

## SMC Newsletter July 2021

Hello everyone! Summer is in full bloom. We have returned to full communion and we have a Parish picnic coming up (more info to follow). Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and stay safe everyone. Please send me any information you would like included for next time. Many blessings, Patty

St Mary's Church is having a **Parish Picnic after church on Sunday, July 25, 2021**. Hamburgers, hotdogs, veggie burgers, veggie sausages, lemonade, and iced tea will be supplied. Please bring a potluck dish or desert to share. Also bring any lawn games that you would like to play. We look forward to seeing you all there! Let's pray for good weather.

If anyone has an extra gas grill that we can use that day, that would be helpful. Volunteers always welcome.



### An Update from Valerie for the ECW.

St. Mary's ECW has had a busy month in June.

We helped to plan and prepare for a reception for after the funeral of Mark La Mere.

On June 11th we had our first fundraiser dinner in quite a while. The bar-b-que chicken dinner was a big success in many ways. 90 dinners were prepared and sold out in less than 1 hour! Financially, due to dinner receipts and many very generous contributions from people both in and outside the parish, we made \$1,367 to use to help the ECW in their work to support our church and community. In addition to the financial return, it was a wonderful parish-wide experience of getting together to help support the event in multiple ways. Just about everyone in the parish had a hand in helping to make this dinner a success from planning, preparing, pie-baking and slicing, packing or purchasing a dinner. Thanks to all involved including the ECW women and the ECW auxiliary men.

Due to a variety of reasons, we have decided to forgo the Summer Bazaar for this year. So now we can begin to focus on our Annual Christmas Bazaar. It may seem a long way away, but now is the time to start thinking about crafts to donate, and new items that can be used for the Fishbowl. Keep your eyes open for items that may be usable in our Fishbowl - including baskets.

The ECW is giving a donation of \$200 to the Methodist church's breakfast program. This program provides a breakfast for children attending the school's summer recreation program at Stuart M. Townsend Middle School. In addition to helping financially, volunteers are needed to help pack and deliver the breakfasts to the classrooms from July 6 through July 30. See Jeanne Mayo if you can give some time to this program.

The ECW is now holding their meetings after church on the 1st Sunday of each month. However, in July due to the 4th being on Sunday and Daughters of the King on the 11th, we will meet on Sunday, July 18th after the service. We hope that all women in the parish will be able to attend.



## An Update from Noel and WHI at Christ the King Healing Center

The Welcome Home Initiative® ministers healing for military veterans who have served their country in combat or any other service context that has caused suffering in varying degrees from post-traumatic stress or moral injury, and are in need of soul repair. Spouses too are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Our program helps veterans and spouses understand the hidden impact of combat and trauma, and provides a safe place for emotional healing. This essential spiritual and emotional healing is a complement to healing received from psychiatric and social services. **July 8-10 is the WHI Retreat for Women.**



## An Update from Meryl on Birthdays

The birthdays for July are:

Bruce Clark & Jacquie Walker July 2nd, Karen Love July 11th, Chris Roe July 13th, Peter Watts July 15th, and Jeanne Mayo July 17th.

The anniversaries for July are:

Bob & Marianne Coates July 2nd.

Please give Meryl your birthdate so we don't forget anyone's birthday! You do not need to give the year!

Please notify Meryl of any upcoming anniversaries. Photos are also welcome from these occasions.



## Bible studies/Book Club/DOK.

Fr. Lou will continue to have a service at 10am on Wednesdays - followed by a bible study in the Parish Hall. Beginning July 7th, Fr. Lou will be showing and discussing episodes of **The Chosen** on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm. It is the #1 crowd-funded media project in entertainment history and the first multi-season show about the life of Jesus Christ and his disciples. It will be on going and all are welcome. (<https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen>)

For those of us already watching the series: What character always recollects Isaiah 43:1(ESV)? But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."

The DOK continues to read Liturgy of the Ordinary. We are now reading Chapter 3. The next meeting for the DOK is Sunday, July 11, after church in the Parish Hall.



### Camp Scholarships.

St Mary's Church is offering several over-night full scholarships to **Beaver Cross Camps** in Greenwich, NY (<https://www.beavercrossministries.org/camps--retreats.html>). Recipients must live in the Hadley-Luzerne area. The camp emphasizes faith, friendship, and fun. Campers explore and deepen their faith through dynamic teaching and fun themed activities and games. Camps are from **July 4<sup>th</sup> – Aug 20<sup>th</sup>**, all ages.



### Coffee Hour Update.

Coffee hour is every Sunday after church. Please sign up to volunteer to help. We need 1-2 volunteers per Sunday. A suggested topic of conversation for coffee hour is your **favorite 4<sup>th</sup> of July ritual or story**.

From Meryl - On July 4th and at other times when I first came to live in America, I found it rather ironic that there is a Patriotic hymn "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" sung to the same music as 'God Save The Queen' !!!

It was quite difficult to sing these unfamiliar words!!!

And were those rebels not so rebellious after all? I thought.

But I discovered the story of this patriotic song dates back to the year 1831 when Samuel Francis Smith, a 24-year-old Baptist seminary student, was attending the Andover Theological Seminary in Massachusetts. Smith was asked to translate a few German songbooks. And he came across a Lutheran hymn called "God Bless Our Native Land," which was said to be set to the English melody of "God Save the King." Smith was inspired by the song's connection between faith and patriotism and set out to write an American version, one with different lyrics but the same basic tune.

"My Country, 'Tis of Thee" was first performed by a children's choir in Boston, Massachusetts, in July of 1831. The song's popularity grew, and it quickly became the unofficial national anthem of the United States.

Reading this made me wonder who else uses this tune? and I discovered the melody continues to be used not only for the national anthem of [Liechtenstein](#), "[Oben am jungen Rhein](#)", and the royal anthem of [Norway](#), "[Kongesangen](#)". The melody was also in the past used for the national anthem '[Heil dir im Siegerkranz](#)' of the German Empire from 1871 to 1918 and as "[The Prayer of Russians](#)", the imperial anthem of Russia from 1816 -1833.

I hope you found this as interesting as I did.

Now as an American I can sing with pride this Patriotic hymn.

"My Country, 'Tis of Thee".

Happy 4th of July. 🇺🇸



### 8am Services at the Park.

St. Mary's Church is sharing with Rockwell Falls Presbyterian 8am Sunday morning services at the Benjamin C. Butler Pavilion Park in Lake Luzerne starting in July.



## Diocesan Representative.

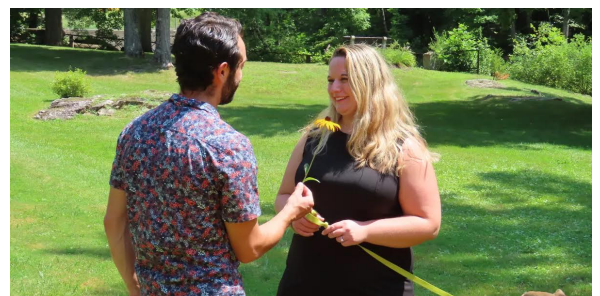
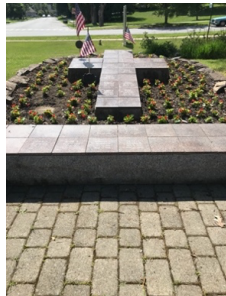
In mid-June the Standing Committee of our diocese issued a “call to election” for the next Bishop of Albany, who will succeed Bishop Love. This process, expected to last at least 18 months, is beginning with the election of a Profile and Search Committee. The committee will be made up of one clergy representative and one lay representative from each of the eight deaneries in the diocese, plus six at-large members appointed by the Standing Committee—for a total of 22 voting members. Our Southern Adirondack deanery, comprised of 9 parishes, met in a convocation on June 19 and selected Fr. Tom Pettigrew of Holy Cross in Warrensburg and **Barbara Breen of St. Mary’s** as its representatives on the Profile and Search Committee. There is an excellent video, produced by the Standing Committee and found on the Episcopal Transitions page of the diocesan website, which gives a helpful and thorough overview of the process that will lead to the election of the 10th Bishop of Albany. **Congratulations Barbara!! Thank you.**

## Prayers and Prayer Requests.

**July prayer requests:** Joyce L., Alex, Jessica, Liza, Spencer, Azel, Barbara L., Angela, Gayle, Alyce R., Pat S., Greta H., David & Beanie F., Alex, John and Jane, Peter & Nancy W., Nancy C., Jane C., Delia R-D., John G, Rita & Tony G., Ted G., Wendy A., Mark M., for our community’s youth and the men and women in law enforcement and in the armed forces of our country, the victims and families of the COVID-19 pandemic, those who need healing from the virus, healthcare workers and first responders who are confronting this disease, and those who are struggling with isolation or emotional distress due to the pandemic.

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Bishops William Love & Daniel Herzog, and their families. For the Standing Committee and for Holiness of life in every Episcopalian. Additionally, please see: <https://albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/prayer/jnm>

Please contact Erich Kaminsky by email at [erichkaminsky@ yahoo.com](mailto:erichkaminsky@yahoo.com) or by phone or text at 518.502.4075 with updates.



## Odds and Ends.

Picture of Barbara, Lucinda, and baby Bo - who is 1+ months old. He was 6lbs. 10 oz. at birth and now is over 8lbs. Congratulations Barbara for being a new grandmother!

Picture of the new flowers around the Columbarium. Thank you Barbara Breen. Thank you to the men of the parish for planting the other flowers in front of the church.

Congratulations to Michaela & Richard who were married last year during COVID, and are having a larger wedding celebration Sunday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

From Ruth: A poem that is one of my everyday readings. Thank you Ruth.

I have no love for palaces  
of marble, steel, or stone.  
Oh, give me just a little place  
that I can call my own.

A little place where flowers bloom.  
An apple tree for shade.  
Where I can watch the green grass grow  
carefree and unafraid.

An old stone wall; a country lane;  
for eager feet to trod.  
to a little place upon a hill  
where I feel close to GOD!

## **A note from Barb L.**

Barb wishes to express her extreme appreciation to the St. Mary's family for their ongoing prayers, daily transport to and from Albany Med during Mark's time there, an ever-stocked refrigerator, a funeral that was a befitting send-off for the man of faith and much-loved friend that Mark was to many, and a wonderful reception afterward. There's no doubt that Barb and Mark's connecting to St. Mary's was part of a much bigger plan!

For those that missed Mark's obituary here it is:

Mark La Mere, age 62, a man of great faith, and also of many hats and volunteering t-shirts, on June 6, 2021, passed into the eternal light of God's presence as the result of a severe hemorrhagic stroke that occurred at his home on the night of May 21-22. There seemed to be no indication that this might occur. No high blood pressure, no physical complaints, apparently only God's urgency to bring him home.

His faith led him to complete the Formation for Ministry Program of the Albany Catholic Diocese. He taught Faith Formation classes for many years at St Mary's/ St. Paul's Church in Hudson Falls. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, a past Grand Knight, and a member of the Knights' 4 th Degree Color Corps. He and wife Barbara Brewer La Mere participated for many years in a clown ministry that presented "The Way of the Cross in the Company of Clowns" in various churches on the Fridays (and Wednesdays, too, if there was enough demand) of Lent. In recent years, Mark began a ministry of passing out little leather crosses he made, many inscribed with "Love" or "Faith." Passing these crosses to a group of college guys seated behind them at a Casting Crowns concert resulted in an exchange that led to Barb and Mark's sponsorship through Compassion International of a girl named Tracy in Uganda.

Barb and Mark were married May 26, 2007, at Church of the Holy Infancy in Lake Luzerne. They met through their volunteering involvement with Hudson River Shakespeare Company. One week prior to Mark's stroke was their acting debut with the company, a readers theater presentation of a seniors version of the balcony scene from "Romeo and Juliet"

Mark volunteered at the Bud Lite Triathlon, the Lake Placid IronMan, the Hudson Falls CROP Walk committee, Adirondack Balloon Festival, and Adirondack Folk School, along with helping out his brother, Coach Greg La Mere, at track events at Johnstown High School. He also had served as a Hudson Falls Volunteer Fireman.

Barb and Mark enjoyed many camping weekends. Mark loved donning chef hat and apron to serve Saturday morning breakfasts to their annual camping companions.

Mark worked in a series of retail hardware stores, most recently, since 2015, at the Saratoga Springs Home Depot. He also served as a van driver for Saratoga Bridges, much appreciated by his passengers and their families.

Mark loved his seasonal employment as Santa in a variety of venues.

Mark's calling hours were June 8 at Brewer Funeral Home. His funeral was June 9 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Burial was at St. Paul's Cemetery in Hudson Falls.