

Parish News

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

There is a change in the school days off for the winter break. There will be no classes Feb 16 or 23rd

This weekend Louise from the Holy Land will be in our Parish once again promoting wooden religious and devotional from the Holy Land after the all the Masses
He will present a short homily in reference to this as well

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 @ 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 26, 2024

Ordinary \$5928.00

ITS PIEROGI TIME FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

On Tuesday Feb 11 peeling potatoes beginning @ 8am

(please don't forget to bring your peelers and knives

February 12 making pierogi begins @8am

Monetary donations to defray the cost can be dropped off at the Parish office or by placing in the basket at Masses marked Pierogi

Any questions call Melanie Lambert 315-941-7650



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.

This Friday is Valentine's Day. While it is day of love this date has a special background in our Church

It's February, and Valentine's Day is on everyone's minds. While commonly associated with romantic love, the day's origins are deeply rooted in the history of the Catholic Church, reflecting faith, love and the legacy of Saint Valentine.

Saint Valentine, a Martyr of Love and Faith

Saint Valentine, a Roman priest and physician from the third century, is distinguished for his remarkable compassion and love. Beyond his roles as a priest and doctor, he was a genuine caretaker, someone deeply concerned about the well-being of both the body and spirit of those around him.

His actions spoke louder than words when it came to love. Picture him as a compassionate helper, extending kindness to everyone, regardless of their background or beliefs. In an era marked by mistreatment based on one's beliefs, Saint Valentine courageously stood up for love and faith.

Even in the face of severe challenges and hostility from others for his beliefs, Saint Valentine refused to abandon his commitment. He remained true to his love for God and humanity, demonstrating extraordinary bravery that ultimately led to his martyrdom.

As we celebrate Valentine's Day, it's more than just a time for flowers and chocolates; it is a moment to honor someone who loved others so profoundly that he sacrificed everything. Saint Valentine's story serves as a powerful lesson, encouraging us to be kind, loving and steadfast in standing up for our beliefs, no matter how daunting the circumstances. His enduring example of love continues to inspire and resonate with us today.

Valentine's Day in Catholicism

Think about Valentine's Day as a time that connects with the important values the Catholic church teaches about love, caring and thinking about others. It is not just about flowers and sweet treats but it has a deeper meaning.

In Catholic teachings, love is not just a superficial feeling; it involves doing good things for others, showing generosity, and placing others before ourselves. Recognizing that love can take different forms helps people understand how Valentine's Day aligns with what Catholics believe.

The Catholic faith encourages individuals to go beyond societal norms about love. It encourages a deeper comprehension of love that extends beyond romantic gestures. It emphasizes being good friends, developing strong family connections and caring for others.

So, when Valentine's Day approaches, it is not just about exchanging cards and chocolates. It is an opportunity to [express love in various ways](#) – lending a helping hand, showing kindness and considering the well-being of our entire community.

Catholic Traditions on Valentine's Day

Catholic traditions on Valentine's Day may include beginning the day with a morning Mass, a special church service, where churchgoers reflect on the theme of love and thank God for the people they care about. Catholics also take time to say prayers for their loved ones, asking for blessings and protection.

But it is not just about thinking of family and friends; it is also about helping others. Some Catholics volunteer or give to charity, showing love to the wider community. Sharing a meal with family is another tradition.

Finally, Valentine's Day becomes a time for Catholics to think about their own actions, renewing their commitment to love in line with their faith. These traditions go beyond the usual romantic celebrations, making Valentine's Day a day of love grounded in Catholic beliefs. As we celebrate Valentine's Day, let us reflect on its roots in the life of Saint Valentine and the values of love in Catholicism. Embrace traditions that align with the Catholic faith, connecting you to love in its various forms.

In the spirit of love and charity, consider contributing to the [Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land](#), extending the celebration of love to those in need. The Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land supports Christian communities in the Holy Land through initiatives such as providing humanitarian aid, promoting peace and sustaining cultural heritage. FFHL works towards ensuring the well-being and continuity of Christian presence in the region.

This Valentine's Day, let faith and love blend together, going deeper than just romance and embrace the deep values of the Catholic faith.

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

Youth Ministry Event

Monday February 17th @ Destiny Mall in Syracuse along with teens from Spirit of Hope Catholic Community- open to all 7-12 Grade -there is no cost

Teens must be transported to St. Helenas in Sherrill by 10:45 to meet the bus taking them to Density.

Any questions must be directed to bwilcox@syrdio.org

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

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 Youn Professionals

The Cyrenian Way

First Thursdays @ 6:30pm 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

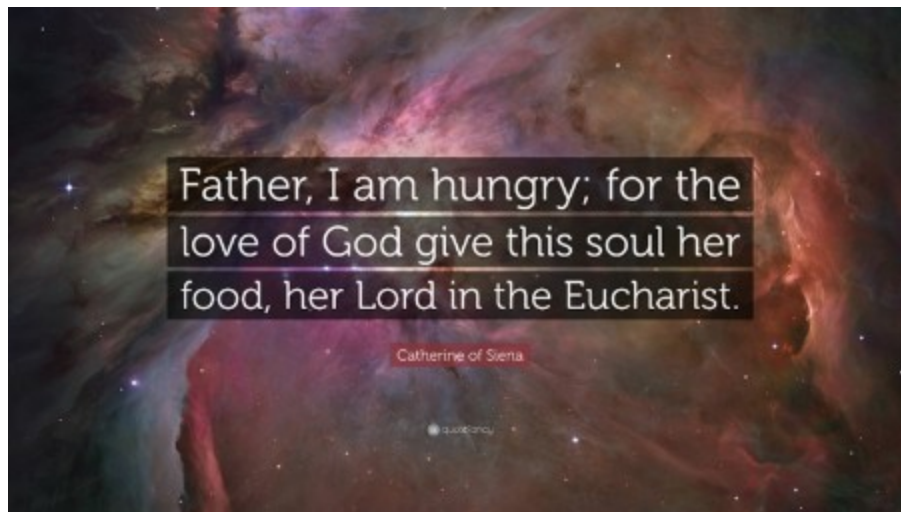
Questions?

Bwilcox@syrdio.org or mmoosfaithformation@syrdio.org

St Anthony/St Agnes -Utica

Save the date March 5th will be the first Fish Fry-more information to follow

Food for thought





There is a change in the school days off for the winter break. There will be no classes Feb 16 or 23rd

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-March 16th

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 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

5th Sunday of Ordinary time

1st Reading: Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8

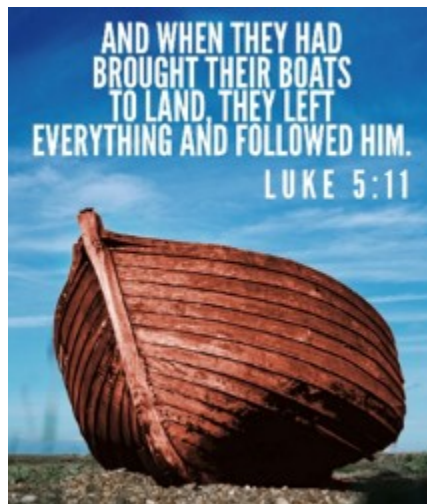
Responsorial Psalms: 138:1-2, 3, 4-5, 7-8

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel: **Luke 5:1-11**

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.



165. Catching Fish and Leaving Boats (Luke 5:1-11)

Roman Catholic Spiritual Direction

“Christ is the light and the lamp stand is Peter.” – St. Ephraem

Luke 5:1-11: Now he was standing one day by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats – it was Simon’s – and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, ‘Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch’. ‘Master,’ Simon replied ‘we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.’ And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to the sinking point. When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, ‘Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.’ For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon’s partners. But Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.’ Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

Christ the Lord Jesus shows his mastery over the hearts of men (the crowd was “pressing round” him to hear him speak) and over the forces of nature (they caught a “huge number of fish”). Yet when he asks Peter to “put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch,” the future Apostle complains before he obeys. However many times God shows himself worthy of our trust (creation, the Incarnation, the Passion, the Resurrection, the sacraments – what more could he have done to win us over?), we still hesitate to do things his way. We need to acknowledge him as Lord not only with our lips, but with our hearts as well, and with our decisions. Like Peter, we need to apply all our natural effort (they had been fishing all night), but then take the extra step of faith: “Master... if you say so, I will...”

This applies to our apostolic endeavors, but it also applies to our moral lives. Many times the Church’s teaching on controversial moral issues (for example, artificial and assisted reproduction, contraception, divorce and remarriage) is hard to understand on a merely natural level, especially when the prevailing culture bombards us with contrary views. In those moments especially, we need to realize that the life we are called to live surpasses our natural capacities. Jesus could never have proved to Peter beforehand that he would take in a miraculous catch in the middle of broad daylight, but that’s what the Lord had in store for his disciple. To experience the wonderful action of God’s grace in our lives, we have to bolster our natural understanding with supernatural faith (we need both faith and reason – either one without the other is not Christianity), and then we, like Peter, will draw in a wondrous catch.

Christ the Teacher Whenever we trust Jesus sufficiently to admit the limits of our merely human judgment, God rewards us in multiple ways. He gives us a greater experience of his goodness (the enormous catch of fish); he gives us a deeper knowledge of ourselves (in the wake of the miracle Peter sees clearly, maybe for the first time in his life, how arrogant and

headstrong he really is: “I am a sinful man...”); he brings us closer to him, giving us a more intimate knowledge of him and the mission he has entrusted to us (“from now on you will be catching men... they left everything and followed him...”).

Whenever God asks anything of us, it is always for our good and for the good of his Kingdom.

This is the experience of all the saints – as soon as they launch themselves into the enterprises of God, life takes on an entirely new and indescribable dimension. On the other hand, when we hesitate, or demand proofs, or measure God by the undersized standards of human reason, we inhibit him from showing forth his goodness and love. But when we make an act of trust in God, obeying his will even when our human nature resists, God rewards us beyond our wildest imaginations.

Christ the Friend God doesn’t want to do everything by himself; he wants us to help him. He wants it so much that he makes himself weak in order to actually need our help. In this passage, he asks Peter to take him out from the shore so he can more effectively address the crowds – God enlists the help of a fisherman to make his voice heard! Since that moment, the advance of Christ’s cause has been linked to an unbroken chain of men and women generous enough to lend their boats to the Lord, just as Peter did – or even to dock their boats, to “leave everything, and follow” him. He doesn’t want to impose his Kingdom from above; he wants us to enter freely into it, and help others to do the same, walking right beside him.

Andrew: It was mid-morning, my least favorite time of day. We were fixing our nets on the shore – my least favorite task. Everyone was tired and surly. As Jesus came by with the crowds I didn’t even look up, I was in such a rotten humor. But he came over to us. I could tell Simon didn’t want to oblige the Master, but sometimes it was simply impossible to say no to Jesus. We rowed out a little way. You should have seen the faces of the people as they listened to Jesus. They didn’t miss a syllable. You could see their souls in their eyes, begging him for solace. I was barely listening to him. I couldn’t look away from the crowd. Some of their faces were full of joy and enthusiasm. Others were yearning for something. Others were trying to hide, but unable to pull themselves away. When Jesus asked us to put out for a catch, I was still thinking about all those people. And then, when we drew in the overflowing nets, and when he told Simon that he would make us into fishers of men, it all came together. The fish were like the crowd of people; the boat was like his Kingdom. From then on I wanted only one thing: to go wherever Jesus went.

Christ in My Life I believe in you, Lord, and I believe in your Church. You continue to teach and guide the human family in every era and in every place through the living Magisterium of your Church. I want to follow you, and I want to experience the life you created me to live, and so I commit myself once again to be a faithful child of the Church, your chosen sacrament of salvation...

I am impressed by Peter’s faith. He resisted at first, but when he saw the light in your eyes, he did what you asked him. And he did it only because it was you who were asking. I want to be like that. I want to see the light in your eyes and obey your every command, your every indication. You are the Lord; you are my Savior; Thy will be done...

Take my boat, Lord; enter into my life and use it to preach your saving message. I will go wherever you ask me. I will do whatever you require of me. Give me the strength to persevere in your will, no matter how dull or how painful it may become. You alone have the words of eternal life; turn my life into an amplifier that will make them resound to the ends of the earth...

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 10th Memorial of Saint Scholastica, virgin; Feb 14th Memorial of Sts Cyril, Monk and Methodius, Bishop.



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.

Jesus called us to fish for people

A rod and reel or some other fishing gear

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. Luke 5:10b-11 (TNIV)

Children's Sermon: Jesus Calls the Disciples (Luke 5:10-11)

Do you like to go fishing? If someone were to ask me that question, I guess I would have to say, "No." I like to catch fish, but I don't enjoy fishing unless I am catching fish. I have heard some people say that they don't care whether they catch any fish or not -- they just enjoy going fishing. Not me!

I remember one time when I went fishing with my son. He was about the age of some of you boys and girls -- about seven or eight, I guess. We got up early in the morning and went to the lake. We had been fishing for about five minutes when he turned to me and said, "Dad, when are we going to catch something?" After about thirty minutes, he gave up and went to play with some other children. I sat there and fished all day. I never did catch a fish. Now, that is not my idea of a good time!

As I think about that fishing trip, I am reminded of a story in the Bible about some men who had a fishing experience a lot like mine -- until Jesus came along.

One day Jesus was standing by the sea of Galilee. A large crowd of people started to gather around him. He saw some fishermen nearby who were cleaning and mending their nets so he climbed into one of their boats. He asked one of the men whose name was Peter, to put the boat out a little way from the shore. Jesus sat in the boat teaching the people.

When he had finished teaching, Jesus said to Peter, "Put the boat further out into the deep water and let down your nets to catch some fish."

"We've been fishing all night long and haven't caught a thing, but if you say so, we will let down the nets one more time," Peter answered.

An amazing thing happened! When they started pulling the nets up, there were so many fish that the nets began to break. As they pulled the fish into the boat, there were so many fish that the boat was beginning to sink. When Peter and his fellow fishermen saw this, they were astonished and even a bit frightened.

Jesus said, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." (Luke 5:10-11)

The Bible tells us that they pulled their boats up onto the shore, left everything, and followed Jesus. From that day on, Peter and his friends fished for people and brought many into God's kingdom.

Jesus wants you and me to fish for people too. If we will be faithful in telling people about Jesus and his love, we can trust Jesus to bring in the catch!

Dear Jesus, help us to be good fishers for people -- faithful to go, patiently waiting, and trusting you to bring in the catch. Amen.

Weekly Prayer

Prayer is a large part of our Faith. This Friday is Valentine's Day, Found this wonderful Prayer to pray for.

Prayer to Saint Valentine



O glorious advocate and
protector, St. Valentine,
Look with pity upon our wants,
hear our prayers,
relieve by your intercession the
miseries under which we labor,
and obtain for us the divine
blessing, that we may be found
worthy to join you in praising
the Almighty for all eternity:
through the merits of
Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.



Jubilee 2025-Pilgrims of Hope



This year our Church celebrates the Jubilee Year 2025. This year's theme is Pilgrims of Hope.

Here is 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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