

# Parish News

**Fridays @ 6pm-Station of the Cross**

**Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm**

Living Stations of the Cross performed by the Norte Dame Students

Holy Week Schedule

**Holy Thursday** -March 28<sup>th</sup>-Mass 6pm

**Good Friday** March 28<sup>th</sup> @3pm

Passion and Veneration of the Cross

**Holy Saturday** March 30<sup>th</sup>

Blessing of the Food in the Church at noon

NO Blessing of the in homes

Vigil Mass @ 8pm with procession

**Easter Sunday** -March 31

Masses @ 9am and 11AM

## **Stewardship-**

Operating expenses for the Parish on a weekly basis are \$6,200.00 Collection February 11, 2024

Ordinary \$6087.00

Online Giving for January \$1284.29

## **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 \$20,528.02

Pierogi Making for Lent

We will be making potato & Cheese pierogi on

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> @ 8am and making the potato balls starting @ 11:30am

On Wednesday 2/28 will be making the pierogi starting @ 8am

We need volunteers.

We will be selling the pierogi after the Mass March 2 & 3<sup>rd</sup>

### **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.

### **Family Lenten Faith Event**

Let us prepare ourselves for the Season of Lent and the Joyful coming of Easter

Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>

2:00pm to 4:00pm

Our Lady of the Rosary Campus Burrstone Rd

Preschool to Grade 6

Fun Activities for your Lenten Journey

Prayer and Adoration

Cookies and Drinks

A collaboration of the Churches of our Pastoral Care Area

Holy Trinity, Mary Mother of Our Savior, Sacred Heart/St. Mary's and St Paul's

### **A Lenten Retreat for Women**

The Syracuse Catholic Women's Conference is sponsoring a Lenten Retreat for Catholic Women for the Greater Utica Area. All are welcome.

This retreat will be hosted by

Mary Mother of Our Savior Parish @ the Lourdes Campus

February 17<sup>th</sup>

Visit [WWW.syracusecatholicwomen.org](http://WWW.syracusecatholicwomen.org) for information about the schedule and speakers.

## **IGNITE 24**

Catholic Mens Conference

Saturday March 21, 2004

This year's theme is "Lord Guard Us"

To be held @ Bishop Ludden High School in Syracuse

Contact: Ed Kri @ 315 560 9170 or [lekirk3@gmail.com](mailto:lekirk3@gmail.com)

Mary Mother of Our Savior Parish in Utica

**Lenten Mission ~ "A Voice in the Desert!"** - Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish will be hosting a Lenten Mission on Thursday, February 22nd at 7pm on the Lourdes campus. All parishes from the Greater Utica Area are more than welcome to participate in this special Lenten offering. Mr. Christopher Spilka, lay evangelist and college campus minister, will be the keynote speaker. Mr. Jeremy Bobak will be the worship leader. This evening will include inspiring talks, beautiful music, and time for prayer and reflection. This parish mission will be a perfect way to kick start your Lenten journey. This event is free and open to the public. [www.motherofoursavior.org](http://www.motherofoursavior.org)

### **LENTEN FISH FRY**

#### **St. Anthony/St. Agnes Church**

1500 Bleecker St

Every Friday/February 16-March 29<sup>th</sup>

Fried or Baked Haddock \$16 (10-12 oz fillet)

12 piece Fried Shrimp \$18

St Anthony Combo \$20 (baked or fried haddock plus 7 fried shrimp)

All meals include choice of baked potato or French fries, cole slaw, dinner roll coffee & dessert. Extra sides \$1

Call 315 418 5219 after 3pm

#### **St Paul's Whitesboro**

Deacons Speakin

Supernatural/Existentialism

March 5<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm

### **Youth Ministry Nights**

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. As we begin the season of Lenten. What does it mean for us as Catholics and what are we to follow? Are your families preparing for Lenten?

Here is more information regarding what is so important for us as Catholics to contemplate and follow. For more information there are hyperlinks to assess this information

Have you ever wondered what people are talking about when they say they're giving something up for Lent? Do you want to understand what Lent is and how it relates to Easter?

Lent is the 40 days (not including Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter. Lent is often described as a time of preparation and an opportunity to go deeper with God. This means that it's a time for personal reflection that prepares people's hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter.

What Are the Key Days During Lent?

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. You may have noticed people with a smudged, black cross on their foreheads. Those are ashes from the Ash Wednesday service. The ashes symbolize our grief for the things we've done wrong and the resulting division of imperfect people from a perfect God.

Maundy Thursday is the day before Good Friday. It commemorates the night before Jesus died, when He shared the [Passover meal](#) with His closest friends and followers.

[Good Friday](#) is the day Christians remember Jesus' death. The "Good" reflects how Jesus' death was a sacrifice on our behalf so we can receive God's forgiveness for our wrongs, or sins.

[Easter Sunday](#) is the joyful celebration of Jesus rising from the dead to give us the opportunity of eternal life. While people still die, Jesus made the way for people to have a relationship with God in this life and to spend eternity with Him in heaven.

## What Happens During Lent and Why?

The three main things people focus on during Lent are prayer, [fasting](#) (abstaining from something to reduce distractions and focus more on God) and giving, or charity.

[Prayer](#) during Lent focuses on our need for God's forgiveness. It's also about repenting (turning away from our sins) and receiving God's mercy and love.

[Fasting](#), or giving something up, is a very common practice during Lent. The idea is that giving up something that's a regular part of life, like eating dessert or scrolling through Facebook, can be a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice. That time can also be replaced with more time connecting with God.

Giving money or doing something good for others is a way to respond to [God's grace](#), generosity and love. For example, some people spend time volunteering or donate money they would normally use to buy something, like their morning coffee.

It's important to note that doing these things can never make us earn or deserve Jesus' sacrifice or a relationship with God. People are flawed and will never be good enough for a perfect God. Only Jesus has the power to [rescue us](#) from ourselves.

Jesus sacrificed Himself on Good Friday to bear the punishment for all our wrongdoings and offer us forgiveness. He was raised from the dead on Easter Sunday to give us an opportunity to have a relationship with God for eternity.

Spending time during Lent praying, fasting and giving can make [Jesus' sacrifice on Good Friday and His resurrection on Easter](#) even more meaningful.

Interested in learning more about Lent? Do you want to observe it but need guidance?

## Catholic Food for thought





**There is Faith Formation this Sunday February 15<sup>th</sup> for Grades Pre-K to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**The Faith Formation Program has a number of reflection books available for both Parents and the Children. They may be picked up this Sunday before and after class. What a great way to start the Lenten Season with daily Prayer.**

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 on April 13<sup>th</sup> from 12pm-2pm

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

### **Confirmation Students**

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

The Faith Formation Program has obtained the program **AWAKEN** for Pflaum Publishing -a weekly publication. This will be available in the weekly newsletter as well as a paper copy for those who wish to have one.

Awaken and become disciples of the Word.

## Church Masses



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: GN 22 1-2,9a, 10-13, 15-18**

**Psalm 116-10, 15, 16-17, 18-19**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Rom 8: 31b-34**

**Gospel Mk 9: 2-10**

**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 good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks*

Today, on this second Sunday of Lent, the Gospel reading we hear in the Liturgy of the Word at Mass tells the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus.

To a Jewish audience this story echoes of Moses in the Book of Exodus, where Moses comes down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the commandments in his hands, and "[Moses] did not know that the skin of his face had become radiant while he conversed with the LORD" (Ex 34:29). Here, in Mark's Gospel, we encounter what Matthew also recorded in his depiction of the Transfiguration event, "Jesus was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light" (cf. Mt 17:2). Jesus, joined by Peter, James, and John, encounters the law and the prophets of the Old Testament when then "Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus" (Mk 9:4).

Today, as we enter the second week of Lent, we are reminded and given a glimpse of the glory to come in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are encouraged to call to mind what glory awaits for those who abide in the Lord. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. As we approach Easter we will find this promise fulfilled as he establishes his New Covenant

Let us continue on our Lenten journey; let us open our hearts to Jesus and encounter him in the Holy Scriptures; let us encounter him face-to-face as we receive him in the Eucharist in the Mass. Blessed are we indeed who are called to the Supper of the Lamb!

For a Gospel reflection of the Transfiguration please enjoy below.

Peace be with you

From the Author, **My Daily Bread: A Reason2bCatholic blog**  
GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

**LISTEN:** This is my beloved Son.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 9:2-10**

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

The Gospel of the Lord

### **REFLECTION:**

**by Bishop Robert Barron**

Friends, today's Gospel presents the Transfiguration of Christ. What is the Transfiguration itself? Mark speaks literally of a metamorphosis, a going beyond the form that he had. If I can use Paul's language, it is "the knowledge of the glory of God on the face of Jesus Christ." In and through his humble humanity, his divinity shines forth. The proximity of his divinity in no way compromises the integrity of his humanity, but rather makes it shine in greater beauty.

This is the New Testament version of the burning bush.

The Jesus who is both divine and human is the Jesus who is evangelically compelling. If he is only divine, then he doesn't touch us; if he is only human, he can't save us. His splendor consists in the coming together of the two natures, without mixing, mingling, or confusion.

This same Jesus then accompanies his disciples back down the mountain and walks with them in the ordinary rhythms of their lives. This is the Christ who wants to reign as Lord of our

lives in every detail. If we forget about this dimension, then Jesus becomes a distant memory, a figure from the past.

Reflect: How does the reality of the Transfiguration and the Resurrection give you hope?



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

Theme

The Transfiguration of Jesus

Object

Song - "Climb Up Sunshine Mountain"

Scripture

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain,

where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became

dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared

before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Mark 9:2-4 (NIV)

When I was a child, one of my favorite songs was "Climb Sunshine Mountain." Some of you

may have heard it. Perhaps some of you have even sung it. It goes like this: (sing the song)

*Climb, climb up sunshine mountain*

*Heavenly breezes blow*

*Climb, climb up sunshine mountain*

*Faces all aglow*

*Turn, turn from sin and sorrow*

*Look to God on high*

*Climb, climb up sunshine mountain*

*You and I*

Isn't that a great song? It reminds me of a day when Jesus and some of his disciples decided to climb a mountain. The Bible tells us that Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up on a high mountain. When they were alone on the mountain, Jesus' appearance began to change and his clothes became dazzling white and shone as bright as the sun. Then Elijah and Moses appeared and began talking to Jesus.

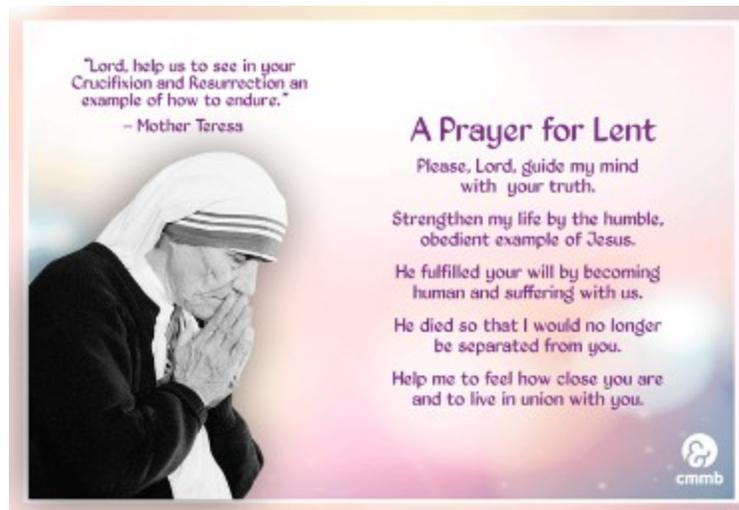
The disciples became very excited, but as you can imagine, they were also a little bit afraid. As usual, Peter was the first to speak. He told Jesus that they should stay up there on the mountain and build three tabernacles. One for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. Suddenly, a cloud appeared, and the voice of God came from the cloud saying, "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Then Moses and Elijah disappeared, and the disciples were alone again with Jesus.

You and I may never have an experience on the mountain top like the one that Peter, James, and John had, but we can "Climb Sunshine Mountain" if we will stay close to Jesus and walk with him each and every day.

Dear Father, we want to walk with Jesus and let his light shine on us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## Weekly Prayers

**As we begin the season of Lent, let one open the hearts to the Lord and prepare ourselves for his sacrifice for us.**



"Lord, help us to see in your Crucifixion and Resurrection an example of how to endure."  
— Mother Teresa

### A Prayer for Lent

Please, Lord, guide my mind with your truth.

Strengthen my life by the humble, obedient example of Jesus.

He fulfilled your will by becoming human and suffering with us.

He died so that I would no longer be separated from you.

Help me to feel how close you are and to live in union with you.





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!

I have noted above events that are happening here in the Greater Utica Areal

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