

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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

December 8, 2024



From Fr. Brendan Foley

How beautiful and how needed is St. Paul's prayer for us today, I join my prayers to his for all of us: "I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now.

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.

...And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ" — such a timely prayer, too, with a full week of Advent under our belts. No matter how long each of us have been on our journeys of faith or living as disciples, we all should trust that the Lord is accomplishing a "good work" in each of us. This side of heaven we are always incomplete, still a work in progress, still being transformed by grace, and in the process of being made perfect. Maybe this seems hard to believe or too good to be true. Baptism bestowed upon us an identity to share and receive the divine life of God within our broken humanity, to heal us, to restore, and to make whole again. This is incredibly good news. We are not left on our own but rather the closeness of God's life is offered to us in real intimacy. God's grace is tangibly and powerfully offered to us in the Sacraments, and additionally God is not restricted in how he bestows his grace—meaning every time he moves us to prayer, we are able to receive transformative grace to continue the "good work" in us that the Lord is accomplishing. The catch is that God doesn't force this transformation on us. In his mercy he invites our free participation in this work, and our response to his love and his grace matters. If we want healing, if we want strength, if we want renewed virtue, we must freely choose to respond and show up in prayer each day.

What are the implications of our preparedness or attentiveness to this call? Again the "good work" the Lord began for us in Baptism was not merely good for us in ourselves. The fruit of the life of grace alive in us is always more so intended to bless others around us more than just ourselves. In a sense, we can easily say that the world is significantly poorer when you and I turn in on ourselves and neglect our own striving for holiness because our participation with the Lord's grace is stunted and no longer serves to build up his body around us. Remember his freely given graces and blessings to us as individuals are intended to uplift his Body the Church in the world.

Another way we might say this, is our personal taking the journey of Advent seriously has a great effect on those around us. The prayerfulness and silence that I cultivate produces charity for those around me. Going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation brings not only forgiveness for my sins and healing for me, but also breeds mercy to be extended through my life to others. St John the Baptist is such a pivotal figure that exemplifies this truth. The Lord called him to an important good work: that of preparing the arrival of the Lord and pointing out that he is the Messiah not only to those around him, but the Lord's grace upon him has now produced tremendous fruit that blesses us who also now behold the Lamb of God having known and recognized his arrival. May we be disposed to receive newness of grace to respond to the good work that the Lord is accomplishing in each of us this Advent, and by doing so may the Lord's work of holiness in us be a gift to those around us.

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

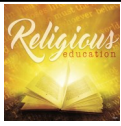
Music Director/Organist: Mr. James Stanley

Buildings/Grounds: Robert Warren

Religious Education: Betty Warren

Sacristan/Grounds: Allan Chouinard

Altar Server: Benjamin Chouinard



Religious Education Announcements

Religious Ed classes resume this week. 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.

Breakfast With Santa and Basket Raffle

Sunday December 8th

SJB/HT Breakfast with Santa and Basket Raffle is **TODAY!** Breakfast will be served 8:00-11:00am in the Parish Center. We will have pancakes, scrambled eggs, toast, sausage, bacon, juice and coffee. Adults are \$10.00, children (5-12) \$5.00 and under 5 free with adult purchase. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each, 6 for \$5.00 or 12 for \$10.00.

Please come over for some HO-HO-HO good eats and fun!

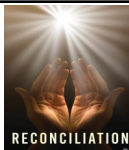


All Faith Food Pantry

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.

The Light Is On Monday Dec. 16th (*UPDATED)

- 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.



Prayer For Everyday And Everybody

Prayer of Preparation
With abiding hope as we look forward to Jesus' arrival, make straight the paths, Lord! Fill us with holy excitement, in Your name. Amen

Reflect: Readings and Gospel 2nd Sunday of Advent

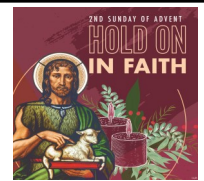


First Reading: The prophet Baruch offers the Israelites in Babylonian exile a vision of hope in which their broken relationship with God will be fully restored. Is there a broken relationship you could help heal this Advent season?

Second Reading: Paul prays with joy over the partnership he experiences with the believers in Phillipii. What relationships in your life bring you joy?

Gospel: Luke is careful to place the activities of John the Baptist in their proper historical and political context, showing how God acts in human history. Can you think of a time in your personal history when you felt God present? ©LPi

(Practicing) Catholic - Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman The Straight Path



Ten to fifteen years ago the Department of Transportation decided that it would be fun to give everyone in my zip code something to complain about and replaced most of our major intersections with roundabouts.

This wouldn't be so irksome, I suppose, if I understood how to navigate a roundabout. In theory I do, I've read all the rules and I've watched those cute little YouTube videos where they show you which car is supposed to go at what time. But theory and practice are rather different. And the bottom line is, I never approach a roundabout without taking a deep, anxious breath and tightening my grip on the steering wheel, not entirely sure what my next move should be.

I think of roundabouts every time I hear today's Gospel reading, where John the Baptist echoes Isaiah in beseeching us to make straight the paths of the Lord. See, I always think I've made a straight path between me and God. I go to Mass. I go to Confession. I say my prayers.

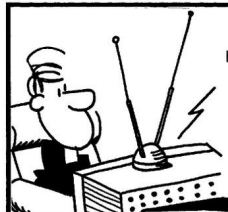
He can get to me if He wants, I tell myself.

But without realizing it, I put up roundabouts. I make rules. *You go here, God, and then I go here. I'll do this, God, but first You do this.* You stay in your lane, and I stay in mine. Eventually I find myself taking a different route altogether; the road that stretches between me and Him is too daunting. I start avoiding it.

Sometimes I think God wants the path to be straight not for Himself but for us. He can handle a roundabout. But He knows that when we must run to Him, we have to do it without thinking. In the dark. In fear, in anxiety.

So, this Advent, beware the roundabouts. Make straight the path.
©LPi

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



BY NOW, EVERYBODY KNOWS HOW TO EAT RIGHT, EXERCISE AND STAY HEALTHY, BUT TOO MANY PEOPLE JUST REFUSE TO DO IT!



KINDA LIKE ACCEPTING JESUS

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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 8, 2024

9:00am SJB/HT - Bill Judge - Joan LaVergne
Mary Anne Wilson - Friends
Steve P. Taddeo - The Family
Antonio McLaughlin - Mother

Sunday December 15, 2024

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

Lector - Sunday Dec. 15th

9:00am SJB/HT: Cathy Schotthoefer



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

Mary's Side

Larry Argiro
Joan LaVergne
Betty Warren
Bob Warren
Maryanne Bergamo

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

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

2025 Mass Book and Special Requests

The 2025 Mass Book is open for your intentions for the 9:00am Sunday Mass. ****Note: we will only be booking Masses and requests from January-April at this time.** Please call 315-478-0916 or stop by the rectory during office hours for your intentions. Masses are **\$15.00**. As well, you may request to have the **Sanctuary Lamp \$10.00 or Bread and Wine \$25.00** in memory of your loved one(s) for the week.



Mass Schedule OLP/SP 315-422-7163

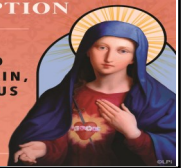
Saturday Vigil - 4:00pm Vietnamese Mass 6:00pm
Sunday - 7:30am, 11:30am
9:30am Vietnamese
Monday - Thursday 9:00am in the Chapel
Reconciliation Wednesday 4:00-5:00pm

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mon. Dec. 9th Mass schedule
OLP/SP Church 7:15am
Assumption Church 9:00am
SJB/HT Church 12:15pm

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

OH MARY,
CONCEIVED
WITHOUT SIN,
PRAY FOR US
WHO HAVE
RECOURSE
TO THEE.



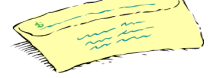
HOPE Appeal 2024

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.syrdio.org.

Sacrificial Giving

Week Nov. 24th
SJB/HT Collection: \$1,947.00
Week December 1st
SJB/HT Collection: \$3,763.00

Offering Envelopes



OPEN THE DOOR FOR CHRIST

Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 15th at 7:00pm at Our Lady of Hope, 4845 South Salina Street 13205, in Syracuse for a theatrical presentation of the Christmas story, from the prophetic readings of Isaiah and the birth of Christ to the arrival of the Magi and the dramatic flight into Egypt. The lessons will be interspersed with inspirational music and familiar carols. This free event is open to people of all faiths and will feature a 100-member choir as well as soloists and professional instrumentalists drawn from across the Syracuse community. Festive lighting and decorations, immersive sound, and delicious cookies will put the final touch on a production bound to get you into the Christmas spirit!



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.**

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.