



During the Season of Lent
There will be Mass Monday thru Friday
at 12:10 p.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

on the Fridays of Lent
at
4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (with Benediction)

LENTEN VESPERS

On the Monday's of Lent we will gather at 7p.m. to pray Vespers (Evening Prayer of the Church) - this gathering usually lasts about a half hour and is a time of prayer in song and word. No Parish Meeting will start on Monday's before 7:30 p.m. Come and join with us as we join with the whole Church in prayer.

LITTLE BLACK BOOKS

Once again we have available "The Little Black Books" published by the Diocese of Saginaw, Michigan. Cost is \$2.00 each, and they are available at all of the Church entrances. A wonderful resource for Lent!



In Luke's story of the temptation of Jesus we see how we can be tempted by wealth, power and esteem just as He was. Lent calls us to focus on our faith life by living it in deeper ways. As we begin our journey with Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl, let us pray and sacrifice so that through our faith we can make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in need.

LENTEN FISH FRY

Once again, the Knights will be hosting their popular Lenten Fish Fry on Fridays of Lent, starting Feb. 19 at the St Mary's Parish Center from 4:30-7:00 PM. The menu is the same as other years; baked potato, french fries, coleslaw, dessert, beverage, including a delicious baked haddock, for those who prefer it to fried fish. Come and enjoy great fellowship and the best fish fry in Oneonta!



Marriage Celebration at Saint Mary's February 27 - 28, 2010

This is a special time set aside to honor all couples who have embraced the vocation of marriage. Saint Mary's is planning a very special renewal of vows for all married couples at all of the Masses on this weekend. All married parishioners are invited and encouraged to participate. A reception will follow the 10:30 a.m. Mass in The Parish Center.

TUESDAY MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP

February 23rd at 10:00 a.m.

Lost Christianities: Christian Scriptures and the Battles over Authentication

by Bart D. Ehrman M.Div., Ph.D.

Lesson 19

"The Rise of Early Christian Orthodoxy"



ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED!

We are in need of Altar Servers! Our numbers have dropped to the point that we can only schedule two servers per Mass, and sometimes the same person is scheduled for several weeks in a row. Our sincere thanks to our Servers who have been so faithful.

We invite any girl or boy who has made their First Communion to become an Altar Server.

A Training Session for ALL Altar Servers
will take place at 10 a.m. on Saturday,
Feb. 27th in Church.

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Thursday, February 25th AT 7:00 P.M.
"The Sower"

Modern Parables is an **original film-based Bible study curriculum** on Jesus' parables. It uses short films of the parables, and in-depth study materials to create an entirely new learning experience. Modern Parables **seeks to re-create the emotional immediacy that Jesus' 1st-century audience felt** when hearing the parables. It does this by using some of the best parable scholarship and exploring it through creative filmmaking.

First Sunday of Lent C 1

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Offering the Fruits of Our Labor

Very few people pay their taxes willingly. We try to find ways around paying income tax. We often contribute to charities, not because we will feel good about supporting their cause, but because our gift is tax-deductible. Some people give only to save.

Imagine a different kind of society. Imagine a place where people know their taxes provide good roads, good schools, a fire department, and a recycling service. Imagine people believing so strongly in these goals that they gladly pay their taxes, and even contribute additional funds. Imagine that as they pay taxes each year, each person makes a statement renewing citizenship, professing a belief in the community's goals and reverence for its past. In such a society, individuals would care more for the community than for themselves.

In the Old Testament, Moses instructed the people to perform this kind of action. They prepared a basket of their first fruits and brought it to their religious leader. There they made a statement of faith, beginning with, "My father was a wandering Aramean." They recounted the history of God's interventions in the lives of their ancestors. They acknowledged their dependence on the faith of their parents and on the goodness of God. Consequently, they brought their gift in gratitude.

Did everyone really do what Moses asked? If they were like us, probably not. But just imagine. Imagine if we did this as a society. Or as a church.

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A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar

Jesus was led by the Spirit into "the wilderness." What is the wilderness to which the Holy Spirit is leading you this Lent? Are there uncharted areas in your marriage or family you avoid? Lent is not about working on our agenda, but letting God work His agenda in us.

Saturday's Bread needs your help!!! St. Mary's is committed to serve at Oneonta's unique hot meal program on March 6th. Please consider joining a great team of volunteers in this ministry of service during the Lenten season. For more information or to sign up to volunteer, please call Ellen Alex at 432-5514 or e-mail at ealex@stny.rr.com.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

What is your marriage founded on? When George Washington became the first president of the USA he had little idea how this fledgling country would evolve. So too, most of us are relatively naïve on our wedding day. Let a penny be a reminder of your wedding vows, "In God we trust."

PARENTING POINTERS

Lent is not just about "giving up" but also humbling oneself in the service of others. Even children can serve by cleaning up, letting someone else go first, even smiling instead of smirking. Being a willing servant is different from being a slave. "The last will be first, and the first will be last." (Mt. 20:16)



CONFIRMATION, 2010

Confirmation Retreat, which is required for all who are to be confirmed, will be on Sunday, March 7th at Saint Mary's Parish Center. We ask that all students be present at the 10:30 Mass when a Rite of Inscription will be celebrated; the Retreat will begin with Lunch and continue until 8:00 p.m. Confirmation Candidates from Sacred Heart, Sidney will be joining us for the retreat.

Bishop Hubbard will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at Saint Mary's on Monday, May 17th at 6:00 p.m.



Lent by Paul Turner

Lent is the season that prepares us to celebrate Easter. The main reason Lent is important is that Easter is more important. On Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, whose passage beyond death into life offers redemption to believers. The resurrection is the cornerstone of Christian faith. The mystery of Christ's rising from the dead is so deep that the Church invites us to six weeks of preparation before we fully celebrate it. We call that period Lent.

For the faithful, Lent is a time of penitential practices and spiritual discipline. During this time we acknowledge our sins and seek God's help to overcome them. Traditionally, we engage in acts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Together these actions show our dependence on God, our renunciation of the fascinations of this world, and our desire to better the lives of others.

For the elect, those preparing for baptism, Lent is a time of intense spiritual preparation. They will celebrate baptism at Easter because in this sacrament they enter the mystery of Christ's dying and rising. They die to their former way of life and open their hearts fully to discipleship in Jesus. For the elect, this is a season of purification and enlightenment. The prayers of this season help scrutinize and purify their intentions, removing whatever might block their commitment, and strengthening their resolve. They will become fully illumined with the light of Christ when they celebrate initiation at the Easter Vigil.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends before the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence. All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

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Saint Mary's Youth Program

is open to all youth in grades 7 - 12 and meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month from 7 - 9 pm. in The Parish Center. We also offer open gym nights on the 2nd Friday of each month. Come and join us for Fellowship and Fun! For more information please contact our youth program coordinator, Diane, at stmoneonta@yahoo.com or 432-3920 ext. 204

Ministers of Communion to the Hospital and Homebound - The 2010 copy of The Handbook for Visiting the Sick is available in the Sacristy.



Saint Mary's Parish Festival

We would like to once again have our Parish Festival at the Church location during July, 2010. Our first meeting resulted in a few people being present - we WILL NOT have a Festival unless we have volunteers come forward to take responsibility for the event. We will be having a meeting on Monday, February 22nd at 7:30 p.m. in the Rectory Basement Meeting Room. All are invited to come and share their ideas, and to be part of the team that will make the event happen.



Father Benintende will be offering a mini-retreat on Wednesday, March 10th in the Rectory Basement Meeting Room. We will gather at 10 a.m. and conclude the day by 2:30 p.m. The day will include Mass at 12:10 (in the Church), lunch (which will be provided), and time for prayer and reflection. There is no charge for the day - and we hope you will join us. Please call the Rectory Office 432-3920 and leave word that you will be participating.

Mass Intentions

When there is a Funeral Mass scheduled at Saint Mary's the Intention of the day will be rescheduled

FEBRUARY 20 - 28, 2010

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2010

2:00 p.m. **Marriage of Sean Buckley & Maura Townsend**

4:00 p.m. Christine Vanderwerker by Janice Hinkley
Joseph Tessitore by Family
Ani Colone by Ron & Karen Brzenk

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2010

8:30 a.m. Margaret Parisian
by Tom and Jayne Kelly & Family
Lyle Leib by Virginia Rock

10:30 a.m. Giuseppe Mannino by The Ruffino Family
Sebastian Saglimbeni by Wife & Daughters
People of Saint Mary's Parish

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2010

12:10 p.m. Leroy Jacobsen by Paul & Florence Berg

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010

12:10 p.m. Vito Marchiano by Rose Grigoli

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2010

10:00 a.m. **Mass at St. Mary's School**

12:10 p.m. For the Intentions of Phil Devine

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2009

12:10 p.m. Michael Benintende (16th Ann) by Family

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2010

12:10 p.m. Joey Capra and All Souls in Purgatory by Family

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2010

4:00 p.m. Gary Butts (12th Ann) by Marion and Family
Donald Lynd, Sr. by Wife, Felicia
Nicholas and John Mondillo
by Ann Oliver & Family and Edith Armstrong

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2010

8:30 a.m. **50th Wedding Anniversary Mark and Armida Colone**
Concetta Rossi by Great-Grandson, Father Joe
Ethel Keenan (2nd Ann) by Rich & Pat Murphy

10:30 a.m. Georgia Garrett by Joe & Donna Coyne
Joan Marie Rhodes
by Granddaughters, Jenn & Nicole Schuck
People of Saint Mary's Parish

Readings for the Week of February 21, 2010

Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13
Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Phil 3:17-4:1/Lk 9:28b-36



SPRING TRIP TO LANCASTER, PA

Father Joe is organizing a Spring Trip to Lancaster, PA - three day trip, **April 13 - 14 - 15**. We will see **"Meet Me In Saint Louis"** at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre, participate in a **"Graze Your Way Through A Pennsylvania Dutch Day!" (Tour and Meal)**, and attend the brand new show **"Joseph"** at The Sight and Sound Millennium Theatre. Come and kick the Winter Blues and enjoy Spring with friends. Cost is \$350 per person, and reservations and itineraries may be had at the Rectory.

PRAYER CORNER

We ask that you remember in your prayers the following persons who are ill: **Phil Devine, Al Parisian, Sharon Ann Hickey, Frank Furlan, Marie Supple, Dorothy Walsh, Denise Pier Rogatnick, Beulah Morley, Father Paul Roman, Meagan Kelsey, Robert and Deborah Conway.**

We pray for the men and women of our parish and community who are serving in the military, especially **SP4 James Connolly, Airman Leah Lent, Sgt. Vincent J. Diglia, Sgt. Josephine M. (Diglia) Hendrich, Airman Ben T. Nelson, SSgt, Christopher Santiago, Airman Douglas Lent, Maj. Patrick M. Clune, SPC Brandon Reed, Sgt. Derek Lloyd, AF/JAG Jason Hull, Seaman Zachary Thomas, Brendan Evans, Tyler Evans, Seaman Joyce Collier and Pvt. Aaron De Dominicis, Maj. Ramona Discavage.**

Let us remember those who have died all the members of our families and parish community.

2010 Women's Retreat

Mark the dates: May 14-16, 2010

Our guest director will be Sr. Carol Davis OP. The theme: "Peace is my gift to you!" John 14:27 Start planning and saving now! The fee remains at \$185 (65 & over \$170) for the week-end. Any questions Call Martie 432-2852, Barbara 432-5509, Helen 286-7080 or Bernadette 287-2558 Join us at the Dominican Retreat & Conference Center!

Wanted: Loving husbands and Wives
Reward: Passion and appreciation for your marriage
Found: In Cooperstown, March 20-21 on a Marriage Encounter Weekend
Application deadline March 8th, so hurry! Call 518-3243 or email: MEalbany@juno.com.

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