



Central New York Marian Center, Inc.

Promoting The Gospel Through The Marian Messages **February 2020**

5180 West Taft Rd, North Syracuse NY 13212

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Hours: Mon. — Fri 9am– 5pm Phone (315) 452– 4698

Website: cnymariancenter.com

Currently we are blest to be celebrating our 27th year!

The Monthly Message of Our Blessed Mother from Medjugorje: January 25, 2020

“Dear children! Today I am calling you to pray even more, until you feel the holiness of forgiveness in your heart. There must be holiness in the families, little children, because there is no future for the world without love and holiness – because in holiness and joy, you give yourselves to God the Creator who loves you with immeasurable love. This is why He sends me to you. Thank you for having responded to my call.”



See a rose Say the Rosary!



Volunteers Needed, if interested call the center at 315-452-4698

For visitors, if the CNY Marian Center is locked, you can obtain a key upstairs at the doctor’s office M- F 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The CNY Marian Center is available for group Meetings. For a reservation, call the Center and leave a message. Current Prayer groups meet Mon. 7:30 PM, Tues. 7 PM , First Wed. 6:30 PM and Thur. 11:00 AM.

HEAVEN CALLS— IS YOUR RINGER ON ?

Blessing and prayers to all our friends, supporters and newsletter subscribers of the Central NY Marian Center.

Do our hearts ring out with joy as we celebrate the Holy Family? Between the events which marked **Christmas** and the beginning of **Christ's** public life the Church has seen fit to recall the example of the Holy Family for the emulation of the Christian family. That we may become holy too?

The month of February is dedicated to the **Holy Family**. This year the first 25 days of February fall during the liturgical season known as **Ordinary Time** which is represented by the liturgical color **green**. **Green**, the symbol of hope, is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. The remaining days of February are the beginning of **Lent**. The liturgical color changes to **purple**, a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart.

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
February 2, 2020



Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of **Jesus** and is also known as **Candlemas** day. The Presentation or **Our Lord** bridges the two seasons, Christmas and Easter! In addition, the faithful may receive in February two of the four major public sacramental that the Church confers during the liturgical year: blessed candles and the blessing of throats.

St. Agatha
February 5, 2020

St. Agatha died in defense of her purity, in Catania, Sicily, where she was born.

It is impossible to write a historically reliable account of St. Agatha's life. The "Acts" of her martyrdom are legendary, dating from the sixth century.

According to these sources Agatha was a Sicilian virgin of noble extraction. **Quintianus, governor of Sicily**, became deeply enamored of her; but she rejected his advances. As a result she was charged with being a Christian and brought before his tribunal. When asked why she lived the servile life of a Christian, she answered: "I am a handmaid of **Christ**, and that is why I bear the outward appearance of a slave; yet this is the highest nobility, to be a slave to **Christ**." The governor threatened her with the most dreadful tortures if she did not renounce **Christ**. Agatha countered: "If you threaten me with wild beasts, know that at the Name of **Christ** they grow tame; if you use fire, from heaven angels will drop healing dew on me."

After being tortured, "Agatha went to prison radiant with joy and with head held high as though invited to a festive banquet. And she



commended her agony to the Lord in prayer." The next day, as she again stood before the judge, she declared: "If you do not cause my body to be torn to pieces by the hangmen, my soul cannot

enter the Lord's paradise with the martyrs. She was then stretched on the rack, burned with red-hot irons, and despoiled of her breasts.

Returning to prison, she prayed: "You have seen, O Lord, my struggle, how I fought in the place of combat; but because I would not obey the commands of rulers, my breasts were lacerated." In the night there appeared to her a venerable old man, the apostle Peter, with healing remedies. Agatha, ever delicately modest, hesitated to show him her wounds. "I am the apostle of Christ; distrust me not, my daughter." To which she replied: "I have never used earthly medicines on my body. I cling to the Lord Jesus Christ, who renews all things by His word." She was miraculously healed by St. Peter: "Father of my Lord Jesus Christ, I give you praise because by Your apostle You have restored my breasts." Throughout the night a light illumined the dungeon. When the guards fled in terror, her fellow prisoners urged her to escape but she refused: "Having received help from the Lord, I will persevere in confessing Him who healed me and comforted me."

Four days later she was again led before the judge. He, of course, was amazed over her cure. Nevertheless, he insisted that she worship the gods; which prompted another confession of faith in Christ. Then by order of the governor, Agatha was rolled over pieces of sharp glass and burning coals. At that moment the whole city was rocked by a violent earthquake. Two walls collapsed, burying two of the governor's friends in the debris. Fearing a popular uprising, he ordered Agatha, half dead, to be returned to

prison. Here she offered her dying prayer: "Blessed Agatha stood in the midst of the prison and with outstretched arms prayed to the Lord: O Lord Jesus Christ, good Master, I give You thanks that You granted me victory over the executioners' tortures. Grant now that I may happily dwell in Your never-ending glory." There upon she died.

A year after her death the city of Catania was in great peril from an eruption on Mount Etna. Pagans, too, were numbered among those who fled in terror to the saint's grave. Her veil was taken and held against the onrushing flames, and suddenly the danger ceased. Her grave is venerated at Catania in Sicily.

Our Lady of Lourdes February 11, 2020

Today marks the first apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1858 to fourteen-year-old Marie Bernade (St. Bernadette) Soubirous. Between February 11 and July 16, 1858, the Blessed Virgin appeared eighteen times, and showed herself to St. Bernadette in the hollow of the rock at Lourdes. On March 25 she said to the little shepherdess who was only fourteen years of age: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Since then Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and many cures and conversions have taken place. The message of Lourdes is a call to personal conversion, prayer, and charity.

The many miracles which have been performed through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin at Lourdes prompted the Church to institute a special commemorative feast, the "Apparition of the Immaculate Virgin Mary." The Office gives the historical background. Four years after the promulgation of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception (1854), the Blessed Virgin appeared a number of times to a very poor and holy girl named Bernadette. The actual spot was in a grotto on the bank of the Gave River near Lourdes.

The Immaculate Conception had a youthful appearance and was clothed in a pure white gown and mantle, with an azure blue girdle. A golden rose adorned each of her bare feet. On her first apparition, February 11, 1858, the Blessed Virgin bade the girl make the sign of the Cross piously and say the rosary with her. Bernadette saw her take the rosary that was hanging from her arms into her hands. This was repeated in subsequent apparitions. The third time Mary appeared she invited

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the girl to come to the grotto daily for two weeks. On one occasion she ordered her to tell the ecclesiastical authorities to build a church on the spot and to organize processions. Bernadette also was told to drink and wash at the spring still hidden under the sand.

Finally on the feast of the Annunciation, the beautiful Lady announced her name, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Four years later it was declared, the apparitions to be supernatural and permitted the public veneration of the Immaculate Conception in the grotto. Soon a chapel was erected, and since that time countless pilgrims come every year to Lourdes to fulfill promises or to beg graces.

February 11 was proclaimed World Day of the Sick by Pope John Paul II. Therefore, it would be appropriate to celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick on this day during a Mass or Liturgy of the Word. (The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is only to be given to "those of the faithful whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age", Roman Ritual. This Sacrament must not be given indiscriminately to all who take part in Masses for the sick.)

Ash Wednesday February 26, 2020

The liturgical season of lent is based on the Easter date, which is movable and always falls on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Easter in the Roman Catholic



Church is always the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox.

The liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday. Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in fasting and prayer (CC 540,1095, 1438).

The season of Lent is the time the church gives us to re-examine our lives in the light of the word and the call of Jesus: **"Be converted and believe in the Gospel"** and in the light of **Our Lady's** messages of prayer, penance and sacrifice given to us for many years.

Lent (the word "Lent" comes from the Old English "lencten", Meaning "springtime") lasts from Ash Wednesday to the Vespers of Holy Saturday - forty days + six Sundays which don't count as "Lent" liturgically. **The Latin name for Lent, Quadragesima, means forty and refers to the forty days Christ spent in the desert** which is the origin of the Season. The last two weeks of Lent are known as **"Passiontide," made up of Passion Week and Holy Week. The last three days of Holy Week - Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday - are known as the "Sacred Triduum."**

The liturgical use of ashes originates in the Old Testament times. Ashes symbolized mourning, mortality, penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which **God** made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: **"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."** Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from **God**. Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance. Ashes are a plea to **God** for mercy and compassion, pardon and forgiveness.

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that **God** is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance.
Bud O'Brien, Chairman of the Board

Announcements

Catholic Men's Conference Ignite 2020

Saturday, March 28, 2020
SRC Arena at Onondaga Community
College Campus Syracuse, NY
8am–5pm

Message from Bishop Douglas Lucia

"On March 28, 2020, I will have the privilege of joining with nearly 1,000 Catholic men from around Central New York and beyond for the Twelfth Annual Ignite Catholic Men's Conference, my first as the Bishop of Syracuse.

I look forward to kicking off the day by celebrating Mass with you and then joining with you for inspirational talks from our speakers. I am thrilled to welcome Steve Ray back to IGNITE, and we are blessed to be joined by NFL quarterback Chris Greison, and Fr. Thomas Petri, O.P., Dean of the Dominican House of Studies. As usual, we will also have time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament as we seek to "Take Refuge in the Lord."

I invite you to seriously consider who you can bring along to IGNITE this year. A father? A son? A brother? coworker? friend? Someone is hurting and reaching out and you have the chance to offer them something more precious than silver or gold. You can offer them refuge and healing in the Name of Jesus. See you on March 28th!"

Please plan to join us for the special gathering as we celebrate twelve years of the IGNITE Catholic Men's Conference.

Register at:
<http://www.ignitecatholicmen.org>

Cost includes conference registration, continental breakfast and lunch.
\$70 at the door on March 28th
\$65 March 16 – March 28th
\$55 Early Registration - through March 15

As the Marian Center is one of the major sponsors, be sure to stop at our vendor's tables. As men play a very important role in the church and in their families you need to be there, don't miss it!!!

Come Pray with the Saints!

Over the next few months we will share with you the reliquary that is on loan to the Marian Center and the 58 Saints who are in it. But first we would like to review with you what relics are. They are the bones, ashes, clothing, and personal possessions of the apostles and other holy people that are held in reverence by the Church and sometimes associated with miraculous healings and other acts of God.

The reliquary we will be writing about contains first, second and third-class relics. The first-class is a part of the saint's body. (It is this type which is placed in an altar stone.) The second-class is a piece of the saint's clothing or something used by the saint. The third-class is an object which has been touched to a first-class relic.

We will be writing about the relics included in this reliquary a section at a time and begin this month with the seven in the center top. They are commonly known saints and require little explanation. The top four are: St. Luke ex. ossibus, Evangelist; St. Anne, Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary, ex Domo (house); St. Mary Magdalene, ex velo prop.(veil/drape) ; St. Veronica, Jul. V., ex. ossibus. Ex ossibus means from the bone. The three below are: St. Francis of Assisi, C., ex ossibus; St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, ex pallio (cloth); St. Catherine of Siena, V., ex ossibus. C after their name signifies a Confessor, V a Virgin. Each of these saints is so closely related to the life of Christ, through their familial relationship. Anne, Joseph; their evangelism; Luke; or their own personal encounters with the Lord; Mary Magdalene, Veronica, Francis, Catherine.



The relics are in the Marian Center Chapel and we invite you to send prayer intentions via our website, call them in, or come in and pray before the relics and leave your intentions in the Chapel. Our website has documentation of all the saints contained in the reliquary and a "map".

Bud O'Brien, Chairman of the Board



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CNY Marian Center is Pleased to Present

Please call us to learn to make Rosaries. Our ministry is growing and we need help. All materials are supplied. First Saturday movies 1:30 and 6:30PM begin April 4, Palm Sunday weekend, with Son of God. *The life story of Jesus is told from his humble birth through his teachings, crucifixion, and ultimate resurrection.* Refreshments served. Bring a snack to pass if you like.

Read inside about the relics of the seven Saints who make up the top row of the 58 Saint reliquary on loan to the Marian Center. Come in and pray in our Chapel for their intercession.

Contact **Dr. Pat Iannolo**, 315-427-1597 or the Marian Center 315-452-4698 to bring the powerful presentation, **The Medical Aspects of the Crucifixion** to your parish. It is a Lenten event you will not want to miss! For more information: www.cnymariancenter.com; Call 315-452-4698; Email: mariancenter.cny@gmail.com

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Important Notice to Our Readers

With rising postal and printing cost we need to revise our mailing list. If you have email, please send us your email to the address below. Please respond by phone call, postal mail, or email!! We are trying to continue to spread Mary's messages and need your support too. If you would like to be a regular sponsor or provide a donation towards our many Marian Center Projects throughout the diocese, please fill out the form & mail it with your donation to the **CNY Marian Center, 5180 W. Taft Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212**

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