

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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

December 24, 2017

Mass Schedule:

Mon., Tues. & Fri.—12:00 Noon

Saturday Vigil—5:30 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

Web Site - www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com



Fourth Sunday Of Advent

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." Today is the last Sunday of the Advent season, and we hear in the Gospel the anticipation of the feast we will celebrate in just one day. Christmas is coming! Jesus is on his way!

We have had weeks to prepare for this momentous occasion, and now we are on the very verge of its arrival. The children in our midst can hardly contain their excitement as they wait to wake up on Christmas morning. The thrill of this coming moment is meant to remind us of the joy and anticipation we should all feel as we await the coming of Christ. Yes, Christmas is a great feast, but there is more here than a remembrance of the past or a fabulous party in the present. There is a looking-ahead as well. We celebrate as we anticipate.

Much as Mary must have waited in wonder during the nine months of her pregnancy, we wait in hopeful expectation as Christians looking forward to being reunited with our Savior. Our future is full of hope. The deflating melancholy that afflicts many people after a holiday runs its course need not be the experience of the Christian waiting for Christ. We are always looking forward to something! There is never a moment when we have no cause for joy. Our lives are lived in a kind of unending advent as we stand in watchful waiting.

Let us remember this as we enter into our Christmas Eve gatherings and festivities. As we join with family and friends to share in the good things of this life, may we carry with us the joy of knowing that even better things lie in store for us who welcome the infant Jesus into our hearts and homes.

SJB/HT Office & Church Staff

Pastor Father Daniel Caruso

Secretary/Bulletin Nancy Bergeson

Office Assistant Mary Olmsted

Music Director/Organist James Stanley

Cantor Jonathan Howell

Cantor Ryan Boyle

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.

Rectory Christmas Hours

The rectory will be closed Monday, Dec. 25 & Tuesday, Dec. 26. As well as Monday, Jan. 1, 2018.



Note - Mass Mon. Jan. 1, 2018 is 11:00AM in Church



Message From Fr. Caruso

Dear Parishioners,

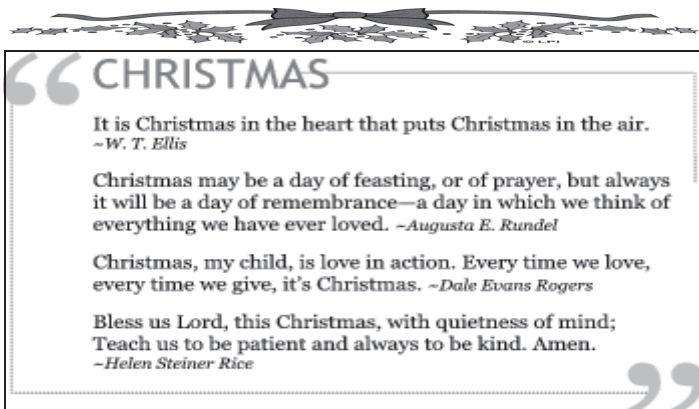
As we gather this weekend, we observe the Fourth (and last) Sunday of Advent. Christmas is just a day away. If you listen carefully, you will notice that the emphasis of our prayer has shifted from looking forward to the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time to preparing to celebrate His Holy Birth in Bethlehem. While we are all busy with the last minute physical preparations for Christmas, we should all take a step back to see if we are spiritually prepared.

If we have let the first three weeks of Advent pass us by without taking the time to be renewed and strengthened in spirit, to truly prepare for the celebration of the Lord's birth, it is not too late. Perhaps this weekend we can all set aside a little extra time for prayer.

On behalf of the staff (including Mary & Petey, the Wonder-Puppies), Fr. Major and myself, I would like to wish you all a Blessed Christmas. I pray that the love of God will fill all of our hearts this Christmas and that the true peace of the season will be with each of us.

Please know that you are all in my prayers during these final hours of Advent; please keep me in yours.

In Christ's Peace,
Fr. Caruso



December 25, 2017

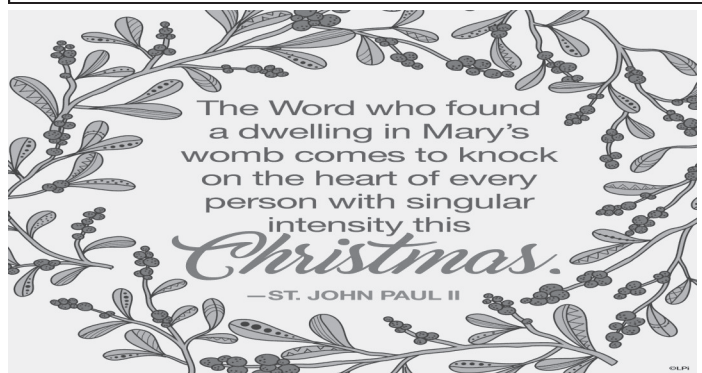
The Nativity of the Lord

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Merry Christmas! Jesus is born! Today we rejoice that this new life, this infant God, has come to be "the light of the human race." He is here to shine in the darkness of our sin and sadness, to bring joy and peace in place of sorrow. We celebrate this day with all the energy we have because we know that Christmas truly means good news!

Many of us have topped our trees with a bright star that helps to light up our homes, especially at nighttime. These stars should be more than just plastic decorations, however! They should also shine as reminders to us of the Star of Bethlehem that announced the coming of Christ. What better way to welcome the Light of the World than with that magnificent star?

And just as the Magi found their way to Jesus by following the light of that star, so we too have a heavenly guide to follow: Jesus himself! We have his words and teachings recorded for us in Scripture, his actions and directives preserved through the Tradition of the Church, and the guidance of his Spirit to assist us along the way. And all of these gifts are ours because of Christmas! Because the "Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

As we exchange gifts with our loved ones on this special day, may we remember all of these wonderful things we have already received. And may we strive to give to our family and friends not only the treasures that come in boxes and bags, but also a share in the greatest gifts of God: forgiveness, mercy and the unconditional love that brings joy enough to last the whole year through.



CHRISTMAS



The month of December we laid to rest from our parish community; **Nina Rocco, Martha Emm Dannenhauer**

Saturday, Dec. 30th & Sunday, Dec. 31st
LECTORS:
5:30PM ~ Annette Marchbanks
9:00AM ~ TBA
11:00AM Mon. Jan. 1, 2018 ~ Fran Brimfield

ALTAR SERVERS:
5:30PM ~ Mary Elizabeth Cusano
9:00AM ~ Ben Chouinard,

EUCCHARIST:
5:30PM ~ P. Serio, T. Bartorillo, R. Bartorillo, M.E. Cusano,
 R. Copani, L. Sanzone, F. Sanzone
9:00AM ~ Available Ministers

Mass Schedule for

St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity

Sat. - Dec. 23, 2017 - Fourth Sunday Of Advent

OLP/SP 4:00 pm

SJB/HT 5:30 pm - Al Bleskoski - Ed & Carol McGuire
 Donald McGuire, Sr. - Ed & Carol McGuire
 Gaetana & Donato Spina - The Luisi Family
 Bill Slack - Sanders Creek Senior Bridge Group

Sun. - Dec. 24, 2017 - Fourth Sunday Of Advent

OLP/SP 7:30 am

SJB/HT 9:00 am - For The People

OLP/SP 11:00 am

SJB/HT Vigil Christmas Eve. Dec. 24

4:00 pm - For The People

9:00 pm - For The People

Mon. - Dec. 25, 2017 - The Nativity Of The Lord

9:00 am - For The People

Tues. - Dec. 26, 2017 - St. Stephen, the first martyr

12:00 Noon - No Noon Mass Rectory Closed

Wed. - Dec. 27, 2017 - St. John, apostle & evangelist

Thurs. - Dec. 28, 2017 - The Holy Innocents, martyrs

Fri. - Dec. 29, 2017 - St. Thomas Becket, bishop & martyr

11:30 am - Confessions

12:00 Noon - Mrs. Ash - Catherine Wagner

Sat. - Dec. 30, 2017 - Vigil - The Holy Family

Of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

OLP/SP 4:00 pm

SJB/HT 5:30 pm - For The People

Sun. - Dec. 31, 2017 - The Holy Family

Of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

OLP/SP 7:30 am

SJB/HT 9:00 am - John Billion - Ken & Marlene Bistrovich

Frances Militi - Linda Sokolowski & Stan

OLP/SP 11:00 am

Mon. Jan. 1, 2018 - Solemnity Of Mary

Holy Mother Of God

OLP/SP 9:00 am

SJB/HT 11:00 am - For The People



Sharing The Gospel

Think of the people you trust. These are people you can count on, no matter what happens. Both Mary and Elizabeth were amazed to learn that they were pregnant. God had surprised each of them with a special miracle - a baby. God trusted them both to take care of their babies. Mary and Elizabeth trusted God to help them. You can trust God, too.

Prayer

God, help me to trust you like Mary and Elizabeth did.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of three people you trust.

Mission for the Week

Name three reasons you can always trust God.



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.

**The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in memory of
 Anthony, Jr. & Anthony III Matarazzo
 requested by Wife & Mother, Yolanda**



Remember: Antonietta Briggs, Bob Brimfield, Lorna Dodge Burton, Rosaria Campolo, Robert Capria, Catherine Cushman, Grayce Costantini, Linda Deapo, Frank DeYulio, Peter DiBello, Anthony Drenzo, Aaron Doty, Marilyn Ferretti, Shirley Fornito, 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, Cathy Galutz Sacco, Patty Schramm, Faith Setzer, Marion Sherwood, Timothy K. Suppes, Reita Suppes, Barbara Traino, Richard Ventrone, Shelly Visco, Matthew Watkins and Peg Wulfert.

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



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315-478-0916

Account # 06-0120