

Parish News...

Easter is 3 weeks away on April 17th. I have found these ways to prepare our families hearts for Easter and keep Jesus at the center of our celebrations Here are just a 2 for this week

1. **Read a daily devotional** from [50 Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die](#). I did this one year and it infused the holiday with so much meaning, as I realized the richness of Jesus' sacrifice in a whole new way.
2. **Practice fasting during Lent** or alternately, prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to work His fruit in your life week by week. You can also study the seven deadly sins for each week of Lent and ask God to remove the "leaven" of sin in your life. Give up the seven deadly sins for Lent? Yeah, that's something I'm going to try next year.

Also remember that here at the Parish you can attend daily Mass from 12:10 Monday thru Friday or attend the Station of the Cross on Fridays @ 6pm As we prepare for Lent here is the schedule for how your family can participate here in our Parish

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@syrдио.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-

Please join us this Sunday March 27th at 3pm as we walk from Holy Trinity Church in Utica to the Ukrainian Catholic Church of St. Volodymyr the Great on Cottage Place Utica (Short walk) At the end of the walk the Rosary will be said for peace in Ukraine.

1) 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 10 to 1pm @ Norte Dame Senior Campus for all the Catholic Community of the Greater Utica Area. There will be a minimum of \$5 per person to walk. Sponsors to walk are encouraged. This will be a family event with all family members welcome to walk. What a great way to show our support for those in need 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.



Faith Formation

First Communion: Starting on April 6th and on 20th and 27th, the children will be practicing for the Sacrament of First Eucharist from 5:30pm to 7pm. The time has been extended as the children will be learning a song to sing at Mass. Please make sure the children are on time so we may start promptly.

First Communion Banners: Due April not later than April 16th.

First Communion is May 1st @ 11am Mass

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. Confirmation name and sponsor information is due by April 17th. This is the same for the letter to the Bishop. The letters will be discussed in this week's class.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday @ 3:15 pm 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.

Faith Formation Classes alone do not teach your children about their faith. It is important they see their faith in the Mass. Faith Formation is before the 11AM Mass, all families are welcome to this Mass. If unable to attend this Mass, please try to attend other Church Masses.



Sunday Readings

Fourth Sunday of Lent

First Reading: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Second Reading: Esp -5:8-14

Gospel: John 9:1-41



This week I found two different thoughts regarding this week's Gospel. One is more theological while the other is spiritual. Read both and reflect on the one which the Lord is speaking to you.

(Please remember that these reflections should not deter one from hearing the words of wisdom and food for the soul from Father Arthur or Deacon Kirk during the Sunday Homily)

Reflection 1:

In this Catholic reflection on John 9:1-41, we will look at the Pharisees' reaction to the miracle of Jesus healing the blind man. Initially, they are irritated that Jesus did not know how to make the blind man see, but later they acknowledge that he was born blind and had received his sight. When the evidence grows against the Pharisees, John drives the blind man out of the temple.

As the Gospel story unfolds, the theme of light and darkness is present throughout the narrative. This theme was introduced in the Prologue of the Gospel. As Jesus is the Word made flesh, he shines the light over the darkness. Unfortunately, this light will be snuffed out by the forces of darkness, and ultimately crucify Him. As such, we need to keep our eyes open and our hearts filled with faith in God to keep ourselves and others in our midst.

The gospel of John introduces an important theological theme: light and darkness. In Genesis 1, the Word of God entered the world and created everything new. In the Fourth Gospel, the apostle John declares that Jesus is the light of the human race, and that life and light are intertwined themes. The story of the blind man in the gospel of John is a powerful reminder of this theme. The story of Jesus being able to see in the darkness is an example of how the Christian community can live by the principles of light and dark.

The story of the blind man in the Gospel of John is a rich source of theological reflection. This episode also highlights the ongoing significance of Jesus for the Christian community. The healing of the blind man in John exemplifies this theme. The healing of the blind man is the most important miracle of all time. The seven miracles in John are often referred to as signs. The story of the blind man is an ongoing issue for Christians post-Easter.

As we look at the readings in the Gospel of John, we are reminded that light and darkness go hand in hand. The healing of the blind man is a major issue for the Christian community after Easter. As the gospel teaches, the seven miracles of Jesus are referred to as signs. These events are signs of the ongoing significance of Jesus for the Christian community. The healing of the blind man, for example, is a crucial story for post-Easter believers.

The healing of the blind man is a striking illustration of Jesus' claim to be the light of the world. The Jews judge Jesus for the man's blindness. Despite the blatant sin of the Jews, he is the Light of the world. In fact, it is the infirmity of the child that enlightens the person. Then, we see the crucifixion of the crucifixion.

Reflection 2:

Imagine yourself being blind, you see nothing except darkness then suddenly you are able to see. How would you feel about it? Of course, you would feel indescribable joy because you're now able to appreciate the beauty of your surroundings.

This was how the blind man must have felt when his blindness was cured by Jesus. He felt an overwhelming joy that he never felt before in his entire life. Aside from the physical blindness the man was also healed from his spiritual blindness.

But why did Jesus heal the blind man in the first place? This is for the reason that Jesus found faith and humility in this blind man. Jesus would have not healed him if he did not have faith and humility.

Jesus saw something that is not visible through the naked eye. Jesus saw that in the hearts of this blind man lies the two golden virtues which are faith and humility. This is what is oftentimes lacking within us that is why we don't receive what we pray for.

Does this mean that this blind man had been praying for healing long before Jesus saw him? Yes! He had been praying so that he would be cured of his blindness, praying with faith and praying with humility.

Do you have faith in the Lord Jesus? Faith that is very much willing to abandon yourself upon the mercy and goodness of the Lord Jesus Christ? Do you have humility? Humility to follow without question what the Lord tells you?

Let us pray for healing regarding our lack of faith and let us pray for healing regarding our lack of humility. – Marino J. Dasmarinas



Theme: Sometimes you may not be rewarded for doing what is right.

Scripture Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. John 9:6-7 (NIV)

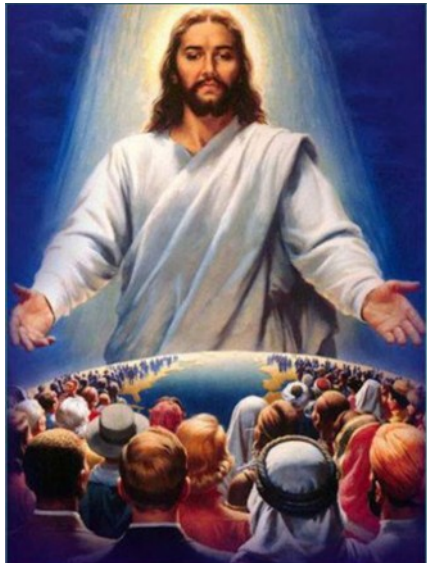
If you could not see, would you mind if you were healed on a Monday? How about a Tuesday? Would any day be a good day for you to be healed? In today's gospel lesson from John, we hear about Jesus performing a miracle. He healed a blind man and now the man could see. Isn't that amazing? Wouldn't you think that everyone would be happy that this man could now see? Unfortunately, there were some people who were angry with Jesus for healing the man. It's hard to believe that in doing something right, people can get mad or upset with you, but it happens. We are not always rewarded for doing the right thing. Does this mean we shouldn't do it? No, it does not.

When Jesus was alive, there were people called Pharisees and they controlled a lot about what went on in the cities and towns. They liked being the ones to call the shots. They didn't want Jesus to take away any of their power, so they made trouble for Jesus, for the blind man and for the blind man's parents. They even tried to convince people that the man hadn't been born blind.

What does this have to do with us today? Even today, you might be misunderstood if you do something right. There is a saying that goes like this: Might makes Right. This saying means that if you're powerful enough, what you do is right. But this isn't true. Might not make right. Christ makes right.

Let's pray: Jesus, help me know what's right. Help me have courage to do the right thing, even if it's not the popular thing to do, if it is your will. 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.



Prayer For Peace

O Lord Jesus Christ,

Who said to Your Apostles:
"Peace I leave with you, My
peace I give to you," regard
not our sins but the faith of
Your Church, and deign to
give us peace and unity
according to Your Will:
Who live and reign, God,
world without end.
Amen.

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Formation for Ministry/Deacon Formation Information Sessions. Is God calling you to learn more about your faith and serve the church? Come and see how Formation for Ministry and Deacon Formation can help you answer that call.; June 5, St. Anthony/St. Agnes, Utica; . Sessions are 1:00-3:30.

Register at bit.ly/2022InfoSessions or formationforministrysyr.org or call 315-470-1491.

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.

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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