

St. Mary's Church  
86 Church Hill Road  
Waterford, NY 12188



# St. Mary's CRESCENT CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

January 25, 2016

Volume 2, Issue 2

Feast of St. Paul the Apostle

We want to connect  
with you!

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[smcsec@nycap.rr.com](mailto:smcsec@nycap.rr.com)

Faith Formation Office:  
371-9521  
[smcsecff@nycap.rr.com](mailto:smcsecff@nycap.rr.com)

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## Never pick up hitchhikers...

“Never be in a hurry;  
do everything quietly and in a calm spirit.

Do not lose your inner peace for  
anything whatsoever, even if your  
whole world seems upset.”

St. Francis de Sales

We'd never allow our kids to talk to strangers. Yet many of us adults spend time thinking about people we've never met - sports figures, actors, musicians and comedians. And for what? Are they of more value than we are? I'll bet you have far more interesting things to say than the most followed person on Twitter.

Our culture of celebrity worship hides our peace from us by inviting us to tie up our worth and value in other people rather than ourselves. And it's not just the famous. We all know people personally who rob us of our peace. You can probably think of a few right now.

One individual who robs us of our peace is behind the little voice inside our heads. You know the

one. It whispers about how you're going to fail, or what a terrible person you are, or how you're ruining your kids' lives. Dealing with that voice is a spiritual battle. And no, that isn't a bad word to people of peace, because this is a battle over our souls. The good news is that we're on the winning side when we put ourselves in God's hands and trust completely in his goodness and love.

Some might think talk of the enemy belongs to another century or to people of superstition. But Pope Francis, who is neither superstitious nor old-fashioned, often warns us to be vigilant in fighting evil: "I believe that the Devil exists," he wrote. "His greatest achievement in these times has been to make us believe that he doesn't exist."

Of course, getting obsessed over evil can rob us of our peace too. So when that voice starts speaking to us, or when anyone threatens to steal our peace, we trust in the power of God:

*Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed; I am your God. I will strengthen you, and help you, and uphold you with my right hand of justice (Isaiah 41:10).*

One way people steal our peace is by encroaching on our time. So teach your family to respect everyone's time. For instance, starting a conversation with, "Do you have a few minutes?" and then talking for an hour doesn't respect another's time. Take an honest look at your calendar and see where you can eliminate unnecessary commitments. Ask yourself if your free time pursuits are healthy for everyone in your family. Help your children develop healthy routines that include time for relaxation and especially prayer.

A prayer for us all:

**God of life and love, give us your saving light in the darkness, your strength in our troubles and your peace forever. Amen.**

excerpt from the booklet [Peace Begins with Us](#) by  
Connie Clark



“Don't give up  
chocolate this Lent!”

Best Lent Ever is a free Lenten Program delivered to you daily via your computer or mobile device.

Each day of Lent 2016, you will receive a two minute video that will take you through [Rediscover Jesus](#).

To receive this free Lenten Program, go to:

[www.dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever](http://www.dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever) to register and to learn more.

## Ash Wednesday

### February 10, 2016

Ashes will be distributed at:

9:00 am - Mass at St. Mary's, Crescent

12:00 pm - Mass at Corpus Christi Church

4:30 pm - Service at St. Mary's, Crescent

6:30 pm - Service at Corpus Christi Church

6:30 pm - Service at St. Mary's, Crescent

**Holy Year of Mercy**  
 December 8, 2015 - November 20, 2016

*"It is a favorable time to heal wounds,  
 a time to offer everyone the way of  
 Forgiveness and Reconciliation."  
 - Pope Francis*



**Corporal Works of Mercy**

- To Feed the Hungry
- To Give Drink to the Thirsty
- To Clothe the Naked
- To Shelter the Homeless
- To Care for the Sick
- To Visit the Imprisoned
- To Bury the Dead

**Spiritual Works of Mercy**

- To Convert Sinners
- To Instruct the Ignorant
- To Advise the Doubtful
- To Comfort the Sorrowful
- To Bear Wrongs Patiently
- To Forgive Injuries
- To Pray for the Living and Dead

*"A Time to Heal, to Help, to Forgive."*

JOIN us for HOLY WEEK  
 and EASTER LITURGIES

Palm Sunday - March 19/20, 2016

Palm distributed at all  
 St. Mary's, Crescent Masses:  
 Saturday at 4:30 pm  
 Sunday at 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Holy Thursday - March 24, 2016

Holy Thursday Mass at 7:00 pm  
 Corpus Christi Church, Round Lake

Good Friday, March 25, 2016

Stations of the Cross at 3:00 pm  
 St. Mary's Church, Crescent  
 Good Friday Service at 7:00 pm  
 St. Mary's Church, Crescent

Easter Vigil Mass

St. Mary's, Crescent  
 Saturday, March 26, 2016  
 8:00 pm  
 A Mass of Light, Word,  
 Water & Eucharist

Easter Morning Masses

St. Mary's, Crescent  
 Sunday, March 27, 2016  
 7:30 am  
 9:00 am  
 11:00 am

## Holy Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has asked all Catholics to observe the Holy Year of Mercy (that began on December 8, 2015 and continues through November 20, 2016).

Pope Francis is asking all of us to grow in awareness of God's Great Love and Mercy toward each of us. And, having experienced the Love and Mercy of God, ourselves; the Pope reminds us to share what we have received: God's Love and Mercy with one another, with everyone!

*"Let us open our hearts so that we may become  
 doors of God's grace and mercy."*

Bishop Edward Scharfenberger



## "PRAY for ONE"

This Lent (and hopefully beyond), pray for one person (or more) that they will come to know the Lord and His love and mercy more deeply.

## JOIN US for a FREE PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET

St. Mary's Parish Hall, Crescent  
 Sunday, March 20, 2016

**9:00 am to Noon**

Get your FREE ticket(s)  
 after the weekend masses of  
 March 5/6 and March 12/13 in church  
 or by calling the office.

*(to help have food for all)*

Sponsored by the Building Bridges Committee  
 Benefiting our Sister Parish in Guatemala  
 Donations accepted at the Breakfast

## An Editorial from Our Sunday Observer

There is much good news to report regarding vocations.

However counterintuitive it may seem, we have witnessed a resurgence of vocations since the sexual abuse scandals. A new generation of priests- energized by World Youth Day, by evangelization movements and by the powerful witness of our popes - is coming of age.

New priests today are often stereotyped as being more conservative than their immediate predecessors. Such generalizations fail to do justice to the variety of ways these young men have experienced their vocational call, however, and how they have lived out their vocation in the world after ordination.

They are bringing a new energy to liturgy and prayer, to social justice and youth outreach and public witness. And as their priestly experience deepens, their pastoral hearts grow. For all of these blessings, we should give thanks go God.

Yet we are not out of the woods yet. In many diocese, more priests will be retiring in the next decade than will be replaced by the newly ordained. These dedicated and energetic young men have answered the Lord's clarion call for more workers in his vineyards. It is critical that they are not overworked until they burn out prematurely but are refreshed, renewed and strengthened for a long life of service. Once upon a time, an associate pastor may have served as understudy for 10 or 20 years before becoming a pastor. Today, in many diocese, it is much more likely that a young man will get his own parish within three to five years.

This acceleration of responsibility is handled well by many, but every diocese has stories of young men - often very idealistic and orthodox - who walk away in the first several years of their priesthood. In addition, middle-aged priests who have often served for years but slowly burn out under the weight of expectations and responsibilities sometimes call it quits as well. We have too few priests to be so extravagantly neglectful of the vocations with which we have been blessed. Many diocese are recognizing this, and they are seeking ways to support their men. Fellowship, retreats, ongoing spiritual formation and the sharing of best practices are all necessary. Some diocese are bringing in priestly support programs like "Good Leaders, Good Shepherds" from the Catholic Leadership Institute to strengthen priestly management and leadership skills. Renewal movements like Cursillo or priestly fraternities are offering opportunities for spiritual refreshment.

But the laity must be engaged as well. We who are the lay members of the People of God cannot sit in our pews and be passive spiritual consumers of parish services. Parishioners often do a good job of complaining about what a parish doesn't do for them or how the pastor is letting them down. Yet what is needed today are parishioners who pray for their priests on a regular basis. What is needed today are not just financially generous parishioners but fellow Catholics who extend fellowship to their priests, who avoid gossip, who work beside them and for them to meet the many demands of parish life. The good Lord is blessing us with vocations even though more are needed. What is expected of us now, however, is to support the men we have been given. Ask not what your priest can do for you. Ask what you can do for your priest.

**YOUR  
GENEROSITY  
MAKES  
ALL OF THIS  
POSSIBLE**  
THANK YOU.

Thank you to all of the St. Mary's, Crescent parishioners who responded so generously to our recent parish Sustainable Offertory Campaign: **Alone we can do so little; Together we can do so much!**

Your efforts will help to continue the Mission and Ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every member of our Parish and beyond.

It is only with the sustained weekly financial support of every Parishioner, every family of our Parish, that we can be and continue to be a vital and vibrant Parish Community that is called to be and to bring Jesus to one another, especially our children, those in need, our grieving, and so many others.

## Wednesdays of Lent

Where: St. Mary's Church, Crescent

**February 10, 2016**

Ash Wednesday

(see schedule on front page)

**February 17, 2016**

6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross in Church

**February 24, 2016**

6:30 pm - Taize prayer in Church

**March 2, 2016**

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Confessions in church

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Confessions in church

**March 9, 2016**

6:30 pm - An Evening of Reflection w/ Sr. Monica

(session is for women only, in the Parish Hall)

**March 16, 2016**

6:30 pm - The Works of Mercy in church

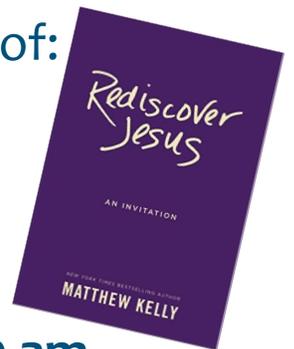
(a special Lenten Presentation by our Youth)



# Visit our Parish Kiosk!

St. Mary's Church, Crescent  
In the Gathering Area of Church  
pick up your FREE COPY of the book  
Rediscover Jesus by Matthew Kelly

At the Weekend Masses of:  
**Saturday & Sunday**  
**February 6 & 7, 2016**  
**Saturday at 4:30 pm**  
**Sunday at 8:00 am & 10:30 am**



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## Weekend Mass Schedule:

**Saturday Vigil Mass**

**4:30 pm**

**Sunday Masses**

**8:00 am & 10:30 am**

Contact Us

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[www.stmaryscrescent.org](http://www.stmaryscrescent.org)

A Roman Catholic Faith Community committed to prayer, presence, witness, and support.