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**MARCH 1ST AND 2ND.
THE EIGHTH
SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



During the
*Season
of Lent*
contemplate
your heart and
look at our
world with
Hope.

Artwork: Mary Judine Bruch, BVM



At this time, our Holy Father, Pope Francis is still hospitalized in critical condition. Please pray that he is at peace.

We ask God to look with mercy on His servant Francis, who has served devotedly and tirelessly as a Jesuit, a priest, an archbishop, a cardinal and as pope. Most of all, he has served you as a faithful Christian sharing the love, mercy and compassion that your Son showed to all he encountered in his public ministry, especially those who were poor or in any way struggling.

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LENT STARTS ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5th

9 AM – Distribution of Ashes with short readings
12 Noon – Distribution of Ashes with short readings
5:30 PM – Mass with distribution of ashes and soup supper in church basement after Mass.

WED MARCH 12
5:30 PM – Soup Supper in the basement with presentation on our Lenten theme On the Road with Jesus – Margot Grobsmith

WED MARCH 19
5:30 PM – Soup Supper in the basement with presentation on our Christian response to the immigration situation – Dave Pasinski

WED MARCH 26
5:30 PM – Soup Supper in the basement with presentation on "the most frequently asked questions about Jesus" - Corinne Driscoll & Jane Hugo

WED APRIL 2
5:30 PM – Soup Supper in the basement with presentation of "racial equity and the compassion of Jesus" – Peter Sarver

Coffee Hour will resume on Sunday March 2 after Mass in the church basement. We are sorry to have missed you the last two weeks but only a few people are committed to setting up Coffee Hour and none of us were available during these weeks.

It does make it obvious that we need coffee makers who will take over on a scheduled Sunday. I think we can get it set up so that volunteers can work on Coffee Hour just once a month !

Please contact me to volunteer. Even if you just come once and see how the big percolators are set up, you will see what it's like and maybe enjoy the service. It's a little like throwing a party or having friends over.

I started up Coffee Hour again because I want to know people who come to St. Lucy's and this is a very fun way to work with others.

So call or text me. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

Dorothy
315-727-8034

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Mass Intentions

Saturday March 1st-4:00pm-For Our Parishioners
Sunday March 2nd-10:00am-For Our Benefactors
Thursday March 6th-10:00am-For Our Benefactors
Saturday March 8th-4:00pm-For Our Parishioners
Sunday March 9th-10:00am-For Our Benefactors

In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches about spiritual blindness, and personal accountability. He reminds us that we cannot lead others if we ourselves are lost, and we cannot correct others unless we first examine our own hearts. These verses challenge us to reflect on our inner lives and the fruit we bear through our words and actions. Just as trees produce fruit according to their nature, our lives reflect what is truly inside us. If our hearts are filled with love, kindness, and truth, our words and actions will reflect those qualities. But if we allow bitterness, pride, or selfishness to take root, our lives will bear the consequences. Our words are not just random expressions but they reveal the state of our hearts. If we constantly speak words of criticism, anger, or negativity, it is a sign that our hearts need renewal. But when we speak with grace, encouragement, and wisdom, we show that God's love is working within us. The good news is that Christ can transform our hearts. As we draw near to Him, He renews our minds, purifies our thoughts, and fills us with His love. When we allow Him to change us from the inside out, our lives will naturally bear good fruit, and our words will bring life to those around us.

432 Gifford Street, Syracuse, NY 13204 (315) 475-7273
www.saintlucys.org
Pastor: Fr. Jim Mathews jdmgolfer@yahoo.com
Parish Business Administrator: Mary Fitzgerald
email: info@saintlucys.org
Permanent Chaplain: Raymond Misita
Parish Office Monday 9-2, Wednesday 10-2, Friday 9:30-12:30 (New Hours)
Bulletin deadline: Friday by Noon
Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Chapel located to the right

Mass Times: Saturday: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 10:00 am (interpreted for the deaf)
Zoom available for 10:00 am mass
Thursday at 9:00am in the chapel
Food Pantry: Sunday 11 am—Noon
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 11 am-1 pm
Bread of Life: Wednesday. Starts serving at 11:00.
Agape Shop: Open Wednesdays 9:30-12:30
Pickleball in the gym on Saturdays - 2:00-4:00.
Other Inquiries: info@saintlucys.org

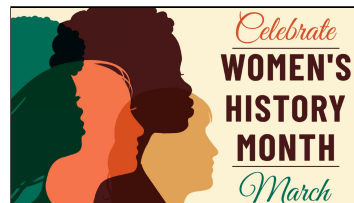
Lectors

March 1st & 2nd
Saturday 4:00pm— Jean Nappa
Sunday 10:00am— Ralph Bova & Julia Gordon

Homilists

This Week: Dave Pasinski
Next Week: Corrine Driscoll Dunham

Jim McKeever joins Dave Pasinski at the 10 o'clock Mass this weekend to reflect briefly on his many trips to the border working with various immigrant groups. (unfortunately he cannot be there Saturday afternoon.)



During Women's History Month, we will be presenting stories about women and prayers written by women.

Judith is praised in Hebrew scriptures for her beauty and asceticism but not for her initiative, determination and courage with which she liberated an entire nation.

Prayer: Lord of my greatest fear, let in your peace. Lord of my darkest shame, let in your grace. Lord of my oldest grudge, let in your forgiveness. Lord of my deepest anger, let in your love. Lord of my loneliest moment, let in your presence. Lord of my truest self...my all, let in your fullness.

Allison Pepper

"The problem is not that Jesus was male but that more men are not like Jesus."

— Elizabeth A. Johnson, CSJ

In her reflection last weekend, Peg Thompson, pointed out that the Gospel message to treat others as you would want to be treated yourself is a relatively logical concept and easy for most people to accept. This same idea is found in the scriptures of all of the world's major faiths. The second part of the Gospel reading is a bit more challenging. "Turn the other cheek" and "love your enemies, do good to those who hate you" are not natural responses for most people. Peg suggested that it might be helpful to remember that loving someone doesn't mean we have to like them or the things that they do. Just as our God always loves us in spite of our frequent disobedience to His will. In spite of the difficulty, loving our enemies is a worthwhile goal to work towards.

Saint Peter Starts Asking Everyone At Pearly Gates To List Five Ways They Advanced God's Kingdom On Earth



Babylon Bee ^ | February 26, 2025 | Staff

HEAVEN — Individuals waiting in line to enter their eternal home were struck with fear, as they realized Saint Peter was asking everyone at the Pearly Gates to list five ways they advanced God's kingdom on earth. The unexpected productivity check at Heaven's entrance sent those waiting for admittance into a quiet panic, with many people hastily attempting to come up with a quick list of things they had accomplished during their lives. "Oh geez, really? You're kidding, right?" one exasperated man was heard asking Saint Peter. "Well, let's see. I went to church every Sunday, and I only left early when there was a football game. That counts, right? And I read the Bible. A lot of it, at least. Sometimes. How many is that? Two? I have to come up with three more? Aw, man. Can I go to the back of the line and think about it some more? I wasn't expecting this." A representative from Heaven explained the new policy. "We need to make sure people are putting in at least some effort down there," a spokesangel said. "All they need to do is respond with a simple bulleted list of five things they did on earth to advance the cause of the Gospel. This shouldn't be difficult to do. We're just looking for the bare minimum here." At publishing time, people waiting in line had been given a deadline of 1,000 years before their names would be stricken from the registry and they would be directed to proceed toward the "down" elevator.

Homelessness, inadequate housing and hunger are serious issues, especially in our St. Lucy's neighborhood. A photo exhibit at ArtRage Gallery sheds light on the local housing crisis. "A Place to Call Home" is a collaboration between Central Current, a nonprofit newsroom covering Syracuse and Central New York, and photographers Michelle Gabel and Mike Greenlar. Mike is a friend of St. Lucy's and has been visiting the Bread of Life and talking with our clients for several months. Several of the clients of Bread of Life as well as St. Lucy's food pantry and their stories are featured in the exhibit. The exhibition captures a cross section of Syracuse's housing crisis; those struggling with housing insecurity or grappling with unsafe housing conditions. It also shares stories of hope as it highlights "A Tiny Home for Good" a small organization with a mission to end homelessness in Syracuse." The exhibit continues until March 22nd. ArtRage Gallery is located at 505 Hawley Ave, Syracuse. Exhibits are open Wednesday-Friday, 2-6pm & Saturday 12-4pm. If you have any questions, call Sue Boone, 315-427-8923.



Jorge, a native of Puerto Rico, joined us for Mass last Sunday. He is a student at Syracuse University and came to hear Peg Thompson speak.

Regular Recurring Events:

These will occur at the times listed every week, unless otherwise notified on St. Lucy's News or the church bulletin.

Sundays: Food Pantry, 11am to 1pm

Mondays: Food Pantry, 11am to 1pm

Tuesdays: Food Pantry, 11am to 1pm

Wednesdays: Food Pantry, 11am to 1pm

Bread of Life 11:00am

Agape Shop 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Thursdays: Food Pantry, 11am to 1pm

Saturdays: Catholic Worker on Wheels 8:30 am to 10 am

Brady Market

Pickleball 2:00 pm Gym

St. Lucy's Calendar March, 2025

March 1 - Peace Prayer 9:00 A.M. Chapel

March 2 - Coffee Hour after Mass

March 3 - Bible Study 7:00 P.M. ZOOM

March 5 - Ash Wednesday Service 9:00 A.M. 12:00 noon Mass 5:30 P.M. followed by Soup Supper in church basement

March 9 - Coffee Hour after Mass

March 10 - Justice and Peace Committee 3:30 to 5:00 P.M. 260 Reed Avenue, Syracuse

March 11 - Finance Committee 5:00 P.M. Father Jim's house in Solvay

March 12 - Soup Supper 5:30 P.M. Church basement Food Pantry

March 13 - Racial Equity Committee 7:00 P.M. ZOOM

March 15 - St. Patrick's Day Parade 8:00 A.M Float Assemblers 10:00 A.M. Float Riders Gym Parking Lot

March 16 - Coffee Hour after Mass

March 18 - Parish Council 6:00 P.M. Chapel

March 19 - Soup Supper 5:30 P.M. Church basement

March 23 - Coffee Hour after Mass

March 26 - Soup Supper 5:30 P.M.

March 30 - Coffee Hour after Mass, Church basement

Lenten Message of the Holy Father: (excerpted)

Let us journey together in hope

Dear brothers and sisters,

We begin our annual pilgrimage of Lent in faith and hope with the penitential rite of the imposition of ashes. The Church, our mother and teacher, invites us to open our hearts to God's grace, so that we can celebrate with great joy the paschal victory of Christ the Lord over sin and death. This Lent, as we share in the grace of the Jubilee Year, I would like to propose a few reflections on what it means to journey together in hope, and on the summons to conversion that God in his mercy addresses to all of us, as individuals and as a community.

First of all, to journey. The Jubilee motto, "Pilgrims of Hope", evokes the lengthy journey of the people of Israel to the Promised Land, as recounted in the Book of Exodus. This arduous path from slavery to freedom was willed and guided by the Lord, who loves his people and remains ever faithful to them. It would be a good Lenten exercise for us to compare our daily life with that of some migrant or foreigner, to learn how to sympathize with their experiences and in this way discover what God is asking of us.

Second, to journey together. The Church is called to walk together, to be synodal. Christians are called to walk at the side of others, and never as lone travelers. The Holy Spirit impels us not to remain self-absorbed, but to leave ourselves behind and keep walking towards God and our brothers and sisters.

Third, let us journey together in hope, for we have been given a promise. May the hope that does not disappoint, the central message of the Jubilee, be the focus of our Lenten journey towards the victory of Easter.

FRANCIS

How Can I Lighten My Backpack for the Journey?

Take home a plastic bag and ribbon from the baptismal font. Each week of Lent put in something you have which someone else may **really need**. At the end of Lent, tie it with the ribbon and bring your gift to someplace which serves our brothers and sisters in need. You know where those places are, right!

Collection Last Weekend

OFFERTORY	\$3,345
GIFTS –GENERAL	\$10
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	\$240
REPAIRS	\$120
VANCO	\$922

Thank you for your continued support



We were pleasantly surprised last Sunday to have **Dick Cooney** join us at Mass. Dick moved to Georgia in 2023 and was in Syracuse for business. He told us that the large Catholic church he now attends has 3 priests and 5 Masses on weekends. Their weekly collection averages \$35,000! And yes, **Remy** is still with him.

Loving our neighbor is at the core of Jesus' teaching. A theology of love is grounded in the realization that God loves our enemies as much as God loves us. The practice of inclusion was reflected in all of Jesus' teachings.

"The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall live the alien as yourself."

Leviticus 19,14



Please consider being part of our **Catholic Worker on Wheels** crew. We are a small group of volunteers and have on occasion needed to cancel if more than 2 of us are missing. The commitment is small - 2 hours on a Saturday and the rewards are immense! You'll become part of a caring community and know that you are making a difference. For more information check out our website, our Facebook page or contact Cathy Lunetta 781-308-1764. <https://cwonwheels.com/>
Facebook page - Catholic Worker on Wheels

Car Needed

I have known a 21 year old young man from the inner city since he was 3 years old. He lives with and cares for his mother who has significant physical handicaps. He has worked at Byrne Dairy which is 7 miles from his home for 2 years. Uber and Lyft are keeping him poor. If he could get a car, he could afford the insurance.

Does anyone know someone who has a car that they no longer need? Please call Keith Patrick 315-415-5850. Together we could make Latif's life a lot easier. Thank you. *Keith Patrick*

2025 IGNITE CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

Saturday, March 29, 2025

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

www.ignitecatholicmen.org/registration

St. Lucy's Holy week Schedule

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Wednesday, April 16 | 6pm Mass |
| Holy Thursday, April 17 | 6pm Mass |
| Good Friday, April 18 | 12 noon <u>indoor</u> Walking with Women Witnesses to Jesus' Saving Mission |
| Easter Vigil, April 19 | Solemn procession to the altar of reposition at 4pm. The church remains open until 9:30pm for personal silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. |
| Easter Sunday, April 20 | Mass of the Resurrection at 10am |



Deacon Aleu Tong is one of 8 siblings, from South Sudan. Of these, only 2 brothers and 1 sister are still alive. The others died in the conflict of hunger. Aleu started his journey out of South Sudan with his mother and a few of his siblings, to Babanusa in Northern Sudan. Sadly, upon arriving, his mother passed away. The difficult journey and lack of sufficient food was too much for her to sustain.

Aleu was born atheist. It was in the camp at Babanusa that he first heard about Jesus, from missionaries in the tents. They would teach the residents about Jesus, reading from the bible, explaining the text, and showing them pictures and movies about the works done by the Son of God when He walked the earth in human form.

His uncle helped him by giving him a good job selling cameras in Khartoum, then sent him to Egypt where he was welcomed by an Eastern Orthodox church and started a choir there. It was in Egypt that the U.N. interviewed Aleu to assess his eligibility for U.N. status to stay in Egypt. After explaining his family's situation, they issued papers enabling him to stay. He was there for 2 years when the U.N. interviewed him again. Six months later he was on his way to the U.S. Once here, he found several other families from South Sudan who attended St. Vincent's church and started attending there as well. At that time, he lived in a house with 5 – 6 people on Robinson St. In Syracuse, Aleu met his wife, Ella. She is from Togo. They have 4 beautiful children, 2 sons and 2 daughters. When asked why he became a Deacon, Aleu answered: "Since my baptism, I've never left the church. God has done so much for me I wanted to give back but thought that becoming a priest or deacon was beyond my reach. Instead, I did what I knew I was good at and started a choir here. Fr. Rose mentioned that a diaconate exploration meeting was to be held and chose a few of the Sudanese along with others from the parish who showed interest to go to the initial meeting."

Aleu was one of that group, though he was sure he was not qualified. Fr. Lou Aiello led that meeting as the head of the Diaconate Training program for the Diocese. When Aleu expressed his feeling of being unqualified to become a deacon, Fr. Lou reminded him that Jesus chose people who were totally unqualified. Not the powerful, well-educated, wealthy or established, but poor fishermen, an angry rebel and a despised tax collector among others who were far from the nobles of the time. If you hear God call, you do it! The Holy Spirit itself will help you through every step of the way! Fr. Aiello not only persuaded Aleu to follow through with the program, but mentored him and provided 2 tutors as well. After Fr. Aiello's passing, his successor made sure Fr. Aiello's dream of this class making it through to the sacrament of Holy Orders came to fruition.

With the turbulent times in the world today, Aleu offered the following advice to people who are frightened by the seemingly endless conflicts and political divides:

For us who are in Christ, we don't need to be frightened. Jesus told us that in this world we would have tribulation, but we must trust in Him. Tribulation drives us back to God. We need to ask the Father to change the hearts of those oppressors, and to turn those who have lost their faith back to Him. We do not belong to this world."

Aleu's final words of advice to us all: ***"If you feel that God is calling you to do something for Him, don't feel you're unqualified. Do not be afraid. Nothing is impossible with God! I am living proof."***



JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE