

Parish News

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

Lenten Schedule

Stations of the Cross-Friday 6pm
Living Stations by Norte Dame Students -March 21st

Holy Thursday April 17th -Mass @ 6pm

Good Friday April 17th @ 3pm
Passion and Veneration of the Cross

Holy Saturday April 19th
Blessing of Food in Church @noon
Vigil Mass @ 8am with procession

Easter Sunday April 20th
Masses: 9am & 11AM

Fried Dough Sale

The Knights of Columbus will once again be selling Fried Dough on Sunday March 9th
-Drive Thru
7:30am to sold out \$2 each or \$3 for 5

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
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 Feb 23, 2025
Ordinary \$6366.00



Hope Appeal 2025
The Assessment for the Parish is \$32,143.
Currently received as of 1/15/25 we have collected \$28,840.02

NORTE DAME SCHOOLS

14TH Annual Raffle \$100,000.00

Additional cash prizes and more-Tickets are \$100
On sale at Norte Dame Jr/Sr. High School and Chantry'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.

It is hard to believe that Lenten starts on March 5th with Ash Wednesday. How will you prepare for your Lenten journey. Starting next week, I will share with everyone ways to start preparing oneself Lent leading up to the death and resurrection of our Lord.

There are different ways we can do during Lent. One of these is Stations of the Cross – Here at Sacred Heart/St Mary's they are on Friday nights @ 6pm.

So, what are the Stations of the Cross?

Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. The stations are commonly used as a mini pilgrimage as the individual moves from station to station. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited, then the individual moves to the next station until all 14 are complete.

The Stations of the Cross are commonly found in churches as a series of 14 small icons or images. They can also appear in church yards arranged along paths. The stations are most commonly prayed during Lent on Wednesdays and Fridays, and especially on Good Friday, the day of the year upon which the events actually occurred.

Also called Stations of the Cross, Via Crucis, and Via Dolorosa). These names are used to signify either a series of pictures or tableaux representing certain scenes in the Passion of Christ, each corresponding to a particular incident, or the special [form](#) of devotion connected with such representations.

Taken in the former sense, the Stations may be of stone, wood, or metal, sculptured or carved, or they may be merely paintings or engravings. Some Stations are valuable works of art, as those, for instance, in [Antwerp](#) cathedral, which have been much copied elsewhere. They are usually ranged at intervals around the walls of a church, though sometimes they are to be found in the open air, especially on roads leading to a church or shrine. In monasteries they are often placed in the cloisters. The erection and use of the Stations did not become at all general before the end of the seventeenth century, but they are now to be found in almost every church. Formerly their number varied considerably in different places but fourteen are now prescribed by authority. They are as follows:

Please [click the hyperlink](#) to read each Station of the Cross.

Opening Prayer

ACT OF CONTRITION

O my God, my Redeemer, behold me here at Thy feet. From the bottom of my heart I am sorry for all my sins, because by them I have offended Thee, Who art infinitely good. I will die rather than offend thee again.

1. Opening Prayer

2. 1st Station: Jesus is condemned to death
3. 2nd Station: Jesus carries His cross
4. 3rd Station: Jesus falls the first time
5. 4th Station: Jesus meets His Mother
6. 5th Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross
7. 6th Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
8. 7th Station: Jesus falls the second time
9. 8th Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
10. 9th Station: Jesus falls a third time
11. 10th Station: Jesus clothes are taken away
12. 11th Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross
13. 12th Station: Jesus dies on the cross
14. 13th Station: The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross
15. 14th Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb

Events at other Parishes in our area

I have attached fliers for the events in Our Parishes

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

The Lights Are On for Your

Confession will be offered

April 14, 2025

4-7pm in Parishes

Diocesan Lenten Mission
Join us for a Diocesan Lenten Mission



A powerful 3-night journey of faith, prayer and renewal as we prepare our hearts for Easter and celebrate the Jubilee Year

March 31 @ 6:30-8:30pm
Mary Mother of Our Savior Parish
Tuesday April 1st
Holy Cross-Dewitt
April 2nd
St. Thomas Aquinas Binghamton

Each evening will feature an inspiring talk from a Keynote speaker, John Bealeu
With Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Bishop Lucia

Mary Mother of Our Savior Parish

The Annual Lenten parish Mission

Tues March 11 from 6:30-8pm @ the Lourdes Campus
Evening of inspiring talks beautiful music and time for prayer
Jeremy Bobak will be worship leader
Mark and Nina Ranieri will be the keynote speakers

Youth Ministry Event

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

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)-

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 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

St Anthony/St Agnes -Utica

Every Friday March 7th -April 18, 2025

Eat In or take out

Fried or baked Haddock \$17

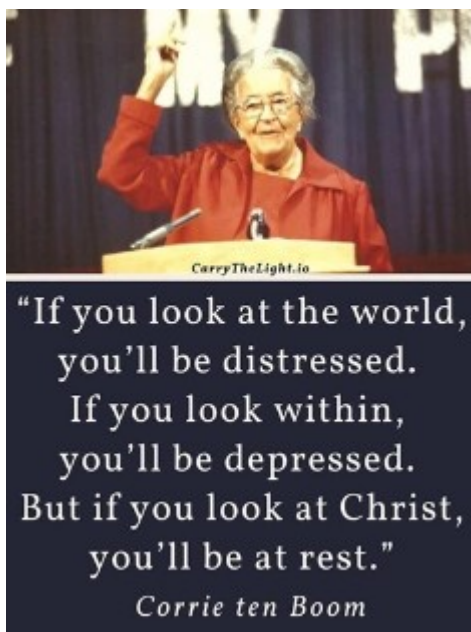
12 Piece Fried Shrimp \$18

St Anthony Combo \$21

(baked or fried Haddock plus 7 shrimp)

All meal include choice of baked potato or French fries Coleslaw, dinner roll, coffee & dessert)

Food for thought



The children making First Reconciliation will meet in the Church in 9th. Please bring the children to the Church and they will be brought back to the school for dismissal.

Students making First Communion-it will be on May 4th @ the 11am Mass

First Reconciliation 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

Palms Sunday –April 13th

The families are invited to make Palm Cross with the children @ 10:15am in the school

Lenten PCA Event



Please join u for our annual Family PCA event with our Parishes in the PCA
(Mary Mother of Our Savior Parish, St Paul's, Holy Trinity and Sacred Heart/St Mary's
Open to all families with children Preschool to Grade 6th

March 30th @ Mary Mother of Our Savior Parish
2 to 4pm
Fun Lenten Projects
Pizza and drinks will be served.



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

Weekdays 12:15 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Friday.
There will be no Mass on Thursday

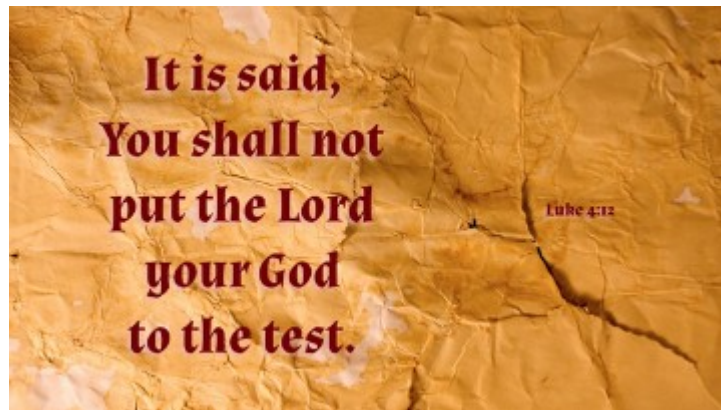
Let's remember that as Catholics, the importance of attending Sunday Mass. At Mass we stand at mystically at the foot of the cross and witness for ourselves the same self-sacrifice of Jesus, in an unbloody manner. Mass is a celebration of this sacrifice. It is the active participation of all that come together in the place of worship.

1st Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Responsorial Psalms: 9: 1-2, 10-11,- 12-13, 13-15
:2nd Reading: Romans: 10:8-13
Gospel: Luke: 4:1-13

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.



First Victory (Luke 4:1-13)

“When temptation comes, turn straight to God, and he will help you.” – St. Leonard of Port Maurice

Luke 4:1-13: Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf’. But Jesus replied, ‘Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone’. Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, ‘I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.’ Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. ‘If you are the Son of God,’ he said to him, ‘throw yourself down from here, for scripture says: He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again: They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.’ But Jesus answered

him, 'It has been said: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

Christ the Lord Jesus' temptation in the desert, which the liturgy locates in the first Sunday of Lent, vividly reminds us that Christ came "to destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8).

Since the dawn of time, the devil had mastered the human heart, leading every man and woman more or less into the tangle of selfishness and sin, encouraging them to use power to procure pleasure, to compromise principles for the sake of popularity, and to disobey the voice of conscience in favor of convenience. But Christ was too much for him. In this first combat, the devil tried "every way of putting him to the test," but they glanced off Jesus like so many plastic darts. The almost irresistible lure of temptation that causes such anguish and struggle in us has no power over our Lord. Staying close to him, therefore, leaning on him and filled with his grace, we can experience the victory over sin. In him we can attain freedom from slavery to our own evil tendencies. Christ indeed is the Lord, and he has come to conquer. If we follow him, we will share the spoils.

Christ the Teacher By letting himself be tempted, Jesus teaches us how the devil works, and how to overcome him. The devil appeals to our selfish tendencies in order to draw us away from God. We all desire physical pleasure and comfort ("Tell this stone to turn in to a loaf"), but sometimes we need to subordinate that desire to a higher ideal ("Man lives not on bread alone"). We all desire to be self-sufficient, to have power to do whatever we want whenever we want, free from natural limitations ("I shall give you all this power"), but only God is self-sufficient. Our existence depends on him – we need him to sustain and guide us ("God alone you must serve"). We all desire recognition, popularity, and praise (a swan dive from the Temple parapet would have won Jesus instant fame), but these are no substitute for the true meaning and happiness given by humble friendship with God; it's not worth risking the latter to gain the former ("You must not put the Lord your God to the test"). The devil wants us to keep "self" in the center of our lives, so that we feed our egoism and eventually become a moral black hole. But as long as we keep God at the center, "seeking first the Kingdom," we will be safe from his wiles.

The devil doesn't change his agenda of temptations as the years go by, because he knows that human nature stays the same. For the same reason, the three great Christian virtues of poverty, obedience, and chastity (lived most fully by those called to the religious or consecrated life) are always in season as antidotes to the tempter's poison.

Christ the Friend Jesus Christ was tempted, and so he redeemed temptation. What a relief! Now we know that our own temptations can give glory to God. We know that feeling the attraction of evil and the tug of selfishness is no cause for despair; rather it provides an opportunity to exercise our love. Every time we resist a temptation, we extend the Kingdom of God, winning back territory from the devil. Christ didn't come to exempt us from spiritual combat, but to give us strength to fight valiantly for his cause. He is the great champion, and

he invites us to battle at his side, sharing in his sufferings and his triumphs. He has become one of us, so as to make us just like him.

Christ in My Life You conquered sin and evil. You want to extend your conquest into every human heart. I intercede for all those hearts that resist you. Lord, convince them of your goodness! Make them trust in you! Wash them in your mercy, and make my life a billboard for the power of your love...

What interests you most is what happens in my heart. The world and other people see only appearances; I can fool them. You see the decisions that determine my character and the direction of my moral journey. You are interested in that, because you want me to choose to spend eternity in your palace in heaven, with Mary and all the saints, on the everlasting adventure...

Mary, you know that sometimes I get tired of the battle and simply want to rest. I know you humbled yourself every day, conquering sin with the grace you had received and living solely for Christ in spite of discomfort, obstacles, and opposition. You are the school of every virtue.

Teach me to persevere in my mission, as you did, until the very end.... And doing so you showed me that life on earth is not mean to be a cakewalk, but a mission. Thy will be done, Lord; you can count on me...



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.

Theme

How do we defeat Satan? By following Jesus' example.

Object

A WWJD bracelet

Scripture

Luke 4:1-13



I got this new bracelet. (Show it to kids, and then put it on.) It says “WWJD,” which stands for “What would Jesus do?” These used to be popular, and today some people are wearing them again. (Invite kids to tell whether they’ve seen anyone wearing them.) We can use this bracelet as a reminder to be like Jesus.

So what kinds of things have you known Jesus to do that you could follow?

Why might kids want a reminder like this throughout their days?

Kids can be tempted to do all kinds of things at school, in their neighborhoods, and even at home...things that aren’t God-honoring or what’s best for us, right? Well, Jesus knows what it’s like to be tempted, too. The Bible tells about a time Jesus went out into the wilderness for 40 days to be by Himself. God’s Spirit led Him out there to fast and pray. (Invite kids to tell about anyone they know who has fasted, or share your own story.)

During that time God’s enemy, Satan came and tempted Jesus to do some things Jesus knew weren’t right. But just because Jesus is God and He’s powerful, that doesn’t mean the things Satan suggested weren’t tempting. Like first, Satan suggested Jesus turn stones into bread that Jesus could eat. (Have kids close their eyes for a moment and imagine what it might be

like for them to not eat or drink anything for 40 days, and how that might feel. After a minute, invite them to reflect on their thoughts.)

Jesus could have easily done what Satan suggested, but He didn't. Instead, He answered, "It is written, 'Man does not live by bread alone.' "

Then Satan took Jesus up to a high place and showed Him the worldly kingdoms below. He said, "All of this belongs to me. If You will bow down and worship me, I will give it to You."

Worship can mean "make more important than God"; so what kinds of things are you sometimes tempted to make more important than God?



Here's what Jesus answered to Satan's temptation: "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.' "

Next, Satan took Jesus to Jerusalem and led Him up to the highest point on the temple. He said to Jesus, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. God will send His angels to rescue You." (Lead kids in a vote: Who thinks God could keep Jesus from harm if He did jump off that temple.)

Of course God could keep Jesus safe, but Jesus quoted the Scripture, " 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

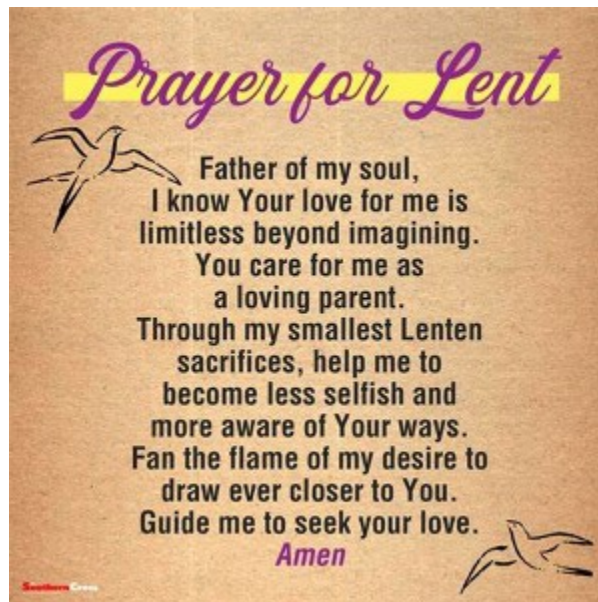
Do you know what the devil did? He gave up! He said, "I'll come back and try another day."

The next time the devil tempts you to do something wrong, look in the Bible and see what the Bible says. Then...Do What Jesus Did...answer Satan with Scripture!

Dear God, help us use Your word and follow Jesus' example in our lives. In Jesus' name,
amen.

Weekly Prayer

Prayer is a large part of our Faith. As we continue our Lenten journey, here is this week Lenten prayer



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