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## Being Catholic

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### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CATHOLIC?

*"You are a child of God, called by name, precious in his eyes and loved by him" IS 43:1-4*

There are many things that make us Catholic: our belief in God. A commitment to serving others. Our understanding of the power of prayer. Devotion to the saints. And more!

Here in the Diocese of Syracuse, we want to celebrate the many ways that our faithful are *being Catholic* each and every day. This new initiative will capture people on video, in photos, and in print as they **know, live, and share** their Catholic faith.

You can explore Being Catholic on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram by searching for hashtag **#BeingCatholic**. Being Catholic videos will be available on our [homepage](#) and the [Syracuse Catholic Television YouTube channel](#).

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## Sacraments

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We recognize that the Sacraments have a visible and invisible reality, a reality open to all the human senses but grasped in its God-given depths with the eyes of faith. When parents hug their children, for example, the visible reality we see is the hug. The invisible reality the hug conveys is love. We cannot "see" the love the hug expresses, though sometimes we can see its nurturing effect in the child.

The visible reality we see in the Sacraments is their outward expression, the form they take, and the way in which they are administered and received. The invisible reality we cannot "see" is God's grace, his gracious initiative in redeeming us through the death and Resurrection of his Son. His initiative is called *grace* because it is the free and loving gift by which he offers people a share in his life, and shows us his favor and will for our salvation. Our response to the grace of God's initiative is itself a grace or gift from God by which we can imitate Christ in our daily lives. Through the Sacraments, God shares his holiness with us so that we, in turn, can make the world holier.

The Sacraments

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# The Light is On For You Campaign

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"The Light is On For You" campaign was created by the Archdiocese of Washington and has since been implemented by dioceses throughout the United States. The Diocese of Syracuse is proud to join in this effort and generally offers extended hours for confession on one evening during Advent and Lent.

By participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, whether our first time in days, weeks, months or years, we are experiencing God's individual and unwavering love for us, and one of the true graces made available to us by our Catholic faith. *God loves us just the way we are, but he loves us too much to leave us that way.*

When we return to the Church for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Jesus rejoices like the father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son. It is never "too late" to return to Jesus and ask for forgiveness. Imagine how joyful you will feel upon confessing your sins, big or small!

Our parishes offer ongoing confession schedules throughout the year. Click the button below to find a parish near you!



### Related resources:

- How to Make a Good Confession by Syracuse Catholic Television
- Fr. Jason Hage - The Light is On For You! by Syracuse Catholic Television
- Pope Francis: Don't be afraid or ashamed to go to confession (via CNS)
- Truth & Life Dramatized Audio Bible
- Examinations of Conscience (USCCB)

### Parish Resources:

The Light is On For You Campaign

Frequently Asked Questions

Guide to Confession



# Easter: A Season of Glory

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Easter: A Season of Glory Explained

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
APR 16	APR 17	APR 18	APR 19	APR 20	APR 21	APR 22
APR 23	APR 24	APR 25	APR 26	APR 27	APR 28	APR 29
APR 30	MAY 1	MAY 2	MAY 3	MAY 4	MAY 5	MAY 6
MAY 7	MAY 8	MAY 9	MAY 10	MAY 11	MAY 12	MAY 13
MAY	MAY	MAY	MAY	MAY	MAY	

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- [Fish Fry Directory & Contest - The Catholic Sun](#)
- [Diocesan events calendar](#)
- [Diocesan social media](#)

**Pray**

- [Pope Francis' message for Lent 2017](#)
- [Lectio Divina for Lent](#)
- [The Seven Penitential Psalms and The Songs of the Suffering Servant](#)
- [Scriptural Way of the Cross for Lent](#)
- [Reflections from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development](#)
- [A Week of Prayers for Lenten Devotions](#)
- [USCCB prayer library](#)
- [RC Faith Quest](#)

**Fast**

- [Fast & Abstinence information from the USCCB](#)
- [A Reflection on Lenten Fasting](#)
- [Pastoral Statement on Penance and Abstinence](#)

**Give**

- [Catholic Charities - Diocese of Syracuse](#)
- [The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse](#)
- [CRS Rice Bowl](#)
- [Almsgiving](#)

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