

# Parish News...

With Summer is here it's time to enjoy the beautiful weather with picnics, pool parties, and family gatherings. At times we forget to spend time with the One who gave us this special time of summer. God. As Catholics, it is important to remember that spending time with the Lord is one of the precepts of our Faith by attending Sunday Mass.

This week I thought I would share additional ways to stay closer to God this summer.

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” – James 4:8

Summer means many things to many people. For some, it means a time of rest and relaxation. Others see it as a time to get as much done as possible. No matter what end of the summer spectrum you are on, it's important to stay close to God through summer.

With all the fun that summer holds, it is easy to break off from our school-year or work routine and leave God packed in the boxes that sit in the garage. It's important though to keep chasing God, no matter what season it may be and where you're at.

## **Create a Summer Christian Playlist**

Do you commute to work? Do you listen to music as you play in the pool outside? Do you play music while doing chores or working? I know I have one and listen to it at work.

Make yourself a playlist of some of your favorite Christian songs with a good beat. You can play it while you do the dishes or go on a road trip and praise God no matter where you are.

## **Listen to Christian Podcasts**

Podcasts are huge nowadays and there are so many to choose from. On your way to work listen to a sermon or see what the devotion for your favorite podcast-er is for that day. It's a good way to start the morning and also gives a change of pace for getting close to God. You never know what He will say through your favorite podcasts!

## **Start the Morning With Jesus**

Wake up a little earlier than you usually do and open up your Bible and see what God has to say for the day. This will give you a little skip in your step for the day and serve as a reminder throughout your routine. Connecting with God first thing allows Him to be the first thing on your mind as you wake up and follow you as you face the challenges of the day. God loves it when we spend time with him, why not do it right before you start your day?

## **Journal**

This often follows a Bible study or daily devotional but can be done on its own as well. Write down your thoughts and feelings, Bible verses to help you through the day and prayers to God. It helps to get it all down on paper and is a good way to remind yourself of God's love throughout the day.

## **Pray**

Praying can be done at any time of the day and is a good way to grow your relationship with God. Tell Him what you are feeling and ask for help in any areas of your life. Prayer is a conversation between you and God so feel free to tell Him anything.

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**SUMMER PROGRAM:** The teen Summer Program starts this Sunday from 5-8pm for Grades 7-12 with a Carnival Kick Off with food on the Grill. Make sure that you sign up for this Wednesday trip to Water Safari on July 14. Cost will be \$40 per child. Cost includes admission, lunch and transportation. Bring a bathing suit and towel.

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**Festival News:** Fr. Arthur announced at last week's Masses that the Parish will be holding its annual festival. Not sure how it will look, but as he said, we have over 11,000 pierogi to eat. There will be a meeting next week for those interested in helping. Please check the bulletin for the date.

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Looking ahead to next year's Faith Formation Program, I am planning to start the program on September 12th and in person. Any family who would like to pre-register their children, please call me to register. The cost will be the same as last year, \$25 per child or \$45 per family. Thanks to those families that have already pre-registered their children

This year, I have an opening Catechist for Grades for Kindergarten, 4,5 & 6 Grade and 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades. Virtus is a requirement in order to be a Catechist. Also looking for assistants for these grades as well. This will also require each person to be Virtus trained. Anyone interested, please contact me directly. 315 527-8399.

Sacrament of First Communion or Confirmation students is a 2-year program per the Syracuse Dioceses. Any child making First Communion would be 1 Grade and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade. Confirmation is 9<sup>th</sup> Grade and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade. If anyone has any questions regarding these requirements, please contact me directly.

**Confirmation News:**

**For those 10<sup>th</sup> Graders who are making their Confirmation in October.**

**Not for those making in the Spring of 2022.**

The mandatory retreat will be with St. Paul's in October at Syracuse University for the 10<sup>th</sup> Graders who are to make their Confirmation this October. The cost of the retreat is \$40. The Parish will pay the \$20 with the remaining \$20 from the student. Transportation will be provided along with the lunch.

Confirmand/Sponsor sharing. I have enclosed a handout for a Summer with my Sponsor. You should have already chosen your Sponsor. This handout notes what a sponsor role is for the Confirmand and what you should have with your sponsor. There should be at least 5 sponsor/Confirmand meetings between now and Labor Day. If anyone has any questions, please give me a call. 315-527-8399



**Sunday Reading –**

**Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Lectionary 104**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: AM: 7:12-15**

**Responsorial Psalm: 85: 9-10, -12, 13-14**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Eph 1:3-14 or 1:3-10**

**Gospel: MK 6:7-13**



Today Jesus sends His disciples out to preach, teach and heal. Jesus was wise: He sent the disciples out in pairs. Jesus knew as beginning preachers, they would need support. He also realized that the disciples would be more effective if they had companions in this ministry. Thus, He sent them out in pairs.

Jesus instructed them to take nothing with them on their journey – no food, no extra clothing nor money. This meant that His disciples would have to depend on the generosity of others to meet their needs. I wonder how Jesus' disciples reacted to His instructions. Were they tempted to carry some food or a change of clothing along with them? Or did they truly trust that God and many generous people would provide for them?

The disciples left and began preaching. Amazingly, they also were able to work miracles. They drove out demons and cured people who were seriously ill. Imagine what it was like for these disciples to have the ability to perform healings and miracles, to preach and to teach. These men were not learned. They were simple fishermen and workers. Yet, Jesus empowered them to heal others and to give them spiritual food!

Today Jesus also calls us to preach and teach. We also are His disciples. Jesus calls us to reach out and touch others with our love, care and concern. In today's world when most everyone is in a hurry or too busy to slow down, we can give the gift of our interest, time and support. This may not sound like much of a gift. However, a few minutes of truly being present to another person may be the most precious gift they will receive today!

Who knows: perhaps you will be blessed when someone gifts you with their attention and care!

Reflections comes from Sr. Kristine Anne Harpenau, OSB



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## Weekly Prayer

Let's us thank the Lord for a wonderful summer





### Syracuse Dioceses Information:

There is a lot of information this week from the Syracuse Dioceses. Please see below

#### **From the Offices of Formation for Ministry and Deacon Formation**

In this year of vocations, we are more aware of the Universal Call to Holiness received at Baptism. Some are called to serve the church as lay ministers or deacons. Those who serve must be well formed in their faith. Please reflect on who you might know who may be discerning a call and invite them to attend an information seminar where they will learn about the two-year Formation for Ministry program and the process of becoming a deacon. Our next session is scheduled for August 8 from 1:00-3:30 at Pope John XXIII Church in Liverpool. Register at <https://bit.ly/FFM-DFInfoSess2021>

#### ***World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly - July 25th, 2021***

Pope Francis has established a *World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly* to be celebrated annually throughout the Church on the fourth Sunday in July, close to the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne. The purpose of this celebration is to remind us that advanced age is a blessing—a gift that should be both cherished and freely shared. For this year, the theme is “*I am with you always*” to emphasize not only the Lord’s closeness with the aged, but also the inter-generational bonds shared between young and old, most especially characterized by the passing on of the Faith. Go to: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/Prayer.pdf> for your a prayer from the USCCB.

From the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry



**Hike with Bishop**  
**July 17, 2021**  
**Labrador Hollow, Tully NY**

Young adults from across the Diocese are invited to join Bishop Lucia on a summer hike! We will spend the day hiking Labrador Hollow, and Bishop Lucia will offer Mass at the summit. The day will end with dinner and drinks at Heritage Hill Brewery in Pompey

**General Itinerary**

2:15 pm - Check-in at Labrador

Hollows main parking lot

2:30 pm - Hike begins

4:00 pm - Vigil Mass

After the hike, join us at Heritage Hill!

Cost is \$15 per person.

[Register here!](#)



### **Middle School Summer Pilgrimage**

**August 14, 2021 - Niagara Falls, New York**

Come join the Diocese of Syracuse Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry on a special summer pilgrimage for middle school students! We will visit Niagara Falls, ride the Maid of the Mist, tour the Fr. Baker Museum, and visit Our Lady of Victory Shrine for Mass!

This event is open to boys and girls entering grades 6th through 8th.

Cost is \$40 per person, and includes all activities, a t-shirt, and Chick-fil-A dinner.

Registration is now open!

For more information or to register a group, please visit [the event on the Diocesan website.](#)

### **NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference)**

**November 18-21, 2021 - Indianapolis, Indiana**

Join the Syracuse Diocese Delegation to the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis! NCYC is a powerful, biennial, three-day experience of prayer, community, and empowerment for Catholic teenagers (of high school age) and their adult chaperons. Don't miss the powerful talks, informative and inspiring workshops, music, and experiencing the sacraments with 10,000 young Catholics from around the US!

This event is open to youth in grades 9 through 12.

Cost is \$645 per person, and includes the conference fee, t-shirts, transportation, and lodging at double occupancy with breakfast.

For more information or to register a group, please visit the [Diocesan Event page.](#)

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