

Parish News...

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday and the following week is Holy Week. This is the basis of our Faith; That Jesus Died as Rose again for our Salvation.

Here is the Parish schedule

H O L Y W E E K

			
PALM SUNDAY APRIL 5 EXCITEMENT	MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 9 CONFUSION	GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 10 DESPAIR	EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 12 JOY

Palm Sunday: Distribution of Palms
3pm Station of the Cross on the outside

Holy Thursday: April 14th Prims Mass 6pm

Good Friday April 15th
3pm Passion and Veneration of the Cross
6pm: Seven Last words of Christ

Holy Saturday-April 16th
Blessing of food in the Church @ 10AM and Noon
Blessing of food @ home by request
8pm Eastern Vigil

Easter Sunday: April 17th
7:30 am no music
8:30AM High Mass with process-Polish/English
No 10am Polish Mass
11am Mass



Eucharist Devotion: An hour of Eucharist Devotion will be re-instituted starting Thursday, March 31st and continue every Thursday after the 12:10 Mass to 1:30pm. Prayers, Litany, Chaplet of Divine Mercy allowing also some private devotion time.



The Parish will be selling potato and cheese pierogi for \$10 per dozen today after the 4pm Mass and on Sunday from 7:30 until 12:30pm. This will be a drive thru purchase from the school cafeteria.

Other Lenten activities in other Parishes in Utica

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

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) Operation Walk Ukraine The Utica Catholic Churches will hold a Walk 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 greatly 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. Sponsor forms will be available at the school and parish shortly.

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.



There is Faith Formation next Sunday April 10th. If your family is unable to attend due to vacation for Spring break please let us know this Sunday. We will have a special project for the children, Palm Cross to make and have blessed at the 11am Mass.

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.

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.

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

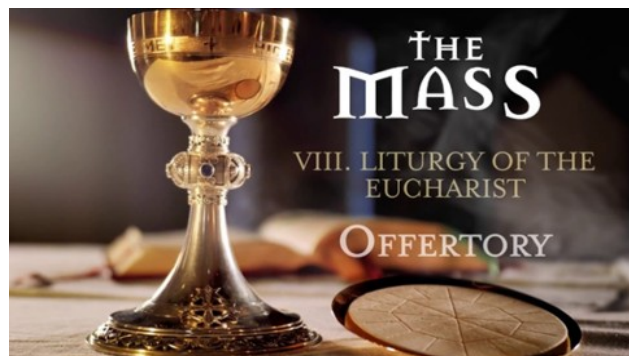
Mass Schedule

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.

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Is 43:16-21

Responsorial Psalm: PS 126: 1-2, 2-3 ,4-5 ,6

Second Reading: Phil 3:8-14

Gospel: John 8:1-11

(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 on Adultery: We're all guilty.

Life is like a constant game of mirrors: we project our frustrations onto others, we condemn them for things we don't dare see in ourselves, yet we care for others when they display our most fragile features.

Other people constantly show us a reflection of ourselves and reveal parts of us that we would be unable to see otherwise. Sometimes we are surprised, sometimes unbelieving, and sometimes even frustrated. Many of our relationships are the product of this game of mirrors. Jesus also finds himself in the middle of this game and agrees to play along.

The adulteress woman thrown into the center becomes a projection of all the men that surround her. In her they see all of their inability to be faithful to the Law. They project onto her their frustration, their inability to persevere. **This woman's adultery is their own potential adultery,** their own inevitable infidelity to God.

They vent upon her the rage they have towards themselves upon seeing that they too are unfaithful observers of the Word. **They find themselves continually surprised in their adultery by God.** In this woman, we see the reflections of Israel, the adulteress wife, an unfaithful people. This was the accusation that resounded in the words of the Prophets that were proclaimed to them every Saturday in the synagogues.

We are all adulterers, unfaithful to ourselves, our vocations, unfaithful to life, traitors to our most dear relationships. We strive constantly to find new lovers to deceive us with their false promises. Only with great difficulty can we stay where life has placed us for, we are constantly running away, seduced by our summer loves.

We can't be sure what Jesus wrote on the ground, but it seems that in those words, written in the sand, the scribes – experts in scripture – could read about themselves, as if Jesus had placed a mirror in front of their eyes. For these experts of the Word, there was no better mirror than words themselves. **Jesus is the unexpected.** He is the event that we come across, seemingly by accident, that reveals the truth about ourselves, whether we like it or not.

This woman was *surprised* in adultery, as if she were spied on by people that were waiting for the moment to reveal her sin. We often spy on each other in the same way, waiting for the other person to fail, to fall into sin. But since life is a game of mirrors, another person's fall may also be our own.

In this game of mirrors, the circumstances are turned on their head: those who accuse suddenly become the accused. We find ourselves in an ambiguous situation in which we don't know who is being charged. The Scribes and Pharisees seemingly force Jesus into the role of judge, but it is actually he who is being judged by them. The adulterous woman is the reflection of Jesus: he is about to be condemned to death just as she is. Jesus can see his own destiny in the potential destiny of this woman.

Jesus stands and removes himself from the role that others have wanted to put him in. He steps aside, allowing the Scribes and Pharisees to see themselves in the woman's adultery. In her, every man sees his own sin. In her, every man can see the destiny that he deserves and that which he is delivered from. Those who accused her realize that they have become the accused.

After the Scribes and Pharisees have left, Jesus can take up his role again as the authentic judge of the woman before him. He is the only true judge, he who, being without sin, is the only one that could condemn her. But Jesus stands up for her also: **He that stands before her has already risen**, he is the one that rises above death, it is he that has erased our sentence by defeating death.

Once again, this woman is a reflection of each of us. In her freedom we see ourselves freed. In her we can see our own astonishment: we were adulterers and yet we have not been stoned. This woman does not deserve forgiveness and neither do we. And yet God has given it to us. We are left in wonder with this woman of the Gospel.

Life is a game of mirrors that we cannot escape from, mirrors that can fuel our rage, mirrors that we would often like to smash. But there can also be mirrors that, providentially, initiate a conversion in our hearts.

Questions for personal reflection:

- *At this point in your life, who or what are the mirrors that you see yourself reflected in?*
- *What role do you often play in the trials of life: that of judge, victim or prosecutor?*



Theme: Forgiving others as Christ forgives us.

Object: Your own hand and enough stones to give one to each child

Scripture

When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." John 8:7 (NIV)

One day Jesus got up early and went to the temple. As often happened, a group of people gathered around Jesus and he sat down and began to teach them. As he was teaching, some teachers of the law brought a woman who had been living a sinful life and made her stand before Jesus. "Teacher," they said, "this woman was caught in a terrible act of sin. The law of Moses says that she should be punished by stoning. What do you say?" The Bible tells us that they were trying to trap Jesus into saying something against their laws so that they could bring charges against him.

Jesus bent down and began writing with his finger in the dirt. The men kept questioning Jesus trying to get him to say something. Finally, Jesus stood and said to them, "Whoever is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her," then he bent down and continued writing in the dirt. The men who had accused the woman looked at one another and walked away.

Jesus stood and spoke to the woman. "Where are your accusers? Did no one condemn you?" he asked.

"No one," the woman answered.

"Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

Have you ever seen someone doing something wrong and you pointed an accusing finger at them? I think most of us would have to admit that we have. I had a pastor one time who was fond of saying, "Remember, when you point your finger at someone, there are three fingers pointing back at you." Try it, point your finger at someone and then look at your hand. Three fingers are pointing back at you!

That is the point of Jesus' teaching in our lesson today. Not one of us is perfect and we should remember that when we want to point fingers or throw stones at someone else. I have a small stone for each of you. Take it home and put it somewhere that you will see it when you think you might be tempted to point out someone else's faults.

Our Father, help us to have the forgiving attitude that Jesus taught us in our lesson today. It is in Jesus' name that we pray, 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 LENT

LORD AND SAVIOR, as we undertake this Lenten journey, we seek to know your merciful love in all that you have done for us. May we face our sins squarely, assured that you know and love us as we are. May we always be confident that your mercy is far more powerful than our miserable sins and that you draw all people to yourself. Help us to turn to you in sorrow and to praise you in joy, knowing that you hold all things in your hand. **AMEN.**

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DIOCESE NEWS

1) From Lisa Hall, Office of Family/Respect Life Ministry:

Holy Week at Home

As we continue to journey through this Lenten season why not celebrate Holy Week with your family with the following activities:

Holy Thursday

- Watch *The Prince of Egypt* - It covers the 10 plagues and the Passover!
- Plan a Last Supper Dinner - serve lamb if you are able, or make a cake for dessert in the shape of a lamb.
- Read Psalms 113-116 (or parts of them) while you wash one another's feet.

Good Friday

- Wear black on Good Friday or for all of the Triduum to mourn Jesus' death.
- Cut down on media - strive to turn off TVs, radio, and music and instead, attend liturgies and pray together.
- Start the day off with the tradition of Hot Cross Buns - the.spruceeats/hotcrossbuns.com
- Keep the vigil of Noon-3pm (the hours Jesus hung on the cross) with solemn silence and prayer.

Holy Saturday

- Take down Lenten decorations and start decorating and preparing food for Easter.
- Color Easter eggs and create Easter symbols in the home.

For more ideas on how to bring this Lenten/Easter season into your home go to www.catholicallyear.com.

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.

Have a Blessed and Safe Week.

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