

Parish News...

Liturgical Roles for Lectors & Eucharistic ministers are needed for all masses. Whether you have been one of the elects or start, please call the Parish Office with your intentions as well as the Mass time you prefer.

Polish Days this weekend at the Polish Community Club @ 810 Columbia St. Utica
August 21 4-10pm & August 22 1-7 pm

The Polish American Congress Central Division of NY State will sponsor its annual Polish Day at the Shrine of the North American Martyrs on Sunday August 22nd. Devotions will begin @2pm with Stations of the Cross followed by the recitation of the Rosary. Confession in Polish and English from 2-3pm. Concelebrated Mass in the Coliseum @ 4pm.

There will be no news letter next week. I will be on vacation.



Faith Formation, the program will start 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.

Attached please find a copy of the school schedule. This may be subject to change depending on certain circumstances. Should something change, I will send out an email to all families

As in last year, we will provide each child their own packets of supplies, crayon, pencils and glue sticks. Please try and register your children before this date so we can have material ready when classes start

I will be available for registration these following days, if you would like to register your children, September 1 & 8 (Wednesday) from 5-6:30pm, weekend of 21/22 September 4/5 after the Masses in the school

After careful review of the current increase of cases in our County, face masks will be required for both students and catechists attending Faith Formation.

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 K and combined 4,5 & 6 Grade and combined 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. The program is based upon the weekly Gospel reading and is easy to teach the children. 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.



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.

Confirmation is October 28th @ 7pm at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Whitesboro. Bishop Lucia will celebrate the Confirmation Mass.

Confirmand/Sponsor sharing. The Summer with my Sponsor is due soon. 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 meeting between now and Labor Day. If anyone has any questions, please give me a call. 315-527-8399



Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Jos 34:1-2a, 15-17. 181b

Responsorial Psalm 34: 2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21

2nd Reading: Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32

Gospel: John 6:60-69



Reflection: To Whom Shall we go?

Good News: Jesus has the message of eternal life.

In many gospel passages, we read about crowds following Jesus. In the last remaining verses of John chapter 6, we read that many people walked away because they find Jesus' teaching about the "Bread of Life" as intolerable and unacceptable. Some of them went on to plot His death.

This is what happens if people do not have faith. We need faith in order to understand and accept the message of salvation. Thanks be to God, Peter and the other apostles stood by Jesus. It is because they believed in Him even if they only have little understanding of what their master was teaching about.

It is very important that we cleanse our thoughts of preconceived ideas. It is much more important that we develop our heart and mind as fertile ground where the Word of God can be planted and grow. Else, we are like some of the followers of Jesus who were “disturbed” and just distanced themselves from Him.

Indeed, there are many teachings of Jesus that are difficult to accept especially when they affect the things we hold dear like our business or relationship. They don't like Jesus to interfere with their worldly activities. As a result, some people become part-time believers or even full-time unbelievers.

Jesus has the words of eternal life. If we want to have eternal life, let us listen to Him wholeheartedly without any reservation. Yet we cannot go to Him unless the Father leads us. For faith and understanding is a gift from above. Let us pray then that our Father in heaven grants us a welcoming and faithful heart and that Jesus may become the King in all aspects of our life.

“Do you also wish to go away?” When Jesus asks us this question, may our answer be like Peter: “To whom shall we go?”

There is music for To whom shall we go. I recommend listening to this music. So inspiring. There are variations of this song for everyone to listen to.



Theme: Following Jesus

Object None is needed. (You could play "Follow the Leader")

Scripture

"You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." John 6:67-68 (NIV)

When I was a child, "Follow the Leader" was one of my favorite games. Have you ever played "Follow the Leader?" Of course, you have! "Follow the Leader" is a game that is played and enjoyed by children all over the world. The rules are very simple. First, you choose a leader. Then you follow him wherever he goes and do whatever he does. You stomp through puddles, climb over fences, or swing from a tree -- all to stay in the game because nobody wants to be a quitter.

"Follow the Leader" is a great game, but in our daily lives we play follow the leader too. In school, in Church, in sports, in any activity in which we may participate, there are always leaders. Every day we choose which leader we will follow.

One day Jesus was teaching in the synagogue and he said to the people, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. He who feeds on this bread will live forever." That was a difficult lesson for some to understand. When they heard it, they said, "This is hard teaching. Who can accept it?" Some of them quit following Jesus after that day.

Jesus knew that many people were grumbling and complaining, so he turned to the twelve whom he had chosen to be his disciples and said, "You don't want to leave too, do you?"

As usual, it was Peter who spoke up. "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." The disciples had answered the call to follow Jesus. They were not about to turn back now.

There is a song that some of you may know called "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus." It goes like this:

I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus.
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back.

Have you decided to follow Jesus? It may not always be easy, but once you have decided to follow him, there is no turning back.

Dear Jesus, you have called us to follow you. May we answer, "Yes, Lord, I'll follow you -- no turning back, no turning back." Amen.

Weekly Prayer

This is for all of us as we are all children of God. Let us all be followers of Jesus.

A Prayer for Our Children to Follow Jesus

Lord, I praise You as the giver of life. You created (name) and know every hair on his/her head. You love (name) beyond measure and You have a plan for his/her life. A good plan.

So, Lord, today I pray for my child. I pray that he/she reflects You in his/her everyday life.

You have called (name) the salt of the earth. (Mt. 5:13)

May he/she remain filled with flavor all his/her days and not be distracted from his/her purpose by the things of the world.

I claim (name)'s life be marked as a light of the world.

May his/her light never be hidden, but rather shine brightly of You. Your hope, Your love, and Your truth. And as he/she shines in his/her words and actions, may he/she always give all the glory to You, Lord. (Mt. 5:14-16).

Father, I know I strive to encourage my child in every way possible, but my greatest desire is for him/her to grow into a follower of You. I know that if he/she does this, all else will fall into place.

I pray all these things in the Name of Jesus.

Amen.



Syracuse Dioceses Information:

COVID Update:

Some inquiries have been made by members of the clergy who have been approached to provide a religious exemption for the coronavirus vaccine. Please be advised

that religious exemptions *are not being granted* for the coronavirus vaccine. Secondly, we are monitoring the coronavirus situation in our diocese and if there are any updates to the protocols they will be distributed immediately.

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

Last week, in two separate votes on packages of appropriations bills, the United States House of Representatives voted to force federal taxpayers to pay for abortions domestically and overseas, ending the Hyde Amendment and similar provisions, such as the Helms and Weldon amendments, that have been in place for forty-six years and have protected federal taxpayers from being forced to pay for abortions both domestically and overseas. The statements of the USCCB Committee Chairs, Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop Naumann, and Bishop Malloy, can be found [here](#) and [here](#) . The appropriations bills move to the United States Senate next.

If you have not done so already, please click [here](#) to take action and contact your elected officials and please click [here](#) to visit notaxpayerabortion.com for more information and to sign the petition.

From the Office of Liturgy and the R.C.I.A.

Fatima Consecration

A call to the world starting September 4th, 2021, and ending October 7th, 2021. Register at fatimaconsecration.org

Most of us remember where we were on the morning of September 11, 2001. We watched in horror as images of the terrorist attacks flooded the news media. We mourned the thousands of men, women, and children who perished in the World Trade Center, in the Pentagon, and in a field in Pennsylvania. Churches, synagogues, and mosques opened their doors as people tried to find meaning. Believers - old and new - found comfort, strength, and challenge in prayer. This September, our assemblies will be faced with renewed turmoil. Media coverage, national observances and family gatherings will refresh their minds and open their wounds. Our nation will again express its grief. While politics and patriotism will certainly be visible, prayer should take the more central role on this somber anniversary. The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions offers the following [Liturgy Preparation Aid: Prayer Resources for the Twentieth Anniversary of September 11, 2001](#) for communal and private prayer.

From the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

**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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