

Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish

2222 Genessee Street, Utica 13502

7:30 Registration and Confession

8:00-9:00 Holy Hour/Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament/Confession

8:30 Recitation of the Most Holy Rosary

9:00 Holy Mass

9:30 Breakfast

10:30 Key Note Speaker 1

11:00 Break

11:10 Key Note Speaker 2

11:45 Divine Mercy Chaplet

12:00 Brown Scapular Enrollment

12:15 Honorable Close

Speakers: Fr. Ben Schrantz and Fr. Pawel Zmija



Father Pawel Zmija is a native of Katowice, Poland. He studied at the University of Silesia in Katowice and at the Theological Institute of Missionaries in Krakow. In 2020, he moved to the United States and continued his formation at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Michigan. He finished his English courses at Madonna University in Livonia, Michigan. In 2021, he was accepted to the Diocese of Syracuse by bishop Douglas J. Lucia and sent to St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore. Fr. Pawel graduated from the seminary in 2024 and received his Master's Degree but is still working on his STL (Licentiate of Sacred Theology) degree. Fr. Pawel was ordained to the priesthood in 2024. His interests include systematic theology, the history of the church, the history of the Middle Ages and Scriptures. His leadership in many conferences and retreats in Poland and the United States has inspired many



Father Ben Schrantz

Rev. Ben Schrantz is Parochial Vicar at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Augustine, and St. Mary of the Assumption in Baldwinsville. He grew up and worshipped in the Utica area, and was ordained a Roman Catholic priest on June 1, 2024 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse.

Father Ben was a parishioner of St. Paul's Church in Whitesboro. He attended Westmoreland Road and St. Peter's elementary schools, Notre Dame Junior-Senior High School, and Mohawk Valley Community College before transferring to SUNY Fredonia.

At Fredonia, he majored in History and minored in Political Science and Museum Studies. Following his undergraduate work and after deciding to pursue the priesthood, he attended Theological College at The National Seminary of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Though he didn't fully realize his calling until his college years, Father Ben deeply believes God and the Holy Spirit are guiding him. "I think God calls each of us to do something," he said. "I think of St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (12: 1-31). In that quiet place in our hearts, that is where God speaks to us. It is in our gifts and our talents, what makes us happy — really happy, a joyful happiness — that God calls us to grow. I do not know what kind of priest I will be, but I believe God called me down this path. And if I believe that, then I have to believe God will supply me with the tools to do the

tasks at hand.”