

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

Office (315) 478-0916 Fax 423-8096

December 23, 2018

Mass Schedule:

Mon., Tues. & Fri.—12:00 Noon

Saturday Vigil—5:30 pm

Sunday—9:00 am

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

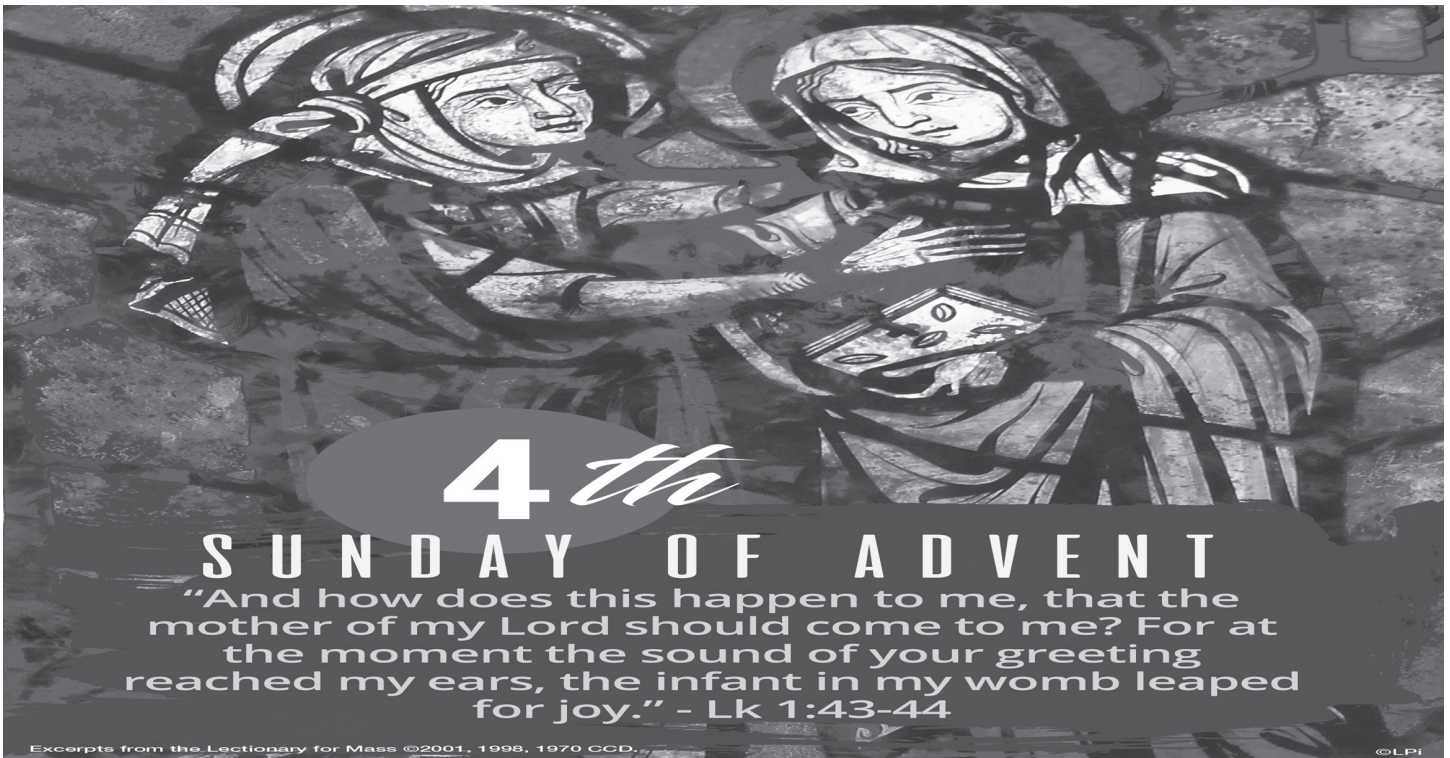
Office Hours for SJB/HT

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

Fri. 9:00am-2:00pm

E-mail - nbergeson@syrdio.org

Web Site - www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com



Fourth Sunday In Advent

Here we are, mere days from Christmas, and we hear a Gospel anticipating the birth of another child. Mary has received word that her cousin Elizabeth is with child. Pregnant as she is, Mary "set out and traveled to the hill country in haste." She has recently received the greatest news of her life - that she is to be mother to the Messiah by the power of the Holy Spirit - but her concern is for her cousin in need. Through God's grace, Elizabeth turns it into an opportunity to honor the coming Christ. "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Yet Mary's example of selflessness should inspire us.

As Christmas draws near, there is plenty of goodness to anticipate for many of us. We'll reunite with family and friends, uphold time-honored traditions, swap stories old and new, exchange gifts, and welcome Jesus at the Christmas liturgy. These are wonderful things! Of course, they probably all come with their own to-do list. Shop for last-minute gifts, pick up recipe ingredients, ready the guest room, or pack your own bags. Mary probably had things to do as well. She had a lot to consider, for one thing. How do you plan to tell your parents you're pregnant, but no man was involved? When Joseph finds out, who will care for the practical needs of you and your child? Into what may have been a chaos of questions, Mary receives news that someone is in need. She goes immediately.

In these final days before Christmas, stay watchful and awake! You never know when God might invite you to welcome, hospitality, and compassion. It might be tempting to reject the opportunity for your own needs. Follow the example of Mary! If God is providing you an opportunity to love, He will provide the means to accomplish all your other tasks. This Christmas season, may you too hear, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

SJB/HT Office & Church Staff

Pastor Father Daniel Caruso

Secretary/Bulletin Nancy Bergeson

Office Assistant Mary Olmsted

Senior Priest in Residence Fr. Lester Smith

Music Director/Organist James Stanley

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.



Dear Parishioners,

As we gather this weekend, we observe the Fourth (and last) Sunday of Advent. Christmas is just a few days 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 over the next few days we can all set aside a few extra minutes each day for prayer.

On behalf of the staff (including Mary & Petey, the Wonderpuppies), Fr. Smith, 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 days of Advent; please keep me in yours.

In Christ's Peace,
Fr. Caruso



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Christmas Day Tuesday, December 25

The Nativity OF THE LORD

The angel said to them, "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 for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." - Lk 2:10-12

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1990 CCD.

Christmas/New Year Mass Schedule



Christmas Eve - Monday, Dec. 24
4:00PM & 9:00PM SJB/HT
12:00 Midnight OLP/SP

Christmas Day - Tuesday, Dec. 25
9:00AM (lector needed)
11:00AM OLP/SP

New Years Eve Day - Monday, Dec. 31
5:30PM OLP/SP



New Year Day - Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019
9:00AM SJB/HT
11:00AM OLP/SP

Joy to the World

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.



Sunday Collection Dec. 15th & Dec. 16th

Regular collection	\$2,596.00
Loose collection	\$667.00
Religious Education collection	\$191.00
Christmas Flower	\$1,081.00

Saturday, Dec. 22nd & Sunday, Dec. 23rd

LECTORS:

5:30PM ~ Annette Marchbanks

9:00AM ~ Patrick Minnoe

ALTAR SERVERS:

5:30PM ~ Mary Elizabeth Cusano

9:00AM ~ Ben Chouinard, Luis Guerrero

EUCCHARIST:

5:30PM ~ M.E. Cusano, G. Larkin, P. Serio

9:00AM ~ C. Horton, R. Warren, R. Elderbroom



**Mass Schedule for
St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity**

Sat. - Dec. 22, 2018 - Vigil - Fourth Sunday Of Advent

OLP/SP 4:00 pm

SJB/HT 5:30 pm - Robert Nicholas - Wife, Celine

Sun. - Dec. 23, 2018 - Fourth Sunday Of Advent

OLP/SP 7:30 am

SJB/HT 9:00 am - For The People

OLP/SP 11:00 am

Mon. - Dec. 24, 2018 - Christmas Eve

4:00 pm - SJB/HT - For The People

9:00 pm - SJB/HT - For The People

12:00 Midnight Mass - OLP/SP

Tues. - Dec. 25, 2018 - The Nativity Of The Lord

9:00 am - SJB/HT - For The People

11:00 am - OLP/SP

Wed. - Dec. 26, 2018 - St. Stephen, The First Martyr

Thurs. - Dec. 27, 2018 - St. John, apostle & Evangelist

Fri. - Dec. 28, 2018 - The Holy Innocents, martyrs

SJB/HT 11:30 am - No Confessions

SJB/HT 12:00 Noon - No Mass

Sat. - Dec. 29, 2018 - Vigil - The Holy Family

of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

OLP/SP - 4:00 pm

SJB/HT - 5:30 pm - Nick LaRose - Gloria Mastriano

Sun. - Dec. 30, 2018 - The Holy Family

of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

OLP/SP 7:30 am

SJB/HT 9:00 am - For The People

OLP/SP 11:00 am



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT



DECEMBER EVENTS

Sun. Dec. 23 Group 4 Money Counters
Sun. Dec. 30 Group 1 Money Counters

Mon. - Fri. Dec. 24-28
SJB/HT Rectory will be closed for the Christmas Holiday.
Mon. Dec. 31 the Rectory will be closed at 12:00 Noon.



Friday, December 28 -
There is no 11:30 Confession
or 12:00 Noon Mass.

Pancake Breakfast Thank You

To everyone who helped decorate the cafeteria, cook the breakfast, clean and all who came to enjoy a delicious breakfast, Thank You. And Thank You SANTA for taking time in your busy schedule to sit and visit with our parish children and adults! It was a very successful morning.



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in memory of Grandma Maria Cellini - Requested by Mary Anthony Matarazzo Jr. & III - Requested by Wife & Mother

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



THANK YOU
for your generosity

**Thank You To
Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home**

The parish family of SJB/HT was gifted 2019 calendars from the Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home and we are grateful for their generosity. The calendars are at all entrances of the Church while supplies last.



Remember: Antonietta Briggs, Bob Brimfield, Lorna Dodge Burton, Nancy Campagna, Rosaria Campolo, Robert Capria, Catherine Cushman, Grayce Costantini, Linda Deapo, Theresa Deprimio, Kathy Deprimio, Frank DeYulio, Peter DiBello, Anthony Drenzo, Aaron Doty, Louise Epolito, Dan Fahey, Marilyn Ferretti, Beverly Frey, Ellen Gangemi, David Galvagno, Trudy (Sobon) German, Gladys Graham, Jeanne Hammond, Mary Isgar, Dory Jones, Shirley Kerr, Jane Kwasigroch, Rosemary Lane, Kay Ledermann, Jackie Limeri, Joanne Loughney, Maria Luisi, Diane Mackey, Norm MacKenzie, Bernice McClelland, Peggy Miccinelli, Helen Mnich, Michael Morga, Darlene Noyes, Jean Padden, Sharon Peparata, Cathy Galutz Sacco, Patty Schramm, Faith Setzer, Marion Sherwood, Jason A. Smith, Timothy K. Suppes, Reita Suppes, Barbara Traino, Shelly Visco, and Matthew Watkins.



Holy Trinity Church/St. John the Baptist
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Account # 06-0120