

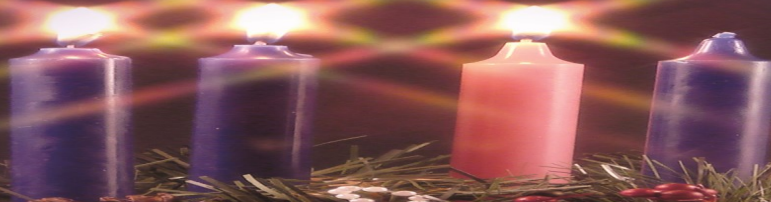
St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

Office (315) 478-0916 Fax (315) 423-8096

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of ADVENT



From Fr. Brendan Foley

As I'm sure you know, the Rose Candle in the Advent wreath is lit today! It corresponds to the rose vestment that is the option for the day's liturgical celebrations. The change in color reflects the **joy** expressed in the Entrance Antiphon for the day's Mass, **and serves as a special reminder of the joyful event that awaits us at the close of the Advent season.**

The name "Gaudete" which gives this Sunday its name, is taken from the Entrance Antiphon of Mass, which typically we don't hear on Sunday because we usually sing a hymn together in its place. The verse that gives this Sunday its name is taken from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians, which also happens to be our second reading today, and, in Latin, it reads: "**Gaudete** in Domino semper; iterum dico, gaudete. Dominus enim prope est." In English, the text commands us, "**Rejoice** in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. For indeed, the Lord is near."

Our first reading today also gives us a rich insight into why it is that we have cause for rejoicing: *The LORD has removed the judgment against you he has turned away your enemies; the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love. (Zephaniah 3:15ff)* —An amazing message of hope! When we live with a sincere receptivity to this truth, our lives are renewed with purpose and freedom, regardless of all the reasons we may have to not rejoice, or to live in doubt, grief, or despair, we must be reminded again of our call, of the One who has made us for relationship with Him. Strengthened by this invitation, we will **always** have cause for joy and eternal gladness. Only the Lord has the possibility to bring about the reconciliation and peace of all things, only the Lord has power over sin and death, and by his initiative he comes to us to bear this gift of hope.

How are we responding to this love shown to us by the Lord? How are you changing the routine of your daily schedule to give greater access to the Lord so that he can remind you of his love/of this hope? He meets us in prayer with the gift of his life to strengthen us, and upon receiving grace, we are always uplifted, regardless of whatever may weigh us down. Sometimes we need to ask, too, for an increase of faith—we hear very often that Jesus says to those whom he heals, "your faith has saved you" or "let it be done for you according to your faith"—it can happen that we don't believe the Lord has enough power to give us what we need to free us for such rejoicing, or that he can heal after much time has passed or that our wounds are incurable.

Jesus offers all of us profound access to his transformative life in the Sacraments, in them he quite literally touches us with divine power—but are we awake to it? The Sacraments are always efficacious, they always accomplish what they intend—yet the variable is our participation, our readiness to receive from them. If we expect little from them, well then, I suppose we shouldn't be surprised to see little fruit! If we prepare ourselves and participate in them with great faith, the fruitfulness of the Sacraments for us will become infinite...Jesus doesn't force this out of us, but to those who ask, he will bestow abundance. There's still time this Advent season to be renewed by the Lord and granted a greater receptivity to his grace that is ceaselessly at work. Consider the healing the Lord desires for you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation—the Light is On event is a great way to prepare! Let the Lord surprise you with his love and mercy!

Mass Schedule SJB/HT

Sunday - 9:00 am

Reconciliation Thursday 4:00-5:00 pm

Office Hours SJB/HT

Monday - Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm Friday 9:00am - 2:30pm

E-mail - nbergeson@syrdio.org

Web Site - www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com

Syr. Dio. Web-site - www.syracusediocese.org

Pastor: Father Brendan Foley

Secretary/Bulletin: Nancy Bergeson

Senior Priest in Residence: Fr. Lester Smith

In Residence: Fr. Paschal Anionye

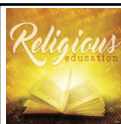
Music Director/Organist: Mr. James Stanley

Buildings/Grounds: Robert Warren

Religious Education: Betty Warren

Sacristan/Grounds: Allan Chouinard

Altar Server: Benjamin Chouinard



Religious Education Announcements

There are no Religious Ed classes for the next two weeks, Dec. 22nd & 29th in observance of Christmas & New Year. Classes will resume on Jan. 5th. We offer classes from Pre-K (4 years old) to Confirmation

II. Please pray for our Students and our Teachers, that they will have a successful and enjoyable year.

If you wish to have your child participate, please call Betty Warren at 315-420-6357.

All Faith Food Pantry

The food wagon for donations to the All Faith Food Pantry is set up in front of the Altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary. You can donate now through December 29th. Please help the clients of the pantry with personal hygiene items, household cleaning items, first aid products and paper products. These items are not covered by food stamps and are costly to families in need. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.



Prayer For Everyday And Everybody Prayer with St. John the Baptist

Through the intercession of St. John the Baptist, help us to remember the least fortunate, and how caring for them shares in the caring of the beloved Christ-child. Bring Your generosity into our community. Amen. ©LPi

Thank You To All

Many thanks to many who helped to make Breakfast with Santa a fun and happy success. Our volunteers are the best, thank you for setting up, working the kitchen cooking and to all who helped clean up. Thank you all who donated baskets for raffle. Such great and generous baskets. Most of all thank you to SANTA who took time in his very busy schedule to be with us all and listen to wishes and wants of our beautiful parish children. May all your wishes come true and Merry Christmas to all.



Pray For Vocations

Today's Gospel has John the Baptist guiding people in how to live and prepare their hearts to receive the Lord when He comes. He says the Lord will "gather the wheat into His barn." John was called to help with the harvest. How are you being called to help in God's harvest? Maybe as a priest, a deacon, maybe as a religious sister or brother? If you think this may be for you, reach out to the Vocation Office via email: vocations@syrdio.org and follow us on Instagram @vocationssyracuse.

Reflect: Readings and Gospel 3rd Sunday of Advent



First Reading: The prophet Zephaniah speaks of a future joyful time of God's forgiveness and return to his people, Israel. What excites you most as you think about the future?

Second Reading: Paul encourages the Christians in Philippi to be a community that rejoices and finds peace with God. What could you celebrate this Advent season with family or friends?

Gospel: John the Baptist encouraged the crowds, tax collectors, and soldiers to live ethically in very practical ways. How could this apply to your life this week? ©LPi

Call the Rectory to arrange for marriages, arrangements made six months prior to date. Contact our organist directly. Information will be provided. Call the rectory for baptisms and hospital/home visits.



SJB/HT Christmas Ornament

The Christmas Ornaments have arrived and are available for purchase at \$20.00 each. They will be available after the 9:00am Mass, or you can call the rectory to stop by for them. It is a picture of the stained glass window in the church of the Holy Family. And St John the Baptist Holy Trinity is stamped on the bottom. A wonderful memento of our parish.

(Practicing) Catholic - Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
Asking the Question



I have found in my life that if I am certain of the answer to a big and complicated question — right away, no doubts or hesitations — there is a high likelihood that the answer is actually the wrong one.

Because most of the time the truth is buried beneath a thicket of pride, prejudice, and ignorance. To find our answers, we have to be ready to put the gardening gloves on and pick through the thorns. We have to pray. We have to reflect. We have to question ourselves and others. We have to examine our feelings. And then we have to pray some more.

See, I would be willing to bet that the tax collectors and soldiers knew. Deep in their hearts, they knew.

They knew when they approached John the Baptist and asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" that his reply was not going to be: "Keep doing exactly what you're doing."

They had heard this guy preach. They knew what he was about: repentance. They might not have known exactly what John the Baptist was going to tell them to do, but they knew whatever it was, it was going to be a challenge. It was going to turn their lives upside down.

I give them credit for asking the question. That's a hard thing to do, and I don't do it enough. Too often, I'm afraid to ask the question.

How do I love this person? How do I live out my baptismal call in this particular situation? How do I draw water from the fountain of salvation — and how do I do it with joy, as we are commanded by the Psalms?

Christmas is ten days away. Are we asking the question? ©LPi



Christmas Flowers For The Altar

SJB/HT invites you to make a donation towards our Christmas Flowers. A list of donors and their request will be printed as an insert to the bulletin the week of Christmas, Dec. 22nd. Please put donations with the form below in an envelope marked "FLOWERS" in the collection basket, mail or drop it off to the rectory no later than Thursday, Dec. 19th. Checks should be made payable to SJB/HT. Please do not add this form to your weekly contribution envelopes.

Donor _____
Phone _____ Amount _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

SUNDAYS

ARE BETTER IN COMMUNITY

9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

Sunday December 15, 2024

9:00am SJB/HT - David McLaughlin - Mother
Rita Carroll - Annette & Mark Hartman
Peter C. Massaro - The Mingoelli Family

Sunday December 22, 2024

9:00am SJB/HT - Deborah Gmyr - The Family
Angie Banac - Twin Cousin
Francis Galimi - Twin Brother
Brian D. Mingoelli, Sr. - The Family

Christmas Mass Lector's Needed

Please contact the rectory if you are able to read at one of our Christmas Masses. Christmas Eve 4:00pm or Christmas Day 9:00am. Please and Thank You.

Lector - Sunday Dec. 22nd

9:00am SJB/HT: John Robinson



Eucharistic Ministry

We have returned to using Eucharistic Ministers to help distribute the Eucharist at Mass on Sundays. If you would like to help with this, please contact Betty Warren at 315-420-6357 or email at warrenbeliz@yahoo.com.

Center

Dec. 15 Karen Fekete
Dec. 22 Mary Beth Cusano
Dec. 25 Betty Warren
Dec. 29 Dave William

Mary's Side

Joan LaVergne
Betty Warren
Bob Warren
Maryanne Bergamo



The Light Is On Monday Dec. 16th

- St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity 12:00-2:00pm. Fr. Foley would like to offer Eucharistic Adoration during this time. Volunteers are asked to call the rectory and sign up for 30 minute window.

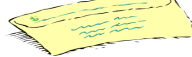
- St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity 4:00-6:00pm with Fr. Lester.

- Friar Nader and Friar Jude will be at the Franciscan Place in Destiny Mall 2:00-6:00pm.
- Assumption Church 4:00-6:00pm.
- Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peters 3:30-5:00pm.
- Fr. Foley will be offering Confessions in Spanish & English at Holy Cross Church from 5:00-7:00pm.

Sacrificial Giving

Week Dec. 8
SJB/HT Collection: \$TBA

Offering Envelopes



John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." — Lk 3:16

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

Mass Schedule OLP/SP 315-422-7163

Saturday Vigil - 4:00pm Vietnamese Mass 6:00pm
Sunday - 7:30am, 11:30am
9:30am Vietnamese
Monday - Thursday 9:00am in the Chapel
Reconciliation Wednesday 4:00-5:00pm



HOPE Appeal 2024

Thank you for your support of the 2024 HOPE Appeal. We have raised \$16,533.33 towards our goal of \$16,968.00. If you have not yet made your gift, we ask you to join us in strengthening our church and serving people throughout our diocese. You may bring your completed pledge card to Mass next week, drop it by the parish office or use the return envelope with your letter. You can also make a gift online at www.syradio.org.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Mass Schedule

St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Parish

Christmas Eve Dec. 24th 4:00pm

Christmas Day Dec. 25th 9:00am

Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter's Parish

Christmas Eve Dec. 24th 4:00pm

Carol of the Bells Dec. 24th 11:30pm

followed by Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Dec. 25th 7:30am & 11:30am

Assumption Parish

Christmas Eve Dec. 24th 4:00 & 10:00pm

Christmas Day Dec. 25th 10:00am



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Remember: Mike Affleck, Shawn Babcock, Nancy Bailey, B.J. Bubniak Family, Arlene Bukowski, Ashley Caiello, Robert Capria, Catherine Cushman, Linda Deapo, Theresa Domathowski, Hank Donohue, Ginny & Erin Donovan, Jenny Emmi, Jon English, Tenley Farrow, Marilyn Ferretti, Ellen Gangemi, Gladys Graham, Robert Greenwood, Joseph Guinto, Jeanne Hammond, Mary Isgar, Carla Johnson, Tony Lauretti, Shirley Kerr, Emma Lane, Kay Ledermann, Jackie Limeri, Luciano & Maria Luisi, Judy & Skip Marioritti, Michael & Darlene Morga, Diane Moro, Peggy Palerino, The Pavia Children, Antoinette Perotta, Faith Setzer, Marion Sherwood, Esther Sindoni, John Sobon, Patricia Soule, Timothy K. Suppes, Patrick St. Thomas IV, Barbara Traino, Gerry Vaccaro, Shelly Visco, Matthew Watkins, Fred Wheeler and Maureen White. **We also remember in our prayers our Service Men and Women & our Health Care Workers. Due to HIPAA laws, hospitals are not allowed to give names of patients. Please notify the parish office if you have a loved one in the hospital, a nursing home or is homebound and would like a visit.**