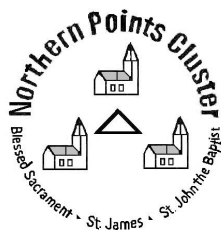


Northern Points Cluster Bulletin

(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
1st Sunday of Lent, March 1st, 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

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

Weekday Liturgy Schedule

5:30 pm Mass followed by Stations during Lent: Monday: St. John the Baptist, Chestertown

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

NO Mass this Tuesday: Priory, Chestertown

5:30 pm Mass followed by Soup Supper & Lenten Presentation, Wednesday: St. James Parish Center, North Creek

(There will not be a weekday Mass on Tuesday's when schools are closed or delayed)

(Please call the offices for all other weekday Masses if there is bad weather!)

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

Change Our Hearts

LENT is the time for prayers, acts of charity, reconciliation and fasting. If we make a conscious effort to go beyond our comfort zones and challenge ourselves, we will renew our spirit. In the first reading, we are reminded of the covenant God makes with Noah. Are we keeping our covenant with God, do we care for all living creatures as God calls us to do?

The gospel asks us to "Repent and believe in the Gospel." We are called and challenged this Lenten Season to change our hearts and become closer to God. Along with personal fasting and sacrifices, consider attending one of the many Lenten prayer opportunities we are offering within our Northern Points Cluster and/or The Northern Café. Happy Lent and good luck to all, during these forty days as we accept God's challenge to change our hearts.

God Bless, Father John



RCIA

Congratulations to Ronda Morris, Shelly Williams and Jedediah Smith. At this weekend's liturgy they were accepted as one of the Elect preparing intensely for their full reception into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

Our next class is this Tuesday, March 3rd with Sr. Connie at 4:30pm at the Priory. The topic is the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Anyone interested in a Pew from St. Teresa's for a donation of \$100, please call Fr. John at 494-5229.

Retreat for Women

Friday, April 3rd through Sunday April 5th, 2009

Dominican Spiritual Life Center, Niskayuna, NY – beginning Friday at 7:30PM until 2:30 PM on Sunday

Conducted by the Dominican Sister and Guest Director: Sr. Carolyn Krebs, OP

Theme: "And know that I am with you always" (Matt 28:20)

For more information contact: Ginny Raymond at (518) 251-3515 or Mary Moro at (518) 251-2016

Winner Takes It All!

That's right! At St. James' Gala the raffle came down to the last two tickets. One person had stated that they were not going to split. Therefore, the raffle continued to the last round and Karrie Vanderwarker who was open to splitting won not just \$5000 but the entire \$10,000! Congratulations Karrie. Also Shawn and Helen Allen won \$300 from the 50/50 evening raffle.



It was a grand time. Thanks to all our benefactors who supported the raffle. You have helped us make ends meet for another year. We are prayerfully grateful.

North Country Ministry News

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

Open house for the Warrensburg Center at 3933 Main St. will be on March 8th from 11AM to 2PM. Included in the open house is a special presentation by Glens Falls National Bank. Please join us to celebrate this wonderful event. **Volunteers are Needed:** On Saturday morning for 2 hours at the NCOC in North Creek. Please call Pat Carr at 251-0185.

Defensive Driving Class offered at St Cecilia's Thursday's 4/16 & 4/23. 4 spots left Call Joe Klewicki at 623-4939 for more information. Average savings of \$300 for 3 years!

Youth Ministry This Sunday, March 1st at St. John the Baptist Parish Center, Laetitia Ratigan from the Albany Family Rosary Office and she will present "Understanding Mary" to our teens. The remainder of the semester will be on Jesus' Death and Resurrection, which will include "Stations of the Cross". Please remember to arrive at 6 pm!
Stations of the Cross: Palm Sunday, April 5th at 6 pm. Please join us for this special presentation lead by the teens!

BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

Frozen Pipes: Our Parish Center sustained major water damage due to frozen pipes. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to restore our beautiful building.

Sunday by Sunday reflecting on Sunday's Scripture Readings Tuesday at 7 pm at Silver Bay.

Saturday March 14th Blessed Sacrament will assume all Liturgical Roles at the 4 pm Mass at St. John the Baptist in Chestertown. This is in preparation for next year when we merge St. John's / Blessed Sacrament's parishes.

SAINT JAMES PARISH

Elementary Religious Ed: Starting next week, March 8th classes will resume. After the Saturday Vigil Mass, March 28th our older children will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The 3rd Graders who will be making their First Communal Reconciliation will be presenting a role play as part of the ceremony.

"Jesus: Servant, Sacrifice & Lover" is a 3 part presentation by Br. James Posluszny on Wednesdays, March 4th, 18th and April 1st following the 5:30 Lenten Mass and Soup Supper.

Pastoral Council Meeting: Thursday, March 26th at 7:00 pm.

Our 125th Jubilee: This is our 125 year as a parish. We will be celebrating on August 16th beginning with a Mass presided over by our Bishop at 12 Noon. Soon a committee will explore ways we can come together.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Elementary Religious Ed: Classes this Wednesday. Grades 3 through 6 will participate in reconciliation on Wednesday, March 18th.

Easter Baskets: Our 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.

Adult Faith Formation: Sr. Fran Gilchrist will present a program on, "Inner Peace", on Wednesday, March 4th at 6:30 pm in the parish center.

St. Patty's Day Party: Saturday, March 14th after Mass. Please sign up to bring a side dish or desert to share and to help where needed. We will be doing a gift exchange, so bring in your "Treasure" (not necessarily new) for this event. Please sign up in the back of the Church. Any questions, call the office at 494-5229.

