

# St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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

December 22, 2024

## Fourth Sunday of ADVENT



### From Fr. Brendan Foley

*"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, 'Your God is King'"* (Isa 52:7). A couple years ago, Bishop Lucia recommended us to read a recent book, *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission* which urges us to embody this exact line from the prophet Isaiah. Our parish council engaged this book, and we hope to heed the heart of it. Rather than find ourselves despairing at the apparent decline of the Church or the state of our wider culture, we instead have found new zeal with what an exciting and hope-filled time it is to be a disciple. An observation presented in this book is that we actually find ourselves in a present context much more akin to the time of the apostles, most people around us have a great need for the Gospel, and they have a hunger for it, even if they haven't recognized this for themselves. For us who have been transformed in faith, we live with real hope, we know we have a Gospel worth living for—and with Christmas we celebrate that this Gospel has taken flesh, the Incarnate Word dwells among us.

We often speak of our faith as being *incarnational*, meaning that it is something we must embody—the unseen aspects of our faith and of our spiritual life must become a living force in us and through us. For someone outside of the Church to truly receive the Good News that we announce this day, we must bear this Truth in our bodies by the way we live and the way we speak. The responsibility is on **all of us** to be the feet of the Gospel and to bear the Good News in and to the world that has forgotten or neglected it.

Pope St. Paul VI describes this for us well: "The task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church. It is a task and mission which the vast and profound changes of present-day society make all the more urgent. Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. **She exists in order to evangelize.**" Earlier in Advent Paul's Letter to the Romans makes this hit home for us: "...everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. **But how** can they call on him in whom they have not believed? **And how** can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? **And how** can they hear without someone to preach? **And how** can people preach unless they are sent?" (Rom 10:13-15). The short answer is that our lives must bear the 'fragrance of Christ' and proclaim the joy of the Gospel.

Christmas day we celebrate the birth of our Savior who really took on our flesh and really became incarnate in the womb of Mary. We shouldn't let the sentimentality of this celebration overshadow the reality of this moment. Jesus bore our flesh and spent months in Mary's womb, his heart beat within her, and upon his birth God allowed himself to be completely dependent on her care. Our humanity is forever elevated because of Jesus' life in the flesh and for us now we see what is possible when the grace and presence of God enters us transforms us. When the Gospel and the Sacraments change our lives, Jesus continues his life in our flesh. He has done this for no other motivation but love.

May we respond courageously to that love anew both this day and in the new year to come with gratitude that the Incarnate Word dwells among us and we continue to see his glory.

### 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](mailto:nbergeson@syrdio.org)

Web Site - [www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com](http://www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com)

Syr. Dio. Web-site - [www.syracusediocese.org](http://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

### Please Be Aware “Do Not Park”

We ask that you **Do Not** park along the side hill in the back parking lot in the area that goes up to the upper parking lot off of Carbon Street. Parking is permitted along all the “Staff Only” area.

While that is a designated fire lane, work has begun, or may be by the time of this bulletin, on the damaged drainage grate that is located in that area. Thank you.



### Religious Education Announcements

There are no Religious Ed classes this week, Dec. 22nd & 29th in observance of Christmas & New Year. Classes will resume on Jan. 5th. Merry Christmas. 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.



### 9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT 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

### Sunday December 29, 2024

**9:00am SJB/HT** - Brian D. Mingoelli, Sr. - The Family



### Lector - Sunday Dec. 29th

9:00am SJB/HT: Mary Barraco

### 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](mailto:warrenbeliz@yahoo.com).

#### Center

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

#### Mary's Side

Betty Warren  
Bob Warren  
Maryanne Bergamo

## 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

### 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  
The Hidden Truth



If you have ever been visibly pregnant, chances are that someone, somewhere, whom you do not know, has reached out to touch your stomach.

I've had this happen to me, and sure, it's a little strange. Generally, I prefer people to ask before they touch me. But it's also very sweet, this great mystical excitement inspired by a pregnant belly. We know that belly is special. We know enclosed within it is hope and potential — the very future of our world. Hidden, but real. How can we help but venerate it?

It's why the pregnant Madonna is my favorite devotional image. I even prefer it over the depictions of the Madonna and Child because I find in the sight of Mary's swollen belly more to meditate upon than I find in the unveiled face of the Christ Child. Salvation and redemption, enclosed in flesh, moving, and growing and breathing, but I cannot see it. It's real and it's true and it's *there*.

And it is hidden.

There is much about God that we know with certainty. But there is so much that remains beyond our sight, beyond our comprehension. Questions of evil and sorrow. Pain and tragedy. Life and death. Why don't we have all the answers? We grow very impatient about this. We're like teenagers who want to be trusted with all the family secrets. We hate feeling left out of the loop.

But truth, like life, does not come to us showing its face. Perhaps this is because we could not bear its terrible beauty. Perhaps it's because we would not recognize it if it was laid bare for us to see.

But it's there, right in front of us. We can reach out and touch it. We may not see it. We may not understand it. But we can know it. ©LPi



### Reflect: Readings and Gospel 4th Sunday of Advent

**First Reading:** Micah prophesied a “ruler” would come through the line of David (“Bethlehem-Ephrathah”) and bring peace to the divided kingdom of Judah and Israel. How might you be able to promote peace this week among your family or co-workers?

**Second Reading:** The author of Hebrews reminds us that Christ makes us holy so that above all else, we do God's will. As the season of Advent draws to a close, what could be one practical way to do God's will this week?

**Gospel:** Elizabeth calls Mary “blessed” because she believed and trusted in the Lord. Are there people in your life who model such trust and faith in God? ©LPi





## The Nativity of the Lord

### Holiday Schedule

#### Rectory Schedule for the Holiday's

The following is the office schedule for SJB/HT and OLP/SP for Christmas and New Year.

Closed Tuesday December 24th, 25th & 26th for our Christmas Break. Tuesday December 31st closing at 12:00 Noon and closed Wednesday January 1, 2025 for New Year break.

#### CHRISTMAS



**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.**

#### 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

#### The Nativity of the Lord

In one of my assignments as a priest I was asked to provide administrative oversight to a rather large Church operation with massive financial, legal, and personnel challenges. When I began, I felt overwhelmed and unqualified. Someone said to me, "You are totally unqualified for this work." The unfeeling truth of it stung. Reeling and upset, I reached out to my predecessor, who said, "Your job is to bring Jesus into every situation. Let everyone else be the experts in all the other stuff." It was so liberating. My lack of qualifications actually became an asset because it grounded me in the truth of Jesus alone and not in my own skill.

Do you ever feel unqualified to be a messenger of Jesus to the world? The shepherds in the Gospel account of Jesus' birth were part of a scorned and despised class in those days, not unlike prostitutes and tax collectors. They were not competent and respected citizens. And they are the ones who are approached by angels and invited to see Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. They ignore their lack of qualifications and announce what they've seen and heard about the newborn king.

So, it goes with us. When it comes to the things of God and angels, we are as incompetent and unlikely as shifty shepherds. Until, that is, we behold the glory of the newborn king, which we do in the Christmas liturgy. May the revelation to us of Christ's birth this Christmas overwhelm our insecurities and make the likes of us the most unlikely heralds of our king.

— Father John Muir ©LPi



#### Prayer for Christmas Visitors

God bless us all this Christmas season, those who enter and exit our home, those near and far away, those who will visit and those who cannot. Fill our lives with the peace that comes from You. Amen.



**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.