

St. Mary's Messenger

Volume VII - Issue 2 - Summer 2018

IN THIS ISSUE ...

Parishioner Spotlight

Luke Gozelski

Meet St. Mary's

Maintenance Staff

*Reflections of a
Mission Trip to Haiti*

By The Way...

UPCOMING EVENTS...

*St. Mary's Parish Picnic
& "Chowder Chase"
July 20 - July 22*

*Parish Feast Day
August 15 - 5:30 p.m. Mass
Pot luck Supper
Following Mass*

Chowder Chase Kicks Off Picnic Weekend

The annual Chowder Chase 5K Run/3K Walk will kick off St. Mary Swormville picnic weekend on Friday, July 20. The race begins at 7 p.m. and maintains the same course as in prior years through the neighborhoods around St. Mary's. Register online at <https://register-this.com>

"If you are looking for a flat, fast course to obtain a PR, try the Chowder Chase," said Lynda Carver, race director. "It's a family-friendly race, and many parents run/walk the course with their children through the beautiful neighborhoods of East Amherst."

Runners and walkers can pick up their race packets on Thursday, July 19 from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. or Friday beginning at 5 p.m. Registration is \$33 for adults and \$28 for runners 14 years and younger.



All are invited to the Beer and Wine Social Friday night under the Wild Horse Wine and Spirits Beer Tent. One of the area's premier bands, Party of Nine, will entertain from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Enjoy craft beers, wine and food from local trucks J&L BBQ, Mineo & Sapio Street Eats and Sassi Cakes.

Sponsors of this year's Chowder Chase are Kubiak Financial, Bank on Buffalo, Calvin's Furniture, Joe Cecconi Chrysler Complex, Elements Massage, Felber's Building Supply, Inc., Gabe's Collision, Gallagher Printing, Heathwood Assisted Living, The Little Gym, Marygold Manor, Kelkenberg Homes, Switala's Construction, Wild Horse Wine and Spirits and Universal Woodworks.

New this year are cash awards for the first overall male and female runners, first masters male and female runners. Registration includes a newly designed Chowder Chase dri-fit shirt (first 300 registered) unlimited Coors Light, pizza and subs, and a Chowder voucher.

St. Mary's Messenger is an inspirational and informational publication produced for the families and friends of the St. Mary's Parish Community.

By The Way...

By Rev. Robert M. Yetter, Pastor



Announcement of Retirement

As was announced at Masses this past weekend, I will be retiring after 23 years as pastor of St. Mary's on August 31, 2018. I arrived the week of the PICNIC in 1995 and will leave after this month's annual church celebrations. I have had a very blessed number of years here and it will not be easy to enter into a slower life style.

Bishop Malone gave me permission to retire in January. I was just waiting for the "best" time. A few of my contemporaries have already retired or will later this year. I will be out of the area during the month of September. In October I will move into a small place in Williamsville, so not too far away. In November I will be in Italy for two weeks with a number of parishioners and in January, back to the island of Anguilla for a few weeks.

My mother says she will help take care of me when I retire but I think that translates into that I will have more time to take care of her at age 93.

The priests of the Diocese will receive a notice in their email this week that St. Mary's is open to apply for as pastor – as well as three other parishes are open now. The Personnel board with the Bishop will make a decision the beginning of August for the appointment of my successor ,who should arrive the beginning of September. Father Andrew will be here to greet the new pastor.

It is hard to express all that I have been involved in with so many families during these 23 years, but God knows I am grateful.

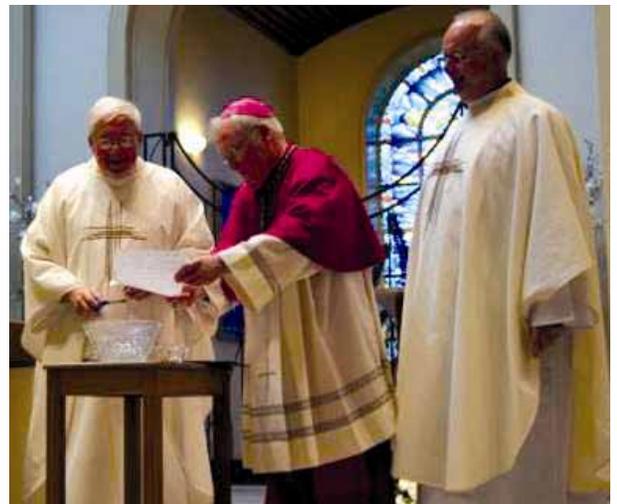
"Burning of the Mortgage"

A celebration to mark the repayment of the construction loan for St. Mary's new church was held on June 3 at 11:15 a.m. Mass. Bishop Richard J. Malone, Bishop of Buffalo, presided and Rev. Robert Yetter, pastor and Rev. Andrew Kozminski, parochial vicar, concelebrated. Bishop Malone thanked the members of the congregation for their support and for their faithfulness.

The total cost of the project was \$7.1 million which included purchasing land and building the baseball diamond and soccer field. A \$1.3 million mortgage was obtained following the parish capital campaign. Donors and members of the Building Committee were also recognized at Mass.

Planning for the new church began in 2002, groundbreaking took place in October 2008 and the new church was dedicated on June 5, 2010 by Bishop Edward U. Kmiec.

The legacy of St. Mary's dates back to the mid 1830s when newly-ordained missionary Father John Neumann encouraged the people of Swormville to build a log cabin church so a priest could celebrate the Eucharist. The second church, St. Mary's Chapel, was completed in 1866 just as soldiers were returning from the Civil War.



Bishop Malone and Fr. Yetter burn the mortgage at a Mass celebrating the completion of the new church loan as Fr. Andrew looks on.

Annual St. Mary's Picnic Continues

Since 1858, St. Mary's parishioners have gathered on a summer afternoon to share food and fellowship. Beginning as a simple potluck supper, the picnic has evolved into a large scale event celebrating the past, present, and future of the St. Mary's faith community.

St. Mary's Picnic weekend is Friday, July 20 through Sunday, July 22 on parish grounds. The annual Chowder Chase kicks off the weekend on Friday night (see story on page 1).

On Saturday, July 21, Mass will be celebrated under the tent at 6 p.m. followed by cutting of the vegetables for the kettle-cooked chowder. Bring utensils and cutting boards and join the tradition. New this year, children can enjoy the inflatables during Saturday's chowder preparation.

Picnic festivities begin on Sunday at 11 a.m. Eat-in or take-home chowder sales will be available. A larger offering of exciting inflatables is featured this year as well as pony rides, "I Got It,"

kids games, and Trinkets and Treasures. A \$15 day pass or \$40 family day pass for inflatables is available.

"The picnic has become a homecoming for many people and we are happy to welcome current and former parishioners," said Rev. Robert Yetter, pastor. "We are blessed to continue this 161 year tradition of coming together as a parish community and I would like to extend my thanks to all the volunteers who make it a success."

Krolick's chicken dinners will be served in the air-conditioned gym, and hamburgers, hot dogs, fries, ice cream, and funnel cakes will be available on the grounds along with games for all ages. The Wild Horse Beer and Wine Tent opens at noon and features live music throughout the day. Admission is free.

For complete schedules and more information, visit the St. Mary's website at www.stmaryswormville.org.

St. Mary's Makerspace

When students return to the classroom in September, they will experience an enhanced technology program funded by grants from Upon This Rock and an anonymous foundation.

Two classrooms will be converted into a Makerspace, a tech-friendly space equipped with electronics, cameras, and other equipment. The HIVE (Hands-on/Innovation/Vision/Exploration), will be a design-centered learning space that fosters creativity, engagement, collaboration, and communication in an environment that includes technology, science, art and other hands-on activities. The HIVE will support the learning process in all subject areas and at all grade levels!

All members of the faculty and staff will be trained in the use of the materials this summer. The HIVE will be available and accessible to all teachers and all students for project-based learning (PBL), problem-solving and design activities.

According to Katie Bishop, STREAM coordinator, students will have the space, materials, and tools they need to discover and create while demonstrating their learning of subject-area content.

"Our Makerspace will include: Cubelets [robotic cubes], K'NEX, Little Bits sets, Hummingbird sets, Squishy Circuits, and Makey-Makey kits," Bishop said. "Students will also have access to our LEGO wall, a green screen production kit, "Claytoon" clay project studio kit, and a 3-D Printer."

St. Mary's Makerspace, will allow teachers to reinforce concepts in science, technology, religion, engineering, arts, and math, through the use of hands-on and project-based applications. Students will also enhance their 'soft skills' - critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity.

Limited spaces are available in grades K-8 for fall 2018. Contact Stephanie States at office@stmaryschoolsormville.org for a tour or more information.



Credit: Dan Cappellazzo/WNYC Staff Photographer

Shannon Federowicz, technology teacher, assembles Cubelets, small motorized cubes, with fifth-, sixth- and seventh-graders.



Making A Difference for the Missions: More than 4,900 t-shirts are loaded into the van for Anne Marie Zon's Nicaragua mission by eighth grade boys and John Turton. T-shirts were donated by St. Mary School and parish families. Thank you for your generosity!



Thank you sponsors, donors, and attendees for support of this year's gala auction. Special thanks to our premier sponsor, Monkey See..Monkey Do Children's Bookstore.

St. Mary's Youth Group

Middle and high school students are invited to join the St. Mary's Youth Group. Youth nights are Fridays from 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. throughout the summer and school year. Teens can relax, hang out and have fun, sharing the common connection of faith. Activities include outside games, competitive fun in the gym, and praying in the youth room. No long term commitment required – come when you can. To sign up, go to www.stmaryswormville.org under Youth Ministry. Contact Donna Vasquez or Tom O'Brien at youth@stmaryswormville.org for more information.



*Receiving the Gift of the Holy Spirit:
117 young men and women said yes to the Holy Spirit as they were confirmed by Bishop Malone on June 3. As a parish, we invite everyone to pray for our young people that they may be opened to the Holy Spirit to guide them in their lives. A special thanks to Donna Vasquez, Tom O'Brien and the 30 Spirit Mentors who have guided our Confirmand during the past two years.*

.....



Members of the St. Mary's Youth Group joined by Father Yetter and Father Andrew.

.....



Meet the St. Mary's Maintenance Staff: John Turton, left and Don Andres, right, handle maintenance issues for church buildings, parish center, school, and campus grounds.



Memorial Day Mass at the St. Mary's Cemetery.

Reflections from a Mission Trip to Haiti...

In late spring, Fr. Yetter embarked on a fact-finding mission to Haiti with parishioners Joanie Clover and John Chavanne. They traveled with Food for the Poor, one of the largest international relief and development organizations in the United States.

Pope St. John Paul II said : "[Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure.](#)"

Haiti.....the beginning of a new life in Christ and an adventure of a lifetime for me that certainly changed my heart and my desire to continue to make each day a better place for someone else. There is a real presence of Christ living among the people of Haiti, and even in the devastation and poverty they live in, they are hopeful and grateful and filled with the Spirit. I am different now, forever changed by their grace. If there can be only one thing to share with all of you, I would tell you to open your hearts to the mercy of God. You will find yourself wanting to do even the smallest gesture for someone else. Cherlay, a young girl no older than 11, needs our help. She lives in a small village called Chalatte where clean running water and electricity are unheard of. A place where toilet paper is foreign and babies have no diapers. Chalatte, where families sleep in make shift metal structures they call home. It is indescribable! - Joanie Clover

My trip to Haiti was more fulfilling than any vacation I'd ever taken. As difficult as it was to witness the extreme poverty, we had a purpose. More than anything we gave the people of Haiti hope. Many Haitians recognize the work that Food for the Poor has done. We gave them hope with our presence, offering warm smiles and greetings, providing small donations we brought with us, and acting as a symbol of Christ with our crosses we wore around our necks the

entire trip. The Haitians also gave me a gift. I was deeply humbled by how grateful, hardworking, extremely resilient, proud, and very friendly they are. The Haitians are a beautiful people. They are our neighbors. All they need is a chance. I am truly grateful and blessed to have been given the opportunity to go on this trip to Haiti and I look forward to contributing to Haiti in other ways in the future. They have given me a deeper purpose in life and have brought me closer to Christ and the poor. I couldn't ask for a greater gift. - John Chavanne

My experience was from a different perspective in some aspects - celebrating the anointing of the sick with someone close to death, sharing the Eucharist at an orphanage, and blessing the new school in the village of Le Fosse that has been helped by Food for the Poor. I was so glad to see some progress but it is a country that needs so much from many different groups in USA and other countries that have much to share. People are proud of whatever little they have and thankful for whatever they receive. I was so glad that I went with our group of 16 and John and Joanie from St. Mary's. - Father Yetter

If you would like to help us continue our Journey of Hope by being a part of building a home for Cherlay and the people of Chalatte, please visit our Food for the Poor Champions page at:
<https://champions.foodforthe poor.org/stmarysofswormville>



Photos of the Mission to Haiti.

Parishioner SPOTLIGHT

Luke Gozelski

Always willing to lend a helping hand, work hard and lead by example is Luke Gozelski, an enthusiastic youth ministry volunteer.

A rising junior at Park High School, Gozelski became involved in Youth Ministry after being inspired by Donna Vasquez, youth director, and Tom O'Brien, assistant youth minister. Luke was inspired by their dedication. "I have always had a strong faith of God in me and being at St. Mary's only makes it stronger," he said.

Gozelski graduated from St. Mary School in 2016 and continued his high school religious education through the Life Teen Program. He is an active volunteer with Youth Ministry, helping with youth groups and as an assistant Spirit Core Team member during lesson nights.

"He demonstrates a unique spirit-filled character that is contagious and admired by his peers," Vasquez said. "We are so blessed to have him in this ministry."

In addition to Youth Ministry, Gozelski volunteers for Vacation Bible School, the parish auction, and summer picnic. He occasionally sings at senior homes and schools with his music teacher.

He works on his dad's farm, taking care of chickens and turkeys, and helps at his mom's business. In his little free time, Gozelski helps others by mowing lawns and plowing snow for his



neighbors.

"Volunteering at St. Mary's for me is a way of having a great time. It is never work to me, it is just fun," Gozelski said.

"I started St. Mary's School in seventh grade when St. Leo's School closed," he said. "When I arrived the first day I knew this was where I belonged: friends, school, the parish, and all the people here."

Wanting to be a contributing member of the parish when he graduated from eighth grade, he registered to have his own name on the weekly contribution envelopes.

"I attend a high school that has really no religion, but I am able to bring my beliefs and prayers with me and have encouraged other classmates to follow," Gozelski said. "I had to stand firm on this, but now we pray together, no matter what type of religion we are."

He was confirmed by Bishop Richard Malone on June 3 and describes his Confirmation day as one of the best days of his life. Preparing for and sharing the sacrament with his close friends, he felt strong faith and love.

"I am blessed!" Gozelski said.



Bishop Richard Malone presents the St. Joseph the Worker Award to Jim Bingeman for his service as volunteer coordinator of the cemetery, assistance with the financial aspects of the auction and picnic and his work for the Nicaragua Mission.



A Catholic Faith Community

6919 Transit Road • P.O. Box 460
Swormville, New York 14051
Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 5
GETZVILLE, NY

Thank you to our 2018 Chowder Chase Sponsors

This month's contributors to the St. Mary's Messenger:

FR. ROBERT YETTER
KAREN KARASZEWSKI
KELLEY CARLSON
GEOFF MOHRING

Tell us what you think of the St. Mary's Messenger! Send an email to Rectory@StMarySwormville.org, or call at 716-688-9380 with your comments or questions.



@StMarySV



Find us on Facebook
StMaryParishSwormville
StMarySchoolSwormville



Copyright © 2018
St. Mary's Church

KUBIAK FINANCIAL

A FINANCIAL ADVISORY PRACTICE OF AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.

