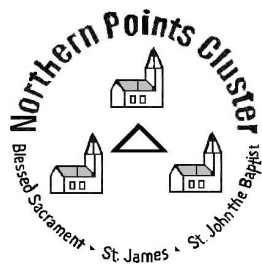


Northern Points Cluster Bulletin

(The weekly cluster newsletter of the Diocese of Albany's Roman Catholic communities serving Northern Warren County)
Rev. John O'Kane, Pastoral Administrator of Blessed Sacrament Church, Hague and St. John the Baptist Church, Chestertown
Sacramental Minister of St. James Church, North Creek
Sr. Francesca Husselbeck, RSM, Parish Life Director of St. James Church, North Creek
Deacon Bob Wubbenhorst, Deacon at Blessed Sacrament Church, Hague and St. John the Baptist Church, Chestertown
Barbara Carlozzi, Cluster Coordinator of Youth Ministry and
Administrative Assistant at St. John the Baptist Church, Chestertown and Blessed Sacrament, Hague



Baptism of the Lord, January 11th, 2009

Blessed Sacrament Church

***P.O. Box 529, Hague, New York 12836
(518) 543-8828***

St. James Church

***P.O. Box 23, North Creek, New York
(518) 251-2518***

St. John the Baptist Church

***P.O. Box 471, Chestertown, New York 12817
(518) 494 5229 Fax (518) 494- 5663 (please call before sending)
Emergency number 494 5229 ext 31***

Northern Points Cluster Website: northernpointscluster.org

Mass Schedule

4:00 pm Saturday Evening Vigil Mass: St. John the Baptist Church, Chestertown

5:30 pm Saturday Evening Vigil Mass: St. James Church, North Creek

8:00 am Sunday: St James Church, North Creek

9:30 am Sunday: St. John the Baptist Church, Chestertown

Weekday Liturgy Schedule

9:00 am Mass, Monday: St. John the Baptist Parish Center, Chestertown

2:00 pm Liturgy, Monday: Adirondack Tri-County Nursing Home, North Creek

9:00 am Mass, Tuesday: Priory, Chestertown

9:00 am Mass, Wednesday: St. James Parish Center, North Creek

(There are no weekday Masses when schools are closed or delayed)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: by appointment

Hospital Visits

Fr. John and Sr. Fran request that you please let us know if you or someone in your family is in the hospital so that we may visit them

Preparation for Baptism and Marriage

St. John the Baptist and Blessed Sacrament please call Fr. John O'Kane at 494-5229 ext 34 and for St. James Sr. Fran Husselbeck at 251-2518

The Second Manifestation of Jesus

Last week in the story of the Magi, we were reminded in the gospel that Jesus' mission and message is also for the Gentiles (that means you and me). Today we hear in the gospel of Mark that Jesus goes down to the riverside to be baptized by John the Baptist. This rite of John's is meant for the participants to embrace a new life that is committed to God and is a public announcement that one is leaving one's old life behind. Jesus embraces this baptism as a means to announce that he is now ready to begin his mission and leave behind his life in Nazareth. In John's recognition of Jesus' purpose, we see the 2nd manifestation of Jesus as the "one to come" to change the status quo. In John's acknowledgement, Jesus is imbued by the Holy Spirit and he is proclaimed to be the Son sent by God, with the power of God to issue in, through his preaching, "good news" to all the world.

What relevance does this hold for us? John's baptismal rite called forth for a change. It meant that one left old ways and renewed the commitment to follow God's ways. This is the beginning of a new year. It is traditional to make new resolutions to better one's life. What better way to implement this concept than to renew our vocations to be committed followers of Christ Jesus? It can be a time for each one of us to be open to the Spirit so that like Jesus, God can act in our lives and look upon us too as Beloved.

As we strive in our own vocations, let us also pray for vocations in our church to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

Sr. Fran



Cluster News

RCIA

We have welcomed three candidates into the program! Classes have been initiated with the next 3 classes on an overview of the Bible. The dates are January 13th, 20th & 27th at 4:30 pm at St. John the Baptist Parish Center. If you would like to join our candidates please call Sr. Fran at 251-2518.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY RAFFLE!

St. James Church

Support the major fund-raising event for the parish by taking a chance for you, your family or as a group.

Many people place several names on the same ticket.

Grand Prize: \$10,000

Contributions of \$110 includes admission to the Gala Party on Saturday, February 21st, 2009 at Echo Lake Lodge in Warrensburg

It will be a fine evening with an exquisite Italian and French Buffet and great music by Frank Conti and his band.

It will start with appetizers and a cash bar at 6:30 pm

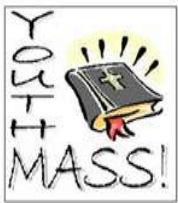
You need not be present to win!!! ONLY 200 tickets sold!!! For a letter with more information, please call Sr. Fran at 251-2518 or contact Joyce Parker (our well-known raffle lady) at number 251-2273.



Priory News

Snow is on the ground and it is very cold but we have been working on the Priory Garage Sale to be held July 19th & 20th. Please take time to clean out your homes, attics and basements and donate items in good condition that you no longer can use. We are available to accept your donations on Wednesday afternoons from 1-3 at the Priory. Please call Sr. Connie at 494-3733 to make certain someone is available to receive the items. Please call Carole Hart at 494-7429 if you have any additional questions. REMINDER: We do not take the following items: televisions, microwaves, mattresses, cassette tapes, big exercise equipment, satellite dishes.

A gracious thank you to all who contributed to the Priory Collection. A generous amount of \$1400 was received.



Youth Ministry: This Sunday classes at St. John the Baptist's Parish Center, in Chestertown 6:00 to 7:30 pm. We will not have class on Sunday, January 18th because of the three day weekend in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s' Day.

Our SOUPER Bowl Mass will be on Saturday, January 31st at 5:30 pm. The collection for this event will go directly to North Country Ministry for food for those in need in our area. All the teens will participate in all of the Liturgical Ministries.

During the break, on Wednesday February 18th, we will be going to Little Gore in North Creek for

tubing & Skiing. More details to follow!

BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

Bible Study will resume Tuesday, January 13th in the Rectory at 7:00 pm.

Saturday, January 24th Blessed Sacrament will assume all Liturgical Roles at the 4:00 pm Mass at St. John the Baptist in Chestertown in an effort to participate in their ministry.



SAINT JAMES PARISH

North Country Ministry: For more information, contact Brother James, Sr. Mary, or Caroline at Leaven House 251-4425

NCM "Babies Place": needs wipes, baby lotion and shampoo; the items may be left at Leaven House.

Elementary Religious Ed: The next class will be January 11th. No class on January 18th due to the holiday.

Cemetery: The revenue we received does not cover the cost of maintaining our Cemetery. Therefore, the price of the grave sites will have to increase. As of February 1st, 2009, it will cost \$450 for a site instead of \$375. We are sorry that the economic times have made this necessity.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Elementary Religious Ed: will continue on Wednesday's from 3-4:15 pm. Please remember to pick up your child(ren) inside the Parish Center.

Wednesday, February 4th the 2nd grade children and their families will receive Reconciliation at 3:30 pm in the Church.