

# Parish News

Here is your weekly update. There are also attachments for this week.

## **Fridays @ 6pm-Station of the Cross**

### **HOLY WEEK**

Holy Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup>-Mass 6pm

Good Friday March 28<sup>th</sup> @3pm

Passion and Veneration of the Cross

Holy Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup>

Blessing of the Food in the Church at noon

NO Blessing of the in homes

Vigil Mass @ 8pm with procession

Easter Sunday -March 31

Masses @ 9am and 11AM

## **Stewardship-**

Operating expenses for the Parish on a weekly basis are \$6,200.00 Collection.

Stewardship for March 3<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary \$6927.00, Fuel \$1718.25, Black and Indian Mission \$236.00

## **Hope Appeal**

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection at weekend Masses is for the Hope Appeal and will continue in order for the Parish to reach the 2024 Goal

Goal \$38,468.00 Received to date \$20,753.02

## **Parish Giving-**

The Parish is pleased to introduce "Enhancing Stewardship through Electronic Funds Transfer. It is convenient no more searching for a checkbook or Sunday morning stops at the ATM. To excess simply Log on the parish website [www.sacredheart-saintmary.org](http://www.sacredheart-saintmary.org) and click on the Parish Giving Log and follow the easy registration instructions. It is Secure.

## **Events at other Parishes in our area**

Please remember we are all a Catholic Community and need to support each other.

### **IGNITE 24**

Catholic Mens Conference

Saturday March 21, 2004

This year's theme is "Lord Guard Us"

To be held @ Bishop Ludden High School in Syracuse

Contact: Ed Kri @ 315 560 9170 or [lekirk3@gmail.com](mailto:lekirk3@gmail.com)

### **LENTEN FISH FRY**

St. Anthony/St. Agnes Church

1500 Bleecker St

Every Friday/February 16-March 29<sup>th</sup>

Fried or Baked Haddock \$16 (10-12 oz fillet)

12 piece Fried Shrimp \$18

St Anthony Combo \$20 (baked or fried haddock plus 7 fried shrimp)

All meals include a choice of baked potato or French fries, cole slaw, dinner roll coffee & dessert. Extra sides \$1

Call 315 418 5219 after 3pm

### **Holy Trinity Utica**

Years of Eucharistic Revival

Sunday Lent 40 Hour Devotions

### **Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup>,**

11am-4pm Adoration

4Pm Polish vespers and & Benediction

Homilist: Rev. Thomas Kobuszewski

### **Monday March 18<sup>th</sup>**

9am-7pm-Adoration

7PM Concelebrated Mass

Homilist Bishop Douglas J Lucia

### **Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup>**

9am-7pm-Adoration

7PM Concelebrated Mass

Homilist: Rev. Jason Hage

Youth Ministry Nights

The Senton Center/Mary Mother Savior Parish

6:30pm-8:00pm



As always, I like to share the deep traditions and meaning of our Church. As we begin the season of Lenten. What does it mean for us as Catholics and what are we to follow?

This week are 2 special Saints St. Joseph and St. Patrick. Let's learn more about St. Joseph, husband to the Blessed Virgin Mary

### **St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary**



#### **St. Joseph: True Spouse of Mary, True Father of Jesus**

##### **Joseph, Humble and Righteous Man**

Much has been written about St. Joseph as the husband of Our Lady and the father of Jesus. His relationship to them was part of the great mystery of the Incarnation. To be sure, it was not a conventional relationship. It was a call for St. Joseph to give his *fiat*, his "yes" to God, just as Our Lady did. Through this gift of self, God's will for mankind was made manifest not only through Our Lady or Christ, but through the person of Joseph

We know so little about him from the Scriptures. Though he was entrusted with the care of the Messiah and the Blessed Mother, he never usurped their glory. He never speaks in Sacred Scripture. Rather, he remains silent, hidden in God, quietly obedient to His will.

We know that Matthew refers to him as a "just man" in the Gospels (Matt. 1:19). That means—in the context of his time and culture—he was a man completely devoted to God, the Mosaic Law, and the covenant of his people.

While Mary was prepared by the Angel Gabriel in the Annunciation, St. Joseph recognized and acknowledged Mary's condition without heavenly assistance. Then the Angel of the Lord appeared to him later in a dream. Thinking about that, and what it must have been like for him until the Heavenly Messenger's revelation, I am in awe of his tenderness, mercy, and goodness in the face of what must have been a confusing agony.

He received the overwhelming mystery of Mary's motherhood, and the accompanying miracle of the Incarnation in obedience and love, despite how confounding they seemed. Docile to the Divine Will, he cooperated with God's grace to bring salvation to mankind, legitimizing the Christ Child born into the world.

### **Joseph, Sublime Spouse of Mary**

Joseph was a true spouse to Mary and a true father to Jesus. In Mary's pregnancy and Jesus' Incarnation, Joseph's faith met Our Lady's, responding to the same mysterious calling. Within these mysteries, they oriented their entire lives together. The revelation that the holy couple lived simultaneously with the charism of virginity and the gift of matrimony demonstrates just some of the profound graces bestowed upon Joseph in his married life.

The Church teaches that Christ dwells within, and with, the bride and groom in their marriage. Graces spring from this supernatural, fruitful, and tender love of Christ that binds a husband and wife. Christ dwelt with, and within, Joseph and Mary in the most concrete way possible. He was physically present within their family, their home, and their everyday lives.

The souls of husband and wife join to achieve greater union than their bodies. Authentic married love is caught up in divine love. It is in this sense, and through this bond, that Joseph was Mary's true and sublime spouse. His love was definitive and so was his fidelity.

Yes, their relationship was virginal. It was with this holy purity that Joseph's true marriage witnessed to, and represented, the fidelity of God to His covenant with mankind, and the fidelity of Christ to His Bride, the Church. It was in the context of these relationships that Joseph embraced his role as the spouse of Our Lady

***Their virginity within marriage was simply the complete integration of their persons into their elevated, holy love.***

### **Joseph, Loving Protector of the Christ**

Through matrimony, St. Joseph became the father of Jesus. In truth, it was more than just the "foster fatherhood" that we often hear referenced. God chose Joseph to protect and save His Son, so that one day the Son could save him, and all of us.

*"Get up. Take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt. Remain there until I tell you."*  
—Matt 2:13

When the Angel appeared to him in a dream and told Joseph to take the child and His Mother to Egypt, because Herod sought to kill Jesus, he obeyed immediately.

Years later, after Herod's death, the Angel of the Lord appeared to St. Joseph again in a dream, with another directive:

*"Get up. Take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel."*  
—Matt 2:19-20

He again obeyed promptly, but having heard that Herod's son was ruling Judea, he feared returning there and endangering the life of Jesus. The Lord did not allow him to remain fearful, and again he was warned in a dream to go to Galilee and make his home in Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled (Matt 2:22-23).

I admire St. Joseph's complete and instantaneous obedience to God. He does not doubt or question. He immediately responds in poverty of spirit, enabling God's will—as spoken through the prophets—to be fulfilled.

#### **St. Joseph, True Earthly Father of Jesus**

Joseph was, of course, not the biological father of Jesus. Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit; He is the Son of God. However, Joseph was not merely a "foster father." His true fatherhood is revealed in the Scriptures by Our Lady herself, in Luke 2:48, when she tells a young Jesus in the temple, "Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." Jesus recognized Joseph's authority. He went home with his parents.

### **Consecration to St. Joseph - The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father**

Of course there was the primary fatherhood of God, and Jesus recognized this too by replying to his Mother, "Did you not know I must be in my Father's house?" Yet He respected and obeyed the authority of the father He had been given on earth with ardent love, just as he did His Heavenly Father. It was for this reason that He left the temple obediently, subjecting Himself to Joseph's authority, when they found Him there teaching the elders and answering their questions.

In turn, the humble head of the Holy Family safeguarded and developed the humanity of Jesus by caring for, teaching, and protecting him in their hidden everyday life. He was the master of the house of Nazareth.

The growth of Jesus "in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man," (Luke 2:52) took place under the attentive eyes of St. Joseph as father and head of his family. He clothed, fed, supported, and cared for the daily needs of his son and his beloved wife. It was his role to teach Jesus the virtues of manhood and the Law of Moses, as well as to educate Him in a trade. From Joseph, Jesus learned, at a human level, much of what a man needed in order to grow in *human* wisdom and stature.

### Joseph, Hidden in God

Joseph's duties were a great privilege and awesome responsibility. With astonishing faith in God, he confirmed his life as a husband and father to the will of the Lord, renouncing whatever expectations he had had of his vocation. Because of this docility, the Word became flesh in secret, shrouded in an intimacy unlike any ever known to man.

Joseph concealed the Incarnation within the mystical bonds of his marriage, just as he consented to be concealed himself. Jesus was obscured, protected, and nurtured by Joseph's paternity until the time came for Him to begin His ministry, confront the devil, and defeat death forever in His Passion. No wonder St. Joseph is the Terror of Demons.

### Go To Joseph!

The role of St. Joseph in salvation history is glorious, but he did not set out in search of anything more than to meet God's will with his own as a husband and father. Though Our Lady possessed every virtue in a degree higher than any other human being, St. Joseph was nearer to that perfection than anyone else.

For the love of God, he became the protector of Our Lady and the defender of the Christ Child. He was wholly devoted to them for all of his life. Joseph was a quiet saint whose pivotal role in our salvation hinged on his littleness, which—in the end—became his greatness.

*In every need, let us go to Joseph, not just in this year devoted to him, but **always**.*

Catholic Food for thought





**On Palm Sunday-March 24<sup>th</sup> we will be making Palm crosses, Parents are welcome to join in making the crosses. They can then be brought to the 11AM Mass to be blessed.**

Any child who will be making First Holy Communion or Confirmation a copy of the Baptismal Certificate is required.

Important Dates for children making Sacraments.

### **First Reconciliation/First Communion**

Blessing Cup on April 13<sup>th</sup> from 12pm-2pm

First Communion May 5<sup>th</sup> @ 11am Mass

Sponsor information and Confirmation Name due

The Faith Formation Program has obtained the program **AWAKEN** for Pflaum Publishing -a weekly publication. This will be available in the weekly newsletter as well as a paper copy for those who wish to have one.

Awaken and become disciples of the Word.

### **Church Masses**



**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Will be offered the first Wednesday of every month after the 12:15 Mass

Saturday 4pm

Sunday's

7:30am 9AM and 11AM

Weekdays 12:15 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Friday.

There will no Mass on Thursday

Let's remember that as Catholics, the importance of attending Sunday Mass. At Mass we stand at 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.

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Ez 37:12-14

**Responsorial Psalms** 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Rom 8:8-11

**Gospel :** Jn: 11:1-45 OR [Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45](#)

**While these are wonderful reflections, please remember that they are not to be a substitute for the wonderful sermons of Father or Deacon Kirk at Mass.**



**As always, I try to find wonderful reflections for this week's Gospel reading. I let the Holy Spirit guide me.**



This is the fourth in a series of encounters with Jesus in the book of John this Lent and offers us another long, beautifully developed text for preaching.

The Lenten journey, which has taken us through the Valley of the Shadow of Death on the fourth Sunday, now leads us to the dry bones of Ezekiel 37:1-14 and the tomb of Lazarus and the gift of life out of death.

Although the story climaxes with the raising of Lazarus, it is also the story of his sisters, Martha and Mary, and their experience of grief and absence. Jesus does not immediately come when they call, and they both tell him that their brother would be alive if he had not delayed. So it is as much a story of lament initially, as it will be ultimately a story of resurrection and life.

It is also a story about love. The Bethany family, along with the unnamed “disciple whom Jesus loved” of the second half of the Gospel, are the only individuals in John whom Jesus is specifically said to love (11:5). Jesus loves “his own” (13:1, 34), and the Son loves the Father (14:31), and Jesus loves Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. So this story is also about that — what it means to be in relationship with Jesus, what it means to love him and be loved by him.

Love is linked inextricably to death in John (“No one has greater love than this... .” 15:13; “For God so loved...” 3:16), and that is also true in the story of this family. Their relationship with Jesus does not mean that bad things do not happen. He does not prevent Lazarus from dying. But he is ultimately present to them, and God is glorified even in something that feels initially unredeemable and painful, and this beloved family is part of God’s glory.

Martha and Mary also appear in Luke 10:38-42 but with no mention of their brother Lazarus. In John’s narrative, they appear again at the opening of the next chapter when they give a dinner for Jesus at which Martha serves, Lazarus is alive and well and at table with Jesus, and Mary anoints Jesus’ feet with costly perfume and wipes them with her hair in an act of extravagant love, which Jesus identifies as preparation for his burial. The family is identified in 11:2 with reference to Mary’s act. (Note that in John it is this Mary who anoints Jesus’ feet, not Mary Magdalene, who is from Galilee and is never said to perform the anointing in any Gospel.)

The narrative begins with Jesus in retreat across the Jordan after the second attempt to stone him in Jerusalem at the end of John 10. When he tells his disciples that they are returning to Judea, they object on the basis of the danger to him. One of the misunderstandings typical of Johannine dialogues ensues with Jesus saying that he will awaken Lazarus and the disciples protesting that if he is asleep, he will be alright. The reference to walking during the day in the light of this world is reminiscent of last week's passage in which Jesus says that they must work the works of the one who sent him while it is day and Jesus, the light of the world, is present.

The next scene occurs near the village of Bethany as Jesus approaches. Martha comes out to greet Jesus and immediately laments his having delayed in coming because she knows that he could have saved her brother's life. Their conversation culminates in one of Jesus' most supremely comforting "I am" statements. It isn't that her brother will rise again in the resurrection on the last day, a belief common among first-century Jews, but that Martha is, in fact, face to face with and beloved by the one who is in himself the embodiment of life. Martha responds with a confession of faith, which is sometimes considered John's equivalent to the Synoptic confession of Peter at Caesarea Philippi (but see also Peter's statement in John 6:68-69).

In the next scene Martha has returned to the house to fetch her sister, who goes out quickly and meets Jesus in the place where he has met Martha. Mary falls at his feet, which is, interestingly, where we see her in the Luke story and also where she will be at the opening of John 12:1-8, which itself prefigures the foot washing in 13:5 when Jesus will be at the feet of those he loves.

Mary's lament echoes Martha's but with no accompanying qualification about Jesus' power, even then, to help. Mary does not reason; she just weeps. Jesus, who will soon also weep, is said to be greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. The first of these verbs may include an element of anger or indignation.

The second verb is used again when Jesus' soul is troubled at the arrival of his hour in 12:27 and then in 13:21 to describe Jesus' spirit as he announces that he will be betrayed by one of his own. Jesus then uses it in 14:1 and 27 when he tells the disciples not to let their hearts be troubled at his departure. The two verbs combine here to describe the deepest sort of human emotion. Even the one who is himself the resurrection and the life is deeply unsettled by human grief and death.

In the final scene the sisters lead Jesus to the tomb and, after voicing sensible concerns, which reveal that they cannot conceive of what is about to happen, they remove the stone, and Jesus calls Lazarus, and, of course, Lazarus comes out.

What happens next, although it is not included in the lectionary text, is essential for understanding the passage. Although some of the bystanders believe, others go and report Jesus to the authorities, and it is on this basis, that they decide definitively to put him to death. The immediate way to the cross and Jesus' own tomb starts here where Jesus is most impossibly, lovingly life-giving. They will plan to kill Lazarus too once the word about him gets out (12:10-11).

Being in relationship with Jesus means facing death and grief with him and learning that still, in spite of the death and the dryness and the finality of the door at the entrance to the tomb of our hopes, he can

still be said to be life. Nothing is ever so dead that it keeps him from being that in himself and for us.  
And in John that life is not only a future hope. Abundant life is always ever now.

As we approach Holy Week, having Jesus at our tombs also means that we must follow him to his. We must endure the silence of his Saturday even as we endure the silences of our own. But we endure them knowing already that Sunday will surely come, that when we are walking in the garden of our grief, we will meet him again.

The saints are models of human excellence, perfected by the life of Christ and the communication of his Spirit. They demonstrate in their lives how to really live and how to really die. They consistently point to the horizon of love which leads to the fulfillment of all human desire: eternal communion with the Holy Trinity.

March 19 Solemnity of St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Each week I include this week's Scripture to be shared for children who may be too young to attend the program.



Theme :Jesus weeps with his children.

Object: A small clear bottle with a little water in it.

Scripture John 11:1-45



Children's Sermon: Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead (John 11:1-45)

In the book of Psalms, David asked God to put his tears in a bottle. (Psalm 56:8) Do you see this little bottle? I call it "My Tears Bottle." These aren't real tears, it's just water, but it reminds me of the times that I have cried real tears. Now, I don't know that God keeps our tears in a bottle like this one, but I do believe that God sees our tears and hears us when we cry.

### JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD

Do you ever cry? Of course you do. What is something that makes you cry? (Allow responses.)

I made a list of some things that make us cry.

Raise your hand if you've ever fallen down and hurt yourself so badly that you cried. (Allow responses.)

Raise your hand if you ever have been so sad that you cried. (Allow responses.)

Raise your hand if someone hurt your feelings and you cried. (Allow responses.)

Raise your hand if you've ever cried because someone else was crying. (Allow responses.)

We all cry, don't we? Did you know that Jesus cried? The shortest verse in the entire Bible says, "Jesus wept." I know of at least three things that made Jesus cry.

The Bible tells us that Jesus cried when He prayed for others. It says, "While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears." (Hebrews 5:7 NLT)

The Bible also tells us that Jesus cried when He saw people who were missing out on what God wanted for them. Luke tells us that as Jesus approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it and said, "I wish that even today you would find the way of peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from you." (Luke 19:41-42 NLT)

Another time, the Bible tells us that Jesus cried when friends of His were hurting. Jesus had a friend named Lazarus who became very sick. His sisters, Mary and Martha, sent word to Jesus and asked Him to come and heal Lazarus, but when Jesus arrived, Lazarus had already died. The Bible tells us that when Jesus saw Mary weeping because her brother had died, He cried too. That isn't all that Jesus did; listen to what happened next.

Jesus went with Mary and Martha and some others to visit the grave where Lazarus was buried. It was a cave with a large stone across the entrance. When they arrived at the tomb, Jesus said to some of the men who were with them, "Take away the stone." Then Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" And Lazarus walked out of the grave. I imagine that when she saw that, Mary's tears of sadness turned to tears of joy.

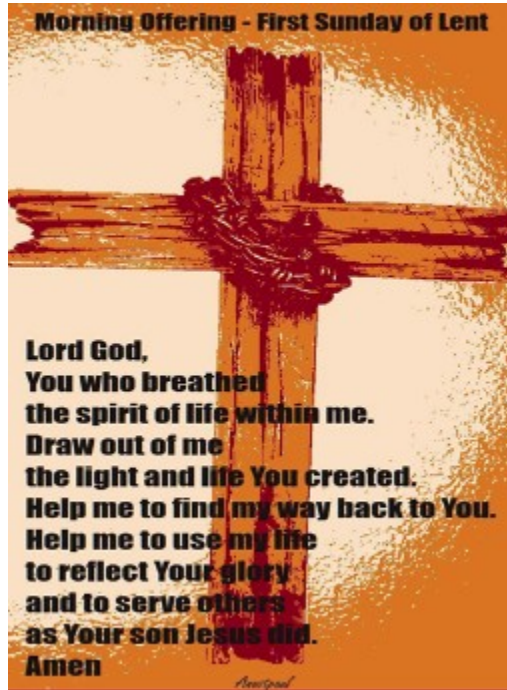
We all cry, and I am glad that we have a Savior who weeps too. I am glad that He loves us so much that He hurts when we are hurting. He feels our pain. He sees our tears and He keeps our tears in a bottle.

Dear Jesus, it is comforting to know that when we cry, You cry with us. But it is even more comforting to know that You have power over death and the grave and that one day we will be in heaven with You--and then there will be no more tears. In Jesus' name, amen



## Weekly Prayers

As we continue the season of Lent, let one open the hearts to the Lord and prepare ourselves for his sacrifice for us.





## Diocese of Syracuse

From Notre Dame Schools:

Notre Dame Schools 12th Annual Raffle is underway. This year's Grand Prize is \$100,000. With a Second Prize of \$10,000, Third Prize of \$10,000, and an additional \$10,000 in smaller prizes! Tickets cost \$100 each and include admission for 2 adults to the Drawing Party on April 23, 2023, featuring free food, door prizes, and 50/50 raffles. Doors open at 12 Noon and the main drawing will be at 3pm. Call 315-724-5118 to purchase your tickets today!

3) From the Catholic Schools Office:

Save the Date: On Monday, June 17, 2024 we will hold our **3rd Annual Light A Child's Future Charity Golf Tournament at [Turning Stone Resort](#)**. This exciting event benefits Catholic Schools scholarships. We strive to raise much needed funds for our Light a Child's Future Scholarship program, which enables economically disadvantaged students to attend Catholic Schools in our diocese. Did you know that 65% of our students rely on financial aid or scholarship support to attend our schools? Your support will directly aid underprivileged students, ensuring their participation in a faith-centered community focused on promoting academic excellence.

**Please join us:**

- [Serve as a Sponsor](#) or [Register as an individual or foursome team\(s\)](#)  
Sponsorships begin at \$500 - Click [here](#) for a complete list
- **Promote the Golf Tournament in your Parish**  
See attached flyer for bulletin boards and Parish website

### **Event Details:**

**Light A Child's Future Charity Golf Tournament.**

**Monday, June 17 2024**

Shenandoah Golf Club, Verona NY

**18 holes of golf, rain or shine**

**11:00-1:00 Registration and grab-and-go lunch**

**1:00 Shotgun start**

**5:30 Cocktail hour**

**6:30-9:00 Celebration Dinner**

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