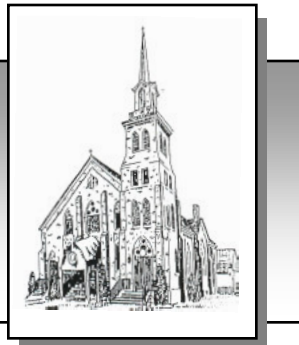


Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

Twenty-seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

October 7, 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
Fax: 607-776-3409
Email: bstmaryc@dor.org

Our Parish Staff

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

Rev. Peter Anglaere
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

Elie Boutwell/Carl Johengen
Organists

Michele Ferrara
Parish Secretary/Bulletin Editor
E-Mail: MFerrara@DOR.org

Paula Gardner
Office Volunteer

George Hoffman
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



Scripture REFLECTIONS

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH



We frequently hear that faith is a gift, something we receive from God. We also know that faith is caught not taught, that if your children grow up in a faith filled home that influence is of

prime importance. Many parents frequently bemoan the lack of faith exhibited by their children and are concerned about their children's lack of attendance at mass. There are two separate issues happening here.

The first issue is a presumed lack of faith with the disciples asking Jesus to increase their faith. The disciples who we all assume had a significant faith to be followers of Jesus in the first place, are worried that they lack sufficient faith to face the opposition to their commitment to Jesus and other destructive forces in their society. Hence their appeal to Jesus to increase their faith.

Jesus uses everyday items to explain how much faith is needed. A mustard seed is one of the smallest seeds known and a mulberry tree is rather large with extensive roots. You would never choose to transplant a mulberry tree let alone transplant it into a deep sea. So Jesus rather exaggerates the example to show that genuine faith can bring about quite unexpected things.

All you need is to accept that nothing is impossible to God so it is a matter of taking the risk, of stepping out in faith knowing that God is in the midst of what we do. God's power and graciousness knows no bounds and we, with our tiny faith have a role to play in changing the world by placing our concerns and dreams in God's hands.

The second issue raised is when we have done our duty - lived fully a Christian life - we are not empowered to claim credit from God. God's acceptance of us is not based on the good works we do but rather on the graciousness of God and that remains sheer gift. Today's passage has been argued through the Reformation debate on Luther's claim that we are saved by faith alone.

Yes, we are called by our faith to do 'good works' as we live out our Baptism but there is always the understanding that we do 'good works without drawing attention to them or ourselves. Jesus makes it clear that there is no point in expecting thanks, "we have done no more than our duty."

We are called to be people of faith who live our Christian lives to the fullest. That life is lived out firstly in our home and in our closest relationships, it is here that we recognize Christ in one another, it is here that we are strengthened to go out to our workplace and leisure to be people of faith.

Cate Mapstone

Catholic Ministries Appeal



As a basic principal of our Catholic faith, we acknowledge God as the source of all we have and all we are. Stewardship challenges each of us to recognize our gifts of time, talent

and treasure, to use them wisely and to share them generously.

The Catholic Ministries Appeal is a good example of the stewardship of treasure. This annual diocesan wide appeal challenges us to look beyond our own needs and offer a share of our personal blessings with our brothers and sisters. Through the CMA, we can show our thanks and joy for the gifts we have received and show our love for God and one another. Simply, we give as an act of thanksgiving and worship. And by doing so, we strengthen our local church and provide assistance to those who need it most.

Mass/Communion/Reconciliation Schedule

Parish Celebrations of the Lord's Day
Saturday - 4:00 p.m. ♦ Sunday - 9:00 a.m.
Weekday Masses:
Tuesday and Friday 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday and Thursday - 5:00 p.m.

Scripture/Communion
Services
Monday - 9:00 a.m.
The Sacrament of Reconciliation



A member of the



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

- SUNDAY** October 7, 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 a.m. In Memory, Madge Heugel
By Helen Opila
- MONDAY** October 8, Weekday
9:00 a.m. Communion Service
- TUESDAY** October 9, Weekday
9:00 a.m. In Memory, Ed Kob
By his daughter, Barbara
- WEDNESDAY** October 10, Weekday
5:00 p.m. In Memory, John & Mary Jozeflick
By Veronica Cummings
- THURSDAY** October 11, Weekday
5:00 p.m. In Memory, Richard LaTorre
By Terry Hochreiter
- FRIDAY** October 12, Weekday
9:00 a.m. In Memory, Verona Kish
By Rita Dwyer
- SATURDAY** October 13, Weekday
4:00 p.m. In Memory, Curtis & Dorothy Murphy
By their family
- SUNDAY** October 14, 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 a.m. For The Knights of Columbus
& The Ladies Auxiliary
By The Knights of Columbus

To schedule a weekday Mass in our Visitation Chapel, please call the office 776-3327. (Suggested stipend is \$10)



Happy Birthday To You

10/07 Evelyn Glenn	10/10 Harold Rodbourn
10/08 Theresa Hughes	10/11 Mary Ordway
10/08 James Desrosiers	10/11 Neil Fagan
10/09 Molly Gronski	10/11 Jeannine Leger
10/09 Judith Harris	10/12 Brian Schuster
10/09 Krista Armentano	10/13 Joseph Clancy
10/10 Walter Zydanowicz	



SAINT MARY'S PARISH

"A Parish of Very Good Stewards"

Thank you for - Making Parish a Priority!

September 29/30

Sacrificial Gifts totaled: 2895.96 THANK YOU!

Second Collection for Heating \$105.00

This week's second collection: Ghanaian Scholarships

Next week's 2nd collection: Maintenance



Assembly Schedule

October 13 - Sat. 4:00 p.m. - Jordan's Cross

October 14 - Sun. 9:00 a.m. - Knights of Columbus

To form or join an assembly, call 776-3327



PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

- SUNDAY** October 7
8:30 a.m. Willing Hearts Choir Practice, Chapel
No Coffee Hour/Religious Education
AA, Room 101
- 7:00 p.m.
- MONDAY** October 8
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Chapel
6:00 p.m. Tae Kwon Do, O'Malley Hall
- TUESDAY** October 9
- WEDNESDAY** October 10
8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Office
6:00 p.m. Tae Kwon Do, Rm. 204
7:00 p.m. RCIA - Jesus: Son and Savior
- THURSDAY** October 11
5:30 p.m. K of C meeting, Rm. 204
Weight Watchers, Rm 101
- FRIDAY** October 12
- SATURDAY** October 13
3:00 p.m. Democratic Committee Chicken BBQ
1:00 p.m. NA, Room 101
- SUNDAY** October 14
10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour hosted by K of C
10:30 a.m. Religious Education
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101

The Basics of Islam

The Five Pillars of Islam are: Profession of Faith, Prayer, Almsgiving, Ramadan and Pilgrimage. This week - Ramadan - the fourth pillar of Islam.

Ramadan. The fourth pillar of Islam is the fast that takes place during the holy month of Ramadan. All Muslims all over the world during Ramadan are called on to fast from sunrise to sunset for 30 days, unless they are sick or on a journey. Generally, those 12 or older rise early for a meal before the sun rises, then break their fast after sunset.

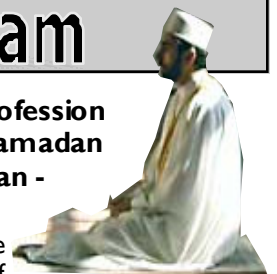
The aim of abstaining from food during the day is to help Muslims identify with the poor, who have no discretion when, where and what to eat. In this way, fasting is similar in intention to almsgiving.

There is a direct link between fasting and almsgiving. The observant Muslim is called to surrender (the word *Islam* means "surrender") again not in idealism, but in actuality and at an ordinary level. Fasting is simply seen as what it means to be a Muslim. In other words, these practices are not, as Christians might imagine, the higher practices of a saint. They are the expected minimum activity of ordinary people.

The fasting helps the believer to connect body, mind and soul. If God matters, then God's word is to override human inclinations from time to time. Notice the graciousness of the Muslim's God called Allah: Eleven months delight in food and drink. Fast one month. It's strict but moderate.

This is the fifth in our series of articles on Islam.

Next Week - Pilgrimage - The Fifth Pillar of Islam





SENT TO SERVE

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

We are “the bodies of Christ” Thanks be to God!

I had just finished reading an article in the August edition of **U.S. Catholic**, and was considering how I might share its contents with you via this column. The article, part of the editorial series **practicingcatholic** was written by **Catherine O’Connell Cahill**, one of the publication’s senior editors.

What drew me to the article which was entitled “**The bodies of Christ**” was its subhead . . . “**Paying attention to fellow parishioners makes Communion a truly communal experience.**” The author writes, “*Most of the people who process to Communion in my church were not born here. . . . They come from Mexico and the Philippines, India and Africa, Ireland and China. The Body of Christ. Amen.*” She continues, “*I used to think that I shouldn’t be noticing any of this, that it was a complete distraction from what I was supposed to be doing during Communion time, namely privately preparing myself to receive the Lord and afterward thanking Jesus for being the Bread of Life. I don’t think so anymore.*”

Spending time with Jesus in my heart after Communion is good advice, I think, for kids preparing to receive Communion for the first time. It focuses us on taking Jesus into our very bodies as food. This is not a casual piece of bread.”

But later in life, the writer says that she came to question whether “checking out” from the communal aspect of the Communion Rite to engage in private time with Jesus was still appropriate for her at this particular time of the Mass when the Body of Christ was so evident and inspiring.

“ . . . Our job as Christians is to live the reign of God ahead of time. Sunday Mass, especially the time when we eat and drink of Christ’s Body and Blood together, gives us a tiny glimpse of what the reign of God might look like.”

Then the example that brought a smile to my face.

“At Mass on a recent trip . . . I noticed that almost the whole congregation remained standing from the beginning of the Communion procession until the end, even when they returned to their pews. The singing was especially robust, as the people sang while waiting, walking, and while standing as the rest of the Communion procession continued. Then everyone sat silently together for a period of meditation after Communion.” Sound familiar? Actually it was a parish in Akron, Ohio - but it could have been Bath, New York. She concludes . . .

“Our fellow Catholics are not distractions but members of Christ’s Body, people who, like you and me. are supposed to be the hands and feet of Christ throughout the week after we leave this church building. Together we eat the food we need for the journey. The Body of Christ. Amen.”

In the first paragraph of this column, I mentioned that I had been considering how I might share this article with you. Obviously, I found a way.

But then, as if to demonstrate just how big a tent our Church is and how diverse we are in our personal experience of the incarnation, a parishioner shared with me some thoughts that she had written on the same Communion Rite. She described how profoundly important a brief period of private prayer immediately following the reception of Communion is to her experience of Christ in the Eucharist.


God has indeed made us unique and wonderful creatures. Even within a Church as structured as ours, diversity can and should not only tolerated, but honored.

Since the most recent norms of the **General Instructions for the Roman Missal** were promulgated here at St. Mary’s nearly three years ago, we have reiterated that, while standing and singing until every one of the body of Christ has received will be our norm, if you need personal prayer time following your reception of Communion, take it. The “liturgical police” will not try to dissuade you at this solemn moment. We are a diverse community - “the bodies of Christ” as is the Church. Thanks be to God!

Have a good week. Serve one another well.



Deacon Ray

STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT



Annual CROP Walk
Barb Ezzo invites you to participate as a walker or donor to the annual CROP Walk on October 14. Sign-up following Mass.

Assembly Captain’s Meeting -
A Meeting of Assembly Captains will be held today after Mass.

The Sanctuary Light is burning this week for the good health of Dennis Miller as requested by Isabelle Miller.

Learn More About Your Catholic Faith
Join our RCIA Inquirers as they discover

What Catholics Believe About JESUS: SON AND SAVIOR

Wednesday, October 10th ✦ 7 - 8:30 PM
Saint Mary’s Visitation Chapel

New and Handmade Items needed for CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR
Call Evie and Al Hanning: 776-9269



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