

AT YOUR PARISH

St. Helen

The Altar Rosary Society of St. Helen's Church is sponsoring a garage sale, noon-5 p.m., Thursday, June 14; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, June 15; 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Saturday, June 16, in the rectory garage. The sale will include household items, toys, and clothing among other goods.

St. Michael

Newark — St. Michael's first parish festival will take

place 7 p.m.-midnight, June 15; and 5 p.m.-midnight, June 16 in the school parking lot on South Main Street. The public is invited to the event which will feature food and drink for all ages.

St. Rose

Lima — The annual festival and chicken barbecue for St. Rose of Lima Church will begin 4 p.m., Saturday, June 16.

St. Joseph

Penfield — Father James Moynihan, pastor of St. Joseph Church, will celebrate a Charismatic Mass, 8 p.m., Monday, June 25 at St. Joseph's.

St. Patrick

Seneca Falls — "ID A KID," a program of fingerprinting pupils at St. Patrick's School, sponsored by the school and the Seneca Falls Police Department, Waterloo Police Department, and Seneca County Sheriff's Department, took place last week. The event is part of an educational program on making the public aware of child abduction. The Adam Walsh Organization has worked with Brad Jones to organize the service for the school.

Graduation for eighth graders at St. Patrick's School will take place 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 20. A graduation Mass will be followed by a reception.

Lady of Lourdes

Elmira — Parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes Church will honor three departing staffers at the parish school, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Sunday, June 17 in the church hall. The three are Mrs. Jean Ryan, retiring after 15 years service as the school secretary; Sister Raymond Joseph, teacher of music for 15 years, now leaving to take a post as pastoral assistant; and Sister Anne Marie, first grade teacher for 15 years, who is joining the Sisters of Mercy missionary team in Chile.

Blessed Sacrament

Blessed Sacrament Church will hold an open house as part of the Monroe Oxford Festival, June 16 and 17. Church tours, exhibit and information booths and refreshments will be available. The public is invited to the festival's opening ecumenical prayer service, 12:30 p.m., Saturday.

St. Salome

A dual summer program will be offered at St. Salome School July 2-August 10; a diagnostic clinic will be available for pupils in the primary and junior high grades who need intensive diagnosis and correction in reading and basic language skills; courses in math, social studies and science will also be offered at the seventh and eighth grade levels. Further information and registration forms are available from the school (716) 323-1440.



St. James

Marita Vieira, an eighth grader at St. James School, has been awarded a \$250 scholarship as the first place winner in the Catholic War Veterans Essay Contest. Her essay was entitled "Students Acting for Peace." Second place winner of a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond is Jeannine Sojka of Sacred Heart Cathedral; and third place of a \$50 bond is Holly Ann Brennan of Good Shepherd in Henrietta.



St. Boniface

This logo, designed by George Varga, is being used this year to advertise "Spring into Summer," a festival, noon-10 p.m., Saturday, June 23 at St. Boniface Church. Proceeds will be used for the school. Featured will be a baked goods sale, flea market and refreshments.

St. Mary Our Mother

Horseheads — The faculty and pupils of St. Mary Our Mother School here wished their pastor, Father Bartholomew O'Brien, a happy retirement amid tears and laughter, Friday, June 1. Following First Friday Mass, Father O'Brien was presented with a spiritual bouquet, a prayer candle, a giant chocolate chip cookie, and a song written by Mrs. Georgine Rohrer, teacher of the fourth grade. The Mass was followed by a reception during which Father O'Brien greeted each pupil and shared punch and chocolate chip cookies while those awaiting their turn sang Mrs. Rohrer's song.

St. Catherine

Mendon — The children of St. Cathrine's Parish will stage a melodrama, 8 p.m., Saturday, June 30; and 5 p.m., Sunday, July 1.

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Thunder, lightning and heavy rains have disrupted the night but, tired from my trip to Pennsylvania, I have heard little.

At 6 a.m., the unfamiliar heat of the day awakens me enough to throw the blanket off and then, unable to go back to sleep, I get up, make some coffee and drink it in the living room then turn on the TV to find out who has won the final Democratic primaries. But at that time of the morning the commentators are still unclear as to what the final delegate outcome will be.

Before 8, I am dressed and wide awake rejoicing in the promise of the day to come. It is already warm and inviting, the grass wet and sparkling from the sun, my father's new raised garden beds thoroughly soaked as he had hoped.

Getting in the car, I make a couple of turns and go up the hill. (Nearly all of Smethport is on hills, one street above the other.) I take a left and then another right and very soon I am far above the village. I park the car at a particular corner on this isolated section of road and get out.

Directly down below is my brother Paul's home, set in green expanse of lawn with a pond for swimming, white paddock fence and a small red shed attracting my gaze.

All around me are mountains -- or as they call them here, hills. That is the more accurate term. They are the foothills of the Alleghenies, a part of the great Appalachian plateau. These hills are part of me and I of them. Born in a house on such a hill in a town a short distance away, I grew up roaming them, playing in the mountain streams, drinking from the hillside springs.

This morning they are lush and green and topped with a mist which will have burnt off by 11 a.m. or so.

On the hill immediately facing me are evergreens. Maples and other deciduous trees take over halfway up, those at the peak disappearing into the mist, giving no hint of the flaming foliage to come in October.

A white post set in the middle of the evergreens puzzles me for a moment and I tentatively identify it as a salt lick for deer.

A crow caws and another answering call from the opposite hill a mile away resounds over the land. On a lower plane, chattering birds welcome the day.

Where I stand, the green is clipped and manicured, the immediate strip of field outside the area dotted with buttercups.

In the far distance, the sound of truck wheels on Route 6 produce a muffled sound and once I hear a solitary car horn.

Kitty-corner from me I can see the bell tower of the courthouse through the trees and a little farther to the east, the spire of St. Elizabeth's where my youngest brother and sister were baptized, four of us were married and 2½ years ago my mother's funeral Mass took place.

I look back to the immediate area around me, drinking in the peace, the quiet, the beauty. My gaze drifts down now to the flat, rectangular piece of rose-mottled marble at my feet, with my mother's name and the date, 1917-1981. My father has placed a small urn of geraniums and pink petunias near the imbedded slab.

The sounds, the sights and the fragrant scent of the hills crowd in on me and I think that as a resting place, this comes as close to heaven as one might hope for.

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