

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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

April 6, 2025



From Fr. Brendan Foley

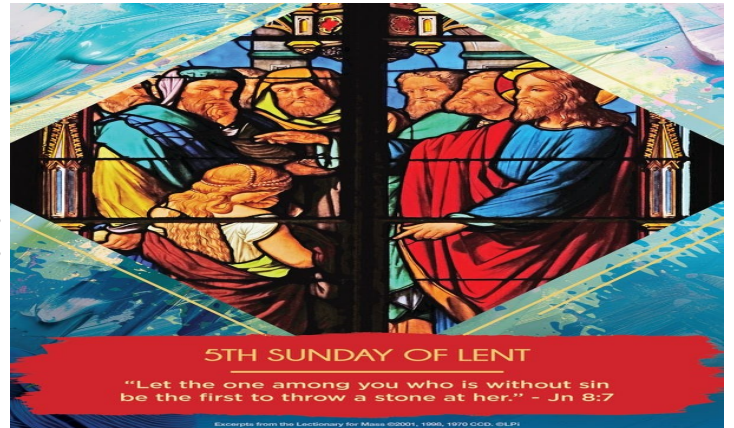
Our first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah sounds like a typical reading from the old testament prophets that is a bit cryptic and maybe doesn't catch our attention. But there is a detail that should:

"Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new!" If you were to open up this chapter of Isaiah (Chapter 43) you would find at the beginning of this passage an incredibly consoling message of the Lord's accompaniment and what he desires for our relationship with him, namely that, as God, he desires to be **savior** and **redeemer**. This is what you would find:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine. When you pass through waters, I will be with you; through rivers, you shall not be swept away. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned, nor will flames consume you. For I, the LORD, am your God, the Holy One of Israel, your savior...Because you are precious in my eyes and honored, and I love you...Fear not, for I am with you; from the east I will bring back your offspring, from the west I will gather you...I am the LORD; there is no savior but me. (cf. Isaiah 43:1ff)"

What is this "something new" that the Lord desires to do for us? It is directly tied to his work of redemption, or buying back, drawing his people back to relationship, intimacy, full restoration, and freedom from sin and slavery. The Lord wants to save them (and us) from separation and from their (our) wandering ways. We hear straight from the mouth of the Lord that there is no other source of such life or freedom apart from him, and he alone possesses this ability to save. Time and again we find ourselves needing to re-learn this, since as we go through life we anxiously work to provide comfort and security for ourselves on our own terms. It's certainly uncomfortable to be in spaces of unknown, to be wandering, to feel the weight of providing for ourselves. The **newness** that we will find is discovered in the desperation of God to pursue us and to save us and restore us to **right** relationship. As we continue journeying through this season of Lent, remember that all the elements of our Lenten observances point us to a better participation in the celebration of Holy Week—all our prayers, charitable works, fasting have Jesus as their end because doing so helps us be drawn deeper into the mystery of *his* life and the power he alone offers. Those actions or prayer, fasting and almsgiving draw us out of ourselves and toward God. We encounter the fullness of life in God, and we only come to be able to have access to such a gift of divine life because of what Jesus does on the Cross as **savior** and **redeemer**.

Enter now the story of our Gospel: Jesus is put to the test regarding the desperate situation of a woman on the threshold of being stoned to death. Let's be sure to direct our attention toward Jesus, rather than the woman. Remember, at this point in the Gospel of John, Jesus has caused great tension and controversy for the Scribes and Pharisees to respond to, and they are eager to find reasons to get rid of him. If Jesus upholds the Law of Moses here and agrees to her being stoned as they desire, the Romans would then have the ability to bring a charge against him because Jews did not have the ability to carry out death sentences on their own. If Jesus chooses rather to pardon her or speak somehow in favor of her, he would be going against the law of Moses, thus giving the opportunity for his own people to then reject him. In the end, as St. Augustine writes, two remain standing at the end of this encounter as Jesus responds: "Misera et Misericordia," "One who is desperate," and "Mercy Incarnate." Jesus holds a mirror up for everyone: he displays that all present are guilty of having fallen morally, these Scribes and Pharisees, and yes even this woman, as he even says to her go and do not sin anymore—Jesus has really come to save us from the ravages of sin. Sin destroys, it wounds, it separates us from God, neighbor, and self, and especially causes disintegration, a breakdown within robbing us of the glory that we were made for. It is the deep desire of the heart of God to heal and save us from falling into the darkness of sin. And thanks be to God, this is the newness that is coming as Jesus goes to the Cross: eternal life, the victory of mercy, and destruction of the powers of sin and death.



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 13

9:00am SJB/HT: John Robinson



Eucharistic Ministry

Center

April 6th Karen Fekete

April 13th Mary Beth Cusano

April 20th Cathy Horton

April 27th Dave William

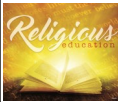
Mary's Side

Dave William

Betty Warren

Larry Argiro

Karen Fekete



Religious Education Announcements

Confirmation News: If you see Natalie & Jayden Sherman, please congratulate them on being confirmed yesterday. There are no Religious Ed classes

for the next 2 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 4 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

Stoning is not just an ancient act of violence. Each day in our homes we throw stones of ridicule, criticism, name calling and put downs. All of it is deadly. Hear Jesus in today's Gospel: "Whoever is without sin can throw the first stone." Rid your home of violence. Stop verbal stoning!



Pray For Vocations

"I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus." Paul writes this to the Philippians because they are

called to this goal as well, and we are too. How is God calling you to pursue this goal? If it is as a priest, deacon, or religious, 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: The prophet Isaiah teaches us that the Lord forgets our sins and offers us a new beginning so that we might praise him. What could you do today to honor and praise the Lord?



2nd Reading Question: Paul tells the believers in Phillipi of his deep desire and hope to know Jesus and the power of his resurrection. In what ways have you drawn closer to Jesus during this season of Lent?

Gospel: Jesus showed mercy toward the sinful woman when others were quick to judge her. Is there someone in your life who you could show mercy over judgment this week? ©LPi

9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

Sunday April 6, 2025 - Antonio McLaughlin - Mother
Marie Salenske - St. John's Friends
David M. & Catherine P. Kelly - Kathleen Kelly
Sunday April 13 - Glenn Wiseman - Ed Airel
David McLaughlin - Mother
Domenico Tropepi - Wife, Maria



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in memory of
Maureen White

Requested by Nancy & Paul

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

SJB/HT - Friday's 4:00pm &

Sunday's 8:30am (before 9:00am Mass)

OLP/SP - Saturday's 3:15pm (before 4:00pm Mass)

Assumption Church - Saturday's 3:15pm (before 4:00pm Mass)

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini Reflection: Too often, we don't care about righteousness or truth. We just care about being right. We have a terrible tendency to see only decisions, and in doing so we dehumanize the people behind them. But when God looks at us, he sees more than the worst decisions we've ever made.

The Allure of Being Right

It wasn't a real question.

"The law of Moses says we should stone her. What do you say?" the Pharisees asked Jesus as they brought the adulterous woman before him. But they weren't *really* asking. They didn't care what Jesus' answer was. They didn't ask his opinion because they wanted to know. They asked because they wanted to use his words against him.

Righteousness, truth — that wasn't the goal. The goal was being right.

And in the middle of the whole scene, dragged before Jesus, used as a literal prop in this staged drama, is a woman. A real flesh-and-blood woman.

I find myself wanting to know more about her. She had been "caught in the act," they claimed, but I wonder what that even means. With whom was this act committed, and what were the reasons for her participation in it? Was she coerced? Was she scared? Was she confused? Was it really a cut-and-dry, black-and-white situation of adultery, of lust, of making the wrong decision?

We will never know the answers to these questions, and it doesn't matter — it's not our business. God knows the answers. God knows the truth of the matter: what she did, what she chose, what she felt. Because she wasn't a prop to Him. She was a person.

When God looks at us, he sees more than the worst decisions we've ever made.

I worry that we use one another as props even today, when we try like the Pharisees to illustrate "What is Right." We have a terrible tendency to see only decisions, and in doing so we dehumanize the people behind them.

Too often, we don't care about righteousness or truth. We just care about being right. ©LPi





Final Fish Dinners

Our last Fish Dinner is Friday April 11th held in conjunction with the Pastime Club, 1314 North Salina Street. Dinners will be \$15.00 each with offerings of our famous baked fish, NEW fried fish and other dinner choices. The Bar will be available for guests 21+, outside alcohol is not allowed. We are very excited about our dinners returning and in working with the Pastime Club in this venture. Dinners will be from 4:30pm-7:30pm. We hope to see you there!! **Entrance:** Enter on the Pastime Drive entrance, in the rear of the building.

A quick note on the veiling of our beautiful statues! The Church in her wisdom and tradition invites us to veil or cover our sacred images from this 5th Sunday of Lent up to the point of the start of the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. This would even include crucifixes, too, not just the saints! Sometimes this can be a little difficult practically, but the symbolism is helpful for a number of reasons. First and foremost, it heightens our attention to this being a solemn time—quite literally it is just different from all other times of the church year, we are preparing to journey with Jesus through the suffering of the cross, to his death, to the darkness of the tomb, to the ultimate glory of his Resurrection. What we see, how we interact with others or go about our daily tasks should have a greater awareness or sensitivity to these particularly solemn days. The rhythm of our lives needs to change to better participate in the mysteries of our redemption. By covering them we are actually intentionally depriving ourselves of their beauty! What for? It creates a hunger within us, a longing for their beauty again. And we know well that the reason for their beauty comes from the source of life that is Jesus' victory over the grave. Think about how, too, the unveiling of the cross in the liturgy for Good Friday. As we've covered these other images, the unveiling of the source of our salvation takes on greater beauty as we truly focus our eyes and hearts on the altar of the Cross, where Christ offered his life out of love for you and me. Let's recommit ourselves to the sacredness of this time, increase our time for silence, maybe even deprive ourselves of other 'sources of beauty' in our lives so that we can enter into the passion of our Lord differently this year, so that we can also receive anew from the treasury of the Lord's Resurrection.

Today (Sunday, April 6 at 4pm) at Sacred Heart in Cicero (8229 Brewerton Rd, Cicero, NY 13039) there will be a large penance service with several priests from the area assisting. Fr. Foley will also be present there. If this is convenient to you, please feel welcome to attend and entrust yourself to the mercy of God anew in the Sacrament to best prepare for Holy Week and Easter!

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.**



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. April 9th and 16th from 4:00-6:00pm.



Devotions, Explained! Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Mini Explanation: Prayed with an ordinary five-decade Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy is an intercessory prayer invoking God's mercy on the world, utilizing words drawn from the text of The Diary of St. Faustina Maria Kowalska.

Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Explained: The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is an intercessory prayer invoking God's mercy on the world, utilizing words drawn from the text of The Diary of St. Faustina Maria Kowalska. St. Faustina was a Polish nun who received visions of Christ imploring her to spread the message of his Divine Mercy, specifically through the recitation of this chaplet.

Prayed with an ordinary five-decade Rosary, the chaplet opens with a recitation of the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Apostle's Creed. The beads usually used for the Our Father are used to recite this prayer: "Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world," followed by ten Hail Mary's and the words "Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world." ©LPi

Sacrificial Giving

Week March 30th
SJB/HT Collection: \$2,632.00



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 _____

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.