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st. mary's *Blessings* Church of St. Mary Parish Newsletter



Stewardship Highlights:

It's Up For Interpretation

By **Andrea S. Murray**

You have heard and recited the same words during mass for years, perhaps your entire life, but a revised translation of what we call the Sacramentary will soon be in effect. Although the third edition of the Roman Missal was completed in 2002, the new translation will be in effect at all churches in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany as of Advent 2011. These changes, as are *many* changes, may elicit feelings of stress, discomfort, fear, or confusion, but be assured, the mass is the same. The words have only been changed to achieve greater faithfulness to these texts first composed in Latin. We are challenged in this way to reflect on the true meaning and value of the words that have become ingrained in our minds and flow freely (and perhaps robotically) from our lips.

Revisions will not affect the scripture readings, the Prayer of the Faithful, or our favorite hymns, and most of the changes are actually to the words spoken by the priest! But, we will see and hear many transformations, from the name of the book (from the Sacramentary to the Roman Missal) to the Mystery of Faith. Carol Tenzyk, Liturgical Coordinator, adds that "These changes will affect everyone sitting in a pew" as we all embark on this year-long education.

Let's look at an example: Father David greets us now, saying "The Lord be with you", and you are probably saying to yourself at this moment, "And also with you." This will change and

soon we will answer, "And with your spirit". This is a much closer translation of the Latin, "*Et cum spiritu tuo*" and actually alerts us that we are "entering a sacramental realm and reminds (us) of our responsibilities during this time we will spend at prayer" (Turner, 2010, pg. 8).

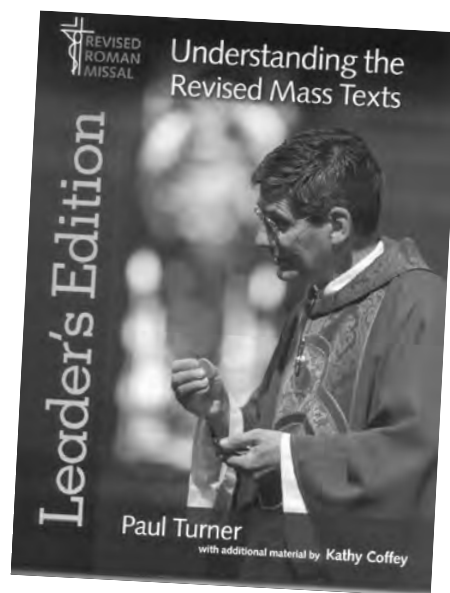
The text of the Gloria has so many changes that new musical settings need to be composed for it and our music ministry will be busy with their own challenges. But, what better way to learn new text than to sing it week after week!

So, what can we look forward to as parishioners of the Church of St. Mary? The new translations may be a little more difficult to say and hear at first, but we can anticipate these conversions to provide us with a unique opportunity to think more about the words. "The texts will express why we pray, why we hope, and how we present ourselves before God" (Turner, 2010, pg. 3). Carol Tenzyk agrees, because "Liturgy is the summit of our faith". She adds that "We want to be prepared, a step ahead", something the Church of St. Mary has always prided itself on being.

If you are looking for more informa-

tion or have additional questions about why and how the mass texts are being revised, I refer you to the cited source below. The complete text is also available online at www.usccb.org/roman-missal. However, we can embrace this education, instruction, and change through inserts in worship aides, retreats, diocesan programs, adult faith formation, classes and workshops, as well as learning from each other, the Body of Christ that is the Church of St. Mary.

Turner, P. (2010). Understanding the Revised Mass Texts. Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications.



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For Kids

Do You Know? By Andrea S. Murray

Do you know that the 7:00 p.m. Sunday evening liturgy for the Local Planning Group (LPG), will soon be held at The Church of Saint Mary? This mass, which was held for the past two years at Holy Spirit in East Greenbush. The liturgy is open to anyone from our LPG, which includes the Church of St. Mary, Sacred Heart in Castleton, Holy Spirit, and St. John's/St. Joseph's in Rensselaer.

Liturgy will be conducted on a rotational basis. Parishes will take turns presiding and staffing the mass. These masses will be in our space, but these will not be Parish Liturgies

and will not include special celebrations such as baptisms. When Father David is not presiding over the mass, a representative member of the St. Mary's community will act as a "host/hostess", having the responsibility of unlocking and locking the doors, answering any questions, and assisting the sponsoring Parish's ushers with bagging the collection and depositing into the safe. Other responsibilities will be determined in the coming months.

The LPG mass will move to the Church of St. Mary on January 2nd. Father David will preside over the first two liturgies, celebrated on January 2nd and the 9th, and the rotation between the remaining three parishes and their priests will begin the following week.

All are welcome to attend this Mass!



Pastor's Corner

Father David R. LeFort

As I type this note, it's turning colder, the leaves are all just about down and the golf season is ending (way too soon). Even though the season is changing, there's much anticipation building in our midst.

There are lots of reasons for our excitement. Teresa Memole has taken over for Shannon Hutton, our long-time editor of "Saint Mary's Blessings". Still, Shannon will continue to contribute her talents to our newsletter and other ministries. We welcome Teresa and wish her happiness and encouragement in her new position.

Tim Knerr and Alex Pelli have been working hard on redesigning our website (visit www.stmaryny.org). Additionally, our new logo is making its way into lots of different projects, like publicity for the parish, magnets promoting our new website, redesign for our bulletin cover, and it will crown the street sign that welcomes people to our parish.

Sharing new thoughts and reflections with you is high on my priorities. You've already received our new Stewardship Report of time, talent and treasure, giving you a clearer view into the Stewardship we share here. Along with our youth Faith Formation programs, Adult & Young Adult Faith Formation has blossomed over this past year. Also, plans for implementing the new edition of the Roman Missal are underway.

A new Evangelization initiative is underway, with a team of trained parishioners to begin meeting the needs of those who have fallen away from or have never experienced the blessing of faith. I wonder if we might see this initiative as a new ministry of our parish, "for a new evangelization: professing Faith, imparting Hope, bestowing Love".

Speaking of new ministries, our Stewardship Committee is beginning a "MomsTown Ministry", an idea that will look to serve some of the needs of our moms, maybe an on-line community with lots of possibilities for personal contacts to be made at the parish for support, socialization and respite from the ever-challenging ministry of motherhood.

There are lots of reasons for our anticipation and growing excitement. Let's work together to continue to become a great, generous community of faith. God love each of you!

Fr. David

MISSION STATEMENT

The Church of St. Mary is a Catholic Community, united in faith and Eucharist with the Diocese of Albany, New York, and the Church throughout the world.

As a Catholic Community, we believe in and model our lives on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are committed to active worship and prayer, lifelong faith formation, and the physical and spiritual support of those in need. All are welcome into our community.

Because of our belief in God's abiding presence, and with the support of the Holy Spirit, we share a common commitment to Stewardship which invites disciples of Jesus Christ to acknowledge their gifts from God and to share those gifts of time, talent and treasure justly and charitably in the service of the parish community and the local and global community.

Getting to Know Each Other Better By Shannon Hutton

spotlight



Leo and Mary Corvino

Leo and Mary Corvino are long time parishioners of St. Mary's. If you attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass, you are sure to have seen Leo because he is one of our ushers. If you go to the 11:00 a.m. Mass, you have been fortunate enough to hear Mary sing with our choir.

St. Mary's felt like home when Leo and Mary first joined in 1971 and it still feels that way for them today. They have developed friendships and believe the people of St. Mary's are helpful, warm, and caring. To the Corvinos, St. Mary's is a wonderful community.

How do you enjoy spending your free time?

Leo: Visiting friends, puttering in the garage and enjoying my train collection.

Mary: Going to family gatherings, singing in the choir, watching old movies and reading.

What is something people would be surprised to learn about you?

Leo: I love rollercoasters and still go on them whenever I can.

Mary: I still love my manual typewriter that is more than 55 years old. It's therapeutic and like my security blanket.

What made you decide to make St. Mary's your parish home?

We felt comfortable and at home here. Our children made their sacraments here.

What are your thoughts about the upcoming changes to the Catholic liturgies?

People are slow to change, especially us old timers, but we'll just have to learn new ways. Change is good and we'll go along with it.

What do you hope to hear God say when you enter heaven?

Welcome to my Kingdom. Enter and be at peace.

Ah, Christmas!

Full of family traditions that our parents taught us, and we share with our families. Enjoy and maybe adopt some of the traditions that make Christmas special for our fellow parishioners.



Angela and Dan Glebatis, Nicolette and Dylan

When Nicolette and Dylan were little, their parents taught them about the true meaning of the season in a number of ways.

The Story of Christmas was learned day-by-day thanks to a beautiful Advent calendar story book that remains part of their tradition today. This large sturdy book opens to reveal 24 smaller books, which when read in sequence tell the story of the first Christmas, from Gabriel's visit to the miracle of Jesus birth. Then the little books are hung as ornaments on the tree. Dylan and Nicolette listened as their Mom read the stories to them, then as they grew they'd take turns reading the stories.

Each child had a Nativity set in their room. Another Nativity, this one handed down to Dan by his Grandmother, made of paper mache is pictured here with Nicolette placing the Baby Jesus. Angela recalls, "Nicolette, at age three, somehow managed to "decapitate" Joseph and brought it to her, very upset saying that "Joseph and Mary had a fight!" Joseph was repaired and this treasured set is still part of their Christmas today. Other fond memories with their children when they were young include seeing St. Nicholas at St. Mary's. A visit from Santa kept everyone excited for the arrival of Christmas.



Barbara and Richard Nopper, Leeann, Michele, Richie and David

The Nopper's can be found most Sunday's following mass gathered with their family at the back of the church. But following Christmas Eve Mass, you may have seen them gathering in a special place, in front of the Nativity to carry out an annual event; a family photo. Awaiting their turn they first kneel in prayer. Then a small piece of straw is taken from the manger which goes into your wallet, according to an old custom, to insure a prosperous and bountiful year ahead. Several families took up the tradition of the family photo at the Nativity after seeing them do it and would help by taking pictures for one another. Family pictures have become a treasured part of Christmas for them.

Following Christmas Eve Mass, the extended family gathers to share a meal and exchange gifts. Christmas morning is spent with their immediate family who begin by singing Happy Birthday to Baby Jesus, a tradition from Barb's childhood. As a child, daughter Leeann asked why there was no birthday cake for Jesus? Now Christmas dessert includes a birthday cake and according to Barb, this special cake can be anything but Devils Food!

Our Parish Family Photos



Matt McCall



Bridget and Christopher Fritz
with their son Bryan



C.J. Harkola and his fiancée
Courtney King



Patricia Mead and son Connor



Theresa Bonacker



Elizabeth Frank



Father David with a mop so he
can put our new families to
work right away!



Liz and Bob Hanna with children
Jonathan, Katherine and Zachary



Jack and Kathleen Curtin with their sons
Matthew and Andrew



James and Jennifer Hart and daughters
Abigail, Emma, and Coleen



Paul and Anne Reilly



Roger and Marilyn Rooney



Michael and Vicky McDermott

Many Hands Make Light Work

By Stephanie Scheibly

The following St. Mary's ministries need your help. Please consider sharing your time and talent.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) welcomes people interested in being catechists and sponsors for our candidates. Strengthen your own faith by helping others learn about theirs. For more information contact Joanne Cimma 479-4552.

St. Mary's Newsletter Staff is seeking a writer for the newsletter team. No formal writing experience needed. You would be assigned an article to research and write about. This is a great group of people to work with and a good way to get to know your fellow parishioners. For more information, contact Stephanie Scheibly 449-2509.

A full listing of all the ministries at St. Mary's is available in the bulletin and on the website including names and phone numbers of the ministry heads. Feel free to contact them if you are interested in one. Your involvement is welcomed and appreciated!

Christmas Word Search

T	J	E	S	U	S	S	G	T	R	S
E	A	L	Y	T	I	V	I	T	A	N
E	O	B	M	R	H	S	F	M	E	A
U	S	A	H	P	P	R	T	A	P	O
A	G	T	E	S	S	S	I	N	I	E
I	U	S	A	V	I	O	R	G	P	E
T	O	S	D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S
J	H	M	H	L	H	A	N	R	A	E
Y	O	C	A	A	S	L	E	G	N	A
M	A	N	T	R	I	N	I	T	Y	N
G	R	T	D	I	Y	I	I	H	G	A

Manger
Nativity
Magi
Shepherds
Gift
Savior
Christmas
Epiphany
Trinity
Angels
Star
Stable
Mary
Joseph
Jesus

Kids' Spot

By Teresa Memole

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