

Parish Update: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, March 23rd and March 24th, 2024
St. Joseph Church, PO Box 352, 3 Scott St., Oxford, NY 13830
607-843-7021 email: stjoesoxford@syrdio.org

Welcome to St. Joseph's Parish

Saturday Vigil Mass 5:45 PM

Sunday Mass is at 8:30 AM

Presider: Rev. Father Paul Machira
Parish Administrator - John Franco 607-843-9643
Trustee - Marian Godfrey 607-843-9300
Trustee - Richard Marks 607-244-1617
Secretary & Faith Formation – Gwen Hornbeck
607-226-0431

Candles

March 23rd –
March 24th – Candle to the Blessed Mother for
Allison Slater (birthday intention)
March 24th – Sanctuary candle in memory of Paul
Estelow by Brenda Seiler
March 30th –
March 31st – Candle to the Infant Prague (birthday
intention) by Martha Place
March 31st – Candle to the Blessed Mother for
Michael Cisar by Marion Cassella

Mass Intentions

March 23rd –
March 24th – For Kate Reilly (living intention) by
Marian and John Godfrey
March 30th –
March 31st –

Liturgical Assignments, Saturday, March 23rd, 2024 5:45 pm

Lector: Gwen Hornbeck, Noel Fahey
Ushers: Noel Fahey and Cathy Rood
Altar Servers: Salvatore Danielson & Dominic
Fahey
Eucharistic Minister: Gene Strobel
Cantor/Music: Kathy McBride-Anderson

Liturgical Assignments, Sunday, March 24th, 2024 8:30 am

Lector: Marian Godfrey, John Hohl
Ushers: Rich Marks & Gene Strobel

Altar Servers: Sammy Diamond, Bob Baxter and
Salvatore Danielson
Eucharistic Minister: Cathy Rood
Cantor/Music: John Franco/Anne Franco

Liturgical Assignments, Friday, March 29th, 2024 3:00 pm

Lector: Marian Godfrey
Ushers: Tim and Mary Hardendorf
Altar Servers: Nelson Lucier and Sammy Diamond
Eucharistic Minister: Marian Godfrey
Cantor/Music:

NO Vigil Mass on Saturday, March 30th, 2024

Liturgical Assignments, Sunday, March 31st, 2024 8:30 am

Lector: Marian Godfrey
Ushers: Sammy Diamond & Lorry Rice
Altar Server: John Hohl
Eucharistic Minister: Marian Godfrey
Cantor/Music: John Franco/Anne Franco



St. Joseph's Church

Counters' Schedule

Weekend of March 23rd and March 24th

Marion Rosengren and Brenda Seiler

Weekend of March 30th and March 31st

Sandy Beckwith and John Franco

Weekend of April 6th and April 7th

Cathy Rood & Mike Iglio

Weekend of April 13th and April 14th

June Burroughs and Mary Hardendorf

Weekend of April 20th and April 20th

Sandy Beckwith and John Franco

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Parish Office Hours

Monday: 8:00 am – 10:00 am
Tuesday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Wednesday 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Thursday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Upcoming Events for St. Joseph's Church

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

March 23rd – Vigil Mass 5:45 pm
March 24th – Mass 8:30 am
Mass begins downstairs in the church
hall and then processes into the church
March 24th – Religious ed. Class for Young Adult
RCIA 9:30-11:00 am
March 27th – Bible Study Group 12:00-1:30 pm

HOLY WEEK

March 28th – Holy Thursday – Mass at ICC 7 pm
With Adoration for one hour following mass
March 29th – Good Friday service here 3:00 pm
March 30th – NO Vigil Mass at St. Joseph's
March 30th – Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass
At ICC 8:00 pm
March 31st – Easter Sunday Mass 8:30 am
March 31st – Easter Sunday Mass at ICC 10:00 am

The Diocese has increased the Mass stipends to \$15.00.
Mass cards / Mass intentions are now \$15 each.

Parish Notes

New To Our Parish:

St. Joseph's is blessed to have several new parishioners who have registered to become a part of our church family.
Please extend a greeting and introduce yourself to them when you see them at Masses.

The adults who have joined us who are also currently in RCIA and will be receiving their sacraments on Pentecost (May 19th).

Salvatore Battista
Ronda Battista
Hailey Richardson

There are two teenagers working through RCIA now:

Dominick Battista
Mia Battista

There are two children who will be receiving First Communion this spring (date TBA) [along with the young adults in RCIA]:

George Maynard
Milania Battista



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Let's Wear Easter Bonnets for Easter Sunday Mass on Mar. 31st

“In your Easter Bonnet with all the frills upon it...”



The Light is On For You

The lights of Catholic churches throughout the Diocese of Syracuse will be on for anyone wishing to visit and go to confession, including regular parishioners.

There will be confessions heard at other Chenango county churches on Monday, March 25th:

St. Bart's, Norwich	4:00-5:00 pm
St. Paul's, Norwich	6:00-7:00 pm
St. Malachy's, Sherburne	4:00-5:00 pm
St. Theresa's, New Berlin	6:00-7:00 pm



Welcoming Committee –

The Welcoming Committee of St. Joseph's Parish pleased to announce two new members.

Contact for the welcoming committee:
Please call or text Julie at 607-226-3080 or email at jwinner314@gmail.com

Divine Mercy Chaplet

Join our Divine Mercy Chaplet on Zoom at 3 pm on Fridays. The Zoom meeting will be at 3 pm. The Meeting ID is 356555 6647 and the Passcode is 789987. Contact Kathy Anderson for more information, 607.316.1717



Faith Formation/Religious Education classes

Please call or text Gwen Hornbeck with any questions at 607-226-0431.

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St. Joseph's Prayer Chain

Please contact Julie to begin your prayer request. Currently we have 18 active members and always welcome new members. All information is confidential. Please email Julie at: jwinner314@gmail.com, call or text 607-226-3080.

"I used to believe prayer changes things but, now I know that prayer changes us and we change things."

-St. Mother Teresa



Bible Study Group:

Bible Study Group meets every Wednesday from **12:00 pm – 1:30 pm** in the Parish Hall. Please join us each week or whenever you can. All are welcome!



Thank you!

We are grateful to so many of you who are helping to continue to pay our bills. Thank you for your generous support of our parish.

Peace, John

Pope Francis:

"Brothers and sisters, war can also destroy the memory of past steps towards peace...**war destroys everything**...please, may we work towards peace. May we never allow ourselves to be robbed of that memory!"



Operation Rice Bowl

Operation Rice Bowl combines the three Lenten activities of prayer, fasting and almsgiving (giving money to the poor).

Prayer –

People can place the rice bowl on their dinner table where they say grace before meals.

Fasting – They put into their rice bowl any money they save by eating more simply during Lent.

Almsgiving – At the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, a collection is taken up for the poor. The money collected in the rice bowls should be put into that collection. This money will be sent to fight world hunger.

PLEASE RETURN RICE BOWLS TO CHURCH ON PALM SUNDAY, MAR. 24TH.

Diocesan News

From the Diocese:

This past week St. Joseph's received notification of our assessment for the Victims Trust Fund. This trust was established in response to the Syracuse Diocese declaring Chapter 11. This money will be used to settle



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abuse victims' claims. Our payment will be \$7,038 and will come out of our operating funds.

St. Bart's in Norwich, NY

Norwich Community Kitchen—Free Meals

The Norwich Community Kitchen is open every Tuesday at St Bartholomew Parish Center, 81 East Main St., Norwich. FREE dinners are open to anyone who would like to stop by for a hot meal. Doors open Tuesday at 4 pm, serving dinner at 5:15 to 6 pm.

HELP WANTED

St. Paul's Cemetery/Church is looking for a maintenance person. Candidate must hold a valid driver's license. Position includes landscaping, mowing, trimming and janitorial duties. Applications can be found on line at our website www.stpaulsnorwich.com or can be picked up at the church office. Send application and resume to St. Paul's Church, 30 Pleasant St., Norwich, NY 13815. Call 607-337-2216 for more information.

Oxford Winter Farmers' Market

2024

First Saturdays

Indoor & Curbside

Apr. 6

10 am – 12:30 pm

Third Saturdays

CURBSIDE ONLY

(Check website for pre-order info!)

Apr. 20

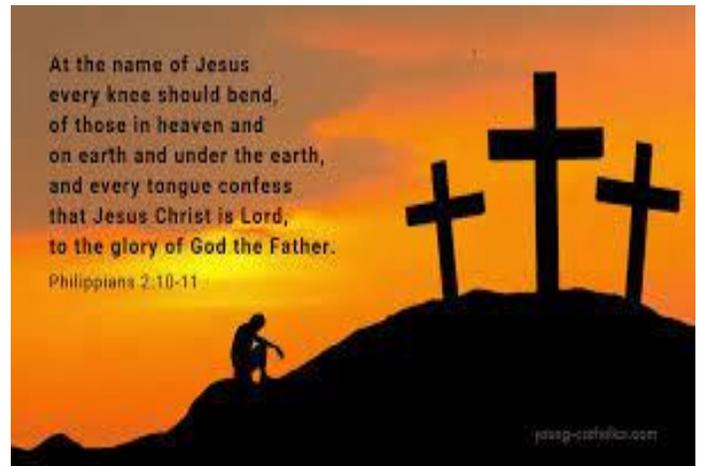
10 am – Noon

www.oxfordfarmersmarket.org

[www.Facebook.com/OxfordNYFarmersMarket](https://www.facebook.com/OxfordNYFarmersMarket)

yournighbors@oxfordfarmersmarket.org

607-226-6483



4 things for kids to look for at church on Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Holy Week kicks off with Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. First we hear about Jesus' king-like entry into the holy city of Jerusalem . . . on a donkey? Not a very kingly way to ride, but that's Jesus' point: he is a new kind of king, the King of Peace foretold by the prophets. Then we hear a long reading about the Last Supper, and Jesus' Passion, Look for:

1. **Red vestments.** Because we hear the Passion today, the priest wears red vestments. Red is the symbol of martyrs, of whom Christ is the prototype.
2. **Procession before Mass.** In most places, people will gather before Mass to bless palm branches and hear the story of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem from the Gospel of Matthew. Then that triumphant entry is re-enacted as the people process into the church singing a song of praise and waving palm branches.
3. **Palms, a symbol of victory.** In most places, palm branches are distributed to the assembly before Mass. In the ancient world, palms were symbols of

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victory, given to athletes, military leaders, and kings. If we are waving palm branches, what role do we assume from the Gospel reading?

4. **We hear the Passion from the Gospel of Luke.** We hear a very long Gospel reading of the Passion—that is, the suffering and death of Jesus Christ. Usually, the Passion is read by several different readers; the assembly may assume the role of the crowd demanding Jesus' death. How does it make you feel to shout, "Crucify him!"? What is the Church saying by casting us in the role of Jesus' persecutors?

they will first praise Him and then mock Him.

Even friends entering Jerusalem at His side will desert Jesus. All this discord will take place during one week beginning on what we call Palm Sunday.

What Palm Sunday Means

D.D. EMMONS

There is both great joy and terrible sorrow associated with this day, the Sunday that begins Holy Week, the Sunday that portends the crucifixion of Our Lord.

It is a time of despair, perplexity and contradiction. The very people who applaud Christ's entrance into Jerusalem that morning, shouting out "Hosanna" and words of adoration will, within a week, be crying, "Crucify Him."

They will go from acclaiming Him as the new King of Israel to urging His life be traded in favor of a convicted criminal;

Parish Registration Form

If you are new or returning or your contact information has changed:

Names _____

Address _____

Town _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____

Cell _____

Cell _____

Email _____

Mail to: St. Joseph's, PO Box 352, Oxford, NY 13830, or stop by the parish office or place in the collection basket. Thank you for being part of our parish.

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Palm Sunday - The Triumphant Entrance Into Jerusalem

[1st Reading: Is 50:4-7](#)

[Responsorial Psalm: P. 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24](#)

[Second Reading: Phil 2:6-11](#)

[Gospel: Mk 14:1—15:47](#)

Exiting Mass, we carry with us the Palms of Jesus' Triumphant Entrance into Jerusalem. The blessed palm is a sacramental or an object that is meant to draw us closer to God. At home, you can tuck them behind a religious picture or crucifix. When we use the palms as decoration in the house, it serves as a constant reminder of Palm Sunday and is a beautiful way to stay connected to Holy Week throughout the year.

Celebrate @ Home: [Visit youtube.com](#) Palm folding: **How to make a palm cross**
But whatever you do, don't throw them away!



According to the Code of Canon Law, blessed items which become sacramentals are to be treated with respect and reverence and not discarded in the trash. These sacred signs bear a resemblance to the sacraments (cf. #1171). Throwing them in the trash overlooks their sacred purpose and treats them like any other object we no longer need.

Monday of Holy Week - New Life with Jesus

[1st Reading: Is 42:1-7](#)

[Psalm Response: Ps 27:1-3,13-14](#)

[Gospel: Jn 12:1-11](#)

In today's Gospel, Jesus shares a meal with his friend, Lazarus, who was raised from the dead. Jesus gives us "new life" through Him. Spring is essentially a time where we visibly see new life "spring forth" in nature.

Celebrate @ Home: On Monday of Holy Week families can reflect on the gift of new life that Jesus shares with us. Look for signs of "new life" outdoors or create a [Resurrection Garden](#).



Tuesday of Holy Week - Called and Anointed

[1st Reading: Is 49:1-6](#)

[Psalm Response: Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17](#)

[Gospel: Jn 13:21-33, 36-38](#)

The Chrism Mass we celebrate today focuses on the blessing of the holy oils and the chrism which we will use throughout the coming year in the celebration of all Baptisms, Confirmations, Anointings of the Sick and Ordinations in our diocese. We do this, at this special time of year, to remind ourselves that all sacraments and sacramentals draw their power from the paschal mystery of our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection. The oils and the chrism are physical signs of a supernatural reality — the sacramental unity of the Church formed by the anointing of all believers at Baptism and Confirmation, and priests in a special way at Ordination. (CNA)



Celebrate @ Home: Say prayers for all who will be anointed with these holy oils. You can pray especially for our seminarian by adopt a seminarian (contact egarn@syrdio.org)

Create and send handmade Easter Cards today to your pastors so they receive them by Easter.

Wednesday of Holy Week - In Preparation for the Passover

[1st Reading: Is 50:4-9](#)

[Psalm Response: Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34](#)

[Gospel: Mt 26: 14-25](#)

In the time of Jesus, Wednesday was the day before the Jewish Passover which Jesus was about to celebrate with his apostles. In the Jewish tradition, the day before the Passover was a day of cleaning. In today's culture we speak of spring cleaning. In this time of being at home during Holy Week, spend time as a family to do some deep spring cleaning, literally and spiritually. Not only can we find the dirt in the corners of our rooms, but through prayer and an examination of conscience, one can "come clean" of sins and forgive other for wrongdoings. Reflecting on The Lord's Prayer, "...forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us". Spring clean your hearts with an examination of conscience and plan to receive the Sacrament of Penance in the near future.

Celebrate@ home: Share this time of family spring cleaning. As each room is cleaned, bless the room with a simple prayer and sprinkling of Holy Water. ([h-t.org](#): House Blessing)

As a family, have one member lead an examination of conscience. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has a variety of ways to do an examination of conscience. ([USCCB](#): Examination of Conscience)





Holy Thursday - The Institution of the Eucharist

1st Reading: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14

Psalm Response: Ps 116:12-13, 15-18

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 11:23-26

Gospel Jn 13:1-15

On Holy Thursday we celebrate the institution of the Eucharist as the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ and the institution of the Sacrament of the Priesthood. The foot washing scene in the Gospel of John is not only meant to be an example of humble service, but primarily a record of the institution of the Christian priesthood and thus the Scriptural root of the sacrament of holy orders. Jesus also reminds us of our call to serve one another as he washed the feet of his disciples. Visit Catholic Charities to learn more about how you can help the poor at ccsyrdio.org

Celebrate @ Home - The Seder Meal as a Christian Home Celebration: Preparing and Celebrating the Holy Thursday Meal Visit catholicculture.org
Following the Holy Thursday liturgy spend time in adoration.

Good Friday - Jesus dies on the Cross

1st Reading: Is 52:13 - 53:12

Psalm Response: Ps 31: 2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25

2nd Reading: Heb 4:14-16: 5:7-9

Gospel: Jn 18:1 -19:42

On Good Friday, the world was in darkness, figuratively and literally. Jesus, our Savior was nailed to the cross, suffered and died for our sins as the world was in darkness. "From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land." (Matt 27:45).

Celebrate @ Home - In this time of "darkness", families can reflect on the what it means to live in darkness, physically and spiritually. Jesus is the light of our salvation, without Him, we are spiritually living in the dark, disconnected from God.

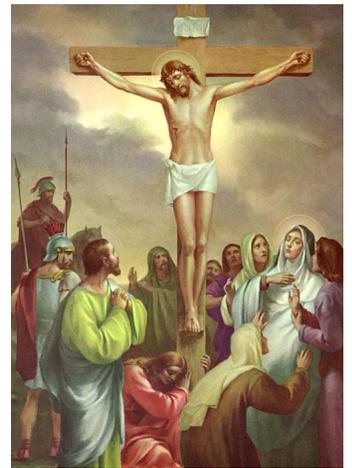
Take this time to "unplug" from noon on Friday through noon Saturday.

Disconnect from the internet, the TV, cell phones, etc.

Spend the quiet time in prayer, reading the scriptures, pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, pray and reflect on the Stations of the Cross. usccb.org - [catholic prayers](https://catholicprayers.com)

wau.org - **The Way of the Cross for Kids**

thecatholickid.com - **How to Pray the Rosary for Kids**



Because by your holy cross and resurrection you have redeemed the world.

Holy Saturday - We Wait in Vigilance with Faith, Hope and Love

There are several readings for Holy Saturday, click on the USCCB website link to pray with your family.

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/033024.cfm>



On Holy Saturday the world stands vigil for the resurrection of Jesus. The Easter Vigil celebration begins at dusk. The vigil opens with The Service of Light, which includes the blessing of the new fire, the lighting of candles and of the Paschal Candle to symbolize the Light of Christ, or *Lumen Christi*. Then the assembled faithful hear the scriptural telling of the salvation history. The vigil of Easter was especially devoted to the baptism of catechumens.

Many families dye Easter eggs on this day. You may wonder from where this tradition came. The Romans used to have a saying: *Omne vivum ex ovo*, or "All life comes from an egg." Eggs have long been a symbol of fertility and rebirth. Early Christians in Mesopotamia (modern day Syria and Iraq) dyed chicken eggs red in remembrance of the blood Jesus shed on the cross. By the Middle Ages, the egg also became a symbol of the sealed tomb of Jesus. On Easter Sunday, Christians would carry eggs that they would tap against the eggs of the Christians they greeted. The cracks that formed in these eggs symbolized Jesus breaking out of the tomb.

Celebrate @ Home - Build an Easter Fire in your fireplace or fire pit or light candles to represent the Light of Christ. Sitting by the light, read aloud the scriptures of the vigil liturgy. You may wish to reflect on some of these reading in a lectio divina practice. Learn about Lectio Divina bustedhalo.com - [lectio divina](https://lectio-divina.com) or Lectio Divina with Children teachingcatholickids.com

March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion



Building Faith @ HOME

[1st Reading: Mk 11:1-10](#)
[Responsorial Psalm: 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24](#)
[Second Reading: Phil 2:6-11](#)
[Gospel: Mk 14:1-15:47](#)

Palm Sunday begins with jubilation as Jesus enters into Jerusalem. The crowd cheers and shouts "Hosana" while waving palms. As participants in today's liturgy, we are immersed into the readings, doing the same actions. As we continue in the Liturgy of the Word, we, the crowd, journey with Jesus to the Cross. As the Gospel is read, the crowd in Jerusalem quickly changes their tone. Shouts of joyful "Hosana" become angry demands, "Crucify him!" We come to realize that Jesus is sacrificing himself for our sinfulness. Jesus loves us beyond imagination. He is our Savior.

Holy Week invites us all to let go of self love and embrace the Lord anew by saying 'Yes' to the invitation to continuing conversion. How desperately we all need to hear the Good News that we can begin again!

As we begin this journey with Jesus, we can identify times in our lives when we too may have felt abandoned. All of our own sufferings can be shared in the passion of Christ. His suffering was not in vain but rather became a source of abundant life for us. So our suffering and times of feeling alone can be joined to Christ and transformed by God into a source of life. Christ promises to be with us so we never are left alone. (*Living Liturgy*, Liturgical Press. 2024. pg. 89,)

Missionary Discipleship: "Over the coming days, the Church invites us to accompany our brother Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem. The liturgies of Holy Week offer chances to feel with Jesus and his disciples - the palm branches waving joyfully, the water that washes over our feet, the bread and wine shared in memory of Christ, and the wood of the cross. As you read and hear the passion narrative, keep an eye on all the unnamed characters who bring the story to life. If you were present at the passion, what role do you hope you would play?" (*Living Liturgy*, Liturgical Press. 2024. pg. 89,)

Family Table Talk

Children: Name one thing that you will do each day this week to remind you that Jesus died and rose to new life for you.

Youth: We hear the story of Jesus' death each year. What did you hear differently this year? How has your faith changed in the past year?

Adults: Identify and share one way that you personally "die in Christ."

Pray - Read and pray with the Holy Week Scriptures ([USCCB.org](#))

Fast - Add an extra day of fasting this week

Give - Catholic Charities is in need of basic food and personal care items

Links for More Ideas, Activities & Resources FYI

[Busted Halo.com](#): Your Essential Guide to the Triduum (Teens & Adult Faith Builder)

[dynamiccatholic.com](#): A Catholic Guide to Holy Week 2024 (All ages Faith Builders)

[Syracuse Google Doc](#) : Food Pantry Donations Needed for area Catholic Charities

[BurningHeartsDisciples.org](#): Palm Branches-An opportunity to bring faith home

[Teachingcatholickids.com](#) - Holy Week - Ideas for Families [day by day] (All ages Faith Builders)

[ncregister.com](#): Ten things to know about Holy Thursday (All ages Faith Builders)

[SyracuseGoogleDoc](#): Holy Week Family Activities



[youtube.com](#): How to fold a palm cross (10 easy steps)

[youtube.com](#): Italian Cross and Heart tutorial

[Catholicicing.com](#): 10 Things to do with Palms

Holy Week in Hand Prints!

This is great way to journey with and accompany Jesus this Holy Week. Visit: [catholicicing.com](#)



Reverence for Blessed Palms

Because the palms are blessed, they are now sacramentals, which "are sacred signs instituted by the Church. They prepare [us] to receive the fruit of the sacraments and sanctify different circumstances of life" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1667). Sacramentals should be treated with respect and never be thrown away. Palms may only be burned or buried.



Catholic Kids Media Palm Sunday and the Passion

Adapted from the Gospel of Mark



Holy Week





March 24, 2024

2024 - A Year of Prayer

'Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him,

"Lord, teach us to pray..." - Luke 11:1

Prayer@HOME

Cut & Pray!

"We adore Thee,
O Christ,
and we praise Thee,
because by
Your holy cross,
You have redeemed
the world."



Scripture Verse of the Week From Sunday's Mass



Christ became obedient to the
point of death,
even death on a cross.
Because of this, God greatly
exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
which is above every name.
-Philippians 2:9-10

You may be familiar with the repetitive chant that is sung, "Jesus, Remember Me." This is among the best-known refrains from the Taizé Community in France. "Jesus, Remember Me" is a short refrain that quotes Luke 23:42:

One of the robbers crucified with the Savior cried out, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:42). Jesus responded, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise" (v. 43). This humble plea of a sinner for divine mercy is all the more poignant today as our Savior in heaven continues to pray for his people.

During this Holy Week, add this hymn to your prayer time as you journey with and accompany Jesus to Jerusalem.

[Youtube: JESUS, REMEMBER ME](#)
Composer: Jacques Berthier (1978)



bit.ly/Jesus-Remember-Me

Practice reverence in Mass this week and every week. Genuflect when passing in front of the tabernacle. Silently say a prayer as you gaze upon the crucifix. Participate prayerfully during the Mass. Be reverent to others outside of the church.

Building Prayer Time @ Home

This will be a series of family activities to try as your families start or strengthen prayer time.

Dating back centuries, the tradition of The Visiting of Churches on the evening of Holy Thursday following the Mass of the Lord's Supper invites the faithful to journey from church to church, symbolizing the disciples' vigil with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. We invite you to partake in this meaningful pilgrimage across the Diocese of Syracuse. Plan your own pilgrimage of churches for the evening, immersing yourself in prayer, contemplation, and reverence as we prepare our hearts for Easter. This is a great tradition to begin with your family.

[View the interactive map](#) on our website of churches across the Diocese of Syracuse that will be open for visitation on Holy Thursday - locations are added weekly!



Syracusediocese.org

Here's how to make a Seven Churches Visitation on Holy Thursday

This article provides a nice guide to follow as you pray at each church you visit.



thecatholictelegraph.com