

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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March 16, 2025



From Fr. Brendan Foley

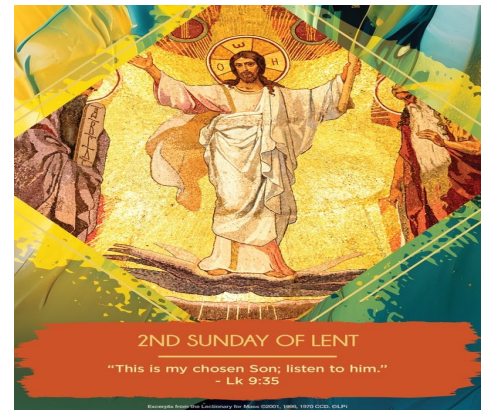
Today I would like for us to look at the event of Jesus' Transfiguration with new eyes. Such a beautiful moment in the Gospel that probably seems a bit cryptic or hidden from us as to its purpose. We might be very familiar with the artwork depicting this scene: Jesus and his garments becoming dazzling white, Moses and Elijah on either side of him, the fear or amazement captured on the faces of Peter, James, and John. Today we hear the account of this moment in Luke's Gospel—which is a turning point in Luke's overall narrative, because it is from this point forward we find Jesus is 'resolutely determined' to go to Jerusalem and face the cross. He begins his journey there, and along the way he delivers many of the important parables, beautiful treasures that are only contained in the Gospel of Luke (e.g., The Good Samaritan, The Lost Coin, The Rich Man and Lazarus, The Return of the Prodigal Son, etc.)

The reason I would like us to look with new eyes at the Transfiguration, though, is that we glimpse something important of Jesus that we must not miss: Jesus' communion with his heavenly Father. The reality of this moment is that nothing for Jesus changes here. Jesus is constantly in perfect communion with the Father at every moment of his earthly life. While we hear about the clothes changing, the presence of Moses and Elijah—all this is good, but really no part of Jesus' identity changes. WE, however, like Peter, James, and John, are privileged to again see who Jesus is, and we are implored to remember. Imagine in this moment, a veil is being lifted, blurriness is removed, and we glimpse the radiance of the mystery and light of God. In this unique moment, the three disciples are privileged to see this and hear again from the heavenly Father as Jesus is about to now head directly to the Cross.

The reason I say that nothing of Jesus' identity changes here is because it is true, the veil lifted reveals what is *always* the reality: the radiance of the divine, the constancy of Jesus' union with the Father—it is always there, it is always the case in everything Jesus does, but in this moment, we see and receive again the knowledge of who he is, because we need to be reminded. This communion between Jesus and the Father is what will sustain Jesus as he endures his passion, and in reality this communion is present in Jesus as he teaches, heals, and even as he simply interacts with others. The communion is also present in every moment of Jesus' hidden life, his moments of prayer and discernment, the quiet times of seclusion away from the crowds. In the Transfiguration we saw the veil lifted on the beauty of what is *always* there in the life of Jesus.

Oftentimes in our spiritual lives, we hunger specifically for this 'mountaintop' experience, we deeply desire to glimpse or feel the radiance of God's presence in our life (as we should). However, more often than we'd probably prefer, we live in the in-between moments of our spiritual lives waiting for the next major reassurance of God's accompaniment, the next incredible grace that reveals God to us—we forget the reality of the communion that God has invited us to also share constantly with him even in the quiet, hidden moments of our lives. We should consider that veiled from our sight is the constancy of the communion that lives in us from the moment of our Baptism that gets covered over or even damaged by our sin and separating ourselves from it in its fullness. If we approach our prayer lives with the confidence that the glory and constancy of God's presence is always there whether we are privileged to see the dazzling effects of grace around us or merely the graces always sustaining us, we might grow in our capacity for perseverance. As amazing as the big transfiguration moments are for us in our lives, equally important for us to remember is the connectedness we are invited to lean into every day of our lives.

This Transfiguration moment is an icon for our spiritual lives as disciples. Peter, James, and John will come to recall the blessing of witnessing this moment when Jesus' paschal mystery is accomplished. They will recall Jesus' identity and his communion with the Father in his suffering when they themselves also face the suffering of the cross in their *lives*. Because of glimpsing his glory and transfiguration, they will continue clinging to the Lord, seeking his grace, and like St. Paul, to never find themselves as "enemies of the cross," and instead, live boldly anchored hope for whatever they endure.



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

Web Site - www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com

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

Pastor: Father Brendan Foley

Secretary/Bulletin: Nancy Bergeson

Senior Priest in Residence: Fr. Lester Smith

In Residence: Fr. Paschal Anionye

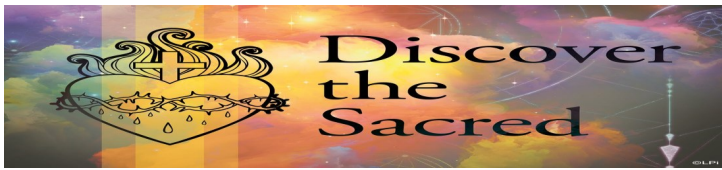
Music Director/Organist: Mr. James Stanley

Buildings/Grounds: Robert Warren

Religious Education: Betty Warren

Sacristan/Grounds: Allan Chouinard

Altar Server: Benjamin Chouinard



Lector - Sunday March 23
9:00am SJB/HT: Chet Wisniewski

Eucharistic Ministry

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Center | Mary's Side |
| March 16 Mary Beth Cusano | Betty Warren |
| March 23 Mary Anne Bergamo | Dave William |
| March 30 Larry Argiro | Cathy Horton |

Sacrificial Giving
Week March 9th
SJB/HT Collection: \$9,330.00

Offering Envelopes




Special ANNOUNCEMENT **Street Closure**

Please note that Danforth Street and Park Street will be blocked for the Syracuse Half Mile Run on Sunday March 23rd. Please be prepared to take an alternate entrance onto Park Street to our Church block from that direction. Also, with the thawing snow, we ask that you still avoid parking in the back lot near the orange cones. Thank You.


Religious Education Announcements

Our Religious Education program is nearing the end of the 2024-2025 year. There are only 7 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 our students as they continue their education. Please especially pray for our 2 Confirmation II students who will be confirmed on April 5th.




A Family Perspective
Family Life Education

Jesus "went up the mountain to pray" and he was "changed." Prayer has the power to change us. This Lent set aside a few minutes each day to pray for members of your family. Pray before each meal and if you are married, spend five minutes in prayer together.



Pray For Vocations

"Jesus took Peter, John and James and went up the mountain to pray." Jesus invited these three closer to Himself to strengthen their faith in preparation for the work He called them to do. What is God calling you to do? If you believe He is asking you to be a religious, priest or deacon, 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

Gospel Question: As Peter, James and John witnessed Jesus' transfiguration, they heard God say, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." As the season of Lent continues, what do you hope to hear from God?

1st Reading Question: The Lord God promised Abram land and many descendants because Abram put his faith in the Lord. Why do you have faith in God?

2nd Reading Question: Paul teaches the Corinthians that upon Jesus' return, he will change our bodies to conform with his glorified body. Can you imagine what a glorified body will be like?
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The Mass Book is now open through July 31st.



9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

Sunday March 16, 2025 - Roberto Flores - Wife, Mary
Antonio McLaughlin - Mother
Tarky Lombardi, Jr. Edward Sheeran

Sunday March 23, 2025 - Bill Judge - The Family
Francis Galimi - Twin Brother
Clemente & Maria Grazia Vigliotti - John & Dale Vigliotti




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: It's always helpful to get the opinion of someone we trust when we're facing a situation that confuses or alarms us. But we all have a divine confidante that can help us sort through anything we're dealing with. Are we taking advantage of that?



The Divine Confidante

My husband pretty much knows that if he tells me something — anything — he's also telling my sister.

Most of us have that person that we run to when we have important information. I'm not even talking about gossip; I'm talking about stuff we just have to discuss. We joke that I don't really know how I feel about something until I've run it by my sister first.

There's not really anything wrong with that. When we're trying to figure out how to think about something that has happened or how to react to a certain situation, it's always helpful to get the opinion of someone we trust.

But what if we ran as quickly to discuss the situation with God as we did to discuss it with our "person?" Wouldn't that be ideal?

After witnessing the transfiguration — an event that had to have been as confusing as it was astounding — we hear that the disciples "fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen."

When something profound, frightening, or confusing happens, our first confidante should be God. I'm reminded of Luke 2:19: "Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart." There is something to be said for taking a moment to keep that information sacred between ourselves and the One who can really help us confront it.

Sure, maybe we don't understand what just happened. Maybe we're scared by it. We don't really know how we feel about it. And that's totally okay. The divine confidante knows how to help us pray through that confusion, that fear.

If you're someone's "person" and they come to you wanting to talk, that's great. Talk it out. But remind them — and remind yourself — to pray about it as much as you talk about it.

Let the love of those things carry you through this Lent, and beyond. ©LPI

Fish Dinners Are Back

We are pleased to announce our famous Lenten Fish Dinners are returning this year. Dinners will be held in conjunction with the Pastime Club, 1314 North Salina Street on Ash Wednesday March 5th, and on the Fridays of Lent Starting on March 7th. 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.

paFISHioner Sponsor 2025

With the exciting return of our fish dinners we are bringing back our "paFISHioner" sponsor as well. Sponsorship is \$25.00, or other amount, and a paFISHioner sponsor sheet will be on the tables at the Pastime Club. Please either mail a check and the filled our form below to SJB/HT 406 Court Street Syr. NY 13208, or drop an envelope in the collection basket marked to Nancy's attention. Please do not put it in your regular collection envelope. Sponsorship will be accepted from now until the end of the dinners.

Form

Donor: _____

Sponsorship amount: _____

In Memory/Honor of: _____

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, Jon English, 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.**



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.



You Are Invited

"Theology on Tap is a gathering for young adults (ages 18-39) looking to connect and learn more about the Catholic faith." Fr. Brendan is the speaker on Thursday, March 27 at Abbiocco by A Mano 344 S. Warren Street from 7-9pm. Preregistering secures you a free drink! Hope to see you there! There's more info <https://syracusediocese.org/theology-on-tap> if you'd like, and you can also register there, too.

Adoration Of The Blessed Sacrament

Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peters Church will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday during Lent. March 19th, 26th, April 2nd, 9th and 16th from 4:00-6:00pm.



Prayer For Everyday And Everybody



Prayer of Listening

Attune the ears of my heart, Lord, to the soft and still ways You are inviting me today. And then give me the strength and courage to respond to what You say. Amen. ©LPi

Informational Survey

St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity along with **all** the parishes of our diocese is partnering with Catholic Leadership Institute through a grant that has been made available to us in order to help us **grow in discipleship and assess our parish family's greatest opportunities and strengths.** The first step of this process for each parish is to complete the **Disciple Maker Index (DMI)**, a 10-15 minute survey designed to:



- **Invite parishioners to reflect on their journey of discipleship.**
- **Enable parish leadership to make data-driven decisions.**
- **And help parishioners grow in their faith.**

Bishop Lucia is asking all of us to complete this survey that will be conducted beginning on Ash Wednesday. Please consider participating as the results of this effort will serve to strengthen our parish and better prepare us for the future. A comprehensive report of the findings will be shared with us in the coming months. **This also will be very beneficial for Fr. Foley as he continues to get to know our parish family.** Our parish has been blessed with so many generous individuals and families over the rich history of our parish, and this is a simple opportunity to highlight additional areas of strength to tap into as a parish continuing to journey as disciples in our world today. The survey is being conducted online, however, if you prefer a paper copy you may pick up a paper copy of the survey after Sunday Masses at the entrances of the church starting Ash Wednesday and the following weekends. More information to come. Stay tuned!

Online survey:

<https://portal.catholicleaders.org/d/xb8kpx>



The Solemnity of St. Joseph

On March 19th, we celebrate the holiness in the midst of unpredictable fatherhood. We first meet Joseph when he discovers his betrothed is pregnant...and not by him! St. Joseph does not know who the father is (yet), but he knows the punishment for adultery is death. He decides to divorce Mary quietly, and thus save her life. When an angel appears to reveal that Mary is pregnant by the Holy Spirit, St. Joseph trusts his dream and marries her. As a new foster father, Joseph must help his wife give birth in a stable. Later, he needs to escape the threats to his son's life by immigrating with his family to a foreign land. We know that St. Joseph is faithful, brave, and willing to sacrifice for those he loves. On the solemnity of St. Joseph, we don't merely celebrate a carpenter. We celebrate a hero!