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St. James Sponsors Luncheon for Seniors

Waverly — The opportunity for prayer and socializing has attracted several elderly members of St. James Parish to a monthly program. The group first participates in the daily 11 a.m. Mass in St. James Church, and then moves to the rectory for a luncheon.

Organized by Sister Sheila Geraghty and Sister Mary Kruckow of Tioga Rural Ministry, the get-togethers provide an opportunity for the parishioners, many of whom live alone, to get together with

friends, some of whom they have known all their lives.

Eighteen persons attended the Mass Oct. 30, and most of them, all women, moved to the rectory for lunch. The conversation was light, and continued well after the group had finished eating.

Joining the luncheon was Father Edward Foy, St. James pastor.

Sister Sheila noted that for many of the group, the

monthly programs provide an opportunity to see persons they talk to on the telephone, but due to transportation problems, don't see often.

Two women who sat and talked most during the meal were neighbors, and they remarked how seldom they actually met in their neighborhood.

Due to the holidays, the group's next get-together has been tentatively planned for January.



With lunch finished, those attending the senior citizens luncheon in the St. James, Waverly, rectory take a few minutes to talk.

Scout Events Planned

Bath — The Steuben Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, Catholic Committee met at the council office in Bath recently to plan upcoming events.

The group is preparing a council-wide program at which the Parvuli Dei and Ad Altari Dei awards will be presented. A Sunday in February is being considered, with exact arrangements not yet complete.

The committee, chaired by Louis Ferratella of Corning, also is working with the Protestant Committee on Scouting to prepare a retreat weekend for March 27-29, 1981.

At the meeting, the committee also learned that Father Andrew Teuschel, pastor of St. Mary's, Danville, and chaplain of the group, will be developing the Catholic awards program in his area.



Fun and Profit

Eighth graders, from left, Pat Heverly, Virginia Garvey and John Reed, make popcorn as part of a class fund-raising project at Corning Catholic South.

Memorial Mass Announced

Elmira — A memorial Mass will be sponsored by the St. Joseph's Hospital's Pastoral Care Department Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m. in the Little Flower Chapel in the Dunn Memorial.

The Mass will memorialize those who have died at St. Joseph's during the past two months. Families and friends of the deceased are invited to the service and to a social gathering which will follow.



Four priests concelebrated the special Mass marking the 50th anniversary of the dedication of St. Francis Church, Catatunk. From left, Father Alexander Stec, St. Francis pastor for 21 years; Father Eugene Weis, current pastor; Father Elmer Schmidt; St. Margaret Mary, Apalachin, pastor, and Father Thomas Watts, St. Patrick's, Owego, co-pastor.

St. Francis Notes 50th

By Martin Toombs, Southern Tier Editor
Catatunk — The celebration Nov. 2 marking the anniversary of St. Francis Church wasn't just some parishioners celebrating what others had done years ago.

Nearly a quarter of those attending the celebration indicated that they were members of the parish when the first Mass was said in St. Francis Church in 1930.

Also at the celebration of 50 years of service to the Tioga County community were two priests who together led the parish for nearly half of its existence.

The day's events began with a concelebrated Mass in the church, one of the smallest in the diocese, which, with 90 worshippers, was filled to capacity. The group grew to more than 110 for the dinner which followed at the Owego VFW.

Father Alexander Stec, pastor from 1938 until 1959, regaled those attending the dinner with stories of his days as pastor, some featuring parishioners who were present.

At first, he noted, only Polish was spoken in the church, and at one time, the homily and announcements were repeated in Italian, German and English.

Father Eugene Weis, pastor of St. Francis and of St. John the Evangelist, Newark Valley, for the past four years, noted that in 1976, there were 50 families registered in the parish, and now there are 75. The increase recently meant that a second Mass each weekend was added to the schedule.

Father Weis also noted the concern parishioners are now expressing that the church is too small for the parish's needs, especially in its lack of space for religious education

classes. He said that the issue is being studied, and added that the decision on what to do will be made by the parishioners.

Father Weis and Father Stec were joined by Father Thomas Watts of St. Patrick's, Owego, and Father Elmer Schmidt of St. Margaret Mary's, Apalachin, for the Mass concelebrated in the church.

In his homily, Father Weis lauded the accomplishments of the church's members during its 50 years, pointing out the presence of Jesus Christ that the church

represents in the area. He also cited the high level of participation the parishioners maintain, noting that his previous parish, with 2,400 families, had had no members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, while St. Francis has had two. The parish also has a religious vocation, Father Alfred Bebel of the Syracuse diocese.

While the parish has a history of which it can be proud, Father Weis said, "if Church is more than a building," it is important that people not "revel in the past," and lose sight of the "challenge of the future."

Operating Room, Staff To Receive Public

Hornell — An area of the hospital rarely seen by conscious non-professionals will be open to the public in St. James Mercy Hospital Friday, Nov. 14, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

For that hour-and-a-half, the hospital's operating suite will be open to the public, with operating room personnel on hand to conduct tours of the operating rooms, the recovery room, outpatient surgery, and offices.

Visitors will have the opportunity to get acquainted with operating room personnel over refreshments and have their questions answered.

The open house will be a first, according to Mrs. Betty

Harder, RN, operating room supervisor. She noted that when hospital tours were offered, they never included the operating room unit. "The public has blurred views of an operating room," she commented, "and the OR is not as pictured on many of the hospital television shows. Our staff welcomes the opportunity to let the community know what we can do for a patient when surgery is required."

The event is part of a national observance of Operating Nurse Day sponsored by the Association of Operating Room Nurses.

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