

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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

March 9, 2025



From Fr. Brendan Foley

Hooray Lent! More intentional prayer and sacrifice! I'm sure you all are as excited as I am! Okay maybe you're not as excited. But something that may encourage us to approach Lent with fresh eyes (or enthusiasm!) this year is making ourselves aware of the Jubilee Year which we currently find ourselves in. The Jubilee is not an "extra" or an "add-on" to the Christian faith. It actually lies at the very center of Scripture, salvation history, and Jesus' mission as the Messiah. The Church's Jubilee years are ultimately grounded in the biblical Jubilee Year, which—according to Leviticus 25—came around every 50 years, and was celebrated by 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.**

What if *these* goals were part of our own goals with the Lord for our season of Lent? Forgiveness—Have we asked forgiveness for ourselves from God, most concretely in the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Have we asked forgiveness from others? Have we extended forgiveness to others? Who in my life is it most difficult to extend mercy toward? How does the Lord see that person? Engaging the radical nature of God's mercy and his patience to work with our ongoing conversion of heart leads us to image the heart of God and in return we will find authentic freedom and profound hope to enliven us.

Family and fullness—how are you doing regarding your priorities in life? When we desire the Lord to be at the center of our life, we discover the reality that he frees us to be better present not only to him, but to all the relationships in our lives. With Jesus at the heart of our interactions, our words and our deeds take on his perspective. What would change in our families if striving for the life of discipleship became the value by which we approached all the other things in our life? Our homes or our families are referred to as "domestic churches"—namely our day-to-day life should reflect the life of the Gospel, corporal and spiritual works of mercy should be hallmarks of our homes and relationships. When we pursue these in faith, we begin to experience the fullness of life, deep purpose is given us, and our relationships with one another are life-giving, and not draining on us, because we are better able to approach one another as God approaches us.

Again these 'goals' might be different ways of thinking about our season of Lent, but the reality is, Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving are to be a part of every season of our lives as disciples. We are intended to see that these practices lead us to be fully human and give direction to our lives. Jubilee is at the heart of God's call on our lives. The Lord desires us to recall the redemption or reclaiming us as his own, to return from the stress and chaos of our lives and whatever sins are our obstacles to rejoice and find rest and the power of the resurrection. We could say that the goal of the Bible, the Holy Mass, and every sacrament is to draw us more fully into God's "Jubilee" to the power of this freedom, hope, and rest. I urge us all to put aside any indifference or fatigue, and to fully embrace—with joy!—the opportunity for conversion and deeper experience of God's presence that the 2025 Jubilee presents us. May it be a blessed Lent for us all.

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



Lector - Sunday March 16

9:00am SJB/HT: Ashley Crisafulli

Eucharistic Ministry

Center

March 9 Karen Fekete
March 16 Mary Beth Cusano
March 23 Mary Anne Bergamo
March 30 Larry Argiro

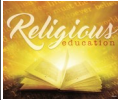
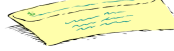
Mary's Side

Alan Chouinard
Betty Warren
Dave William
Cathy Horton

Sacrificial Giving

Week March 2nd
SJB/HT Collection: \$2,818.00

Offering Envelopes



Religious Education Announcements

Our Religious Education program is nearing the end of the 2024-2025 year. There are only 8 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 "was led by the Spirit in the wilderness." What is the wilderness in your life to which the Holy Spirit is leading you this Lent? Perhaps there are uncharted areas in your marriage of family relationships. Spend this Lent in your "wilderness" with God's work. Where is the Spirit leading you this Lent?



Pray For Vocations

Moses instructed the priests to be intercessors of the people, presenting the offerings of the people to Lord God. Is God calling you to intercede for the people to the Lord, presenting them as a deacon, priest, or religious would? Reach out to the Vocation Office via email: vocations@syrdio.org and follow us on Instagram @vocationssyracuse.

Reflect: Readings and Gospel

Gospel Question: We hear how Jesus was tempted by the devil as he was preparing to begin his public ministry. What temptation can you confront this Lent?



1st Reading Question: Moses taught the Israelites the importance of remembering the story of their release from Egyptian slavery. This event defined them as a people loved by God. What is a story from your family that has helped define you?

2nd Reading Question: Paul encouraged the Christians in Rome to have a genuine faith in Jesus in both heart and mind. As the season of Lent begins, how might you show others the sincerity of your faith? ©LPi

Prayer for Lent

Dear Jesus,
This is the first Sunday of Lent, and I want to commit myself more deeply to you this season. Inspire me with the Lenten penances you most desire, the ones that help me to grow ever nearer to you. Amen. ©LPi



1st SUNDAY OF LENT



The Mass Book is now open through July 31st.



9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

Sunday March 9, 2025 - Vincenzo & Angela Abbatello - The Family
Giovanna & Ausacchio Bruno - The Family
Sunday March 16, 2025 - Roberto Flores - Wife, Mary
Antonio McLaughlin - Mother
Tarky Lombardi, Jr. Edward Sheeran



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in memory of **Hannah "P." Markert**
Requested by The Family

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini Reflection: The devil knows that Jesus is human, so he uses all the best tricks he has for getting humans to break. The devil will try these things with us, too — this Lent, and throughout our lives. But how can we resist? We're only human. What do we have that the devil doesn't have?



What the Devil Doesn't Have

The devil knows all the rules. The devil knows all the Bible verses. He probably knows them better than you do (certainly better than I do).

He knows them so well that here, in today's Gospel, he thinks he can outsmart the Son of God. He thinks he can out-argue him.

See, the thing you need to know about the devil is that he could have a master's degree in theology. Maybe even a doctorate. But have you ever met a master's student, or even a doctoral one, who doesn't have a particular passion for what they're studying? I sure have.

The devil didn't rebel against God because he didn't understand God's will. He rebelled because he understood God's will perfectly — and he didn't like it.

The devil knows that Jesus is human, and so in today's Gospel he employs all the very best tricks he has for getting humans to break. Physical hunger. Insecurity and a desire for power. The yearning to appear learned and wise.

The devil will try these things with us, too — this Lent, and throughout our lives.

It doesn't work with Jesus, because, of course, Jesus is not *just* human. He can feel temptation, but he will not submit to it. But how are we supposed to do the same? We're not divine. We're just human.

Well, here's the thing. We may be only human, but as Christians, we have a secret weapon. (No, it's not a master's degree in theology. Some of you may have that, but it probably doesn't make you holier.)

We have a love of what the devil has renounced — those things belonging solely to God. Truth. Joy. Humility. Sanctifying sacrifice.

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, Fred Wheeler and Maureen White. **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

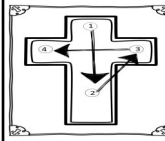
Saturday Vigil - 4:00pm Vietnamese Mass 6:00pm
 Sunday - 7:30am, 11:30am
 9:30am Vietnamese
 Monday - Thursday 9:00am in the Chapel
 Reconciliation Wednesday 4:00-5:00pm

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.

Prayer For Everyday And Everybody

Prayer of Identity

Dear God, Claim me as Your own. When I lose my way, remind me that I am Yours. When I'm plagued with doubt, fill me with Your love. Amen.



Devotions, Explained! The Sign of the Cross

The Sign of the Cross, Explained "I claim you for Christ by the sign of his cross." These words

from the Rite of Baptism, spoken as the priest traces a cross on the infant's forehead, perfectly communicate the significance of that simple, familiar action. In signing the cross, we claim ourselves again and again for Christ, unite ourselves with His sacrifice on Calvary, and confess his victory over death.

Christians have been making the sign of the cross since ancient times, as evidenced by writings from Tertullian, Hippolytus and St. Cyprian. The ritual action is not only an important component of formal liturgies and sacramental rites, but also a daily devotional practice whereby the faithful invoke the blessing and protection of God.

In the Latin rite, it is made either with a movement of the full hand from one's forehead, breast and shoulders (going right to left) or with the thumb tracing the cross on the forehead, lips and breast. ©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 devil said to him, "All this will be yours, if you worship me."
 Jesus said to him in reply, "It is written:
 You shall worship the Lord, your God,
 and him alone shall you serve."

— Lk 4:6a, 7-8

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

