

Parish News

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

Mark your calendars for the annual Hope House dinner on Saturday Oct 5th. More information to follow.

Stewardship-

Operating expenses for the Parish on a weekly basis are \$6,200.00 Collection.
Stewardship for August 25 Ordinary \$4776.00

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.

Holy Trinity Church Annual Parish Festival

1206 Lincoln Ave-Utica

11am-3pm

Sunday Sept 8th from 11am-3pm

Doors open @ 11 am

Dinner served 12 noon

Basket and Gift Raffle, 50/50, music, children activities and Authentic Polish dinner (Pierogi, Golabki, Kielbasa, Wedding Cabbage, mixed veg, Rye Bread and dessert)

\$20 per person , \$50 for family

Historic Old St. John's -Utica

Annual Sister Mary Theresa Charity Bazaar

Saturday Sept 7th 12Pm-6pm

Sunday Sept 8th 10am-4pm

Ethnic Foods, Kids Games, Raffles, Crafts, Marketplace and more

St Anthony/St Agnes Church-Utica

Feast of Sts. Cosmas & Damian

Saturday Sept 28 -Mass @4:30pm in the Church

6pm @ outdoor shire & benedictions to follow 6pm Mass-LaBanda Rossa will perform

@8pm and Sunday Sept 29th -Mass @ 9:30 am -Outshire @ 11AM

Grand Procession will begin @ 12ms

Blessing of the Sick offered @ 1:30pm @ the outdoor Shrine

Food, Beer & Wine, Pizza Fritta, Italian Novelties and Religious Articles Available.

Saturday 5-10pm, Sunday 8am-3pm

Mary, Mother of our Savior Parish invites all teens in the Greater Utica Area to join us for Youth Ministry Nights:

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)

Youth Ministry Kickoff will take place on Monday, September 30th

www.motherofoursavior.org

What are Youth Ministry Nights?

Our Youth Ministry Nights (YMN) consist of games and snacks, followed by a short faith message. Then the teens form small groups to talk about that topic in a safe, honest, authentic way with their peers. This is a highlight of the night, to hear from peers about the faith, to share doubts and questions and to be lifted up and encouraged in their faith in God, all guided by an adult core team member. Then we go to the chapel for a short prayer service and end with an awesome dinner! We also make sure to include social nights once a month. Social Nights may include: Movie Nights, Camp Fires, Holiday Parties, Trips/Teen Outings like GetAir, Retreats, Service Opportunities and more...

For information please reach out to Brittany Wilcox: bwilcox@syrdio.org

Food for thought

“Faith is the art of holding on to things your reason has once accepted in spite of your changing moods.”

-C.S. Lewis



Registration for the Faith Formation 2024-2025

The Faith Formation Program is in need of a 1st Grade Catchetist. If you have the calling to share your Catholic Faith to the youth of the Parish, please contact me. Virtus training is required.

Attached is the program for Pre-K -8 grade

Fee of \$25 for 1 child and \$45 per family

If you wish to pre-register your family for the program, please contact me directly at 315-527-8399.

Our Parish follows the Diocese of Syracuse for the **Sacrament of First Communion and Confirmation** which is the same in all Parishes in the Utica area. The Sacrament of First Communion and Confirmation is a 2 year program in order to receive the sacraments. This is a requirement for both sacraments. If your child is making one of these 2 Sacraments and your child was not Baptised at the Parish, a copy of the Baptismal Certification is required.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

The 9th & 10th Grade-Confirmation will be a block program offered thru the Greater Utica Area - Unlike last year where registration was on 1 form for all Parishes, this year, students will be required to sign up for 9th & 10th Grade Confirmation at the Parish.

Here are the parent meeting dates that we invite only 9 and 10 th grade teens and parents to attend. They MUST attend one meeting that is convenient for them in order to hear the block explanation and register for which classes they want. This is 9&10 only.

1. Sunday sept 15 at Seton center at MMOOS at 6pm
2. Monday sept 16 at St. John the evangelist at 630

3. Sunday sept 22 at st pat/st Anthony Chadwick's at 12:15pm
4. Sunday sept 22 at st Mary's Clinton at 6pm
5. Sunday sept 29 at seton center at MMOOS at 6pm

Mark your calendars

PCA Collaborate Event -December 8th
St. Pauls, Sacred Heart/St Mary's/ Holy Trinity and Mary Mother of Savior Parish
St Paul's Whitesboro
From 2-4pm Activities
Grades Pre-K to 6th and Parents



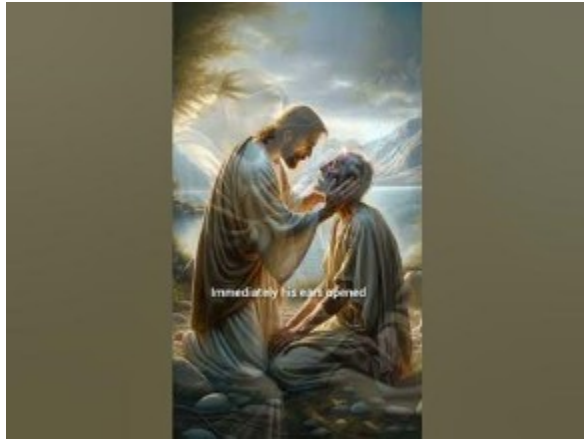
Let's remember that as Catholics, the importance of attending Sunday Mass. At Mass we stand at mystically at the foot of the cross and witness for ourselves the same self-sacrifice of Jesus, in an unbloody manner. Mass is a celebration of this sacrifice. It is the active participation of all that come together in the place of worship.

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Is 35: 4-7a
Responsorial Psalms: Ps: 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
2nd Reading: Jas 2: 1-5
Gospel: Mk 7:31-37

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.



Mark 7:31-37 Reflection: Healing of the Deaf Man

A reading from the gospel according to Mark 7:31-37

Again Jesus left the district of Tyre and went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, into the district of the Decapolis.

And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him.

He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!" – that is, "Be opened!"

And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.

He ordered them not to tell anyone. But the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it.

They were exceedingly astonished and they said, "He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Reflection 1: Be Opened

Good News: Jesus has done all things well.

People brought a deaf man to Jesus for healing. Many good things happen to us because some people cared for us or prayed for us. May we be those kinds of people that God uses to perform miracles. Even through prayers, we can bring the sick to God for healing.

Jesus took the deaf away from the crowd. Let us understand that Jesus is not a celebrity who relies on the number of people who applaud for him. His mission of healing is not for show.

Do we perform our mission only when the camera is on?

Jesus looked up to heaven before he performed the miracle. Jesus shows us to always depend on the power of God because apart from Him, we can do nothing.

“Ephphatha!” or “Be opened!” With these words, Jesus made the deaf hear and the mute speak. In faith, let us pray that Jesus do the same thing to us so we can hear His voice and open our mouth to spread the greatness and mercy of God to others. In fact, many times we are deaf and we cannot hear God calling us to repent and to go back to Him. Many times we are mute and we cannot speak the Word of God to others or even to witness for His generosity to us. There is indeed such a thing as spiritual speech impediment! May all followers of Jesus be able to “speak plainly” of the Good News of salvation.

Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone because He does not want to suffer and die early at the hands of jealous and fearful authorities. Moreover, He does not want people to be confused very early about His role as the Messiah whom they were waiting for. Yet, the people cannot contain their excitement to talk about this amazing work.

Indeed Jesus is merciful to us. He does all things well for His people who need help. Jesus is alive and He can make us see, hear and speak about greatness and love. May we be opened to His invitation to listen and follow Him.

Reflection 2: The deaf hear and the mute speak

God gave us two ears for hearing and a mouth for speaking. How do we use them? What voices do we hear? What kind of words do we utter? Many times we use our organs such as ears and mouth to commit sin and thereby separate us from God. It would have been better to be deaf and mute. Yet, what kind of world would we live in if our ears cannot hear and our mouth cannot speak!

In today's world, the advance of science has allowed people with hearing and speech impediments to live normally. What about those who are spiritually deaf? They hear but do not understand (Isaiah 6:9). Only the Holy Spirit can help them. Likewise, our mouth may function well but we choose to speak evil rather than courageously proclaim the goodness of the Lord.

Jesus is our hope. May we allow Him to touch and open our ears to hear His voice and also our mouth to boldly speak His words to others, and to testify for all the good things He has done. More importantly, may we open our hearts to receive Him and allow Him to change our life so that we may be more and more like Him.

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.

Sept 9th- Memorial of St. Peter Claver, Priest, Sept 13-Memorial of St. John Chrysostom-Bishop and Doctor of the Church: Sept 14 Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.



While there is no faith formation until September. Below are reflections for the children until on Sept 22nd

Theme

Jesus opens the ears of a deaf man.

Object

You might like to learn and demonstrate a few simple signs used by the deaf.

Scripture

Looking up to heaven, he sighed and said, "Ephphatha," which means, "Be opened!" Instantly the man could hear perfectly, and his tongue was freed so he could speak plainly! Mark 7:34

Can you imagine what it would be like to be deaf? Just imagine all of the things you would miss. You wouldn't be able to hear the voices of your mother, your father, your brothers and sisters, your friends, the barking of a dog or the meowing of a kitten. You might be able to feel the vibrations, but you wouldn't be able to hear the sound of music. (If time permits, you might let the children name some other things they would miss.)

Many people who are deaf or hearing impaired are able to communicate with others through the use of sign language, but it is not perfect because everyone you meet does not know sign language. The deaf can enjoy going to the movies if they have subtitles or watch television if it has captions, but those are not perfect. If a person is not totally deaf, hearing aids can help, but they aren't perfect either. I guess the best solution for a deaf person would be a total cure for deafness. That is what Jesus did for a deaf man in our Bible lesson today. One day, Jesus was in an area of the Sea of Galilee called the Decapolis. (That means Ten Towns.) A man who was deaf and could hardly talk was brought to Jesus by some of his friends

. They begged Jesus to lay his hands on the man and heal him.

Jesus led the man away from the crowd so they could be alone. He put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit on his own fingers and touched the man's tongue. He looked up to heaven and said, "Ephphatha," which means, "Be Opened!" What do you think happened?

Immediately, the man could hear perfectly, and he could speak plainly!

The people who had brought the man to Jesus were totally amazed. They said, "Everything he does is wonderful. He even makes the deaf to hear and gives speech to those who cannot speak."

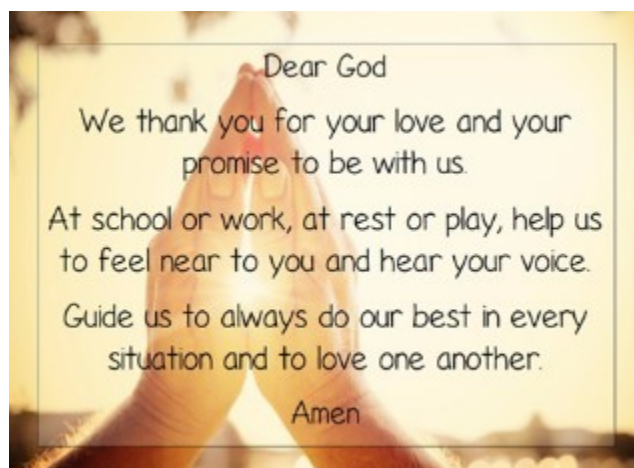
Then Jesus did something unusual, he told the people not to tell anyone what they had seen him do. Do you think they followed Jesus' instructions? No! They told everyone about this man who did everything well.

These friends cared for the man so much that they wanted him to see Jesus. We, too, can help our friends to know Jesus.

Father, we are thankful for all that you have done for us. Help us to tell our friends about Jesus, the one who does everything well. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Weekly Prayer

As the children begin a new school year, let us pray for a safe and blessed new school year.





Diocese of Syracuse

From the Office of Adolescent Catechesis and Discipleship

Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference-The greater Utica area will participate in this event. (Last year a number of students went and experienced a great and spiritual time)

REGISTRATION OPEN!

Date: Saturday, November 23, 2024

Location: Sacred Heart Church - Cicero, New York

Youth from across the diocese are invited to join Bishop Douglas Lucia for this Diocesan Youth Conference! Featuring keynote speaker Ennie Hickman and worship leader John Paul von Arx! Participate in Mass, games, talks, lunch, and Adoration.

From the Diocesan Women's Commission

The Women's Commission of the Diocese of Syracuse is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the fall conference to be held on October 26, 2024 at the Oncenter in Syracuse. Parish packets with all of the registration information are being mailed this week.

Attached is a digital version of the conference flyer and registration form. If you have any

questions. Please email swc@syrdio.org or visit our website

at <https://www.syracusecatholicwomen.org>

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