

Parish News

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

Thanks to Pat. Doggett and Matt Wolkowicz who took care of the Faith Formation program while I was on a much needed vacation.

This week is the beginning of Holy Week with the beginning of this Sunday as Palm Sunday.

The Faith Formation program will be learning to make Palm Cross's tomorrow. Parents are welcome to learn as well. Please be back at school by 10:15 am (Thanks to Mr. Pardi for sharing his way of making Palm Crosses)

Below is the Holy Week Schedule for the Parish

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

THE LIGHTS ARE ON

Monday April 24th 4-7pm (Mother of Our Savior Church (Lourdes campus_
An opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation= a number of priests will be present.

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 March 30, 2025

Ordinary \$6120.00

Catholic Relief Services \$464.00



Hope Appeal 2025

The Assessment for the Parish is \$32,143.

Currently received as of 3/26/25 we have collected \$29,540.02

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.

It is hard to believe that Lent is over and Holy Week begins. It is the most sacred time of the Christian Faith. It is also the time where Christ started 2 of most 2 blessed Sacraments. On Holy Thursday we were given the Sacrament of Communion and Holy Orders.

Holy Week is most definitely a very sacred time of the year, for it is now that we will commemorate and remember the last week of Jesus' life on this earth. These are the days leading up to the great Easter Feast. The Lenten season of sacrifice and self-denial is about to come to an end, but this coming week is extremely important for all Christians. The greatest focus of the week is the Passion (suffering) and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the events that led up to it.

Historical documents tell us that as early as the fourth century the Church celebrated this "Great Week" with a feeling of profound sanctity. It begins with Palm Sunday, which marks Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The central feature of the service proper to this day, as it was in the earliest times, is the procession of palms. The palms are blessed and are then born in procession to the church, where an entry is made with a certain amount of ceremony, after which the Mass is celebrated. The other notable and very ancient feature of the present Palm Sunday service is the reading of the Gospel of the Passion by three readers.

Especially important for Catholics is the Easter Triduum. This is the three days just before Easter. On Holy Thursday, we reenact the Lord's Last Supper, which He shared with His apostles on the night He was betrayed and arrested. This is one of the most beautiful liturgies of the entire liturgical year. At the Mass, the priest will wash the feet of twelve men, just as Jesus did. Also on this night, priests all over the world will renew their sacred vows. This is because, at the Last Supper, Jesus not only instituted the Mass (Eucharist) but also the ministerial priesthood.

On Good Friday, the day of the crucifixion and death of our Lord, we have the veneration of the Cross. A service is held at three o'clock in the afternoon (the hour He is believed to have died) and another later in the evening. We go forward and kiss the Cross in order to show honor and respect for Christ's sacrifice for our sake. There is no consecration of the Eucharist on this day, and the Communion we receive will be from the night before, which has been reserved in the tabernacle.

Holy Saturday is a vigil. We keep watch for the expectant rise of Our Savior. This was the day He went down into the netherworld in order to bring back up with Him into heaven those who had died before His coming. Up to this time, the gates to heaven were closed and no one could go there because of the original sin of Adam. Jesus changed all that. By paying the price for our sins on the Cross, He gained for us our eternal salvation, and heaven was opened once more. Also on this night, persons who have spent months of preparation will be received through Baptism and Confirmation into the Catholic Church for the first time. It is a joyous occasion.

Those who engage themselves wholeheartedly in living the entire paschal cycle (Lent, Triduum and Easter's Fifty Days) discover that it can change them forever. This is especially so of the Triduum which, standing at the heart of the Easter season, is an intense immersion in the fundamental mystery of what it is to be Christian. During these days, we suffer with Christ so that we might rise with Him at His glorious Resurrection. Holy Week is a time to clear our schedules of unnecessary activities. Our minds and hearts should be fixed on Jesus and what He did for us. Let us bear the Cross so that may be worthy of wearing the crown He wore.

Food for thought



Events at other Parishes in our area

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

Holy Trinity-Utica

Palm Sunday/Easter traditions.

April 13 after 9:45 Mass until 2pm-Holy Trinity Gymnasium

Hands on Pisanki Easter egg decorating, palm weaving and butter making are featured

Bring a pound of butter and hard-boiled eggs for decorating

St Anthony/St Agnes-Utica

Friday -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 cole slaw, dinner roll, coffee & dessert)

St Anthony Novena- 13 Tuesdays

March 18-June 10th @ 5pm

May 8th -Chicken Parmesan Dinner

4-7pm

Eat in or take out

Cost \$18/per person-presales available

Includes chicken parmesan over linguini, salad, garlic bread, dessert and coffee.

Mary Mother of Our Savior Parish

The Peter M Curley Memorial

Easter Egg Hunt

Holy Saturday -April 19th @ 22am

Children 10 years and under

Rain or Shine

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@syrдио.org

Utica Newman Catholic

Christian Fellowship

For registered College Students/Utica Area

For questions Contact Campus Minister, Pat Gillick @

Uticanewmandoutreach@syrдио.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 @ 6:30pm 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@syrдио.org or mnoosfaithformation@syrдио.org



Students making First Communion-it will be on May 4th @ the 11am Mass
The Blessing Cup meal has been scheduled for April 26th in the school cafeteria from 12-3pm

Palms Sunday –April 13th

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

There is no classes next week due to Easter Sunday

Last class April 27th Ice Social

The Faith Formation Program is looking for a Catechist for the following Grades; 1st Grade, 7-8 Grade and 9th Grade- Will require VIRTUS Training. If interested, please contact Lynn 315-527-8399

There will be change next year regarding the 2 year Confirmation Program. More to come.



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.

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

At the procession with palms-Gospel Luke 19:28-40

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7
Responsorial Psalms: 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24
:2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11
Gospel: Luke 22:14-23:56

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 week's reflection comes from Jeff Miller a former atheist who after spending 40 years in the wilderness with both astonishment and joy became a member of the Catholic Church.

While today's passage is used for what is colloquially called Palm Sunday, it is in Chapter 19 where the entry in Jerusalem is described in explicit terms as a royal triumphal entry; people are greeting Jesus as a king who is coming in the name of the Lord.[\[1\]](#) Luke is the only one to mention the Pharisee's reaction to the crowd and telling Jesus to rebuke his disciples. Jesus replies, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

Liturgically this is Passion Sunday, so the passage used starts with the establishment of the first Mass, concluding with the death and burial of Jesus. Since these covers so much territory, I will highlight what is distinct to Luke.

After the institution of the Lord's Supper, the disciples dispute among themselves as regards who is the greatest. I have to wonder just how attentive they were to what just happened. It seems they surmised something Momentive had happened and were involved in it. Yet, their sight is still shortened on their egos and not the establishment of a new covenant put into place and ratified by Jesus' coming death on the cross and resurrection.

From Brant Pitre's[\[1\]](#) commentary on this:

“Literally in the Greek, what Jesus says here, “As my father covenanted the kingdom for me, so I covenant to you, that you may eat and drink at my table, in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” So, effectively what Jesus is doing is constituting (in the figure of the Apostles) a new Israel, where they will rule over this new Israel, sitting on twelve thrones.

Secondly, notice also that within these twelve Apostles who are going to reign over the new Israel, Simon Peter has pride of place. And it’s easy to miss that if you read it in English, but in Greek it’s really clear: when Jesus says, “Simon, Simon, Satan has demanded to have you”, the Greek word there is “you” in the plural. So, if you wanted to translate it into English: “Satan has demanded to have ya’ll.” (I’m from the South, we have a 2nd person plural, it’s called “ya’ll”, and that’s what the Greek word there is.) Satan has demanded to have “you all”. “But I have prayed for you (singular) that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen you brethren.” So what Jesus is referring to here is two things: First, the unique role that Simon Peter has as leader of the twelve apostles and as the one who strengthens the brethren. And I just bring this up because (obviously) there’s a long standing debate about the origins of the papacy and the authority of the bishop of Rome and that kind of thing, but I want to highlight the fact that in Luke’s gospel, according to Luke, at the Last Supper Jesus singles Peter out as the one who has a special mission to strengthen the other apostles after he turns back from his fall of denying Jesus, and that Jesus prays a special prayer for Simon (and Simon alone) that his faith may not fail.”

We see multiple examples of Jesus’ humanity in that he is both fully God and fully man, and not God putting on a costume as a man. In the Garden of Gethsemane, he says, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” He requires strength for his coming ordeal. His guardian angel strengthens him, “And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”

I had often heard that this was a condition called hematidrosis caused by great stress. I have also heard other claims about how this would make Jesus even more sensitive to pain. Actual cases of hematidrosis are relatively rare and are not necessarily connected to stress. Thomas W. McGovern, M.D. looks at these claims in his book “What Christ Suffered: A Doctor’s Journey Through the Passion.” Based on Luke’s description, he concludes that a bloody fluid was coming out of his skin.

Jesus’ blood and sweat mixed on the skin, not in the skin within the sweat glands.

More importantly, there is a lot of imagery here tying the agony in this garden back to the events of the Garden of Eden. This is a constant theme in Luke that Jesus is the new Adam. Adam and Eve were cast out. He is going to have to labor by the sweat of his brow. Brant Pitre draws out further connection with Jewish tradition in that the Tree of Life is an Olive Tree and that Gethsemane means “oil press.”

“Jesus is the new Adam, and he will go to the new tree of life which is the cross. And there he will be crushed, he’s going to offer his life, and his blood will undo the effects of the fall of the first Adam. And the oil that will flow from the new tree of life is an oil that brings healing and salvation to the whole world. Just as the first tree of life was supposed to give immortality, so the new tree of life (the cross) is going to undo the curse of death and bring everlasting life to the world.[\[1\]](#)”

While all of the synoptic Gospels tell us about the carrying of the cross, only Luke writes about the women who lamented and wailed for Jesus on the way to Calvary. It is tough to imagine the physical state of Jesus at this point. The agony in the garden, his arrest, and possible severe mistreatment before

the trial. How he was treated at the trial itself. More abuse after the trial, severe scourging, and even more mockery and abuse with the crown of thorns. Added to this is the crossbar (*stauros* or *patibulum*) placed across his shoulder he carried to the place of execution. Yet, his heart and mind are still focused on the sufferings of others. Luke also records Jesus' prayer on the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

When I was reading over this, something in my own life came to mind. When my wife was in the very last days of her life in the hospice, she could not eat. Chipped ice was all that she could consume. In her pain and deep awareness of how little time she had left with us, she was still concerned about whether we had eaten yet. This is what it means to be Christ-like.

The dialog between the thieves on either side of Jesus is also only in Luke. One thief is railing against Jesus, while the other says that we deserve our fate, but not Jesus. He then speaks, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And in response, Jesus says something that's powerful, but also puzzling: "Amen, I say to you, this day you will be with me in paradise."

I have heard Jesus' reply parsed in several ways since emphasizing different words can change the meaning. The meaning is argued over regarding the necessity of baptism or the doctrine of Purgatory. So I was interested to see that this might also be another Lucan reference to the Garden of Eden as per Brant Pitre^[1]

"The Greek word there, Paradeisos, doesn't occur very often in the Bible. The first time it occurs, one of the few times it occurs, is in the book of Genesis 2 and 3, when it's describing the paradise of God. Literally, the word paradise means "a garden" or "an orchard"; in other words, the Garden of Eden."

Jesus' final words on the cross are also unique to Luke. "Father into your hands I commit my spirit" is quoted from Psalm 31.



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.

Palm Sunday Children's Sermon (Luke 19:28-40)

Do you know what we are going to do this morning? We are going to have a parade! (Start passing out music instruments as you continue.) I brought a lot of musical instruments, noise makers, and flags — enough for everyone. What should we call our parade? How about the Praise Parade? We are going to have a Praise Parade for Jesus! (When you have finished passing out all of the instruments, lead the children in a parade around the room, through the hallway and back again.) Here we go, follow me.

(Lead kids in shouting, "Hosannah!" and "Glory in the highest!")

Praise Parade

\Wow! That was exciting, wasn't it? There is hardly anything that is more fun and exciting than a parade. Have you ever been to a parade? Perhaps it was a circus parade, or a Christmas parade, but I am sure you have all been to a parade. Sometimes a parade is part of a really big celebration. Our parade today reminds me of something that took place in the city of Jerusalem about 2,000 years ago.

Jesus and His followers were traveling to the city of Jerusalem. The city was going to have a big celebration called Passover that would last for a whole week. Have you ever been to a party that lasted a whole week? As they were traveling, they came to a place called the Mount of Olives. They stopped there and Jesus gave His disciples some special instructions. "Go into that village over there," He told them. "As you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks, 'Why are you untying that donkey?' just say, 'The Lord needs it.' "

So the disciples went and found the young donkey, just as Jesus had told them they would. And sure enough, as they were untying it, the owner asked them, "Why are you untying that donkey?" Hmm...now what was it they were supposed to say? Right! They simply answered, "The Lord needs it."

The disciples took the young donkey to Jesus and they put coats on its back so that Jesus would have a nice, soft seat as He rode into town. Word spread quickly through the town that Jesus was coming. He had become quite famous because people had heard about His healing the sick and even raising the dead. As Jesus entered the town, a large crowd had gathered. People began to throw their coats on the road in front of Jesus. They cut branches from the palm trees and waved them and they began to shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord."

It must have been quite the parade as Jesus went through the streets of Jerusalem with everyone waving and cheering. (Invite kids to celebrate with their parade prop.) We call this celebration Palm Sunday.

But as exciting as all this was, the people really did not know who Jesus was. They thought He was going to set up an earthly kingdom and that He would do great things for them here on earth. They did not understand that His kingdom was in heaven. In just a few days, these same people were shouting,

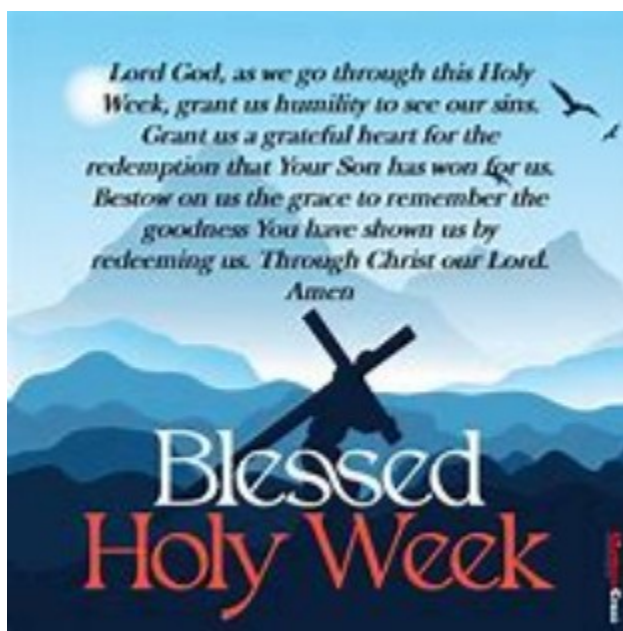
"Hosanna!" would be shouting, "Crucify Him!" because He wasn't the kind of king they wanted.

The Good News today is that Jesus is King. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Today we are here to praise Him and we shout, "Hosanna!" Do you know what that word means? It means "Save now!" That is why we shout hosanna, because Jesus saves — Jesus alone.

Dear Father, our voices join with the voices of the people in Jerusalem some 2,000 years ago. Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. He is our hope and our salvation. In His name we pray. Amen.

Weekly Prayer

Prayer is a large part of our Faith. As we begin Holy Week, let us reflect on the ultimate sacrifice the Lord made for us.



Lynn M. Springer
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