



Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

Second Sunday of Lent

March 8, 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 Appearances

By Dr. Constance M. Popp

Oogy is a dog whose owner tied him to a stake to be used as bait for a pit bull. He is missing the left side of his face from just behind the eye and was bitten so hard that a piece of his jawbone was crushed. Afterward, he was thrown into a cage and left to bleed to death.

Fortunately the police raided the facility and Oogy was taken to an animal hospital where the kindness of strangers put him back together. The doctor who treated Oogy said he is one of the happiest dogs he's ever met and could not imagine what he might be like if half his face hadn't been ripped off.

Larry, the man whose e-mail I received on behalf of stopping cruelty to animals, was at the hospital with his twin sons when the gargoyle-looking pup covered them with kisses, ensuring his adoption. Larry writes that "walking with Oogy is like walking with a mayoral candidate. He has to meet everyone." All fall in love with him and "by the end of their initial encounter they are rubbing, petting, even kissing him on the nose," and Oogy always kisses back.

Wondering whether Oogy sensed that he was dying after his horrific ordeal, Larry wrote, "Oogy went to sleep in a world of terror and searing pain and awoke surrounded by angels in white coats who were kind to him, who stroked him gently and talked softly to him. Instead of people who baited and beat and kicked him, he was surrounded with healing mercies." Might Oogy actually believe he has died and gone to heaven?

A horrific transfiguration occurred in Oogy's life but due to his great internal beauty, he is able to transform those who meet him. Jesus' external features paled in comparison to the internal beauty that caused his transfiguration to pure luminescence and light.

Fire Victims Need Our Help

My Friends,

Again, our community is faced with families who have been devastated by fire. The February 26th fire at the Fairside Apartments in Bath left six families temporarily homeless. While no one was seriously injured, most lost all of their possessions.

I know well the generosity of our parishioners to people in need. Now these families need our help. Lists and sizes of adult and **children's clothing have been prepared and distributed** to Bath area churches. Our lists have been placed at church entrances and are also available at the office. Families are also in need of furniture, household items and toys.

During Lent, a tradition has been to "give something up". This Lent, I am going to give my time and energy to help these neighbors in need. I invite you to stand with me by giving what you can to help these families. Our gifts of money, clothing, furniture, etc. will hopefully be a sign to these people that God truly loves them and will remain with them always..

Thank you
Paula Gardner



Saint Mary's Lenten Series LECTIO DIVINA

God Speaks to Us through the Scriptures

Each Wednesday of Lent, all are invited to join us for

Mass at 5:30 p.m. in the Church

Dinner at 6:00 p.m. in O'Malley Hall

Lenten Program at 6:45 p.m. in O'Malley Hall

March 11 and 18 - "Lectio Divina Prayer"

Guest Presenters: Deacon George and Paula Welch

March 25 and April 1

Small Group Lectio Prayer on the Sunday Gospel

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. 8 Second Sunday of Lent
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Mary Giblin
By Mark Fiordo & family

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

TUESDAY Mar. 10
5:00 p.m. In Mem. of Mary Ann Burley
By Bonnie Matacle

WEDNESDAY Mar. 11
5:30 p.m. In Mem. of Helen Hunter
By Evelyn Glenn

THURSDAY Mar. 12
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Carmine Fichetti
By Weil family

FRIDAY Mar. 13
(Mass at St. Gabriel's at 8:30a.m.)

SATURDAY Mar. 14
4:00 p.m. In Mem. of Mary Giblin
By Jim & Pat DeSorbo

SUNDAY Mar. 15 Third Sunday of Lent
9:00 a.m. In Mem. of Stan Wraight
By the Harris 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. 8
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 Basics, Room 101
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101

MONDAY Mar. 9
5:00p.m. Daycare Meeting

TUESDAY Mar. 10
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts, Room 203
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, Rooms 204A/B
6:30 p.m. Finance Committee, Rectory
7:30 p.m. Prayer Group, Rectory

WEDNESDAY Mar. 11
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. 12
9:00a.m. Headstart Red Cross Class, upstairs
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. 13

SATURDAY Mar. 14
1:00 p.m. NA - 204

SUNDAY Mar. 15
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

A LENTEN REFLECTION

By Emily Sokolowski

"The thirst we feel deep in our souls is real, and the material world offers us only saltwater to quench it. Looking outside the material world, finding God, is to finally find the pure water that fully satisfies our aching thirst."

Unknown



I was always unsure if it would be weird for me to say that I love Lent. But the simple, introspective times during Lent are the reasons why I love it so much. I like to give

things up because then I feel like my time is simply one-on-one with Jesus. Looking forward to Lent is always exciting, like seeing the first blossom on a flower or a robin symbolizing spring time. I always start out with many things to give up, which usually creates a challenge. Then I remember that I cannot be perfect, only God is perfect.

Sometimes I fall back in my religion studies, my prayers, and God. Lent is always a reminder to me that those are the times that I find myself living on only the things I need and the materialistic goods I desire. Lent reminds me that worldly pleasures don't bring me the deep happiness I crave. To give up my materialistic lifestyle sets my focus away from spurious dreams and magnifies what my life is really built upon. Worldly pleasures aren't always bad things. Lent is just another realization that God is infinitely better.

When my worldly pleasures are set aside everything else grows with new significance and the world becomes filled with wonderful beauty. Last year, every sunrise and breath of fresh air became a significant time with God on my morning walks to school. I set aside my iPod and cell phone and instantaneously saw all the natural creation that was dismissed by technology.

When I first started being active during the Lenten season, the things I gave up filled me with an emptiness each day, especially when I couldn't eat snacks in between meals. Now it doesn't feel like a punishment, it feels

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MY SAINT MARY'S



Because I Love My Parish I Support It!

Denise Crossett

Feb. 28/Mar. 1 ♦ Attendance: 235
Sacrificial Gifts totaled: \$ 3,519.56
Black & Native American \$243
Youth Ministry: \$317

Children's Collection: \$18.20

In addition to helping us meet our payroll expenses, your stewardship gifts helped us pay our utility bill of \$5,246.45

Thank you for Making Parish - a Priority!

Assembly Schedule

March 14 - Sat. 4:00 p.m. Willing Hearts
March 15 - Sun. 9:00 a.m. Willing Hearts



Happy Birthday To You!

3/8 Kathy Warren	3/11 Georgia Squires
3/9 Brian Gennello	3/11 John Cardona
3/10 Cindy Travers	3/12 Hillary Huff
3/10 Barb Perry	3/13 Allison Merry
3/10 Hollie Baldwin	3/14 Chauncey Watches



Prayer List

Bob and Fran Abbey,
Bonnie Baran, Marie Benishin,
Ruth Cochran, Henry Cullen,
Fran Cummings, Margaret Emmick, Peggy Evans, Mary Fisher, 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, Cindy Travers, and Rob Wilson

Notre Dame Retreats

Women's Retreat May 15

Contact: Paula Gardner- 776-3327



Sanctuary Light

is burning in memory of Rosalie Glosick by her sister Evelyn Glenn



Sent to Serve

Notes from Deacon Ray Defen-

Two Challenges



Scripture REFLECTIONS

Weight Loss Challenge



Since celebrating my 65th birthday and the prospect of retirement drawing near, I've been thinking more

and more about my personal health. I want to remain as vital in retirement as I have been in the rest of my life. But for the last ten years or so, I've been carrying at least 50 pounds more than I did when my life was less sedentary.

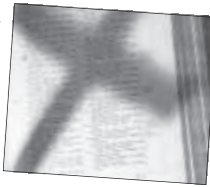
Recently, I applied for a Corning Radio stations Weight Loss Challenge and was accepted by the Corning YMCA for their three member team. For the next three months our team will compete with teams representing two other gyms to see which can lose the most weight through diet and exercise. Each team has the assistance of a personal trainer and coach to guide and encourage us.

Realizing that I am not a person of great will personal will-power, I am relying on this support to help me do what I probably could (or would) not do on my own. With my teams encouragement, I've taken on the challenge of a strenuous program of diet and exercise (cardio kick boxing, spinning, treadmill, weight-lifting) that will help me lose at least 50 pounds by my July 1 retirement date. I lost eleven of those pounds in my first week and frankly, feel great about it and myself.

Which leads us to another challenge . . .

Lenten Spirituality Challenge

As is our tradition, each Wednesday of Lent, you are invited to join your spiritual support team for Mass at 5:30 p.m. and a Lenten meal in O'Malley Hall. Then, at around 6:45 p.m. our "Spiritual Exercises" begin.



On Wednesday, March 4, St. Mary's Lenten Dinner and Discussion Series will be sponsored by the Central Steuben Catholic Parishes Adult Education Committee. The presenter will be our own Fr. Jim Jaeger who will speak on the "History and Traditions of Lent."

The remainder of our Lenten Series will help us learn to let God personally speak to us through the Scriptures. Lectio Divina, an ancient practice of prayerful meditation on the scriptures. It has been used for centuries by individuals and monastic communities and recently has found a place in the prayer of small Christian Communities.

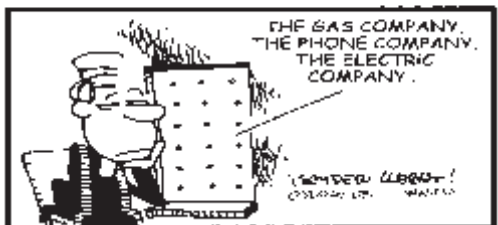
On March 11 and 18, Deacon George and Paula Welch will teach us how to use Lectio Divina as a way of prayerfully listening to God. George and Paula practice Lectio as their own personal prayer and give presentations on the practice to clergy and parish groups throughout the Diocese. Both are skilled practitioners of contemplative prayer.


And so, I challenge you to join me and your parish support team in this Lenten Spirituality Challenge. You can do it. We can do it . . . together!

Have a good week. Serve one another well.

Deacon Ray

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT



Spirit ALIVE  **This Week's Study of The Gospel of Mark**

Week of March 8, 2009
Suggested Scripture Reading:
Chapter of Mark to be read: 13
Reflection Question: [Mk 13: 1-37] If you could take two things to heaven with you, what would they be? What is the most exciting thing about the Second Coming of Christ? The most distressing? What questions would you like to ask Jesus about?

Today's passage from Genesis can seem troubling if we don't know its context. First God tells Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac; then at the last minute God stops him from doing so. What kind of game is God playing here?



At the time this story was first told, human sacrifice was a common practice. Local tribes bargained with their gods by offering beloved children, slain on altars of worship. Is this what the God of Israel wanted of his people too? By his actions with Abraham, God made it very clear that he did not require or even desire human sacrifice.

However, as we can see in the second reading and the Gospel, God also made it very clear that he would sacrifice his own Son to save us. No sacrifice we could make would be enough. And lest we wonder how great the sacrifice would be, we hear it in God's own words: Jesus is his "beloved Son."

A LENTEN REFLECTION

Continued from page two

like a gift. To set aside certain possessions and technology and to fill that emptiness with God is definitely a gift. Living more simply, like Jesus, allows us to let God reign on in our desert lives.

I'm still learning a lot about Lent and other seasons but Lent hits me as this: a **season to repent... and repenting is to** turn away from sin (in essence, giving up worldly pleasures) while turning to God's grace, praying more! There is nothing more that I strive for, than being able to pray to God unceasingly.

Psalm 50:14,23 "Offer praise as your sacrifice to God. Those who offer praise as a sacrifice honor me; to the obedient I will show the salvation of God." Prayer is a sacrifice. Spending time in prayer is the greatest-given gift this Lent. I'm going to pray more and let all focus be off me and be on God during this Lenten Season.

What will you do for Lent this year? PAX,

Emily Sokolowski

Saint Mary's Church

32 Eat Morris Street

Bath, New York

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