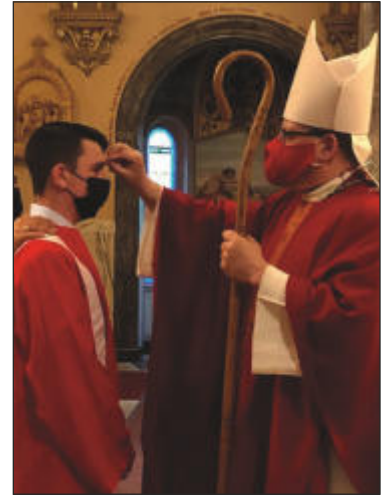


SUNDAY, JAN. 16, 2022



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. 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
Faith Formation K-6: Terri Piazza-Panuccio
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

When God says 'no,' think about your questions

I asked God to take away my pride, and God said NO. He said it was not for him to take away but for me to give up.

I asked God to grant me patience, and God said NO. He said that patience is a by-product of tribulations; it isn't granted, it's earned.

I asked God to give me happiness, and God said NO. He said he gives blessings; happiness is up to me.

I asked God to spare me pain, and God said NO. He said suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to Him.

I asked God to make my spirit grow, and God said NO. He said I must grow on my own; but he will prune me to make me fruitful.

I asked God if He loves me, and God said YES. He gave His only Son who died for me, and I will be in heaven some day because I

believe.

I asked God to help me love others as much as He loves me and God said, "Ah, finally you have understood."

And the otherwise ...

A couple desperate to conceive a child went to their priest and asked him to pray for them.

"I'm going on a sabbatical to Rome," he replied, "and while I'm there, I'll light a candle for you."

When the priest returned three years later, he went to the couple's house and found the wife pregnant, busily attending to two sets of twins. Elated, the priest asked her where her husband was so that he could congratulate him.

"He's gone to Rome, to blow out that candle!"



UPCOMING IN OUR PARISH

Please note: Junior High Formation resumes Sunday, Feb. 27.

Sunday, Jan. 23

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

Sunday, Jan. 30

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



Sunday, Feb. 27

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

Monday, Feb. 28

- Ninth-10th-grade Faith Formation: 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.
- First Communion class, parents meeting: 6:30 to 7:35 p.m.

NEXT WEEKEND'S SCHEDULES

Lectors

SATURDAY, JAN. 22
4:30 p.m. Mass

Carol Trinco and Michael Arcuri (POF)

SUNDAY, JAN. 23
8 a.m. Mass

Karen Elacqua and David Struz (POF)

10:30 a.m. Mass

Carla Percia and Fran Perritano (POF)

Eucharistic ministers

SATURDAY JAN. 22
4:30 p.m. Mass

Marie Luce, Fran Leo and Anthony Palumbo

SUNDAY, JAN. 23
8 a.m. Mass

Bob Ferdula, Marie Mastro and Michael Zasa

10:30 a.m.

Marsha LaBella, Tina Caggese and La Aung

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

Jan. 8-9: \$3,376/Hope Appeal: \$25,780

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



PARISH NEWS

WANTED: ALTAR SERVERS



Through its 125-year history, our parish has been blessed with many dedicated altar servers. The last two years, however, our servers have declined in numbers. We ask parents to prayerfully consider letting your child be part of this important ministry. The child must be in third grade or above. We need servers for the 4:30 p.m. Saturday Mass, and the 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday Masses. Please send your child's name, your email address and Mass your child can serve to fperritano@syrdio.org. Once we have enough servers, training will be provided and a schedule produced.

We're still about \$8,440 short of Hope Appeal goal

The 2021 Hope Appeal has been ongoing in our parish for more than four months.

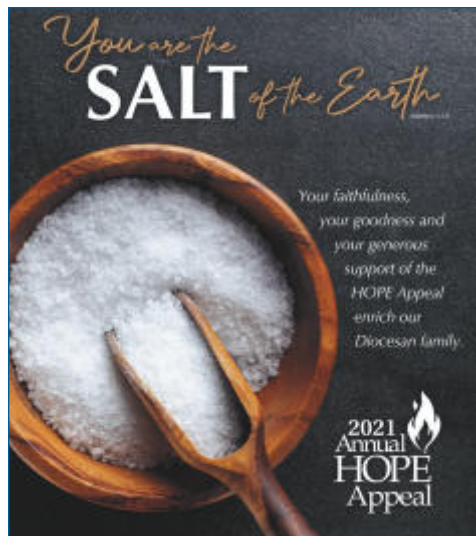
Our assessment is \$34,220. So far, \$25,780 has been pledged or donated, putting us about \$8,500 short.

Parishioners received information awhile back in the mail. If you didn't get one, donation material is available in church and in the parish office.

If you haven't made a contribution yet, we kindly ask that you give whatever you can.

The Hope Appeal is the annual giving campaign of the Diocese of Syracuse. Every year, the programs and services supported by the Hope Appeal touch countless lives in every city, town, and rural area in our diocese — including the Utica area.

Our parish community is filled with many generous people. We ask that you chip in to help others in need in our area and diocese.



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.

How can the church be more relevant to those who left?

This is a great question. Some people think we need to return to more tradition. Others think we need to find new ways to keep younger people in the church and bring back those who have left.

There are no easy answers. But Pope Francis, along with many Church leaders, believe that if we address this question together, we can find better answers. Bring this question to your prayer; think about people you know, perhaps even your own family members — what might bring them back or keep them within the church? Do we need to find ways for the church to better address the needs of our modern world?

Your prayerful thoughts are important to us. Take some time to come to a synod meeting in our diocese; express what you think in a positive and constructive way. The meeting itself will inspire you, and our bishop will be listening to what you offer.



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.

Thank-you note

The following was received from Jane Dominique, executive director of Thea Bowman House:

More than 50 families of Thea Bowman House received gifts this Christmas through donors who found a way in the midst of the pandemic to provide food, clothing and toys for children and their caregivers.

We want to thank each of you for the part you played in shopping, wrapping gifts and showering those in need with holiday turkeys and hams, and a great Christmas party.

It is also very important to thank Janet Furgal and her faithful volunteers who were the elves running Santa's workshop at our Lafayette Street center.

As we begin this new year, we are so grateful for the generosity that helped to brighten the lives of so many. Happy New Year.

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER REMEMBRANCES

LIVING

- Children and grandchildren—mom

DECEASED

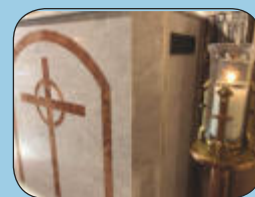
- Raymond Alessandrini—Peter and Karen Elacqua
- Lorraine Babrowicz Belt—Karen Elacqua
- Pasquale Caputo—Peter and Karen Elacqua
- Daniel and Mary Cichon—family
- Stephen Cimino—Giruzzi Family
- Rocco Commisso—Bob and Rosemary
- Augustine DeCarlis—family
- Victoria Duesler—Bill True
- Joseph and Flora Elacqua—family
- Peter Elacqua—family
- Carmen Bruno Filletti—Rosemarie Chiffy
- Carmen Bruno Filletti—Jean Masercola
- Carmella Graziadei Grande—Rocco and Lisa Grande and family
- Thomas T. Graziano—wife
- Frances Grassi—John, Jean, Matthew and Christopher
- Matthew Guzzetta—son Joseph and family
- Pasquale and Roma Inserra—Joe and Barbara Inserra
- Frank Mankowski—Kathleen Ball
- Ida and Josephine Manze—David Struz
- Ida M. and Josephine D. Manze—will
- Manze and Motto families—will
- Helen Nudo—Theresa Casey
- Angelo Pedulla—Frances
- James V. Peters—Barbara Broccoli
- James V. Peters—Fred and Anne Bruzzese
- George H. Reynolds—Regina George
- Lucy Salerno—grandson, Marc DelMónico
- Isabelle Sfinas—Elaine and Joseph Furgol



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.

- Isabelle Sfinas—Marie and Charles Marchione
- Stan and Mary Struz—family
- Anthony R. and Erminia M. Trino—daughter Edye
- Maria Sorce Vullo—Rocco and Lisa Grande
- Matthew Bryan Vescera—Mary and Leonard Jones
- Robert Willson—Rosemarie Chiffy



Memorials

- The sanctuary lamps are lit in memory of **Thomas DeCrescenzo Jr.** by Aunt Ann and family.
- The St. Joseph candle is lit in memory of **deceased members of Caruso and Flihan families** by Ricky.

Baptism

- **James Vincent Carbone IV**

Funerals

- **Doreen A. Gigliotti-Balls**
- **Helen Cardarelli**
- **Carol F. Ortis**
- **John J. Salvo**
- **Shirley A. Ziemba**

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.

- Gertrude Young—M/M Louis Spiridigliozzi

Mother Marianne's West Side Kitchen seeks volunteers

Mother Marianne's West Side Kitchen needs volunteers — people who care and are committed to giving their time and their love to the most precious clients we serve.

You could be working in the kitchen, preparing meals, serving our clients or assisting with

maintenance and cleaning.

Or, you could be working in the boutique, helping to organize items or assisting a client to select clothes, toiletries or other necessities. You determine the days and times.

We do need your promise that you will be

present, except for unforeseen circumstances.

Please note: We follow all Department of Health Guidelines, including COVID regulations. To learn more about volunteering, register online at mmwsk.org/volunteer or call Rebecca at 315-272-8525.

Remember that special person with a memorial gift and plaque

A gift in the name of a loved one, a friend or colleague is a fitting expression of love and charity, a way to remember someone special while at the same time honoring their faith and benefitting the mission of St. Mary of Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish.

A memorial gift will help sustain the parish as the center of our faith community and sup-

port the parish's many programs, worship and structures. Upon the death of a loved one, when planning an obituary, please invite family and friends to contribute to the St. Mary of Mount Carmel /Blessed Sacrament Memorial Fund in memory of the deceased. There are Memorial Plaques at the Catherine Street side of the church. Space is available for brass memorial

plaques in honor of loved ones. The categories are as follows:

Friend: \$150. **Donor:** \$250. **Patron:** \$500. **Benefactor:** \$1,000. **Special Giver:** \$2,500. **Heritage Sustainer:** \$5,000.

Please call the parish office at 315-735-1482 to reserve your plaque or if you have any questions.

THIS WEEK'S MEDITATION, INTENTIONS

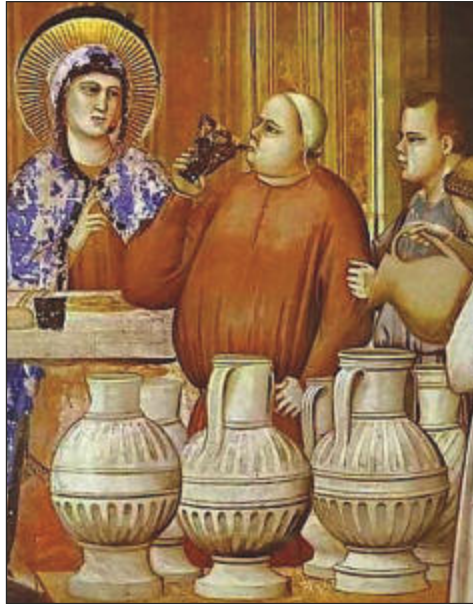
Cana Prayer

Lord, the hour indeed has come —
the time to release any hatred or shame I
hold, time to open myself to the joy
you offer, time for me to welcome and listen
with generous compassion,
time for me to remain silent
and contemplate the gifts of my life,
time for me to pray in thanksgiving
for whatever love surrounds me,
time to tenderly hold in my heart those
who disdain or scorn me. You who filled
the Cana barrels with choice wine.
Fill me with overflowing, abundant joy
and peace with the realization that life
in you calls for celebration, even during
times of pandemic and suffering.
You are the Lord who causes miracles
for those who need them and for those who
search relentlessly to find them. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

Response: Lord, hear your people's prayer.

- For the Church. Inspire us that we may be like full, rich wine that brings healing joy to all parts of our world.



"Wedding at Cana" (Giotto 1304-1306)

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

- For the world. Help us dismantle our prejudices and attitudes of superiority. May we humbly recognize how your gifts are giv-

en to all people — every culture, every race and every religion.

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

- May all who are engaged, married, single or widowed be channels of your love. Inspire all people toward a deeper commitment to help and welcome those who are poor, suffering, hated or marginalized by society.

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

- For the unity of all Christians. Heal our wounds, barriers and divisions so that together we may find more effective ways to bring healing to our broken world.

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

- For all who have lost hope. May they believe that miracles can restore their lives. May they find inspiration in faith and strength through prayer.

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

- For all who are sick, dying or grieving. For those burdened with addiction or fear, and all who suffer in abusive relationships. Help us to effectively end this pandemic throughout the entire world. Hear the personal intentions hold in silence ...

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

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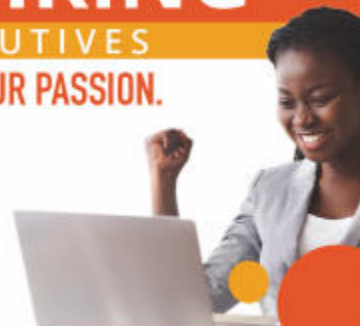


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