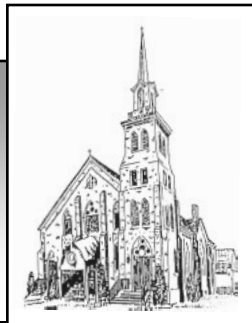


Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

Twenty-second Sunday of Ordinary Time

September 1, 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: peteranglae@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/Brent Franklin

Summer Organist/Keyboard

Michele Ferrara

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

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

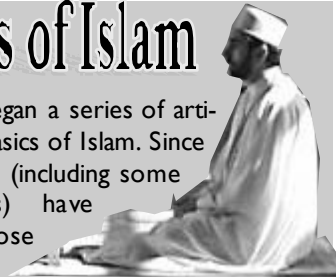
Barbara Perry - 776-6920

Kathy Warren - 776-4074

The Basics of Islam

Last week I began a series of articles on the basics of Islam. Since 9/11, many people (including some Roman Catholics) have stereotyped those who practice Islam, based on the actions of the most fanatical of its followers. But just as it would be erroneous to paint all Roman Catholics or all Protestants with the same brush, we must not fall into the erroneous belief that all 1.2 billion Muslims are alike. Our challenge as Catholics is to get to know more about our Muslim brothers and sisters. As the bishops at Vatican II wrote, "Although in the course of the centuries many quarrels and hostilities have arisen between Christians and Muslims, this sacred Synod urges all to forget the past and to strive sincerely for mutual understanding."

Part One of this series (See August 26 bulletin) provided a brief biography of the Prophet Mohammed, the founder of Islam. This week, we'll explore some basic information about the Quran (aka Koran) - the sacred scriptures from which Islamic prayer and theology are revealed.



The Quran

A Revelation of God

The central place of the Quran in the life of the devout Muslim cannot be exaggerated. The Quran, as revealed to Mohammad and recited by him and then recited through the centuries to our present day, is received by Muslims as the Word of God. Since God is One and God speaks through this scripture there is no doubt about its authenticity, authority and place in the heart and on the lips of every Muslim. For Christians, there are obvious parallels in seeing Jesus Christ as the Word of the Father.

The Quran (the word means "recitation") which was revealed to Mohammad verse by verse contains 114 chapters, or *suras*, which cover a range of topics from reverence for Allah to practical ways of living.

The Quran does not work in the same way as the Christian New Testament. The Quran is not designed to be recited or chanted, not sequentially read. It is poetic and profoundly musical. Perhaps, its closest counterpart within our tradition is Gregorian chant as no accompaniment is used.

Next Week - Leadership within Islam



Called to Protect

A Workshop for 6th-8th Graders
Sunday, Sept. 9, 1:00-5:30 p.m. † St. Mary's O'Malley Hall

Called to Protect teaches youth to recognize dangerous people/situations and gives them ways to avoid those dangers. It also empowers youth already in danger to extricate themselves and get help. The program is open to all 6-8 graders in the parish cluster.

St. Mary's Youth Minister **Mary Carol Wall** has been trained to present this important program. There will be snack and dinner provided during the course of the workshop.

This 4 1/2 hour workshop is mandated by the US Catholic Bishops to be offered by all Catholic parishes as part of its *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. Parishes will be audited this Fall to assure that the information provided in this important workshop has been made available to all Catholic youth at the parish level.

To register, please call Mary Carol at St. Mary's Parish Office: 776-3327.

Summer Mass/Communion/Reconciliation

Parish Celebrations of the Lord's Day

Saturday - 4:00 p.m. † Sunday - 9:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday † Wednesday † Thursday - 5:00 p.m.

† Friday 9:00 a.m.

Scripture/Communion Services

Monday - 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**



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

SUNDAY September 2, 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:30 a.m. In Memory, Jeannine Henderson
By Nancy Jones

MONDAY September 3, Gregory the Great, pope
9:00 a.m. Communion Service

TUESDAY September 4, Weekday
5:00 p.m. In Memory,
By

WEDNESDAY September 5, Weekday
5:00 p.m. In Memory,
By

THURSDAY September 6, Weekday
5:00 p.m. In Memory, Al Gallagher & Kathleen
By Marge Thornbloom

FRIDAY September 7, Weekday
9:00 a.m. In Memory, Iva & Lou Trant
The Lyle Family

SATURDAY September 8, Nativity of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
4:00 p.m. In Memory, Barbara Farrell
By her husband

SUNDAY September 9, 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 a.m. In Memory, Alice Opila Roosma
By Helen Opila

There are many Mass intentions available.
(Stipend \$10). Please call the office to schedule.
Weekday Mass/Communion in our New Visitation Chapel



PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

SUNDAY September 2
9:00 a.m. Willing Hearts Summer Choir Practice, Chapel
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101

MONDAY September 3
6:00 p.m. Tae Kwon Do, O'Malley Hall

TUESDAY September 4
7:00 p.m. Assembly Training Church

WEDNESDAY September 5
6:00 p.m. Tae Kwon Do, O'Malley Hall
7:00 p.m. RCIA team meeting Ray's office

THURSDAY September 6
5:30 p.m. Weight Watchers, O'Malley Hall

FRIDAY September 7
8:00 a.m. Youth Group Rummage Sale

SATURDAY September 1
8:00 a.m. Youth Group Rummage Sale

SUNDAY September 2
1:00 p.m. NA, Room 101
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101



Happy Birthday To You

09/02 Daniel Cummings	09/05 Patricia Baroody
09/02 Tim Quick	09/06 Amy Matacale
09/03 Joshua Ordway	09/06 John Giblin
09/03 Sharon Shelhamer	09/07 Tina McKinley
09/04 James DeSorbo	09/08 Willard Hughes
09/04 Bonnie Stitt	09/08 Emily Crocker
09/05 Mackenzie Stratton	



SAINT MARY'S PARISH
"A Parish of Very Good Stewards"
Thank you for - Making Parish a Priority!
August 18/19

Sacrificial Gifts totaled: \$ xxxxxx **THANK YOU!**
2nd Collection for Can and Quarter: xxxxx
This week's second collection: *Maintenance*
Next week's second collection: *Ghanaian Scholarships*



Assembly Schedule

September 8- Sat 4:00 p.m. - New Assembly
September 9- Sun. 9:00 a.m. - New Assembly

To form or join an assembly, call 776-3327

Assembly Training Tuesday, September 4, 7 p.m., Church



The Sanctuary Light is burning this week in memory of Natalie Giordano at the request of her children Charles & Carmen Rola.



St. Mary's Coffee Hours

St. Mary's Coffee Hours will resume on Sunday September 16th. Host Families and Individuals are needed. Sign up on the sheets posted in O'Malley Hall, or call the office at 776-3327.



The Sanctuary Light is burning this week at the request of Isabelle Miller for the intentions of Joe Amoroso.

MUSIC MINISTRY POSITION

Choir Director/Bell Choir Director

Applicants are sought for the position(s) of Choir Director and Bell Choir Director for St. Mary's Parish, Bath, NY. The person(s) selected for this/these positions will work with the parish's pastoral administrator, liturgy committee and choir to provide musical leadership to St. Mary's Choir, Bell Choir, cantors and congregation. Applicants should send a resume of education, experience, and knowledge of contemporary Roman Catholic liturgy and music to Deacon Ray Defendorf, St. Mary's Church, 32 East Morris Street, Bath, NY 14810 or by email to RDefendorf@dor.org by Monday, September 10.

ALICE'S REST COMFORT HOME

Annual Pig Roast and Hunting Raffle

September 29, 4-7 PM O'Malley Hall

Raffle Tickets \$10 each including Buffet





SENT TO SERVE

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

Thank You Karen

It is with deep regret that I have accepted the resignation of **Karen Grimmer** as St. Mary's Coordinator of Parish Life and Social Ministry. Karen will return to the field of nursing. Over the past four years I have been inspired by Karen's dedication to the poor and impressed by her great culinary skills. In her role as Social Ministry Coordinator, Karen assisted hundreds of people in need and always did her very best to assist them whether their need was food, clothing, shelter, transportation or a haircut. Karen used a combination of great empathy and "tough love" to assure that donations to our "Can and Quarter" collections and Christmas Angel Tree gifts were awarded to those with the most need.



It was Karen who brought the Shawl Ministry to St. Mary's enlisting and empowering the gifts and talents of the many knitters and crocheters within our parish and community. These shawls have wrapped our sick, elderly, graduates, and newly baptized infants in the warmth of our communities prayer.

Anyone who has enjoyed a meal prepared by Karen can attest to her ability to create gourmet meals. As Parish Life Coordinator, Karen's meals created the environment for parish celebrations such as our New Year's Party, Mardi Gras and Volunteer recognition events as well as monthly Dinner and Discussions and our Lenten Series. On our behalf, Karen also catered meals for outside organizations such as Rotary, Quota and Compeer.

One of Karen's attributes for which I will always be grateful, is her candor. I never had to wonder what Karen was thinking, for she had no compunction in letting me know. While, on occasion, her admonitions were difficult to hear, they were always spoken to my face and, without fail, led me to self examination and humility. We all need someone like Karen in our lives. I am grateful for the opportunity and will miss her.

What's Head in September?

It is always amazing to me how quickly the supposedly "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer disappear when September arrives. Over the next few weeks, I'll seek the help of several choir members in selecting a new Director (or Directors) for our parish Choir and Bell Choir. I'll seek the advise of our parish and finance councils concerning the future leadership of our Parish Life and Social Ministries. A new RCIA team will form and information sessions will hopefully inspire several people to journey with us in faith. **Barb Perry** will assist us in training and scheduling new liturgical ministers for our Assemblies. Add to the above list, a new faith formation year, preparation for November's National Catholic Youth Convention in Columbus, Ohio, the installation of new HVAC units for O'Malley Hall, the repair and sealing of our parking lot and the daily surprises that surface, etc. Wow! I need another vacation.

Have a blessed Labor Day holiday. Serve one another well.

Deacon Ray



Sunday Mass Time Changes Next Weekend

Set your alarm to wake you at least a half hour earlier on Sunday morning. Next weekend we return to our regular Sunday Mass schedule. Our Mass will be at 9:00 a.m. and St. Gabriel's will have only one Sunday Mass at 11:00 a.m.

STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Your Gifts of Time and Talent are Needed



Liturgical Assembly Training

Tuesday, September 4 ♦ 7:00 p.m. ♦ St. Mary's Church

Three new Liturgical Assemblies have been formed to serve at our Saturday and Sunday Masses and a fourth is in the works. Each team includes people to serve as greeters, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, altar servers, cross bearers, and ushers. Both individuals and family groups are needed. You may either form your own group with family and friends or let us assign you to a new or existing Assembly. Organizational help and training will be provided on Tuesday, September 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church but additional training times will be provided for those who cannot make this meeting. If you like to be placed in an Assembly, please call the office, 776-3327 and attend Tuesday's Assembly Training.

R.C.I.A. Team Meeting

Wednesday, September 5 ♦ 7:00 p.m. ♦ Parish Office

A team is forming to journey with prospective Catholic Christians as they prepare for Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. The team will meet on Wednesday, September 5 at 7 p.m. in Deacon Ray's Office for prayer and planning, then meet weekly with Catechumens and Candidates for full membership in the Catholic Church. Team members will fill a variety of roles including, teaching, faith sharing and hospitality. This is not only a great way to share your faith, but also grow in your knowledge of the faith. People who have recently joined our parish family through the R.C.I.A. process are especially encouraged to participate. For information or to join this team, please contact Deacon Ray 776-3327.



Health Ministry Volunteers

Health care professionals and people with clerical and hospitality skills are needed to provide free health care services to people without health insurance at the Health Ministry of the Southern Tier's Bath Community Care Center. Volunteer as little as 3-4 hours per month. Call 776-8085, Ext. 218.

If you've been waiting for an Invitation to Become a Roman Catholic? THIS IS IT!

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 18 ♦ 7 - 8 PM

Saint Mary's Visitation Chapel

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