

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

Office (315) 478-0916 Fax (315) 423-8096

April 13, 2025



From Fr. Brendan Foley

And so begins our most solemn week of the year! I've always been intrigued by our entrance to Mass today. With the Sacred Triduum just days away we of course know what's coming...and so because of the looming passion and death of the Lord, it just feels superficial or maybe even forced when we sing 'hosanna' and praise to Jesus the Messiah and King. We know and experience in today's Mass that this momentary joy is fleeting.

St. John Henry Newman says not even Jesus could enjoy or receive the "Hosannas" in this moment, because he himself knew he had not yet suffered, which is what he came to do:

*"This [entrance into Jerusalem] was but a vain and hollow pageant, nor did our Lord take pleasure in it. It was a shadow which stayed not, but flitted away. It could not be more than a shadow, for the Passion had not been undergone by which **His true triumph** was wrought out. He could not enter into His glory before He had first suffered. He could not take pleasure in this semblance of it, knowing that it was unreal."*

Newman goes on to remind us that before our very eyes this week we see Jesus when he is **most powerful**, and specifically it comes when he allows himself to be **powerless** (so-to-speak). Power is stripped away from him, he is anointed with the spit of passersby, hailed with shouts to crucify him, and the attendants at his 'throne' of the cross are thieves...all unthinkable.

Yet, if this is where we see Jesus' greatest power on display, especially in his power to suffer, why do we feel such defeat when we experience the reality of the cross in our lives? In our experience of the cross, we inevitably confront a powerlessness in not having the 'control' that we'd like—e.g., a change in health, the loss of a job, fractured trust in relationships, frustration or bitterness toward children or families—these things and more often bring us to a place of desperation. When at one point we might have had it all together, in another, we're humbled and hopelessly in need.

St. Paul's beautiful hymn captured in his letter to the Philippians is one that should be visible in an icon of our lives, because it teaches us how we experience the wisdom of God alive and accompanying us when we feel powerless and defeated while striving to live our discipleship. Jesus, though he was in the form of God (though he had it all), he emptied himself, took the form of a slave, and became obedient to the point of death on a cross. Yet because of this, God greatly exalted him (cf. Phil 2).

So for us, we must keep our heart and our mind fixed on Jesus, who knew the suffering, rejection, and desperation that we experience. While our temptation might be to turn inward or toward helpless discouragement, there is power for us when we allow Jesus to conform our hearts to his in the midst of our powerlessness. Jesus' complete surrender, trust, and communion with the Father is what brought him through the Cross and grave to the glory of the Resurrection. So will be the case for you and me, if we allow ourselves to be carried by Christ. This is not something to be feared, but rather this is how he fills us with life.

Mass Schedule SJB/HT

Sunday - 9:00 am

Reconciliation Thursday 4:00-5:00 pm

Office Hours SJB/HT

Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm Friday 9:00am 2:30pm

E-mail - nbergeson@syrdio.org

Web Site - www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com

Syr. Dio. Web-site - www.syracusediocese.org

Pastor: Father Brendan Foley

Secretary/Bulletin: Nancy Bergeson

Senior Priest in Residence: Fr. Lester Smith

In Residence: Fr. Paschal Anionye

Music Director/Organist: Mr. James Stanley

Buildings/Grounds: Robert Warren

Religious Education: Betty Warren

Sacristan/Grounds: Allan Chouinard

Altar Server: Benjamin Chouinard



Holy Week Schedule

Monday April 14th “The Light Is On” SJB/HT 12:30-1:30pm
OLP/SP 4:00-6:00pm.

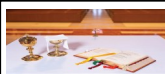
Holy Thursday April 17th SJB/HT Mass at 5:00pm followed by Adoration until 10:00pm.

Good Friday April 18th OLP/SP 3:00pm.

Blessing of the Easter Food SJB/HT 11:00am.

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil April 19th OLP/SP Mass 8:00pm.

Easter Sunday April 20th normal Church Mass Schedules.



Lector - Sunday April 20

9:00am SJB/HT: TBA

Eucharistic Ministry

Center

April 13th Mary Beth Cusano

April 20th Cathy Horton

April 27th Dave William

Mary's Side

Betty Warren

Larry Argiro

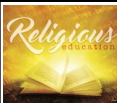
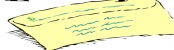
Karen Fekete

Sacrificial Giving

Week April 6th

SJB/HT Collection: \$5,189.00

Offering Envelopes



Religious Education Announcements

There are no Religious Ed classes for the this weeks, April 13th & 20th, for Spring Break and Easter. Classes will resume on April 27th. Our Religious Education program is nearing the end of the 2024-2025 year. There are only 3 classes left for our students. Our last class will be on Mother's Day, May 11th. This last class will be our May Crowning Mass. Please pray for all our students, their families and our teachers.

A Family Perspective Family Life Education

Today Jesus tells us “I am among you as one who serves.” In accepting the palm branch today you publicly confirm your baptismal promise to follow Jesus as “one who serves.” Selfless service defines a family as Christian.



Pray For Vocations

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done.” Following the call of God isn't always easy, and even our Lord had to resign Himself to the will of His Father. Take courage in that, and follow where the Lord is leading your. If He is leading you to consider the priesthood, diaconate, or religious life, reach out to the Vocation Office via email: vocations@syrdio.org and follow us on Instagram [@vocationssyracuse](https://www.instagram.com/vocationssyracuse).

Reflect: Readings and Gospel

1st Reading Question: Isaiah bears witness as one who did not lose his faith despite persecution and ridicule. Can you discuss a time when your faith was put to the test?



2nd Reading Question: Paul teaches the Philippians that Jesus was humble and obedient to God even to the point of death by crucifixion. Why do you think humility and obedience are important virtues in following Jesus?

Gospel: In his passion narrative, Luke is the only evangelist to highlight that both Pilate and Herod (Antipas) find Jesus innocent of the charges against him. Is there a friend or co-worker you could help this week who is being treated unfairly? ©LPi

The Mass Book is now open through July 31st.

SUNDAYS

9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

Sunday April 13, 2025 - Glenn Wiseman - Ed Airel

David McLaughlin - Mother

Domenico Tropepi - Wife, Maria

Easter Sunday April 20, 2025 - All the people of our parish



Presenting Gifts To The Altar

SJB/HT parish has started again to have our parishioners present the gifts to the altar as of Sunday May 18th.

If you would like to be a participant please call Betty Warren 315-420-6357 and she will start to compile a list. To give families the first chance who have requested an intention for a loved one, she will try to notify those families first.

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini-reflection: I'm Catholic. I'm proud of being Catholic. But is that wordless witness really evangelization?



The Stones Will Cry Out

I have a complicated relationship with evangelization.

I don't think that we (I'm talking about 21st-century American Catholics here) have had much formation around what exactly it means to proclaim the Gospel. We don't know how to do it. We don't really *want* to do it. It sounds kind of scary and awkward. It sounds like knocking on strangers' doors and yelling through the keyhole, “Have you accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior?” It sounds like arguing with friends and family. It sounds like a real pain.

I'm Catholic. I'm proud of being Catholic. I do my Catholic things in my Catholic house throughout my Catholic life. But is that enough?

All Christians are called to “wordless witness” in how they live their lives, writes Paul VI in the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi* — but this alone, he says, is “insufficient.” We must talk about Jesus. We must name him. We must speak of his life, his promises. We must *proclaim* him.

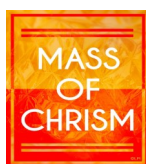
We must be loud enough that a Pharisee would cringe at us.

And yet — and Paul VI acknowledges this — it's not actually evangelization if we do it so badly that nobody listens. If we “impose” truth on someone's conscience instead of “proposing” it. If we make the mistake of thinking there is one singular way to share Christ with the great variety of personalities that exist in this world.

Dear reader, I am running out of column space, and still I have no answers for you, or for myself. I don't know how to do it well. But I know we have to try. We have to pray. We have to reflect. We have to be patient. We have to be humble. We have to remember it's about him and not about us.

Most of all, when we find ourselves confused and retreating into silence, we must remember Christ's words: “If they keep silent, the stones will cry out.” ©LPi





Cathedral Chrism Mass Invitation

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday April 15th at 11:00am at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. All are welcome to attend this Mass which the priests are called to renew their promises from ordination and also Bishop will bless and consecrate the sacramental oils that will be used throughout the diocese for the next year.

Please Be Aware "Do Not Park"

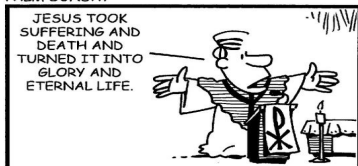
Thank you for your continued cooperation with our **DO NOT PARK** request in the back lot along the side hill, the coned off area. Parking is permitted in the back lot where the staff only signs are. As soon as weather will permit, the drainage grate will be top priority.



The SJB/HT EASTER Ornament

Same beautiful Christmas ornament just re-named for the holiday as an Easter Ornament! \$20.00. You can purchase them during rectory hours or after our 9:00am Mass.

PALM SUNDAY



Remember: Mike Affleck, Shawn Babcock, Nancy Bailey, B.J. Bubniak Family, Arlene Bukowski, Ashley Caiello, Robert Capria, Catherine Cushman, Linda Deapo, Theresa Domathowski, Hank Donohue, Ginny & Erin Donovan, Jenny Emmi, Tenley Farrow, Marilyn Ferretti, Ellen Gangemi, Gladys Graham, Robert Greenwood, Joseph Guinto, Jeanne Hammond, Mary Isgar, Carla Johnson, Tony Lauretti, Shirley Kerr, Emma Lane, Kay Ledermann, Jackie Limeri, Luciano & Maria Luisi, Judy & Skip Marioritti, Michael & Darlene Morgia, Diane Moro, Peggy Palerino, The Pavia Children, Antoinette Perotta, Faith Setzer, Marion Sherwood, Esther Sindoni, John Sobon, Patricia Soule, Timothy K. Suppes, Patrick St. Thomas IV, Barbara Traino, Gerry Vaccaro, Shelly Visco, Matthew Watkins, and Fred Wheeler. **We also remember in our prayers our Service Men and Women & our Health Care Workers. Due to HIPAA laws, hospitals are not allowed to give names of patients. Please notify the parish office if you have a loved one in the hospital, a nursing home or is homebound and would like a visit.**



Mass Schedule OLP/SP 315-422-7163

Saturday Vigil - 4:00pm Vietnamese Mass 6:00pm
Sunday - 7:30am, 11:30am
9:30am Vietnamese
Monday - Thursday 9:00am in the Chapel
Reconciliation Wednesday 4:00-5:00pm

Call the Rectory to arrange for marriages, arrangements made six months prior to date. Contact our organist directly. Information will be provided. Call the rectory for baptisms and hospital/home visits.



SJB/HT Rectory Closed

The SJB/HT Rectory will be closed on Easter Monday, April 21st. Also, due to vacation, the rectory will be closed Tuesday April 22nd through Tuesday April 29th. If there is an emergency or important need in contacting Fr. Foley please call OLP/SP rectory 315-422-7163 and they will assist you.

Adoration Of The Blessed Sacrament

Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peters Church will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday during Lent. The final date is April 16th from 4:00-6:00pm.



Prayer For Everyday And Everybody Prayer for Holy Week

Dear Lord, I open my heart to You, offering every day and night to You in sacred surrender. I pray for the grace to accompany You in a special way this Holy Week, joining and offering the trials I encounter on our shared journey to the cross and to a victorious hope. Amen. ©LPi

Palm Sunday

Question: Where do Palm Sunday palms come from and where should they go?



Answer: The Palm Sunday celebration has ancient origins. Beginning the liturgy "outside" the church, we symbolically reenact Christ's entry into Jerusalem. The crowds in ancient Israel waved palm branches – a symbol of royalty – to welcome Jesus. These days, obtaining palms takes a lot of planning and coordination, as hundreds of thousands of churches worldwide need them on the same day! Many in the United States order palms from Florida, California, Texas, or Central America. Many companies stress the sustainability of their production and the just wages paid to their workers.

The palms used on Palm Sunday are blessed at Mass. This means they shouldn't end up in the trash! Many people weave palms into crosses or families display them in their homes. If you do not plan on displaying your palms throughout the year, they should be burned, buried, or left at the church. In the final case, the palms are burned to provide the ashes for next year's Ash Wednesday service. ©LPi



Easter Flowers For The Altar

SJB/HT invites you to make a donation towards our Easter Flowers. A list of donors and their request will be printed as an insert to the bulletin the week of Easter, April 20th. Please put donations with the form below in an envelope marked "FLOWERS" in the collection basket, mail or drop it off to the rectory no later than Monday, April 14th. Checks should be made payable to SJB/HT. Please do not add this form to your weekly contribution envelopes.

Donor _____
Phone _____ **Amount** _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

