

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024



# St. Mary of Mount Carmel Blessed Sacrament Parish

[www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com](http://www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com) and [www.facebook.com/mountcarmelblessedsacrament](https://www.facebook.com/mountcarmelblessedsacrament)

## ABOUT THE PARISH

- **Address:** 648 Jay St., Utica, NY 13501.
- **Telephone:** 315-735-1482; fax: 315-735-9806.
- **Office hours:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Closed on Friday and national holidays.
- **Faith Formation and Scalabrini Center:** 315-724-3950.
- **Email:** stmaryutica@syrdio.org
- **Hearing impaired:** Listening devices available in the sacristy.

## MASS SCHEDULES

### Weekend

- **Saturday:** 4:30 p.m. (livestream on parish YouTube channel)
- **Sunday:** 8 and 11 a.m.

### Weekday

- **Monday and Tuesday:** 8:30 a.m. at St. Anthony & St. Agnes.
- **Thursday and Friday:** 8:30 a.m. in our parish.
- **Please note:** No morning Mass if Utica schools are closed due to inclement weather.

### Holy Days

- Consult the bulletin and website.

## RECONCILIATION

- **Saturday:** 3:45 p.m.

## MARRIAGE

- Couples must make arrangements six months in advance.

## BAPTISM

- Call the parish office to arrange. Parents must attend a preparation class prior to the baptism of their child.

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

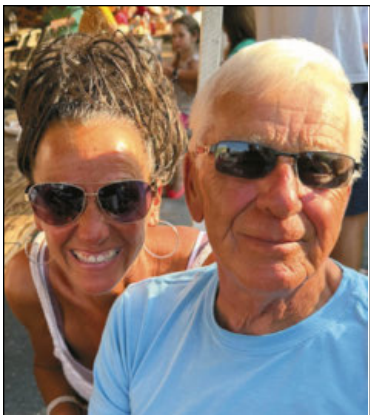
- Adults or children, 7 or older who have never been baptized or confirmed or received the Eucharist, are invited to call the parish office for information about this process.

## NEW PARISHIONERS

- 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.

## PARISH STAFF

- **Pastor:** Rev. Jim Cesta
- **In Residence:** Rev. Luis Olguin
- **Trustees:** Rocco Arcuri Sr. and Bill Thibault
- **Parish Office Manager:** Terri Piazza-Panuccio
- **Faith Formation K-6:** Terri Piazza-Panuccio
- **Faith Formation 7-10:** Anne Carlone-Elacqua
- **Music Director:** Peter Elacqua
- **Website Manager, Bulletin Editor:** Fran Perritano
- **Buildings and grounds:** Lenny Jones



## FATHER JIM'S WISE & OTHERWISE

# You think the cross you're carrying is difficult?

Once, a man who hated his daily cross cried to God, "Why is my cross so heavy, why ignore my prayers?"

God said, "Come to the place where crosses are made and look for another."

The man entered the very dark and cluttered room. Some crosses looked too large or heavy, others like toys, some unbearable to even think about.

Finally, the man picked up one cross and thought it was just right for him to carry, it was fit for him — or so he thought — perfect for his soul, his body, his mind.

God said, "Are you sure of it? Never ask me again to find another one for you."

The man walked out into the light and realized it was the very same cross he had laid at the door when he had entered.

### And the otherwise ...

Father Smith decided to walk. He bundled up, pulling his overcoat up around his neck.

As he rounded the corner, a figure stepped out from a building, gun in hand.

"Give me your money. And hurry up."

Father opened his overcoat to reach for his billfold in an inside pocket. With that the robber exclaimed as he caught sight of the Roman collar: "Oh, excuse me, Father. I didn't know you were a Catholic priest."

Relieved and grateful, the priest replied, "Here, have a cigar."

Waving his hand, the robber blurted: "No thanks, Father. I gave up smoking for Lent."



### Lectors

**SATURDAY, MARCH 9**

**4:30 p.m. Mass**

Anthony Laria and Terri Panuccio (POF)

**SUNDAY, MARCH 10**

**8 a.m. Mass**

Dennis Toczala and Melissa Leone (POF)

**11 a.m. Mass**

Maria Kozak and Wyatt Bora (POF)

### Eucharistic ministers

**SATURDAY, MARCH 9**

**4:30 p.m. Mass**

Debbie Hayes, Roger and Mary Lynn Rebisz

**SUNDAY, MARCH 10**

**8 a.m. Mass**

Mar Ko, Larry and Marie Bova

**11 a.m. Mass**

Mary Teti, Ta Eh, Joanne Gerace

### Altar servers

**SATURDAY MARCH 9**

**4:30 p.m. Mass**

**Team B:** David George, Dominic Smoulcey, Dominic Sacco

**SUNDAY, MARCH 10**

**8 a.m. Mass**

**Team D:** Samie and Santo Cimbalo

**11 a.m.**

**Team G:** Matthew Miscione, Francesca and Cecelia Kane



### Parish website

For parish news and information, visit [www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com](http://www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com).

Scan the QR code to get the mobile version of the website and save it to your home screen Here's some of what you'll find:

- Wedding Planning Guide.
- Funeral Service Planning Guide.
- Weekly prayers, reflections, photos, videos and more to enrich your faith.
- Bulletin
- Mass schedules
- "More Good News" magazine



### Join our email list

Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish has compiled a database of email addresses that is used to contact parishioners with the latest news and information. We ask all parishioners to submit their email address to Fran Perritano at [fperritano@syrdio.org](mailto:fperritano@syrdio.org) using the subject line **PARISH EMAIL**.



**Feb. 24-25: \$5,887**

**Hope Appeal: \$28,463**

**Donate at Mass, by mail, online, cellphone**

- Make your donation by mailing it to: Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish, 648 Jay St., Utica, NY 13502.
- You also can contribute online on our website. Look for the **DONATE** button in the right column.
- Or, scan the QR code below on your smartphone and tap **DONATE**.





## PARISH NEWS



### How is your Lent coming along? Try these ideas

Lent is a period of 40 days of fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

All Catholics who have reached their 14th birthday are bound to abstain totally from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

All Catholics between their 18th and 59th birthdays also are bound to observe the Laws of Fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those bound by this rule may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted as necessary to maintain strength, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

Our parish is here to help you make a good Lent:

#### Stations of the Cross

At 12:15 p.m. each Friday during the season, there will be Stations of the Cross.

#### Daily prayer books

Those "little black books" with daily re-

flections and prayers are available for you to take home.

#### Operation Rice Bowl

The Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl will be available. Throw your spare change and currency into those little containers to help those less fortunate have a better life. There also is an envelope in your donation envelopes.

#### Holy Thursday Rosary

As part of our Holy Thursday evening, we will once again be reciting the Rosary following our choir's music and prayer service. Mike Dziura will once again be leading us. Please plan on joining us.

#### Online resources

There also are many materials on our parish website ([www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com](http://www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com)). Click on the LENT icon at the top of the right column.

### Make life brighter for others by donating items

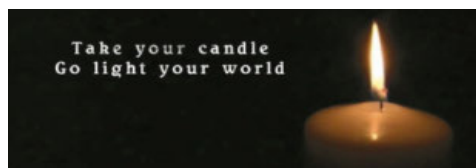
More often than not, it seems we are reminded of all the negative and hate-filled news in our world, but if each of us makes an effort to "Light Our World" together, we can make our world a more peace-filled and brighter place.

All you have to do are simple acts of kindness. (Call someone who is shut-in, donate to your local food bank or charity, say a kind word to someone, etc.)

Our K-6 Faith Formation students will be doing their part by making sandwiches for Historic St. John's Outreach Center, make "Blessing Bags" for the homeless, make Easter baskets for Father Luis' Spanish Apostolate, and send cards to the homebound and elderly in our parish. Any donations you would like to make toward any of these projects is appreciated.

#### Items needed for Easter baskets

Candy, small toys, (bubbles, kites, coloring



book and crayons, small cars, etc.) grass for the baskets.

If you have any questions, please call Terri Panuccio at the parish office.

#### Items needed for blessing bags

(All can be found at Dollar Tee)

Toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, comb, hand sanitizer, ChapStick, antibacterial wipes, soap, bandages, baby wipes, hand warmers, socks, bottled water, juice box, granola bars, crackers, mints, gum, candy, peanuts.

### Register for March 23 Catholic Men's Conference

IGNITE 2024 Catholic Men's Conference is Saturday, March 23, at Bishop Ludden Junior-Senior High School in Syracuse.

The keynote speaker is Chris Stefanick. Other speakers include Jim Towey and Deacon Ralph Poyo. Bishop Douglas Lucia will start

the day with Holy Mass.

For information on the speakers, schedule for the day and to register, visit [www.ignite-catholicmen.org](http://www.ignite-catholicmen.org) or contact our parish captains Mario Scalzo at 315-381-3132 or John Reale Jr. at 315-765-0819.

## UPCOMING IN OUR PARISH

### Sunday, March 3

- **K-6 Faith Formation:** 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.
- **Greater Utica Teen Formation:** 12:30 to 1:45 p.m., Scalabrini Center and Notre Dame.

### Friday, March 8

- **Stations of the Cross:** 12:15 p.m. at Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament.

### Saturday, March 9

- **First Communion workshop:** 9 to 11 a.m.

### Sunday, March 10

- **K-6 Faith Formation:** 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.
- **Greater Utica Teen Formation:** 12:30 to 1:45 p.m., Scalabrini Center and Notre Dame.
- **Mount Carmel Society:** Meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the gym. Mass at 11 a.m.

## HOLY WEEK, EASTER SERVICES

### Holy Thursday

- **March 28:** 7 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Last Supper followed by a musical meditation at Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament.

### Good Friday

- **March 29:** 3 p.m. Liturgical celebration of the Lord's Passion at St. Anthony and St. Agnes Parish.

### Easter Vigil

- **March 30:** 8 p.m. at Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament.

### Easter Sunday

- **March 31:** 8 and 11 a.m. at Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament.

## Sign up for Engaged Couples Day March 10

If you are planning to be married at Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament this year, plan on attending our Engaged Couples Day on Sunday, March 10. If you have not scheduled your wedding with our parish office, please do so at your earliest convenience by calling 315-735-1482. More information will be sent to you, or you may contact Carmelann Scalzo at 315-381-3132.

## THIS WEEK'S PRAYER REMEMBRANCES

### LIVING

- Kay DeSantis (Happy Birthday) — Vicki
- Catherine Plado
- The following intentions are requested by Diana Hahn — Flo Dwyer, Pam Evans, Lorraine Giglio, Diana Hahn, Kevin Johnson, Donna Jones, Karleen Markowicz, Marie Masca, Ryan Mitchell, Jim Piccola, Dolores Ptak, Linda Serbw, Beatrice Spears, Cherly Rondenelli
- For a special intention — Annette Guido
- For a special intention
- Children — mom

### DECEASED

- Antoinette Plado Costante Bono — Joe and JoAnn DeSimone and family
- Stella Theresa Castano — family
- Dominick Plado Costante — Joe and JoAnn DeSimone and family
- Tommy DeCrescenzo Jr. — family
- Sam and Josephine DeSimone — Joe and JoAnn and family
- Tom DeSimone — Joe and JoAnn and family
- James Dyer — wife Madeline and children
- Mr. Alexander J. Sandor Egresits — Mr. and Mrs. Vincent P. Trotta
- Lisa Gatto — Phyllis Ricco and Diane Abraham
- Jacqueline Grande — Philip and Gloria Enea
- Jacqueline Grande — Al Zito
- Joe Inserra — Barbara Inserra and family
- Iocovozzi, DiPierro, Bruno, DiSano and Seppi Family — Vinny and Julie
- Joseph Longo — Fred and Anne Bruzzese
- Peter Maneen — Gregory and Leigh D'Agostino
- Ida and Josephine Manze — David Struz
- Ida and Josephine Manze — will
- Manze and Motto Families — will
- Louis Nicotera — daughter Madeline



### Prayer Remembrance policy

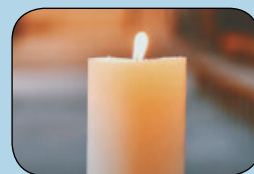
Prayer Remembrances must be submitted two weeks in advance of the desired publication date. Those received this week-end will reach the parish office in time to be placed in the bulletin two weeks from now. You must use ONE envelope for each Mass intention. A minimum donation of \$5 per intention is requested. To ensure that all your intentions are listed as requested, please do not write multiple intentions on one envelope as often-times names are inadvertently omitted.

### Prayer line

If you have an intention that you would like parishioners to pray for, call Rosemarie Chiffy at 315-735-6832. She and members of prayer line will pray for you.

and family

- Augustine (A.J.) Pedone — father, brothers and sister
- Pedone Family — Andy and family
- Yolanda Gigante Pedone — hon and children
- Beverly R. Robinson — Rosanne George
- Beverly Robinson — Kitty and Dick Jones
- Laurie Siniscarco — Tony and Marilyn Cimino



### Memorials

- The altar candles for March are lit in memory of **Marie D. Guido** by daughter; and **Tom DeCrescenzo Jr.** by family.
- The altar bread for March has been donated in memory of **Ann Trozzi** by family.
- The sanctuary lamps are lit in memory of **Tommy DeCrescenzo Jr.** by family; and **Ann Trozzi** by family.
- The St. Joseph candle is lit in memory of **Christopher Usyk** by mom and dad.

### Thank you ...

- To Tony and Kim Matt from Matt Funeral Home for donating the prayer cards for our Lenten "Go Light Your World" bags.

- Laurie Siniscarco — Carmela Commisso and family
- Laurie Siniscarco — Elaine and Joe Furgal
- Laurie Siniscarco — Rosemary and Paul Hanley
- Laurie Siniscarco — Victoria Perritano
- Stan and Mary Struz — family
- Michael Taurisano — Theresa Sportelli
- Kathleen Timpano — Elaine and Michael Elefante
- Anthony and Erminia Trino — daughter Edye

### St. Joseph's Table

The St. Rosalia Society will be sponsoring a St. Joseph's Table after the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, March 17. There is no charge, but donations are encouraged as all proceeds will be donated to charity. Reservations are required. Fill out the form and place it in the collection basket. For information, call Jimmy Delitto at 315-796-6511.



**Congrega Di Santa Rosalia**  
**St. Joseph's Table**  
**Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> ~ 12 Noon**  
**St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Church Gymnasium**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ #: \_\_\_\_\_

***Contributions not required but gladly accepted!***

***Please drop reservation in collection basket or Parish Office***



### St. Anthony's offers Lenten fish fries

St. Anthony and St. Agnes Parish at 415 St. Anthony St. will offer Lenten fish fries from 4 to 7 p.m. each Friday through March 29. Eat in or take out. You have a choice of fried or baked haddock, shrimp, or shrimp and fish combo. Prices range from \$16 to \$20. All dinners include coleslaw, dinner roll, choice of potato and condiments. To order or reserve your spot, call 315-794-3153 after 3 p.m. Fridays.

### Novena to St. Anthony

The 13 Tuesdays Novena to St. Anthony of Padua will begin at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 19.



## THIS WEEK'S SAINT: KATHERINE DREXEL

### FEAST DAY: MARCH 3

If your father is an international banker and you ride in a private railroad car, you are not likely to be drawn into a life of voluntary poverty.

But if your mother opens your home to the poor three days each week and your father spends half an hour each evening in prayer, it is not impossible that you will devote your life to the poor and give away millions of dollars. Katharine Drexel did that.

Katharine had always been interested in the plight of the Indians, having been appalled by what she read in Helen Hunt Jackson's "A Century of Dishonor." While on a European tour, she met Pope Leo XIII and asked him to send more missionaries to Wyoming for her friend Bishop James O'Connor. The pope replied, "Why don't you become a missionary?"

Back home, Katharine visited the Dakotas, met the Sioux leader Red Cloud and began her systematic aid to Indian missions.

Katharine Drexel could easily have married. But after much discussion with Bishop O'Connor, she wrote in 1889, "The feast



of Saint Joseph brought me the grace to give the remainder of my life to the Indians and the Colored." Newspaper headlines screamed "Gives Up Seven Million!"

After three and a half years of training, Mother Drexel and her first band of nuns—Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored—opened a boarding school in Santa Fe. A string of foundations followed. By 1942, she had a system of black Catholic schools in 13 states, plus 40 mission centers and 23 rural schools. Segregationists harassed her work, even burning a school in Pennsylvania. In all, she established 50 missions for Indians in 16 states.

At 77, Mother Drexel had a heart attack and was forced to retire. She died at 96 and was canonized in 2000.

### Lenten Covenant Prayer

*Lord, may I walk life's pathways with integrity as Moses came down from the mountain embracing your law, as Paul proclaimed the power of Christ crucified, as a believer in the purity of your truth. Give me a clean heart and a directed spirit. Move me away from business as usual. Purify and consecrate my life. Lead me away from distractions to know your holiness, the sacred place of your dwelling within me a temple of your Spirit, a faithful believer in your life, death and resurrection. Amen.*



*"Christ Driving The Money Changers from the Temple" (Rembrandt, 1635)*



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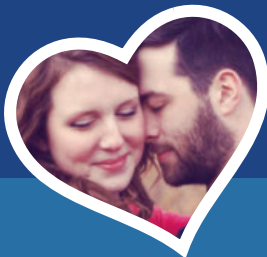
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