

SUNDAY, JAN. 9, 2022



St. Mary of Mount Carmel Blessed Sacrament Parish

www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com and 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 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

Couples must 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 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
Faith Formation K-6: Terri Piazza-Panuuccio
Faith Formation 7-10: Anne Carlone-Elacqua
Buildings and grounds: Fran D'Ambrosio
Music director: Peter Elacqua
Website manager, bulletin, publicity: Fran Perritano



FATHER JIM'S WISE & OTHERWISE

Make better use of opportunities we're given

The first month of a new year always brings thoughts, hopes and even resolutions about how to be a better person, to enjoy a better year.

One suggestion might be to strive to make better use of the opportunities, gifts and days God gives us. Our choices can make a big difference not only for ourselves, but for the world around us.

Back in 2004, two people won large lottery prizes — but each used their opportunity in different ways.

A man won \$315 million on a Powerball lottery, spending much of it on luxury items for himself. Eventually, he



was ordered into substance-abuse treatment in West Virginia after his second drunken-driving arrest within a few months.

Debi Faris-Cifelli of California won that state's Super Lotto Jackpot of \$27 million. She provided funerals for abandoned babies and she helped to inspire a law to save unwanted newborns.

I once saw a bumper sticker that read, "Do not follow me — I am lost." This thought made me think, "Am I one of those people going in circles without any set destination in mind? Am I living a life of quiet desperation because I have lost my goal of living? I may have given up on being good, religious, hardworking, and now I am running bored and blind and baffled. Did I lose my way?"

Christianity is not a system of human philosophy, nor a religious ritual, nor a code of ethics; but it is a life imparted to us through Christ.

Jesus Christ is the way, the life and the truth. It is only in Christ, we can know the way of our going, the joy of our life, and the understanding of our living.

And the otherwise ...

Right in the middle of his sermon, Father Brown saw that Tony got up and left. He returned to church before the closing hymn. Afterward, Father Brown asked, "Where did you go, Tony?"

"I went to get a haircut" was his reply.

"Buy why didn't you do that before the Mass?" asked Father Brown.

"Because I didn't need one then."

UPCOMING IN OUR PARISH

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.

Sunday, Feb. 6

- **K-6 Faith Formation:** 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.
- **First Communion enrollment Mass:** 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 13

- **K-6 Faith Formation:** 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 20

- **K-6 Faith Formation:** 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

NEXT WEEKEND'S SCHEDULES

Lectors

SATURDAY, JAN. 15
4:30 p.m. Mass

Mary Martin and Karen McBride (POF)

SUNDAY, JAN. 16
8 a.m. Mass

Mary Rose Leone and Dennis Toczala (POF)

10:30 a.m. Mass

Clara Dempsey and Scott Bolen (POF)

Eucharistic ministers

SATURDAY JAN. 15
4:30 p.m. Mass

Debbie Hayes, Mary Lynn Rebisz and Roger Rebisz

SUNDAY, JAN. 16
8 a.m. Mass

John Reale Sr., Mar Ko and Kuhn Su

10:30 a.m.

Joanne Gerace, Mary Teti and Ta Eh

PARISH WEBSITE

Visit 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.

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 using the subject line PARISH EMAIL. You also can include a phone number, if you wish.

YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- **Dec. 24-25:** \$8,293
- **Dec. 26:** \$5,591
- **Jan. 1-2:** \$6,050
- **Hope Appeal:** \$25,240 (Goal: \$34,220)

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

On the feast of the baptism of Jesus, we honor children christened in 2021

Sunday, Jan 9, is the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. This weekend we recognize all the children who were baptized in our parish in 2021. Baptism is the first sacrament of initiation. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

- Jacob Patrick Allen
- Nora Appolina Allen
- Ivy Rita Rose Allen
- Logan Samuel Angell
- Rocco Francis Arcuri III
- Luis Enrique Arzola
- Elle Parker Barletta
- Isla Rose Barres
- Silvio Benito Barres-Mendez
- Nora Isabella Blystone
- Elijah David Bosworth
- Francesca Marie Bucciero
- Giuliana Rose Calenzo
- Cecilia Rose Carretero
- Chiara Ann Cerminaro
- Luke Philip Cook
- Vincente Luis Cuevas
- Tressa Noelle DeCondo
- Jacob Antonio Diaz
- David Batiste Dorsagno
- Cecilia Maria Elefante
- Nicholas Jeffrey Elefante
- Lucas Michael Ferreira
- Isabella Inez Hanretty



- Brendan Sut Seng Awng Jahkyi
- Cecilia Carol Knight
- Lucia Lynn Laribee

- Giulia Ann Lazzaro
- Gioia Greta Leone
- Giovanni Antonio Lucenti
- Nico Giovanni Maggio
- Elliana Danny-Lee Marley
- Nora Deborah Mazzara
- Penelope Rose Murphy
- Isabella Lynn Pardi
- Scarlett Renae Paternoster
- Htee Moo Paw
- Dante Daniel Reaves
- Santino Anthony Saponaro
- Zachary George Schulman
- Eli Dominic Scott
- Francis Raymond Suppa IV
- Brycen David Taurisani
- Ailee Mae Tringo
- Joyce Philip Tutino
- Gemma Ariella Velardi
- Carmine Michael Velletto
- Corinna Jae Wasielewski
- Sydney Bryanne Young
- Rosa Elizabeth Yozzo
- Riley Lane Zasa

Baptism information session a must for parents

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@syrdio.org.

Video history of parish now available 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. All proceeds support our parish and its ministries.

Submitting bulletin items

Do you have an announcement or item you want published in the bulletin? If so, please submit the item via email to fperitano@syrdio.org two weeks before publication. Include your name, phone number and dates of publication.



What if I don't believe this synod process will work?

Take some time to pray. Ask God to use you and your life experience as a vessel to help us find directions for the church. Pray to believe in this different process of decision-making.

It is not common to make decisions in this way. But remember, we live in a world and in a time when bad decisions are being made often. Perhaps we need to find a new way to make decisions? Perhaps this process will help us consider difficult issues with deeper understanding and with more compassion.

Difficult issues are not always just two-sided: right or wrong. Difficult issues have many layers. The synod process can help reveal many layers of issues and it can bring us closer to each other as we search together for answers.

Even if you decide not to attend a synod meeting, pray for the success of the synod process.

Upcoming listening sessions

Bishop Douglas Lucia is conducting listening sessions throughout the diocese. They begin at 6:30 p.m. Here are those in our area. (Be advised that COVID concerns might postpone some sessions.)

• **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.

ALSO OF INTEREST

No morning Mass on Monday, Tuesday

There will be no morning Mass on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday this week. The 8:30 a.m. Mass resumes Thursday,

Thank you note

"To the parishioners of Mt. Carmel/ Blessed Sacrament: Thank you for your donations to Care Net. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. The women and children will be blessed because of your thoughtfulness."

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER REMEMBRANCES

LIVING

- Ann Doolen—Diana Hahn
- Don Doolen—Diana Hahn
- John Evans—Diana Hahn
- Bobby Giglio—Diana Hahn
- Lorraine Giglio—Diana Hahn
- Benji Hahn—Diana Hahn
- Rev. Dennis Walker—David Struz
- Bill Whitney—Diana Hahn
- Children and Grandchildren—mom

DECEASED

- Victor E. Frances M. Basile—son Dick and Diane Basile
- Michael A. Castelli—Joe and Dina Russo
- Angeline Coiro—son Ed and Janice
- Carol Ann (DeCarlo) Day—sister Diane and Dick Basile
- Nicholas and Florence DeCarlo—daughter Diana and Dick Basile
- Ursula DelMonte—family
- Carmen Bruno Filletti—Betty Arcuri
- Carmen Filletti—Mt. Carmel Society
- Carmen Filletti—St. Ann Society
- Carmen B. Filletti—Fred and JoAnn Valenti
- Carmella Graziadei Grande—Rocco and Lisa Grande and family
- Pasquale and Roma Inserra—Joe and Barbara Inserra
- Stanley and Kenneth Jalowiec—Tony and Marilyn
- Rekha Anne John—The Loughlins
- Ida and Josephine Manze—David Struz
- Ida M. and Josephine D. Manze and fam-



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.

ily—will

- Manze and Motto Families—will
- Giovanni Martorana—cousin Mary Cancilla and family
- James Peters—V. Rocci
- James V. "Jimmy" Peters—Steve and



Funerals

- Giuseppina Cacciotti

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.

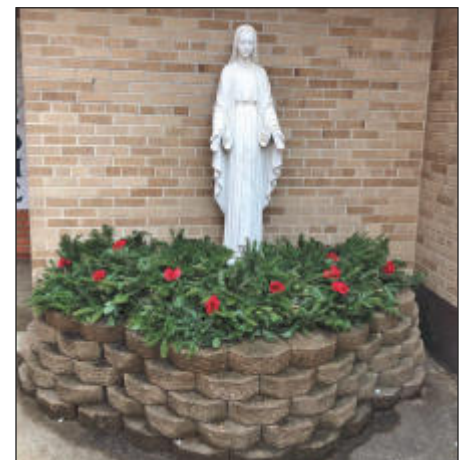
Betty Calenzo

- James V. "Jimmy" Peters—Pat and Brenda Castelli
- James V. Peters—the parish
- Janet Raymer—Phyllis J. Ricco
- Roger C. Rose—Steve and Betty Calenzo
- Isabella Cucci Shanley—Angela Gentile
- Sam Simbari—the parish
- Stan and Mary Struz—family
- Anthony R. and Erminia M. Trino—daughter Edye
- Maria Sorce Vullo—Rocco and Lisa Grande and family



The Magi celebrated during the Feast of the Epiphany

The Feast of the Epiphany was celebrated in a special way during Masses last Sunday. At the 8:30 a.m. Mass (left photo), Kyeh Rea, Kuhn Su and Francisco Royu represented the Three Wise Men. At the 10:30 a.m. Mass, La Aung, Ta Eh and Oo Shoo offered the gifts of the Magi. View more photos and a video on our parish website at www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com.



A sign of hope

The small shrine of the statue of the Blessed Mother at the Jay Street entrance always looks beautiful spring through fall, but winter is another story. So, Karen Elacqua and daughter Beth did something about it with greenery and flowers. Check it out soon.

THIS WEEK'S MEDITATION, INTENTIONS

Personal prayer

Your love, O God, fills our Christmas season.
 Even in these times that seem so dark,
 days and nights filled
 with fear and confusion,
 your Gospel Light shines through.
 Like heavens torn open before us,
 your spirit of love descends,
 your voice rebounds throughout the world
 with echoes sweeping from past
 to future generations
 showing your delight in us.
 You have chosen us
 to live in this time,
 to bring witness to our faith.
 Now, when many are lonely and afraid,
 we proclaim boldly
 that we are safely yours, that all is yours.
 Strengthen us; make us mighty
 so that we may confront these times
 with faith and vision.
 Pour your waters of grace
 and blessing upon us. Shower us in tender
 safety and comforting peace.
 Amen.



"The Baptism of Christ"
 (Andrea Verrocchio and Leonardo da Vinci, 1475)

Prayer of the Faithful

Response: Lord, hear your people's prayer.

- Renew the church. Stir up the gift of the Spirit within us. Make us bold in our faith and dynamic witnesses to your love.
- We ask: Lord, hear your people's prayer.**
- Embrace our world. Strengthen us to bear daily challenges and to confront our

struggles with faith. Help us find ways to heal discrimination, injustice, poverty and violence.

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

- Inspire all the baptized and confirmed to be faithful to their promises. Fill them with zeal and courage.

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

- Heal all who are blind to your love. May those alienated from the Church know and feel that they are welcome. Open our hearts to all who are seeking.

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

- Shepherd our beloved sick and grieving. Console the homebound, those alone, afraid and imprisoned. Comfort the dying; release the addicted and the abused. Bring us peace of mind and safety during this time of pandemic.

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

- Hear the prayers we offer in silence ...

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

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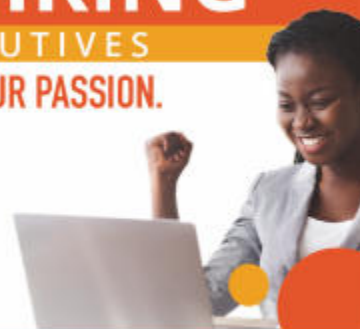


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