

Parish News

Winter Weather School Schedule

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 January 21st
Collections \$5077.00

Hope Appeal

2nd 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 \$17,428.02

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 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 28th, 2024

The Senton Center/Mary Mother Savior Parish

6:30pm-8:00pm



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.

As I thought about our Catholic faith, the question becomes what does it mean to be Catholic?

What Does It Mean to Be Catholic?

While some chose to convert to Catholicism, many of us are born into this faith. As such, it's no surprise that some Catholics don't really fully comprehend what this religion is about. So what does it mean to be Catholic?

As simple as this question may seem, it's something that many of us don't really know the answer to. Because being Catholic means more than just reciting the rosary, believing in saints, or going to church every Sunday. In fact, there is no single definition that can define what a Catholic is.

Some define being Catholic as a continuous personal encounter with Christ that renews our spirit. While others say that being Catholic means sensing God's presence and power in and around us. But these definitions do not fully encapsulate the essence of being a Catholic

To really understand what it means to be Catholic, let's first define what a Catholic is.

Defining Catholicism

According to jesuitresource.org, the word “Catholic” came from a Greek term that means “through the whole”. It can also mean something that is “universal”, “worldwide”, or “all-inclusive”. The first recorded use of the term was in St. Ignatius of Antioch’s [letter to the Smyrneans](#). In there, he wrote that:

wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church.

What does this mean for us?

During Jesus’ ministry, he emphasized the importance of loving God and loving others regardless of who they are. He showed it himself when he talked with the Samaritan woman in the well, dined with sinners, and preached to the Gentiles.

This is why one of the basic tenets of Catholicism is the universality of God’s love. Catholics come from all corners of the world. We speak different languages, have widely varying cultures, and live very different lives. Yet, we are united in God’s love – a love so great that He sacrificed His only son so that our sins may be forgiven.

The Difference Between Christians and Catholics

There’s a common misconception that Catholics are not Christians. While non-Christians tend to think that “Christians” and “Catholics” are the same.

For starters, all Catholics are Christians but not all Christians are Catholics. The term “Catholic” usually refers to members of the Roman Catholic Church. While “Christians” refer to anyone who believes in Christ regardless of their religious affiliation.

There are several things that set Catholics apart from other Christians such as:

- the use of symbolism in expressing our faith (statues, pictures, rosaries, etc.)
- practicing the Holy Sacraments
- having a standard liturgy
- the belief in the communion of saints

What Do Catholics Believe In?

Every religion has its own core set of beliefs and teachings. Here are some of the tenets that define the Catholic faith:

The Trinity

One of the most basic Catholic doctrines is the Trinity: that there is one God manifested in three persons:

1. The Father, Who Is The Creator;

Catholics believe in God, the loving Father, and Creator. We believe that His love is overflowing and limitless.

2. The Son, Who Is The Redeemer

Catholics believe that God sent his own beloved Son, Jesus Christ. The Redeemer, our Lord, and Savior, who suffered and died on the cross, rose from the dead to save us from our sins, and gave us the gift of eternal life.

3. and the Holy Spirit, Who Is The Sanctifier.

Catholics believe in the Holy Spirit and the powerful presence that it gives to the church. Provided by the Lord, Jesus Christ, to the Church at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit lets us live a righteous and faithful life. It acts as a comforter, especially in times of our trials.

Christ's Teachings

Like all Christians, the Catholic faith puts much emphasis on the teachings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament, God gave us ten commandments to follow. Jesus, in the New Testament, summed those up into two: to love God above all else and to love others as we love ourselves. Through his parables and preachings, he also taught us to practice forgiveness and mercy. These teachings form the core of the Catholic church's [dogma](#) which every faithful must strive to follow.

Sacraments

Catholics worship, praise, and follow God by living a sacramental life. We believe that the sacraments bring us up close and personal with God. For example, the bread and wine in the Holy Eucharist is more than just a symbol of receiving the body and blood of Christ. It's about communing with God and being one with Him.

Applying The Scriptures in Our Daily Lives

To be able to follow God and live a righteous life, Catholics acknowledge the importance of reading and practicing the teachings in the Holy Bible.

Bearing Witness to God

Like how Christ endured suffering and rejections, Catholics preach the word of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In a world where the values and teachings are often contrary to what God and Jesus say, Catholics speak up for what we believe to be right and true.

The Communion of Saints

This is what most people often misunderstood about us Catholics. And even some Catholics misunderstood the values of believing in the communion of saints. The latter part of the Nicene Creed also concisely sums up this belief.

But when we say we believe in the communion of saints, that doesn't mean that we tend to think of them as equal to God and Christ. We are connected to our Christian family through the Holy Spirit. We don't worship our brothers and sisters but we do respect them and ask them to pray for us. The Bible says that the prayer of a holy person is very powerful. Saints are holy people who can pray for us. They are an instrument for us to be more connected to God and feel His eternal love.

So What Does It Mean to be Catholic?

As mentioned, there is no single phrase or sentence that can define the Catholic faith. If you ask Catholics right now about what it means to be Catholic, you'll surely get varying answers.

But for me, being a Catholic means fulfilling the mission that Christ himself set for us: to love God and love others. And no, it's not just about attending mass or praying to the saints. Being a Catholic is a life-long and continuous encounter with God. It's about living our lives as [Christ's disciples](#) and as living witnesses to His divine grace.

How about you? What does being a Catholic mean to you

Catholic Food for thought





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

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 3rd after the 9am Mass.

Blessing Cup on April 13th from 12pm-2pm

First Communion May 5th @ 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 9th @ 10:30 am -Confirmation Retreat @ St. Paul's Whitesboro

March 3rd -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.

4th Sunday of Ordinary Time

1st Reading: DT 18: 15-20

Psalm: PS 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 7:32-35

Gospel Mk: 1:21-28

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.



This week's reflection comes from the Dome Blog from the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand Indiana

Today Jesus and His disciples are in Capernaum. As was His custom, Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. His listeners were amazed at his teaching. Jesus taught with authority, unlike the scribes. In the synagogue was a man who had an unclean spirit. When the man saw Jesus, the unclean spirit within him cried out asking Jesus what His purpose was. Immediately, this unclean spirit had recognized Jesus as the "Holy One."

Jesus rebuked the spirit and instructed it to be come out of the man and the spirit instantly obeyed. All who witnessed this event were amazed at Jesus' power to heal and his ability to release unclean spirits. Immediately, word began to spread of Jesus' wondrous powers. His fame spread throughout all of Judea.

Mark does not say that the witnesses of the healing believed in Jesus. Yes, they were astonished by his power to heal, but did they listen to His Word? Did they recognize Him as the "Christ?" Did they decide to follow Jesus or did they simply listen and then go home and talk about Him? Did thoughts of Jesus and His preaching stay with them or did they simply go back to their daily routine?

Do we truly recognize Jesus as the Christ? Do we know Jesus personally? Do we have a relationship with Him or is He simply a figure in the Gospels? Jesus is at work in our lives, though most likely not in as dramatic a way as was depicted in this passage. Jesus is healing us even if we don't see it. Jesus is gracing us with all we need. Today may we look for Jesus as we move through our day. Jesus is with us!



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

Theme: Is Jesus in control of your life?

Object: A remote control

Scripture

Mark 1:21-28

Do you know what this is? Sure you do. It is a remote control. Some of you may have a TV that has a remote control. When you are watching TV, you can turn the TV off or on, change channels, and adjust the volume.

Let's see how well you respond when I click one of these buttons on the remote. I will click it and call out what it is and you can act out what you think that would look like. Ready?

- Power On
- Play
- Changing channels
- Volume up
- Mute

- Fast forward
- Rewind
- Slow motion
- Pause
- Power off

Wow, you all did a great job following the commands of the remote control.

Do you know what? There are some remote controls that can do much more than that. I have seen some remote controls that can control up to fifteen different things -- they are called universal remote controls. If you have a DVD player, it can control that too. You can go fast forward, slow motion, reverse, or pause a movie while you go and get a snack. When you have a universal remote control, you are in complete control. That's amazing, isn't it?

In our Bible lesson today, Jesus showed people His amazing control of everything around Him. It was on the Sabbath day and Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. There was a man there who was possessed by an evil spirit. When Jesus went near him, the man cried out, "What do you want with us, Jesus? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are; you are the holy one of God."

"Be quiet!" Jesus said. Then He spoke to the evil spirit, "Come out!" Do you know what happened? The evil spirit did exactly what Jesus commanded. It came out of the man.

The Bible tells us that the people were amazed. They looked at one another and asked, "What's going on here? Even evil spirits obey his orders." There was power in the words that Jesus spoke that day. On that day, Jesus came in and took control of the life of that man. His life would never be the same!

Jesus wants to be in control of your life, too. He wants to be in control of the plans you make, the words you say, the things you do, and the places you go. Why? Is He a control freak? No! He wants to be in control because He wants what is best for you. The Bible tells us that God has a plan for us. It is a good plan that will give us hope and a bright future, but we will never see that plan work unless we allow Jesus to be in control.

Dear God, we want Jesus to be in control of our life. We know that He wants what is best for us and that is what we want too. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Weekly Prayer

Found this wonderful for January. While it is for a new month, we need to thank the Lord for all that He has given us.

PRAYER FOR JANUARY

Dear Lord, we thank you for this new month.

We ask that you go before us and lead and guide us.

We pray that each day will find us drawing closer to You and becoming more like Jesus.

Please be with our friends and family and meet their needs.

Keep them safe from harm.

We thank you for our blessings, Lord.

We thank you for all that you do for us.

May we live each day with an attitude of gratitude and a confident trust in You.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tailspin Farms Life In Grace
www.tailspinfarms.com



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 includes 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.

Offering: \$150 and \$120 for commuters. For reservations go to www.ckretreat.com or call 315-446-2680.

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