

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS: 1896-2021

# St. Mary of Mount Carmel Blessed Sacrament Parish

## ABOUT THE PARISH

**Address:** 648 Jay St., Utica, NY 13501.

**Telephone:** 315-735-1482; fax: 315-735-9806.

**Office hours:** Masks must be worn.

- 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.

**Sunday:** 8 and 10:30 a.m.

### Weekday

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:** 8:30 a.m.

**Rosary for the Unborn and Divine Mercy Chaplet:**  
Thursday after Mass.

### Holy Days

Consult the bulletin and website.

## RECONCILIATION

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

## MARRIAGE

Make arrangements six months in advance.

## BAPTISM

Call the parish office to arrange. New parents are encouraged to attend the parent class before the birth of your 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.

## 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

**Coordinator of Faith Formation K-6:** Terri Piazza-Panuccio

**Coordinator of Faith Formation 7-10:** Anne Carlone-Elacqua

**Maintenance:** Patrick Zasa

**Music director:** Peter Elacqua

**Website manager, bulletin, publicity:** Fran Perritano



The Rev. Joseph Paolozzi, left, and the Rev. Joseph Berton. Paolozzi was ordained a priest in July 1962, the first parishioner to be ordained in 70 years at that time.



The Most Rev. Walter A. Foery, bishop of Syracuse, on Jan. 30, 1944, for the dedication of the nursery school.

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

## FATHER JIM'S WISE & OTHERWISE

# Stuck in a faith rut? Here's how to get out of it



The scenery doesn't change. The view never shifts. You feel the wheels spinning and hear the engine revving, but you just aren't going anywhere.

Congratulations: You're stuck in a rut. It can happen in life, in love, in work and, believe it or not, in faith.

We find ourselves going through the motions — making the right gestures, saying the right words — but we end up feeling spiritually paralyzed. Too often, what begins as a habit ends up being a chore.

The life of grace and holiness we were striving to achieve becomes more like drudgery. Go to work. Make dinner. Walk the dog. Go to church. Repeat.

What can a Christian do?

The real question, I think, is: What can a Christian be?

Turning faith into merely something you do misses the beautiful reality that faith — what we believe and how we live it — is the sum and substance of who we are.

So, first, be thankful. Second, be generous. Be prayerful.

Make gratitude the foundation of your prayer life. Develop a habit of writing down what you are thankful for. As you read your list, give God thanks and praise for your blessings.

Find something you can do to be generous with God. Visit someone who is lonely or sick, or volunteer at your parish as an usher, bulletin stuffer or small group leader. Or think about what you can do without and share more of what you have been given. Gain a renewed sense of purpose and mission by praying before meals, at the start of any project, or the end of a long day.

## NEXT WEEKEND'S SCHEDULES

### Lectors

**SATURDAY, APRIL 17**

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

Janice Felitto and Connie Watkins (POF)

**SUNDAY, APRIL 18**

**8 a.m. Mass**

David Struz and Karen Elacqua (POF)

**10:30 a.m. Mass**

Fran Perritano and Carla Percia (POF)

### Eucharistic ministers

**SATURDAY APRIL 17**

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

Anthony Fellitto, Jean Lippincott and Anthony Palumbo

**SUNDAY, APRIL 18**

**8 a.m. Mass**

Helen Toczala, Jennifer Tran and Kuhn Su

**10:30 a.m.**

Tina Caggese, Marsha LaBella and Joanne Gerace

## PARISH WEBSITE

Visit [www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com](http://www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com) for the latest parish news and announcements. There's even a mobile version for your smart phone. Here's some of what you'll find on the site:

- Wedding Planning Guide.
- Funeral Service Planning Guide.
- Weekly prayers, reflections, photos, videos and more to enrich your faith.
- Photo galleries
- Bulletin
- Father Jim's "Wise and Otherwise"
- History of the parish
- Lector, minister 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.

## Anniversary prayer to Blessed Scalabrini

Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini has a special connection to our parish. On Sept. 15, 1901, Bishop Scalabrini blessed the cornerstone of our new church. For nearly 100 years, priests from the Scalabrinian order served Mount Carmel Church. He was beatified by St. John Paul II in November 1997. As we celebrate our 125th anniversary, the following is a prayer for the year.



*Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini, you were chosen by Divine Providence to become the faithful servant of Christ to the church and to your people, the apostle of catechism and the father to the migrants. With the wisdom of your faith and strength of your courage, guide us in our pilgrimage of life to face the daily challenges and difficulties, knowing that in everything the providential love of God is at work to bring us all to a new fullness of life in Jesus and to live in harmony with one another. Listen to our prayer and entrust our petitions to Jesus through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Extend your protection to all who live and work in foreign lands and at sea, to their families at home and to all who call on you in their sorrow and distress. Thus free from fear and with a joyful heart we may give glory to God through Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

## SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish has compiled a database of email addresses that is being used to contact parishioners in case of emergencies, important schedule changes or other pertinent 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. You also can include a phone number, if you wish.

## YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

**April 3-4: Regular \$3,671; Easter \$12,074**

If you're unable to attend Mass, you still can 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.

MAKE YOUR DONATION

Donate



# From Monsignor Bill, to Father Rose, to Father Jim

*Last part in a weekly series on the beginning and growth of our parish.*

While Father Joe Salerno still was pastor, Mount Carmel was fortunate to have Deacon Bob Riggalls assigned to the parish as a pastoral associate.

Deacon Bob was ordained on Oct. 19, 1992, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse. He formerly served as senior counselor at Chenango County Catholic Charities, director of the Utica Faith Centers and was active in prison ministry.

After Father Joe left Mount Carmel in September 2002, his shoes were tough to fill as the diocese took nearly 10 months to find his replacement. In the interim, Msgr. Ronald Bill — a kind, soft-spoken priest who loved

# 125

OUR HISTORY

to sing — filled in.

In July 2003, Father John Rose arrived to become Mount Carmel's 11th pastor. He presided during a turbulent time of consolidation in the diocese as Blessed Sacrament Church merged with Mount Carmel in July 2006, forming a new parish named St. Mary of Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Father John remained pastor for a little more than five years before moving away and taking on the task of helping troubled priests.

Father James Cesta succeeded Father Rose in July 2009. He is noted for his sense of humor and instructional homilies.

Father Jim attended Our Lady of Pompei in Syracuse, and in ninth grade decided he wanted to be a priest. He loves music, art, reading, boating, hiking, swimming, minor carpentry and building.

But Father Cesta's true love is preaching the word of God.

"For me, the most important work of the parish priest is to preach the Good News of the Gospel and make it clear, understandable and helpful for daily living, to make weekend Mass a Catholic experience that leaves people feeling better when they leave church than when they entered."

## PARISH NEWS

### Please consider donating \$125 to parish in celebration of our 125th anniversary

Over the last 125 years, our parish has been cherished as a jewel in East Utica. It is a jewel with needs to be addressed as it continues moving into the years ahead.

As with any Catholic parish, there are programs, upkeep of buildings and many other expenses that all need attention. As a part of this 125th anniversary, we ask that you might consider a supporting donation of \$125. Of course, an anniversary donation of any amount would be appreciated, and if a greater one is within your reach, God bless!

Please pray over and consider this opportunity to celebrate a wonderful and blessed parish church and community with a long history and a bright future.

You may donate by placing your contribution in an envelope marked "Anniversary donation." Please return it either in the collection basket or by mailing it to the parish office at 648 Jay St., Utica, NY 13501-1398.

Call 315-735-1482 with any questions.

We thank you in advance for anything you can give.



### Food Drive-Thru planned for weekend of April 24 and 25

Our parish will conduct its second Food Drive-Thru the weekend of April 24 and 25.

On Saturday, April 24, the drive-thru will be offered from 4 to 7 p.m., or until food runs out. Food items will be sausage and peppers (sweet, hot, mixed), mushroom stew and pasta fagioli. The cost is \$5 each. Also, meatballs will be sold for \$1 each.

On Sunday, April 25, pizza frita will be available from 8 a.m. until noon for \$2 each, or until it runs out. Food also might be available Sunday based on availability.

If you come to the drive-thru, please enter at the Jay Street entrance of the parking lot where the festival takes place. Someone will come to your vehicle and take your order, which you will pick up at the gym entrance. You then exit on Catherine Street.

All servers will be wearing masks and gloves. We ask that you put on your mask when your order is taken and delivered.

We've learned our lesson from our first drive-thru when we ran out of food in 45 minutes. More has been ordered and we hope to accommodate everyone.

For information or to volunteer, call Joe Briggs at 315-368-4565.

### 'The Great Secret of Happily Married Couples'

The Third Option presents "The Great Secret of Happily Married Couples," a new series on marriage.

The meeting will take place online from 7:15 to 9 p.m. Sunday, April 11. It is sponsored

by The Third Option, a program to build better marriages. Contact Stephanie Stewart for information or to join the meeting at [ssewart@syrdio.org](mailto:ssewart@syrdio.org) or (315) 472-6728. This is a Hope Appeal-funded program.

### Helpers needed for Masses, funerals, weddings

We would like to have a few additional helpers who can work our registration tables for weekend Masses, funerals and weddings.

It is nice to have a few extra people to help.

If you are interested, contact Anne Elacqua at 315-941-7447 or [aelacqua@syrdio.org](mailto:aelacqua@syrdio.org).



## PRAYER REMEMBRANCES

### LIVING

- Michele's Birthday—Mom, Laurie and family
- Laurie and Roger Klein's Anniversary—Mom B. and Roger and Ross
- Lucille LaVine—Birthday—Theresa, Geri, Joann and Laurie
- Janice Olivella and Jeri Lynett—Gloria Simonette
- Mom and Dad (Wedding Anniversary)—daughter Rosemary and family
- Children and grandchildren—mom

### DECEASED

- Rose Mary Abraham—Jeanne Castronovo
- Alfred D. Amendolare—Gloria Simonette
- Kathleen Arcuri—Mary Ellen Shaw
- Keith Barrie—Brad and Joann Campbell
- Jason Buley—Fran Leo
- Frank Cannistra—Jeanne Castronovo
- Frank Cannistra—V. Rocci
- Marie E. Caputo—Becky and Steve LoPiccolo
- Maria Caputo—V. Rocci
- Samuel Cardamone—Connie Watkins
- Pasquale, Mary and Tasha Cardinale—Ray Cardinale
- Joseph Catera—Cookie, Jude, Dina, and Tonia Abruzzo
- Joseph Catera—Marlene and Joe LiBritz
- Joseph Catera—Jean Masercola
- Bette Corea—Natalie Larkin
- Suzanne D'Amore—Anthony and Diane Laria
- Tom DeCrescenzo Jr.—Mom and Dad
- Al DeSantis—Carol, Dennis and Christopher Tuttle
- Victoria Duesler—Bill True
- Virginia and Paul Fierro—family
- Rose Carbone Gamello—Phyllis and Anthony J. Palumbo
- Christopher Gilberti—Dawn (Felitto) and Randy Butler
- Carmella Graziadei Grande—Rocco and Lisa Grande and family
- George W. Inserra—Carmella and family
- Pasquale and Roma Inserra—Joe and Barbara Inserra
- Fred and Theresa LaBella—Carol



### Prayer Remembrance policy

Prayer Remembrances must be submitted two weeks in advance of the desired publication date. Those received this weekend 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. To ensure that all your intentions are listed as requested, please do not write multiple intentions on ONE envelope as oftentimes names are inadvertently omitted. If you have a prayer intention that you would like parishioners to pray for, please call Pattie Franco at 733-4210. She, along with members of our prayer line, will be glad to pray for you.

- Martin (Marty) Landesman—wife Virginia
- Josephine Lofaro—family
- Petrina Lumbrazo—Gina, Jeff and Alana Batson
- Ida and Josephine Manze—David Struz
- Ida M. and Josephine D. Manze and family—will
- Manze and Motto Families—will
- Anthony "Tony" Marino—Jeanne Castronovo
- Anthony Marino—Mary Teti and family
- June Hardt Maugeri—family
- Frank Mazza—wife Josephine
- Arlene Munson—Fran and Don Leo
- Norton—Bee
- Pat—Regina
- Rosalie Parrotta—Joann and Brad Campbell
- Marco and Palma Piccolino—children and grandchildren
- Michael Purcell—Francis and Marianne Lee
- Mary (Angelo) Sardelli—Jeanne Castronovo



### Memorials

- The gospel light is lit in memory of **Josie (Coria) Morreale** by family.
- The St. Joseph candle is lit in memory of **Frank Wojnas** by family.

- Angelo Scaccia—Christopher Tuttle
- Victor Sellati—Bruna, Lisa and Teresa Spirdigliozzi
- Angela Shaw—Mary Ellen Shaw
- Carol Sterwart Simichik—Joe and Barbara Inserra
- Stan and Mary Struz—family
- Christine Suppa—Bill True
- Joseph Suppa—Aunt Theresa, Regina George, Pasquale and Theresa Ianno, Francis Lee, Mary Teresa, Francis and Kellyann Mercurio, the Parish
- Kathleen Timpano—Pasquale and Theresa Ianno
- Kay Timpano—Mary Ellen Shaw
- Kathleen Timpano—Ann Trozzi and family
- Anthony R. and Erminia M. Trino—daughter Edye
- Joseph Vaccarelli—David Vaccarelli
- Raffaele (Ralph) Ventura—Brad and Joann Campbell
- Ralph Ventura—Dawn (Felitto) and Randy Butler
- Sam Ventura—Jeanne Castronovo
- Josephine Vescera—Geri Bello
- Josephine Vescera—Bob Dellecese and Joann Longo
- Josephine Vescera—Maria Centolella
- Maria Sorce Vullo—Rocco and Lisa Grande
- Frank Wojnas—Tom and Grace DeCrescenzo
- Carol Zasa—Bonnie Gardiner, Paul and Rosemary Hanley, Pasquale and Theresa Ianno, John, Jean, Matt and Chris, Jean Masercola, Mary T. Mercurio, Dave Struz and Liz Loughlin, Patty and Dave Watson

# THIS WEEK'S MEDITATION, INTENTIONS

## Resurrection Prayer

Lord of Easter,

You invite me to touch your open wounds every time I reach out to those who seek my help or guidance.

Open my heart to welcome the stranger, fill my spirit with compassion for the abused, the judged and the maligned. Stretch out my hands to comfort the suffering. May my words and prayers heal those who are hurt, doubting or angry. May my intention always be to reflect your presence, by becoming and offering the gift of your peace in the world. Amen.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Response: Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

• For the church. May we know the power of resurrection and the promise of new life in every aspect of our lives. May we find ways to heal the effects of this pandemic.

**We ask: Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**



"The Incredulity of St. Thomas" (Caravaggio, 1603)

• May we know the power of forgiveness. Free us from doubt, anger and resentment. Give us patience with ourselves and with others. Fill us with peace.

**We ask: Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

• For the grace of healing. May our

wounds of body, mind and spirit. Enable us to be instruments of healing and hope for the poor, the homeless, the homebound and the immigrant.

**We ask: Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

• May the world be flooded with faith. May we find the truth through prayer and discernment. And may we have strength to confront the illusions, lies and false promises that surround us.

**We ask: Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

• Be with those who question or doubt the power of faith and the hope of religion. Guide their thoughts, judgments or fear. May they witness God's presence through the love and acceptance of others.

**We ask: Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

• For our own intentions. For our beloved sick and our dying, for all who are afflicted by addiction or by grief; and for all who are in need of our prayers and support.

**We ask: Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

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