

# a Young

## How was your

# Lent spent?



### Events

For information on these events, call Nora Bradbury-Haehl, program specialist for diocesan youth and young adult ministry, at 585/328-3210, ext. 218, or visit the diocese's Web site at [www.dor.org](http://www.dor.org). Click on departments, then evangelization and catechesis, and then young adult ministry. Odyssey is the diocesan-sponsored young adults network.

**Friday, April 5:** Retreat on "The Spirituality of Parenting"; Canandaigua Inn on the Lake; 6-10 p.m.; \$30 per person, \$50 per couple, includes dinner. For optional overnight stay at the Inn on the Lake, contact hotel for special \$65 room rate, 1-800-228-2801.

**Saturday, April 6:** Game night, St. Thomas More Church, 2617 East Ave., Brighton, 7-11 p.m. Bring your favorite game and a snack to share.

**Sunday, April 14:** Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church, 534 Oxford St., Rochester, 12:15 p.m. Young adults welcome. Parish will provide a simple meal and short program after the Mass.

**Thursday, April 18:** Theology on Tap, Johnny's Irish Pub (Johnny's Smoke Free), 1382 Culver Road, Rochester, 8-10 p.m.

**Thursday, April 18:** Odyssey Dinner, Woody's II, 2758 W. Henrietta Rd., Henrietta, 7 p.m. RSVP by April 17.

**Friday, April 19:** Taize prayer (chanted), chapel, Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, 1437 Blossom Road, Brighton; 8 p.m. For information, contact Sister Kathleen Wayne, RSM, 585/288-2710, ext. 109, or at [kawmercyroch@yahoo.com](mailto:kawmercyroch@yahoo.com).

Taize prayer information is available at [www.taize.fr](http://www.taize.fr).

**Sunday, April 21:** Odyssey visit to St. Charles Borromeo Church, 3003 Dewey Ave., Greece; 9:30 a.m. Mass.

**Saturday, April 27:** Hike; time and place to be announced.

Last year, David and Stacy Rappold, parishioners at St. John of Rochester Parish in Fairport, gave up swearing for Lent. They deposited \$5 in a jar each time they broke their promise.

The proceeds were to be donated to the American Cancer Society. One day \$50 wound up in the jar, said David, 32.

"It was a bad day," his wife added.

This year, the Rappolds chose a less expensive way to mark Lent, deciding to try to attend Mass together each Sunday. Stacy, 33, is an alto in the parish choir, which sings at 9 a.m. Mass. In the past, David said he had to miss Mass some Sundays because of a job in the retail industry. He said he recently decided to switch jobs, in part, so that he would never miss Sunday Mass with his wife again. David also joined the parish men's club this Lent and is going to church more often.

Stacy, a parish catechist, said some of the younger people she teaches today don't see Lent as a special time of sacrifice and good works as previous generations of Catholics did.

"I think we still try to make it an important time for us," she said of herself and her husband.

Lent apparently remains a special time for many Catholic young adults. However, unlike older Catholics who grew up associating Lent mostly with giving something up, many younger Catholics consider Lent a time to focus on doing something positive as well.

Take Amanuel Wolde, for example. Wolde, 34, is chaplain at Monroe Community College and a former DeLaSalle Brother. He is now married with one child. He and his wife, Cathy Vida, decided to prepare an elaborate meal every Lenten Saturday evening for someone they knew who was living alone. After dinner, they invited their guest to read and discuss the Scripture readings for that weekend's Mass.

### Story by Rob Cullivan

Wolde said, adding that none of their guests turned down the invitation to discuss the readings.

"The whole act of reaching out to people who we thought had very little social life makes us closer to the spirit of the Gospel," he said.

Laura Bishop, 28, a parishioner at St. Salome's Church in Irondequoit, went on a diocesan-sponsored retreat for young adults at Canandaigua Inn on the Lake March 1 and 2. Currently pursuing a master's degree in theology at St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry in Rochester, Bishop said the retreat inspired her to concentrate on the corporal works of mercy, charitable acts that serve the bodily needs of one's neighbors. Among the works she pursued this Lent, she said, were visiting an inmate she knows and donating money to feed the hungry.

Her friend, Jean Derby, 38, serves with Bishop on the planning committee for Odyssey, the diocesan-sponsored network for young adults. A parishioner at St. Thomas More Church, Brighton, she also went on the March 1-2 retreat. She said her participation in the event was part of a larger effort to deepen her prayer life this Lent. For example, she said, retreat-goers used one method of praying by imagining themselves as part of a Scripture story. She said she saw herself as Peter in the story of Jesus walking on the water, the water into which Peter sank when he became afraid.

"I was contemplating how sometimes fear can take you under, but you realize that Christ is there, so it can't happen or it's not so scary," she said.

Joe McCart, 41, attends Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester, and plans to go there for Holy Thursday services today. Afterward, he and his mother will visit six other neighboring churches, a tradition his mother brought over from her native Spain, he said.

"You get a feeling as to all the other different parishes around town," he said. "You meet a bunch of people, and it's a positive thing."

Tammy Hogan, 36, a relative of the late Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, said she's concentrated simply on fulfilling her Sunday Mass obligation this Lent. Hogan attends Holy Cross Church in Charlotte, but acknowledged that she hasn't always made it to Mass each weekend.

"Sometimes I'll miss it for whatever reason," she said. "We can come up with a million excuses not to get motivated to go. It's important for me to go to Mass because God is what guides me, and good things happen to me because of him and only through him, so I have to find time for him."

Amy Upham, a fifth-year student at the State University of New York College at Geneseo, started a Lenten series of weekly discussions for her fellow students about the church's sexual teachings. Upham did so with Ken Tangel, a liturgical intern who works for the campus' Newman Community for which Upham volunteers. The Newman Community has also sponsored an interfaith Bible study group this Lent, Tangel said.

Upham added that she traveled to Utica from March 22-25 with other Newman members to participate in various ministries, including work with women and refugees. Upham said she is interested in such work since she plans to become a member of the Catholic Worker movement.

"This trip seems especially prudent at the end of a season marked by personal and communal reflection and change," she said. "The celebration of the resurrection of Jesus is a call to action, a call for all of us to allow God to resurrect us from any personal and communal weaknesses that have been holding us back from helping one another."

Gina A. DeMauro, 30, attends St. Michael's Church, Rochester. This Lent she concentrated on the season's meaning, and decided it was about ridding oneself of things that bind one's spirit, including lust, greed and hate. She may have been the most poetic of all the young adults interviewed when asked what the season meant to her.

"Lent is the time for us to become spiritually renewed like Lazarus, to believe like Martha, to be brave like Veronica, to receive the invitation like the Samaritan at the well," she said. "Like Jesus, we are called to do all things for the glory of God."