

Parish News

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

Let us keep in our thoughts and prayers all the people in California affected by the fires. There has been so much devastation and loss and they need our prayers and support.

While this goes out as a newsletter of what is going on in the Parish and other events in other Parishes in the area there is so much regarding our faith.

Jubilee 2025-Pilgrims of Hope



This year our Church celebrates the Jubilee Year 2025. This year's theme is Pilgrims of Hope. See below for events celebrating the Jubilee in the Syracuse Dioceses

Conversation Series

We are happy to announce a brand-new Conversation Series. We will meet once a month on the first Monday of the month in the Cow Palace

Monday February 3rd @ 6pm

Hope you can join us for this new and exciting spiritual, education opportunity open to all

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 and click on the Parish Giving Log and follow the easy registration instructions. It is Secure.

Stewardship-

Operating expenses for the Parish on a weekly basis are \$6,900.00 Collection.

Stewardship for December 29, 2024

Ordinary \$6,267.00

Christmas \$7689.00

January 5, 2025

Ordinary \$5373.00

Solemnity of Mary \$1,962.00

Fuel \$1691.00

NOTRE DAME SCHOOLS

14TH Annual Raffle \$100,000.00

Additional cash prizes and more-Tickets are \$100

On sale at Notre Dame Jr/Sr. High School and Chanatry's Market in Utica

www.NorteDameUtica.org 315 724-5118 ext 26

Drawing Sunday May 4, 2025 @ 12PM



Hope Appeal 2025

The Assessment for the Parish is \$32,143.00

Currently received as of 1/1/25 we have collected \$27,407.02



As always, I like to share the deep traditions and meaning of our Church. What a great way to learn as a family and learn more about this great Faith of ours.

Our church has 3 Lectionary calendars A, B & C. We are now in Lectionary C from December 1, 2024 to November 23, 2005 for the Sunday Cycle

So what is a Lectionary Cycle?

Per the United State Conference of Catholic Bishops, the calendar is based upon the general Roman Calendar , promulgated by Pope Saint Paul VI on 2/14/169 and subsequently amended by the Holy See and the proper calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America and approved by the USCCB. This calendar was updated to reflect the names and titles of the various liturgical days in conformity with the Roman Missal.

The general instruction of the Roman Missal reminds us that in the cycles of the readings and prayers proclaimed throughout the year in the sacred liturgy “the mysteries of redemption are celebrated so as to be in some way made present”. Thus, may each celebration of the Holy Eucharist which is served by this calendar be for the Church in the United States “the high point both for the action by which God sanctifies the world in Christ and of the worship that the human race offers to the Father adoring him through Christ, the Son of God and the Holy Spirit,

According to the *General Introduction to the Lectionary*, “The present Order of Readings for Mass, then, is an arrangement of biblical readings that provides the faithful with a knowledge of the **whole of God’s word**, in a pattern suited to the purpose. Throughout the liturgical year, but above all during the seasons of Easter, Lent, and Advent, the choice and sequence of readings are aimed at giving Christ’s faithful an **ever-deepening** perception of the faith they profess and of the **history of salvation.**”

For this year many of the Sunday Gospel readings will be from St. Luke.

Events at other Parishes in our area

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

Mary, Mother of our Savior Parish invites all teens in the Greater Utica Area to join us for Youth Ministry Nights:

Who: Teens in grades 7 thru 12 from the Greater Utica Area

Where: Mary Mother Of Our Savior Parish, Seton Center, 2 Barton Ave, Utica (look for the welcome flag)

When: Monday evenings 6:30PM-8:00PM
(following the school calendar)-Start back on January 6th

www.motherofoursavior.org

Our Youth Ministry Nights (YMN) consist of games and snacks, followed by a short faith message. Then the teens form small groups to talk about that topic in a safe, honest, authentic way with their peers. This is a highlight of the night, to hear from peers about the faith, to share doubts and questions and to be lifted up and encouraged in their faith in God, all guided by an adult core team member. Then we go to the chapel for a short prayer service and end with an awesome dinner! We also make sure to include social nights once a month. Social Nights may include: Movie Nights, Camp Fires, Holiday Parties, Trips/Teen Outings like GetAir, Retreats, Service Opportunities and more...

For information please reach out to Brittany Wilcox: bwilcox@syrdio.org

Utica Newman Catholic

Christian Fellowship

For registered College Students/Utica Area

For questions Contact Campus Minister, Pat Gillick @

Uticanewmandoutreach@syrdio.org

Free Pizza and Wing Dinner after every 4pm Sunday Evening Mass

Our Lady of the Rosary Campus

Totus Tuus /Diocese of Syracuse

Mary, Mother of our Savior

July 20-25, 2025

This is a summer Catholic youth program. It is dedicated to share the Gospel and promote the Catholic faith thought evangelization, discipleship, Christian witness and Eucharistic worship

Teen Program -7th -12 grade Evenings Sunday July 20-Thru July 24 7pm-9pm \$25 per youth
Children Program Day Program 1st grade-6th grade Monday July 21- July 25th 9am-3pm \$55 per
child maximum of \$110 per family

Questions?

Bwilcox@syrdio.org or mmoosfaithformation@syrdio.org

Food for thought





To be compliant with the Safe Environment Program on January 19th, the children in the program will be presented with the Circle of Care program.

Circles of Care is an educational program tailored to our parish catechetical programs. This curriculum originally developed by the Diocese of Manchester has been adapted by the Diocese of Syracuse to address age-appropriate personal safety issues for children and youth in the context of Catholic moral teaching. *The training replaces the awareness training that the diocese had been using since 2004.* The Diocese of Syracuse Catholic Schools use the safe environment education program, Child Lures Prevention: Think First and Stay Safe to teach our students personal safety skills through a series of developmentally appropriate lessons created for grades Pre-K through 12. This program teaches students to distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate behaviors by peers, adults and family members. Students learn to recognize and avoid potentially abusive and unsafe behaviors and situations. But above all, the program encourages children to treat others with kindness and respect – and to expect the same in return.

First Reconciliation-First Communion

Students making First Communion-it will be on May 4th @ the 11am Mass
I am working with Fr. Mark regarding a date for First Reconciliation. It will be on a Sunday during class time-

The Blessing Cup meal has been scheduled for April 19th in the school cafeteria from 12-3pm



Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 3:15PM prior to Mass

Weekdays 12:15 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Friday.
There will be 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

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 62: 1-5

Responsorial Psalms: 96: 1-2, 3, 7-8, 9-10

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Gospel: John 2:1-11

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.

I always love this Gospel reading. Love to teach the children in the program that this is one of Jesus' first miracles.



John 2:1-11 Reflection: The Wedding at Cana

A reading from the gospel according to John 2:1-11:

- 1 There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.
- 2 Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.
- 3 When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."
- 4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come."
- 5 His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you."
- 6 Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons.
- 7 Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim.
- 8 Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it.

9 And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from although the servers who had drawn the water knew, the headwaiter called the bridegroom
10 and said to him, “Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now.”
11 Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

Reflection: The Wedding

The gospel reading above tells us of the first miracle of Jesus according to the gospel of John. It happened in a wedding at Cana, a village in lower Galilee. We must remember that the very purpose of John in writing his gospel was to introduce to his readers that Jesus was and is the Messiah. Therefore, the miracle at Cana is one of the evidences that indeed Jesus was the most-awaited Messiah. It must also be pointed out that Jesus came to earth to reunite the people with God the Father. The wedding at Cana is therefore a most fitting introduction to this endeavor of “union”. In many other accounts of the bible, we often read of wedding images (Isaiah 54:4-8; 62:4-5, Matthew 22: 1–14, Luke 14:7-14, Revelation 19:9).

The miracle of turning water into wine is an inauguration of God’s presence in the world. In the last supper, we know that Jesus turned wine into His own blood. The “hour” that Jesus mentioned refers to His glorification through His passion, death and resurrection.
There are several points for meditation from this miracle story.

1. The presence of God through Jesus brings us joy and merriment, as what happens in a wedding.
2. Mary, the mother of Jesus, played a prominent role in the miracle event. Remember, the servants did not inform the bride and groom about the problem but Mary knew it and she made the first move. During the crucifixion, right before Jesus expired, He entrusted Mary to John to be his own mother (John 19:27).
3. Jesus is concerned about our problems including our material needs. He truly cares for us.
4. Jesus performs miracles even if it is not yet the proper time. At a time when we are lacking something, He comes to the rescue. He does not want us to be put to shame as He did for the bride and groom at the wedding of Cana.
5. Jesus is not just the source of abundance. He also gives us what is superior to what we already know or tasted. The quality of wine that the headwaiter tasted was the best of all and it came last. How often do we hear the words “The best is yet to come”!
6. Miracles happen when we do what Jesus tells us, when we are obedient to His will and when we humble ourselves and submit to His authority.
7. His disciples began to believe in Him after the miracle. Let us believe in Jesus as our savior. He does perform miracles daily for us. Each day that we wake up is in itself a miracle. Let us thank Him daily.

This week's Saints of the week:

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

January 23rd St. Marianne Cope (she is a Saint who is from the Utica area and known for St Elizabeth Hospital and St. Joseph in Syracuse; January 24th, Memorial of St. Frances of de Sales , Bishop and Doctor of the Church; January 25th. Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul Apostle



Here is this week's Gospel for children who are unable to attend our program. What a great way to share this Gospel with them.

Has anyone ever flipped through a newspaper? (Pass around the newspaper for kids to touch and see). The newspaper often has reports of good news, bad news, sports, weather, stories, and so much more.

It's a great way to keep up with what's happening in the world around us.

The Bible is a lot like a newspaper. It gives us reports from moments in history and tells stories of things that happened a long time ago.

What if we read our Bible lesson from today like it was an article in a daily newspaper? Today's story is from the Gospel of John. The word *gospel* actually means "good news," so let's imagine that we are reading an article from the "Daily Galilean" or perhaps "The Jerusalem Times."

Wow! Listen to this headline! "Wedding Guest Turns Water Into Wine."

Hmmm...That sounds interesting. Let's read the rest of the story!

On Tuesday, a woman named Mary was in Cana to attend a wedding. A large number of guests, including her son, a man named Jesus, also attended the wedding. Guests at the wedding were reportedly having a good time until the host ran out of wine. At that point, it seemed that the happy celebration might turn into a disaster.

Some of the wedding guests thought that perhaps Jesus might have a solution to the problem, so they reported to Him that they were out of wine. When told about the problem, Jesus at first seemed unwilling to do anything, but after some encouragement from His mother, He finally agreed to help.

Eye witnesses at the wedding reported that Jesus noticed several large water jars nearby and instructed some servants to fill them with water. After the jars had been filled with water, He told them to dump some of the water out of the jars and take it to the man in charge of serving the wine. When the wine steward tasted the water, he discovered it had been turned into wine.

Wedding guests were amazed at the turn of events and said that the wine was the best they had ever tasted.

As a result of this miraculous event, many people are following Jesus everywhere He goes, and many believe that He might even be the long-awaited Messiah.

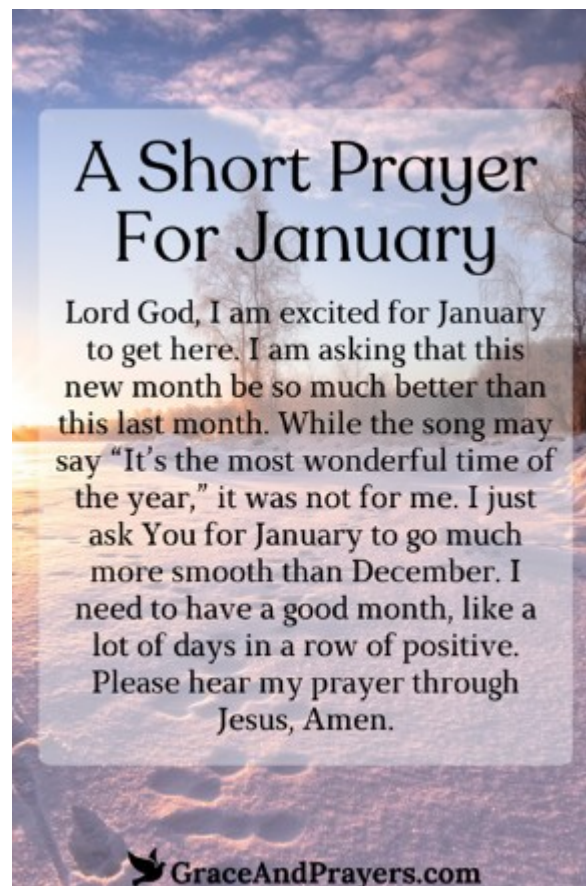
Well, that made a pretty good news story, didn't it? Do you know what is really great about this story?

Just as Jesus performed a miracle by changing the water into wine at the wedding celebration more than 2,000 years ago, He is still working miracles in the hearts and lives of people today. If you will let Him, He will work a miracle in you.

Dear Jesus, worker of miracles, work a miracle in us today. Amen.

Weekly Prayer

Prayer is such a large part of our Faith. Each week I try to add a new prayer to reflect on for the week.





Attached please find the Diocese of Syracuse regarding the Jubilee. A Pilgrimage Diocesan Retreat will be held on March 31, April 1 & April 12 at 3 different sites in the Diocese for 2 hours and reflection each night

A Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy at Stockbridge MA in the Fall of 2023

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