

Parish News...

There is a lot happening in our Parish and well as other Catholic Churches in our area. I know there is a lot to go through this week but there is a lot happening.

As we prepare for Lent here is the schedule for how your family can participate here in our Parish

Daily: 12:10 Mass Monday thru Friday

Stations of the Cross on Fridays 6pm

Fridays are days of abstinence from meat for all who are 14 years of age and older.

Other Lenten activities in other Parishes in Utica

From St. Mary of Mount Carmel/Blessed Sacrament, in Utica:

Jim Krisher scripture sharing planned for March 31

Jim Krisher, director emeritus of the Spiritual Renewal Center and adjunct faculty member in the Religious Studies Department at Le Moyne College, will offer a Lenten scripture reflection titled "The God Who Pursues: Good News from Luke's Gospel" at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 31, in the Salerno Room at Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish, 648 Jay St., Utica. There is no fee to attend, but reservations are required. To reserve your spot, call the parish office at 315-735-1482 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, or contact Anne Elacqua at 315-941-7447 or email her at aelacqua@syrdio.org. Visit www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com for information.

Jazz vespers and night prayer by Chelsea Opera April 5

The Chelsea Opera will host a special evening of "Night Prayer and Vespers" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, in church at Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish, 648 Jay St., Utica. Plan to attend this uplifting evening of music and prayer that will touch your heart and bring healing. Visit www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com for information.

Anthony/St Agnes Utica begin on February 25th and end on April 15th their Fish Fries. Hours are from 4pm-7pm. You may either walk in or call in your order -call 315 732-1177 after 3pm on Fridays. Dinners will be TAKE OUT ONLY. Menu: Fish Dinners, (Haddock, either fried or baked) \$14; Shrimp dinners \$15. All dinners include potatoes (fried or baked) Coleslaw, dinner roll and condiments

Support for Ukraine- (All the Catholic Church's in the Utica area)

1) Ukrainian Humanitarian Effort at Notre Dame Jr/Sr. and Elementary. The schools are collecting the following items at their locations until 3/28:

Warm clothing for all Hygiene products; Baby items (diapers especially); Blankets and bedding; Disposable tableware; First Aid kits; Medical supplies; Candles; Sleeping bags, Containers for liquids (10 to 20 liters)

In special need right now: Children's activities such as coloring books and crayons. Children's vitamins, Pain relief medication, Warm socks, gloves and hats for men.

2) Operation Walk Ukraine: A meeting with the faith formation directors for our PCA and we have decided to collaborate with a fundraiser for Ukraine. This will be held on May 14th from 9 to 1pm @ Norte Dame Senior Campus for all the Catholic Community of Eastern region. This will be a family event with all family members welcome to walk this event. What a great way to show our support and also fulfill the Corporal Works of Mercy which is an act of love that addresses the physical and material needs of others. More information to follow

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.

Attached are a number of fliers with additional information.



Faith Formation

First Communion Families: These Sacraments are fast approaching. It is extremely important the children not miss any further classes unless due to illness. 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 Communion Banners: For those who did not pick up the banner matter there is 1 final day on March 22 from 5pm to 6pm. Banners are due no later than April 16th.

The Blessing Cup meal is scheduled for April 23rd 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 10th Grade: It is important that all students attend classes in order to make Confirmation on May 19th. The attendance has been reviewed and a number of students have missed a number of classes. Students will be allowed 2 absences from class unless due to illness. If more than 2 more are missed, the student may not be able to make Confirmation.

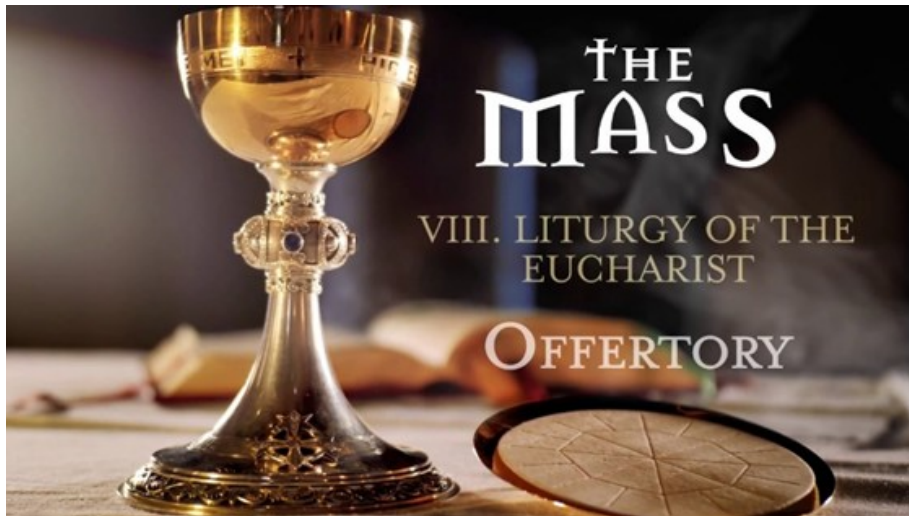
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday @ 3;15pm prior to Mass and the 1st Thursday of the month after the 12:10 Mass

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 Readings

Third Sunday of Lent

First Reading: EX 3:1=8a, 13-15

-Responsorial Psalm: Ps: 103: 1-2, 3-4, 6-7 , 8, 11

Second Reading: 1 Cor 10:1-6, 1-12

Gospel: Luke: 13:1-9



A reading from the gospel according to Luke 13:1-9

1 Some people told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices.

2 He said to them in reply, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans?”

3 By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!

4 Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them – do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem?

5 By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!”

6 And he told them this parable: “There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none,

7 he said to the gardener, ‘For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?’

8 He said to him in reply, ‘Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it;

9 it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.’”

Reflection: Another Chance

God has created man for a purpose and that is, to know and to love Him forever. He has planted in us the seed of goodness and love. He has provided us the means to grow and develop as adults. He has given us three important gifts (time, talent and treasure) to use to serve Him and our fellowmen. The question for every one of us now is how we use those gifts.

If we do not use our God-given time, talent and treasure for His glory and instead we make use of them to displease Him by sinning, we deserve nothing less than eternal death. We are like the fig tree. If we do not bear fruit, we are useless and it is much better for us to be cut down. “The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” (Matthew 3:10)

We may look at others and be content that our sin is much lighter than theirs. That will not help. The mere fact that we commit sin, we deserve to be punished. Yet our God is very patient with us. He loves us so much that He gives us not just one or two but many chances to repent and be renewed. He keeps on waiting for us to come back to Him every time we go away. But let us not test His patience. The time to repent is now, not later.

Let us glorify Him by using our gifts of time, talent and treasure to serve others. Let us thank God for His patience with us. Let us thank Him for giving us another chance.

“If you do not repent, you will perish.” These are strong words of warning from Jesus. Let us listen to Him and repent while there is still time.



Theme: Fruit trees are expected to bear fruit -- so are we.

Object: An Apple

Scripture

"A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' " 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.' " Luke 13:6-9 (NIV)

- Apples not only taste good, they are good for you. Apples are fat-free, salt-free, cholesterol-free, and a good source of vitamins to help you grow.
- The apple I have this morning is called a "Red Delicious," but you may be surprised to know that there are over 7500 different types of apples in the world.
- The top five apple-producing countries in the world are China, the United States, Turkey, Italy and France.

There are a lot of different ways to enjoy apples. For example, you might enjoy some apple juice or apple cider. Some children like to take applesauce in their school lunches. Have you ever had some tasty apple butter on your toast in the morning? Apple slices dipped in caramel are a delicious treat. My all-time favorite, of course, is apple pie!

I am sure that all of you know where we get apples. They come from apple trees. Well, what would you do if you planted an apple tree in your garden, watered it, and took care of it and it never produced any apples? It wouldn't be much good as an apple tree, would it?

Jesus told a story about a man who had a fig tree in his vineyard that didn't produce any figs. For three years he waited for the tree to produce fruit -- but still no figs. He went to the man who took care of the tree and told him to cut it down. The caretaker asked the owner to give him one more year to dig around the tree and fertilize it to see if the tree would produce some figs. The owner agreed to give the tree another chance.

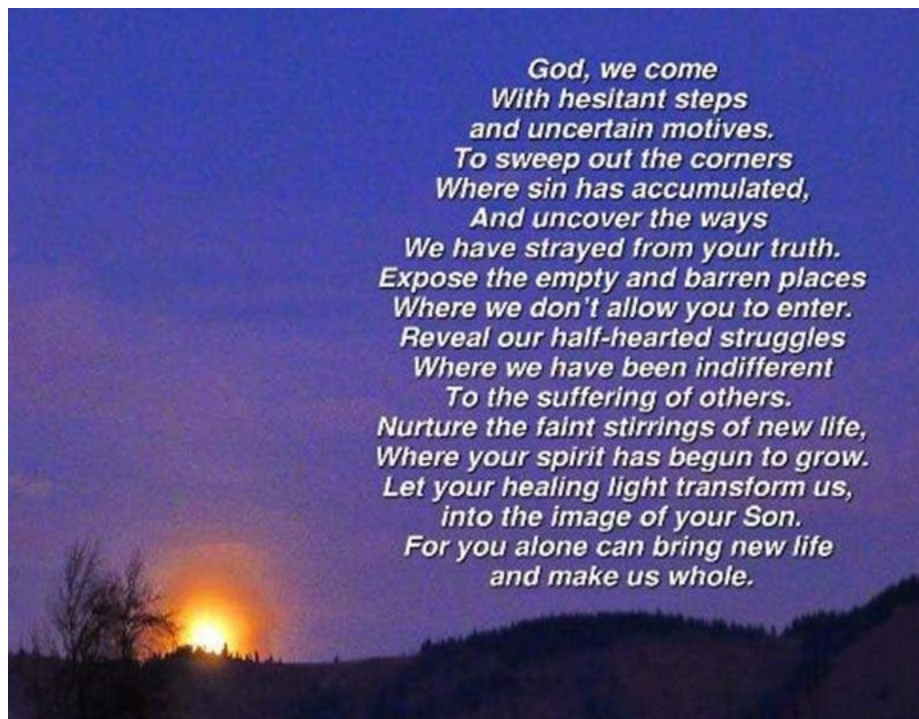
In telling this story about the fruit tree, Jesus was really talking about us - and about God. God has "planted" us on this earth and he expects us to produce good fruit in our life. What kind of fruit does God expect? Things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and

gentleness. When He doesn't see these things in our life, He is very disappointed -- but He is willing to give us another chance.

Jesus wants to care for us and help us to be the kind of fruit-bearing children that God wants us to be. If we will trust in him, read his Word, and pray -- he will help us to produce a lot of good fruit.

Dear Jesus, help us to have the kind of fruit in our lives that would be pleasing to our Heavenly Father. Amen.

**As we continue to pray and reflect on the season of Lent, attached is a prayer for families to say.
This week's prayer is for Lenten peace in the world.**





1) From Bishop Lucia:

Bishop Lucia will join Pope Francis in consecrating Russia and the Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on **Friday March 25th**, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of Our Lord. Please join Bishop Lucia at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse for Mass at Noon either in person or via Livestream

The *Office of Catechesis and the Office of Youth Ministry* are joining together to pray the Luminous Mysteries every Thursday during Lent and offering intentions for the children and youth of our diocese. Join our prayer initiative with your team at a time that is convenient for you! Our prayer intentions can be found at <https://bit.ly/children-and-youth-rosary> and in today's attachment.

Two Attachments - FB Post image & Rosary Intentions

Steubenville Youth Conference: Fearless!

July 15th - 17th, 2022

Registration is NOW OPEN on the [Diocesan website](#) event page. Register now, through April 15th, to secure your spot.

Join the Syracuse Diocesan Youth Office as we travel to the Steubenville main campus. Bring your youth group for a life-changing weekend along with 2200 other young people seeking to draw closer to Christ and renew their faith. The weekend is packed with engaging sessions, concerts, prayer, and opportunities to encounter Christ!

The registration and payment deadline is April 15, 2022. Contact OYYAM@syrдио.org for more information.

Theology on Tap Lenten Speaker Series

Young Adults (20's & 30's) are invited to the 4-week speaker series continuing through March 31st.

This week on March 16th in Utica, and on March 17th in Syracuse!

Boost your Lent with the series theme **The Great Resignation: Finding Stability in Christ & the Church**. We live in the time of the "Great Resignation" and all Young Adults feel the impact. Fear not! There's HOPE and STABILITY in Christ and the Church! The dynamic speakers, with rich professional wisdom and deep Catholic faith, will share practical and inspiring steps toward a future full of HOPE!

UTICA @ Baggs Square Brewing Co. (Wednesdays)

SYRACUSE @ A Mano Kitchen & Bar (Thursdays)

7:00-9:00pm

REGISTER ONLINE to reserve your spot and receive a FREE DRINK TICKET! syracusedioocese.org/tot

From Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish, Utica:

Mary at the Cross: Come follow Mary along the way of the Cross at Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish, 2222 Genesee St., Utica on Friday, March 25 at 7:00pm. Musical reflections will be offered by parish choirs under the direction of Scott Rutledge with Dominic Fiacco, organist. A free will offering will be taken for our suffering brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

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

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

Have a Blessed and Safe Week

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