

# St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

Office (315) 478-0916 Fax 423-8096 Convent 422-2998

December 25, 2016

## Mass Schedule:

Mon., Tues. & Fri.—12:00 Noon

Saturday Vigil—4:00 pm

Sunday—9:00 am

Reconciliation: Fri. 11:30am. Or by appointment.

## Office Hours for SJB/HT

Mon.-Thurs. 9:00am-4:30pm

Fri. 9:00am-2:00pm

E-mail - [nbergeson@syrdio.org](mailto:nbergeson@syrdio.org)

Web Site - [www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com](http://www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com)



## The Nativity Of The Lord

"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Today we celebrate that the prophetic dream of St. Joseph was fulfilled! Jesus is born! A Savior has come to deliver us--Emmanuel, "God is with us." Christmas is a feast of fulfillment, a holiday of deep and enduring happiness not only because God became man and was born of a woman, but because along with his Incarnation, God brought us freedom. Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah who sets us free from the misery of our own sins. This is the ultimate gift of Christmas Day.

We exchange gifts today as a sign of our love for one another to be sure, but also as a concrete, visible way to celebrate the gift that we have first received from God. We are free people! We are not slaves but rather the children of God whose priceless inheritance is to dwell in his kingdom for all eternity. On this most festive day of the year, we are invited to exult in this fact and spare little effort or expense to show our gratitude and joy.

We only must be careful not to reduce our celebrating today to something less glorious, something less meaningful, or less profound. This is no mere secular holiday. This is not just a ritual of family gatherings, elaborate evergreen trees and sumptuous meals. Christmas is a holy day and as Christians it is our day in a most definite and undeniable way. The treats and trimmings are all signs that remind us of what lies ahead for those who accept the real gift of Jesus Christ: an unending banquet of eternal delights and divine gifts that will never fail to satisfy. Yes, Christmas is a little taste of heaven, the perfect gift that lies in wait for those who love the Lord.

### **SJB/HT Office & Church Staff**

**Administrator** Father Daniel Caruso

**Secretary/Bulletin** Nancy Bergeson

**Religious Education** Betty Warren

**Office Assistant** Mary Olmsted

**Organist** Melissa Berthelot

**Cantor** Jonathan Howell

**Call the Rectory to arrange** for Marriages, arrangements made six months prior to date. Contact our organist and cantor directly. Baptisms and hospital/home visits.

# Merry Christmas

## Christmas Message From Fr. Dan

Dear Parishioners,  
"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born to you who is Christ and Lord." These words which the angel used to herald the coming of the Lord Jesus on that first Christmas echo across the centuries and announce to us once again, on this Christmas, that God has not, and does not, forget His people. He has sent His only Son, born in the flesh, the Holy Child of Bethlehem.

"Do not be afraid" – how central these words are to the proclamation of the Lord's birth. In a world filled with darkness and sin, the coming of Redemption and Light is startling. This is as true for us today as it was for the shepherds 2000 years ago. In our world today, where there is still sin, hatred and violence, we are called to leave behind the fear and live in the peace and hope that came to the world that first Christmas.

As your parish priest, it is my hope and prayer that this Christmas we may move past the secular celebrations and find our joy, hope, and strength in the true message of Christmas – "a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord."

On behalf of the staff, Petey & Mary the Wonde-puppies and myself, may God grant each of you a Blessed Christmas. I pray that the love of God will fill all of our hearts and that the true peace of the season will be with each of us.

Merry Christmas!

In the Peace of the Babe of Bethlehem,  
Fr. Caruso



## Big Thank You

Again this Christmas season we collected a generous amount of toys, clothing and gift cards for Catholic Charities to hand out to many deserving families under their care. Thank you to everyone who thoughtfully contributed to our Giving Tree this year. You certainly helped to make Christmas a little bit brighter and merrier for many families.

## The month of December

We laid to rest from our parish family; **Alan Hierholzer, Mary Margaret Cotter Shyne and James Cotter Koplík.** May they rest in peace.

Baptized into the Catholic faith; **Ella May and Emma Rose Cottrell.** God's blessings to you and to your family.

## Sunday Collection Dec. 17th and Dec. 18th

Regular collection .....\$2,961.25  
Loose collection ..... \$580.00  
Religious Education collection..... \$173.00

## Faith Formation News

THERE ARE NO CLASSES ON 12/25/16 OR 1/1/17. MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR. OUR NEXT CLASS WILL BE ON 1/8/17 FOR ALL STUDENTS. If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at 420-6357 or 478-0916.



## The Nativity of the Lord

Take a moment to contemplate the symbols of the season. The crèche tells us the Gospel stories: first from Luke, which details the human birth in a lowly stable and the angels' message to shepherds; and later from Matthew, which describes the arrival of Magi who signify that God's salvation extends to all. The angels stand as heralds of the good news, an emblem for each of us on this solemn feast of our own duty to spread the message that Christ is born and saves us from our sins. The tree stands as a symbol of life, its green branches unfading even in the winter cold, just as God's life remains in us even though our human form should die. The wreath made of evergreens reminds us that God is one, without beginning or end. The candles recall the birth of him who is forever the Light of the world. Today, we celebrate the fact that God came to earth as a beautiful, innocent infant who rejects no one. We rejoice this day in the birth of Christ! And tonight, we remember that Jesus Christ came into this world quietly, humbly, and gracefully, an example of how we should live our lives.

## Sharing The Gospel

Mary and Joseph put all their trust in God. Once they found out what God wanted, they did it. God wanted Mary to have a special baby, and she said "yes" to God. God wanted Joseph to be a good husband and father, and Joseph said "yes" to God. When that special baby from God was finally born, Joseph named him Jesus. One day God would ask Jesus to save the world from sin on the cross, and Jesus would say "yes" to God.



## Prayer

God, help me to trust you and say "yes" to you.

## Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus.

## Mission for the Week

Saying "yes" to God takes practice. When your parents ask you to vacuum or set the table or take the garbage out, say "yes" to them.



## A Family Perspective

### Family Life Education

This Christmas remember your task as a parent is the same as Mary's: We must not let our doubts, fears and unfulfilled expectations get in the way of our loving acceptance of our children

**Due to early request for transmit of bulletins, collections for Dec. 24 & 25 and Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 will be reported Jan. 8 bulletin.**



## Mass Schedule for

### St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity

Sat. - Dec. 24, 2016 - Vigil - The Nativity Of The Lord  
Christmas

SJB/HT 4:00 pm - For The People

SJB/HT 9:00 pm - For The People

OLP/SP 4:00 pm

OLP/SP Midnight Mass

Sun. - Dec. 25, 2016 - The Nativity Of The Lord  
Christmas

OLP/SP 9:00 am

SJB/HT 10:00 am - For The People

OLP/SP 10:30 am

Mon. - Dec. 26, 2016 - St. Stephen, the first martyr  
12:00 Noon - Those who need shelter from the cold

Tues. - Dec. 27, 2016 - St. John, apostle & evangelist  
12:00 Noon - Those terminally ill

Wed. - Dec. 28, 2016 - The Holy Innocents, martyrs

Thurs. - Dec. 29, 2016 - St. Thomas Becket,  
bishop & martyr

Fri. - Dec. 30, 2016 - The Holy Family of  
Jesus, Mary & Joseph

11:30 am - Confessions

12:00 Noon - Peace for a New Year

Sat. - Dec. 31, 2016 - Vigil - Solemnity of Mary,  
The Holy Mother Of God

SJB/HT 4:00 pm - For The People

OLP/SP 4:00 pm

Sun. - Jan. 1, 2017 - Solemnity of Mary,  
The Holy Mother Of God

OLP/SP 8:00 am

SJB/HT 9:00 am - For The People

OLP/SP 10:30 am

## Schedule

### Christmas and New Year Mass Schedule SJB/HT

Saturday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve - 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Saturday, Dec. 24 - 9:00PM Vigil Mass

Sunday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day Mass - 10:00AM

Saturday, Dec. 31 New Year Eve - 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017 New Year Day Mass - 9:00AM



### Christmas and New Year Mass Schedule OLP/SP

Saturday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve - 4:00PM Vigil Mass

Dec. 25 Midnight Mass - 12:00AM

Sunday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day Mass - 9:00AM

Sunday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day Mass - 10:30AM

### Office Hours

The Rectory is closed on Monday Dec. 26 and  
Monday Jan. 2, 2017.



Saturday, Dec. 31 & Sunday, Jan. 1

### LECTORS:

4:00PM ~ Cathy Schotthoefer

9:00AM ~ Fran Brimfield

### ALTAR SERVERS:

4:00PM ~ Mary Elizabeth Cusano

9:00AM ~ Ben Chouinard, Noah & Lucas Smith, Grace Piazza

### EUCHARIST:

4:00PM ~ M.E. Cusano,

9:00AM ~ M. E. Cusano, Jerry Mott,

Sun. Jan. 1 Group 2 Money Counters

Sun. Jan. 8 Group 3 Money Counters

Sun. Jan. 15 Group 4 Money Counters

Sun. Jan. 22 Group 1 Money Counters

Fri. Jan. 6 Group 1 Altar Cleaners

Fri. Jan. 13 Group 2 Altar Cleaners

Fri. Jan. 20 Group 3 Altar Cleaners

Fri. Jan. 27 Group 4 Altar Cleaners

Mon. Jan. 9 Parish Council Meeting  
SJB/HT Rectory 7:00PM

Sun. Jan. 15 Coffee & Dough Nuts SJB/HT Parish Center  
After the 9:00AM Mass



### Snow Birds

This time of year many will be traveling to warmer area's and we wish you happy safe travels. Enjoy your stay where it is warmer. Remember to let the rectory know that you will be away so we can have your envelope packets temporarily stopped. Let us know when you are leaving and when you will return. If we do not know the packets are returned to the rectory for postage due. You may call us, email at [nbergeson@syrdio.org](mailto:nbergeson@syrdio.org) or send the information in the mail.

### The Sanctuary Lamp

will burn in memory of

Anthony Matarazzo, Jr. requested by, Wife, Yolanda

Anthony Matarazzo, III requested by, Mother, Yolanda



**Remember:** Christopher Aldrich, Albert Bleskoski, Antonietta Briggs, Bob Brimfield, Lorna Dodge Burton, Rosaria Campolo, Mike Cannavino, Robert Capria, Paul Collins, Catherine Cushman, Grayce Costantini, Linda Deapo, Frank DeYulio, Peter DiBello, Anthony Dorenzo, Norma Foody, Beverly Frey, David Galvagno, Gladys Graham, Jeanne Hammond, Mary Isgar, Dory Jones, Shirley Kerr, Jane Kwasigroch, Rosemary Lane, Kay Ledermann, Carolyn Longo, Joanne Loughney, Maria Luisi, Diane Mackey, Norm MacKenzie, Bernice McClelland, David Miccinelli, Peggy Miccinelli, Helen Mnich, Darlene Noyes, Jean Padden, Nancy Pompo, Patty Schramm, Faith Setzer, Marion Sherwood, Timothy K. Suppes, Reita Suppes, Sister Theresa Thayer IHM, Barbara Traino, Richard Ventrone, Shelly Visco and Pat Wall.

**Serving Our Country** Always keep in prayer all servicemen and women. From our parish: **Rob Smith and Bryan M. Oakes.**



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315-478-0916

Account # 06-0120