

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.

I am continuing to recommend activities to continue your families to grow during this time. We get to enjoy the beautiful summer weather (sometimes very rainy here in Upstate New York) . Let's remember to reflect on and be thankful for the life around us that God has blessed us with.

- 1) **Open mic night:** Does your family like to sing. Have a night in the backyard where you and your kids get up and sing your favorite faith songs. (This little house of Mine, Jesus Love Me just a few examples)
- 2) **Attend Church as a family:** Your family most likely is in a routine of going to church Sunday and that may seem sufficient. Stay connected to our faith every day of the week , it's great to participate in other faith-filled activities going on in our community. Read the bulletin and see what events are planned in the area. Attending any events in our church puts one as a family and opens up the opportunity to connect with other families who share our faith, volunteer or serve others (Parish Festival, Summer program)
- 3) **Faith-Based Movies:** At the end of a hot summer day, it can be nice to regroup inside the house and have an old-fashioned movie night. For your family night, you can watch a wholesome Christian movie (Heaven can Wait, The Star, I Can Only Image or Joshua are a few I recommend)
- 4) **Weekly Family Dinner:** With the kids home, a designated day of the week to sit down as a family and eat dinner together. If you can have a meal every day of the week, better. Cook the family favorite meet and then sit together. Take turns saying grace before eating and share what you are most grateful for that day. Thanking God for your blessing is significant in connecting with your faith on a daily basis

The teen Summer Program starts this Sunday from 5-8pm for Grades 7-12. This Sunday is Splash Night. Food will be provided by Irwin Chicken Tenders will be served. You may see me at the grill for extra hamburgers/hotdogs. Bus trip July 28 to Six Flags Darien Lake 8am-9pm Cost \$70. Cost included admission, transportation and dinner. Bring a bagged lunch or money for lunch. Bring your own towel.

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



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

Some families have been questioning the issue regarding masks for the children this coming faith formation year. The program is under the direction of the Syracuse Diocese and not the State of New York. The Syracuse Diocese consults with the State of New York with respect to protocol for a safe return back to classes. Current children are not required to wear masks during summer school. There is no current direction for the beginning of the fall session. Once this information is provided, all families will be informed

As like last year all parents will be required to sign the **COVID -19 Personal Home Screening and Personal Protection Covenant** before their child is allowed in the program

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



Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary time

Sunday Reading –

First Reading 2 Kgs: 4:42-44

Responsorial Psalm: PS 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18

Second Reading: Eph 4:1-6

Gospel: John 6:1-15



This week's reflection comes from the Catholic Conversation on the Scriptures

Archdiocese of Miami-Ministry for Christian Formation

Today's Gospel passage comes from the beginning of the Bread of Life discourse (John 6:1-71), so called because Jesus teaches that he is the Bread of Life, the food that will forever sustain those who believe in him. The multiplication of the loaves is the fourth sign that appears in the Gospel according to John. It is the only miracle story found in all four gospels (occurring twice in Mark and Matthew). The main reason could be that it was seen as the anticipation of the Last Supper and of the consequent Church's celebration of the Eucharist.

The story is filled with images that we now associate with the Eucharistic banquet: “Jesus took the loaves of bread,” “gave thanks”, and “distributed them.” This ritual reminds us of the daily bread we ask for when we pray to Our Father. The story symbolizes the food that is really available through Jesus. It connotes a new exodus. The twelve baskets of leftovers may point to the banquet of the Messiah at the final coming of the kingdom. This miracle also looks backward to the feeding of Israel with manna in the desert at the time of the Exodus (Ex 16), a miracle that according to some Jewish beliefs would be repeated in the messianic age (2 Baruch 29:8). Today’s reading offers three significant messages: • The Jewish belief in a God who always provided for his people is reflected in this miracle. The difference is that Jesus did not let the disciples just watch. He made them participate. • The bread that is shared in solidarity always gets multiplied by the power of God. • God never abandons those who share from their poverty to nourish others.

For our shared or personal reflection: After a brief pause for silent reflection share your answers, ideas or feelings

1. Do I share what I have with the hungry? Give examples.
2. How am I helping to satisfy the deeper spiritual hunger and thirst that haunts people today?



Theme: Feeding the multitudes

Object: Some bowls or other containers used to store leftovers.

Scripture

When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. John 6:12 (NIV)

Do you see all of these bowls? At my house, we use these to store leftovers in the refrigerator. Do you ever have leftovers at your house? We often cook more food than we can eat at one meal, so we have leftovers again the next night, and the next, and maybe even the next. I must confess, I sometimes get tired of leftovers before they are all gone.

We once had a neighbor who told me, "My family will not eat leftovers. If we have any food left over, I just have to throw it out." What a waste! I remember one time they cooked some steaks on the grill. When they had finished their dinner, my neighbor came over to our house and said, "We had this steak leftover and since my family won't eat leftovers, I thought you might like to have it for your dog."

"Oh yes, I'm sure my dog would love to have it," I answered. Well, guess what I had for dinner the next night. That's right, I had steak! There is nothing wrong with leftover steak!

Our Bible story today tells us about a time when Jesus and his disciples had some leftovers. It is a familiar story -- one that probably all of you have heard. It is the story about the time Jesus fed 5000 people.

You probably remember that Jesus had been teaching a large crowd of people. It was getting close to dinner time, and as he looked out over the crowd, Jesus turned to one of his disciples whose name was Philip and asked, "Where are we going to buy the bread for these people to eat?"

Philip said, "You've got to be kidding!" No, he didn't really say that, but I imagine he probably thought it. What he did say to Jesus was, "Even eight month's wages would not buy enough bread for each of these people to have one bite!"

Andrew, another of Jesus' disciples spoke up, "There is a small boy over here who has five small pieces of bread and two small fish, but that is not enough to feed all of these people."

"Bring it to me," Jesus said. Then he gave thanks, blessed it, and began breaking it into pieces to pass around to the people. When they had all had enough to eat, Jesus said, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." They gathered up twelve baskets full!

There are a couple of very important lessons we can learn from this story. All of us could learn a lesson from the little boy. He didn't have very much -- only five pieces of bread and two small fish -- but he was willing to share what he had and Jesus used it to feed a huge crowd of people.

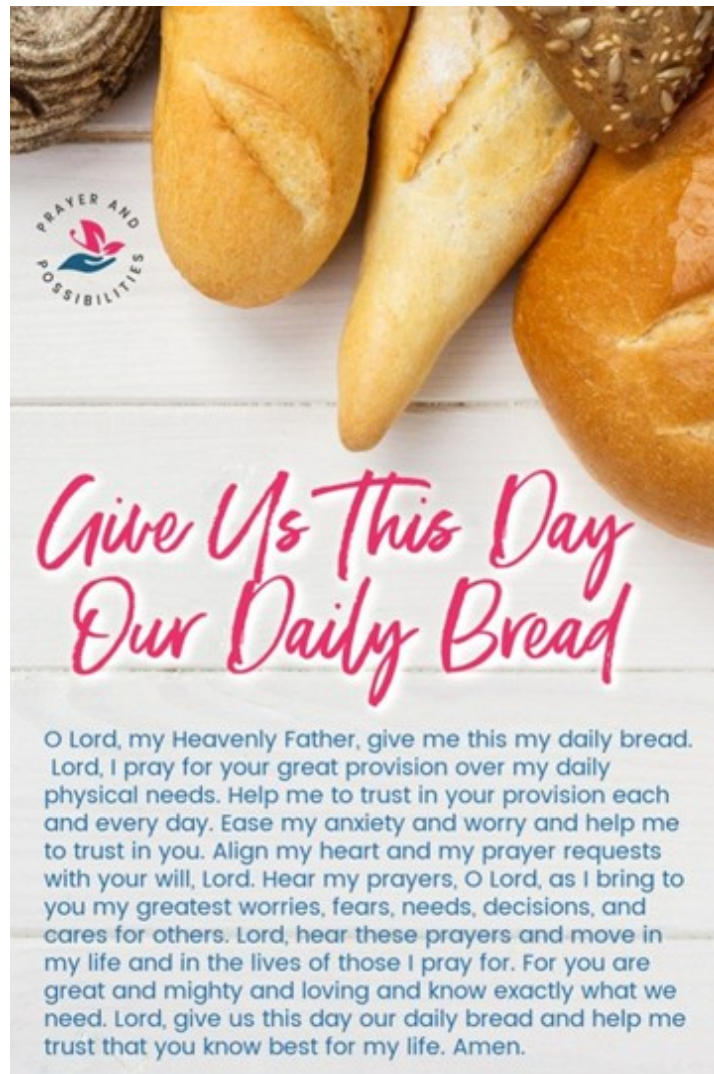
Another lesson we can learn is that God often blesses us with much more than we need. When that happens, what do we do with the leftovers? Jesus told the disciples to gather up the leftovers so that nothing would be wasted. The Bible doesn't tell us what they did with the leftovers, but my guess is that they probably used them to feed more hungry people.

Some of us may only have a little. Some of us have been blessed with much more than we need. Either way, God is pleased when we share with others.

Dear Father, we thank you for all of your blessings. Help us to be generous in sharing with others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Weekly Prayer

This week the Gospel reading leads to the Bread of Life-Our Lord Jesus. This week's prayer is for the Bread of Life that fills us with trust in the Lord for our needs.



*Give Us This Day
Our Daily Bread*

O Lord, my Heavenly Father, give me this my daily bread. Lord, I pray for your great provision over my daily physical needs. Help me to trust in your provision each and every day. Ease my anxiety and worry and help me to trust in you. Align my heart and my prayer requests with your will, Lord. Hear my prayers, O Lord, as I bring to you my greatest worries, fears, needs, decisions, and cares for others. Lord, hear these prayers and move in my life and in the lives of those I pray for. For you are great and mighty and loving and know exactly what we need. Lord, give us this day our daily bread and help me trust that you know best for my life. Amen.



Year of Vocations Celebration-August 3, 2021

The word "vocation" comes from the Latin root *vocare*, which means to be called or summoned. God invites every single Christian to actively participate in the very life and mystery of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our baptism authorizes and equips us for the life God has for us - our unique mission, part of God's mission. How we respond to that call is our vocation.

Join us for the Year of Vocations Celebration at Christ the King Retreat House on Tuesday, August 3 from 3pm - 8pm. You'll learn more about how God is calling YOU, and meet others who are also learning to respond to God's call. Includes 4 talks, personal reflection time, conversations in small groups, dinner, and Holy Hour with Bishop Lucia.

This event is FREE! Register at bit.ly/VocationSyr _I have signed up.

(Sponsored by the Hope Appeal. A collaborative effort of the Offices of Vocation Promotion, Pastoral Leadership, Formation for Ministry, and Evangelization.)

From James Salamy, the Office of Public Policy, and Lisa Hall, the Office of Family/Respect Life Ministry

Washington, D.C. – Continue to Oppose Federal Taxpayer Funding for Abortions

Since 1976 the Hyde amendment and similar federal laws have protected federal taxpayers from being forced to pay for elective abortions. A majority of Americans oppose taxpayer funding for abortions.

However, the United States House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations continues to mark-up additional appropriations bills that currently exclude the Hyde amendment and similar provisions that prevent federal taxpayer funding for abortions.

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, chairman of the USCCB Committee for Religious Liberty, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issued a statement that can be read [here](#) .

The USCCB is encouraging us to contact our United States Senators and Congressperson to keep the Hyde amendment and related policies in the appropriations bills, and to oppose any bill that expands taxpayer funding of abortion. Click [here](#) to take action and contact your elected officials.

Additional information can be found [here](#) and [here](#) .

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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