

## St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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April 20, 2025

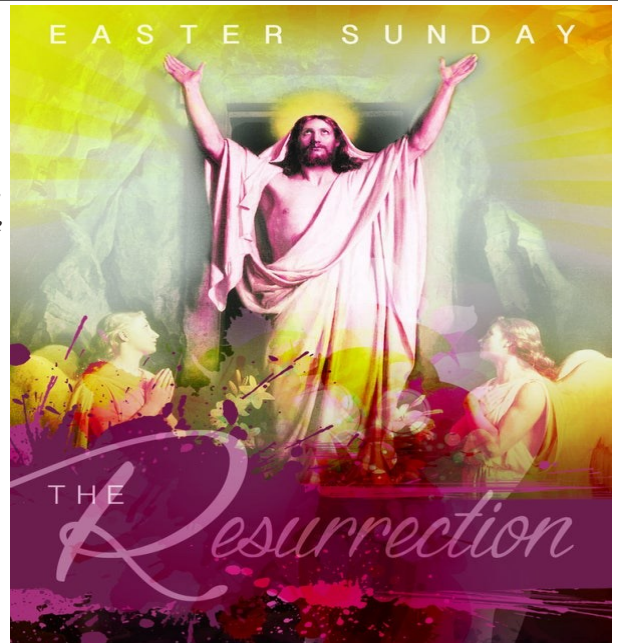


### From Fr. Brendan Foley

**Praised be Jesus Christ! He is risen! Alleluia!!!**

I offer for our consideration the powerful opening of the *First Letter of St. John*, which begins like this (it sounds a little like the first chapter of John's Gospel): *What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we looked upon, and touched with our hands concerns the Word of life—for the life was made visible; we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was made visible to us—what we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; for our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing this so that our joy may be complete.*

Believe it or not, this reading actually does not appear in our lectionary at Sunday Mass, yet it is still an important apostolic testimony to the profound reality of the Resurrection. The Incarnate Lord—God having taken to himself our humanity—really dwelled among us, and allowed himself to be seen and touched and loved by us. The Resurrection is a historical event in time, not just something of story or myth, and as evidence for this, the witnesses to the Resurrected Christ were more than willing to give their life and shed their blood to defend this truth, they had no fear of death because of Jesus' Victory. Jesus endured his horrific suffering and death so that we might come to have eternal life with Him and to ever grow in our appreciation for the extent of his love for us. For those who let it, the feast that we celebrate today is *forever* **the cause of our joy, the foundation of our faith**, and the only way by which **we have life**. The Resurrection is the source of all grace, through it we also receive **Hope** that enables and strengthens us to walk differently amid the darkness of the world. Jesus has overcome the world, and still he has power over death.



Recall that we find ourselves in a Jubilee Year, and the biblical roots of Jubilee have at the heart an observance of forgiving all debts, granting freedom to all in bondage, returning everyone to their homes and family, and allowing everyone to rest in God's fullness. **Forgiveness, freedom, family, and fullness: these were the goals of the Jubilee, and these goals were reached by four actions: redemption, release, return, and rest.** This matters because "Jubilee" reveals the nature and the power of God, and each of us are being invited to share relationship and life with this God who alone has the power to authentically restore us to **hope**. If we only know or understand "*hope*" from the perspective of the English language, we can be left grasping at something that may or may not be there. This is not Christian hope, nor the kind of hope we receive from the power of the Resurrection. Hope is, as found in the Catechism:

"...[Hope is something] that does not disappoint.' Hope is the **'sure and steadfast anchor of the soul'**...that enters...where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf.' Hope is also a weapon that protects us in the struggle of salvation. (CCC1820).

To further simplify, we could say hope is the persevering sense or the steadfast trust given to us to await and expect everything from God especially as it comes to us through the merits of the passion, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. In other words, hope rooted within us is pervasive confidence in what Jesus has done for us. So one who has the gift of this hope is not wavering in wondering whether or not Jesus has been raised from the dead, but rather is convinced of it, and now allows the implications of Jesus' Resurrection to be the foundation and motivation for everything else in life.

Having hope, one truly enjoys radical interior freedom and the fullness of life here and now.

Fr. Jacques Philippe notes, "It could be said that, while charity is the greatest of the three theological virtues, in practice **hope is the most important. As long as hope remains, love develops. If hope is extinguished, love grows cold.** A world without hope soon becomes a world without love." As we celebrate anew the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus, may we receive an infusion of divine hope to propel us toward living with greater confidence in Jesus' power over death. May this Hope that we receive be strength for us to bear His light and life confidently into the world around us, without fear that anything that could come and rob us of this freedom.

### 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](mailto:nbergeson@syrdio.org)

Web Site - [www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com](http://www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com)

Syr. Dio. Web-site - [www.syracusediocese.org](http://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

## Lector - Sunday April 27

9:00am SJB/HT: Mary Barraco

## Eucharistic Ministry

### Center

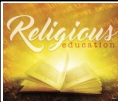
April 20th Cathy Horton

April 27th Dave William

### Mary's Side

Larry Argiro

Karen Fekete



## Religious Education Announcements

There are no Religious Ed classes this week for 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

Millions of Christians around the world celebrate the Resurrection today. It all began simply on the first Easter with one person telling another: "Mary told Peter" and "they believed." Faith is passed one person to another; it is caught, not taught and parents are the most effective persons to pass faith to their children.



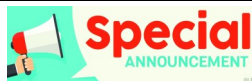
### Reflect: Readings and Gospel

**1st Reading Question:** In his speech, Peter emphasizes that he and the Apostles were chosen as "witnesses" to tell others of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Have you ever told anyone why you believe in Jesus?

**2nd Reading Question:** Paul urges the Corinthians to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection with sincerity and truth. How does your family celebrate Easter Sunday?

**Gospel:** We hear how Mary of Magdala, Peter and the Beloved Disciple initially react to seeing Jesus' empty tomb. How do you share startling news with others? ©LPi

## Invitation to the Wild Goose Series with Fr. Foley, Tuesdays beginning May 6, 6pm at the office/convent of Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter:



The Wild Goose Series is fourteen independent video segments dealing with different experiences of the **Holy Spirit**. If you allow him, the Wild Goose will lead you on an adventure greater than you can imagine. The Spirit will lead you to a place of mercy, healing, peace, and presence. The Holy Spirit has been given to us not as a possession to be tamed or controlled, but rather as a Person that will lead us to the Heart of God. The Wild Goose video series will help you experience a deeper relationship with the Person of the Holy Spirit, and as you come to experience God's presence and power this very same Spirit will transform you and bring you freedom. Like we did with the recent bible study, there will be adoration of the Eucharist available at 5:30pm, with the video beginning at 6pm, episodes are roughly 25 minutes. The series is intended to run beginning Tuesday May 6th. Please RSVP to either parish office if interested, there is no cost to participate. All are welcome!

**W**hen Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. — Jn 20:6-8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



## 9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

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

**Sunday April 27, 2025** - Grazia Mucci - The Family

Maureen White - Jerry Mott

Ruth Smith - The Smith Family

Leonardo Sanzone - The Family



## Sacrificial Giving

Week April 13th

SJB/HT Collection: \$TBA

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in memory of

**Lillian Greenwood**

Requested by Nancy and Paul



## 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

### The Search

Everybody's trying to find God. They may not admit it. They may not even know it. They may talk around it, shy away from saying the name, both to others and to themselves: *God*. But I know for a fact that every person who was ever born into this world spent their lives searching for Him - somewhere, somehow, even if the only place they thought to look was in money or drugs.

It's a comforting fact, really — a reminder of how alike we all are. Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, atheist, rich, poor, Black, white. When it comes right down to it, the history of humanity is a never-ending Easter morning scene that plays in perpetuity. The sorrow, the shock, the confusion. Again and again, as each newborn baby opens his eyes, the search begins anew. *Where did he go? What has happened? Where can I find him?*

Catechesis isn't enough. Even those who learn about Jesus Christ, who accept his word, hang hesitantly outside the tomb, afraid to go in. Jesus' best friend — the disciple whom he loved — ran faster than Peter, so desperate he was to find his Lord. But when he got to the tomb and saw it empty, he got spooked. He froze.


Sometimes, we expect God to be right where we left Him — in a certain parish, with a certain priest, in a certain relationship, at a certain job. We show up, and we're heartbroken to see that our expectations have been turned upside down. *He's left us*, we think dejectedly, but we're wrong.

There is no one who has been abandoned by God. There are only those who stop looking for Him.

Don't let the empty tombs define you. It's the search that defines you. ©LPi









**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.

**Prayer For Everyday And Everybody**  
**Prayer for Easter**  
 Blessed be God who has triumphed over the grave!  
 Our Lord is victorious! Alleluia, alleluia! May the joy of Easter fill every part of our lives! Amen. ©LPi





**Come to Christ**  
 Life is perhaps God’s greatest gift to each of us. Without life, we would be unable to experience all the wonder of this world, the love of family and friends, and the joy that comes from using our talents and skills. Life itself is more profound a gift than we can even truly contemplate. On Easter, we celebrate life. For on this day, Jesus Christ conquered death and gave to us the chance for a life eternal. The wonder, love, and joy of this world does not have to end. Through a life in Jesus Christ, these emotions are heightened, and we find even greater fulfillment in this world.

Maybe this Easter you are finding yourself open to taking a next step in your relationship with Jesus. This could be the moment you decide to follow Him more closely and take seriously all that he has given you. If so, welcome to the journey, where there are many other disciples on that same path who can help show you the way and share their stories. If not, hopefully it doesn’t take a whole year for this possibility to be considered again. Jesus is alive and waiting to get closer to you. May this Easter season find you and Our Lord getting to know one another in a whole new way. Happy Easter!

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS




**Easter Traditions Around the World**




In the city of San Biagio Platani, people build Archi di Pasqua or Easter Arches. These are large, building-like structures people can walk under made entirely of bread and other foods.




On Easter Monday, some Polish people celebrate Smigus-Dyngus or Wet Monday. People will sneak up on and drench each other with water using glasses of water or even squirt guns!






People fast from all meat products for Fasika, the 55 days leading up to Easter Sunday in Ethiopia. They break their fast at Easter Supper, a feast even more popular than Christmas dinner there!

**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.

**An Easter Proclamation**

The hosts of heaven exult and sing aloud in mighty triumph!  
 Let the earth be glad as glory alights and night reigns no more.  
 Let the Church rejoice at the victory of her Lord and Master,  
 Who paid the debt of Adam,  
 Who frees those doomed to die,  
 Who heals the broken-hearted and bind up their wounds,  
 Who forgives the sinner and raises up the lowly,  
 Who destroys death forever,  
 Whose Kingdom shall have no end.  
 God our Father, eternal is your love for us!  
 Christ the Son, in victory you reign!  
 Holy Spirit, set the Easter fire ablaze in our hearts.  
 Together you live and reign and ransom your people,  
 one God forever and ever. Amen.





**Devotions Explained**  
**Connect With Tradition And Grow Your Faith**  
**Seven Sorrows of Mary – April 20, 2025**  
**Mini Explanation:** The Seven Sorrows of Mary helps us to unite our own sufferings with those of Jesus, following Mary’s perfect example, as we meditate upon the great sufferings endured by Our Lord and his Blessed Mother.

**Seven Sorrows of Mary, Explained**  
 The Seven Sorrows of Mary refer to seven key events in the lives of Jesus and Mary: the prophecy of Simeon, the flight into Egypt, the loss of the Child Jesus in Jerusalem, the meeting of Jesus and Mary as he carried his cross to Calvary, the Crucifixion and death of Jesus, the removal of the Body of Christ from the cross, and the burial of Jesus.

These events illustrate the great suffering endured by Our Lord and his Blessed Mother, and remind Christians to unite our own sufferings with those of Jesus, following Mary’s perfect example.

Devotion to the sorrows of Mary dates to the early centuries of Christianity, with such proponents as St. Ephrem, St. Alphonsus Liguori and St. Bridget of Sweden.

The Seven Sorrows devotion can take the form of seven Hail Mary’s, seven Rosaries or a novena, all recited while meditating upon the individual sorrows. ©LPi

**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 Morga, 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.**

