

Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

The Twenty-fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

September 11, 2005



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
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Email: bstmaryc@dor.org

Our Parish Staff

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Sacramental Minister

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Parish Deacon

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Mary Carol Wall
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Eileen Wayne
Faith Formation Coordinator
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Our Parish Council

Jo Slovak
Chairperson

Rosemary States
Vice-Chairperson

Stephanie Czajkowski

Jim Gallagher

Mary McConnell

Sean McKinley

William MacNamara

Kathy Warren



Scripture REFLECTIONS

A commercial for H+R Block talks about children's practice of "do-overs." Whenever you made a mistake, or things did not work well, you'd announce "Do over." It was an automatic second chance to hit the ball, roll the dice, or score a point. Big kids who play golf call it a muligan. Sinners call it forgiveness.

Forgiving one's neighbor was required by Jewish law, but it had its limits. Seven times was generous, but Jesus pushes past generosity and moves forgiveness to the level of heroic. Sin and failure will always be present in the world because we are flawed by original sin. When we offend one another, Jesus asks us to see beyond the moment and recognize the possibilities that grace offers.

To live in peace, to mature as people and to bond with others, we need to allow for failures. Forgiveness allows us to look beyond an offense and see the goodness of the person. Jesus knows that this is not just a once and done event. We are always in need of forgiveness, both as the giver and receiver. It is a source of healing and growth that allows us to be the Body of Christ.

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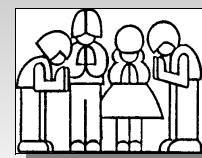
Faith Formation Registration

Registration for our Sunday Morning Faith Formation Classes for children grades K-12 will take place after the Masses this weekend and next Sunday, September 17th and 18th. You may also register by stopping by the parish office during the week. This year we are asking a nominal tuition to underwrite the cost of materials. Classes begin on September 18th.



Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?
Matthew 18:33

Ecumenical Prayer Service To Remember 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina Victims

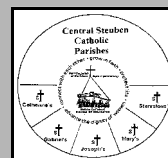


There will be a praise, worship and prayer service for our community, nation, servicemen and victims of Katrina at Bath's Pulteney Park on Sunday, September 11 from 6-7 p.m. Local pastors will be participating and there will be a representative there from the Red Cross and Salvation Army for monetary donations. Children can also participate with "Coins for Katrina". Bring lawn chairs if you'd like. In case of rain it will be held in the Presbyterian Church. Community Contacts are: Sheri Nobels at 776-5722 or 368-0266 or Marcia Burns at 776-7013 or 776-3750.

Mass/Reconciliation Schedule

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

Scripture/Communion Services
Monday, Wednesday, Friday—9:00 a.m.
The Sacrament of Reconciliation
1st and 3rd Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.



A member of the
**Central Steuben
Catholic Parishes**
Diocese of Rochester



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

SUNDAY September 11, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:30 a.m. In Memory, Alice Opila Roosna
By Helen Opila

MONDAY September 12, Weekday
9:00 a.m. Communion Service

TUESDAY September 13, Weekday
5:00 p.m. In Memory, Lour Craig
By Pat Adamowicz and Mike Bocek

WEDNESDAY September 14, Exaltation of the Holy Cross
9:00 a.m. Communion Service

THURSDAY September 15, Our Lady of Sorrows
5:00 p.m. In Memory, Michael Versage
By his parents, Anthony and Rebecca

FRIDAY September 16,
9:00 a.m. Communion Service

SATURDAY September 17,
2:00 p.m. Wedding service of Suzanne Fagan and
Jim Kennedy
3:30 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation
4:00 p.m. In Memory, Dorothy Murphy
By family

SUNDAY September 18, Catechetical Sunday
9:00 a.m. In Memory, Michael Cullen
By St. Mary's Choir



PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

SUNDAY September 11,
10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
7:00 p.m. AA, Pavilion

MONDAY September 12
5:30 p.m. Scrap Booking, Room 201
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice, church
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice, church
7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts, Room 202
7:00 p.m. Parish Council, Room 205

TUES. September 13,
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, Pavilion
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts, Rooms 202,203

THURSDAY September 15,
7:30 p.m. Charismatic Prayer Group, Dick Perry Room

FRIDAY September 16,
7:30 p.m. NA, Room 101

SATURDAY September 17,
1:00 p.m. Choir Warm-up, Lobby
1:00 p.m. NA, Room 101
2:00 p.m. Suzanne Fagan/Jim Kennedy Wedding

SUNDAY September 18, *Can & Quarter*
8:15 a.m. Choir Warm-up, church
10:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast
10:30 a.m. Religious Education,
7:00 p.m. AA, Pavilion



Assembly Schedule

September 17- Saturday 4:00 p.m. - Luminaires
September 18- Sunday- 9:00 a.m. - Heavenly Hash
To form or join an assembly, call 776-3327



SAINT MARY'S PARISH

"Where Giving Is An Investment
In Our Faith and Our Future."

Thank you for - Making Parish a Priority!

September 4/5, 2005
Sacrificial Gifts totaled: \$5,288.35
314 People worshiped God at St. Mary's this weekend.



How do I join the Roman Catholic Church?

**INFORMATIONAL MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
7:00 P.M. - PARISH OFFICE**

Information? Call Deacon Ray - 776-3327



Happy Birthday To You

9/11	Janice Luta	9/14	Emily Jessup
9/11	Kenneth Hopkins	9/14	Judith Hunter
9/11	Frederick Braxton	9/15	Thelma Rusak
9/11	Penny MacNamara	9/15	Kevin McLaughlin
9/13	Emily Martin	9/15	Max Venuti
9/13	Todd Martin	9/15	Elaine Howell
9/13	Lynne Snyder	9/15	Patricia Bell
9/13	Mary Ellen Little	9/16	Alana Crowe



Sunday, September 18

10:00 a.m.
Free Will Offering



Shawl Ministry—Yarn is available in the rectory office. You can pick it up weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.



Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund

Thanks to all who contributed to last week's Second Collection for the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. Gifts to this collection totaled \$663.75. Second Collections for the remainder of the month of September will continue to be for this fund.



Sent to Serve

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf



At Home with the People of God

Recently I came across a pastoral letter by **Bishop J. Terry Steib** of Memphis, Tennessee, in which he wrote about parish as being “home” - not just a building, but a community of faith in relationship - the “People of God”:

“In Baptism, we are received into God’s family, and church is the home where that family gathers to celebrate God’s unconditional love. Throughout our lives, church is the home where together we mark the pivotal moments, those moments that tell us who God is and who we are because of God’s love. With other members of the family of God, we are like homing pigeons returning time and time again to celebrate births and deaths, baptisms and marriages, confirmations and the Eucharist. These sacramental moments are spent together in addition to our regular ‘family’ gatherings at Sunday liturgies,...religion classes, pastoral council meetings, scripture studies,...choir rehearsals, adult faith formation sessions, youth groups, and so many other vital parts of our lives as Christians and Catholics.

But as I have reflected on the Church as home, I have become more acutely aware of the numbers of people - the number of Catholics - who are no longer comfortable in their home. In fact, some are no longer certain that the Church is their home. Sometimes it is the circumstances of life that cause people to feel estranged or separated. Occasionally it is a misunderstanding of the Church’s teachings that keeps people away. Often, individuals hide a deep pain that is rooted in knowing that, for whatever the reason, their lives do not conform to other people’s lives; or worse, they feel that who they are is unacceptable.”

We are called to be Church to one another. In giving us the Church, Christ has provided us with a spiritual

home which is only a shadow of the home we will share for eternity when all the “walls” will have come down and we are truly one with God and one another. Our task on earth is to continue to build up the Body of Christ in anticipation of that glorious day.

Are you aware of someone who is not “at home” at St. Mary’s? Or someone who has simply drifted away from us? Someone who might feel alienated or “shut out” from our communal life? Please let them know that we are here for them, ready to listen, ready to learn from their experiences and willing to share the Good News. We hope and promise that they will always find here a warm welcome. Sometimes all we have to do is invite; God will do the rest.

Let us put a special effort this year to learn one another’s names, to greet one another by name, to miss one another when we are away from “home”. Let no one leave our church feeling as if their presence made no difference to our celebration. May we always reach out to others so they too can be “at home” with us.

Joining the Church - Informational Meeting

On a related subject, we will soon begin Informational meetings for adults and children interested in finding out more about the process of formally joining the Roman Catholic Church. **Our first Informational meeting will take place on Thursday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Office Dining Room.**

If you know someone who might be interesting in joining us on our journey of faith, please let me know and I will extend a formal invitation. If you’d like to be part of a team of parishioners that will help adults and/or children prepare for the Easter sacraments through the RCIA process, we’d love to have you on the team. Please call 776-3327

Have a good week. Serve on another wall.



Family Mass and Picnic Noon - Sept 25 in Pavilion

WE ARE FAMILY

On Sunday, September 25th families of all size, age and makeup are invited to a special **Family Mass and Parish Picnic** beginning at noon in the Pavilion. During the homily we’ll discuss how we might live the Corporal Works of Mercy in our Parish and Family Life.

This Special Family Mass will kick off our Parish Celebration of the Year of the Young Family. Throughout

this year we will invite young families to take an active role in our parish through Special Events and Liturgical Celebrations and Activities targeting their needs and talents. **Please invite families who may be new to our parish to attend this special Mass and Picnic with you. Please bring a Picnic salad, starch or desert to share. Hots, hamburgs and soft drinks will be provided.**