

Parish News

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

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. Please stay tuned for events in our area as well as in the Diocese

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 January 19, 2024
Ordinary \$5225.00



Hope Appeal 2025
The Assessment for the Parish is \$32,143.00
Currently received as of 1/15/25 we have collected \$28,057.02

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



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.

So, this weekly reflection is going to be a bit different. Normally I discuss the deep history of our Church. This week I want to talk about our Church's first soon to be millennial Saint, Blessed Carlo Acutis who will be canonized on April 27 in St. Peter's Square. What makes this so special is shows many Catholic young people they too can deepen their Catholic Faith,



Carlo Acutis: the first millennial saint - a web developer known as 'God's influencer' patron saint of the internet

Acutis, an Italian computer-coding teenager who died of cancer in 2006, is known for his great devotion to the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Born in 1991, Acutis is the first millennial to be beatified by the Catholic Church. Shortly after his first Communion at the age of 7, Acutis told his mother: “To always be united to Jesus: This is my life plan.”

To accomplish this, Acutis sought to attend daily Mass as often as he could at the parish church across the street from his elementary school in Milan.

Acutis called the Eucharist “my highway to heaven,” and he did all in his power to make this presence known. His witness inspired his own parents to return to practicing the Catholic faith and his Hindu au pair to convert and be baptized.

Acutis was a tech-savvy kid who loved computers, animals, and video games. His spiritual director has recalled that Acutis was convinced that the evidence of Eucharistic miracles could be persuasive in helping people to realize that Jesus is present at every Mass.

Over the course of two and a half years, Acutis worked with his family to put together an exhibition on Eucharistic miracles that premiered in 2005 during the Year of the Eucharist proclaimed by Pope John Paul II and has since gone on to be displayed at thousands of parishes on five continents.

Many of Acutis’ classmates, friends, and family members have testified how he brought them closer to God. Acutis was a very open person and was not shy about speaking with his classmates and anyone he met about the things he loved: the Mass, the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and heaven.

He is remembered for saying: “People who place themselves before the sun get a tan; people who place themselves before the Eucharist become saints.”

Acutis died at the age of 15 in 2006, shortly after being diagnosed with leukemia. Before he died, Acutis told his mother: “I offer all of my suffering to the Lord for the pope and for the Church in order not to go to purgatory but to go straight to heaven.”

Thousands of people visited Acutis’ tomb in Assisi following his beatification in the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi on Oct. 10, 2020.

Bottom of Form

Since his beatification, Catholic schools from the Australian outback to England have been named after Acutis, as well as countless ministries and parish initiatives.

Pope Francis encouraged young people to imitate Acutis in prioritizing “the great gift of the Eucharist” in his message for the upcoming diocesan World Youth Days.
for their enthusiast pursuit of holiness

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

Healing Mass in Honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

February 11th @ 5:30 @ Lourdes

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

Catholic Young Professionals

The Cyrenian Way

First Thursdays @ 6:30 pm Monthly

Mary Mother of Our Savior Parish

Seton Center

Food Fellowship, Prayer and Discussion

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 through evangelization, discipleship, Christian witness and Eucharistic worship

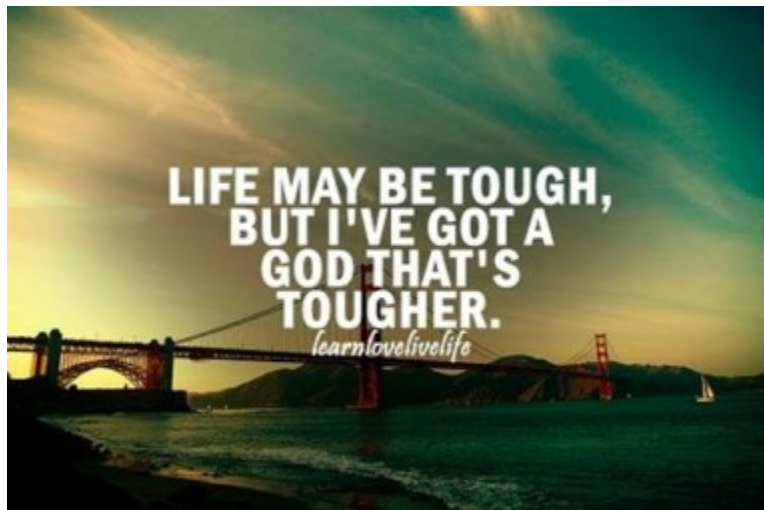
Teen Program -7th -12 grade Evenings Sunday July 20-Thru July 24 7pm-9pm \$25 per youth

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





With the winter weather upon us, sometimes it may be necessary to cancel Faith Formation Classes. Class cancellations will be on the local television stations. A mass email will also be sent. If a family feels the weather conditions are not safe, please stay home. Your family safety is first.

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

Lenten PCA Event

Stay tuned more to come to this annual event with our sister Parishes.



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

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

1st Reading: Malachi 3:1-4
Responsorial Psalms: 24:7, 8, 9, 10
2nd Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18
Gospel: Luke 2:22-40:

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.



Luke 2:22-40 Reflection: The Presentation of Jesus

A reading from the gospel according to Luke 2:22-40:

22 When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and
Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord,
23 just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to
the Lord,
24 and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the
dictate in the law of the Lord.
Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout,
awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord.

27 He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him,

28 he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

29 “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word,

30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples:

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

33 The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him;

34 and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted

35 (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

36 There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage,

37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer.

38 And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

40 The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Reflections:

Mary and Joseph brought the Child Jesus to be presented to the Lord as prescribed in Exodus 13:2. They were devoted Jews, faithfully obeying every precept of the laws of Moses (Leviticus 12:3-8). They believe in the scripture when it says that obedience is better than sacrifice.

Although both of them knew that the child Jesus is the Savior of mankind because Angel Gabriel told them, they did not consider themselves as special nor asked for special treatment.

The Holy Spirit was with Simeon and he was able to recognize the Child as the savior of the world. He was righteous and devout, and he was privileged indeed to be able to see the savior with his own two eyes. There was also Anna, a widow who spent nights and days worshipping God through fasting and prayer. She too was privileged to see the savior. Such is the power of the Holy Spirit. It gives those who receive Him the ability to recognize the presence of the Lord. Like Simeon and Anna, may we receive the power of the Holy Spirit to discern God’s presence everywhere and in any situation.

Both Simeon and Anna were living in anticipation, patiently awaiting the coming consolation and redemption of Israel. In preparation for that special moment of meeting the savior, they strived to live in holiness. Jesus has ascended into heaven but He promised that He will come again in glory. May we

continue to patiently await in joyful hope His coming again. In the meantime, we may spend each moment in love and peace.

Like Simeon and Anna, may we all look forward with hope and patience to the consolation and full redemption of the world even as we remember the amazing things that God has already done in our lives. Like the prophets, let us praise and thank God, our Father, because in faith, we have seen our salvation through His son Jesus Christ. Meanwhile, let us present ourselves to God through fasting and prayer as we strive to live a holy life. For parents, consecrate your children to God early in their life so that God will bless them and that your whole family, like the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, will grow in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and with men.

Simeon and Anna were prophets. Simeon prophesied about Jesus as the cause for the rising and falling of many, about the people of Israel, and about the pain of Mary. Indeed, the coming of Jesus brought about sharp division among many people. Many people are divided because of Him. Many would follow Him but still a lot more would reject Him. Those who believe in him may have an everlasting life and will be raised up at the last day (John 6:40). On the other hand, those who reject Him choose to follow Satan and will not see life (John 3:36). Therefore, if people cannot enter heaven, it is not because Jesus rejected them but because they rejected Jesus.

As to the pain of Mary, it is about the sorrows of a mother seeing how her son Jesus was born in a manger, then evacuated to Egypt, how He was rejected in His own hometown then accused as prince of devils, and more than all of these is witnessing how her son went through the most brutal torture, crucifixion and death. The pain is so deep that it is like a sword piercing through it. Ah, that pain is so much more than what an ordinary mother could bear! Yet Mary bore it and she is showing us that we too can bear any suffering when it is offered to God through Jesus who experienced the greatest suffering.

On the other hand, Anna spoke of Jesus as the redeemer, the one awaited for “the redemption of Jerusalem.” In simpler terms, redemption means being rescued and restored to a right relationship with God. We, through our choices, had distanced ourselves from Him, but His love never faltered. So, He sent His Son, Jesus, to bridge the gap. Jesus didn’t come to “punish” us, but rather to offer a path back to the Father’s embrace. He did this by taking on the burden of our sins through his sacrifice on the cross. It was an act of love, a price paid to restore what was broken.

This act of redemption wasn’t just for a select few, it was for all of us. Jesus himself declared our worth: we are infinitely valuable, even more precious than sparrows (Matthew 10:31). His sacrifice wasn’t about our insignificance; it was about the depth of His love and the immensity of our value in His eyes.

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

=Feb 5th, Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr; Feb 6th Memorial of St. Paul Miki and
Companions, Martyrs



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.

. Simeon Blesses Jesus



We keep our promises.

A calendar for the new year; sticky notes - one per child; pens or pencils - one per child

Luke 2:22-40

It is the beginning of a New Year. (Show the calendar.) A brand new calendar for a fresh start on life. Most people start the new year by making some New Year Resolutions. Making a resolution is like making a promise to ourselves that we are going to do certain things. Usually it is a promise to do better next year than we did last year. Here's a list of resolutions that might be good for children to make.

I will watch less TV and get more exercise.

I will wear my seat belt every time I get in a car.

I will be nice to other kids--even my brothers and sisters!

I will put away my toys when I am through playing with them.

Can you think of some more resolutions you could make? (Allow kids to give ideas.)

Some people don't take New Year's resolutions very seriously. After all, they're just promises to yourself. We might think that if we don't follow through, it's no big deal. But it is a big deal! A promise is a promise and it's important to keep your promises--even if it's just a promise to yourself.

Think of something important enough to make a promise about this year. Write a word or quick symbol on a sticky note to say what that promise is.

Distribute the sticky notes and pens or pencils. Have kids write or draw, and then place their sticky notes on the calendar either on the date they want to have it done or the last day of the year.

The Bible tells about a very important promise God made to His people. Thankfully, God is always faithful in keeping His promises. We learn in the Bible about a man named Simeon. Simeon was a very old man who had waited his whole life to see God's promise come to himself and to God's people. God had promised to send a Messiah or savior to the world, and God promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the promised Messiah.

A few days after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took Him to the temple to dedicate Him to God. Simeon was in the temple as usual. As soon as Simeon saw baby Jesus, he knew God had kept His promise. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying, "Lord, now let your servant die in peace. As you have promised, I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people."

Anna was a prophet who was also in the Temple. She was always at the Temple worshiping and praying. When she heard what Simeon was saying, she praised God and told everyone that Jesus was the Savior that God had promised.

Today, as we begin a new year, let's remember that just as God is faithful in keeping His promises, we can be faithful in keeping our promises. (Allow time for kids to hold up the promises they made to God.)

Dear God, just as You're faithful to keep Your promises, help us be faithful in keeping our promises. In Jesus' name, amen

Weekly Prayer

Prayer is such a large part of our Faith. As we start a new month, let us pray we become closer to God.





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

Lynn M. Springer
Director of Faith Formation
Sacred Heart/St Mary's
315 527 8399