

SUNDAY, DEC. 26, 2021

*St. Mary  
of Mount Carmel  
Blessed  
Sacrament  
Parish*





## FATHER JIM'S WISE & OTHERWISE

# A Christmas prayer and wish for everyone

*May the gentle winds of God blow over us  
at Christmas coming and warm the coldness of our living.*

*May God's goodness and the starlight  
of a Christmas sky fall upon our rough ways.*

*May the majesty of God be reflected in worldly tinsel  
of the trees we admire in our homes.*

*May we see in each other something of the divine  
that came to us in Jesus.*

*And may we pause in our earthbound ways  
and places to risk the possibility of peace for Christmas.*

Father Cesta



## UPCOMING IN OUR PARISH

### New Year's Eve

- Friday, Dec. 31: 4:30 p.m.

### New Year's Day

- Saturday, Jan. 1: 9 a.m.

### Sunday, Jan. 9

- Junior High Formation: 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

### Monday, Jan. 10

- First Reconciliation class: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. children's class and parents meeting.

### Sunday, Jan. 16

- Junior High Formation: 6:30

to 7:45 p.m.

### Saturday, Jan. 22

- First Reconciliation: 10 a.m. in church.

### Sunday, Jan. 23

- K-6 Faith Formation: 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.
- Junior High Formation: 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

### Sunday, Jan. 30

- K-6 Faith Formation: 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.
- Junior High Formation: 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

## NEXT WEEKEND'S SCHEDULES

### Lectors

#### NEW YEAR'S EVE, DEC. 31 4:30 p.m. Mass

Joe Siniscarco, Terri Reale and Fran Perritano (POF)

#### NEW YEAR'S DAY, JAN. 1 9 a.m. Mass

Fred Valentini, Clara Dempsey and Carol Trinco (POF)

#### SUNDAY, JAN. 2 8 a.m. Mass

Leigh D'Agostino and Terri Reale (POF)

#### 10:30 a.m. Mass

Maria Kozak and Sean Ryer (POF)

### Eucharistic Ministers

#### NEW YEAR'S EVE, DEC. 31 4 p.m. Mass

Leo Callari, Maria Callari and Marie Bova

#### NEW YEAR'S DAY, JAN. 1 9 a.m. Mass

Anthony Palumbo

#### SUNDAY, JAN. 2 8 a.m. Mass

Larry Bova, Mar Ko and Marie Bova

#### 10:30 a.m. Mass

Ken Visalli, John Reale Jr. and Fran Leo

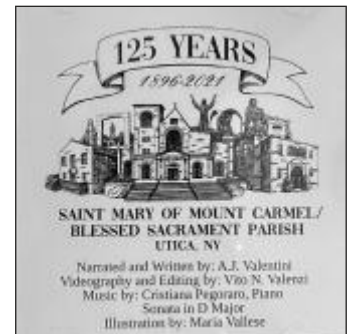
## Video history of our parish is available now on DVD

Our popular video series (six short episodes) on the history of our parish is available on DVD.

View 125 years of the development of our parish. See our church building morph over time from a damp basement into the beautiful place we all know today.

Copies may be purchased for \$12 at the parish office and after Masses on the weekend. All proceeds will go to support our parish and its ministries.

Only 100 copies have been made, so get your copies soon.



## Prayer remembrance policy reminder

A friendly reminder: To ensure that all your Mass intentions are listed as requested, please DO NOT write multiple intentions on one envelope or on sheets of paper. Each Mass intention MUST use one of the prayer remembrance envelopes that are available in church. We file the envelopes with the Mass intentions as part of our record keeping. When we receive multiple intentions on one envelope or separate sheets, office staff is forced to fill out the envelopes for each intention, which takes up a great deal of time. We kindly ask that you adhere to this policy.

## YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Dec. 18-19: Not available
- Hope Appeal: \$22,180 (Goal: \$34,220)
- 125th anniversary: \$42,145

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.

## PARISH NEWS

# Planning a baptism? Parents need to attend 1-hour preparation session

Baptism is the first sacrament of initiation. It is a beautiful ceremony that welcomes the baby (or adult) into the Catholic faith and to free them from the original sin that we were all born with. It links you to the grace and love of God. Symbols of water, light and oil are used.

We have begun a new program for families who will be baptizing their child in our church. All parents who would like their child to receive the Sacrament of Baptism must attend a preparation session before their child is baptized. The session occurs from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the Salerno Room.

The first baptism prep hour will be Tuesday, Feb. 1. When you contact the rectory (315-735-1482) to set up your child's baptism, you also will set up the baptism prep session as well. The baptism session explains the sacrament, its symbols and meaning and much more.

We look forward to meeting you and your family. If you need further information, contact Anne Elacqua at 315-941-7447 or [aelacqua@syrдио.org](mailto:aelacqua@syrдио.org).



# Bishop Lucia to host listening sessions around area

Pope Francis has called for a synod to take place in every diocese of the world over the next few months.

In response to this call, and in conjunction with preparation for that World Synod of Bishops, the Diocese of Syracuse will conduct a Diocesan Synod in the spring of 2024.

In preparation for this synod, Bishop Douglas Lucia is conducting listening sessions throughout the diocese. They begin at 6:30 p.m. Here are those in our area:

- **Tuesday, Jan. 4:** St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church, 422 Tilden Ave., Utica.
- **Tuesday, Jan. 25:** St. Paul's Church, Rome.
- **Thursday, Feb. 3:** St. John the Evangelist Church, New
- **Wednesday, Feb. 9:** Holy Trinity Church, Utica, in the gym.

Anyone — Catholic or non-Catholic — is invited to attend to offer ideas and observations on the future of the Catholic Church.

A synod is a time of listening and sharing. Instead of a few people making decisions to give direction to the church, Pope Francis envisions another way. During this time when so many are divided, our pope is calling us to dialogue, to listen to others, and to think and pray collectively about the directions we all see for the church.

The results of each diocesan synod will be gathered together and brought to Rome where they will be considered and hopefully provide directions in which the Church can grow.



## How do I prepare myself?

First, take some time to pray. What is your message to our bishop? What do you want him to bring to the pope? What ways do you see to build a better church for future generations?

Write something short, or even bullet points that you can express in just a couple of minutes.

If you prefer to read your thoughts, you will be allowed to do so. The time period allotted for each speaker will be given at the beginning of the session.

Attending a synod meeting will make you feel like you are part of a larger church, a diocesan church, and the universal church in the world. Ask God to bless your thoughts and ideas and attend the meeting with an open and listening heart.



## New Year's Mass schedules

### New Year's Eve

- **Friday, Dec. 31:** 4:30 p.m.

### New Year's Day

- **Saturday, Jan. 1:** 9 a.m.
- **Note:** There is **NO** 4:30 p.m. Mass.

### Sunday, Jan. 2

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



## Marriage preparation classes planned

Diocesan marriage preparation classes begin in February.

They will take place on Saturdays, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$75.

For information and to register, call 315-472-6754, extension 2. If couples are unable to attend any of these classes, they are welcome to register for other approved online courses:

Here's the schedule.

- **Feb. 5:** The Good News Center, Utica.
- **March 5:** Christ the King Retreat House, Syracuse.
- **April 2:** The Good News Center, Utica.
- **May 7:** Christ the King Retreat House, Syracuse.
- **June 11:** Online through Zoom.

## Winter morning Mass cancellation policy

During the winter months, the morning Mass will not be offered if Utica schools are closed. So, check the news in the morning.



## THIS WEEK'S PRAYER REMEMBRANCES

### LIVING

- Carmela Commisso—daughter Judy and family
- Dominick A. Plado Costante—mom
- Kristina Martin and family—mom
- John and Catherine Plado—daughter-in-law Judy and family
- Children and Grandchildren—mom

### DECEASED

- Donna Abraham—Aunt Carmie and cousin Roc
- Sara Mae Angelo—will
- Michael Bello—Gerry, children and grandchildren
- Jennie Boulrier—Stephen and Patti Geary and family
- Michael Campanaro Family—granddaughter Carm
- Nicoletta Campanaro—sister Carm and nephew Roc
- William and Cora Campanaro—daughter Carmelita and Roc
- William Campanaro Jr.—sister Carm and nephew Roc
- Giuseppa and Michelangelo Cancilla—daughter-in-law Mary Cancilla and family
- Rose Cancilla—sister-in-law—Mary Cancilla and family
- Vincent (Enzio) Cancilla—wife Mary Cancilla, children and grandchildren
- Candido Family—granddaughter Carm
- Josephine Cangelo—the parish
- Michael A. Castelli—Patricia Kennedy
- Bob Ciancaglini—Fay and family
- Antoinette “Toni” M. Padula Cinque—Padula/Clark Families
- Rocco Commisso—daughter Judy and family
- Rocco Commisso—Dominick and Michelle Commisso and family
- Dominick Plado Costante—wife and children
- John DeCarlo Jr.—sister
- Thomas DeCrescenzo—The Frank DeCrescenzo and Levit Family
- Elaine A. DelMonico—son Marc
- Ursula DelMonte—family
- Tom DeSimone—Joe, JoAnn and family
- Dicembre Family—sister Vincenzina and family
- Fred J. and Thelma DiSimone—will
- Norton Esposito—Bee
- Carmen Bruno Filletti—Mr. and Mrs. Philip S. Enea
- Frank Finamore—Gina, Frank and Chris
- Carmella Graziadei Grande—Rocco and Lisa Grande and Family
- Grandparents—Dominick and Michelle Commisso and family



### 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. 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 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.

- George and Mary Inserra—daughter Bee
- Pasquale and Roma Inserra—Joe and Barbara Inserra
- Nicholas Laino Sr.—Nancy and family
- Rocco and Josephine Lofaro—family
- Paul and Finita Mancuso Families—will
- Ida and Josephine Manze—David Struz
- Ida M. and Josephine D. Manze and family—will
- Manze and Motto Families—will
- Anthony and Josephine Mastro—Marie Mastro
- Robert M. Padula—nephew Marc DelMonico and Padula/Clark Families
- Frances Pelli—Dominick and Michelle Commisso and family
- Phyllis Piccola—husband Jim and family
- Marco and Palma Piccolino—children and grandchildren
- Dominick Plado—Dominick and Michelle Commisso and family
- Francesco Raspante—granddaughter Mary Cancilla and family
- Joseph and Jennie Raspante—daughter Mary Cancilla and family
- Janet Raymer—St. Anne Society
- Lucy N. and Armand J. Salerno—grandson Marc DelMonico and Padula/Clark



### Memorials

- The sanctuary lamps are lit in memory of **Steve Fontaine** by wife Delores and family; **Rocco Commisso** by wife Carmela and family; **Ray Alessandrini** by loving wife and family.
- The gospel light is lit in memory of **Rocco and Josephine Lofaro** by family.
- The St. Marianne Cope candle is lit in memory of **Frances Ann Cimino and Stephen F. Cimino** by sister Mary Teresa.
- The St. Joseph candle is lit in memory of **Donald (Dino) Franco** by wife Carol and family.

### Funerals

- **James V. Peters**

### Memorial offerings

Please call the parish office at 315-735-1482 to schedule your intentions.

- Monthly donations toward altar bread and altar wine are \$75 each.
- Altar candles (two available each month) are \$15 each.
- The weekly sanctuary lamps (three available each week) gospel light, St. Joseph and St. Marianne Cope candles are all \$10 per week.

### Families

- Elizabeth Scalise—the parish
- Stan and Mary Struz—family
- Enrico Stucchi—wife Assunta
- Edith Summa—Rosanne, Laura and Tommy McCabe
- Sal Suppa Sr.—Theresa, children and grandchildren
- Robert “Robbie” Tantillo—Betty Campola
- Joseph Teti—wife Mary and family
- Anthony R. and Erminia M. Trino—daughter Edye
- Tony Trotta—Joann, Roxanne and Matt
- Joseph and Rose Voce—daughter
- Maria Sorce Vullo—Rocco and Lisa Grande
- William, Chancy and Michael C. Wicks—Mary, John, Sara and John Russo
- Robert Willson—Bob and Angela Ferdula
- Robert D. Willson—Terry and John Reale

# THIS WEEK'S MEDITATION, INTENTIONS

## Christmas Prayer

*Jesus, I open my mind and heart to you.  
Come and be born anew within me  
that I may see truth in the world,  
that I may understand how to listen  
with compassion,  
how to speak with mercy,  
how to love without judgment,  
how to be a channel of your  
peace and goodness.  
In these times of disease,  
pandemic, prejudice,  
climate crisis, hunger, gun violence,  
war and paralyzing fear,  
we all need Christmas peace, silent nights,  
joy in our world, grace and blessing.  
Give me wisdom and discernment.  
Strengthen my discipleship, courage  
and commitment.  
Lord of Christmas, dwell within me  
and bring peace to us all. Amen.*

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Response: Lord, hear your people's prayer.**  
• For the Church. Give us the faith and



*"The Holy Family with a Lamb" (Raphael, 1507)*

trust of Mary and Joseph. Help us persevere when we confront trials, dilemmas or uncertainties.

**We ask: Lord, hear your people's prayer.**

• For healing in our human family. Help our brothers and sisters who struggle through poverty, hunger and war. Open our hearts to

migrants and refugees. Bring lasting peace to our world.

**We ask: Lord, hear your people's prayer.**

• Bless married and engaged couples and single people. Bless our children and our aged parents. Inspire all who are alienated by broken families. Show us how to best accept and love each other.

**We ask: Lord, hear your people's prayer.**

• For all who are away from their families at this time. For children who are missing or at risk. For those who live alone and without family support. Help them find healing, direction and care.

**We ask: Lord, hear your people's prayer.**

• For those who suffer because of bad health or grief. For children and adolescents who need direction. For victims of abuse and addiction. Open their pathways toward healing.

**We ask: Lord, hear your people's prayer.**

• For the intentions we bring to mind in our silence ...

**We ask: Lord, hear your people's prayer.**

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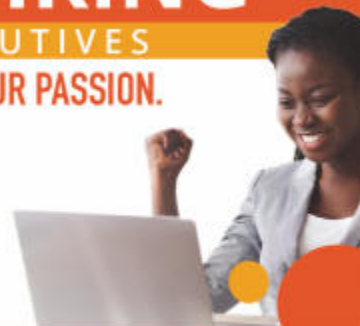


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