

Neighbors

ONONDAGA COUNTY NORTHWEST

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NORTHWEST THE POST-STANDARD / NEIGHBORS

MEETINGS

GOVERNMENT

BALDWINSVILLE MUNICIPAL MEETINGS & COURT: Baldwinsville Village Hall, 16 W. Genesee St., Baldwinsville. Information: 635-3521, www.baldwinsville.org.

Village board: 7:30 p.m. today.

CICERO MUNICIPAL MEETINGS & COURT: Cicero Town Hall, 8236

5. Main St., Cicero. Information:

699-1414, www.ciceronewyork.net.

Town board: 7 p.m. Monday.

Town court: 6 p.m. today, Tuesday

and Sept. 28.

CLAY MUNICIPAL MEETINGS & COURT: Clay Town Hall, 4401 Route

31, Clay. Information: 652-3800,

www.townofclay.org.

Town court: 5 p.m. today and Sept.

28; 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Planning board: 7:30 p.m. Wednes-

day.

LIVERPOOL MUNICIPAL MEET-

INGS & COURT: Liverpool Village

Hall, 310 Sycamore St., Liverpool. In-

formation: 457-3441, www.villageof-

liverpool.org.

Zoning board: 6 p.m. Monday.

Planning board: 7 p.m. Monday.

Village court: 4:30 p.m. Tuesday.

LYSANDER MUNICIPAL MEET-

INGS & COURT: Lysander Town

Hall, 8220 Loop Road, Lysander. In-

formation: 638-0224, www.townofly-

sander.org.

Town court: 7 p.m. Tuesday and

Wednesday.

Town board: 7:30 p.m. Sept. 28.

NORTH SYRACUSE MUNICIPAL

MEETINGS & COURT: North Sya-

racuse Village Hall, 600 South Bay

Road, North Syracuse.

Everyone is invited to the special ceremony at St. Mary's Church.

By Catherine Baum

Contributing writer

When the annual Mass for people with disabilities is celebrated Sunday at St. Mary's in Baldwinsville, Carmencia Samuels, of Syracuse, will read from Holy Scriptures in Braille.

One focus of this year's Mass is to get more disabled people involved, said Lysander resident **Deborah Joiner**, who is helping organize the Mass for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse.

People with disabilities will take on such tasks as lecturing, presenting the gifts during the offertory part of the Mass, serving as commentators and Eucharistic ministers, said Joiner, who has multiple sclerosis.

"We want everyone to come away knowing whatever your disability is there's something you can do in the church," said

If you go . . .

What: Syracuse Diocese's Mass for people with disabilities, including the Anointing of the Sick

When: 2 p.m. Sunday

Where: St. Mary's Church, 47 Syracuse St., Baldwinsville

Who's invited? People with disabilities, general public

What else is happening? Following Mass, a reception with refreshments in the gathering area

Geddes resident **Mary Lou Coons**, who also helped organize the Mass.

Although some people's disabilities are recognized by a walking stick or wheelchair, there are many who suffer from less obvious or hidden disabilities that easily can be overlooked, Coons said.

Coons was diagnosed in 2002 with Chari malformations, a structural defect in the part of the brain that controls balance.

"It's hard when you're with other people and they don't know you have a hidden disability. . . ." she said.

"We want everyone to come away knowing whatever your disability is there's something you can do in the church."

Mary Lou Coons,
organizer of the Mass

Samuels, who lost her eyesight in a snow tubing accident in 1997, is glad to participate. Disabled people have abilities that often go unrecognized, she said.

Originally from the Philippines, Samuels has traveled, researched and taught from Asia to New York. She says God is her best travel companion.

"The only thing that I can't do, is I can't see. One of the things that I realized is that after I lost my eyesight people then started thinking I lost my hearing and lost my mind," Samuels said.

After her accident, Samuels said she became involved in promoting disability awareness.

She'll be joined by many others at the Mass. Last year, when the Mass was held at the cath-

edral in Syracuse, about 500 people attended.

This year, the Mass has gone on the road for the first time, and Joiner hopes people from throughout Onondaga County and the diocese will participate.

Members of the Catholic fraternal service group the Knights of Columbus will attend.

Bishop **Thomas J. Costello** and St. Mary's pastor, the Rev. **Richard Kopp**, will celebrate the Mass.

They'll perform the sacrament, the Anointing of the Sick, Joiner said. Last year's Mass did not include that rite, she said.

"I thought it would be a way of getting more people to come to Mass," Joiner said. "Having an anointing Mass will add reverence and a time for healing and strength and guidance."