

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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

March 30, 2025



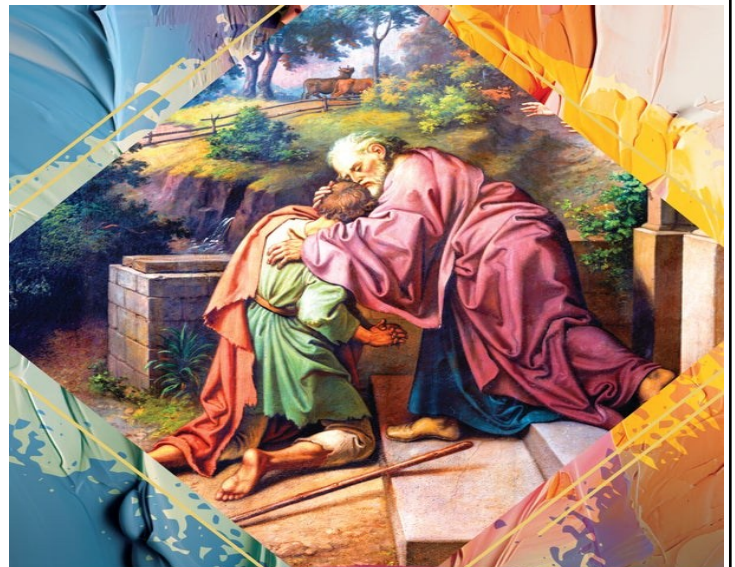
From Fr. Brendan Foley

The parable of the lost son that we are blessed to reflect with today reveals the deep beauty of the merciful heart of God the father. Our temptation in contemplating this story is certainly to identify as one of the two sons, to think back on our own journey of faith or life and be consumed by our mistakes or past wounds. Yet, the purpose of this parable is to fixate our lives on the mystery of the mercy of the Father. The parable is more aptly titled the Prodigal **Father**. “Prodigal” denotes recklessness, spending resources freely without concern, almost even in a sense with imprudence. If the father in Jesus’ parable is an icon of God the Father, then what are the implications? What is important to Him?

If we are inclined to identify ourselves with the two sons, we are quick to begin evaluating actions, dispositions, hearts—and seeing identity, dignity, or worth connected to where virtue is or has been (or where it hasn’t been). The reality of what matters **most** to the heart of the father is the identity of **belonging** to him as his son, as his child, having security in his home. Even the younger son who essentially wishes his father’s death so to have access to his inheritance then spends everything and finds himself utterly destitute and hopeless, equates his own value with his failures. When he’s at his lowest, he can’t even fathom belonging to someone who cares for him, he doesn’t even desire the identity of being “son” anymore. All he wants is to be treated as a slave or hired hand.

The beauty of the mercy of God is that it first needs just the smallest of windows into our hearts to be transformative. The younger son has this, and he is moved to return. Yet without ever even being able to voice his “plan” or speak the words he desires to offer in desperation to his father, he is embraced by his father who runs to meet him, and he is given **shoes**. Hired hands and slaves would not have shoes, would not have robes, would not have rings—but a son would. Belonging to the home of the father offers these comforts, not because of anything the son does or earns, but simply from the treasury of the father’s life are these gifts shared. The father doesn’t desire a hired hand or another slave, he desires the life of his son. The father even makes this abundantly clear when he speaks to his older son imploring him to come and share his joy at his brother’s coming back to life: “**everything** I have is yours”—the father tells him. Again, what does this reveal to us of the Father’s heart? He desires our communion with him, he doesn’t desire our death or separation from him.

No where does the father say that his young son’s actions were okay or not so bad. The father knows that his son chose the path that leads to spiritual and physical destitution. He also knows that the medicine of mercy is the path that leads us to conversion. Because mercy, from an earthly perspective, doesn’t make sense. It’s not a good investment. Yet the Father is reckless in offering it to us because he desires us to dwell forever with him in His house. The more we open ourselves up to receive the grace of repentance, to never desire our separation from communion with him, the more we will see, appreciate, and experience the unfathomable riches that is the treasury of the Father’s heart, the Father’s mercy. The Sacrament of Reconciliation brings us directly into contact with this embrace and access to new life. Why would we ever avoid it or think we have no use for it? St. Paul’s words to us today (2 Cor 5:17-21) should follow after we have meditated on this parable: we must be ambassadors for Christ. We must be ambassadors like the younger son who have been given life by the Father’s mercy, and desire others to come find life anew, too. And the sole reason we even have access to such a profoundly transformative gift, is because Jesus desired to offer his life to the Father on the Cross so that we might come to share eternal life.



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

“This son of mine was dead, and has come to life again.” - Lk 15:24a

Excerpts from the Lctionary for Mass ©2001, 1992, 1970 CCD. © LPI

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.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.

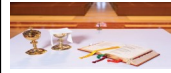
Holy Thursday April 17th SJB/HT Mass at 5:00pm followed
by Adoration until 10:00pm.

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 6

9:00am SJB/HT: Owen Donovan

Eucharistic Ministry

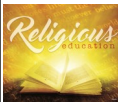
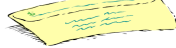
Center
March 30 Larry Argiro

Mary's Side
Cathy Horton

Sacrificial Giving

Week March 23rd
SJB/HT Collection: \$1,371.00

Offering Envelopes



Religious Education Announcements

Our Religious Education program is nearing the end of the 2024-2025 year. There are only 5 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 join us at the confirmation of our 2 Confirmation II students who will be confirmed at St. Daniel's Church on April 5th at 4:00pm. Please keep them in your prayers.

A Family Perspective Family Life Education

We may feel like the Prodigal Son but the Gospel wants us to focus on the father who was forgiving and understanding. We all make mistakes and need forgiveness. Who in your family needs your forgiveness and acceptance this Lent?



Pray For Vocations

"So we are ambassadors for Christ." Paul writes to the Corinthians that God is appealing to the Corinthians through them. Is God asking you to

be His ambassador to those who don't know Christ as a deacon, religious, or priest? 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: In the parable of the Prodigal Son, in a real sense, both sons are lost. How might you help a lost family member or friend this week?



1st Reading Question: As Israel settled into the land of Canaan (the Promised Land), they learned God removed the "reproach" of Egypt from them and they could freely eat from the land. What have you discovered about yourself or others during this season of Lent?

2nd Reading Question: Paul taught that reconciliation with God and with each other was key to being a "new creation." How often do you experience reconciliation with God or with others?

©LPi

The Mass Book is now open through July 31st.



9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

Sunday March 30, 2025 - David McLaughlin - Mother
John L. Stinziano - Peter & Maureen White

Sunday April 6, 2025 - Antonio McLaughlin - Mother
Marie Salenske - St. John's Friends
David M. & Catherine P. Kelly - Kathleen Kelly



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in memory of
Paul Ferretti
Requested by Karen & Max



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

The Apology

I like to imagine the Prodigal Son practicing his apology in the mirror.



He wouldn't have, of course. Mirrors weren't exactly a dime a dozen back then. But I imagine him anyway, rehearsing the words as he contemplates his own gaunt reflection: "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. Treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."

In other words, I have done wrong. I deserve nothing from you. But please, don't let me starve. Save me.

The apology wasn't necessary to move the heart of the father. We know that because before they meet, before anything is said, the father is overcome with compassion — not because he got his satisfaction, that long-awaited "I'm sorry, I was wrong." No, he's simply overjoyed to see his son alive. Even without apology, we know the father will beg his son to stay.

So why does the son apologize?

The father doesn't need the "I'm sorry." He isn't starving and lost. He knew all along it was a bad idea. He doesn't need to learn any lessons.

But what a tragedy it would have been, if the son had never said he was sorry. Undoubtedly, his father would have let him stay as a hired worker, and he would have had food to eat. He would have survived. But he wouldn't have been what he was born to be.

I often think of the son's apology as I am kneeling in the confessional, awkwardly reciting sins God already knows and is eager to forgive. *Why are you doing this?* some people would ask. *God doesn't need this.*

It's the apology, you see. The apology means everything. The Prodigal Son was dead. The apology brought him back to life.

God doesn't need our repentance. *We need our repentance.* ©LPi



Last Two Fish Dinners

Our last two Fish Dinners are April 4th & 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.

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

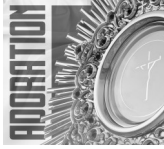
Saturday Vigil - 4:00pm Vietnamese Mass 6:00pm
 Sunday - 7:30am, 11:30am
 9:30am Vietnamese
 Monday - Thursday 9:00am in the Chapel
 Reconciliation Wednesday 4:00-5:00pm

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.

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. March 26th, April 2nd, 9th and 16th from 4:00-6:00pm.



Prayer For Everyday And Everybody
Prayer of a Father’s Blessing
 God who wills good things for your children, Help me to trust that You will be faithful. God who will not leave me, help me to seek You, too. God who is ever-waiting for me, Help me to run straight towards You. Amen. ©LPi



Devotions, Explained!
Novena
Novena, Explained: The word novena comes from the Latin word, novem, for nine. A novena is a nine-day period of private or public prayer. There are four basic categories of novenas — novenas of preparation, of mourning, of prayer, and of indulgence.



The nine days of prayer format comes directly from scripture where we read in the book of Acts that it was nine days after the Ascension that the Holy Spirit descended onto the Apostles. During that time, the faithful men and women “devoted themselves to constant prayer,” (Acts 1:12-14) waiting for the Lord.

Today, Catholics can find hundreds of novenas to pray about a plethora of topics. Many Catholics pray novenas in times of need or in devotion to a specific saint. Although a saint’s novena may traditionally begin or end on the saint’s feast day, while others, like the “Novena for Adopted Children” or the “Novena for Vocations,” can be prayed any time of the year, there is flexibility here for those wanting to pray. The faithful may choose to pray a private novena on any topic at any time! Want to pray a novena to St. Francis but it’s not his feast day? Go ahead! ©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 _____

