

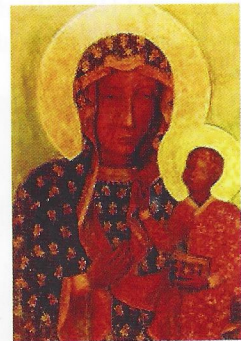
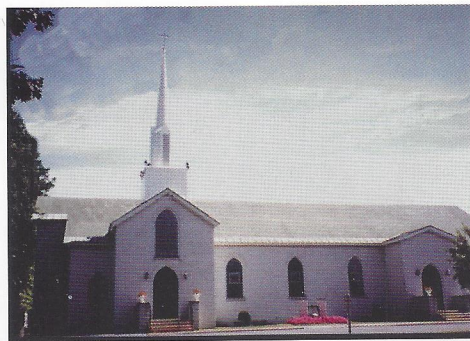
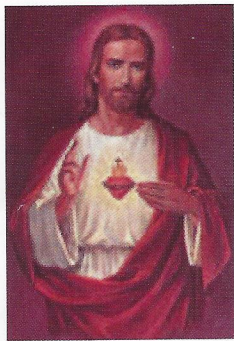
NEWSLETTER

SACRED HEART-ST MARY OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA

201 Main Street, New York Mills, NY 315-736-4432 web site: www.sacredheart-stmary.org

The church of

Sacred Heart-St. Mary's



Cordially welcomes you!

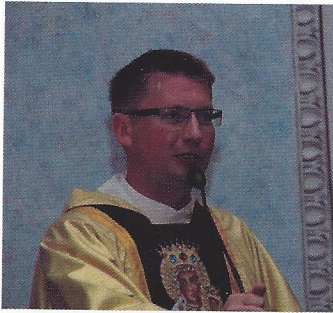
Weekend Masses are at Saturday at 4:00 PM, Sunday at 7:30 AM,
9:00 AM, 10:00 AM (in the Polish language), and 11:00 AM

--Together, let's celebrate the Year of Faith.

--Together, let's build a better world.

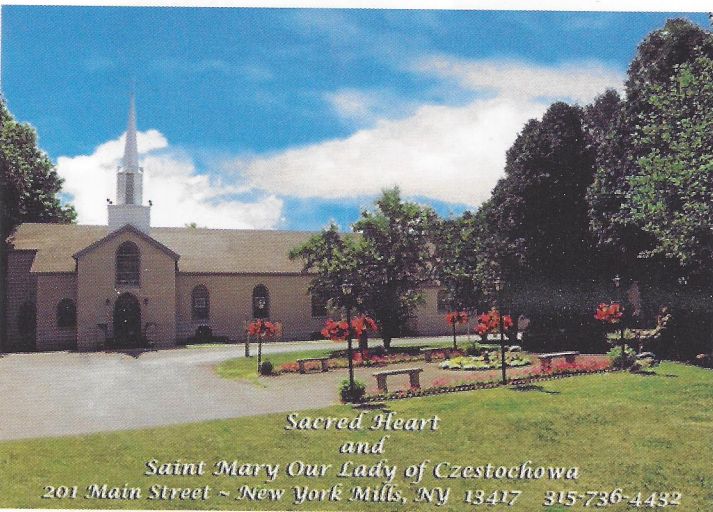
-- Together, let's follow Jesus' example by loving each other.

MESSAGE FROM FATHER ARTHUR



My Dear Friends, the Followers of Christ:

We are presenting you with our first Newsletter. I hope you will find this newsletter very informative, and interesting. In this first edition we tried to concentrate on the life of our Parish from the perspective of our societies, and different groups who are so significant here at Sacred Heart-St. Mary's. In the future we will try to highlight more the individuals who are so instrumental in our journey of Faith. Last year the previous Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed 2013 the Year of Faith. Let's take the opportunity given to us by God who is the Source of Love, Mercy and Forgiveness, and examine our Faith. Personally I would like to extend a special invitation to those who have been far away from God and the Church to come home. Don't ever hesitate to talk to me no matter how heavy your burdens are. I also ask our parishioners to look through the eyes of faith at your neighbors and friends and invite them to visit our beautiful Parish, and worship our AWESOME GOD. God bless you all, and thank you for making Sacred Heart-St. Mary's Parish such a wonderful Family.



Parish Council

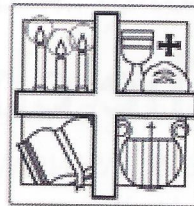
The Parish Council is a group of parishioners who work together with the Pastor in an advisory capacity to make decisions for the good of the Parish. They also represent their fellow parishioners. Parish Council members are registered members of Sacred Heart-St. Mary's who are active in practicing their Faith, and able to attend monthly Parish council meetings.

The Council consists of Father Arthur, Sister Lisa the

(Parish Council continued)

trustees—Nancy Constantine, James Horth, and six elected members: Sharon Jachim, Ann Krol, Kirk Lallier, Karleen Markowicz (President), Joe Rzepka, and Robert Tobiasz.

Liturgical Ministers



Liturgical Ministers are lay people who take leadership roles in the celebration of our Parish Liturgies. Serving as a liturgical minister is a calling that enriches not only the Assembly of the Faithful, but also each person who makes the decision to answer that call.

- ◆ **Lectors** proclaim the Holy Scriptures at Mass—usually the First and Second Readings—and may also offer the prayers of the Faithful. They assist the people to hear God speaking to them in the Scriptures.
- ◆ **Eucharistic Ministers** are designated Parishioners who assist with the distribution of Communion at Mass in the forms of both bread and wine—the precious Body and Blood of Christ.
- ◆ **Music Ministers** offer their musical talents for leading the assembly in sung prayer. They may serve as accompanists, instrumentalists, cantors or choir members.
- ◆ **Ushers** assist in seating parishioners, gathering the collection, facilitating the communion procession, and helping everyone to comfortably participate in the liturgies.
- ◆ **Altar Servers** assist the priest and other ministers in the celebration of the Eucharist. They lead the procession into Church with the cross and candles; they help the priest as book-bearer for the Prayers, and they assist at the altar as needed.
- ◆ **Liturgy Committee** meets to discuss plans for the Liturgical Seasons of the Church Year. After being trained, they serve as Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar assistants to Fr. Arthur at the 12:10 weekday Masses and Tues. Adoration. On special days the Liturgy Committee assists Father at the 12:10 Mass with the distribution of Ashes, Blessing of Throats, and other such duties.

If you are interested in serving in any of the above ministries, please contact Fr. Art or the Parish Office.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Bible Study is offered to interested adults.

—One study takes place every Thursday morning from 9:30-11:00 AM.

—An evening Bible study is offered on Mondays from 6:30-8:00 PM, for six weeks in the Fall and six weeks during Lent.

RCIA (The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

is a process by which individuals are initiated into the Catholic Faith. In this process, informal learning sessions are held for adults and children ages seven and older who have never been Baptized, who were Baptized in other Faiths and wish to become Catholic; who were Baptized Catholic, but never completed the Sacraments, including Eucharist and/or Confirmation. Catholics who would like a “refresher” course are also most welcome to attend.

The process begins whenever you are ready, and classes are tailored to your schedule. Anyone interested should contact **Terry Streit** at 315-939-3485.



PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Members of our newly formed PASTORAL CARE TEAM visit and often bring Communion to our Parishioners who are homebound, in hospitals or in Nursing Homes. They bring the healing presence of Christ as they spend time with the sick, the shut-ins and elderly. They are our Parish's representatives sharing Holy Communion and our companionship. It is very important that those who are no longer able to be with us on Sunday know that they are still linked to us, and that they are valued members of our Parish Community.

This is more than a volunteer job. It is a call, a ministry, a vocation. Jesus visits the sick or elderly person in us, and we in turn see the suffering Jesus in each person we visit. Anyone who is interested in being a visitor should call

(Pastoral care Team continued.)

Ann Krol, Sue Spina or Sister Lisa 736-4432. A visit would only take an hour or two of your time once or twice a month.

HOPE HOUSE

Located on Eagle Street in Utica, Hope House provides meals to those in need 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Volunteers from our Parish have been serving meals there on the 1st Thursday of the month for a number of years. This year we also began preparing the meals that our volunteers will be serving. Many of our parishioners who are unable to volunteer also help by



their financial assistance that helps to purchase the food that we prepare and serve. A \$2.00 donation is usually enough to feed one of Hope House's guests for a day.

Volunteers are welcome to participate in this important ministry to the 100-125 people who look to Hope House each day for a hot well-balanced meal. If interested call **Joe Bartus, Louise Bara or Sister Lisa**.

HILLTOP SENIORS

This group, founded by Father Peter Gleba, is for anyone 55 or older. They meet on Thursdays at 1:00 PM in the Cow Palace. The gatherings include a variety of activities e.g. Bingo games, celebration of members' birthdays, speakers on topics of interest to Seniors, occasional parties, refreshments, and lots of fun. Anyone over 55 is welcome to attend. For more information call **Nellie Polczynski** at 736-6528.

LEGION OF MARY

The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active co-operation in Mary's and the Church's work. The unit of the Legion of Mary is called a presidium, which holds a weekly meeting, where prayer is intermingled with reports and discussion. Sacred Heart-St. Mary's Legion meets on *Mondays at 1:00 PM in the Cow Palace*.

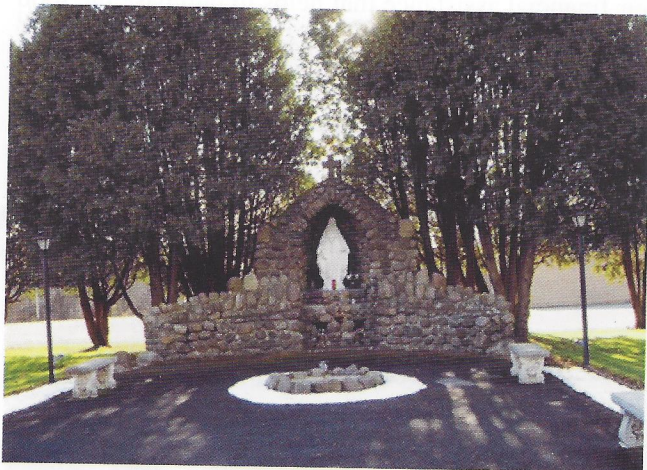
The Legion sees as its priority the spiritual and social welfare of each individual. The members participate in the life of the parish through visitation of families, the sick, both in their homes and in hospitals and Nursing Homes. *New members are always welcome! Please call Helen Gadziala 736-5571.*

SACRED HEART/ROSARY SOCIETY

This Society was founded in 1910, the same year St Mary, Our Lady of Czestohowa was established. One of its purposes is to foster an ardent devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Our Lady of the Rosary. This is accomplished by attending devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus whose Feast Day is in June; and honoring Mary, the Mother of the Rosary, whose Feast is in October.

The Society also functions as a bereavement group. A Mass is offered for each deceased member upon his/her death; the members attend the wake for a special Prayer Service, and on the day of the Funeral, the Society escorts the deceased into and out of the church. We also say prayers at the Funeral Mass.

Membership is open to all—male and female. Please consider joining us. Our new name is The Society of the Sacred Heart and Rosary. For more info call **Jayne Synkowski** at 768-8429



CCM (Confraternity of Christian Mothers), AND WOMEN'S GUILD

This organization started out as a group of Christian mothers who wanted to help the children who attended St. Mary's school and their families. Since the closing of the school, the group still supports events for the children of the Parish, but now welcomes ALL the women of the Parish, and also helps out wherever they are needed. Some examples are providing an occasional after-funeral brunch, or the recent 70th birthday party for Sister Lisa.

They still host The Snowflake Festival for children and families in December, and hold a party after First Penance for the children, their parents and Grandparents. A major event organized by this group is the Annual Family Style Ham Dinner held each November which is both a fundraiser and social event for the Parish. Women of the Parish also have the opportunity to enjoy a Christmas party each December, a Retreat during Lent and various other events throughout the year. For more information call **Barb LoGalbo**, at 796-6875.

ST. STANISLAUS, B&M, AND ST. CASIMIR SOCIETIES

The St. Stanislaus (Bishop & Martyr) Society was founded on June 25, 1905 and the St. Casimir Society was founded on March 5, 1911. They were independently organized as benevolent and protective civil organizations dedicated to the proposition that men practicing the Roman Catholic Faith have united in a brotherly way to assist each other in times of sickness and whenever there is a need. The Societies promote and protect the Catholic Faith through good works, charity and the promotion of Catholic Education. Members are to set good example by leading exemplary daily lives.

The two societies are separately incorporated under the laws of New York State, and are co-owners of the St. Stanislaus, B&M—St. Casimir Societies Cemetery Association, located on Wood Road, Whitesboro, NY. Both Societies are responsible for the management and operation of the cemetery which is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of elected officers from each Society.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY

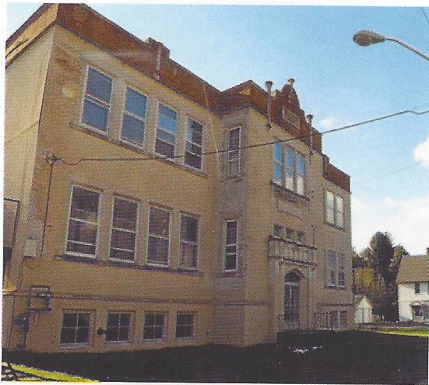
The Holy Name Society is an organization of the men of the Parish whose purpose is to promote a greater devotion

And reverence to the Holy Name of Jesus, through word, actions and deeds; and to provide the opportunity for the men of the Parish, to grow stronger both spiritually, and morally by the sharing of their ideas, and themselves to attain that goal.

We are also a service organization dedicated to the ideal of promoting the welfare of the Parish and the youth of our Parish. This is achieved through various Society sponsored fund raisers such as our annual golf tournament, turkey raffle and ham raffle. Due to the tremendous support for these fund raisers, the Holy Name Society has funded and completed numerous projects throughout the Parish such as kitchen upgrades, various roof repairs and purchasing religious items for our youth.

The Holy Name Society is always looking for new members to increase our ability to support our Parish. Joining our Society will give you the opportunity to make new friends and perhaps to renew old friendships as well as to enjoy the feeling of satisfaction and pride that comes from knowing you are actively providing for the needs of our Parish. For more information call **Joe Rzepka** 736-4645.

Religious Education



The Religious Education of our children and youth is very important at Sacred Heart-St. Mary's. Under the capable direction of **Lynn Springer**, we are currently serving 130 students in grades K-10. Grades K-6 meet Wednesday evenings

from 6:30-7:30, while grades 7-10 meet Sunday evenings from 6:00-7:30.

We are deeply grateful to our dedicated and caring catechists and aides: Megan Anderson, Nancy Constantine, Patricia Doggett, Carmen Esper, Hank Esser, Christine Fedor, Jackie Gazaille, Judy Kowalczyk, Ann Krol, Christine Lawendowski, Diane Nassif, Karleen Markowicz, Lucy Patterson, Alfonso Sandoval, Diane Sill, Jean Springer, Michelle Springer, Susan Spina and Terry Streit.

Children prepare for the reception of 1st Penance and Eucharist in 2nd grade.



Blankets made by grades 4, 5 & 6 for Ronald Mc Donald

House.

Students prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation in 9th and 10th grades, and take a variety of mini courses—some of which are required, and some of which they may choose.

Knights of Columbus

The Knight of Columbus is a Catholic, Men's, Family, Fraternal Service Organization. Their mission is to be the strong right arm of the Church, developing and implementing programs to serve the needs of our Church, families, youth, communities, and councils, and embracing the Culture of Life.

We are happy to have the Knights make their home here at



Parish Festival

Held every year on the first weekend in August, our Parish Festival consists of a multiplicity of activities: flea Market, Music & dancing, Bake Sale, Polish Food, Mushroom Stew, hot dogs, & hamburgers, etc., Basket Raffle, Games of chance, and games for children and adults.

The Festival is a major fund-raiser for the Parish, but perhaps, more importantly is a means to bring Parishioners together. We work together planning, organizing, setting up and tearing down, cooking, organizing and running the various activities, booths and concessions. Both the parishioners and those who attend, have the opportunity to work, enjoy time with each other, and to get to know one another. Everyone's help is needed to make this a successful venture.



WHY GO TO CHURCH??

A Church-goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church on Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time, and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the Editor. It went on for weeks until some wrote this: "I've been married for thirty years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of these meals. But I do know this. . . . They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise if I had not gone to church for nourishment I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are down to nothing. . . God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment.



**THE LIFE BENEFITS
OF REGULAR CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

What if I told you there was a well-researched and statistically proven program that can:

- increase the average life expectancy of your children by 8 years
- significantly reduce their use and risk from Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs
- dramatically lower their risk of suicide
- help them rebound from depression 70% faster
- dramatically reduce their risk for committing a crime
- improve their attitude at school and increase their school participation
- reduce their risk for rebelliousness
- reduce the likelihood that they would binge drink in college
- improve their odds for a "very happy" life



On the Lighter Side...

Here are some authentic bulletin bloopers (but not from here)!

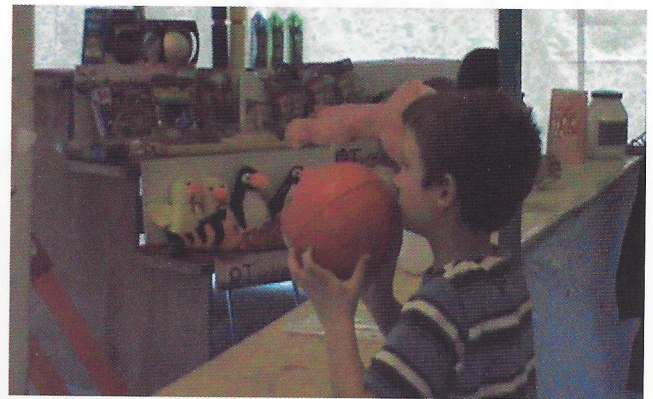
- The Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals.
- The sermon this morning: "Jesus walks on water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."
- Ladies, don't forget the Rummage Sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- Remember in prayer those who are sick of our community.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM-prayer and medi-

- provide them with a life-long moral compass
- and get them to wear their seatbelts more often

Is there such a program? Yes, there is. And it is supported by research from Duke University, Indiana University, The University of Michigan, The Center for Disease Control, Barna Research Group, and the National Institute for Healthcare Research.

How much would a program like this be worth to you? What if I told you it was free, and only took about 2 hours a week. Take a look at the list again. It's not a dream. **The program is called "active church participation."** In study, after study, after study, children who actively engage in a faith community on a regular basis are rewarded with SIGNIFICANTLY reduced likelihood of problems and risks, and significantly improved odds of a happier, healthier, longer life. These studies show the same results for adults as well.

-from an article by Neil MacQueen



- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of several older ones.
- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
- Don't let worry kill you off—let the Church help.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang "I Will Not Pass This Way Again" giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double doors at the side entrance.
- The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in the Church basement on Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group meets Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

*Come and enjoy
our beautiful Parish Grounds!!*

*Come to the "hill" where trees and grass abound, and
where in Spring through Fall lovely flowers grace our landscape.
Pray before the grotto of our Lady, or walk the Way of the Cross.
Find
God in the beauty of nature.*

