

# Sacred Heart Beat

February  
2008

Sacred Heart Parish, Massena, NY - (315) 769-2469  
[www.catholic-church.org/massenasacredheart](http://www.catholic-church.org/massenasacredheart)

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### With Whom Will You Journey This Lenten Season?

As we make our spiritual "journey" these next 2 months, our closest companion should be Jesus himself. Our photo shows Jesus resting for a moment during those Passover days preceding His passion and death.

He invites you to come sit beside him for some sharing. Let Him tell you what is in His heart. And you share what is in yours.



(Sculpture by  
vants of Mary  
Omaha Ne.)

John Lajba in Ser-  
Healing Garden in

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

### "Lucky to Be Able To Do This Kind Of Work," says Dr. Desai

It comes as no surprise that God's work is done in church sanctuaries around the world every Sunday, but would you think of God's work being performed in a church basement every Thursday?

Well, that's exactly what happens under St. John's Episcopal Church each week at Massena Free Clinic for Adults, Inc., a charitable not-for-profit corporation which provides free primary health care for adults who have no other means of receiving the medical attention they need.

The clinic is staffed by a sizeable group of vol-

unteers—including two doctors, a nurse practitioner, nurses, administrative workers and a group of people who keep the clinic clean and in good repair—and its operation is funded entirely through donations.

Dr. Nimesh Desai and Dr. Jayant Jhaveri take turns covering the clinic on Thursdays, and Nurse Practitioner Roxanne Roberts also fills in when the doctors are not available.

Andy Spanburgh is in his fourth year as the clinic's volunteer administrator. He, along with office manager Cathy Blair and clerk of the works Christine Hamel, oversee the operations and the rest of the volunteer staff.

"The clinic is open every Thursday from 2 to 5 p. m. We were open 50 days last year, every Thursday except Thanksgiving and one day when we didn't have doctor coverage," according to Spanburgh. "We have about 40 visits per week from people through out St. Lawrence, Franklin and Jefferson counties, and 4 to 6 of those visits each week are new patients to the clinic."



(left to right) Nurses  
Joyce Reno and Rita  
Treers show Dr.

Jhaveri the patient line-up for a Thursday's session.

Some of our patients travel 50-60 miles for an appointment. We have approximately 3,000 patients. On several occasions, we've had to turn some people

away, unfortunately, due to a shortage of doctors' hours," he said. And there can be at least a one-to two-week delay for an appointment at the clinic. They are so backed up.

The Clinic charter says no patient shall be charged for services. St. John's provides the Clinic space at no charge. "Our pharmaceuticals are free and Massena Memorial Hospital and Canton-Potsdam Hospital are very supportive and provide x-rays free of charge," Andy says.

Dr. Desai said, "We couldn't do what we do without Massena Memorial Hospital. Some patients require real specialized tests that cost \$500 to \$1,000 and the hospital provides them at no charge. They also give us one free MRI per month. We figure the hospital is providing \$8,000 to \$10,000 per month in treatment at no cost to the clinic or our patients."

Spanburgh notes, "Our patients aren't rich by any means, but they may have too much income (above \$10,000) to get services from the government. So the clinic plays a vital role in filling the void. "

"These people have nowhere else to go. They're not eligible for public assistance and they have no insurance and can't afford to buy insurance. Over 50% of our patients are working and over 50% are married. Some of them will donate a few dollars (when they come for an appointment). They try," he said.



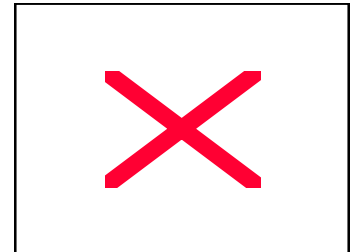
*Chris Hamel and Mary Ellen Colby keep track of the many patients in the midst of the many files medical offices require.*

"We treat adults up to age 65. At that point they become eligible for Medicare. We don't treat children because there are a

number of government programs for them at various income levels. If people come to the Clinic and are eligible for another program, we get them signed up," Spanburgh added.

The Clinic was the brainchild of Dr. Sa-teesh Gaswami, Dr. Desai, and Dr. Jhaveri. Begun in 1999 through the assistance of Greater Massena Clergy Association, it was their gift to the poor and medically underserved in the community.

*Rosalie Hamel checks patients before the doctor meets with them in one of the exam rooms.*



The Clinic is always in need of financial contributions. Spanburgh said. Also, any doctors who would be willing to donate some time to the clinic would help lighten the load on the health care providers who are currently staffing the facility. "It would give them a little bit of a break," Spanburgh said.

"We are lucky to have this opportunity to do this kind of work., notes Dr. Desai. "We have friends (doctors) in other areas who are not able to do it because they don't have the kind of structural support that we have at the Massena Free Clinic."

## **ON THE BEAT**

### **What Will the Church Look Like In the Future?**

The Parish is fortunate to have on its staff as Director of Religious Education Sr. Edward Marie Tesiero, S.A. a member of the Sisters of the Atonement. Her Order is the founder of an important ecumenical movement we celebrate every

January.

In 1898, a small but very important religious order of the Catholic Church was begun in the tiny community of Garrison, NY, in the Hudson River Valley.

Fr. Paul Wattson and Mother Laurana White, Anglican religious, set to the difficult work of convincing officials within the Anglican/Episcopal Church that reunification mirrored Jesus Christ's prayer that "all my be one."

Though initial attempts were not successful, a few decided to follow. In 1898, Mother Laurana encouraged Fr. Paul to establish their community for their new order in a location in Garrison called Graymoor, near Laurana's hometown of Warwick, NY.

It soon became obvious that the work of bringing Christ's Body, the Church, back together would have to be done outside the Anglican/Episcopal framework of that time.

Just a year later, Fr. Paul and Mother Laurana formally petitioned the Vatican to incorporate the Friars and Sisters of Graymoor into the Roman Catholic Church. Their formal acceptance into the Church was performed by the Rev. Msgr. Joseph Conroy, who would later be named Bishop of Ogdensburg.

These Franciscan men and women are involved in a wide range of missionary work both in the U.S. and oversees from prison ministries to religious education to community development. They have served in parishes throughout our diocese in the past.

In the century of time since the tiny community, known as the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of Atonement ( Fr. Paul thought of it, "at-one-ment"), established their Order, much ground has

been gained in bringing Christian people back together. The lofty goal of a fully unified Christian Church espoused by these founders has not yet been realized. However, the Friars and Sisters of Atonement will continue their prayerful work toward that end. And they pray that we will all join in the cause.

### **Chess—Mental Challenge To Trinity Youth**

A group of youngsters at Trinity Catholic School are learning the art and skill it takes to play a game that has been around for 1,500 years.

The Chess Club is for students 3rd thru 6th grades. It was begun by and is coached by Ginny Clary, librarian/art teacher there. Twenty students met every Thursday for 5 weeks in January.



*Kristyn Perry & Savannah Hays shake hands. Makes it hard to tell who is the "winner".*

Mrs. Clary pointed out, "The goals of the Chess Club are not only to teach how to play the game; it is to learn a little of its history. Another goal is to teach and practice good sportsmanship." The rules state: always shake hands before and after each game; do not interfere with anyone else's game; do not gloat over victories, or laugh at someone's defeat. And do not insult other players, or call them names.

Students taking part in the club said they are finding it fun and a learning experience at the same time.

"I wanted to know how to play chess. I went to my first meeting and it was fun," Kelly Southwick, a 3rd grader said.

"I learned a beginner's way to play. I know I will get better. It will be a good rainy day game."

So thinks 5th grader Aaron Fleury who says, "I like Chess Club. It is a game of concentration, but it can still be fun."

## Focus on Faith

Waiting in our Parish Library are some people who are anxious to share the fruit of their "journey with Jesus".

You are invited to renew your acquaintance with them. Or make a new friend among the spiritual writers waiting for you.

There will be some books in a Reserve section. These a few of them.

**"The Love of Christ"** — Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Points to love given to others in our every day lives is powerful.

**The Legacy of John Paul II: Images and Memories** - Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XI)

Has wonderful photos and insights by the man who worked closely with John Paul II

**The Return of the Prodigal Son** - Henri Nouwen

Theme is the road to reconciliation, a good Lenten theme.

**Julian: Woman of Our Day** - Robert Llewelyn, ed.

Eight authors explore Julian of Norwich's spiritual journey and insights and her place in our Christian tradition

**A Grief Unveiled: One Father's Journey Through the Death Of A Child** - Floyd Gregory

Sudden death of a child becomes the hard work of a loving parent. This book is a witness to the intimate presence of God in the midst of unbearable loss —offering hope to all who struggle.



*Contributors: Ken Bellor; Sr. Juliana; Joe Gray; Paul Haggett; Pam Ouimet; Pat Pellegrino*

*Non Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Massena, N.Y.  
Permit No. 11*

*Church of the Sacred Heart  
212 Main St.  
P.O. Box 329  
Massena, NY 13662-0239  
Return Service Requested*