

# Parish News

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

## **Parish Eucharistic Days-(formerly known as 40 hours)**

Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup>

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar after the 11am Mass  
Benediction will be held at the end of Vespers.

Guest homilist will be Fr. Boutros El Hechem from St. Louis Gonzaga Parish  
Remember this is not a Mass, It is Vespers which is a Liturgy of evening prayer

## **Stewardship-**

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

Stewardship for Oct 6th Ordinary \$5296.75

Fuel \$1436.00

Online Giving Sept \$1909.03



Hope Appeal 2025

The Assessment for the Parish is \$32,143.00



Liz Gubbins Memorial Ham Dinner  
November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12 noon to sold old-Drive-Thru  
\$15 per person

### **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.

Mt Carmel/Blessed Sacrament  
Sunday Oct 27-Italian Murder Myster-Feneral for a Gangster  
Dessert murder mystery @ 2pm  
Tickets \$25/per person

### **St. Louis Gonzaga-Utica**

October 22  
Healing Mass @ 6pm  
Blessing of the relic of St.Charbel

### **St. Anthony St. Agnes**

Holiday Basket Festival  
Sunday-November 10<sup>th</sup>  
Admission \$6 in advance or \$8 at the Door  
Baskets and gift certificates  
Monetary prizes \$1000, \$500, and 3 prizes of \$125.00

**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](http://www.motherofoursavior.org)

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](mailto:bwilcox@syrdio.org)*

**Utica Newman Catholic**

Christian Fellowship

For registered College Students/Utica Area

For questions Contact Campus Minister, Pat Gillick @

[Uticanewmandoutreach@syrdio.org](mailto:Uticanewmandoutreach@syrdio.org)

Free Pizza and Wing Dinner after every 4pm Sunday Evening Mass

Our Lady of the Rosary Campus

**From St. Joseph & St. Patrick Church**

SAINT MARIANNE COPE CELEBRATION The Catholic Churches of Greater Utica will mark the 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Saint Marianne Cope's canonization at **St. Joseph & St. Patrick Church**, 702 Columbia St., Utica with Mass on **Sun., Oct 20 at 10:00 am** & Brunch from **11:30 am to 1:30 pm at 5 Points Public House and Event Center**, 623 Columbia St, Utica. Tickets for brunch are \$25/each. Call 315-735-4428 x5 for tickets and more information.

Novena to Saint Marianne Cope (Oct 12 thru Oct 20) [www.saintmariannecope.org](http://www.saintmariannecope.org) under "Support" tab: "Prayer & Novena". Novena booklets available at the Mother Marianne Book Shoppe at the Church before & after all weekend Masses. Flyer attached

## Food for thought

*"Spending time with God is the key to our strength and success in all areas of life. Be sure that you never try to work God into your schedule but always work your schedule around Him."*

Share Catholic  
[www.ShareCatholic.com](http://www.ShareCatholic.com)



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.

ALL Catholics are called to live lives of love that bear witness to Jesus, Pope Francis said in his apostolic exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* ("Rejoice and Be Glad").

To help Catholics on the journey of their Christian life, the Church produced a list of five precepts, sometimes known as the Commandments of the Church.

The catechism teaches the five precepts of the Church are "meant to guarantee for the faithful the indispensable minimum in the spirit of prayer, the sacramental life, moral commitment and growth in love of God and neighbour" (CCC 431).

Simply, the five precepts are the basic duties expected of all Catholics.

The Church encourages Catholics to embrace the spiritual and moral life more deeply than the minimum, but there has always been a pastoral need to identify these base requirements (which have changed over time).

#### **The five precepts are:**

- 1) to attend Mass on Sundays and other holy days of obligation and to refrain from work and activities which could impede the sanctification of those days;
- 2) to confess one's sins, receiving the Sacrament of Penance at least once each year;
- 3) to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist at least once a year during the Easter season;
- 4) to abstain from eating meat and to observe the days of fasting established by the Church;
- 5) to help to provide for the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability.

The first and third precepts recognise that all Catholics rely on the nourishment of the Eucharist to live a spiritual and moral life.

The catechism and the Second Vatican Council tells us that the Eucharist is the "source and summit of the Christian life".

By recognising Sundays and holy days of obligation, and keeping them holy, we begin to order the rest of our lives with God at the centre.

This is especially true for Easter, which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ and his triumph over sin and death.

The second precept recognizes that everyone needs the healing and forgiveness of Jesus. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus tells the Pharisees, "Those who are healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do. I have not come to call the righteous to repentance but sinners."

By confessing our sins in the Sacrament of Penance, Catholics can receive absolution, lighten the load upon our souls and receive the healing of Jesus.

The fourth precept recognizes the effectiveness of fasting in developing a spiritual life.

Most Catholics are familiar with fasting in Lent, but might not fully understand why we fast. The basic idea is that fasting better disposes us to a life of prayer because it is uncomfortable. It allows us to submit ourselves to God and look beyond the mortal life to the world to come.

The fifth precept helps the Church meet her needs.

The Church belongs to God, but there is a lot of work to do here on earth.

The ministries and services offered by the Church require the support of all Catholics to maintain



Registration for the Faith Formation 2024-2025

**Faith Formation has starts . If you have not registered your child (ren) its not to late.**

**You may register your family tomorrow.**

Attached is the program for Pre-K -8 grade

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

**First Communion Student/Parent Meeting-**

**For those who could not attend there will be a make up meeting -October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm**

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 Baptized at the Parish, a copy of the Baptismal Certification is required.

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

### **CONFIRMATION**

The 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

There will be a make-up Student/Parent Meeting.

Oct 21@ St. John the Evangelist in New Hartford @ 6:30pm



PCA Collaborate December 8th  
St. Pauls, Sacred Heart/St Mary's/ Holy Trinity, Mary Mother of Savior Parish and joining us will be  
Blessed Sacrament/Mt Carmel

St Paul's Whitesboro  
From 2-4pm Activities  
Grades Pre-K to 6<sup>th</sup> and Parents



**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturday @3:15PM prior to Mass

**Saturday Vigil Mass: 4PM**

**Sunday: 8am 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.



Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Is 53:10-11**

**Responsorial Psalms: Ps: 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Heb 4:14-16**

**Gospel: Mk 10:35-45 or 10:42-45**

**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.**



*Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant.*

### MARK 10:43

Today's gospel reading, Mark 10:35-45, asks and answers the question: how does one become great? There have been any number of celebrities over the years who have been considered great. I remember when I was younger, the great hockey player, Wayne Gretzky, was actually nicknamed, "The Great One." Others have been called that, too. The baseball player, Roberto Clemente. The comedian, Jackie Gleason. Nowadays, it is rather trendy to call great athletes (like Simone Biles or Tom Brady) the "GOAT", an acronym for "Greatest of All Time." But what does it mean to be great in God's eyes? That's the real question for us, isn't it?

## James and John and Their Quest for Greatness

Today's gospel reading begins with two of Jesus' disciples grasping for greatness, as they understand it. James and John want to sit at Jesus' right hand and his left when he comes into his glory. They want to be great in the Kingdom of Heaven. But they clearly don't know what that means. Jesus offers them a path to greatness, but it is a very different path than the one they had in mind. He calls his disciples together and says to them,

*“Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” – [Mark 10:43-45](#)*

Serving others, Jesus tells us, is the path to true greatness. And Jesus offers his own life as a model of becoming great by serving.

Jesus is not usually called “The Great One,” or the “GOAT.” But there can be no doubt that no single person has altered the course of world history more than Jesus. Even non-Christians would agree to that. Jesus was great by almost any standard. But in this gospel reading, he does something quite radical: He redefines greatness for us all. He tells us that the path to true greatness lies in service. And he not only *teaches* us this new path to greatness; he *lives* it: *The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve.*

### Jesus' Life

When you think about Jesus' life, it is marked over and over again, not by worldly greatness, but by humility. God's Son could have been born anywhere. But he was born in the small town of Bethlehem. His first bed was a feeding trough for animals, because there was no room for him and his family in the inn. Jesus grew up in the small, unimportant town of Nazareth. Even one of his future disciples would ask, “*Can anything good come out of Nazareth?*” Jesus was not trained to be a religious leader. He was the son of a carpenter and was being trained to do that. He spent the first thirty years of his life unnoticed by anyone. Even when he began his public ministry, he went about the countryside of Israel, not seeking greatness; but serving, and teaching; and preaching. After three years, he went to Jerusalem, not to be received as a great king, but to be handed over to death. He washed his disciples' feet. He allowed himself to be arrested, tortured, and humiliated on the cross. He died a shameful death.

Why did he do all of this? Because the *Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us.* Jesus' life was always great in the eyes of his heavenly Father. But not so to the world.

The world has always had a different idea of what it means to be great. And so did Jesus' own disciples. Jesus came not to be served, but to serve. And he invites us, his followers, to do the same. To serve others. To spend our lives looking for opportunities to give to others what Jesus has given to us.

This is so counter-cultural, isn't it? When you look around our world today, clearly the more popular choice is to be served. Most vacation destinations don't try to lure us by inviting us to come and cook our own meals, or clean our own rooms. Most restaurants don't try to attract customers by telling them that they can wash their own dishes. In the eyes of the world, the path to greatness clearly lies in being served in more and more ways. We can be assured that we have made it when we spend our lives being served by others. But even for people who achieve that goal, they are often left with an emptiness in their lives. Being served by others may make us comfortable, but it doesn't appear to make us happy.

### **Albert Schweitzer**

Albert Schweitzer is a famous Lutheran missionary who knew this well. He was the oldest son of a Lutheran pastor in Germany. But he didn't start out as a missionary. He studied theology and was also a very gifted organist. He was ordained and became a world-renowned theologian. He wrote a famous book, "The Quest of the Historical Jesus." He was a great theologian. A great organist. An incredibly gifted person. But when he was 30 years old, he abruptly decided to change the course of his life, and to become a mission doctor. He abandoned his promising career, went to medical school and became a doctor. And then he headed to Africa in order to be a medical missionary. He eventually built a hospital and a leper colony. And in 1952 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts.

But what strikes me about Albert Schweitzer, more than his many accomplishments, is that he discovered the wonderful secret of the Christian life – that we are called not to be served, but to serve. And that when we live with this desire to serve others, we find happiness, meaning and fulfillment that we cannot get by being served. Albert Schweitzer summed this up in a famous quote of his:

*Every person I know who has been truly happy has learned how to serve others.*

Those who are truly happy are not spending their lives lying on a beach somewhere, having people cater to their every whim. Those who are truly happy, and who have found a meaningful life, have learned how to serve others.

When you think about it, many of our ministry opportunities at this church, or at any church, give us a chance to learn how to do this. Serving others makes God happy. It is what Jesus teaches. And it is essential to being a faithful disciple. But serving others also makes us happy. Because we discover that life is not all about us and our happiness and our comfort. Everyone who has been truly happy, has learned to serve others.

### **Mother Teresa**

Another well-known Christian who recognized this truth in a powerful way was Mother Teresa of Calcutta. She served the poorest of the poor in India, truly living as a servant of all. Many people wanted to live as she lived, so she began teaching a simple path. Here is Mother Teresa's "Simple Path," which I used to keep on a business card in my wallet:

*The fruit of silence is prayer; the fruit of prayer is faith; the fruit of faith is love; the fruit of love is service; the fruit of service is peace.*

In fact, she wrote a book about this entitled "A Simple Path."

All to express this powerful truth: that a faith-filled silence leads to prayer, which leads to faith, which leads to love, which leads to service, which leads to peace. Peace, which our world hungers for, and maybe we do too, is the fruit of service.

Everyone who has found happiness and true peace, to put it another way, has learned to serve others. The peace that we all want, and that our world hungers for, cannot be measured by the number of servants we have, but instead by the number of ways in which we have found to serve others.

### **Martin Luther King Jr.**

Let me mention one more person who taught this truth so well. And that is Martin Luther King Jr. He once preached a very famous sermon on this very gospel reading, and he helped his listeners see a path to greatness that they assumed was unavailable to them. Oppressed, poor, often uneducated, with challenges that we have trouble even imagining. They couldn't imagine that they could ever become great. But Martin Luther King Jr. used this gospel reading to show them a different path to greatness that is available to all. Here is what he said:

*Jesus gave us a new norm of greatness.*

*If you want to be important—wonderful. If you want to be recognized—wonderful. If you want to be great—wonderful. But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.*

*That's a new definition of greatness.*

*And this morning, the thing that I like about it: by giving that definition of greatness, it means that everybody can be great, because everybody can serve.*

*You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve.*

*You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.*

*And you can be that servant.*

### **Closing**

Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. And some of the greatest people this world has ever seen had little more than that. With a heart full of grace, and a soul generated by love, they found a way to serve others.

And devoted their lives to serving others.

And we can, too. Following the example of Jesus, we can become great by serving others. By looking for opportunities to give to others what Jesus first gave to us. *The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve.* And he invites us to do the same. To the glory of God. Amen.



For some people, the best thing about having chicken for dinner is the "wishbone." After you finish eating, two people each hold one side of the wishbone, close your eyes and make a wish.

Then you pull on the wishbone until it breaks apart. The one who gets the biggest piece is supposed to have his or her wish come true. (If you have a wishbone, allow a boy and girl to try it.)

Have you ever wished for something? On the count of three, say out loud what you wish for: 1, 2, 3. (Pause for responses.)

Sometimes we make a wish without thinking about what would happen if our wish really came true

Have you ever planned to have a picnic and it rained? Perhaps you sat and watched the rain and grumbled to yourself, "I wish it would stop raining." What if that wish came true and it really stopped raining FOREVER? There would be no grass, no trees, no flowers. Rivers, lakes, and streams would dry up, and all life would begin to disappear. This world would be a miserable place if it stopped raining, wouldn't it?

James and John were two brothers who were disciples of Jesus. One day, the two of them came to Jesus and said to Him, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask."

"What do you want Me to do for you?" Jesus replied.

"In Your glorious Kingdom, we want to sit in places of honor next to You, one at Your right and the other at Your left." You see, they thought Jesus was going to set up an earthly kingdom, and they wanted to sit beside Him on the throne. They wanted to share in His glory and greatness.

Jesus answered, "You don't know what you are asking." Then He explained that whoever wants to be great must be a servant of all. He said, "For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give My life as a ransom for many."

I don't think that being a servant was exactly what James and John were wishing for!

Sometimes you and I may say, "I wish I could be more like Jesus." But is that really our wish? If we really want that wish to come true, we must live as servants the way Jesus did. Only then can we be truly great and show God's love to the world.

Dear God, help us to mean it when we say, "I wish I could be more like Jesus." Please show us each day how to become a greater servant to those around us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer is such an important part of our faith. Each week is a special prayer to allow us to be closer to God







### **Diocese of Syracuse**

Bishop Lucia invites all parishes to take up a voluntary second collection for Hurricane Relief in Florida during the weekends of October, in addition to the approved collections on the National Collection Schedule. Checks can be made to the Diocese of Syracuse-Hurricane Relief and mailed to the Finance Office, Diocese of Syracuse, 240 East Onondaga Street, Syracuse NY 13202. The donations will be sent to Catholic Charities USA. Below is some information from their website on their work to date.

CCUSA, as the official domestic disaster relief agency of the Catholic Church in the United States, has launched a dedicated Helene disaster relief campaign. All donations received for disaster aid will be allocated to the Catholic Charities agencies providing critical relief — including shelter, food and other humanitarian aid — to those most in need. In late September, Hurricane Helene tore through communities in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Tennessee. It left a devastating toll in its wake, with more than 100 dead and 600 missing. The storm washed away homes and highways and decimated power and water systems. Catholic Charities agencies are springing into action to provide immediate disaster relief with necessities such as water, food and shelter. They will stand by their communities through the long-term recovery. More information to follow on Hurricane Milton.

Office of Liturgy & the O.C.I.A.

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 -- A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

In 2024, December 8 is the Second Sunday of Advent, so the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday, December 9. **Previously**, when the DATE was transferred the obligation was abrogated. That will no longer be true.

«**FROM THE USCCB:** Earlier this year, Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance, wrote to the Holy See seeking



clarification about the obligation to attend Mass when a holy day of obligation in Advent, Lent, or Easter falls on Sunday and the Solemnity is transferred to Monday. In a memo to the U.S. bishops dated Thursday, October 10, Bishop Paprocki communicated the Dicastery for Legislative Text's response: "the feast must be observed as a day of obligation on the day to which it is transferred." In light of this new directive, **the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Monday, December 9, 2024 is to be observed as a holy day of obligation.**

From the Office of Adolescent Catechesis and Discipleship  
**Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference-The greater Utica area will participating in this event.**  
**Last year a number of student's 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.

Open to youth in grades 7-12. \$20 per participant.

### **2 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@syrдио.org](mailto:swc@syrдио.org) or visit our website at <https://www.syracusecatholicwomen.org>

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