

A MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCE



To come down from the mountaintop in today's Gospel reading is to face everyday reality with its myriad of struggles and difficulties.

And so they descended. Peter, James, and John were not abandoned by Jesus when they reached the bottom. He was still with them. And when we experience our "highs" in life, e.g., the birth of a child, a new job or promotion, witnessing the marriage of a child, an athletic feat, achieving all As in a college class, making new friendships, we can experience the presence of God within us. And when we stumble and come down from the mountain, e.g., unemployment, addictions of all sorts, failure of a marriage, making bad decisions, God is not gone from our lives. Weekends can be a real "high," but then comes Monday morning and we have to face a new day. We have to think about earning a living, providing support for our family, paying the household bills, etc. Around this time of the year the weather can give us a "high:" a feeling of spring is in the air with longer days and shorter nights. But we also get a blast of reality that reminds us we still are experiencing the cold and dreary days of winter.

Why did Jesus take these men to the mountaintop? How do we experience our personal transfiguration? Are we spiritually challenged and changed? Are we now clothed and bathed in that heavenly light? As we descend those sometimes perilous cliffs, jagged rocks, and meandering paths, we reach the bottom of the hill. We encounter reality with all its pleasures and misfortunes: our everyday experiences. And how have we been changed by this visionary experience? "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him."

Our challenge is to believe that the presence and love of Christ are always with us wherever we are, be it high on a mountaintop or deep in a valley or wherever we may find Him. There is much good in our world today, though at the present moment in our country. it is difficult to see it: pandemic virus, current political and on-going social unrest. Quite often we are unable to find it or are unaware of it. Through faith and our good works of charity, and those of others, we can be changed to see good where others might see evil, to see hope where there might be despair, and to see a friend rather than an enemy. Our challenge is always to remain with Christ on whatever hill or in whatever valley we find Him. He is always with us as we face our everyday struggles and human frailties.

Our transfiguration is our change in our acts of ministry to others. Are we able to help the sinner to be transfigured and to change and to return back to God? Are we able to use our God-given talents to help the poor and marginalized? To see women transfigured and to be counted as equals in all strata of society? To bring about the Light to those who may be physically, mentally and societal imprisoned?

It is here at this liturgical celebration of the Mass that we meet Jesus and see Him in all his glory. After we leave this place, we return to follow our daily routine and to experience those moments of transfigurations where we are called upon to help to change this world with the help of God's grace and love so that He might be revealed to all whom we encounter.

John Macko, Blessed Sacrament



BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

3127 James Street
Syracuse, New York 13206
(315) 437-3394
bscoffice@bscstvsyr.org

MASS TIMES

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 4:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m.
and by appointment

OFFICE HOURS

Mon. - Fri. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH

342 Vine Street
Syracuse, New York 13203
(315) 479-6689
stvoffice@bscstvsyr.org

MASS TIMES

Monday-Wednesday 12:00 p.m.
Saturday 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:30 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 3:00 p.m.-3:45 p.m.
and by appointment

OFFICE HOURS

Mon./Tues/Th. 8:30 a.m.-12:30

REFLECTION

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Responsorial Psalm 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19

Second Reading: Romans 8:31b - 34

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:2-10

Reflection: In today's Gospel Reading Jesus takes three of his disciples Peter, James and John to the highest mountain and there he is transfigured before them. Elijah and Moses of old appear in that context. During that scenario, the cloud comes, casting a shadow over them and from the cloud comes a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." The same voice with almost the same words is heard in Mathew 3:17 when Jesus rises from the Jordan where he is baptized by John. And a voice from heaven says, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." God the Father continues to inform us of his own identity and the identity of Jesus. He is the Father and Jesus is his beloved Son. We are called to listen to him. Listening to God is the invitation which is given to the humanity of all times. In today's First Reading, Abraham pays close attention to God. At first, God tells Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a holocaust. Abraham listens and obeys God. As he and his son come to the place of sacrifice, God tells Abraham not to lay his hand on the boy. Abraham listens and obeys God. Again God tells Abraham to take a ram caught by its horn in the thicket and offer it up as a holocaust in place of his son. Abraham listens and obeys. In today's Second Reading, Paul writes to the Romans by telling them, "If God is for us, who can be against us? The Psalmist in today's Responsorial Psalm testifies that, "I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living." Listening to God, walking before the Lord and acknowledging the presence of God in our lives provide us with true direction in our life. Failure to listen to God, is the beginning of going astray in our lives. In every step I make in my life, I need to ask myself what does God speak to me now? Do I obey that what God speaks to me now? The Psalmist invites us in this Lenten season saying, "Oh, that today you would hear his voice, Do not harden your hearts," (Psalm 95:7-8). Yes! Amen! Fr. Severine.

FOOD FOR THE POOR

Dear parishioners: As we have heard this past weekend from Fr. Glenn Baptiste homily, let's also make our plan to support the hungry in Jamaica, other islands and in South America through our sacrificial giving this Lent. Booklets from Food For the Poor are available in our parishes and they contain the mailing envelope for your contribution. Let's feed the hungry of the world as we feed Jesus himself.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be on Fridays of Lent (except Good Friday) after the 8AM Mass and 6PM followed by Benediction.

LENTEN FISH FRY

Location: Blessed Sacrament School Parking Lot and Cafeteria

Upcoming Dates: Remaining Fridays— March 5, 12, 19, 26 (4-7PM)

To place a delivery, pre-order: Call Mary at 315.382.6652 before 2PM on the day of the fish fry and advise of either 4:30 or 5:30PM delivery.

Curbside Pickup: Call 315.380.4946; 315.350.8646; or 315.420.9322 between 4 and 6:30PM on fish fry days.

MASS INTENTIONS—BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

Saturday, February 27, 5PM: *Francesca Clemente—Christa Speach*

Sunday, February 28, 7:30AM: *Edviga Kurniewiez—Daughter*

Sunday, February 28, 9:30AM: *Frank Basile—Wife and Family*

Sunday, February 28, 11:30AM: *People of the Parish*

Monday, March 1, 8AM: *Joyce Pulchalski—France Killan*

Tuesday, March 2, 8AM: *Ceclia Salbert—Lorraine Kosiba*

Wednesday, March 3, 8AM: *Robert Zimmer—Donvito and Kukys*

Thursday, March 4, 8AM: *Gwen Reynolds—Estate*

Friday, March 5, 8AM: *Marie Tassone—Blessed Sacrament School*

Saturday, March 6, 5PM: *People of the Parish*



Blessed Sacrament Church

We Pray for Mary

Semak, Mike, Mary, Larry, Kimberly Penny, Fr. Tom Kobuszewski, Michael Thompson, Karen Ballog, Shari Rustay, Ann Folger, Dr. William Delaney, Msgr. J. Robert Yeazel, Sonny McCarthy, Missy DiPaulo Angotti, Roslyn Antonacci, Margie McKeon, Carolyn Armstrong, Patrick Brewer, Rita Bross, Marlene Brush, Susan Moro Campbell, Terri Close, Ann Cook, Mary Extale, John Fortino, Mary Anne Garrett, Mary Gersbacher, John Gersbacher, Elizabeth Gilbert,, Mary Griffin, Mary Ingalls, Yang Juan, Mary Linehan, Cole Malone, Grace McNamara, Giavanna Regulbuto, Jean Suits, and Elizabeth Walrath.

SIMPLE FAMILY LENTEN ACTIVITIES:

Crown of Thorns—catholicicing.com/make-crown-of-thorns-for-lent
Sacrifice Jar—loveandmessiness.com/our-lenten-sacrifice-jars
Purple Prayer Corner - catholicicing.com/how-to-set-up-a-lent-table-lent-home-altar-ideas
Stained Glass Cross - kindercraze.com/stained-glass-cross-lenten-craft-for-kindergarten

TELEVISED MASSES: Saturday @ 8:30 p.m., Channel 98; Sunday @ 6:30 a.m., Channel 9. EWTN, channel 44, at 8 a.m., 12 noon, and 7 p.m. daily Check a particular church's web site for live stream Masses.

Blessed Sacrament Parish & School proudly presents the annual Share the Wealth Raffle. The total payout will be \$20,750. Tickets are \$75.00 and only 750 will be sold. Prizes to be awarded are as follows:

1st Prize is \$10,000 . . 2nd Prize is (2) \$2,500 . . . 3rd Prize is (5) \$1,000 . . . 4th Prize is (10) \$75 (dinner attendees only)

The drawing will take place at the Spring Fling Dinner (tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 8 in the Parish Center - Covid restrictions dependent). For those attending the Spring Fling dinner, your ticket not only covers the dinner but will be included in a separate drawing for the 10 winners of the 4th prize at \$75.00. RSVP for the dinner required by May 4. Guests are \$10. Purchase online at: <https://www.bscstvsyr.org/> <https://blessedsacramentsyracuse.weshareonline.org/>

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS: *All Confirmation students are to sign up to spend an hour in Adoration on Thursdays from 6-7PM in the church. Confirmation students should make this a priority as part of the program. Contact the rectory at 315.437.3394 to sign up.*

SHOPPING AT AMAZON? *Did you know you can support the Blessed Sacrament Eagles Fund for free? Go to smile.amazon.com and select Blessed Sacrament Charitable Scholarship Fund. It's that easy! There is no cost to you and Amazon will support scholarships. Thank you!*

Centennial Prayer of Blessed Sacrament Parish Syracuse, NY (1921 - 2021)

Gracious Father,

We your children humbly ask your blessing upon us as we celebrate a century of Faith, Hope and Love since the founding of our Blessed Sacrament Parish.

You have shaped us into a community where the dignity of each person is respected, where one can feel at home and worship you with joy and peace. By your grace we have responded to your call to bring all people into your family, the Church.

We desire to reach out to the least among us, to the poor, the marginalized and the alienated. As your faithful, we gather and are nourished by your Word and the Sacraments so that we may bring your love and healing to others.

Rooted in your Holy Spirit, may we face our future with the same faith, hope and vision of those who have preceded us, and may we commit ourselves to a new century of service.

Like the Holy Family of Nazareth, may we live humbly and simply as instruments of your grace, your peace.

We make this prayer through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, Mary, her husband, Joseph, and in the name of the One who is the same Yesterday, Today, and Forever - Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

HOMEBOUND VISITS: *Are you or do you know of a family member, friend, or neighbor who may be in a nursing home, a short-term facility for rehab, hospital or homebound, who would like a pastoral visit? Because of federal HIPPA regulations, we have no means of knowing if you are in any of the above situations UNLESS you notify us. Please contact the rectory at 315.437.3394 and we will be pleased to make a visit.*

MASS INTENTIONS ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH

Saturday, Feb 27, 4pm: Carole Wilhelm, req. by Louanne Darlington
Sunday, Feb 28, 9:30am: William Gilbert, Sr., req. by Marge Leonardo
Monday, Mar 1, 12pm: Francis Slacik, req. by the Adamitis family
Tuesday, Mar 2, 12pm: Gregory & Daniel Duda, req. by Madeline (Pat) Duda
Wednesday, Mar 3, 12pm: Sister Gloria DeCotis, req. by the Altar Rosary Society
Saturday, Mar 6, 4pm: Edith & Austin Ferguson, req. by Sue Overton & family
Sunday, Mar 7, 9:30am: John & Ceasare Marcoccia, req. by John & Carm Fitzgerald

ALTAR SERVERS 3/06-3/07: 4pm- ADULT SERVERS; 9:30am- Call Bang
LECTORS 3/06-3/07: 4pm- Kathie Deaver; 9:30am - Kim Mann
GREETER 3/07/21: 9:30am - Lisa Blake



Remember for just \$5.00 you could be the February 50/50 winner which will be drawn today, Sunday, February 28th after the 9:30am Mass. Contact Bob James at 315-471-0818 with any questions. Thanks to all who support our Youth Programs.

Lent is a time to ask ourselves:
If Jesus' teachings were put into practice - if love and justice were the law of the land - what would the world look like?
Am I ready to be a part of that world? Am I somehow resistant to its coming?
How can I help make this world a reality? What is God calling me to do?

During this time of struggle, we hope that you're able to continue supporting St. Vincent's church monetarily with your weekly envelopes. The bills are high. You may continue to be updated and read the bulletin at our website www.stvincentdepaulchurchsyr.org You may view daily and Sunday masses with our Bishop Lucia at www.youtube.com/syrdio.

LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE: We are happy to announce that St. Vincent De Paul will have a Lenten Prayer Service each Sunday of Lent this year at 4PM. The service will include opening prayers, time for communal prayer, and time for private prayer. We are all welcome to nourish our souls in prayer during this Lenten season as we prepare ourselves for Easter celebrations to come.

Sacrament Preparation Class Schedules (St. Vincent's)

We will screen all students for COVID symptoms, we will distance, and have masks if students don't have one.

Confirmation Classes - Sunday, February 28th, at Blessed Sacrament School from 10:30am-11:30am. **Please remember, Confirmation candidates must have required preparation courses to complete Confirmation if you plan to make your Confirmation this May, 2021.

First Penance/Communion Class at St. Vincent's Church Hall on February 28th from 12 noon-1:00pm with March schedule to follow. Please call Susan Spara at 315-200-8027 with any questions.



We Pray for:
Sandra Betts,
Desiree Landers,
Nate Wagner,
Madeline Duda,
Marilynn Bause,
sister of Lauren

Brooks, Judy D'Amore, Anne Marie Drury, Tony Caruso, Phil Lyman.
We also pray for Anthony Scro who passed away this week.

EVANGELIZATION PRAYER

St. Vincent de Paul, Holy patron saint of our parish, which was founded as a visible beacon to those seeking respite, solace and care, intercede in the name of those in need. Implore His divine assistance in the continuation of the mission of this church to spread His loving message, provide relief to the needy and console the troubled. Our dedicated saint, Apostle of charity, instill in us your same commitment to carry out your mission in whatever capacity the Lord instructs. Help us to be an inviting and welcoming parish open to all seeking a spiritual home and zealous in our outreach. May your caring spirit always remain in our hearts,, on our lips, and in our actions. Amen.

St. Patrick's Day
Take Out Feast
March 14th

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner
catered by Pete Greco
Basket Raffles and Silent Auction Online

Tickets \$20 presale
2-4 Pickup or Delivery
920 N. Mcbride St., Syracuse, NY 13208

For meal purchase, silent auction, & raffle tickets
visit GuardianAngelSoc.org or call (315)-422-7218

All proceeds benefit Father Champin's Guardian Angel Society to support tuition assistance, mentorship, and tutoring for at-risk youth.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES: *Divine Mercy Parish and The Mission of Saint Bernadette: Coordinator of Youth Ministry: a part time employee of the parish, who organizes and manages the efforts of the parish for youth in grades 6-12.*

Facilities Manager: a part time employee of the parish, who manages and performs the maintenance, upkeep, and custodial duties of the parish buildings and grounds.

Serious inquiries - please contact Father Seibt at cseibt@syrdio.org or 315-676-2898.

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL CENTER: *March 15 @ 6:30 pm. Preventing and Limiting Secondary Stress in Medicine, Nursing and Pastoral Care. For more information and to register: <https://www.spiritualrenewalcenter.com/>*

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS) RICE BOWL

Dear parishioners: I invite you all to consider supporting the CRS organization through its Rice Bowl program which ministers to millions of people in need throughout the world. Rice Bowl boxes are available in our churches and offices. Kindly pick up your family box and begin to through all those dimes and pennies as part of our Lenten fasting. May God continue to bless your fast and make it a blessing to millions of people in need.

CTK Lenten Accompaniment Zoom Series

A time for reflection, prayer and community!

Join us on every Wednesday during Lent beginning Ash Wednesday, February 17 from 12pm - 1pm for our lunch time series. Our accompaniment series will include a video reflection from Ascension Presents, small group discussion, prayer and more!

To register email us at ctkretreat@syrdio.org or register on our website at www.ctkretreat.com. We will send you a Zoom invite for each session.

Lead by: **Chris Spilka, CTK Executive Director.**

Virtual Date Night - March 20, 2021
Could you and your spouse use a dose of fun? Join other couples for some laughs and some time to reconnect. Hosts Chris & Linda Padgett are international speakers and authors who share their marriage journey in a fun, relevant, relatable way! Virtual Date Night is being offered through the Office of Family/Respect Life on the third Saturday of every month from 8-9 pm on Zoom. Register for March 20th at syrdio.date.night.eventbrite.com. Any questions contact the Office of Family/Respect Life

JOIN US! CHRIST THE KING RETREAT HOUSE PRESENTS

He Reigns

LET'S GATHER TO DRAW FAMILIES NEARER TO THE KINGSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST

March 11th at Blessed Sacrament, Syracuse

6-8PM

www.ctkretreat.com

*Blessed Sacrament Church, in celebration of its 100-year anniversary, is hosting the Christ the King Retreat House mission: **He Reigns!** Join us as we gather to draw families nearer to the kingdom of Jesus Christ. The He Reigns mission will be at Blessed Sacrament Church on Thursday, March 11 from 6:00-8:00 pm. Registration is required, by calling the rectory at (315) 437-3394. Chris Spilka, director of Christ the King Retreat House will offer 3 different forms of prayer & testimony of the mission. Fr. Jason Hage, director of Vocation Promotion will speak on the Catechism of the Catholic Church & how we let Christ reign in our homes plus, Adoration and blessing of each family. Jeremy Bobak will lead us in praise & worship music ministry. All are invited!*

As part of the Confirmation program, all Confirmation students will participate in the parish mission.

YEAR OF VOCATIONS

Ember Days

FEBRUARY 27TH

PRAY FOR REV. MR. BRENDAN FOLLY WHO IS PREPARING FOR ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

FAST FROM UNNECESSARY WORK

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE THE BULLETIN? *If you or someone you know would like to receive the weekly bulletin via the mail, contact the rectory at 315.437.3394. eBulletins are also available by subscribing on the website.*

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
Every person is required to Mass attendance registration through our parish website or by calling the rectory during regular office hours (please don't leave a message). Masks and social distancing are required.

Hope After Abortion

Experience God's mercy and peace at a **Day of Hope and Healing** (based on Eucharistic Canon)

April 17, 2021

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