

# Parish News

With the winter weather now upon Central New York, I will keep the families informed via email and through WKTV as to whether classes will be cancelled due the weather.

## **Stewardship-December 24, 2023**

Operating expenses for the Parish on a weekly basis are \$6,200.00. Collection for December 24<sup>th</sup>-  
Collections \$6,625.22

Christmas Envelopes \$6979.00

## **Hope Appeal**

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection at weekend Masses is for the Hope Appeal and will continue in order for the Parish to reach the 2024 Goal

Goal: 38,468.00 Received to date \$13,343.02

## **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](http://www.sacredheart-saintmary.org) and click on the Parish Giving Log and follow the easy registration instructions. It is Secure.

## **Events at other** Parishes in our area

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

Youth Ministry Nights

January 22<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Senton Center/Mary Mother Savior Parish

6:30pm-8:00pm

## **Winter Olympics**

January 13<sup>th</sup> @ Annunciation Church, Clark Mills  
Grade 7-12  
Dinner, Bonfire, Indoor/Outdoor Games  
Dress for the weather

A traditional New Years Dinner/Dance  
January 20, 2024-Ukrainian Auditorium  
6 Cottage Place  
Dinner 6pm-Dancing @ 8pm  
Midnight New Years Eve Toast  
Adults \$75 Children under 16 \$20



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.

Do you know that our Church has different seasons? Our Church has 6 seasons. (If you wish to learn more, please use the hyperlink)

We are now in Ordinary time. What does that mean? According to the USCCB Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ. The goal, toward which all of history is directed, is represented by the final Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

Because the term *ordinary* in English most often means something that's not special or distinctive, many people think that Ordinary Time refers to parts of the calendar of the Catholic Church that are unimportant. Even though the season of Ordinary Time makes up most of the liturgical year in the Catholic Church, the fact that Ordinary Time refers to those periods that fall outside of the major liturgical seasons reinforces this impression. Yet Ordinary Time is far from unimportant or uninteresting.

### **Why Is Ordinary Time Called Ordinary?**

Ordinary Time is called "ordinary" not because it is common but simply because the weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. The Latin word *ordinalis*, which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word *ordo*, from which we get the English word *order*. Thus, the numbered weeks of Ordinary Time, in fact, represent the ordered life of the Church—the period in which we live our lives neither in feasting (as in the Christmas and Easter seasons) or in more severe penance (as in Advent and Lent), but in watchfulness and expectation of the Second Coming of Christ.

It's appropriate, therefore, that the Gospel for the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (which is actually the first Sunday celebrated in Ordinary Time) always features either John the Baptist's acknowledgment of Christ as the Lamb of God or Christ's first miracle—the transformation of water into wine at the wedding at Cana.

Thus for Catholics, Ordinary Time is the part of the year in which Christ, the Lamb of God, walks among us and transforms our lives. There's nothing "ordinary" about that!

### **Why Is Green the Color of Ordinary Time?**

Likewise, the normal liturgical color for Ordinary Time—for those days when there is no special feast—is green. Green vestments and altar cloths have traditionally been associated with the time after Pentecost, the period in which the Church founded by the risen Christ and enlivened by the Holy Spirit began to grow and to spread the Gospel to all nations.

### **When Is Ordinary Time?**

Ordinary Time refers to all of those parts of the Catholic Church's liturgical year that aren't included in the major seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. Ordinary Time thus encompasses two different periods in the Church's calendar, since the Christmas season immediately follows Advent, and the Easter season immediately follows Lent.

The Church year begins with Advent, followed immediately by the Christmas season. Ordinary Time begins on the Monday after the first Sunday after January 6, the traditional date of the Feast of the Epiphany and the end of the liturgical season of Christmas. This first period of Ordinary

Time runs until Ash Wednesday when the liturgical season of Lent begins. Both Lent and the Easter season fall outside of Ordinary Time, which resumes again on the Monday after Pentecost Sunday, the end of the Easter season. This second period of Ordinary Time runs until the First Sunday of Advent when the liturgical year begins again.

### **Why Is There No First Sunday in Ordinary Time?**

In most years, the Sunday after January 6 is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In countries such as the United States, however, where the celebration of Epiphany is transferred to Sunday if that Sunday is January 7 or 8, Epiphany is celebrated instead. As feasts of our Lord, both the Baptism of the Lord and Epiphany displace a Sunday in Ordinary Time. Thus the first Sunday in the period of Ordinary Time is the Sunday that falls after the first week of Ordinary Time, which makes it the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time.

### **Why Is There No Ordinary Time in the Traditional Calendar?**

Ordinary Time is a feature of the current (post-Vatican II) liturgical calendar. In the traditional Catholic calendar used before 1970 and still used in the celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass, as well as in the calendars of the Eastern Catholic Churches, the Sundays of Ordinary Time are referred to as the Sundays After Epiphany and the Sundays After Pentecost.

### **How Many Sundays Are There in Ordinary Time?**

In any given year, there are either 33 or 34 Sundays in Ordinary Time. Because Easter is a movable feast, and thus the Lent and Easter seasons "float" from year to year, the number of Sundays in each period of Ordinary Time vary from the other period as well as from year to year.

Catholic Food for thought



**Classes resume on January 14<sup>th</sup> 2024 (depending on the weather-please check emails if cancelled)**

**As we start the cold and flu season, please remember that if your child is not feeling well, please keep them home.**

### **Circle of Care**

All dioceses throughout the United States must provide age-appropriate Safe Environment training for children and youth in parish catechetical programs and Catholic schools. The lessons teach students about appropriate and inappropriate boundaries and behaviors by peers, adults,

and family members, the student's right to remove themselves from uncomfortable situations, and the importance of informing a parent or trusted adult when something is not right.

Parish catechetical programs teach the *Circles of Care* lessons to students in grades pre-K through 12

In order for the Faith Formation to be in compliance with the Safe Environment for children on January 21 the Circle of Care Program will be offered to the children.

Should you wish to have your children opt out of the program, I will provide the form to be completed. This program is required to be completed each year.

Any child who will be making First Holy Communion or Confirmation a copy of the Baptismal Certificate is required.

Important Dates for children making Sacraments.

### **First Reconciliation/First Communion**

First Reconciliation will be on March 3<sup>rd</sup> after the 9am Mass.

Blessing Cup at April 13<sup>th</sup> from 12pm-2pm

First Communion May 5<sup>th</sup> @ 11am Mass

### **Confirmation Students**

**On January 28 there will be an enrollment ceremony for the students @ the 11AM Mass.** The Parents and Sponsors are to be present as well.

March 9<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30 am -Confirmation Retreat @ St. Paul's Whitesboro

March 3<sup>rd</sup> -Sponsor information and Confirmation Name due

In lieu of the last formation class Confirmation students will have lunch with Fr. Mark after the 11am Mass

### **Church Masses**



**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Will be offered the first Wednesday of every month after the 12:15 Mass

Saturday 4pm

Sunday's

7:30am 9AM and 11AM

Weekdays 12:15 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Friday.

There will 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.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** 1 Sm 3:3b-10,19

**Psalm:** Ps:40:2,4, 7-8, 8-9 10

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20

**Gospel:** Jn 1: 35-42

**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.**



### **A reading from the gospel according to John 1:35-42**

35 John was standing with two of his disciples,

36 and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God."

37 The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus.

38 Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

39 He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon.

40 Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus.

41 He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah," which is translated Christ.

42 Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas," which is translated Peter.

### **Reflection:**

The gospel passage above invites us to a personal encounter with Christ and also encourages us to share our experiences with others. It begins with John the Baptist and his two disciples. When John sees Jesus, he declares, "Look, the Lamb of God!" This proclamation sparks curiosity in his disciples. Curiosity, often overlooked, is a powerful catalyst in our spiritual journey. It prompts us to ask questions, seek answers, and pursue truth. Perhaps these disciples had been with John, learning and growing in their faith. Yet, when presented with the notion of the "Lamb of God", their interest is piqued. They were compelled to explore this new path. So, they went to follow Jesus. In

our lives, similar moments of curiosity can lead us to profound discoveries about God and His plan for us.

When Jesus noticed those disciples, He asked, “What do you want?” Instead of requesting miracles or signs, the disciples ask, “Rabbi, where are you staying?” This question symbolizes a deeper thirst for understanding and connection. Jesus’ response, “Come, and you will see,” is an open invitation to a personal experience.

This interaction is a beautiful metaphor for our spiritual quest. Jesus doesn’t bombard us with facts or commandments at first encounter; instead, He invites us to experience His presence in our lives. It’s an invitation to an ongoing relationship, not a one-time event. When we accept this invitation, we embark on a transformative journey that shapes our understanding of ourselves and our purpose.

The next part of the passage showcases the power of personal testimony. Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, is one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). He brought Simon to Jesus, who then named him Peter.

Andrew’s actions exemplify the natural human response to a life-changing discovery: the urge to share it with others. His personal testimony – simple, direct, and born out of genuine experience – has the power to influence and transform. Through this example, we see how our personal encounters with Christ compel us to spread the good news, not through coercion or argument, but through sharing our own experiences and transformations.

In a world where answers are often a click away, we might overlook the importance of curiosity in our spiritual lives. Let us be like the disciples, allowing our curiosity to lead us to Jesus. Ask questions, seek deeper understanding, and be open to new revelations in your faith journey.

Remember that Christianity is not just about doctrines; it’s about a personal relationship with Jesus. He invites us to “come and see,” to spend time with Him, learn from Him, and experience His love and grace firsthand. Make time for prayer, meditation, and reading the scriptures to cultivate this relationship.

Let us also bear in mind that our personal testimony is a powerful tool in spreading the gospel. Our story could be the catalyst that leads someone else to explore their own relationship with Christ. So let us go and share our experiences of faith, hope, and transformation to others. Just like Andrew, we are called to be bridges that connect others to Christ. In doing so, we continue the work that these first disciples started, spreading the light of Christ to a world in need of hope and love.

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What are you looking for? (verse 38). Jesus asked this question to Andrew and his companion. Then, He invited them to “come and see”.

The simple question and the subsequent invitation of Jesus is a fitting topic for reflection in the light of the new year. Many of us may still be at a crossroads and the future is unclear. Some of us may still be undergoing some kind of pain or crisis and do not know what to do. What are you looking for?

Every new year, some of us make resolutions or plans and promises to fulfill. Perhaps, we are too focused on our material or financial goals. If so, it would be an opportune time to really consider or reconsider the question of Jesus. What are we looking for?

In the gospel reading above, Andrew and his companion accepted the invitation of Jesus to “come and see”. They liked what they saw because they stayed with him for that day and the rest of the gospel tells us that Andrew went to tell his brother Simon about his experience. Simon too went to see Jesus and Jesus called him Cephas (Peter). This means there is something in Jesus that transforms those who encounter Him.

“Come and see.” This is the invitation of Jesus to all of us. We are all invited to include Him in our resolutions, in our plans and in our life. The gospel gives us hope and the guarantee that in Him, we will be seeing what we are looking for.

### **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.

*By our devotion to the saints, our heavenly brothers and sisters in Christ who have gone before us, and by their prayers of intercession, fraternal charity is exercised, which contributes to the unity of the Church and aids us on our pilgrim journey.*

*January 17<sup>th</sup> Memorial of Saint Anthony, Abbot*



**Each week I include this week's Scripture to be shared for children who may be too young to attend the program.**

**Theme: Showing and telling others about Jesus.**

**Object: The children will provide the objects. (This should be pre-arranged. Choose several children depending on how much time you have.)**

### **Scripture**

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God." The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" John 1:29, 34-35

What do you like best about school? Is it reading? Writing? Math? Spelling? Recess? Well, when I was in school, I think my favorite thing was "Show and Tell." I always looked forward to the days when we had "Show and Tell" because it gave me the chance to show and tell others about something that was really important to me.

I have asked several of you to bring something this morning to show to the other children and tell them something about it. Who would like to go first? (Depending on how much time you have,

allow several of the children to have their time of "Show and Tell.") I want to thank those who shared with us in "Show and Tell" time this morning. I really enjoyed seeing what you had to show us and I learned a lot from what you told us. It is really fun to show and tell others about something that is really important to you, isn't it?

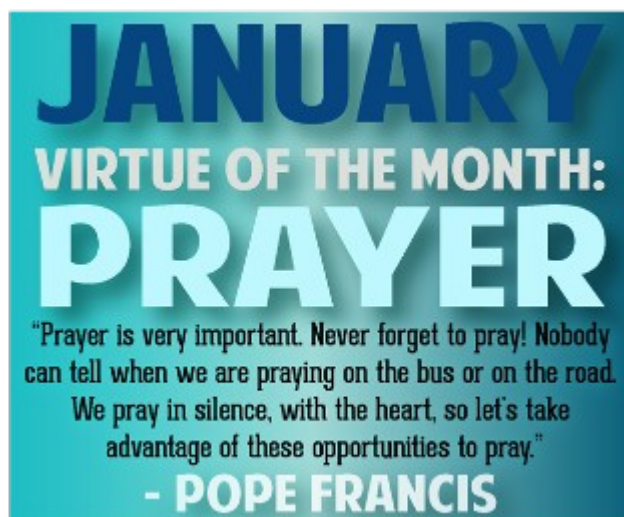
The Bible tells us about a man named John who loved to "show and tell" others about Jesus. The Bible says that one day John was standing with a group of people when he saw Jesus coming. He said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! I have seen him and I tell you that this is the Son of God."

Because John loved to show and tell others about Jesus, many people came to know Jesus and follow him. It is important for you and me to show and tell others about Jesus too. We can show others about Jesus by doing the things that Jesus taught us to do -- things like loving one another and being helpful and kind. Then people will see that we know Jesus and that will give us a chance to tell them about Jesus. We can tell them about what he has done for us and what he wants to do for them. Yes, each day we should show and tell others about Jesus!

Dear Father, help us this week to "show and tell" others about you and your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## **Weekly Prayer**

**Pope Francis says it so well. Prayer is so important and should be a part of our daily lives.**



## **Diocese of Syracuse**

From Notre Dame Schools:

Notre Dame Schools 12th Annual Raffle is underway. This year's Grand Prize is \$100,000. With a Second Prize of \$10,000, Third Prize of \$10,000, and an additional \$10,000 in smaller prizes! Tickets cost \$100 each and include admission for 2 adults to the Drawing Party on April 23, 2023, featuring free food, door prizes, and 50/50 raffles. Doors open at 12 Noon and the main drawing will be at 3pm. Call 315-724-5118 to purchase your tickets today! Flyer is attached.

**Join us for a Women's Retreat with Kathy Meus**

## **Friday, Jan 26-Saturday, January 27**

### **“How Do You Walk Humbly with Your God?”**

The prophet Micah tells us what is required: “To do the right, to love goodness, and to walk humbly with God.” Together we will explore this simple yet profound message and what it means to be humble as we journey through life. The retreat begins on Friday evening January 26th with dinner at 6:00 and ends on Saturday January 27th with dinner. Space is limited. Kathy Meus will be facilitating this retreat. Retreat begins with check-in on Friday, January 26 at 5 pm. Dinner is at 6 pm. Retreat ends after Dinner on Saturday.

Offering: \$150 and \$120 for commuters. For reservations go to [www.ckretreat.com](http://www.ckretreat.com) or call 315-446-2680.

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