

THE Journey

Volume I, Issue VII

March 2009

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Insert

Calendar and Events

This month, instead of the pastor's ramblings (for your monthly dose of theology please see the Sacristan's Corner) we are going to interview our new Parish Committee Chairman, Mr. Richard Malchow. It is my hope that each month a different parishioner will be interviewed for the Journey so that we can all learn more about our brothers and sisters here at BVMC. So without further ado:

Mr. Richard Alan Francis Malchow

But you can just call him Dick.

How long have you been a parishioner of BVMC?

This is my fourth year as a parishioner here at BVMC.

What brought you to BVMC?

I was invited to attend a wedding here at BVMC..and to tell the truth although I had driven past this place on numerous occasions...I somehow did not even know there was a church here....It is Capital-land's best keep secret! At any rate, I came to the wedding and was initially very impressed with the look and feel of the church. I felt that this possibly was a place where I would feel like I belonged, where I could feel like I could contribute and not be lost in the crowd.....this first impression led me to come back again, several times, to learn more about the church and the PNCC as well to gain a better understanding of the people. I found that I liked what the PNCC stood for and the people to be warm and caring. I stayed and plan on staying here forever!



*Mr. Richard Malchow,
Parish Committee Chair*

What are your hopes for the future of BVMC?

In my short time here, I have seen this parish go from one that was "simply going through the motions" to one that today is a vibrant, growing church. Today there is activity everywhere, we are witnessing a growth of youth in the church, both in young adults and children, which is essential to our future and we are also growing in our faith through greater emphasis on the Holy Scriptures. We are also developing a greater community presence through increased participation in community affairs by our clergy and parishioners.

What would you say to someone who is considering making BVMC their Church Home?

I would say: "come on down," give us a trywe are a catholic church that is devoted to the love of and dedication of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We have a beautiful church...we have warm and caring people...and you will feel that you belong and can make a contribution.

Something About Mr. Malchow that you may not know:

In my spare time, I kind of rotate through several different types of activities. First and foremost I like to bake, also cook but spend less time cooking than I do baking. I also do stained glass: jewelry boxes, lamp shades, pendulum clocks, decorative bowls and vases and window hangings. I collect coins and have recently finished my collection of Indian Head Nickels and mercury dimes; I write poetry whenever the mood sets in and am editing my collection for possible publishing next year and lastly I am currently designing a tree house for my youngest grandson which I will build in the spring.

Blessed Virgin Mary
Of Czestochowa
NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Adam Egan, Pastor

250 Maxwell Road
Latham, NY 12110

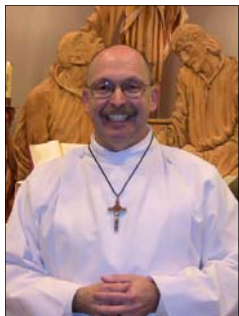
Church Office: 518.453.2258

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Parish Office Hours:
Mon - Thu, 9am - 2pm

Sacristan's Corner: Lenten Reflections



Lent serves many functions for the Church. It is a time to take part in the suffering and resurrection of Christ. It is a

time to challenge, observe, and purify ourselves. It can also have the benefit of slowing down our busy lives, to reorder our priorities. Many of us have childhood memories of "giving up" something for Lent, something that probably wasn't good for us anyway. Often we were very public in this display of discipline. The more current emphasis is on taking on new activities;

whether good works, reading inspirational books, fasting and abstinence, or more prayer in our daily lives.

Whatever we take on, or refrain from, make it an opportunity not only to purify ourselves, but to become more aware of Christ and Christ-like living. Of how we might enter the post-Easter time of our lives in a compassionate and service-oriented way of thought and action. Let's put our self-denial into a different perspective. Going without food would feel a whole lot different if it wasn't voluntary; if we didn't know for sure that we'd be able to get something to eat later that night, or maybe the next morning. If the time between our meals was to be measured by a calendar, not a

clock. Take the discomfort felt by spending several minutes on padded kneelers, and translate it into the chronic pain that so many of us live with, day in and day out.

Finally, consider in your Lenten efforts coming together with others in our parish for the variety of liturgies and prayer activities available to you. Bible study, rosary devotions, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass for health with anointing. Not convenient? Maybe just one extra private prayer or a passage from Scripture. Anything that makes you think about how much God loves us, and our need to feel gratitude for that. And to pass it on.

This Lent is the first forty days of the rest of your life.

AMEN.



Proud parents Christi and Dan Huffsmith and God parents Adam Nagle and Cindy Hoyt present Jackson Dieter for Baptism on February 27.

New Accounting/Database system

Are you making a donation to the Spring Social? One feature of the new system allows us to credit this type of non-cash donation to your contributions during the year. For example; if you were to donate a basket to the Spring Social that cost you \$75, if you submit your receipt we can now credit your giving \$75 and it will be itemized on your statement at the end of the year for tax purposes. If you have any questions about the new system, please ask Treasurer George Urciuoli.



Father Adam installs Kendra Layman as a new acolyte on March 1.

Time to Retreat...



Your new Parish Committee met in Retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center on February 7. *Left to Right: Jeanmarie Vollmer, Ellie Schmidbauer, Dick Mossey, Steve Cremins, Father Adam, Dick Malchow, Nancy Scarchilli, Regina Pollack, George Urciuoli. Front Row: Ken Koslowski, Diane Brennan, Pat Mossey.*

Fish Fry @ BVMC



Every Friday night during Lent, the Kitchen Crew prepares a Fish Fry dinner, offering parishioners and the community a delicious and affordable meal during these tough economic times. *Pictured above: Dick Mossey, Ann and John Dross, and Steve Cremins.*

**See insert for
March Madness BVMC Style**

Lent

The Season of Lent is upon us,
The time of devotions and prayer.
The distribution of ashes upon us,
A reminder of pain and despair.
Let us deny ourselves the pleasures
We have grown accustomed to.
And walk a while with Jesus
Down the road He wants us to.
We all have a Cross we must carry
And though heavy at times, it appears,
Let us remember the Cross that He carried
And His burden, His pain and His tears.
Have faith in your tomorrows,
Make every moment count.
Recall the Words and Blessings
From the Sermon on the Mount.

Stella Peplowski Zembrzuski

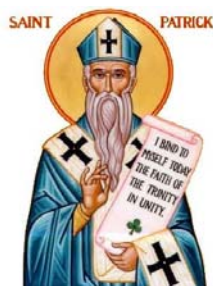
Prayer List

Irene Calka
Joshua Cuttita
Jean Egan
Alice Houser
Carl Layman
Karen Malchow
Shirley Molloy
Robert Nagle
Nancy Pascale
Elizabeth Peplowski
Veronica Pilitowski
Henry Radzaminski
Stanley & Edna Radzaminski
Michael Robochik
John Scarchilli
Fr. Jim Stevenson
Jean Tomaski
Jane White

To add or remove a name from the parish prayer list please see Father Adam, thank you.

Saint of the Month **St. Patrick of Ireland**

Feast Day: March 17th
Parton Saint of Ireland



St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints (and also happens to be the favorite Saint of the pastor). Patrick was born in Scotland around

the year 385. His parents were Romans who were in charge of the Colonies and lived in Britain.

It was around the age of fourteen that Patrick was captured and taken to Ireland as a slave to tend sheep. At this time, Ireland was a

country full of druids and pagans. It was during his captivity that Patrick turned to God the Father.

At the age of twenty, Patrick had a dream where God told him to leave the Island by running to the coast. It was there that Patrick found passage back to Britain where he was reunited with his family.

Shortly after returning home, Patrick had another dream in which he heard the people of Ireland calling him back, to walk amongst them again. This led Patrick to begin studying for the priesthood.

Patrick was ordained a priest, and then was consecrated a Bishop.

Following his consecration, Patrick returned to Ireland to spread the Good News of the Gospel.

Patrick and his disciples converted thousands and built churches all over the country of Ireland. Patrick worked miracles and converted the people of Ireland for forty years, before a life of poverty, much travel and great suffering took his life on March 17, 461. Patrick died at Saul, where he had built the first Irish Church.

St. Patrick is commonly shown holding a shamrock which he used to explain the Trinity.

St. Patrick is also remembered for his prayer "St. Patrick's Breastplate".

Contrary to popular belief, St. Patrick did not drink Guinness Stout and he was probably not a Notre Dame Football fan!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Fr. Adam and Diane Brennan have been working tirelessly to update the parish birthday and anniversary list for the Sunday Bulletin. However, due to the new Church Database system being put into work, the list only contains parish 'members' birthdays and anniversaries, unless the information was given to Fr. Adam or Diane otherwise. Due to this, we will acknowledge birthdays and anniversaries for each week following the announcements at Mass, where those celebrating a birthday or anniversary will be invited up to the front of the church for a blessing. Thank you and God Grant you all many years!

Your input is needed!

The Journey is the newsletter of all the faithful of our parish. You are all invited to contribute to the monthly Journey. Please share your stories of faith, your concerns for the church or even recipes if you like! Please email or deliver any articles for the Journey to Fr. Adam. Thank you and God Bless!

Of Note:

Hall Rental

The Parish Hall is a great venue for parties, receptions, showers, business meetings, family reunions, and for every other occasion. Call 453-2258 to inquire.

Bingo

Bingo is held every Thursday at 7:15pm. Come early and enjoy a fantastic meal prepared by the Czestochowa Polish Kitchen staff. Then try your luck at bingo. Another way to support our fundraising efforts.

Future Articles - Your Input

Articles for inclusion in the newsletter should be sent or given to Father Adam.

Capital Campaign Quickly Coming to a Close

As the May 1 Balloon Payment deadline looms closer, time is running out to make a contribution to the Capital Campaign. All funds raised will be used towards the balloon payment and will reduce the amount of money the parish will have to refinance. If you would like to contribute, you can include it in your regular giving envelope with a note marking it for the Capital Campaign. We have a wonderful opportunity to reduce our debt and devote more of our time and resources to expanding our faith and ministry in the community.

Sunday Readings

March 8: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18, Romans 8:31b-34, Mark 9:2-10

March 15: Exodus 20:1-17, 1 Corinthians 1:22-25, John 2:13-25

March 22: 2 Chronicles 36:14-17, 19-23, Ephesians 2:4-10, John 3:14-21

March 29: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 5:7-9, John 12:20-33

MARCH 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Sunday of Lent Trustee Team 5 9:00 AM High Holy Mass 10:30 AM ANS Meeting 10:30 AM SOCL Class 11:30 AM Quiet Mass	2 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 6:00 PM Bible Study followed by the Rosary	3 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 6:00 PM Newcomers Gathering	4 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 6:00 PM Mass for Health 6:30 PM Stations of the Cross 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 5:30 PM BVMC Bingo T-2	6 World Day of Prayer 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 4:30 PM Fish Fry Dinners	7 5:00 PM Faith Mass
8 Daylight-Saving Time Begins Trustee Team 6 9:00 AM High Holy Mass 10:30 AM PTO Meeting 10:30 AM SOCL Class 11:30 AM Quiet Mass	9 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 6:00 PM Bible Study followed by the Rosary	10 9:00 AM Daily Prayers	11 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 6:00 PM Mass for Health 6:30 PM Stations of the Cross 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	12 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 5:30 PM BVMC Bingo T-3	13 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 4:30 PM Fish Fry Dinners 6:00 PM Twaits/Zdanko Wedding Rehearsal	14 5:00 PM Faith Mass & Twaits/Zdanko Wedding
15 Trustee Team 1 9:00 AM High Holy Mass 10:30 AM SOCL Class 10:30 AM YMS of R Meeting 11:30 AM Mass at Eddy Ford Nursing Home 11:30 AM Quiet Mass	16 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 6:00 PM Bible Study followed by the Rosary	17 St. Patrick's Day 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 6:00 PM St. Patrick Mass 7:00 PM Newcomer's Class	18 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 6:00 PM Mass for Health 6:30 PM Stations of the Cross 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	19 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 5:30 PM BVMC Bingo T-4	20 First Day of Spring 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 4:30 PM Fish Fry Dinners 7:00 PM Ladies Night @ the Movies	21 5:00 PM Faith Mass
22 Trustee Team 2 9:00 AM High Holy Mass 10:30 AM SOCL Class 11:30 AM Quiet Mass	23 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 6:00 PM Bible Study followed by the Rosary	24 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 6:00 PM Parish Council Meeting	25 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 6:00 PM Mass for Health 6:30 PM Stations of the Cross 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	26 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 5:30 PM BVMC Bingo T-1	27 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 4:30 PM Fish Fry Dinners and Family Movie night	28 10:00 AM Polish Easter Food Sale 5:00 PM Faith Mass
29 Trustee Team 3 9:00 AM High Holy Mass 11:30 AM Quiet Mass 12:00 PM Spring Social and Basket Raffle	30 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 6:00 PM Bible Study followed by the Rosary	31 9:00 AM Daily Prayers	1 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 6:00 PM Mass for Health 6:30 PM Stations of the Cross	2 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 5:30 PM BVMC Bingo T-2	3 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 4:30 PM Fish Fry Dinners	4

March Madness BVMC Style



March 17th

6:00pm St Patrick's Day Mass

Followed by a Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner

March 20th Ladies Night @ the Movies

FishFry 4:30 - 7:00pm - \$7.00

Movie starts @ 7:00pm, Free

Have a fish fry and stay for the movie! OR just come for the movie.

"Mama Mia"

Ladies, bring your friends for a fun night at BVMC

FishFry, Movie n' Mac

March 27th

FishFry 4:30 - 6:30pm - \$7.00

6:30 - Children's Station of the Cross

Free Movie starts @ 7:00pm

Finding Nemo

Kids 12 and under get free Mac n' Cheese! OR just come for the movie

- Plan for Easter -

BVMC Polish Food Sale

Scheduled for March 28th

Pierogi, Golabki, Kapusta,
Chrusciki, Baranki

SAVE THE DATE

SpringSocial

Jonah's Journey will be sponsoring a
Basket Raffle & Children's Fashion Show

March 29th

In the Parish Hall

Wide variety of baskets
a Children's Fashion Show
sponsored by Lollipop Children's Shop
Come for a family fun afternoon

Sample Baskets

Nintendo Wii Gaming Console Basket

Spa Basket

Fitness Basket with
Gold's Gym membership

New York Lottery Basket

Children's Baskets lots of fun
stuff for the kids

And soooooo much more...

Door open at 12:00
Great food available

Admission \$2, Drawings begin at 2pm