

MORE

GOOD NEWS



Fun festival
facts
PAGE 3

Festival the embodiment of family, friends, fun, faith

From time immemorial, feasts, festivals and carnivals have served various purposes in just about every community and culture in the world.

The time of a festival promises so many good things for young and old — food, music, games, the gathering of old and new friends and family reunions.

A good festival can serve to provide much fun and make weary folks glad in many ways.

The Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament feast this year marks the 121st year, without a doubt one of the oldest honoring Our Lady of Mount Carmel, in the United States. Really, in the jargon of the Catholic church a feast means the commemoration or celebration on a Holy Day or special saint's day.

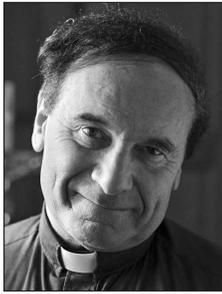
We all know, however, the parish feast here

brings with it all those glad and welcomed additions, great food, excellent music offerings, rides for kids, reunions for families and the catching up with old friends and neighbors, most of it with an Italian touch.

Some very reflective and deep spiritual persons have even suggested that the happy gathering of many people on the grounds of a faith-sponsored festival is a glimpse of what it will be like to be gathered at the banquet table of God's Kingdom. The only difference might be that in Heaven there will be no long line and wait for pizza frita — of course, that wait is when people do their catching up with the news of their lives.

Our long-standing and popular feast would not even be possible without the many devoted volunteers of all ages. The feast is such an important fundraiser to support the parish activities, upkeep of the beautiful structures and our pledges for Catholic education.

So many hours, labor and generous hearts go into the success of the feast. Invite friends and family, volunteer to lend a hand, especially with the food preparations, and the set up and tear down, come and delight and enjoy this year's feast.



FATHER JIM

CELEBRATING THE SAINTS

St. Kateri Tekakwitha

Feast Day July 14

Nine years after the Jesuits Isaac Jogues and John de Brébeuf were tomahawked by Iroquois warriors, a baby girl was born near the place of their martyrdom, Auriesville.

Her mother was a Christian Algonquin, taken captive by the Iroquois and given as wife to the chief of the Mohawk clan, the boldest and fiercest of the Five Nations. When she was 4, Kateri lost her parents and little brother in a smallpox epidemic that left her disfigured and half blind.

She was adopted by an uncle, who succeeded her father as chief. He hated the coming of the Blackrobes (Jesuit missionaries), but could do nothing to them because a peace treaty with the French required their presence in villages with Christian captives. She was moved by the words of three Blackrobes who lodged with her uncle, but fear of him kept her from seeking instruction. She refused to marry a Mohawk brave and at 19 finally got the courage to take the step of converting. She was baptized with the name



Kateri (Catherine) on Easter Sunday.

Now she would be treated as a slave. Because she would not work on Sunday, she received no food that day. Her life in grace grew rapidly. She told a missionary that she often meditated on the great dignity of being baptized. She was moved powerfully by God's love for human beings and saw the dignity of each of her people.

She always was in danger, for her conversion and holy life created great opposition. On the advice of a priest, she stole away one night and began a 200-mile walking journey to a Christian Indian village at Sault St. Louis, near Montreal.

For three years she grew in holiness under the direction of a priest and an older Iroquois woman, giving herself totally to God in long hours of prayer, in charity and in strenuous penance. At 23, she took a vow of virginity, an unprecedented act for an Indian woman, whose future depended on being married. She found a place in the woods where she could pray an hour a day — and was accused of meeting a man there.

Her dedication to virginity was instinctive: She did not know about religious life for women until she visited Montreal. Inspired by this, she and two friends wanted to start a community, but the local priest dissuaded her. She humbly accepted an "ordinary" life.

She practiced extremely severe fasting as penance for the conversion of her nation. She died the afternoon before Holy Thursday.

PARISH WEBSITE

Visit www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com for the latest parish news and announcements. There's even a mobile version for your smart phone. You can donate online and check out our social media sites and more.

PHOTO GALLERIES



BULLETIN

A Community on a Journey of Faith April 2, 2017

**St. Mary of Mt. Carmel
Blessed Sacrament Parish**

648 Jay St., Utica, NY 13501 • www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com





Weekend Masses
Saturday: 4:30 PM
Sunday: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
Reconciliation: Saturday 3-4:5 PM

Weekday Masses
Wed, Thurs, Friday 8:00 AM
Friday 8:30 AM: Mass of Communion Service.
Rosary for the unborn and Divine Mercy Chaplet - Thursday after Mass.
Holy Days Consult Bulletin.

PARISH STAFF
Pastor: Rev. Jim Cella
Cleric: Rev. Fr. Thomas Terti (Residence) & Fr. Corbin (of Faith Formation/Deacon) (Catholic 7-10 AM) (Catholic 10:30 AM)
Music Director: Peter Blazek
Business Administration: Jani Smith-Lalonde
Parish Publicist: Fran Ferraro

CONTACT:
Office: 734-1423
Fax: 734-3426
Email: stmc@stmc.com
OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
All bulletin items are to be submitted in writing by 12:00 noon Friday two days before publication.

BAPTISM
Couples and families: Please call the parish office to arrange a baptism. New parents are encouraged to attend the parish class before the birth of your child.
WEDDINGS
Couples must make arrangements six months in advance. Welcome to our parish family. We invite you to become an active participant of our parish community. Please be sure to register by calling the parish office.
Also listings invited for hearing requested.

... AND MORE

- Father Jim's "Wise and Otherwise"
- History of the parish
- Lector, minister, altar server schedules
- Mass schedules
- Parish news
- Ministries
- Event calendar
- Weekly reflection on Sunday's readings
- "More Good News" magazine
- Links to our social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

DID YOU KNOW ...

We all know a lot of work and volunteer time goes into making our annual Italian Festival a success. What you might not know is the amount of food, drinks and other items that festival organizers plan for each year. Here are some interesting — and fun — numbers to consider from the 2016 festival.

9,000
Number of pizza fritta sold

1,250
Pounds of flour

525
Gallons of frying oil for pizza fritta

150
Pounds of sugar

2,400
Sub rolls

360
6-inch rolls

840
Steak rolls

900
Hamburger and hot dog rolls

67
Cases of soda

100
Cases of water

31
Tomato pies

370
Pounds of meatballs

600
Pounds of sausage

80
Pounds of rib-eye steaks



2017 ITALIAN FESTIVAL

5 to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 14 and 15.

Noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 16. Procession in honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel after the 10:30 a.m. Mass Sunday.

Entertainment

Friday: 5 p.m. Frank Cannistra; 8 p.m. Easy Money.

Saturday: 5 p.m., Joe LaPaglia; 8 p.m., Classified.

Sunday: 2 p.m., La Banda Rossa; 4 p.m., Anthony LaBarbara.

102
Pounds of hamburg patties

30
Pounds of hot dogs

2,200
Rice balls

40
Gallons of pasta fagioli

30
Gallons of mushroom stew

80
Pounds of macaroni

25
Trays of eggplant

40
Bushels of peppers

INCOME
\$29,000
Buona Fortuna sales

\$26,837
Food

\$13,564
Beer

\$8,755
Pizza fritta

\$6,262
Clams

\$5,126
Cafe

\$4,099
Flea market

\$3,886
Soft drinks

\$2,219
Novelties

\$637
Family fun

\$16,892
Cash donations

\$117,277
Total proceeds

EXPENSES
\$15,500
Buona Fortuna prizes

\$12,734
Food

\$4,695
Beer

\$1,258
Pizza fritta

\$4,808
Clams

\$3,091
Cafe

\$410
Flea market

\$1,531
Soft drinks

A CONVERSATION WITH ... MICHAEL WICKS

World traveler knows he can come home again

Michael Wicks has traveled the four corners of the world during his time as a research scientist for the Air Forces, as a professor teaching in foreign countries, and as a plain, ole tourist. But one thing is a constant: his home always has been and always will be in Utica and in our parish. And he loves coming home.

You grew up in East Utica and still live there. What was the neighborhood like when you were a kid?

The neighborhood was mostly working families with stay-at-home mothers and fathers working in factories. Families all lived and worked in close proximity to aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, and many were Italian or of Italian descent. Across neighborhoods, we were all friends, and usually played in these neighborhoods. We walked to school or the playground and we were never board.

Despite being a world traveler, you still live in the house you grew up in. Why?

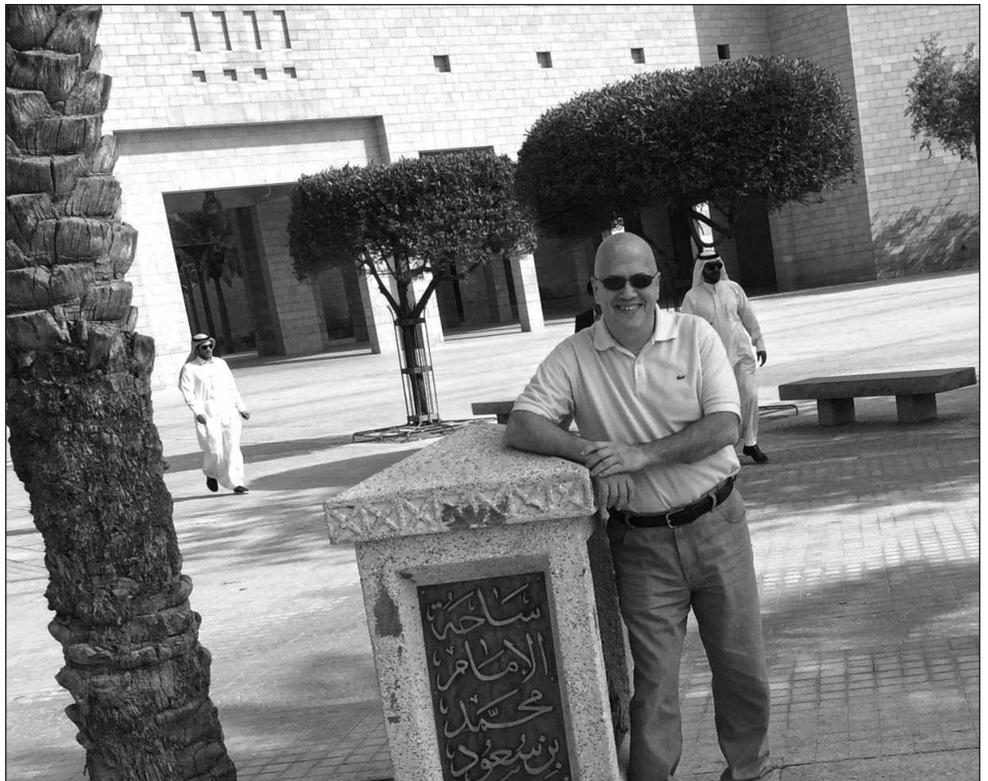
I still live in my family house for that one reason — it was my grandmother's home. We lived upstairs and my grandparents lived downstairs with my



uncle. It was a great place in the 1960s and '70s with the constant cooking and baking day and night year around. The stories told by my grandfather were vivid. The summer gardens my grandfather planted were legendary. My grandmother spoiled all of us. It was great!

You're a research scientist with many degrees, including master's degrees and doctorates, you're a professor and still work, even though you're kind of retired? Did growing up in East Utica prepare you for your career?

My education at Mount Carmel, Notre Dame, and MVCC was excellent. Undergraduate school at RPI and graduate school at SU were fairly straightforward as we were so well prepared. Plus, the multicultural nature of East Utica 50 years ago prepared me well for interacting with people from the many countries I have visited and worked in over the years.



Michael Wicks in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia is one of his favorite places he's visited.

In laymen's terms, what exactly was your job and what did you do?

When I was at the Air Force Research Laboratory — initially working in radar at Rome but later in Dayton, Ohio, I developed sensors signal processing technology for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems. I was a systems engineer supporting a variety of national security needs cutting across the Air Force, Army, Navy and international partners through NATO and beyond. The last 10 years of my Air Force career, I was an executive, so I was able to solve problems at a very high level. It was great! Now I teach graduate students at the University of Dayton. UD is a Catholic college, and I stay there because it is Catholic. It is great! Last year, I graduated four doctoral students. One is now a research scientist at the FAA. Another, Hamdi, is a lead design engineer at Raytheon in California. A third is now assistant dean, teaching radar and

Please see MICHAEL, Page 7

MICHAEL WICKS

Age: 57.

Resides: Utica.

Education: Associate degree in science: engineering science, Mohawk Valley Community College; bachelor of science, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; master of science / philosophical doctorate, Syracuse University (all in electrical engineering); master of arts in public administration, Syracuse University.

Family: Sister Mary, brother-in-law John, niece Sara, nephew John Michael, many cousins.

Favorite book: "Doctor Zhivago" by Boris Pasternak.

Favorite TV show: "Tonight Show" starring Johnny Carson.

Favorite movie: "Casablanca."

Favorite musical artist: Celine Dion.

Favorite quote: "And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." — President John F. Kennedy.

From dancing to sports, Kennedy multifaceted

Kennedy Crouse is a busy 13-year-old. She dances, plays soccer, sings and loves helping out in the parish at the festival and as an altar server. Someone so young, however, looks up to someone of another generation for inspiration.

You're heading into eighth grade at John F. Kennedy Middle School. What are you looking forward to in your final year before heading off to high school?

The semi-formal.

What's your favorite subject in school?

Health, because I want to become a pharmacist.

What's your least favorite?

Math – it's confusing.

You love dancing. How did you get involved with that and why do you do it?

My mom brought me when I was 4 it has become my passion now.

You also participated in spiritual dancing during Holy Week services. Were you nervous and what were you thinking about?

No. I wanted to make everyone enjoy church,

Soccer is a big sport for you. What's your favorite part about playing the sport?

Hard work.

Are there any comparisons between dancing and soccer?

You have to try hard at both of them. They are both part of a team. You have to work together to achieve success.

Drawing is another favorite thing you do. What kind of drawing do you do?

Portraits/faces.

What inspires you to draw and what kind of satisfaction do you get from it?

My creativity and what I have achieved.



KENNEDY CROUSE

Age: 13.

School: John F. Kennedy Middle School.

Family: Mom Judy, dad Randy, brother Randy Joe and dog Rufus Joseph.

Things you like to do: Dance, sing, soccer, hanging out with friends.

Favorite book: "Wonder."

Favorite TV show: "Pretty Little Liars."

Favorite movie: "Split."

Favorite musical artist: Shawn Mendes.

Favorite quote: "Keep your head up princess or the crown slips."

At Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament, you're an altar server and work at the festival. Why do you do it?

Mount Carmel is like my second home. I love to help out anyway I can for the church.

What does this parish mean to you and do you hope to volunteer in other areas as you get older?

Church means a lot to me. It gives me time to

reflect. I would like to help anyway I can.

Is there someone in your life who has inspired you?

My pops Joe Furgol. He is my grandfather. He always is a supportive person in life and a good role model. He inspired me to go to church and help.

What are your dreams for your future?

To be successful in life.



Parish welcomes Burmese clergy

On Thursday, June 22, a Burmese bishop and three fellow priests were visiting our area. They stayed in our rectory and spent time with our Burmese parishioners, with whom they celebrated Mass at Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament in their native language. The priests from Myanmar are Bishop John Saw Yaw Han, the Rev. Albert Saw, the Rev. Paulus Clo Htoo and the Rev. Conrad Moe Kyaw Htoo.

Photo courtesy of Anne Elacqua

Carmelites have holy history

Religious order started devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel

The Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel first took place between 1376 and 1386 as a celebration of the Carmelites — an ancient holy order dedicated to the veneration of the Blessed Mother — on obtaining recognition of its name and constitution from Pope Honorius III on Jan. 30, 1226.

It was decided to designate the feast day on July 16 because it was on that day that St. Simon Stock had a vision of the Blessed Virgin. She told him that if the Carmelites wore their apron or habit in faith, that she would care for them. Through faith and persistence, the Carmelites endured persecution and displacement, and the tradition of the brown scapular, as a representation of the Carmelite habit, took hold.

Several notable Catholic saints were of the Carmelite order. Here are three:



A.J. VALENTINI

St. Teresa of Avila is considered a doctor of the universal church. She entered a Carmelite Monastery at age 20 in 1535. For years she felt she was unworthy to

address prayers to God. She had a series of grave illnesses and attributed her survival to St. Joseph.

At 41, she was convinced to return to prayer but also became acutely aware of the worldly focus of her fellow Carmelites (nuns from rich families even had servants). In her late 40s she founded a new convent dedicated to St. Joseph, which focused on prayer and a more spartan life.

She eventually established a community of friars as well. Over the next 20 years she founded 16 monasteries. Her writings and teaching are considered major contributions to Catholic theology.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux was proclaimed a doctor of the church in 1997 and is an example of humility and sanctity.

Born the last of nine children, she lost her mother at an early age. From the time of her First Holy Communion she dedicated herself to the Holy Mother. At 10 years old she became deathly ill and her father had a novena of Masses offered for her recovery.

She joined the Carmelites at 15 years old and was assigned the most mundane of tasks in the convent. Gravely ill with tuberculosis, she said upon her death she hoped to “loose a shower of roses in the form of favors and miracles from heaven.” When she died at age 23,



ST. TERESA OF AVILA

her life of humility, prayer and service became a model for other Christians.

St. John of the Cross, priest and doctor of the church, was born to a wealthy Spanish father who had been disinherited because he had married a poor orphan.

The father died when John was very young leaving his son in the care of his destitute mother. Since he had no sponsor, John could not learn a trade and earned a living working in a plague hospital. When he was 18 he began to study with the Jesuits, and at 21 he offered his services as a lay brother to the Carmelite friars and eventually became a priest.

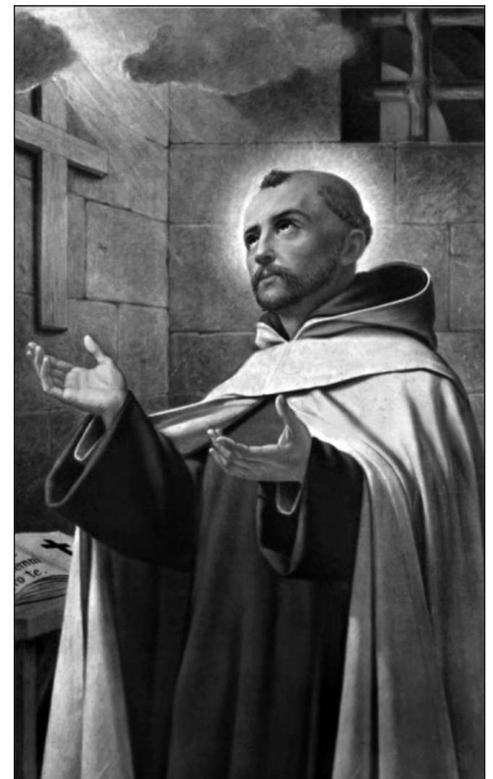
He already was teaching while studying at the University of Salamanca. In 1567 he met St. Teresa of Avila who convinced him to help her reform his order.

He became the first prior of the “Barefoot” Carmelites. Because of opposition from elder friars he was condemned as an apostate and was imprisoned. While there he constantly wrote material that eventually would become one of his greatest contributions to posterity.

He escaped from imprisonment but was later persecuted again, only strengthening his resolve. Eventually, his order received recognition and after 15 years of leadership he died.



ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX



ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

MICHAEL WICKS

Continued from Page 4

signal processing abroad, and a fourth is teaching engineering students at UD.

How did you get interested in your field? Was there anyone in particular who guided you early on?

I was always interested in technology, most especially radio and television as a child, and computers when they first became available in the 1970s. As I became more and more interested in high power systems, radar really was the only option. I took classes in radar at RPI, and through a great professor, Fred Norvak, I met radar scientists at GE in Utica and RADC at Griffiss. My summer employment in 1978 included duties at Griffiss Air Force Base.

You've traveled all over the Earth and seen many cultures and places. What are some of your favorites?

My favorite city away from home is London. It is a cross section of the world. I was an adjunct professor at University College London, and that is where I first became interested in joining the faculty at a university upon retirement from federal service. Other favorite places include the Barossa Valley south of Adelaide, Australia, as it is so quiet and beautiful. The Barossa Valley is vineyard country. I have enjoyed my time at Bordeaux in southwestern France where I stayed at a cottage on the banks of the Garonne River more than once. Saclay, south of Paris, is beautiful and has an appeal like no other rural city. I really like Naples, Italy, as it is on the water. The food and wine are great, and I have friends there. Tuscany is also great and I still go every other year to a resort called Il Ciocco in Castelvecchio Pascoli. Algiers, Algeria, is a neat place to visit because of the music and the food from every culture you can name. I did some teaching there as a volunteer for UD. I have taught in many countries, but Saudi Arabia was among the most memorable, and the most recent.

What have your travels taught you about life?

Simple lessons in life that I teach all my students. Life is a mystery, so don't try to figure it out. Change is constant, so enjoy those things



Michael Wicks was a member of the Mount Carmel School Class of 1973.

that stay the same for a while – like Mount Carmel. Enjoy the moment, laugh and share the joy with others as it won't always be like this. And most important of all, there is always something special going on. There are no ordinary moments. Enjoy each and every moment.

You always come home, however, and home also means our parish. What are some of the things you have been involved in?

I have been an altar server, a reader, a building committee member, a trustee, a Eucharistic minister, a volunteer at the annual feast in honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. I love Mount Carmel. It is as much a home to me as my house in East Utica.

What does the parish mean to you?

At Mount Carmel, I can sit in church and see those who have gone before us as if they are here — family, friends, priests, nuns and members of our beautiful parish. When I am at Mass, it is beautiful, the music is the best, and the community of believers is so strong. I love Mount Carmel. It is a home to me.

You always are an upbeat person with a smile. We all know life isn't always kind.

How have you dealt with any setbacks or adversities?

I really don't dwell on the long-term problems that we all face. I always try to solve the immediate problem that I can address right now. This is what I do at the University of Dayton. This is what I did at the Air Force. This is what I do for myself and my family each and every day. Faith in God. Faith in family and friends. Faith in humanity. This is what it really takes.

What's the best piece of advice anyone ever gave you?

Don't be afraid of dying. Be afraid of never living. Do something in the here and now. And, enjoy doing it!

What's the best advice you've given someone?

Life is change, so embrace it. Hold on to what you can and let go of what you can't.

What do you hope the next stage of your life holds for you?

I have started to teach abroad as a volunteer. I would like to do missionary work in poor countries in order to help people have just a little bit more in the here and now.

*“Don't be afraid of dying. Be afraid of never living.
Do something in the here and now. And, enjoy doing it!”*

Michael Wicks

DID YOU KNOW

Continued from Page 3

\$1,696	\$6,137	\$3,254	\$65,927
Novelties	Tents, bandstand	Security	Total expenses
\$477	\$5,936	\$4,400	\$51,350
Family fun	Clean-up	Entertainment	Net profit



Receive the body of Christ



On Sunday, April 30, 14 children from our parish received their First Holy Communion.



Photos courtesy of Mark SantaMaria of New Horizon Productions