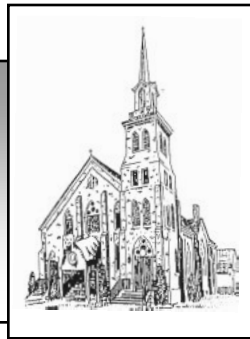


Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach

Twenty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time

September 9, 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

Youth Group Rummage Sale

The annual youth group rummage sale took place on August 31 and September 1st on the rectory lawn. A steady stream of customers visited the sale which included a special 3 for \$1 tent, a clothing tent and hundreds of household items.

Pictured clockwise from top are: Penny McNamara and Vivian Strache in the Dollar tent; Julia Gennello, Kaitlyn Rumsey, Emily Sokolowski, Leal Truth, Fran Kohler and Eli Truth; Judy and Jerry Harris; Livi Truth; and John and Nancy Cardona.



Jhis year Catechetical Sunday, September 16, 2007, will focus on the theme, "Catechesis: Encountering the Living Christ."

Those who have been delegated by our community to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday offers all Catholics a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the role that each of us plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. As our parish catechists are commissioned, all parishioners will be invited to rededicate themselves to their own life long formation in faith.

All registered families with school age children should have already received and returned registration forms for each child in grades pre-k through 12. Extra copies are also available at church entrances this weekend. If you have not already done so, please return all registration forms this week to Mary Carol Wall at the parish office.

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

MONDAY September 10, Weekday
9:00 a.m. Communion Service

TUESDAY September 11, Weekday
5:00 p.m. In Memory, Mary Lou Comaire
By Pat Adamowicz

WEDNESDAY September 12, Holy Name of Mary
5:00 p.m. In Memory, James Donovan
By Ann

THURSDAY September 13, John Chrysostom, bishop
5:00 p.m. In Memory, Jeannette Robbins
By Pat Adamowicz & Mike Bocek

FRIDAY September 14, Exaltation of the Holy Cross
9:00 a.m. In Memory, George & Betty Drozda
By Paula Gardner

SATURDAY September 15, Our Lady of Sorrows
4:00 p.m. In Memory, Dorothy Murphy
By her family

SUNDAY September 16, Our Lady of Sorrows
9:00 a.m. In Memory, Arnold Kish Sr.
By his 3 children, Margaret, Arnold & Joann

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



SAINT MARY'S PARISH

"A Parish of Very Good Stewards"

Thank you for - Making Parish a Priority!
September 1/2

Sacrificial Gifts totaled: \$3869.10 **THANK YOU!**

2nd Collection for Ghanaian Scholarships: \$344.50

This week's second collection: Insurance

Next week's 2nd collection: Campaign for Human Development



Assembly Schedule

September 15 - Sat. 4:00 p.m. - Willing Hearts

September 16 - Sun. 9:00 a.m. - Heavenly Hash

To form or join an assembly, call 776-3327



The Sanctuary Light is burning this week in memory of Mary & Donald Shear by her sister, Evelyn.



St. Mary's Coffee Hours

St. Mary's Coffee Hours will resume next 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.



PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

SUNDAY September 9
9:00 a.m. Willing Hearts Summer Choir Practice, Chapel
10:00 a.m. Catechist Meeting, Chapel
1:00 p.m. Call to Protect, O'Malley Hall, Grades 6 - 8
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101

MONDAY September 10
6:00 p.m. Tae Kwon Do, O'Malley Hall

TUESDAY September 11
7:00 p.m. Finance Meeting

WEDNESDAY September 12
6:00 p.m. Tae Kwon Do, O'Malley Hall
7:00 p.m. RCIA informational meeting, Chapel

THURSDAY September 13
5:30 p.m. Weight Watchers, O'Malley Hall
7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

FRIDAY September 14

SATURDAY September 15
1:00 p.m. NA, Room 101

SUNDAY September 16
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101
10:00 p.m. Coffee Hour hosted by the Staff
10:30 p.m. Religious Education, K - 12



Happy Birthday To You

09/09	Theresa McKinley	09/13	Lynne Snyder
09/09	Ray Ducharme	09/13	Phyllis Crossett
09/10	John Walsh	09/14	Emily Jessup
09/10	Marge Eichensehr	09/14	Judith Hunter
09/11	Kenneth Hopkins	09/15	Thelma Rusak
09/11	Michele Machuga	09/15	Franklin Koehler
09/11	Penny MacNamara	09/15	Devin McLaughlin
09/11	Janice Luta	09/15	Garrison Koehler
09/11	Braxton Frederick	09/15	Elaine Howell
09/13	Emily Martin	09/15	Patricia Bell
09/13	Todd Martin	09/15	Max Venuti
09/13	Mary Ellen Little		

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

Mother Teresa's Dark Night of the Soul

Tucked between the headlines of war and natural disaster, last week was a very interesting insight into the life and spirituality of **Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta**. A new book, *Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light*, has recently been published which includes many letters she wrote to her spiritual counselors and confessors over an almost 50-year period. The letters show a spiritual life that was, as she described it, dry, dark and lonely.



Three months before she accepted her Nobel Peace Prize, Mother Teresa wrote to a confidant: "Jesus has a very special love for you ... [but] as for me, the silence and the emptiness is so great, that I look and do not see, listen and do not hear. The tongue moves [in prayer] but does not speak . . . I want you to pray for me that I let Him have [a] free hand."

It's not uncommon to hear of religious people going through periods of doubt. For instance, **Father James Martin**, commenting on the public radio program **All Things Considered**, said Mother Teresa's spiritual struggles remind him of his own during a recent retreat. On the same program, **Father Matthew Lamb**, chairman of the theology department at the conservative **Ave Maria University** in Florida, said *Come Be My Light* will one day rank with "St. Augustine's *Confessions* and Thomas Merton's *The Seven Storey Mountain* as an autobiography of spiritual ascent."

While one popular columnist the venomous atheist **Christopher Hitchens** believes that the doubt expressed by Mother Teresa as a sign of her "realization that religion is a human fabrication," most people of faith (myself included) will instead be inspired that this modern day saint, did not forsake her religion or ministry, even in extended periods of deep doubt and depression. She kept on moving, caring, preaching, teaching, and living the gospel - in spite of her personal torment. This is the stuff that true saints are made of.

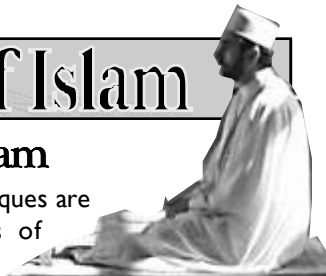
Each time we receive Communion, we are reminded of the Lord's promise that God's faithfulness to us is not dependent on our faithfulness to him. God's covenant is kept during good times and bad, in times of great spiritual zeal and in those dark times of the soul when doubt and discouragement fill our lives.

Because of the Labor Day holiday, I'm working on this column a few days earlier than usual. It is a Friday afternoon (August 31st and, even though the office is officially closed on summer Friday's—the place is hopping with young people and the terrific adults who work with them in preparing the annual Rummage Sale. Its hard to imagine a more dedicated group of people than those who work with our youth. Thanks for the time and great stewardship that you put into this annual event.

Have a good week. Serve one another well.

Deacon Ray

The Basics of Islam



Leadership Within Islam

In Islam the leadership is lay. Mosques are centers of worship, as well as of learning and study of the Quran, and these may raise up an imam as a leader. However, there is no formal ordination ceremony. Most imams qualify for their position by their ability to recite the Quran and by living the life in accordance with its teaching.

As a religion, Islam has the minimum amount of infrastructure that requires overhead and maintenance. A mosque (the word itself literally means "a place to prostrate") is often stunningly beautiful architecturally and can be brilliantly ornate. However, all semblance of opulence is to be avoided and most staff workers are volunteers. The money collected usually goes to those in need through education loans, financial opportunities, or the basics of food, medicine, clothing and shelter in the attendees' countries of origin, many of which have been devastated by war.

This is the third in our series of articles on Islam, a religion espoused by over 1.2 billion people worldwide. Part One of this series (August 26) provided a brief biography of the Prophet Mohammed, the founder of Islam. Last week, (September 2) we learned that the Quran (aka Koran) contains the sacred scriptures from which Islamic prayer and theology are revealed.
Next Week - The Five Pillars of Islam



Scripture REFLECTIONS

The Cost of Discipleship

What's the calculation to be made in following Jesus? Today's Gospel presents a rather stark view: "Anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33).

St. Francis of Assisi took this message literally. He stood in the town square of Assisi, renounced his inheritance in his father's lucrative fabric business, and stripped off all his clothes, standing there naked to show his desire to follow Jesus.

Now I'm not suggesting that we leave all our clothing at the church door on Sunday! But the intensity of Francis' desire to become a disciple can be an inspiration for all of us. Is there one area of our life that could use a little more zeal in being a faithful follower? Is there some aspect of the Christian message that we are a bit lukewarm about? Is there something that we could let go of or put aside that would give us more time or energy to act as a disciple of Christ?

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