

# Parish News...

Mask Update: From the Syracuse Dioceses: In keeping with the expiration of the mask mandate in most public places in New York State, the Diocese of Syracuse will no longer mandate that masks be worn in diocesan churches and offices, effective February 10. The Diocese of Syracuse will continue to follow the mask requirements for schools. Although not mandated, the faithful are more than welcome to wear masks out of concern for the health and safety of others. It is necessary that all non-vaccinated individuals continue to wear a mask in offices and churches.



Ash Wednesday is this Wednesday, March 2. Distribution of Ashes will be at the Church at 7am, 12:10 Mass and 6pm

For the two days of the year when the Church requires fasting for Catholics (Ash Wednesday and Good Friday).

Ash Wednesday is the start of the Lenten Season. Per the USCCB; Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Latin Catholic Church the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18-59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may also be taken, but not to equal the first meal. Catholics may, of course, eat less. but this is considering the minimum required.

St Anthony/St Agnes began on February 25th and ending on April 15th there Fish Fries. Hours are from 4-pm-7pm . You may either walk in or call in your order -call 315 732 1177 after 3pm on Fridays. Dinners are TAKE OUT ONLY. Menu Fish Dinner ( Haddock, either fried or baked) for \$14, Shrimp dinner for \$15. All dinners include potatoes (fried or baked) coleslaw, dinner roll and condiments

We are all aware of the tragic news about Ukraine. Archbishop Jose H Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the USCCB issued a statement on Ukraine

“On behalf of my brother bishops, I echo the Holy Father’s call for prayer and fasting to end the war in Ukraine. In times of trouble, we call on the tender mercy of God... to guide our feet to the way of peace (Lk 1:78-79) May our prayers, joined with those of people around the world, help guide those waging war to end the meaningless suffering and restore peace.

“Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us.”

Adult Catechism: Adult Catechism continues on the first Sunday of every month @ 10AM. Classes will be held in the Cow Palace for all interested in learning to love & grow in faith. A different topic will be discussed each month related to the teaching of the Catechism.

Year-end Reminder: If a family requires a statement of contributions for 2021, please contact the Parish Office @315 316 0506 during normal hours Monday – Thursday 9am-3pm. End of year statements are only prepared for those parishioners who request them.



**Mask Wearing:** While the State of New York has lifted the mask mandate, this does not apply to schools at the present time. Parents, please remember that entering the building all are required to wear a face mask. NO exceptions. There will be extra if needed for the children if required.

Classes resume this Sunday February 27<sup>th</sup>.

**First Reconciliation & First Communion Families:** These Sacraments are fast approaching. It is extremely important the children not miss any further classes unless due to illness. I will be sending home this week a list of important dates regarding banners and due dates, Blessing Cup and practices. Also, if your child was not baptized at Sacred Heart/St Mary's and you have not provided the Parish with a copy of the Baptismal Certificate, please provide to me as soon as possible.

**First Reconciliation:** Has been scheduled March 5<sup>th</sup> at 11AM. Families of the children are welcome to attend the Sacrament. Remember that this is a please Sacrament and while in Church should be time of reflection and prayer with no talking as the children receive this Sacrament.

The children were sent home with the Act of Contrition to learn. Please practice with your children. Following the Sacrament there will be reception for the families sponsored by the CCM.

**First Communion Banners:** Due to the large number of children in the class, I will have two (2) when the children may come in to pick up the banner material. This will be on Wednesdays March 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 6:30 & March 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. If your child has not given the teacher their favorite color for the banner, please do so this Sunday. Banners are due no later than April 16<sup>th</sup>.

**The Blessing Cup** meal is scheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 12-2pm. A form will be sent home with children in the near future so I have counted the number of families attending.

**CONFIRMATION STUDENTS 10<sup>th</sup> Grade:** It is important that all students attend classes in order to make Confirmation on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The attendance has been reviewed and a number of students have missed a number of classes. Students will be allowed 2 abeyances from class unless due to illness. If more than 2 more are missed, the student may not be able to make Confirmation.

Confirmation Retreat is March 19<sup>th</sup> @ St. Paul's Church Whitesboro. Please mark your calendar to attend.

## Church Schedule

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

**7am, 12:10 and 6pm**

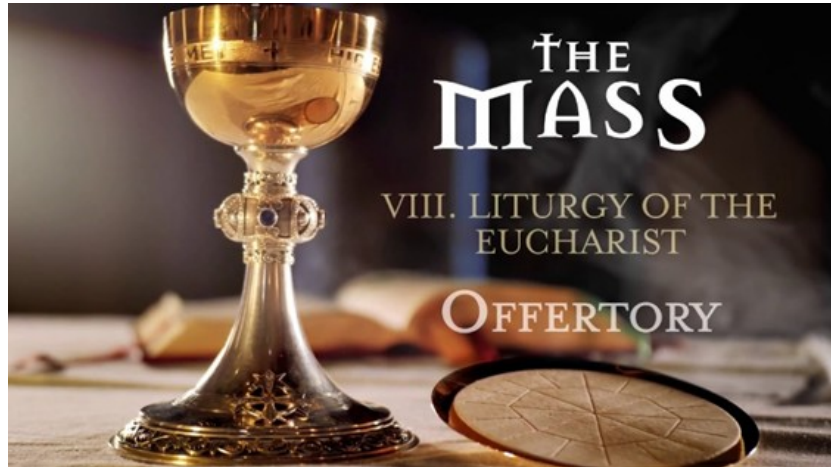
**Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday @ 3:15pm prior to Mass and the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month after the 12:10 Mass**

### **Mass Schedule**

**Saturday 4pm**

**Sunday 7:30 AM, 8:30AM, 10AM Polish Mass and 11am**

Let's remember that as Catholics, it is important to attend Sunday Mass. At Mass we are able to stand mystically at the foot of the cross and witness for ourselves the same self-sacrifice of Jesus, in an unbloody manner. Mass is a celebration of this sacrifice. It is the active participation of all that come together in the place of worship. While Faith Formation before the 11AM Mass, all families are welcome to this Mass. If unable to attend this Mass, please attend the Church Masses. Faith Formation Classes alone do not teach your children about their faith. It is important they see their faith in the Mass.



**While I have found these wonderful reflections on the Gospel readings, it is not meant to take the place of the Sunday Mass. Remember to attend Mass to hear Fr. Arthur or Deacon Kirk's a much better spiritual teaching of the Gospel reading**

### **Sunday Reading**

#### **Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**First Reading: Sir 27: 4-7**

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16**

**Second Reading: 1 Cor: 15:54-58**

**Gospel Luke: 6:39-45**



**This week's reflection comes from an article in US Catholic by John Christman , S.S.C**

Have you ever picked a piece of fruit right off of a tree and bit into it, *and enjoyed it right there?* There's something that seems almost magical or even miraculous about it. This tree that was once just a seed slowly becomes a sprout, growing and growing, until wondrously, fruit appears on its branches. And then on one special day, you reach up, give a slight tug, and the tree releases a luscious piece of fruit. Perhaps it's a golden-red honeycrisp apple, or a vibrant juicy orange. Whatever fruit it might be, in that moment you are struck by the pure giftedness of it all. Nature has provided you with wonderful food that not only nourishes you, but also delights you. It's nature's normal course, but it also feels special, like a gift.

The renowned theologian and teacher Thomas O'Meara, when explaining some of the aspects of Thomas Aquinas' thought, often quotes lyrics from the musical "Showboat." "Fish gotta swim, bird's gotta fly," to which we might add, "a tree's gotta bloom." O'Meara has a wonderful way of making seemingly complex things simple. Perhaps, we as human beings too often do the opposite. We make simple things complex. We like to make distinctions between ourselves, others, and the rest of the natural world, but, as our readings today point out quite clearly, "we," like the trees, are known by our fruit.

The first reading from Sirach astutely observes "the fruit of a tree shows the care it has had" and so do we as human beings. In our words and actions we show not only the care others have generously given us but also the care we have put into cultivating ourselves. Through the process of growing, pruning, and flourishing, we gradually learn not only what to say in all manner of situations, but importantly *when* and *how* to say what we believe needs to be said, for justice, for forgiveness, for reconciliation, for charity and for encouragement.

Sometimes we put limits or expectations on what kind of "fruit" we think we should bear. We tell ourselves all kinds of things about who we should be or what we should do. But trees bear all different

kinds of fruit, big and small, and nurture growth and new life in many different ways. For us that may mean sometimes we may be called to do something that seems big or daunting, amend our life in some significant way, or stand up for the good of others when it's not easy. Other times, it may be something small, almost overlooked, a simple affirmation offered to another or a small unseen act to help the daily life of your family, coworkers, neighbors, or parish community. These are all ways we bear fruit, and each is meaningful in its own way. The scriptures remind us that through it all, one of the most important things is to stay rooted in our relationship with God. Interestingly, if we cultivate these good habits in ourselves, and remain attentive to our relationship with God, we might be surprised at the fruit we bear simply by being ourselves.



This week I am not including the Children Liturgy of the Word. Instead, I strongly encourage Families to attend Ash Wednesday Services at the Church. It is important for the children to understand it is the beginning of the important season in our Church. It prepares us for Easter.

With Ash Wednesday, we teach the children, we are marked with the Sign of the Cross on our forehead. This reminds us that we are children of God. At Baptism, when we became part of God's family, we were anointed with special oil in a cross on our foreheads. The ashes today remind us that we are human and we make mistakes. The cross reminds us that since we are God's children, we can ask God for His forgiveness and his help in becoming the children He wants us to be.

### Weekly Prayer

**As we prepare for the Season of Lenten, we need to open oneself for the 40 days of fasting, prayer and penitence. What a way to pray, other than the words of St. Theresa of Calcutta**

The prayer card has a soft, colorful background. On the left, there is a black and white photograph of Mother Teresa in prayer, with her hands clasped and her head bowed. To the right of the photo, there is a quote in purple text: "Lord, help us to see in your Crucifixion and Resurrection an example of how to endure." followed by "- Mother Teresa". To the right of the quote, the title "A Prayer for Lent" is written in a larger purple font. Below the title, the prayer text is written in purple: "Please, Lord, guide my mind with your truth. Strengthen my life by the humble, obedient example of Jesus. He fulfilled your will by becoming human and suffering with us. He died so that I would no longer be separated from you. Help me to feel how close you are and to live in union with you." In the bottom right corner, there is a small logo for "cmmb" which consists of a stylized 'G' inside a circle.



### **COVID Update:**

1) From Danielle E. Cummings, Office of Chancellor:

In keeping with the expiration of the mask mandate in most public places in New York State, the Diocese of Syracuse will no longer mandate that masks be worn in diocesan churches and offices, effective February 10. The Diocese of Syracuse will continue to follow the mask requirements for schools. Although not mandated, the faithful are more than welcome to wear masks out of concern for the health and safety of others. It is necessary that all non-vaccinated individuals continue to wear a mask in offices and churches.

Attached please find the flier for A Lenten Retreat for Catholic Women on April 2, 2022 at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Syracuse. There is a \$25 registration fee. RSVP to [swc@syrдио.org](mailto:swc@syrдио.org)

From the Office of Liturgy and the R.C.I.A.: Attached please find a flier for Lent March 2<sup>nd</sup> to April 14<sup>th</sup> Liturgical Supplement from the Diocese of Syracuse . It is a table of Liturgical days.

Have a Blessed week

Lynn M. Springer  
Faith Formation Direction  
Email: [LSpringer@syrдио.org](mailto:LSpringer@syrдио.org)  
Cell 315 527 8399