

# Parish News

Here is your weekly update.

Happy Mother's Day to all the Moms in our Parish. Many blessings upon them and for all that they do for their children.



Last Sunday our Parish celebrated 23 children who made their First Holy Communion. It was a beautiful day for these children to receive Jesus for the first time.

## **Parish Festival**

Parish Festival is set for August 2-4  
There will be the flea market for 3 days  
Polish Kitchen Sunday August 4th  
Fried Dough, basket raffle, and regular raffle

### **Stewardship-**

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

Stewardship for April 14, 2024 \$5101.00

### **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 \$27,538.02

### **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.

#### **Totus Tuus**

Mary Mother Savior Parish

July 22-25 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6 Grade

July 21-25 7pm-9am

#### **Youth Ministry Nights**

Mary Mother Savior Parish

May 13, and 20<sup>th</sup>; June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>

6:30-8pm In Lawler Hall-Lourdes Campus.

### **Save the Date**

St. Anthony and St Agnes Festival

June 7-8pm



As always, I like to share the deep traditions and meaning of our Church. As this Sunday the Church celebrates I thought I would give information on the Ascension of our Lord

The Vatican News on Liturgical feasts states The Ascension is a liturgical Solemnity celebrated by all the Christian Churches. It falls on the fortieth day after Easter Sunday. Saint John Chrysostom and Saint Augustine make reference to it, but it was probably Saint Gregory of Nyssa who influenced the propagation of the feast. Since it falls on Thursday, in many countries, this Solemnity is transferred to the following Sunday. With his Ascension into heaven, the presence of the "historical Christ" comes to an end, and the presence of the Body of Christ, the Church, is inaugurated.

*The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Mt 28:16-20)*

#### **The Eleven**

The Community of disciples, who gathered the "testimonies" about the proclamation of the Gospel, was a Community that was wounded due to the absence of one of their companions, Judas. Even though it was imperfect, it was to this specific and real Community that Jesus entrusted the task of becoming witnesses of his Gospel, of his proposal of love.

#### **Galilee**

The text precisely states that the mission the disciples received brought them back to the beginning of their experience with Jesus: "*Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?*" (Acts 1:11, today's First Reading). Galilee is where everything had begun. It was the place where they listened to Jesus, where the Community was formed, of daily life.

### **A new way of being**

The text from Acts offers us some theological-spiritual coordinates to understand the mystery we are celebrating. The text says in Acts 1:11 that Jesus "*was taken up*". It places emphasis that it was an action of God. A cloud "took him from their sight" (v. 9) recalls the image of the cloud on Mount Sinai (Ex. 24:15), the cloud above the ark of the covenant (Ex. 33:9), and lastly, the cloud on the Mount of the Transfiguration (Mk. 9:7). Jesus's Ascension into heaven, therefore, is not a "separation" but a different way of being. He explains why the disciples were "*filled with joy*" (see Lk. 24:52). Because Jesus died, rose, and now ascended, the gates of Heaven are open, the gates of eternal life. The "*cloud of faith*" that envelops our lives today is not an obstacle, but a way through which we can have a living and true experience of Jesus, since we have the certainty that if he has risen and ascended into heaven, the same destiny awaits us, since he is the first fruit (see 1 Cor. 15:20).

### **Church on the move**

We do not await the last day idly, nor do we close ourselves in our own homes. But, as Jesus reminds us, we await the last day dedicated to a mission that reaches the ends of the earth. "*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth*" (Acts 1:7ff). We are fortified by Jesus's promise: "*And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age*" (Mt. 28:19), where Jesus is our God, God-with-us (see Ex 3:12), Emmanuel (see Mt. 1:23; Is. 7:14). And even if the disciples' faithfulness failed at times, God's faithfulness towards us never fails. This is why the journey of the community and of every disciple of the Risen Jesus is always open to new perspectives and possibilities, for nothing is impossible for God.

*Lord, your ascension into heaven  
fills me with joy  
because the time for me to stand around looking  
what you are doing is over.  
It's time for me to be involved.  
What you have entrusted to me  
cracks the shell of my individualism  
and of my standing around looking,  
making me feel personally responsible  
for the salvation of the world.  
Lord, you have entrusted your Gospel to me  
so that I might proclaim it on every street in the world.  
Grant me the same strong faith  
that your first apostles had  
so that I might not be conquered by fear,*

*that difficulties might not stop me,  
that misunderstanding might not dishearten me,  
but that always and everywhere,  
I might be your glad tidings,  
that I might reveal your love,  
just as the martyrs and saint did  
throughout the history of all the peoples of the world.*

**(Dominican Fathers, Roman Province of Saint Catherine of Siena)**

**Prayer**

*Lord Jesus,*

*You who in your ascension  
filled the Eleven with joy,  
make us worthy of that same joy  
through your prayer and your mercy.*

*Lord Jesus,*

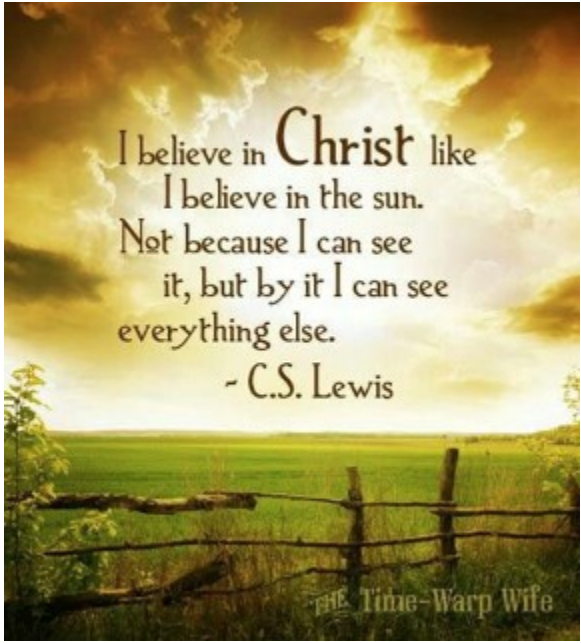
*You who in your ascension  
bore our fragile humanity into heaven  
and opened for us the way that leads to Heaven,  
fill us with the joy of serenity and peace.*

*Lord Jesus,*

*You who by ascending into heaven  
clothed us with the gift of the Holy Spirit,  
make us your witnesses in our daily lives  
telling of the joy of your Mercy.*

**(Prayer by Father Andrea Vena)**

Catholic Food for thought



I believe in **Christ** like  
I believe in the sun.  
Not because I can see  
it, but by it I can see  
everything else.  
- C.S. Lewis

THE Time-Warp Wife



It is hard to believe that this year's Faith Formation Program is over and I am already working on next year's program. The start date will be September 15, 2024. If you would like to pre-register your children please give me a call.

Please remember that your child faith formation does not end with a year's program. Share your faith with your children until the 2024-2025 year begins in September. Attending Mass is a wonderful way to continue your family faith journey.

Let give many thanks for the wonderful Catechetics who shared their faith with your children, Laurie. Schoen, Mary Patternson, Sheila Biamonte, Lucy Patterson, Chris Fedor and Elizabeth Wells as well as aides Hanna Sook, Alyssa Sook, Isabella Sook and Jennie Chemelewski.

Many thanks for Laurie Schoen who will be stepping down as our Pre-k-Kindergarten teacher. She did a wonderful job with the children. Hannah Sook will be our new Catechesis for this grade.

I'm proud to announce that Hanna Sook will be attending Steubenville in July from our Parish. She has assisted the Faith Formation for the past 2 years and has attended the Monday night teen nights and has grown in her faith. She will be making her confirmation on June 4th.

There will be the 1 week summer Totus Tuus program at Mary Mother Savior Parish.  
July 21-25  
More information to follow.



**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.

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 1:1-11**

**Responsorial Psalms: 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Eph 1:17-23**

**Gospel: MK 16:15-20**

**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.**





Today reflection comes for the Dome Blog-Sisters of the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand

Today Jesus appears to His disciples. His message today is to empower them to go forth into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel. Jesus tells them that if a person believes, that one will be saved. If someone chooses not to believe, they will be condemned. How harsh this sounds!

Jesus then tells them that if a person believes, they will have the ability to speak new languages and drive out demonic spirits. They also will have the ability to be able to pick up serpents without harm. Jesus promises that anyone who believes in Him will be able to heal the sick and do other wondrous acts. Jesus also will keep His disciples safe from harm. Then Jesus is taken up into heaven and Mark writes that He is seated at the right hand of God.

Jesus' disciples did as He asked. They went forth to preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus and they also performed many wondrous miracles. Did His disciples sense that Jesus was with them as they went about among the people teaching, preaching and healing? Did they sense Jesus guiding them at times or perhaps giving them the words to say?

Jesus also calls us to go forth and preach the Gospel. He calls us to be teachers and healers. We may not be able to work a miracle; however, we are capable of consoling the sorrowful, healing another with our love, care, and concern, and perhaps even bringing someone "back to life" with our love and our healing presence. Jesus does work in and through us!

Jesus continues to walk among us and speak to us. However, will our minds and hearts be open and alert to seeing Jesus in the people we encounter today? Be alert! Jesus is here!

**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.

Feast of St. Matthias May 14th



Theme: The Bible is our map and the Holy Spirit is our guide.

**Object A map and a compass.**

### Scripture

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. John 16:13a (NIV)

What I really needed that night was a map AND a compass! This is a compass. Most of you have probably seen a compass. The needle on the compass always points north. If a traveler knows which way north is, he will know what direction he is traveling. If I had only had a map and a compass, the map would have shown me the where to go and the compass would have pointed me in the right direction to get there.

As we travel through life, we need a map and a compass too. God has given us both. God has given us the Bible to be our map on the journey through life. But, sometimes the Bible is difficult for us to understand and it is hard to know the way we should go. God knew that, so He sent the Holy Spirit to be our guide. The Holy Spirit helps us to understand the Scripture and guides us in the right direction. That is what Jesus meant when he told his disciples, "But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you in all truth." **OUR MAP AND**

### **OUR GUIDE**

Oh...about my journey...I guess some of you are wondering how I ever found my way. Well, I wandered around for so long that it began to get light. When the sun came up, I knew that

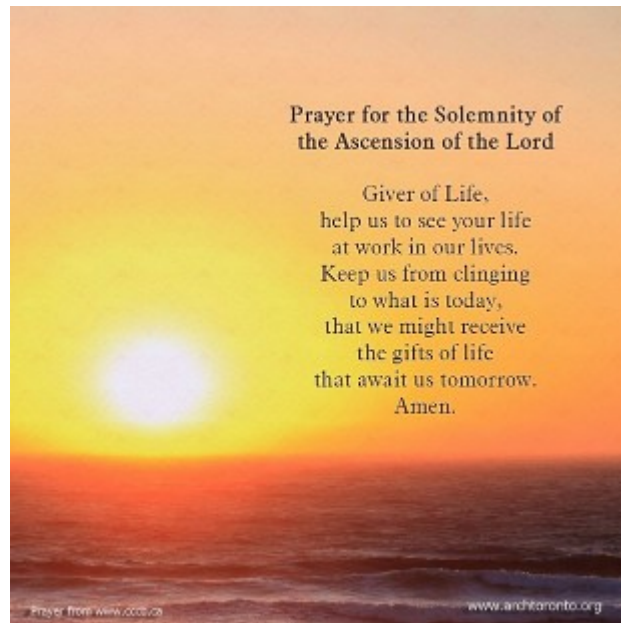
the sun comes up in the east. That was exactly the direction that I needed to go, so I just followed the sun!

Hey! You know, that's a pretty good idea! When you are lost and confused -- if you can't read the map and you don't have a compass -- just follow the Son...God's Son!

Dear Father, we thank you for giving us Your Holy Word to be our roadmap through life. We also thank you for sending Your Holy Spirit to be our guide. Most of all, we thank you for sending Your Son to be our Savior. Amen.

## **Weekly Prayers**

**Blessing for Ascension of the Lord . Attached this week's prayer for Ascension of the Lord**





## **Diocese of Syracuse**

3) From the Catholic Schools Office:

Save the Date: On Monday, June 17, 2024 we will hold our **3rd Annual Light A Child's Future Charity Golf Tournament at [Turning Stone Resort](#)**. This exciting event benefits Catholic Schools scholarships. We strive to raise much needed funds for our Light a Child's Future Scholarship program, which enables economically disadvantaged students to attend Catholic Schools in our diocese. Did you know that 65% of our students rely on financial aid or scholarship support to attend our schools? Your support will directly aid underprivileged students, ensuring their participation in a faith-centered community focused on promoting academic excellence.

### **Please join us:**

- **[Serve as a Sponsor](#) or [Register as an individual or foursome team\(s\)](#)**

Sponsorships begin at \$500 - Click [here](#) for a complete list

- **Promote the Golf Tournament in your Parish**

See attached flyer for bulletin boards and Parish website

### **Event Details:**

**Light A Child's Future Charity Golf Tournament.**

**Monday, June 17 2024**

Shenandoah Golf Club, Verona NY

**18 holes of golf, rain or shine**

**11:00-1:00 Registration and grab-and-go lunch**

**1:00 Shotgun start**

**5:30 Cocktail hour**  
**6:30-9:00 Celebration Dinner**

7)From the Office of Adolescent Catechesis & Discipleship:

**MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER PILGRIMAGE**  
**August 10, 2024 - Niagara Falls, New York**

Middle school youth are invited to visit Niagara Falls and the Fatima Shrine, ride the Maid of the Mist, and finish the day with Laser tag and pizza and wings at LASERTRON! This all-day event is open to youth entering grades 6 through 8.

The cost of the trip is \$65 per participant and includes all activities, a t-shirt, and dinner.

[Click here to register your group!](#)

Contact Mary Angela Fisher at 315-470-1402 or [mafisher@syrdio.org](mailto:mafisher@syrdio.org) for more information.

**Young Adult Hike with Bishop Lucia**

**Saturday, June 29, 2024**

**Highland Forest County Park, Fabius, NY**

**\$25 per ticket**

Young adults (ages 18-39) from across the Diocese of Syracuse are invited to join Bishop Douglas Lucia on the fourth annual summer hike! The hike will begin at Highland Forest, Fabius, New York. Following the hike, the bishop will celebrate a private Vigil Mass for the following Sunday. The evening will conclude with dinner and drinks, catered by Dinosaur BBQ, and the opportunity to socialize.

(The ticket cost covers dinner, beverages, and dessert)

Lynn M. Springer  
Director of Faith Formation  
Sacred Heart/St Mary's  
315 527 8399