

# St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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

January 1, 2017

## 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)

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## Mary, The Holy Mother Of God

"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." Supernatural communication was nothing new for Mary. The angel Gabriel had already appeared and spoken to her when she agreed to bear God's Son. Her husband Joseph also had a kind of divine intervention in the dream where the angel told him to go ahead and marry her. When she was first pregnant, her cousin Elizabeth had been led by the Holy Spirit to know the secret that Mary was "the mother of my Lord" (Lk 1:43). Now, Jesus has just been born and a crew of earthy shepherds appears at her door with a message from heaven: that the Savior has been born. And Mary believed them. She did not doubt their sincerity or the authenticity of their message. She took the words to heart, and meditated upon the meaning of it all.

What might strike us as peculiar in all of this is that God chose to speak to Mary in a variety of ways. This holy and immaculate woman, this Mother of God, did not always receive direct communication from on high. Sometimes, God chose to speak to her through other people. Sometimes, he revealed himself to them in order to reveal himself to her. And God does the same with us.

It's easy to daydream about having our own personal revelation from God, to hear his voice loud and clear, directing, encouraging, and supporting us in our times of need and confusion. But this isn't the standard pattern of God's operation. Mary was tuned in enough to hear God's voice all around her instead of expecting it to always sound the same. We can imitate this same kind of openness by seeking to discover how God may be speaking to us through the voices of others.

### **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.



## New Year Message From Fr. Dan

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. What a wonderful way to begin the new year by reflecting on Mary, as Mother, as model, and as intercessor. May we all seek to follow the example of the Blessed Mother during 2017 by always seeking to do God's will.

As we continue our celebration of the Christmas Season, I want to thank everybody who worked so hard to make our celebrations on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day so special. So many people contributed their time and talent to help us celebrate the birth of Christ. Thank you to all who helped decorate the Church for Christmas. Many thanks to our music ministers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, and Altar Servers who assisted at our Christmas Masses. Finally, I want to thank all of you who joined us in worship on Christmas. Your prayerful presence is appreciated throughout the year.

It is important to remember that Christmas is not over. The Christmas Season doesn't end until January 9th, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Perhaps we find Christmas such a let down because all of our attentions are focused on the commercial aspects of the season. For too many of us, after the presents are opened on Christmas Day there is nothing else. However, in Faith we continue to celebrate.

The staff and I wish to thank all those who sent cards, gifs, and goodies to the rectory for Christmas. They were all greatly appreciated.

My prayers remain with all of you for a Blessed Christmas Season and a Happy New Year.

In the Peace of the New Born King,  
Fr. Caruso



## Sharing The Gospel

Mothers think their babies are pretty special, and Mary was no different. She probably kissed his nose, snuggled his little cheeks, and sang songs to him. But a lot of people thought her baby was special. Mary had more than just curious relatives showing up to visit. Angels praised God, and shepherds came running to see the baby, too. When it was time to name him Jesus, Mary knew he was the Savior.

## Prayer

Dear God, thank you for letting everyone know that Jesus was more than a special baby. He was the Savior. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Mary giving baby Jesus snuggles.

## Mission for the Week

Ask your parents what they enjoyed about you as a little baby. You might also want to look at some baby pictures together.



## Faith Formation News

I would like to thank everyone who helped out with the Christmas Play and congratulate the Children for a job well done. THERE ARE NO CLASSES ON 1/1/17. 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 Holy Family

"Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt." What a dream! Or was it a nightmare? To be commanded to take flight like refugees in the night, to have a newborn baby and no time to pack or plan, all this must have been frightening to say the least.

Joseph was no stranger to life-changing dreams though. He had already been told in a dream to take Mary as his wife, even though she was with child. He had planned to divorce her, but the dream completely changed his course. And now God was asking him to change course again, to relocate his family and live as aliens in a foreign land, under the shadow of Herod's headhunt for their son. But Joseph accepted these trials, placing his trust in God.

Although few of us have dreams like Joseph did, we do share with him the challenge of reconciling our plans with the hard facts of reality. When things don't go our way, we can respond with bitterness, or like the Holy Family, we can recognize an opportunity to deepen our faith in God's providence.

The holiness of this family did not prevent them from suffering. Rather, their holiness kept the suffering from overwhelming them. Even with the twists and turns in their path, they never got lost. Their faith in God was like a spiritual compass that kept them oriented in the most unfamiliar circumstances. When we too are called to change course in life, may we remember to let God show us the way.

## Breakfast With Santa Thank You

To all of our parish family who came out Dec. 18 to have breakfast and visit with Santa, Thank You for your support. Thank you to our kitchen elves who set-up, cooked, served and cleaned-up and of course Thank You Santa for spending a few hours with us.



## The Sanctuary Lamp

will burn in memory of

"Agi" Peter Cellini

requested by Mary and the Boys

Michael Aiello and James Capriozzi

requested by the Family



## A Family Perspective

### Family Life Education

The Gospel tells us "Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart." We would do well to imitate Mary in our New Year's resolution. Instead of criticizing let's "keep it in our hearts." Criticism isn't productive or well received anyway!



## Office Hours

The Rectory will be closed on Monday Jan. 2, 2017.



### Mass Schedule for

#### St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity

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

SJB/HT 9:00 am - For The People

OLP/SP 10:30 am

Mon. - Jan. 2, 2017 - Sts. Basil the Great &  
Gregory Nazianzen, bishops & doctors of the Church  
12:00 Noon - Pope Francis

Tues. - Jan. 3, 2017 - The Most Holy Name Of Jesus  
12:00 Noon - All Religious, men and women

Wed. - Jan. 4, 2017 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious

Thurs. - Jan. 5, 2017 - St. John Neumann, bishop

Fri. - Jan. 6, 2017 - St. Andre Bessette, religious

11:30 am - Confessions

12:00 Noon - The homeless and hungry

Sat. - Jan. 7, 2017 - Vigil - The Epiphany Of The Lord  
SJB/HT 4:00 pm - John Testone - Mr. & Mrs. Michael Morga  
Peter Paratore - Bill & Sue Slack  
Dominick Pirozzi - Wife, Pauline & Children  
Pietro Paolo & Filomena Tomaino - Antonio & Antonia Mazza  
OLP/SP 4:00 pm

Sun. - Jan. 8, 2017 - The Epiphany Of The Lord

OLP/SP 8:00 am

SJB/HT 9:00 am - For The People

OLP/SP 10:30 am



**Remember:** Christopher Aldrich, 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 Dizenzo, 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.**



Saturday, Jan. 7 & Sunday, Jan. 8

### LECTORS:

4:00PM ~ Pat Campagna

9:00AM ~ Mary Barraco

### ALTAR SERVERS:

4:00PM ~ Mary Elizabeth Cusano

9:00AM ~ Ben Chouinard, Luis & Aleda Guerrero,  
Nicholas & Matthew Lorenzo

### EUCHARIST:

4:00PM ~ M.E. Cusano, J. LaVergne, G. Larkin, F. Sanzone,  
L. Sanzone, R. Bartorillo, T. Bartorillo

9:00AM ~ Jerry Mott, P. schramm, M. Piazza, R. Warren,  
Michele Dykeman, Michael Dykeman, K. Fekete



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 & Donuts SJB/HT Parish Center  
After the 9:00AM Mass

Wed. Jan. 25 Catholic Golden Agers 7:00PM  
SJB/HT Parish Center

### Listen. Think. Act.

That is a mantra or slogan for many different groups. Some seek to battle prejudice and bias. Other groups hope to eliminate poverty or reduce crime. Some companies use it as a way of increasing engagement among their employees. In a nutshell, it is about taking in what you have heard and then reflecting on it before you act. The most fruitful actions are those that take place after careful reflection.



This is an important thing to remember for those trying to live a stewardship way of life. If we are honest with ourselves, too often most of us jump to conclusions too quickly or act in ways that cause friction because we didn't really think about the consequences of our actions. We are moving too fast in a world that seems to be moving ever faster.

When the shepherds came to visit Jesus, the newborn King, they told Mary everything that the angels had told them. Luke tells us that after hearing all this, she "kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." No response. No panic. No action. Her reflection was the appropriate response.

In this New Year, we all would do well to remember this Gospel account of Mary, the Mother of God. Let us resolve to listen more, reflect often, and then act accordingly. We are called to use our gifts wisely, sowing them in good soil. If we just throw them out, allowing them to simply fall wherever they may, have we really used them for God's glory? We need to listen. Think. Then act.

Holy Trinity Church/St. John the Baptist  
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