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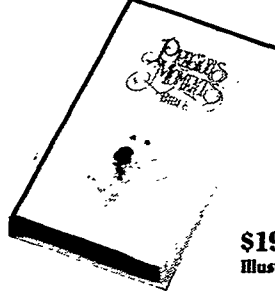
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Around the Diocese

Bishop rededicates church

St. Mary, Canandaigua — Bishop Matthew H. Clark presided at a Mass to mark the rededication of the restored and renovated church building on Tuesday, Dec. 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Parishioners, former parishioners and staff members, local clergy and representatives of such organizations as the Knights of Columbus and the Father Paul J. Lynch Color Corps attended the liturgy, which was concelebrated by St. Mary's pastor, Father James Burke, and Fathers Ronald Frederick and B. Thomas Celso.

The restoration included installation of a new marble altar and pulpit, and new heating and sound systems. The interior of the church was completely redecorated, the Stations of the Cross refurbished and painted, and new carpeting installed.

While subcontractors carried out most of the renovation work, Father Burke remodeled the vestry area.

The December 8 celebration also marked the return of parish services to the church building. While repairs were underway, Masses were celebrated in the school gym and in a local movie theatre.

Mass, party begin 100th year

Corpus Christi, Rochester — The parish will enter its 100th year with a special anniversary Mass at 7 p.m. on New Year's Eve, December 31. A celebration of appreciation for parishioners will follow the Mass. Admission to the party and dance will be free, but reservations are needed by Monday, Dec. 28. For information, contact the rectory, (716) 325-2424, Jean Laut, 223-0045, or Betsy Inglis, 377-9213.

Parish plans holiday events

St. Mary's, Rochester — Organist Phillip Lioi, a string quartet, and St. Mary's choir will present traditional Christmas carols, service music and anthems at the parish's Christmas midnight Mass December 25.

French Christmas carols from the 17th Century to the contemporary era will be featured during the 20-minute prelude to Mass.

Earlier on Christmas Eve, the Liturgy of the Word will be proclaimed through narration, pantomime and music, and the children of St. Mary's will re-enact the Christmas Gospel at the annual family Mass, which begins at 4 p.m.

St. Mary's also plans a gala New Year's Eve celebration preceding the City of Rochester's annual fireworks display. The evening will begin with Mass at 9:30 p.m. Members of the East Avenue Baptist Temple will attend the service, renewing ties established during the city's sesquicentennial celebration. Father James Lawlor, pastor of St. Mary's, will celebrate the liturgy, and the Episcopal Bishop of Rochester, William G. Burrill, will present the homily.

Parish Notes

Following the Mass, a party which in previous years has drawn as many as 500 participants will lead up to the fireworks display.

For information on holiday celebrations at St. Mary's, contact the rectory at (716) 232-7140.

School to host open house

Blessed Sacrament, Rochester — Staff at the junior high school plan an open house for interested fifth-, sixth- and seventh-graders on Thursday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m.

Students and parents are invited to tour the school building, meet staff members and faculty, observe demonstrations and enjoy refreshments.

The school is located at 546 Oxford Street, on the corner of Oxford and Monroe. For information, contact (716) 473-3937.

Community dedicates center

St. Dominic, Shortsville — Parishioners celebrated the realization of a four-year-old dream with the dedication of their new parish center.

Parishioners and members of the Shortsville and Manchester communities gathered for a blessing and dedication ceremony Sunday, Dec. 6, at 11:30 a.m., followed by a reception and open house in the new center.

Built at a cost of approximately \$300,000, the center provides classrooms for religious education, and a kitchen, which has been equipped with dishes, silverware, pots and pans by the parish's women's group. Thanks to a design that incorporates movable partitions, the classrooms can be converted to larger spaces for parish functions.

Retreat focuses on prayer

St. Mary Our Mother, Horseheads — The parish will sponsor seven days of directed prayer January 23 through January 30.

Led by Joyce Trifoso, Father Robert Ring, Sister Judy Reger, SSS, and Sister Peg Ganley from the Sisters of St. Joseph Spirituality Ministry in Toronto, the week will offer an opportunity to make a directed retreat in the midst of daily living.

The retreat is based on a half-hour prayer exercise, which participants can do in their homes, and a half-hour of spiritual direction offered at the parish. Group sessions are also planned at the church on the beginning and ending Saturdays.

For information or to register, contact the rectory, (607) 739-3817, by Saturday, Dec. 19.

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Members of the Women's Guild from St. John the Evangelist Parish in Greece sponsored a three-part program earlier this month on the Blessed Mother's reported appearance at Medjugorje.

Guest speaker Father Albert Shamon described the insights he has gained from two pilgrimages to the site in Yugoslavia where apparitions are said to be taking place. Father Shamon also encouraged renewed commitment to the rosary, fasting and sacrifice. Participants in the program watched video presentations of the Medjugorje apparitions, as well as movies and slides on the mysteries of the rosary.

The series concluded on Thursday, Nov. 19, with a Living Rosary led by 35 girls from Brownie and Junior Girl Scout Troops 191, 426, 429, and 462.

St. John Fisher College has welcomed three new members to its communications staff. Meredith M. Keller, formerly director of the school promotion office for the Rochester City School district, has been chosen director of college communications. Rochester resident Virginia Keck, formerly publications assistant for the Eastman School of Music's Office of Development, has been named assistant director of communications. Luke W. Miller will serve as communications associate, responsible for college-wide media relations, including sports information. Miller has worked as a staff reporter for the Daily Messenger in Canandaigua.

John Hoover has been named the co-captain of the men's basketball team at St. John Fisher College.

A 1983 graduate of the Aquinas Institute, Hoover is the son of John and Virginia Hoover of Rochester. The 6-4 forward led the Cardinals in steals with 33 last season and finished fourth in scoring with 9.5 points per game.

Neighbors

Aquinas Institute Seniors Nadia Reynolds and Aaron Mecheau have scored in the top six percent among more than 80,000 black students participating in the 1988 Achievement Program. The program, part of the PSAT/MNSQT test, recognizes young black men and women who demonstrate academic promise by submitting their names to colleges and universities throughout the United States.



Aquinas Institute's Marching Band lent a festive note to Charles Settlement House's "Celebration of Thanks" Thursday, Nov. 19. The event was organized to offer thanks to Citibank of New York State, which donated \$15,000 for a 12-seat van, and to neighborhood volunteers, whose ethnic cookbook sales helped raise the funds for a second smaller van. Surrounded by members of the bank are (from left to right) Gail Blanchard, executive director of the settlement house; Frederick Heier, president of the house's board of directors; and John Tassie, Citibank's area director.