

**DECEMBER 2008 JANUARY FEBRUARY 2009 ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE SCHUYLER
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MARY'S OF THE LAKE & ST. BENEDICT'S**

Pastoral Response to domestic violence is a Catholic Charities program of the Southern Tier - Victim Services of Schuyler County - First Step (607) 535-2050 for assistance.

Through the Diocese of Rochester the following resources are also available:

Cayuga County - Domestic Violence Intervention Program	(800) 253-3358
Chemung Co. - Salvation Army Safehouse	(607) 732-1979
Livingston Co. - Chances and Changes	(585) 658-2660
Monroe Co. - Alternatives for Battered Women	(585) 232-7353
- Safe Journey	(585) 425-1580
Ontario Co. - Domestic Violence/Family Counseling	(800) 695-0390 & (315) 789-2613
Victim's Assistance Coordinator	(585) 396-4408
Seneca Family Counseling Domestic Violence Program	(800) 695-0390
Steuben Co. - The Net	(800) 346-2211
Tioga Co. - A New Hope Center	(607) 687-6866
Tompkins Co. - Tompkins County Task Force for Battered Women	(607) 277-5000
Wayne Co. - Victim Resource Center	(800) 456-1172
Yates Co. - Family Counseling Domestic Violence Program	(800) 695-0390

UNITED FOR LIFE

In Prague, the capitol city of Czech Republic, the Discalced Carmelites at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral display a wax-faced doll known as the Infant of Prague. This doll stands about 18" high and has about 70 outfits that the nuns change everyday. Its gestures, though, are anything but doll-like. The tiny right hand is raised in formal blessing; the left holds a golden globe of the world topped by a cross of diamonds. Jesus, about 1 & 1/2 years old is robed & crowned as a splendid king.

The history of the doll is vague with the carver unknown. The statue first arrived to the Carmelites in 1628. After invasions of the Saxons & Swedes the Carmelites had to flee. In 1638 Fr. Cyril returned & found the Holy Infant Statue with its hands missing. After several attempts by different carvers, the hands were perfectly replaced by a mysterious sculptor known only as an angel. Prague went through more wars & unrest but the church & the Infant Jesus stayed miraculously protected. Since 1776 the Holy Infant has been kept in a glass case standing on a pedestal engraved with crystals, surrounded by 20 gold angels, with St. Mary & St. Joseph to His right & left.

For more than 350 years the Holy Infant has brought pilgrims streaming from all over the world. The attraction perhaps is the fact that all of us have circumstances we are powerless to change. A one yr old Infant has no power either, yet this Infant is robed in victory. Powerlessness is the perfect place to be - because it throws you totally into the arms of God. When you surrender your weakness to Him, He turns it into a victory. It may not be the victory you would have chosen, but is always the one that shows you to a new dimension of His Love.

UFL wishes each of you a Merry Christmas that finds you holding the holy Infant close to your heart not only at the season of Christmas, but each day of the year. Please pray us this Christmas that hearts will be open to God's message of Life with Our Infant King bringing victory over the culture of death.

CURSILLO CORNER

Let us all keep one another in prayer as we seek to spread the "Good News." Remember make a friend – be a friend and bring that friend to Christ! The 4th Day for Men's Cursillo #83, "Do Whatever He Tells You," will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2008 at St. Michael's Church in Penn Yan from 1:30-4:00 p.m. In case of inclement weather everything moves to December 14th.

FAITH FORMATION

As this Newsletter goes to press, our young ones are in the final stages of preparation for First Penance to be celebrated with the community on Tuesday, December 9th at 7 p.m. at St. Mary's. Please keep the following children in your prayers: Scott Brubaker, Joseph Chedzoy, Kathleen Clifford, Gabriella Decker, Sean Ervay, Allison Gibson, Aric Kazmark, Joseph & Katrinna LaTorre, Phoebe Majors, Ana McCauley, Gabrielle McLean, Kelsey & Kody Phelps, Zachary Schaffner, James Williams, and Maura Wood-Ellis.

As a way of celebrating the Word of God in our lives, our K-6 participants have begun each of their sessions together by proclaiming the Word and enthroning the Bible. It has been wonderful to see our young ones embrace this new ritual, enthusiastically volunteering to be the candle bearers and readers!

The third Sundays we celebrate the birthdays of our young ones for the month with our "Birthday Club." It has become a fun tradition.

Sunday, December 7th is our Advent Prayer service at 11:30 a.m., during normal faith formation time. Parents are encouraged to join us for this time of prayer in preparation for the coming of our Savior. On Sunday, December 21st, we will have an Advent party at noon in the parish center, preceded by our usual time of faith formation.

At St. Mary's, in preparing for the Family Christmas Mass, we continue to seek ways to include all of our young ones who want to participate in the pageant. With that in mind, we have filled a few of the key roles in advance and invite all boys and girls to join us as shepherds and angels. We will gather at 3 p.m. on December 24th to distribute costumes and rehearse the pageant (with the help of adults, please). We have many costumes, including halos and wings for angels, but in case of an abundance of children and a shortage of costumes (or wrong sizes), simply dress your children appropriately (i.e. pretty dresses for girls as angels). It is our hope to have a hip hop heavenly children's choir as well. Since this is a new adventure to be undertaken in a short amount of time, the help of many adults is welcome and encouraged. If you have questions, would like to volunteer to help, please contact Ginny Yeager or Renee Brubaker or call the parish office. We are hoping this new format is more inclusive of all of God's children and less stressful for parents who are challenged to make extra rehearsal times.

As you chat with your young student, initiate your conversation with the words, "All right," and then "Okay," and see what their response is. Another connection we are having on the journey of faith!

We're always looking for help! Ways you can be a part of the formation, which is the responsibility of us all – pray for the program and all of the participants, provide scholarships (for those whose finances may be an issue), help serve or supplement snacks, teach, substitute or assist in the classrooms, lead periodic sessions of Children's Liturgy of the Word, and even attend various prayer experiences which are open to the community. If you want to know more or get involved, call or see Jeanne Pavlina.

LOVIN' FROM THE OVEN

Apples- the fruits of the fall season! Recipes from Taste of Home magazine discovered by Mickey Sipperly!

Chunky Apple Cake Prep: 45 min. Cook: 25 min. + chilling

½ C. butter, softened, ½ tsp. vanilla extract, 2 eggs, 2 C. all-purpose flour, 1 & ½ tsp. ground cinnamon, 1 tsp. ground nutmeg, ½ tsp. salt, ½ tsp. baking soda, 6 C. chopped peeled tart apples (Mickey uses Mc Intosh, Ida Red or Empires)

Butterscotch Sauce: ½ C. packed brown sugar, 1/4 C. butter, cubed, ½ C. heavy whipping cream

In a large mixing bowl, cream the butter, sugar & vanilla. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Combine the flour, cinnamon, nutmeg, salt & baking soda; gradually add to creamed mixture & mix well (batter will be stiff). Stir in apples until well combined.

Spread into a greased 13x9x2" baking dish. Bake at 350 deg for 40-45 min. or until top is lightly browned & springs back when lightly touched. Cool for 30 min. before serving.

Meanwhile, in a small saucepan, combine brown sugar & butter. Cook over medium heat until butter is melted. Gradually add cream. Bring to a slow boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Remove from the heat. Serve with cake. Yield: 12-14 servings

Grilled Apple Tossed Salad Prep: 15 min. + marinating Grill: 15 min.

6 T. olive oil, ¼ C. orange juice, ¼ C. white balsamic vinegar, ¼ C. minced fresh cilantro, 2 T. honey, ½ tsp. salt, ½ tsp. chili sauce, 1 garlic clove*, minced, 2 large apples, cut into wedges, 1 pkg. (5 oz.) spring mix salad greens, 1 C. walnut halves, ½ C. crumbled blue cheese

For dressing, in a bowl, combine the 1st 8 ingredients *. Pour ¼ C. into a large resealable plastic bag; add apples. Seal bag & turn to coat; refrigerate for at least 10 min. Cover & refrigerate remaining dressing until serving.

Drain apples, reserving marinade for basting. Thread onto six metal or soaked wooden skewers. Grill apples, covered over medium heat for 6-8 min. or until golden brown, basting frequently. Turn & grill 6-8 min. longer or until golden & tender.

In a large salad bowl, combine the greens, walnuts & blue cheese. Add apples. Drizzle with reserved dressing & toss to coat. Yield: 4 servings

FROM JIM LIKOURIS

Regarding the virginity of Mary, Pope John Paul II explained, that Mary “intended to remain a virgin.” She had “chosen a virginal life with the intention of pleasing the Lord.”

“At the time of their betrothal there was an understanding between Joseph and Mary about the plan to live as a virgin. Moreover, the Holy Spirit, who had inspired Mary to choose virginity in view of the mystery of the Incarnation and who wanted the latter to come about in a family setting suited to the child’s growth, was quite able to instill in Joseph the ideal of virginity as well.” (General Audiences of July 24 and August 21, 1996).

IT’S NOT EASY BEING GREEN

In our world today, we all continue to search for ways to care for this earth that God has so lovingly created for us.

In our little corner of the world, we continue to seek ways to care for our world – replanting flowers that have been a part of our worship space so that they might bloom again, reusing and recycling paper and plastic products, reducing lighting and saving on electrical costs as well as conserving energy and reducing our heating costs. Let us continue to be vigilant in this cause and continue to look for ways of “being green.” Our building have bins marked for recycling now as well, so let’s all watch out for our earth here in our worship space as we do in our homes.

LITURGY COMMITTEE

Looking for ways to continue this journey of faith, we have arranged for a *concert Friday, February 20, 2009* at St. Mary’s with *David Haas and Lori True (liturgical composers whose music we use in our worship)* followed by a *workshop on Saturday, February 21, 2009 (also at St. Mary’s)*. The cost for concert tickets is \$15 each (the number is limited) and the cost for the workshop is \$25, including lunch and morning hospitality, a discounted cost of \$30 registers one for both events. Don’t delay on reserving your spot. You won’t want to miss this opportunity.

This Newsletter comes at the beginning of the Advent season and covers the time through the beginning of Lent. Throughout this period of time, we will seek ways of discovering what the Word means for us. As Advent begins, may we seek to grow in our relationship with the Word Made Flesh,; a wonderful opportunity to consider checking out, “Evening Prayer, Vespers,” the official prayer of the Church, to be held on Thursday evenings, December 4,11, and 18 at 6:45 p.m. at St. Mary’s.

CALENDAR

RECONCILIATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Penance Services** St. Mary's Tuesday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m., includes First Penance
St. Benedict's Tuesday, December 16th at 7:00 p.m.
- Individual** St. Benedict's Saturdays 3:30 p.m. & by appointment
St. Mary's Tuesday, December 16th following 8:00 a.m. Mass
St. Mary's Wednesday, December 17th following 7:00 a.m. Mass & 6:00 p.m.

OTHER PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- Divine Mercy** St. Mary's Monday evenings, 7:00 p.m.
- Contemplative Prayer** St. Mary's Tuesday evenings, 7:00 p.m., Apartment
- Christian Mothers** St. Mary's Tuesday, December 2nd, 6:30 p.m., LOUNGE
Tuesday, January 6th, 6:30 p.m., LOUNGE
Tuesday, February 3rd, 6:30 p.m. LOUNGE
- Bible Study** St. Mary's Wednesday, December 17th, 7:00 p.m., LOUNGE
Wednesday, January 21st, 7:00 p.m., LOUNGE
Wednesday, February 18th, 7:00 p.m., LOUNGE
- Morning Prayer & Communion** St. Mary's Saturdays & Mondays 8:00 a.m.
- Evening Prayer (Vespers)** St. Mary's Thursdays, December 4, 11, 18 at 6:45 p.m.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

- St. Benedict's Saturdays, 5:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Sundays, 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
- Feast of the Immaculate Conception** Monday, December 8, 2008
St. Mary's 7:00 a.m. & 12:05 p.m.
St. Benedict's 6:30 p.m.
- Christmas Liturgies** St. Benedict's **Christmas Eve**, 6:30 p.m.
St. Mary's **Christmas Eve**, 4:00 p.m., Family Mass
11:00 p.m., Mass at Night (Carols 10:30 p.m.)
Christmas Day, 8:30 a.m.
- Feast of the Holy Family** December 28th
St. Benedict's vigil, 5:00 p.m., December 27th
St. Mary's 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**, January 1, 2009
St. Benedict's vigil, 4:30 p.m., December 31, 2008
St. Mary's 8:30 a.m.
- Epiphany** January 4, 2009
St. Benedict's vigil, 5:00 p.m., January 3, 2009
St. Mary's 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
- Baptism of the Lord** January 11, 2009
St. Benedict's vigil, 5:00 p.m., January 10, 2009
St. Mary's 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
- Lent**
- Mission** St. Mary's February 23rd, 24, 25th, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
- Ash Wednesday** February 25, 2009
- Liturgy of the Eucharist**
St. Benedict's 5:00 p.m.
St. Mary's 7:00 a.m., 12:05 & 7:00 p.m. (conclusion of parish Mission)
- Stations of the Cross**
Times, dates, locations to be scheduled –watch upcoming Bulletins & Newsletters
- Living Stations** Friday, March 6, 2009, St. Benedict's 7:00 p.m.

THOUGHTS FROM JJP

Did you know there are some devotions in our Schuyler Catholic Community that you may not be aware of? All of the following take place at St. Mary's of the Lake.

1. The Rosary is prayed every day before Mass and before Communion services except for Sundays. What a perfect way to start your day!
2. Tuesday mornings the Rosary and other prayers are offered for a lasting peace in Afghanistan, Iraq, and all the trouble spots around the world.
3. The First Friday of the month, unless there is a conflict, like Good Friday, there is a holy hour in reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, for the needs of the Catholic Church, and the needs of the world. This Golden Hour is a great privilege that allows us to be in the presence of Almighty God in a special way during the exposition of the holy Eucharist. The hour is a powerful package that passes quickly.
4. The First Saturday of the month, using Fr. Peyton's "Rosary Prayer Book" we pray in reparation to the Blessed Mother of God as she requested.
5. On Monday evenings, we pray the prayers of "Diving Mercy" and have yet another opportunity for adoration before the Eucharist.
6. Tuesday evenings a small group gathers to pray in the quiet, in contemplative prayer, which has been the focus of our most recent parish missions.

If the Spirit so moves you be assured that you are welcome to join those who already participate in these times of prayer.

RAMBLINGS FROM RANDI

Randi has no "Words of Wisdom" for this Newsletter but suggests a book to read that was suggested to me...Left to Tell by Immaculee Ilibagiza.

It's about a woman's journey of courage, forgiveness and surrender to the God of heaven and earth. When all is released to God and total trust is given NOTHING is impossible is but one message revealed in the telling of her story.

FROM THE DESK

This Newsletter comes to you as Advent season approaches, beginning November 30th. This year the Diocese of Rochester continues with Spirit Alive and asks us to focus on our relationship with Jesus and how we grow in that relationship through the Scriptures. The secular world would have us look to all the new "things"- toys, gadgets, etc. that we need to be happier and better in our lives. As Catholic Christians, we are called to separate ourselves from the things of the world, not necessarily by the avoidance of them, but the focus of having to have them, thinking we cannot survive without them. Focus on the "word" can help us with that.

As a way to begin, we start Advent with a "Bible Blessing" on the first Sunday of Advent. We are encouraged to bring our Bibles to Mass that day for blessing and throughout the Advent season to grow in God's Word. Because we believe in this part of the Spirit Alive journey and don't want anyone to be left out, the Schuyler Catholic Community has purchased Bibles that will be available on this Sunday for all who would like one.

There are other ways of looking to the Scriptures to grow in our faith throughout the Advent season and beyond (see the calendar in this Newsletter and check the weekly bulletin). The important thing is to continue looking and growing.

Let us continue to grow in our relationship with Jesus so that we may focus on what we truly need, not what the world would have us think we need.

Blessings, Jeanne

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009