

# Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

Easter - The Resurrection of the Lord

March 23, 2008



## 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  
Fax: 607-776-3409  
Email: bstmaryc@dor.org

## Our Parish Staff

**Deacon Ray Defendorf**  
Pastoral Administrator  
E-mail: RDefendorf@DOR.org

**Rev. Peter Anglaaere**  
Regional Parish Priest  
E-mail: peteranglaa@yahoo.com

**Fr. John Wydeven**  
Weekend Assistance

**Deacon Ed Wight**  
Parish Deacon - 776-3258

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

**Dan Barefoot**  
Custodian

**Mary Fawcett**  
Parish Life Volunteer

**Paula Gardner**  
Office Volunteer

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

**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

## Christ is Risen!

### Their Story Seemed Like Nonsense

The women who went to the tomb early this morning returned with an astonishing report. So astonishing that everyone who heard it thought their report was nonsense. It is important for us to share in both of those emotions. Otherwise, we risk taking Jesus' resurrection for granted. Of course, Jesus rose from the dead. He said he would rise, and he did. We have heard this from our youth, we have seen the paintings. We have read the Gospels and seen the movies. Like the sunrise and the early growth of springtime, we remember the resurrection and we are comfortable with it.

But No, we need to be astonished; we need to experience the same feelings as those who thought the news was nonsense, outrageous, impossible. One of the fun things about my mother was that you could retell her an old joke and she would laugh heartily. She never remembered jokes and so she delighted in hearing them all over again. She never took them for granted, never got used to them, never became bored with them. So it must be with us.

Every time we hear the news of the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth we need to be astonished, amazed, delighted. It's like waking up and suddenly remembering it's our birthday, or that today is the first day of summer vacation - even though we already knew it



when we fell asleep. In fact, that is a good way for us believers to hear the news of the resurrection. When we walked into church at Easter, we were asleep, unconscious, distracted. But now we have heard the Alleluia,

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## Happy Easter and Welcome Home to St. Mary's

Happy Easter to all St. Mary's parishioners, our friends and guests. We welcome you and rejoice in your presence here with us! This is the day on which we celebrate our victory over death. This day begins a season where we reflect upon the difference Christ's resurrection has made in our lives personally and in the life of the Church. Forty days of Lent have now spilled over into fifty days of Easter. During this season of light, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, and pray for all those actively anticipating the "Easter sacraments": Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist.

This Sunday our church will be filled to capacity, and that, of course, is a happy problem - one which we wish we suffered every weekend of the year. I also suspect that because of the crowding, the challenge of finding a parking space, the noise factor, many of you will find it just too easy not to return another Sunday, which is unfortunate. This is a community that is alive in Christ! We invite you to become more than just a nominal member. It is one thing to be a

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# ALLELUIA!

 **LITURGICAL CALENDAR**

 **PARISH LIFE CALENDAR**

**Christ is Risen**

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**SUNDAY March 23, Easter Sunday**  
 9:00 a.m. In Memory of Tom Kashmere  
 By His Mother Gen

**MONDAY March 24, Easter Monday**  
 9:00 a.m. Communion Service

**TUESDAY March 25, Easter Tuesday**  
 5:00 p.m. In Memory of Gary Clairemont  
 By Rosemary Clairemont

**WEDNESDAY March 26, Easter Wednesday**  
 5:00 p.m. In Memory of Douglas Klose  
 By Rosemary Clairemont

**THURSDAY March 27, Easter Thursday**  
 5:00 p.m. Intentions of Mary Giblin  
 By her family

**FRIDAY March 28, Easter Friday**  
 9:00 a.m. In Memory of Raymond Cummings  
 By his mother, Veronica

**SATURDAY March 29, Easter Saturday**  
 4:00 p.m. In Appreciation of Frank & Margaret Minicello  
 By St. Mary's Parish

**SUNDAY March 23, Second Sunday of Easter**  
 9:00 a.m. In Memory of Paul Douglas Kimball By his sister, Marcia

**SUNDAY March 23**  
 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101

**MONDAY March 24**  
 6:00 p.m. Tae Kwon Do

**TUESDAY March 25**  
 7:30 p.m. Prayer Group, Chapel

**WEDNESDAY March 26**  
 6:00 p.m. Tae Kwon Do - Room 204

**THURSDAY March 27**  
 5:30pm Weight Watchers -Hall

**FRIDAY March 28**  
 6:30pm Girl Scout Movie Night-Hall

**SATURDAY March 29**  
 1:00 p.m. NA, Room 101

**SUNDAY March 30**  
 8:00am Pre Mass Choir, Practice  
 10:00am Coffee Hour  
 10:30am Post Choir Practice, Church  
 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101

the Exultat, the Gloria, and the Good News of the Resurrection. Now we are finally awake; we are finally alive because of the Good News of Jesus' resurrection.

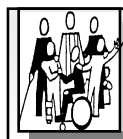
The Good News is never old news. God didn't create us once; God is creating us always. God didn't save us once; God is always saving us. Peter hustled himself out to the tomb that same morning and saw that it was empty. I wonder if Peter did that very same thing everyday from then on. That's what we should do. Every morning when we get up, we should run ourselves out to the tomb and peek inside. Wow. The tomb is empty. Alleluia. Jesus is raised from the dead.


There are many weekday Masses available in the upcoming weeks (stipend \$10). To schedule a Mass, please call or come to the Parish Office

 **Happy Birthday To You!**

- |                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 03/26 Angelo Ferrara   | 03/29 Jill Gaudino         |
| 03/26 Michael Warren   | 03/29 Marcia Shaver        |
| 03/26 Darien Olesen    | 03/29 Charles Langendorfer |
| 03/27 Jennifer Watches | 03/30 Rosemary Bruce       |

If we did receive the Good News again with every new day, a whole lot of other things would also change for us. That is of course the reason for doing it: everything has indeed changed for us. Everything is new for us. Christ is risen: we are saved. Death no longer has the last word over us. Weakness and failure and sin no longer determine our future and we dare not let them determine our present

 **SAINT MARY'S PARISH**  
 "A Parish of Good Steward"  
 Thank you for Making Parish a Priority!

 The Sanctuary Light is burning in memory of Pedro F. Delpi and deceased family members by Charles and Carmen Rola

**Prayer List** 

Bruce Ayers, Fr. Frank Erb, Joe Clancy, Bob Denno, Esther Gerhart, Mary and Jack Giblin, Betty Hand, Joseph Kish, Merva Leckinger, Logan Manchocke, Fr. Gerald O'Connor, Deacon John Prave, Theresa Rodbourn, Mary Carol Wall and Stan Wraight.

This is the night, the Exultet sings, when the people of Israel escaped from slavery and passed through the flood. This is the night when the pillar of fire guided our ancestors into the Promised land. This is the night we were born, we were baptized, we were forgiven. This is the night when we will be received into heaven. St. Paul told us tonight that as we shared in Jesus' crucifixion at our baptism so are we united in Jesus' resurrection.

**Welcome . . .**  
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"fan" of Jesus, and quite another to be his follower. The first you can do from a distance; the second involves real commitment to a community of believers. Roman Catholic Christianity is not a "me and God" religion. We understand that together we find our salvation.

It is a very sad fact in the United States that the largest religious group in this country consists of non-practicing Catholics. Here at St. Mary's Church on a typical weekend, we see less than 300 hundred people attending Mass when we have nearly 325 registered families. Only about half of those households give St. Mary's significant financial support in the course of a year. This is a very big challenge to those of us in parish leadership. We are called to

preach the Good News, but too often we only have the chance to preach "to the choir". How best might we touch hearts and change lives, offer hope and meaning to those who know something is missing in their lives but can't identify what? Is religion more about tradition or is it truly about faith and salvation? I believe that is a question that each of us must grapple with. I invite you to engage in this discovery. It may be the most important decision you will ever make.

Is the Church perfect? Does it always live up to your expectations? Of course not! We are a community that recognizes our individual and corporate sinfulness; we know we are flawed. That's why we need each other. We have come to realize that we are our best selves together, because here in

No more is it Jesus' resurrection that is nonsense, now it is nonsense to keep this Good News to ourselves. It is nonsense to remain fearful or depressed. Yes, things will still fall apart for us. Friends and family members will die. We will still miss opportunities to do good and sometimes we will choose to do things that are wrong. Evil and sadness will seem to pile up our life as in a tomb. But the women will still come back from that tomb and report that they find it to be empty. Yes, it is nonsense. God's love for us does not make sense; it is a miracle, a gift, and always a surprise. Let it be a surprise again tomorrow and next week and next month. Jesus is risen from the dead. **Alleluia!**

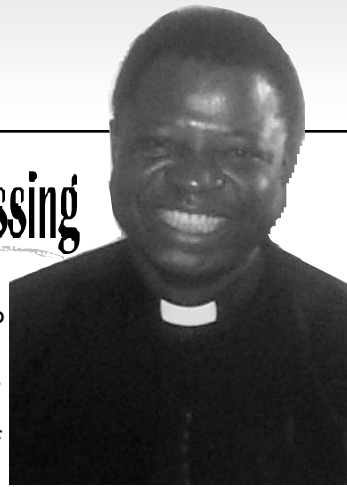
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Mark Payne, OSB



## SENT TO SERVE

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf



Father Peter Anglaere

# Our Blessing will Soon be Hornell's Blessing

The call came on Wednesday, March 12 in mid afternoon. **Paula Gardner** took the call and conveyed the message to me that **Bishop Matthew Clark** was calling for Fr. Peter. I assumed that the Bishop had heard of the death of Father's great uncle (Cardinal Peter Dery) and was calling to express his sympathy. I was mistaken.

The Bishop was calling to ask Fr. Peter to take on a new ministry as pastor of Our Lady of the Valley Parish in Hornell.

I knew that the western Steuben pastorate was opening because my friend and Hornell pastor **Fr. Patrick Van Durme** had announce a month earlier that he would become a military chaplain.

A few week's ago, all priests and pastoral administrators had received a list of parish openings including the pastorate of the Hornell parish. The way the system works is that any priest or member of the pastoral administrator "pool" can express interest in serving an "open" parish. The diocesan **Priest Personnel Committee** headed by **Fr. Michael Conboy** reviews the names and resumes of those who have expressed interest and makes recommendations to the Bishop who is free to accept or reject the recommendation.

Often no one expresses interest in an open parish, or for some reason the Priest Personnel Committee decides that someone who has not expressed interest who be the best choice for a particular parish community. Fr. Conboy, on behalf of the Priest Personnel committee, then asks that priest (or pastoral administrator) to prayerfully discern the recommendation. Meanwhile, the Bishop also considers the PPC's recommendations, makes his decisions and telephones those that he has chosen for each pastoral appointment. While, the Bishop asks the priest or pastoral administrator to accept an appointment and the chosen pastoral leader is technically free to decline an appointment, this rarely happens. Priests (and deacons) take very seriously the vow of obedience that they have pledged to their local bishop. Only in an exceptional hardship situation would one ask the bishop to reconsider a pastoral appointment.

Personally, my relationship with Fr. Peter was love at first laugh. It was just short of two years ago that Fr. Peter called to confirm what I already knew - that Bishop Clark had asked him to come to Bath and serve as our sacramental minister. Within seconds Father Peter's infectious laugh had taken hold of my heart. God had sent us a priest with a warm and wonderful laugh. A week or so later when we met face to face, I knew that the laugh would be accompanied by a brilliant smile and flashing eyes.

Within seconds he had won over **Barb Bailey** and the entire staff. By his first weekend in Bath he had endeared himself to the entire parish.

But Fr. Peter's joyful smile was not face deep. It emanated from deep within - the result of a lively faith nourished by daily prayer and a close personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Since last Wednesday, one scripture passage has played on my mind. "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God. Have faith also in me."

The words spoken by Jesus to his friends and disciples on the night before he died, reassured them that they would not be abandoned. God does not abandon his beloved. Change happens. Priests we have grown to love are called to minister to others. Ithaca's loss became Bath's blessing. Now St. Mary's loss will bring incredible blessings to the people of Hornell.

But God's blessings are not exhausted. Within a short time a new priest will be assigned to us and we will grow to love him as well.

In the coming week's we'll learn what the future holds and how God will next bless us. What appears to be death will bring new life and new blessings. Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith.

Happy Easter dear friends. You are loved.



## Shining Light on The Governor's Reproductive Health and Privacy Protection Act

When abortion first became legal, many people accepted it because they thought women were safer when doctors performed abortions. If RHAPP becomes law, non-physicians will be allowed to perform most surgical abortions.

Advances in ultrasound make it apparent that a human life is taken by abortion and many doctors want nothing to do with it. But that doesn't mean a woman's health should be jeopardized too, by letting non-doctors perform surgical procedures. For these and many more reasons, RHAPP must be opposed.

Please contact State Senator George Winner at Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247 and Assembly Member James Bacalles at Legislative Office Building, Albany, 12248 or at their local offices. For information on the RHAPP bill go to [www.dor.org](http://www.dor.org).

## Welcome . . .

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community we can receive the support we need to live out our faith. Here, we have our assumptions challenged and our complacency disturbed. Most importantly, it is *together* that we are the Body of Christ in our world. When any of our members are missing, we are incomplete and not as effective as we could be in fulfilling our mission.

Has the church hurt you? If so, I apologize deeply for our insensitivity or failure to meet an important need of yours. If we let you down, please give us another chance. Come and talk about what concerns you have; take the opportunity to clarify some misunderstandings. Open yourself to hear the call of the Lord and respond to his gift of loving mercy and redemption.

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