

EUCHARIST INTENTIONS

Among the intentions for those who gather for the Eucharist this week will be:

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2003

9:15AM RUSSELL PALMIERI – Angela Palmieri

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2003

7:00AM THE PEOPLE OF ST. RITA PARISH

9:15AM MORNING PRAYER

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2003

7:00AM BETTY BARTLE – Gert Provost

9:15AM CIPRIANA OGNIBENE –
Patty & Joe Janiak

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2003

7:00AM MARIE PEIFFER – Leon Bartle

9:15AM MIMI HASMAN – Husband, Len

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2003

9:15AM JEAN UPDAW – Lucy Savino

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2003

5:00PM JOHN MANGIONE – Jean Kipphut

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2003

7:30AM FOR THE POOR SOULS –
Harold & Eleanor Dill

9:00AM ANNA HELLDOLBLER – Family

10:30AM SARAH SCHOEN –
Ann Marie & Anthony Lipari

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**This week the Tabernacle Light
will burn for the intentions of
the People of St. Rita Parish**

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~ A VOCATION VIEW ~

Jesus' identity is revealed as "The Son of God" through His baptism in the Jordan. Our identity as "children of God" is revealed through our baptism. Our lives then, must constantly witness Jesus as Lord. If you think that God is calling you to a Church vocation, call Pat Finnerty, Director of Vocations Awareness at 328-3228 ext. 229 or Fr. Bill Donnelly, Rector Becket Hall at 461-2890.

Pastor's Perspective

Today's feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the Christmas season ~ but the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

The New Testament gospel writers made a very clear distinction between water baptism and baptism of the Holy Spirit. Water baptism was a common religious ritual for first-century Jews. It was a sign of cleansing from the old and making a new beginning. John's baptism was of such, but the power of his fearless preaching and his radical lifestyle no doubt set him apart from other holy men of his day. He was tremendously popular, so much so that many thought that Jesus was actually John the Baptist, even after John's death (see Mt. 14:2, Mk 6:14, Lk 9:7). Decades later, when Paul and his companions arrived in distant cities like Ephesus and Corinth, they discovered communities founded on John's baptism.

John's baptism was limited, however. It turned its recipients back to the law, but the law offered no salvation for the sinner. That's why all the devout religious types from Jerusalem flocked to John's baptism (see Mt. 3:7). They thought that by the sheer force of their virtue they could maintain righteousness before God and fulfill the demands of the law.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit was of course far different. Just as John recognized Jesus as far superior, so baptism in the Holy Spirit would be infinitely greater than John's baptism. The Holy Spirit, or "fire" as the other evangelists called it, did what water could not do. It transformed. Like fire, it consumed the individual and created something new. Baptized in fire, one no longer is pulled to the ground like coal. One rises like smoke. This is the power that tore open the heavens so that all upon whom the fire comes may enter.

Peace,

**Stepping Stones to
Stewardship**

A Stewardship Prayer

God, Creator and Giver of all that is good, we thank you for our many blessings. Mindful of your generosity, we acknowledge that all that we have is from you. Daily, we offer you thanks and praise for the beauty of the earth, our work, our family and our loved ones.

In the dawning of a new day, you are with us. In each dark hour you are here. Blessed by your grace, we show gratitude to you by sharing what we have. By serving our brothers and sisters, we serve You.

As you protect and guide us on our journey, we, your stewards, remain ever-grateful for your constant love. Amen

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**YOUNG AT HEART
SENIOR NEWS!**

Our next gathering will be on Tuesday, January 14 from 12:30-2:30pm in Room 1 at which time we welcome Club 24! Refreshments will be provided. All seniors are welcome to attend.

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SINGLE AND SINGLE AGAIN!

**POPCORN and a MOVIE
On a large screen TV!**

When: Thursday, January 16
at 7:00pm

Where: Holy Spirit Church
1355 Hatch Road

Come and enjoy the evening. For reservations please call 671-1100 (days) or 671-5449 (eve). Walk-ins are most welcome!

**Wednesday, January 15 and
Thursday, January 16,
at 7:30 p.m. in the Church**

These are parent meetings for those who have enrolled their child in the First Eucharist Sacramental Program. The Wednesday meeting is designed for parents who are going through this process with their child for the first time. The Thursday meeting is geared to the parents who are repeating this sacrament with a second child. **You only need to attend one meeting.** If this is your third child going through the process, you can skip the meeting and pick up the material at the Religious Education Office in the school starting Tuesday, January 21.

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COMPANIONS IN GRIEF

**Wednesday, January 15 at
7:30pm at Holy Trinity Church
1465 Ridge Road**

Topic: "Sharing Your Grief,
Easing Your Loss"

Presenter: Judy Trenholm,
Director at Matt Talbot Ministries

All who have lost a loved one through death are invited to attend. All are welcome! Any questions please call Sr. Judy at 671-1653.

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**ST. RITA SOCIETY MEETING
Tuesday, January 21 at 7:30pm
In the Parish Center Gym**

Come for an Evening of Reflection with Spiritual Music and Meditation presented by Patty Lorenzia from St. Peter's Kitchen, also, "Our Mother, Mary" presented by Lucy Eygabroad. This promises to be a sweet for your soul and also your body.

**** Remember ~ February 1 & 2 is our Annual Pie Sale after all Masses!**

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WPCC PARISH HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS!

The Webster Penfield Parish Health Ministry invites you to save the date – **Wednesday, January 22, 2003** from 7:00-9:00pm in Room 1. The Health Ministry will be hosting a program on:

**Bone and Breast Care presented by
The Elizabeth Wende Breast Clinic.**

Men and women are encouraged to attend.

TUESDAY MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday, January 21

Time: 10:00-11:30am

Place: Convent

Topic: "Guilt: Unbinding the Soul"
by Odyssey Productions

All are most welcome.

Any questions please call Sr. Judy at 671-1653.

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PASTA DINNER

St. Rita Boy Scout Troop 163 is hosting a Pasta Dinner on Feb 1, 2003 from 4:00 to 7:00pm in our parish center gym. Cost is \$6.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children 12 and under and free for children under 4. Dinner includes pasta with choice of 2 sauces, bread, salad, and beverage. Desserts are available. Tickets available at the door or call Nadine Knapp 671-7206 for more information.

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CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children's Choir has started again. We meet on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m., except for this coming Saturday, January 18th, when we will be having a pizza party at 12 noon followed by a brief rehearsal. All children in grades 2 through 6 are welcome to join. Please call Chris Yule at 381-2721 if you plan to attend the pizza party. The choir will sing at 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, January 26th.

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THE DIOCESAN FESTIVAL CHOIR has for sale a CD, "Singing in the Light of God", which contains many favorites sung by the choir throughout its history. The choir is directed by Ginny Miller and features organist Dr. H. Ricardo Ramirez. Copies are available for \$15 each from Liz Piekarczyk, 381-5865.

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Adult E-Mail Bulletin from Drew Desmarais

This month, I will be putting together a bulletin for adults sent out periodically through e-mail. This bulletin will consist of reviews of current books, articles; will include reminders about upcoming adult formation opportunities in the parish and in the neighboring Webster-Penfield Parishes. The purpose of the bulletin is to present up to date information quickly and direct to you through e-mail. In order for me to send you this information, I will need your e-mail address. You can send your address to me at ddesmarais@dor.org

The Webster Catholic Schools will have **New Parent Information Nights** to explain their Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 6 and Day Care Programs for the 2003-2004 school year.

The first one will be on:

Wednesday, January 22 at 7:00pm

at Holy Trinity School

1456 Ridge Road (265-2002)

The second will be held on:

Thursday, January 23 at 7:00pm

at St. Rita School

1008 Maple Drive (671-3132)

Babysitting will be available both evenings.

APPLICATIONS for all programs will be accepted during school hours (8:30am to 2:00pm) beginning March 3.

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"CATHOLIC AWAKENINGS"

Catholic Awakenings is a series of programs guided by Loyola Press to sort out our Catholic experiences with what has come about through Vatican II and how much of the Second Vatican Council permeated our lives.

Monday, January 13

at 7:00pm in Room 1

Join Deacon Stan for the "Awakenings" series. It will continue to be held on the 2nd Monday of each month and will feature Catholic Basics related to Sacramental Theology.

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CURSILLO ULTREYA ~ All cursillistas are invited to a monthly Ultreya held on the third Monday of each month in the Marian Room at Holy Trinity Church. This added Ultreya Center has been functioning from this location since June 2002.

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BULLETIN ADVERTISING ~ We currently have spaces open for advertising in our weekly parish bulletin. Please call the Parish Office at 671-1100 if you are interested.

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Cherry Ridge, a St. Ann's Community, cordially invites the seniors of St. Rita Parish to a complimentary information breakfast on Thursday, January 23 at the Atlantic Family Restaurant (across from Schroeder High School). We will provide details and answer questions. To reserve your place please call 697-6700 by January 22.

Find out what Christology is... come to a series of three talks on *Jesus, the Center of Our Lives* by Dr. Nancy Hawkins, Assistant Professor of Theology at St. Bernard's School of Theology & Ministry at St. Paul Church, 783 Hard Road. The first session, "Walking with Jesus of Nazareth: Historical Realities of His Life," will be given on Tuesday (Jan. 14) from 7-9 p.m. The second session, "Experiencing the Risen Christ: The Impact of the Resurrection," will be given on Tuesday (Jan. 21) from 7-9 p.m.; and the third session, "Following Jesus The Christ: Moments of Liberation," will be given on Tuesday (Jan. 28), from 7-9 p.m. Each session will offer theological input, some time for personal reflection, and some suggestions for personal prayer.

ADULT FORMATION CALENDAR
JANUARY through MAY 2003

Monday, January 13	Catholic Awakenings	7:00pm	Room 1
Tuesday, January 21	Scripture Group	7:15pm	Room 3
Tuesday, January 21	Video Discussion Group	10:00-11:30am	Convent
Wednesday, January 22	Parish Health Ministry presents " Bone and Breast Care"	7:00-9:00pm	Room 1
Monday, January 27	"Stem Cell Research" Adult Faith Discussion	7:30pm	Room 1
Tuesday, February 4	Scripture Group	7:15pm	Room 3
Monday, February 10	Catholic Awakenings	7:00pm	Room 1
Tuesday, February 18	Scripture Group	7:15pm	Room 3
Tuesday, February 18	Video Discussion Group	10:00-11:30am	Room 1
Tuesday, March 4	Scripture Group	7:15pm	Room 3
Monday, March 10	"Lenten Customs" Adult Faith Discussion	7:30pm	Room 1
Tuesday, March 18	Scripture Group	7:15pm	Room 3
Tuesday, March 18	Video Discussion Group	10:00-11:30am	Convent
Sunday, March 23	Parish Lent Retreat	TBA	Church
Monday, March 24	Parish Lent Retreat	TBA	Church
Tuesday, March 25	Parish Lent Retreat	TBA	Church
Tuesday, April 1	Scripture Group	7:15pm	Room 3
Monday, April 14	Catholic Awakenings	7:00pm	Room 1
Tuesday, April 15	Scripture Group	7:15pm	Room 3
Tuesday, April 15	Video Discussion Group	10:00-11:30am	Room 1
Tuesday, May 6	"Bible From Square One" Adult Faith Discussion	7:30pm	Room 1
Tuesday, May 6	Scripture Group	7:15pm	Room 3
Monday, May 12	Catholic Awakenings	7:00pm	Room 1
Tuesday, May 20	Scripture Group	7:15pm	Room 3
Tuesday, May 20	Video Discussion Group	10:00-11:30am	Convent
Tuesday, June 17	Video Discussion Group Morning of Reflection	9:45-Noon	Room 1

Our 2003 FIESTA is soon approaching!

**Save the Dates ~ Friday, June 6th
and
Saturday, June 7th**

It's never too early to start begging for help either!!!

Many of the committee members from last year have returned for more fun and excitement, but they need your help.

Below is a listing of the different committees:

Setup	Cleanup
Food	Game Booths
Children's Activities	Entertainment
Facilities/Parking	Security
Casino Games	Raffles
Publicity	Fund Raising
Accounting	

Our next committee meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 19th in Meeting Room 1 of the Parish Center. Everyone is welcome to come and share their ideas with the committee and to find out more ways to get involved.

If you have a skill that pertains to any of the committees or work for a company that is able to donate prizes or services to St. Rita's, please contact the Parish Office and leave your name and a number where you can be reached.

We are all called to be stewards . . . What a great way to offer our time and talent in the spirit of building community, fellowship and having fun! Come and join us - you won't be disappointed.

We're on our way to another fun and successful Fiesta!!

Dave Mauro (671-2383) & Tom Cali (671-0428)
2003 Fiesta Chairmen