

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 while attending Sunday Mass.

This week I have found more additional ways to spend time with the Lord. For me, quiet time by a lake is my special time with the Lord. There I can be quiet and with no one around and talk to the Lord. What about you?

There was a prayer years ago that contained the phrase, "Come summer with me, Lord." The phrase stuck with me. I think of it often, especially as summer arrives. It reflects the desire of my heart and suggests at least three ways you can "summer with God" in the weeks ahead.

1. Change Your Pace

The classic Gershwin lyric labels "summertime" as a season when "the livin' is easy." The pace is different. Slower, yes, and perhaps quieter. So, if you summer with God, look for those opportunities to change your pace and invite God into it.

Take a walk, for instance, instead of reflexively driving somewhere nearby. Take a break. Whether it's a beach vacation or a weekend away—or just a quick picnic in the park—find a time and place for some "down time" in which to send up a few prayers. Or, as the Gershwin song suggests, grab a pole and go where the fish are "jumpin'" (and God might be "speakin'").

2. Taste and See God's Goodness

The psalmist David sang, "Taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8, NIV). The sense of taste is one we often forget or neglect in making meaningful connections with God. But the tastes of the season can help us to summer with God.

Pour a tall glass of iced tea and summer with God as you sip. Slice a melon and pray for God to produce similarly rich fruit in your life. Invite friends to a cookout and pause a few times to mark the goodness of God in the gifts of food and friendship.

3. Soak in the Sunshine

When was the last time you closed your eyes and let the sun warm your face? Or counted the clouds in the sky on a sunny day? Sure, you may need to apply a little sunscreen—or you may live in a region that seldom sees the sun—but one of summer's delights is the sunshine and shade that makes the outdoors so, well, "outdoorsy."

Depending on where you live and your daily schedule, you may need to be more intentional to soak up the sun, but try finding a way to enact the words of Scripture: "From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised" (Psalm 113:3, NIV).

I want this to be a different summer than many that have gone before. I want it to be a summer that not only includes God in my plans and experiences, but also one that includes me in His. I will say often, in the days and weeks ahead, "Come, summer with me Lord".

The teen Summer Program starts this Sunday from 5-8pm for Grades 7-12. This Sunday is Rec Night. Food will be provided by Irwin's Mac & Cheese. There is no bus trip this Wednesday.

It was announced at last week's Masses that the Parish will be holding a festival on August 14th only from 5-8pm in the school cafeteria. Polish kitchen only serving up a polish platter and mushroom stew/Polish and American beer & wine. Take-out available. There will also be a flea market. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. 50/50 Raffle.



Faith Formation

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 7th & 8th 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 2nd Grade. Confirmation is 9th Grade and 10th Grade. If anyone has any questions regarding these requirements, please contact me directly.

Confirmation News:

10th Grade Confirmation students will need to complete community service in the Parish. Students will be required to work 2 hours this year at the Parish festival on August 14th. Any 9th Grade Confirmation student may assist as well in completing their community service in the Parish.

The mandatory retreat will be with St. Paul's in October at Syracuse University for the 10th Graders who are to make their Confirmation this October 23rd from 10-5pm. 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. Last week I sent out 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 –
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lectionary 107
1st Reading: Jer 23:1-6
Responsorial Psalm: 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6
2nd Reading: Eph 2:13-18
Gospel: MK 6:30-34**



In this Sunday's gospel, Mark 6:30-34, Jesus is moved with compassion for the crowd and responds to their needs.

“Come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while”

The apostles needed to rest, time to recuperate, regenerate and gain spiritual nourishment, but there was no rest for Jesus. The people followed him in their thousands to the place where they had chosen to rest. So, moved with compassion, Jesus responded to their needs spiritually and bodily with food.

In a sermon on 30 October 2017, Pope Francis used five verbs to refer to the “closeness” of Jesus to his people: *see*, *call*, *talk*, *touch* and *heal*. The Pontiff explained “Christ calls us to touch the flesh of the other by hand, particularly the suffering and the needy.” This, the Pope insisted, is “the path of the good shepherd”.

This is the kind of shepherd Jesus calls us to be if we are to feed those who are hungry, give drink to those who are thirsty, shelter those who are homeless, visit those who are sick and prisoners, bury the dead and give alms to those who are poor.

Through the gospel, we are reminded not only to seek God, at the expense of a connection with other people. Instead, we are asked to prepare ourselves better to reach out to others in need, through strengthening our relationship with God.

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, helps us to become shepherds of your flock; and to be your hands tending to the needs of the people most in need of your mercy. Amen.



This week's Gospel is about Jesus' care for those who have lost their way. Remind the children of the Mother Goose Nurse Little Bo Beep. Now read the children this about this week's Gospel reading.

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So, he began teaching them many things.

I can remember the days when as a small child, my mother read to me from a book of Mother Goose nursery rhymes. I'll bet someone read those poems to you as well. Do you know the one about Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall? How about the one about the Three Blind Mice or Little Miss Muffet sat on a Tuffet? Those are all good ones! Do you know what my favorite was? It was Little Bo Peep. You know that one, don't you?

Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep,
And can't tell where to find them;
Leave them alone, and they'll come home,
Bringing their tails behind them.

Wait a minute! "Leave them alone and they'll come home." Do you think that is good advice? If you had a flock of sheep and they wandered off and got lost, would you just leave them alone and hope they would find their way back? No, of course not. You would go out and search until you found them and you would bring them back home.

Did you know that sheep are the one of the most frequently mentioned animals in the Bible? I searched the Bible and found more than 200 verses that mention sheep. Jesus quite often compared people to sheep and Jesus said of himself, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

In our Bible reading today, we see that Jesus and his disciples had been working very hard. They had been traveling from town-to-town teaching and preaching. The Bible tells us that they were so busy that they didn't even have a chance to eat. Jesus could see that they were tired, so he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." So they got in a boat and went away by themselves to a quiet place. But guess what? When they got there, they looked out and saw a great crowd of people waiting for them.

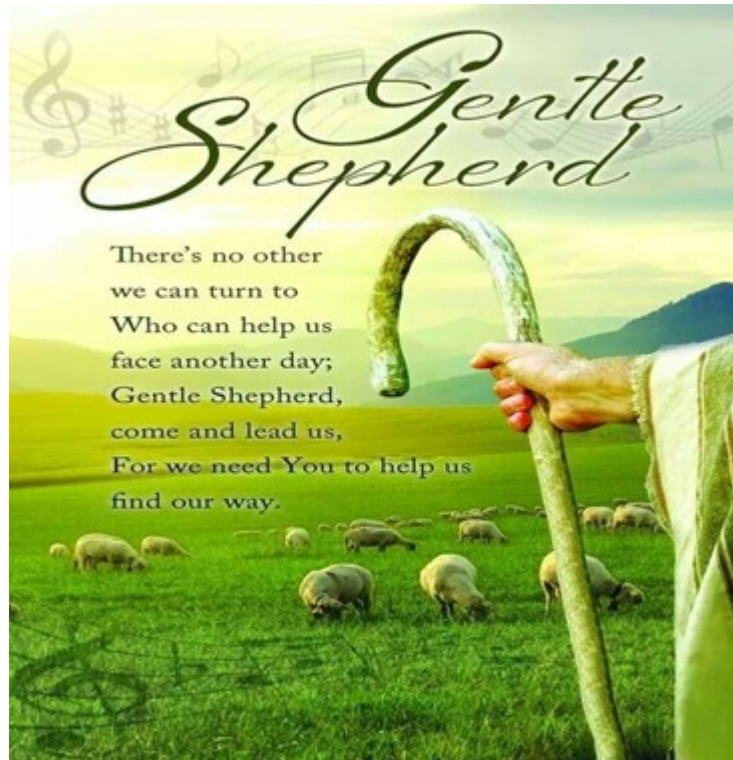
It would have been an easy thing for Jesus to say to the crowd, "You all go on your way. We are tired and need some rest. Come back some other time." But Jesus didn't do that. He looked at the crowd and "He was moved with compassion because they were like sheep without a shepherd." What does "he was moved with compassion" mean? Does that mean he felt sorry for them? No, it means more than that. It means that when Jesus saw that they were like sheep without a shepherd, he was moved to

action. Remember what Jesus said about himself? "The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

"Leave them alone and they'll come home, bringing their tails behind them." Not Jesus! Not the "Good Shepherd!" He lays down his life for the sheep.

Weekly Prayer

This week prayer is the Good Shepherd. We all need to focus that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and will always watch over us at all times





Syracuse Dioceses Information:

1) **From the Offices of Formation for Ministry and Deacon Formation**

Pastors and Parish Leaders - 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 intergenerational 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 a prayer from the USCCB.

From the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry



**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 chaperones. 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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