

**St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish**

**406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208**

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

**April 27, 2025**



**From Fr. Brendan Foley**

The Second Sunday of Easter is fondly known as Sunday of Divine Mercy. Certainly we can recall the devotion to and chapel of Divine Mercy that Jesus gave us through St. Faustina, but we also see before our eyes today that Divine Mercy is not just an attribute that belongs to God, but really is the very nature of God, the essence of God. Consider the moment that Jesus first appears to the apostles...the last interaction prior that Jesus would have had was a moment where the apostles scattered in fear. They abandoned Jesus in his greatest moment of need. While easily we could expect that when once he returns victorious, vengeance would be sought. Not so with Jesus. His very first words to them are **“Peace.”**

Peace, however, in this context is not simply an absence of conflict, but rather it stems from the breath of Jesus’ life. If we desire to be transformed by true peace that isn’t fleeting, it must come to us through Jesus. Jesus is not competing with us, nor is he trying to hide or withhold the gift of his life, his peace, his mercy—he makes these readily available to whoever seeks them. As we see with Thomas today, transformative encounters with mercy produce faith and trust. There actually is no detail that says Thomas did touch the wounds of Christ...it could very well be that just by Jesus’ patience with him was enough, and his willingness to invite Thomas to touch his wounds was **enough**. He might not have needed anything more than that.

Consider his words to St. Faustina, and ask, what would happen in my life if I became an instrument of Jesus’ mercy? What would change? How might my presence among my friends and family take on a new level of love?

Just a sampling of Jesus’ words to Faustina (below)...how amazing his mercy! Let’s not take it for granted, but entrust ourselves humbly to it!

“Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My Mercy.”

“My daughter [Faustina], write that the greater the misery of a soul, the greater its right to My mercy; [urge] all souls to trust in the unfathomable abyss of My mercy, because I want to save them all...The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy. My mercy is confirmed in every work of My hands. He who trusts in My mercy will not perish, for all his affairs are Mine, and his enemies will be shattered at the base of My footstool.”

“I desire trust from My creatures. Encourage souls to place great trust in My fathomless mercy. Let the weak, sinful soul have no fear to approach Me, for even if it had more sins than there are grains of sand in the world, all would be drowned in the unmeasurable depths of My mercy.”

“Tell [all people], My daughter, that I am Love and Mercy itself. When a soul approaches Me with trust, I fill it with such an abundance of graces that it cannot contain them within itself, but radiates them to other souls.”

“I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: ‘Jesus, I trust in You.’”

**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@syrдио.org](mailto:nbergeson@syrдио.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 May 4th

9:00am SJB/HT: Pat Minnoe



## Eucharistic Ministry

	<u>Center</u>	<u>Mary's Side</u>
April 27th	Dave William	Karen Fekete
May 4th	Betty Warren	Mary Beth Cusano
May 11th	Larry Argiro	Cathy Horton
May 18th	Karen Fekete	Dave William
May 25th	Mary Beth Cusano	Betty Warren



## Religious Education Announcements

Religious Ed classes resume this week. 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.

## 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.



## A Family Perspective Family Life Education

Jesus connects PEACE and FORGIVENESS in today's Gospel. In our families we will only experience peace to the extent we forgive on another. Peace is purchased with the currency of forgiveness. When we allow our anger and pride to lock out others, we also lock out peace and harmony.

## Pray For Vocations

"As the Father sent me, so I send you." Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit upon His disciples and sent them out to bring peoples back to Him, for giving their sins. Is He calling you to bring people back to Him as a priest, deacon or religious brother or sister. Reach out to the Vocation Office via email: [vocations@syrdio.org](mailto:vocations@syrdio.org) and follow us on Instagram [@vocationssyracuse](https://www.instagram.com/vocationssyracuse).



## Reflect: Readings and Gospel

**1st Reading Question:** In the aftermath of Jesus' resurrection, the Apostles performed "many signs and wonders," healing the sick and exorcising unclean spirits. Is there something in your life that needs healing?

**2nd Reading Question:** John is initially frightened at the strange vision of Jesus, but Jesus reassures him, "Do not be afraid." How does Jesus calm your fears?

**Gospel:** The resurrected Jesus' first words to his disciples are "Peace be with you." How could you be a peacemaker this week with a family member or neighbor? ©LPi



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

**Sunday April 27, 2025** - Grazia Mucci - The Family  
Maureen White - Jerry Mott  
Ruth Smith - The Smith Family  
Leonardo Sanzone - The Family  
**Sunday May 4, 2025** - Fred Billion - The Family  
Harold Riley - The Family  
Antonio McLaughlin - Mother  
Carol McGuire & Mary Hennessy - The Family

## Sacrificial Giving

Week April 13th  
SJB/HT Collection: \$2,889.00  
Week April 20th Easter Sunday  
SJB/HT Collection: \$TBA



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in memory of  
**Kevin Cole**  
Requested by The Cole family

## Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Mini Reflection:** It does sound unbelievable, the story of the Resurrection. But lots of things are unbelievable. That doesn't mean they're not true. Take Thomas' example: stay close to the people you trust. Be willing to recognize Jesus when he's in front of you.



## Wonder, Don't Wander

My daughter recently asked me if it's okay to "wonder if all the Jesus stuff is true."

I wasn't surprised by her question. I've expected it, in fact. If you're raising a child to be a critical thinker, you don't want them to accept everything you tell them simply because it comes from your lips. I have promised my children that I will always give them the truth about God. But that's all I can do — give it to them. Whether or not they accept it, ultimately, is their own choice.

"I know it's true," she told me. "But sometimes it just all sounds so...unbelievable."

She's not wrong. It does sound unbelievable that an all-powerful God could create us for no reason other than sheer love, that He could be generous enough to give us free will to accept that love, that he could be merciful enough not to destroy us when we reject that love, and finally that he could be faithful enough in that love to become flesh and die in order to save us from the consequences of our own poor choices.

But lots of things are unbelievable. That doesn't mean they're not true.

When Jesus says, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed," he isn't calling Thomas a fool for questioning something that sounds a little outrageous. He's just highlighting the fact that Thomas is afforded a luxury that none of the Christians born after him, my daughter included, will have: he gets to see proof with his own eyes.

I told my daughter it's fine to wonder — just don't wander. Take Thomas' example. Stay close to the people you trust. Return to the warmth of the upper room. Be willing to recognize Jesus when he's in front of you. Never be afraid to believe. ©LPi

CHURCH OFFICE  
CLOSED

## 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.

## Easter Flowers For The Altar

**Requested For:**

The Bergamo & Kirchgessner Families....Mary Anne Bergamo

**Requested By:**

## Prayer For Everyday And Everybody

### Prayer of Divine Mercy

O Blood and Water that redeems and saves, have mercy on us! O Blood and Water that heals and restores, have mercy on us! O Blood and Water that strengthens and renews, have mercy on us! Amen.



## 2025 National Prayer May 1, 2025

God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

You have caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; therefore, we hope in what we do not see.

This world is not our home or reality, but the Lord is our Rock, our Truth, our certainty.

God of hope, we pour out our praise and are filled with Your powerful presence.

We pour out repentance of sin and are filled with forgiveness and righteousness.

We pour out pain from the attacks of the enemy—anxiousness, fear, anger—and You fill us with courage, assurance, and love.

We pour out our needs, the desires of our hearts, and are filled with Your Kingdom provision and purpose.

We pour out our hearts for our nation, for the people and places, relationships and responsibilities the Lord has established: the Church, Family, Education, Business, Military, Arts, Entertainment, Media, and Government. May all who live, serve, and steward in these be filled with Your purpose, wisdom, strength, and truth.

Let Your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us, as we have hoped in You.

In abounding hope, anchored by our hope in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen!

Written by NDP Task Force President, Kathy Branzell

## Fish Dinner Results

The relaunch of our Lenten fish dinners in conjunction with the Pastime Club was a great success for all involved. We served over 500 dinners in total and had wonderful support from our business and paFISHioner sponsors. Our 50/50 progressive raffle was well received and our winner was Fran Cooney, congratulations. We could not do this without our dedicated volunteer staff and thank you to all that served, provided cookies, helped in the kitchen, and worked the door table, your efforts are what made this a huge success. Thank you also to the Pastime Club staff that welcomed us and worked with us each week. We look forward to serving all of you again on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026.



## Devotions Explained Connect With Tradition And Grow Your Faith

### Sprinkling Rite, Explained

The rite of sprinkling, also called the Asperges rite, describes the act of sprinkling the congregation with holy water, an action which recalls the new life we received in the waters of our baptism.

If this rite is performed during Mass, it takes the place of the penitential act.

The sprinkling rite usually takes place on Sundays during the Easter season but is permitted on any Sunday. When it is completed, the congregation sings the Gloria.

The name “asperges” comes from the first line of Psalm 51, a penitential psalm that begins with the words “Have mercy on me.” In the Extraordinary Form of the Mass, the Asperges rite is done before each principal Mass, except on Palm Sunday.

The tool used by the priest to sprinkle the congregation is called the aspergillum, and the bucket containing the water is called the aspersorium. ©LPi

### 2ND SUNDAY OF 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.**



*Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.” Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God!” — J n 20:27-28*

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



## 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.