat table, she was shocked to see not one picture was left. "Up and down the street, as far as the eye could see, there were old women in sneakers, young women with children and men in jeans carrying away pictures the size of a fireplace lintel."

What Joan had failed to see, and what perhaps we fail to see, is that one work of art appreciates another work of art. God's handiwork, the people themselves, recognized beauty and wished to gaze upon it, even as God gazed upon them.

New Transition Team to Meet on March 26

A new Transition Team made up of three parish council members, two CSCSP Representatives, two at large parishioners and pastoral leaders from both St. Mary's and St. Gabriel's will meet for the first time on Thursday, March 26th. The meeting will take place at St. Gabriel's McGill Hall at 6:30 p.m.

The Transition Team will guide and coordinate efforts to fulfill the pastoral plan recently submitted to Bishop Clark by the Central Steuben Catholic Parish Planning Group. 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.

Representing St. Mary's will be: Parish Council members Bill MacNamara, Mary McConnell and Stan Skolny, CSCSP Reps Al Hanning and Barbara Perry and "at-large" members Patty Barody and another parishioner still to be named.

St. Mary's Volunteer Recognition Dinner

In thanksgiving for your ministry to our parish, community and family, St. Mary's Parish Staff invites you to a social and dinner in your honor.

Saturday, March 28, 2009
St. Mary's O'Malley Hall

5:00 p.m. Social and Hors d'oeuvres
5:30 p.m. Roast Chicken Dinner
6:30 p.m. Entertainment by Brad Ordway
7:00 p.m. Special Presentation

RSVP

Please call the office or place a reservation slip into baskets near church entrances.

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. 22 Fifth Sunday of Lent
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Stan Wraight
By Ann Stever

MONDAY Mar. 23
9:00 a.m. Scripture/Communion Service

TUESDAY Mar. 24
5:00 p.m. In Mem. of Charles Wight
By Sam & Henrietta Powell

WEDNESDAY Mar. 25
5:30 p.m. In Mem. of Clarice Calkins
By Evelyn Glenn

THURSDAY Mar. 26
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Bob Denno
By Sam & Henrietta Powell

FRIDAY Mar. 27
(Mass at St. Gabriel's at 8:30a.m.)
2:30 p.m. Taylors in Mem. Of Mary Giblin
By her Family

SATURDAY Mar. 28
4:00 p.m. In Mem. of Mary Giblin
By Ann Stever

SUNDAY Mar. 29 Fifth Sunday of Lent
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Rossman Wright
By Don & Anna Mae Mills and family

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.



PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

SUNDAY Mar. 22
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. 23
5:00 p.m. Daycare - Hall

TUESDAY Mar. 24
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. 25
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. 26
5:30p.m. Weight Watchers, 101
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts,203
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, 204A
6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, 205

FRIDAY Mar. 27

SATURDAY Mar. 28
1:00 p.m. NA - 204
5:30 p.m. Volunteer Dinner, O'Malley Hall

SUNDAY Mar. 29
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. Bible Study, Room 101
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101



Scripture REFLECTIONS

DARKNESS OR LIGHT



THE CHOICE IS OURS


The Old Testament reveals a long string of misadventures lived by God's chosen people. Each time they became so evil that God had no choice but to punish them, they seemed to be brought lower than ever and to be smaller in number.

Today's first reading reports a climax: "the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy." Thus began the Babylonian captivity. Taken from their own land, they wept in a foreign land. By the time King Cyrus told them they could go back to Jerusalem, seventy years had passed. Few of the original captives were left. Many now were so at home in Babylon they didn't know if they were part of God's chosen people or even if they wanted to be.

Jesus spoke of a similar dilemma. Not everyone who is offered eternal life will choose it, anymore than every slave in Babylon chose to be free.

But all of that is in the past. What about us, now? Will we choose the freedom of God's children? Will we choose to walk in the light?

Send a "Get Well" card to . . .

Henry Cullen VA Medical Center Nursing Care Unit Bath, NY, 14830	Paula Gardner Absolute Care Three Rivers #108 101 Creekside Dr. Painted Post, NY 14870
Fran Cummings Taylor Healthcare Rte. 54 Bath, NY 14830	



OUR SAINT MARY'S

Because We Love Our Parish

Eldon and Amy Badeau

March 14/15 ♦ Attendance: 243
Sacrificial Gifts totaled: \$ 2523.75
Fuel: \$75 ♦ Black & Native American: \$17
Can & Quarter: \$190 ♦ Children: \$12.74
In addition to helping us meet our payroll expenses, your stewardship gifts helped us pay our monthly tithing to Catholic Charities.

Thank you for Making Parish - a Priority!



Happy Birthday To You!

3/22 Sarah Dickson 3/26 Michael Warren
3/23 Tim Jones 3/27 Jennifer Watches



Prayer List

Bonnie Baran, Marie Benishin, Ruth Cochran, Henry Cullen, Fran Cummings, Margaret Emmick, Peggy Evans, MaryFisher, Glenn French, JackGiblin, Esther Gerhart, Nancy Holzer, Margaret Anne Jenkins, Joey Kish, Carlo Marano, Fr. Gerald O'Connor, Theresa Rodbourn, Penny Ruest, Diana Sermonis and Betsy Sheehan



Assembly Schedule

March 28- Sat. 4:00 p.m.
Willing Hearts
April 1 - Sun. 9:00 a.m.
Willing Hearts

We need new and existing assemblies to provide liturgical ministers for many upcoming weekends. To join an Assembly, contact Barb Perry - 776-6920.

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

THE PASSION NARRATIVES OF PALM SUNDAY & GOOD FRIDAY



Instructor: Deborah Brinkhus

Today - Sunday, March 22

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

St. Mary's Zimmer Center ♦ Room 101

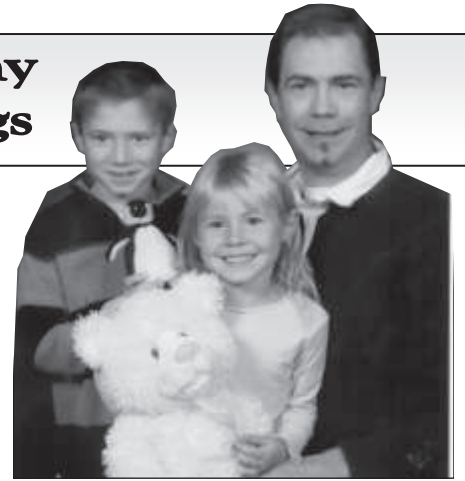




Sent to Serve

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

A Week of Many Special Blessings



Rob, Hailey and Travis Wilson

If you have ever wondered why someone would choose to become a priest, deacon or hospice volunteer - the blessings that I experienced a week ago provide an answer.

On Thursday, during my monthly Scripture/Communion service at the Fred and Harriet Taylor Health Center, I had the privilege of baptizing Fran Cummings. Fran, and his wife Sylvia have been married for about 48 years. Throughout many of those years, Sylvia has prayed that one day her husband would join her in faith. That prayer was answered recently when Fran, who has been receiving care at the skilled nursing facility, expressed a desire to be baptized.

What a wonderful setting to welcome Fran into the community of faith - for the residents of our area nursing homes and hospitals are indeed part of our parish family. The hosts **they receive on Sunday's when** Bill and Deb Brinkhus, Tina and John McKinley, Denise and Phyllis Crossett, Carey and Paul Spara, Frieda Fiordo or Betty Langendorfer bring them Communion, are the same consecrated hosts that you and I received earlier at Mass. (The same is true when I hold scripture/Communion services at the Steuben County Jail.)

Most of us were baptized into the Catholic faith as young children. But this was not always the case. Fran joins hundreds of thousands of people who in the early centuries of Christianity entered the church as mature adults. **In keeping with the wisdom of God's** time-table - each person enters the sacred waters - right on schedule.

But Fran's baptism would not be the only blessing I'd experience that week. On Friday afternoon, March 13, at their father's request, I baptized 7 year old Tyler Wilson and his 4 year old sister Hailey Wilson.

Rob Wilson, (39) joined our parish in August 2009 and received the sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Clark in October. A life long diabetic, Rob soon developed other very serious health problems and in January, underwent surgery for kidney, bladder and prostate cancer which left him very weak and no longer able to join us at Mass.

When Paula Gardner and I visited him on **Ash Wednesday, we discovered that Rob's** health had taken a turn for the worse. At Mass that evening, and again at our Lenten

program, I asked for prayers for Rob and explained that, aside from his children who lived in Campbell with their mother, Rob had very little support systems in the area. His mother lived in Denver, and her plans to be with her son had been delayed when she suffered heart problems that required the placement of a pace-maker.

Within days, tests confirmed that the **cancer had spread to Rob's liver and he began** to receive hospice care at his East Washington Street apartment.

Less than a week past before, thanks to the generosity of Gen Kashmer who had recently lost her own son to liver cancer, Rob's mom Janet Wilson, flew from Denver to be with her son during his remaining days.

On Wednesday, after visiting with his children for the first time in three weeks, Rob asked me to baptize his children. So, on Friday afternoon, with Rob, Janet and Amy, **the children's mom present, I was privileged** to do so at his bedside. Rob was weak, but fully conscious during the baptism and received a special anointing by his children following the very special ritual.

The next day, Saturday, March 14, following our 4 p.m. Mass, I stopped by the apartment to check in with Rob and Janet. Minutes before I arrived, Rob had suffered some kind of seizure and Janet was on the phone speaking with the hospice nurse.

After visiting with the very weak man for a brief time, Janet and I held his hands as I **prayed the Church's Commendation** Prayers for the dying and shared a tiny portion of a communion host with Rob as **"Viaticum" (Communion for the journey).** Within thirty seconds after he had received Communion and listened as a litany of scripture verses were quietly prayed, Rob went to the Lord.

"Come to me all you who labor and find life burdensome. I will give you rest."

If you have never been with someone as they leave this life for the next, you may wonder why I'd consider this experience such a blessing. But being with someone who has fought the good and painful fight as he or she moves toward the peace of God's embrace, is indeed a blessing. The gift of faith gives us confidence and hope.

"Though I walk through the valley of death, I fear no evil - for you are with me with your rod and your staff that give me courage."

On Tuesday of this week, I gathered with **Tyler, Hailey, Amy and Janet at Fagan's** for a brief farewell visitation. Then, with the help of our Resurrection Assembly, **we celebrated at St. Mary's Church that for Rob, "the strife is o'er - the vict'ry won."**

Thank you God for the blessings of ministry and the generosity of our parishioners **who have made our parish "a welcoming oasis of love, peace, justice and outreach."**

"When I was a stranger - you welcomed me and cared for my needs."

Congratulations to my son Chris and his girlfriend Audrey who became engaged on Saturday. What a week!

Have a blest week. Serve each other well!

Deacon Ray

This Week's Study of The Gospel of Mark

Week of March 22, 2009

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Suggested Scripture Reading:

Chapter of Mark to be read: 15

Reflect n Questions:

[Mk 15: 1-41] Have your actions ever been mocked because you are a disciple of Jesus? Have you ever sat with someone who is dying? What was it like? How do you feel when you attend funerals and burials? What does Jesus death mean to you?

Saint Mary's Church

32 Eat Morris Street

Bath, New York

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