

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, Pastor of the Parish of St. Isaac Jogues

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 of St. Isaac Jogues

Barbara Carlozzi, Cluster Coordinator of Youth Ministry and Administrative Assistant at St. Isaac Jogues

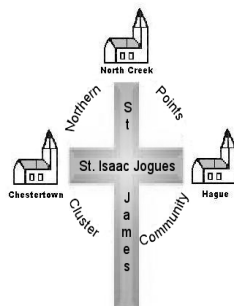
1st Sunday of Lent, February 21st, 2010

Parish of St. Isaac Jogues

Blessed Sacrament & St. John the Baptist Churches

P.O. Box 471, Chestertown, NY 12817

(518) 494-5229 ext 31 for Emergency



St. James Church

P.O. Box 23, North Creek, NY

(518) 251-2518

Northern Points Cluster Website: northernpointscluster.org

Winter 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

(Blessed Sacrament, Hague will resume Palm Sunday 2010)

(Reminder when you go to one of our sister churches, please designate your offertory collection for your own parish)

Weekday Liturgies

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

5:30 pm Mass Monday: St. John the Baptist Parish Center, Chestertown

(followed by the Stations of the Cross)

9:00 am Mass Tuesday: The Priory, Chestertown

(Reminder: There is no Daily Mass at The Priory when school is canceled or delayed)

5:30 pm Liturgy of the Word with Communion Wednesday: St. James Church, North Creek

(followed by soup/supper and presentation)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: by appointment

Preparation for Baptism and Marriage

St. Isaac Jogues please call Fr. John O'Kane at 494-5229 ext 34

for St. James Sr. Fran Husselbeck at 251-2518

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!

The Deacon's Bench Reflection on the First Sunday of Lent

Our world today seems to see religion, and therefore faith, as an annoyance; perhaps as something to be tolerated until a new fad comes along to capture our interest. Will that new craze be a temptation, that if we accept, will send us to depths we would otherwise find unacceptable?

Luke tells us: "When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from him for a time." "For a time" -- if the devil wasn't finished tempting God -- then what about the rest of us?

The Gospel reminds us that during Lent we can look at anything that threatens our ability to follow God, and not be afraid, because Jesus preceded us into the desert, that place of temptation, and will guide us through our own deserts, the places where we stray. There is consolation for us in Lent, even as we reflect on our past, because Jesus has looked into the dark recesses of our lives and has come to rescue us. Just as God rescued the Israelites in their wandering, God will find us and bring us home.

We have these forty days to refocus and make new choices. We have these forty days to choose more positive ways of looking and acting. As we listen to the Lenten scriptures, we have the opportunity to absorb into our hearts and minds what Jesus taught us from the desert: "One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." Lent is a time of renewal that lets God again breathe new life into us through the life-giving Word.



Youth Ministry News: Sunday night there will not be class due to Vacation. Classes will continue on Sunday, February 28th at St. Isaac Jogues, Chestertown. The teens will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Sunday's February 28th and March 7th. The topics will be on Reconciliation, the Forgiveness of Sins and the Anointing of the Sick.

Stations of the Cross

There will be Stations of the Cross on Mondays during lent at St. Isaac Jogues, Chestertown after the 5:30 Mass. If anyone is interest in leading the Stations please let Father John know or call the office at 494-5229.

Save the Date

2010 Retreat for Women, April 9-11, 2010

Theme, "Peace is my gift to you ..." John 14:27 Guest Director: Fr. Neil Draves-Arpaia

Registration 6:45 pm Friday and concludes Sunday at 2:30 pm

A time for rest, quiet, learning and reflection, inner healing, growth, prayer and sharing

Dominican Retreat & Conference Center, Niskayuna, NY

For more information or to register please call Ginny Raymond at 251-3515 or Mary Moro at 320-8337

North Country Ministry

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

Winter raffle with 4 wonderful prizes. \$5 per ticket or 5 for \$20.

Please see the flyer in the back of the church.

Baby's Place is in need of boys and girl's clothing sizes 12 and 18 months and diapers sizes 3, 4, & 5.

"Come to the Table" 2-5 PM on Sunday, February 28th.

This is a Lenten afternoon of renewal, inspiration, and information. This North Country Continuing Adult Faith Enrichment opportunity is valuable for all who love the Eucharist and/or want to better understand how and why this celebration is so central to whom we are as Catholic. This opportunity is especially valuable for Liturgical Minister and Faith Formation Ministers. Our host will be Sacred Heart Church in the Village of Lake George. Please see the poster in the vestibule for details as well as the registration form.



St. James Golden Opportunity Raffle Thank You

For all the benefactors who took a chance with us, we are very grateful.

We met our goal and that means that repair and bills can be addressed in the parish.

Our winners are: Peter, Susan and Antonia Bentel and Dr. Stephen Sparagna.

Marcia Keefe won the 50/50 door prize and donated it back to the parish.

A special thanks to Joyce Parker for all her hard work as the "raffle lady" one again this year.

Also thanks to Frank Conti and his band for the great music.

God Bless everyone for your kindness and generosity.

Lenten Guidelines for Fast and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. As a sign of our penance, we preserve for the Diocese of Albany the custom of abstinence from meat on the Fridays of Lent. Abstinence binds all Catholics who are 14 years of age and older. Fasting binds all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Fasting refers to the quantity of food eaten. Traditionally, fasting calls for only one full meal per day. By retraining these traditions for our Diocese we do not intend that they be interpreted as laws binding under pain of sin, but as customs from which we will not hold ourselves lightly excused. They are expression of our desire to be converted in our hearts, to be reconciled with each other, and to love our neighbor.

Census Jobs are now available. For more information please see the flyers at the back of the Church.

Priory News

Silent Music: A Day of Quiet Reflection Sunday, April 11, 11 am – 4 pm:

This quiet retreat day will include **Taize-style prayer**. Participants will have the options of experiencing various spiritual practices with the intent of enabling a deepening interior silence.

Presenter: Pat Mousaw Donation: \$40/session

ST JAMES PARISH

Elementary Religion: There are no classes in February. We will resume classes Sunday, March 14th.

Lenten Series: Wednesday, February 24th we begin our Lenten Series with Brother Jim. After the 5:30 pm Mass there will be a soup/supper before the presentation. Please check the sign up sheet in the back of the Church for soup, bread and salad.

Parish of St. Isaac Jogues: CHURCHES OF BLESSED SACRAMENT & ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Religious Education: Our outing at Circle B Ranch was rescheduled for Wednesday, February 24th. Circle B is providing for our children and their families horse drawn sleigh rides from 3-4:30 pm. Grades 3-6th will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday, March 3rd. Next Children's Mass will be on Sunday, March 21st. If you have not turned in your permission slip, please do so.

Pastoral Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 22nd at 6:00 pm at St. Isaac Jogues in Chestertown.

Lenten Program: Sr. Connie Messitt from the Priory will present at the Parish Center in Chestertown, Wednesday, February 24th at 6:30 pm a reflection on the Holy Places in Our Lives. Please join us as we begin our Lenten Journey! Save the date, Wednesday, March 3rd Sr. Connie will present Lazarus Promise to Life.

Food Basket Ministry: Will be accepting donations of food and money as Easter approaches. Your donations will help to provide Easter food baskets for local families in need. Watch the bulletin for specific items needed or bring whatever canned goods you can spare. Non-perishable food can be left inside the church near the entrance.