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Gates Priest Back in Court Wednesday

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(March 18, 2007) — Gates — The Rev. John J. Steger is to be back in Gates Town Court on Wednesday, facing four misdemeanor charges involving a 12-year-old girl.

Steger, a priest at St. Jude the Apostle Church in Gates, was arrested in May 2006 and was accused of inappropriately touching the girl in late April and early May. He has been on administrative leave since the arrest.

Police learned of the allegations after the girl reported two incidents to her parents.

The parents contacted the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, which contacted the police. The alleged incidents allegedly occurred in the rectory, adjacent to the church building, 4100 Lyell Road.

Steger has pleaded not guilty to two counts of second-degree sexual abuse and two counts of endangering the welfare of a child, all misdemeanors.

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