

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Cleric's Corner	2
SOCL	3
XXIII General Synod	3
Chopin Competition	4
Prayer List	4
ANS Activities	5
YMS of R	5
Halloween Party	5
Getting to Know BVMC	6
BVMC Birthdays	7
Readings & Lectors	8

Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Mark Gnidzinski
Bob Shovah, Cleric

250 Old Maxwell Road
Latham, NY 12110

Church Office: 518.453.2258
Rectory: 518.437.1889
bvmc.org

The Journey

VOLUME I ISSUE XVI OCTOBER—DECEMBER 2010

The Journey Continues...



Fr. Mark

October... "Time flies" we say. It does, indeed. With a new season in the calendar year, we find ourselves in a new situation: a new priest for you and a new parish for me. I am all too aware that we went through some turbulence, changes, and uncertainty during the last 5 months. I say "we" because I am thinking about us: you - Parishioners and myself. I firmly believe we came out stronger and more resilient than ever in our lives. Arriving in Latham August 23, 2010 and serving you, I already feel like I have been among you for many month; it feels like a reunion (where were you all these

years?) and it feels good.

I would like to acknowledge and thank every family and parishioner for your welcome in the form of your prayers, but also for your time and funds given towards the renovation of the rectory, making sure that the pastor and his family have a decent place to live. I thank my fellow brother priests who ministered to BVMC Parish in the interim period when there was no permanent pastor assigned to BVMC: especially Rev. Adam Czarnecki and Rev. Rafal Dadello, who were coming to celebrate Holy Masses on a weekly basis.

The role of our Parish Committee, Lutnia Choir, parish organizations, SOCL teachers and coordination of the liturgy and catechism classes for children by Cleric Bob were essential in ensuring proper running of the BVMC Community.

Now, with a greater hope, enthusiasm and certainty, we continue the task of nourishing our faith. As we look at the trees changing their colors, observing and experiencing the seasons as they come and go every year, so it is with our lives. We sometimes complain about the weather, but we have to admit: most of us like our four seasons of the year in Northeast. We know how every season plays its role in the cycle of constant renewal. Applying that comparison to ourselves, we may then well agree that despite some hardships, not knowing, having difficulty to understand at the time - every season, every challenge in our lives has a Divine purpose; somehow strengthening us from within and making us more faithful and beautiful spiritually.

October this year opens for us with a very important event: the 23 General Synod our Church. This time it is hosted by the Canadian Diocese in Ontario, Canada and its Bishop Rt. Rev. Sylvester Bigaj. In accordance with the Constitution of the PNCC, our Parish is represented by 3 delegates: Richard Malchow, Regina Pollack and George Urciuoli. We wish light and fullness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit to all gathered for the synod debates as the delegates take on the responsibility for the future of our Church. They are going to share the blessings and challenges of their responsibilities; they will elect a new Prime Bishop and two Diocesan Bishops. They will have to courageously and honestly discuss the current state of our communities at every level (parish, seniorate, diocese, and the PNCC as a whole) and undertake a mammoth task of finding answers, remedies and real solutions. This is an acceptable, opportune time (*see: 2 Corinthians 6,2*) for our Church. We are mindful that the grace of God demands human cooperation. May the latter be not lacking after recognizing God's call.

We make it our prayer... Amen, let it be done and let the journey continue...



Cleric Bob Shovah

CLERIC'S CORNER *By Bob Shovah*

It is said, "Our hearts will never be at rest until they rest in God". Through the wisdom of Holy Scripture, we learn the Big Picture, God's Plan for all of humankind. But, in reading prayerfully and attentively, we cannot help but see that God cherishes and directs us individually as well.

As one progresses through the book of Genesis, we first hear about God creating in love all that is, seen and unseen. We hear about that first rebellion against His Love. Man, from the start, putting himself above God, thereby damaging our relationship with Him. Banishing ourselves from that perfect life in His garden. Worshipping everything else in idolatry, and worshipping ourselves in pride.

But our heavenly Father remains constant in His Love, tempering justice with mercy. He took a man who started off weak in character, allowing him to bargain with Him, and gave him the chance to conform himself to God's holiness, promising him descendants greater in number than the stars, a chosen people. Abraham would be the father of the nation from whom the Redeemer would come. Abraham's children and his children's children would continue to wander and stray, live and die. But they had been chosen to live on as a people, for the Almighty had a plan. When, through deceit and jealousy, the nation of Israel went into Egypt, first as guests and then as slaves, God did not turn his back. He raised up yet another hero to bring them out of slavery and toward the Promised Land. Time and time again, the Hebrews rebelled, forgetting the favor bestowed upon them. The book of Exodus overflows with stories of ingratitude, impatience, and lack of faith.

God saw the weakness of His children, and gave them a plan for holy living. Commandments that spelled out a basic framework of civilized, moral living. Laws that help us to know what God asks of us; laws that help us to love Him and our neighbor. The Creator's plan and how to be a part of it. The book of Leviticus, to the cynical eye, appears to be a very complicated, out-of-date legal textbook. But, further reading, done in a faithful manner, shows that book to be a prescription for real happiness. In order for the Israelites to survive as they wandered toward the land of Canaan, it was necessary for them to distinguish themselves from the pagan world around them. They were directed to be a people of life, by their lives standing up to the culture they encountered, a culture of sin and death. The often-stringent rules they were given enabled them to build a nation, strengthened by a system of justice with no separation of the sacred and the mundane. The Law promised them health, freedom from fear, and prosperity. Disobedience would lead to disease, violence, and misery. "You will be my people, and I will be your God."

And so, we come to modern times, to our own earthly lives. If only we will heed God's call, the constant call throughout human history. We are not so far removed from the scoundrels-turned-heroes of the Bible. We still worship idols: money, success, looks, security. We still bargain with God, refusing to acknowledge His Kingship. We ask God to bless what we have chosen, rather than choosing what He has already blessed. We believe, in our pride, that, against all evidence to the contrary, we know what is best for us.

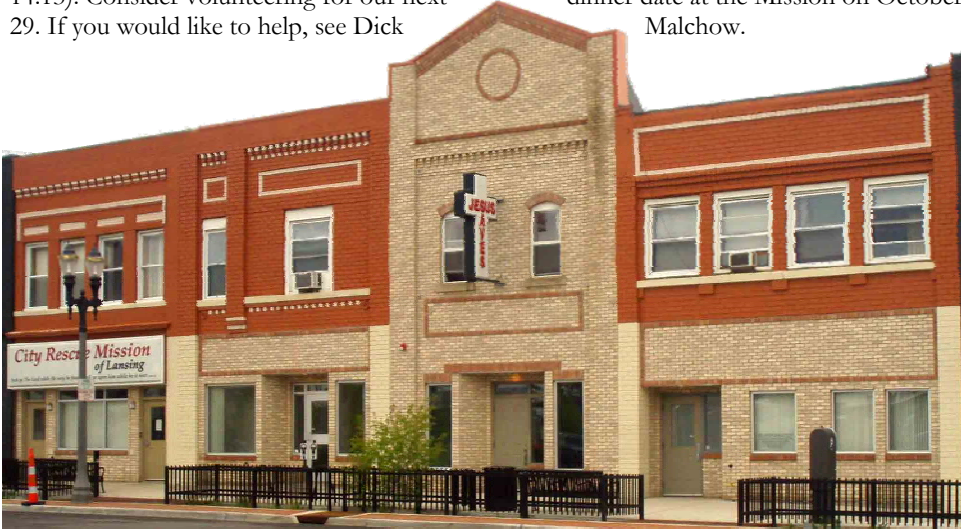
Why do we not trust our God? Why do we not listen to His Word, and try to ascertain His Call for us? Why do we insist on defining holiness for ourselves, rather than letting ourselves be conformed to His Christ? Have we become so unable to trust in anyone or anything, (perhaps knowing how untrustworthy and incapable of true, selfless love we can be)?

My prayer for all of you, and for myself, is that we can somehow learn how to step out of this noisy wasteland, and seek the quiet we need to hear God's call, His vocation for us. As Jesus went into the desert, or up the mountain, or out in the boat, so too can we "get away" by means of prayer, or scripture study, or acts of service to others. If we listen for His message, He will give it to us. In obedience to that Word, we will determine what God would have us do, and how He will equip us to do it. Until we do that, we will not be able to rest. Something will always be missing in us. The call will not always be easy to live out; but the burden will be easy, the yoke will be light. Total surrender and obedience to God will result in total fulfillment and true happiness. The peace that surpasses all understanding.

Try on the garment God has given you to wear. It will fit perfectly. AMEN.

Capital City Rescue Mission

Jesus calls us to "Love your neighbor." When asked to define "neighbor," Jesus expanded the traditional meaning of the word--defining our neighbor as anyone who is in need. One of the missions BVMC has taken on is to assist the good work of the Capital City Rescue Mission by preparing and serving a hot dinner each month to our neighbors in downtown Albany who cannot afford a meal for themselves or their family. Jesus said, "But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed." (Luke 14:13). Consider volunteering for our next dinner date at the Mission on October 29. If you would like to help, see Dick Malchow.



School of Christian Living (SOCL)



BVMC's Sunday school has launched! Current enrollment is 13 kids, working in three classes. Each classroom has a teacher, and one or more assistants. (Please consider helping in one of the classrooms on a Sunday morning...you'll learn a lot about God and kids, and even something about yourself.)

Each lesson consists of prepared activities, music, a little Bible study, and a visit from one of the parish clergy. To supplement

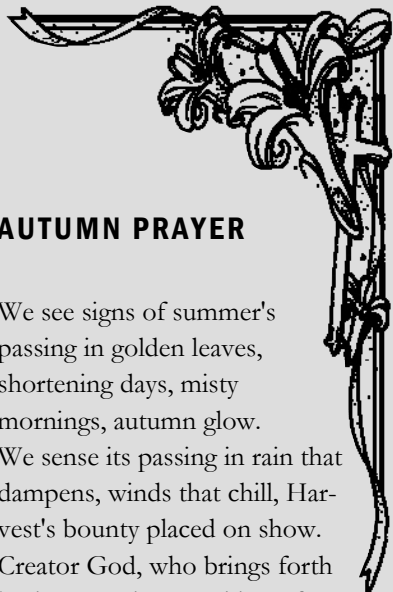
the learning materials, Fr. Mark and Cleric Bob will present info about solemnities, feast days, seasons of the church year, or maybe just answer questions. This keeps the learning fresh and relevant, not simply relying on canned programs.

Within the next couple of weeks, there will be an important parents' meeting. We're going to ask for a major commitment in support; without you as a partner in your child's religious development, all that we do rings hollow. Regular attendance, service projects, and helping your kids with their homework are all necessary for success. Let's teach by example and let the kids know we care.

The XXIII General Synod

On October 3, BVMC's three delegates will depart for the 23rd General Synod in Niagara Falls, Ontario, which will take place from October 4 - 8. Every four years, the clergy and elected laity of PNCC meet in accordance with the Constitution to make decisions affecting the future of our church. During this Synod, delegates will elect a new Prime Bishop, consider candidates for Bishop (to replace retiring Bishops Thaddeus Peplowski and Thomas Gnat), discuss clergy hospitalization and pension plans, and discuss plans for growth of the Church. Please pray for our delegates – Richard Malchow, Regina Pollack, and George Urciuoli – as they participate in the synod debates and deliberations.

AUTUMN PRAYER

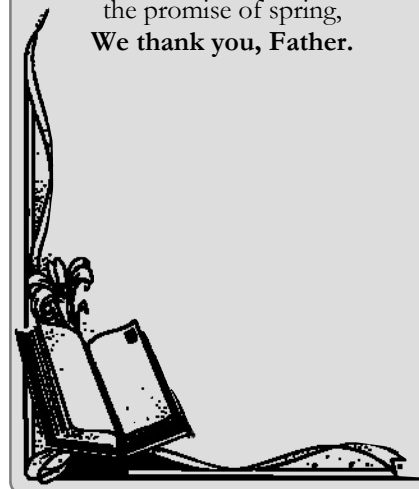


We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves, shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow. We sense its passing in rain that dampens, winds that chill, Harvest's bounty placed on show. Creator God, who brings forth both green shoot and hoar frost, sunrise and sunset, we bring our thanks for seeds that have grown, harvests gathered, storehouses filled, mouths fed. And, as your good earth rests through winter's cold embrace, we look forward to its re-awakening when kissed by Spring's first touch.

For summer's passing and harvest home,
We thank you, Father.

For autumn's splendor and winter's chill,
We thank you, Father.

For seed that has fallen the promise of spring,
We thank you, Father.



Prayer List

Anthony Ambesi
 Tyrel Archambeault
 Silvio Brighenti
 Irene Calka
 Cifaldi Family
 Chris Davidson
 Ann Marie DelRa
 Donald Disonell
 Al Iwaniec
 Tom Krajewski
 Rev. Tom Krupa
 Karen & Richard Malchow
 Christina Malczewski
 Lea Gregoire Marras
 Cynthia Mayhew
 Patricia Jones Mossey
 Robert Nagle
 Cody Okonski
 Nancy Pascale
 Elizabeth Peplowski
 Robert Peplowski
 Henry Radzyminski
 Stanley Radzyminski
 Michael Robochik
 Herb Riley
 Heather D'Arcy Shovah
 Bob Shovah
 Dawn Malchow Steciuk
 Jane White

(To add or remove a name from the prayer list, please see Cleric Bob.)



9th Annual Chopin Piano Competition

On September 11, 25 young pianists from the capital district participated in the 9th Annual Chopin Piano Competition hosted by our parish. The judges, Dr. Maura Glennon and Margarita Khaitov, had the difficult task of choosing one winner and runner up in each of three categories: Young Chopin (ages 7 – 11), Chopin Apprentice (ages 12 – 14); and Chopin Master (ages 15-19). The judges did their

job and the winners performed in an all Chopin Concert on September 12. Those who attended the Concert were astonished by the talents of these young musicians. After the concert, Dr. John Cetner and Fr. Mark presented the awards to the winners and runners-up. Dr. Center, who is turning 103 on October 20, annually donates \$1,500 to the Chopin Competition. In the words of one of the piano teachers, "It is such a pleasure to have my students participate in this wonderful event each year. Whether or not the students win, they all have a very rich experience in preparing for the event and in performing at the competition itself."

A gala dessert reception, masterminded by Dick Malchow, was enjoyed by all as guests mingled with the young musicians and one another while enjoying Dick's delectable desserts. Thank you to the many volunteers who made this event possible. If you missed the concert, you can hear it online at <http://www.bvmc.org/Chopin.htm>. Congratulations to this year's winners:

Chopin Master

Winner - **Lina Bagepalli** *Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise*

Runner up - **Ian Nolan** *Sonata No. 3, Movement IV*

Chopin Apprentice

Winner - Andrew Schwartz *Impromptu Op. 29*

Runner up - Alyssa Frost *Waltz Op. Posthumous in E Minor*

Young Chopin

Winner - Ryan Guo *Waltz Op.18 in Eb Major*

Runner up - Rachel Sohn *Nocturne in B Major, Op. 32, No. 1*

Honorable Mention - Enkhbileg Besuud *Waltz in A Minor, Op. Posthumous*



Presentation of the 2010 Chopin Piano Competition Awards

Graduations and New Beginnings

Congratulations go to Lucas Sarchilli, who graduated this summer from Siena College. Lucas is now working at Pioneer Savings Bank. Congratulations also go to Gaby Ciavardoni, who graduated from Shaker High and is now attending RPI; to Mariana Cremins who started classes at SUNY Delhi this fall; to Kevin Tillery, who graduated from Saratoga High and is attending Syracuse University, and to Max Tillery, who graduated from SUNY at Plattsburgh and has recently rejoined the BVMC family. May God bless you all in your new adventures!

ANS Activities

After a busy summer, the ladies of the ANS are getting ready to settle into fall activities. Stella Zembrzuski and Regina Pollack attended the ANS Women's Retreat last August in Waymart, PA, with the theme "The Heart of a Woman." They spent two days in prayer and sessions with a group of women from all around the Central Diocese. The main speaker, author Cindy Foor, inspired the women with workshops and discussion about

and provides for us. ing a prayer shawl min-walk, and a Friday eve-

On September 18, the to Quincy Market.

joyed a warm and beau-

eat, and stroll the harbor. On October 2, the ANS is sponsoring a trip to the Divine Mercy Shrine in Stockbridge, MA. Anyone wishing to attend should meet at the church parking lot at 9 am. We expect to return to Latham by 3 pm. More information about the Divine Mercy Shrine can be found at <http://thedivinemercy.org/shrine/>.

Coming up on November 13 is the ANS Rummage Sale and Bake Sale. Now is a great time to start going through your closets, cupboards, and garages to set aside things you no longer want or need. You can bring your donations to church from November 8 – 12. Since storage space is so limited, please wait until then before you bring in your donations. If you'd like to help out with the Rummage Sale, please contact Stella Zembrzuski.

In cooperation with Fr. Stanley Jasiurkowski, the ANS participate in a humanitarian project to support health care providers on deployment to Afghanistan. CPT Nakeima Dorr, coordinator of the mission, writes, "We definitely are in need of school supplies crayons, coloring books, paper, backpacks, and lots of winter coats. It's already started getting cold. Our biggest joy is giving away the goodies to the patients--we do a lot of kids surgeries." More details about this project will be available in the Sunday bulletin, so stay tuned....

Feast of the Christian Family

On October 10, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Christian Family. The readings for that Sunday reflect God's will for us in relationship to one another within our families. In this busy world, when it is increasingly difficult to find any unstructured time, let's make time to spend with our families, beginning with attending Holy Mass together.

From the Bingo Kitchen

Sizzling news from the kitchen, a new volunteer has come forth to help on Thursday. Mr. Ed Pollick has joined our staff. He assists with the preparations and serving. Thank you Ed, from Dick and the staff. We are very busy Thursdays, and the food is great. Why don't you stop in on Bingo night and order some food to eat there or take with you. We promise a great meal. I would like to thank all the volunteers who work almost every week in the kitchen, their efforts help to keep the doors of our church open, and pay our bills.

PLEASE FIND A WAY IN YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE TO HELP. Volunteers are really needed, support our Bingo efforts, see Dick Malchow or Dick Mossey. Looking forward to cook something special for you. ~Dick Mossey



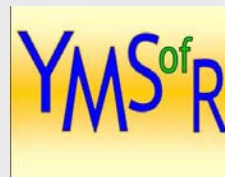
how Jesus pursues, protects, Other highlights were learning candlelight service.

ANS sponsored a bus trip Those who attended en-

titled day in Boston to shop,

From the Y.M.S.R. - "who's that?!"

Believe it or not, there is a men's group



in our church, and although we have not been very active lately, it's time to turn

up the steam and get this engine going. Members will be talking to you shortly inviting you to join us. We are looking forward to a new year with lots of activities and different things to do. Our next meeting will be October 10, please plan on joining us, we promise to have you on time for football.

Halloween Party



The 3rd Annual Community Halloween Party will be held on Friday, October 22 on the parish hall. Children and adults alike can look forward to a fun-filled evening with many spooky delights. Parents, you are welcome and encouraged to come with your children. Volunteers are needed to help set up and chaperone. Please see Jeanmarie Vollmer or Dick Malchow if you can help.

Getting to Know BVMC . . . Matt Falato



How long have you been a parishioner at BVMC?

I became a member of BVMC in May of 2009.

What led you to BVMC?

John Radzymski and I have been friends for over three decades. When I mentioned to John that I was feeling a loss of Christianity at my previous church and doubting my faith, he invited me to attend Mass with him at BVMC. At first I was hesitant. After a few weeks I reconsidered and joined him on Sunday for Mass. The rest is history.

My love of food was also a motivating factor. John asked if I would like to volunteer in the kitchen, serving the Thursday night dinners. I've been doing so ever since.

I have made many new friends and have reconnected with old friends through Thursday night Bingo. As we all know, "there are no such thing as strangers, only friends that have not met."

What are your hopes the future of BVMC?

My hope for the future would be to be united and solid. Also, that we can constantly move forward and grow over the years. We should allow change if it benefits us.

What would you say to someone who might be considering making BVMC Parish their home for worship?

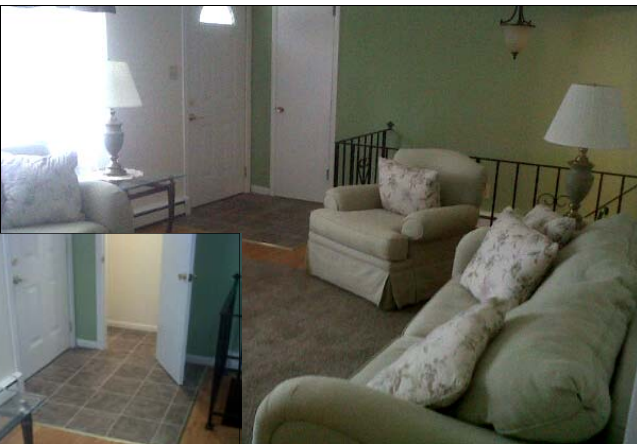
I would say, "if it feels good do it." I joined and I'm glad I did. The only regret was that I should have joined much sooner. I felt comfortable immediately. I got the feeling that I truly belong here.

Anything else you care to share with BVMC?

I would say thank you all for making me feel welcome and comfortable in my new Parish. My transition from old to new was made smooth because of the friendship and understanding of my family at BVMC

Rectory Renovations

After weeks of hard work and tremendous efforts of many volunteers, the initial phase of renovations to our rectory is now complete. On August 22, parishioners visited the rectory after Mass. Cleric Bob Shovah offered a rededication prayer and many parishioners brought items to furnish the kitchen, bath, and bedrooms. As we set our priorities for the coming year, we will continue the renovation project, which will include improvements to the finished basement, landscaping, and new siding. God bless you for your prayers, cooperation, and for work well done!



Lorna Lane got a much-needed facelift this summer.

Choir Notes



Ahhh, autumn. As a choir, this is the time of year we get to practice some of our very favorite music – Christmas carols. Yes, we will be rehearsing all of our beloved Polish and English carols and will also be

learning some new music for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. The choir is also looking forward to working with the SOCL children on the Christmas play, which will be performed at the Wigilia in December. We are praying for some new choir members. If you love to sing, why not offer your voice to God. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7 pm.

Birthdays for Sep. Oct. Nov. Dec.

Mark Battista	Sep 8	Gabrielle Tillery	Oct 27
Janet Judge	Sep 9	John Chmielenski	Oct 27
Mary Ann Willey	Sep 12	Frank Mayer	Oct 28
Joan Charnews	Sep 12	Barbara Petrie	Oct 29
Steve Cremins	Sep 14	Rosemary Hrepta	Nov 1
Richard Malchow	Sep 17	Marianne Koslowski	Nov 3
Aldo Lira	Sep 19	Kendra Layman	Nov 3
Max Tillery	Sep 19	Alicia Dickson	Nov 6
Tim Brennan	Sep 21	Arlene Grady	Nov 13
Tom Krajewski	Sep 22	Joseph Willey	Nov 14
Tom Zembrzuski	Sep 22	Sherry Ryzek	Nov 18
Jeffrey Durkee	Sep 24	Joe Gambino	Nov 23
Dawn Layman	Sep 25	Helen Shooks	Nov 26
Ted Biernacki	Oct 6	Briana Layman	Nov 26
Nancy Molano	Oct 8	Deb Battista	Nov 30
Patricia Mossey	Oct 8	Kim Durkee	Dec 2
Denise Shovah	Oct 8	Patricia Carr-Miller	Dec 3
Regina Pollack	Oct 12	Andrea Sweda	Dec 5
Leela Tabak	Oct 16	Richard Radzyminski	Dec 6
Joe Winorski	Oct 18	Donald Dross	Dec 7
Katherine Alberti	Oct 20	Maria Swyst	Dec 17
Joanna Winorski	Oct 24		

The Watched Pot



Babci's Homemade Egg Noodles – KLUSKI

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 4 egg yolks

Directions

1. Sift together the flour, salt and baking powder. Add egg yolks and mix until dry ingredients are moistened.
2. Press into a ball and cut in quarters. Roll out on floured surface 1/8 to 1/4 inch thick; cut to desired width and length. Lay on linen dish towel or wooden dowel to dry.
3. Add to broth such as chicken or turkey and cook until done.

RECIPES

Do you have a favorite recipe you would like to share? Please send it to anntoette.alberti@hotmail.com. Your recipe can then be featured in a future issue of the Journey. We look forward to receiving your recipe!

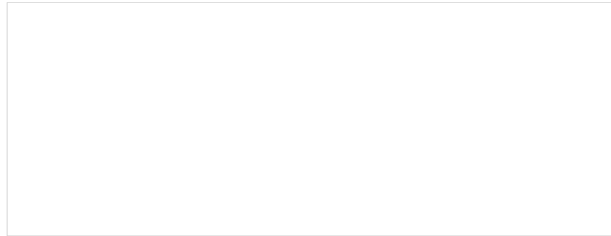
From the Archives

How many of these little goblins can you recognize? Our best guess is that this picture was taken around 2002.





250 Old Maxwell Road
Latham, NY 12110
bvmc.org



Sunday Readings & Lector Schedule

- Oct 3** Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:24; 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14;
Luke 17:5-10 **Lector: Pat Mossey**
- Oct 10** Gen 1:26-28, 31; Eph 6:1-9; Luke 2:42-52
Lector: Regina Pollack
- Oct 17** Exodus 17:8-13; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2; Luke 18:1-8
Lector: Stella Zembrzuski
- Oct 24** Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18;
Luke 18:9-14 **Lector: Tom Zembrzuski**
- Oct 31** Wisdom 11:22-12:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2;
Luke 19:1-10 **Lector: Fred Carlson**
- Nov 7** 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5;
Luke 20:27-38 **Lector: Donald Dross**
- Nov 14** Malachi 3:19-20a; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12; Luke 21:5-19
Lector: Justine Fazziola
- Nov 21** 2 Samuel 5:1-3; Colossians 1:12-20; Luke 23:35-43
Lector: Jacob Krusienski
- Nov 28** Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44
Lector: Richard Malchow

Of Note:

Bingo

Bingo is held every Thursday at 7:15pm. Come early and enjoy a fantastic meal prepared by the BVMC Kitchen staff. Then try your luck at bingo. Another way to support our fundraising efforts.

Future Articles - Your Input

The Journey is the newsletter of all the faithful of our parish. You are all invited to contribute to the monthly Journey. Please share your stories of faith, your concerns for the church or even recipes if you like! Please email or deliver any articles for the Journey to anntonette.alberti@hotmail.com.
Thank you and God Bless!

Bingo Help Needed:

Since 2002, bingo has provided a significant source of the revenue we depend upon for operating the parish. We are still in immediate need of volunteers. If you can help, please contact Dick Malchow as soon as possible.