

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208
Office (315) 478-0916 Fax (315) 423-8096

December 22, 2019

Mass Schedule:

Mon., Tues., & Fri. - 12:00 Noon held in our Chapel
Saturday Vigil - 5:30 pm
Sunday - 9:00 am
Reconciliation Fri. 11:30 am. Or by appointment.

Office Hours for SJB/HT

Mon.-Thurs. 9:00am-4:30pm
Friday 9:00am-2:30pm
E-mail - nbergeson@syrdio.org
Web Site - www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins.” - Mt 1:21

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Fourth Sunday Of Advent

Each Advent season, we prepare to welcome Jesus into the inns and stables of our hearts. But Jesus' coming wasn't welcomed by everyone with choirs of angels. For St. Joseph, the first coming of Jesus was a bit more complicated. “When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.” For Joseph, opening his heart (and home) to Jesus meant, at best, appearing to all the world like a man who had impregnated his wife out of wedlock. At worst, he appeared a cuckold, raising the child of another man. God doesn't always appear the way we expect.

For some of us, the birth of Christ is a bit relationally complicated. Perhaps over the past few months, a loved one has died. This Christmas, you're taking it upon yourself to keep up the traditions and hold the family together. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming grief. Perhaps it's a difficult relative (or two or three) and it's all you can do to bite your tongue and swallow your pride while they're under your roof. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming strife, discord, and tension.

Yet “do not be afraid,” the angel says. Do not be afraid. Why? Because we celebrate the birth of “Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” Before Jesus' earthly ministry would begin, Jesus would lose his father, Joseph. God is with us in our grief. Wherever Jesus went, he stirred up controversy and faced down challenging personalities. God is with us in our stress. The trick is, like Joseph, to allow supernatural grace to prevail. Joseph was a good man, filled with natural virtue in that he didn't want to “expose [Mary] to shame.” Yet he was prepared to “divorce her quietly” all the same. Our natural abilities only take us so far. Where is receiving Jesus complicated this Christmas season? Are you relying on your own strength to get you through, or are you truly ready to accept the grace of Emmanuel, God with us?

SJB/HT Office & Church Staff

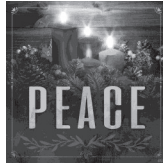
Pastor Father Daniel Caruso
Secretary/Bulletin Nancy Bergeson
Office Assistant Mary Olmsted

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, 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 days of Advent; please keep me in yours.

In Christ's Peace,
Fr. Caruso



Live The Liturgy - Inspiration For The Week

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." These eloquent and poetic words remind us of why we are here today. This is profound news to hear, but is it the news we are looking to hear? A key to faith is found when we experience the beauty, wonder, intrigue, and joy when we hear that God's very life and light has been revealed and made manifest to his people. In the manger, we also see the cross and the whole mystery of Christ revealed. It is a mystery that tells us not only who God is but who we are and how God asks us to live. Does this news have any real meaning for us? If so, after our family celebrations and gift giving, we need to get serious about constantly giving witness to Christ. We need to get serious about calling others to Christ by how we organize and execute the daily business of our lives.



Faith Formation Classes SJB/HT

Merry Christmas. There are no classes this week. Classes will resume on Jan. 12 (as the city school district is on break from Dec. 23-Jan. 6, 2020). There is still room for more students age 4 & up for Pre-K to Confirmation 1. Any questions please call Betty Warren at 315-420-6357. Please pray for our youth and our Faith Formation Program.

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

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A Family Perspective

Family Life Education

The child born to Joseph and Mary was named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

Every child is Emmanuel, reminding us "God is with us." Children are signs of God's continuing presence in our lives.

December 25, Nativity of the Lord

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 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." — Lk 2:10-11

One of the most beautiful things about the Christmas story is its human simplicity. How very ordinary! How relatable! We see a young family caught up in government regulations, encountering difficulty booking travel arrangements. We see a belated baby shower filled with the most unlikely attendees. Yet, if you attended Christmas Mass during the day, the Gospel does not contain the familiar story of over-crowded inns and hay-lined mangers. It features something much more mysterious. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God ... all things came to be through him." Matthew, Mark, and Luke give us the Christmas story from the human perspective. John's Gospel tells the Christmas story from the divine perspective.

"What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race." C.S. Lewis described Christmas as God parachuting down behind enemy lines. Jesus entered into a world darkened by sin, and it isn't so different today. We can find it in the complications of our own lives and the lives of our families. We can find it in our cities, our nation, our world. But it wasn't only the star that shone on Christmas night. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

In the midst of all that is so very human — whether the hum-drum or the horrible — "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." No matter what we bring into this Christmas day, God enters our existence. He enters our experiences. When we allow God into our lives in a new way, when we surrender to Him our lingering areas of darkness, then we will "[see] his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth." It's time to welcome Him.

CHRISTMAS



**Saturday, December 28th & Sunday, December 29th
LECTORS:**

5:30PM ~ Cathy Schotthoefer

9:00AM ~ Patrick Minnoe

ALTAR SERVERS:

5:30PM ~ Mary Elizabeth Cusano

9:00AM ~ Ben Chouinard Noah & Lucas Smith

EUCCHARIST:

5:30PM ~ A. Chouinard, R. Copani, M.E. Cusano

9:00AM ~ J. Cooney, D. William, J. Mott

****With cold and flu season upon us, we have
suspended the Precious Blood.****

Eucharistic Ministers that are attending Christmas Eve,
Day, New Year Eve and Day, please help on the Altar.
Reminder; only 3 are needed to help with Host.

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

Sat. - Dec. 21, 2019 - Vigil - Fourth Sunday Of Advent
OLP/SP 4:00 pm

SJB/HT 5:30 pm - Raymond Majeske - Michael Morga

Sun. - Dec. 22, 2019 - Fourth Sunday Of Advent

OLP/SP 7:30 am

SJB/HT 9:00 am - Catherine James - Bob & Betty Warren
Albert Bleskoski, Jr. - The McGuire Family

All Deceased of St. John Golden Agers - Golden Agers
OLP/SP 11:00 am

Mon. - Dec. 23, 2019 - St. John of Kanty, priest

12:00 Noon - Those who will be alone this holiday

Tues. - Dec. 24, 2019 - Christmas Eve

SJB/HT 4:00 pm - For The People

OLP/SP 4:00 pm

OLP/SP 12:00 Midnight

Wed. - Dec. 25, 2019 - The Nativity of the Lord

SJB/HT 9:00am - For The People

OLP/SP 11:00 am

Thurs. - Dec. 26, 2019 - St. Stephen, the first martyr

Fri. - Dec. 27, 2019 - St. John, apostle & evangelist

SJB/HT 11:30 am No Confession

SJB/HT 12:00 Noon - No Mass

Sat. Dec. 28, 2019 Vigil - The Holy Family of

Jesus, Mary & Joseph

OLP/SP 4:00 pm

SJB/HT 5:30 pm - Lucy Cannavino - Daughter

Sun. - Dec. 29, 2019 - 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



DECEMBER EVENTS

Sun. Dec. 22 Group 4 Money Counters
Sun. Dec. 29 Group 1 Money Counters

The Rectory will be closed as follows;
Tues. Dec. 24 Closed
Wed. Dec. 25 Closed
Thurs. Dec. 26 Closed
Fri. Dec. 27 Closed No Noon Mass
Tues. Dec. 31 Close at Noon

Christmas Mass Schedule;
Tues. Dec. 24 - 4:00pm SJB/HT & OLP/SP
9:00pm SJB/HT & 12:00 Midnight OLP/SP
Wed. Dec. 25 - 9:00am SJB/HT &
11:00am OLP/SP
Tues. Dec. 31 - 12:00 Noon SJB/HT
4:00pm OLP/SP
Wed. Jan. 1, 2020 - 9:00am SJB/HT
11:00am OLP/SP

This January start the year
with an empty jar. Each
week add a note with a
good thing that happened.

On New Year's Eve empty
the jar and read about the
amazing year you had.



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



Remember: Christopher Aldrich, Nancy Bailey,
Antonietta Briggs, Bob Brimfield, Lena Campan-
ino, Rosaria Campolo, Robert Capria, Catherine
Cushman, Grayce Costantini, Linda Deapo, Frank DeYulio,
Peter DiBello, Gen DiMento, Cathy DiPrimio, Anthony
Direnzo, Aaron Doty, Louise Epolito, Dan Fahey, Marilyn
Ferretti, Beverly Frey, Chris Gabriell, Ellen Gangemi, David
Galvagno, 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, Antonio McLaughlin, Peggy Miccinelli, Helen
Mnich, Bill Moran, Michael Morga, Darlene Noyes, Jean
Padden, Rosemary Radlowski, Cathy Galutz Sacco, Faith
Setzer, Marion Sherwood, Jason A. Smith, Timothy K. Sup-
pes, Barbara Traino, Shelly Visco, and Matthew Watkins.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOW COULD
JOSEPH HAVE
SO MUCH
FAITH IN
DREAMS?



HE DIDN'T - HE
HAD FAITH THAT
GOD COULD
SPEAK TO HIM
ANY WAY GOD
WANTED TO!

15th Dec 1980
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Account # 06-0120