

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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

June 1, 2025



From Fr. Brendan Foley

One of my favorite moments in the life of praying the Liturgy of the Hours—a prayer that priests and religious promise to pray daily, and a prayer that all the faithful are invited to adopt for themselves, too—comes when we have the opportunity to observe a feast of a saint particularly known for imaging the heart of our Good Shepherd as a “Pastor.” During evening prayer of that particular feast day the words following the scripture reading are prayed: “This is a man who loved his brethren, and ever prayed for them.” It continues, “He spent himself in their service, and ever prayed for them.” To me, it is the response of the heart of the priest faithfully and ceaselessly striving to cherish the gift and vocation given him by Jesus the Good Shepherd—not because of anything the priest himself merited, but precisely because that gift he received has been treasured and lived out for the building up and nurturing of Jesus’ flock in innumerable ways. Through the ministerial priesthood, Jesus’ presence is radically sustained in the world, never to abandon us as he freely offers himself to us in the Sacraments. A humble, unworthy instrument to be chosen, but an expression nonetheless of the reality that the priest is called to extend Jesus’ power to sanctify and bless, to heal, to shepherd, to proclaim the Gospel and save; a servant of the body of Christ.

Jesus promises to qualify, by his grace and friendship, all those whom he calls, and because of this assurance, life with God is the most supremely beautiful adventure, lay and clergy alike.

On May 10, 1975, Fr. Lester Smith was ordained a priest of Jesus Christ for good of the faithful in our diocese, and while it is the case that no priest ever merits or earns such a gift, Jesus called him because he knew that his divine life alive in the humble heart of Fr. Lester would be for our benefit and the benefit of countless souls who would come across his care. When I think of the line from the breviary, Fr. Lester reminds me of someone who echoes that same prayer: “This is a man who loves his brethren, and ever prays for them.” While Fr. Lester himself might express that his own gifts are not extraordinary or by his standards that he did not affect much in the course of his ministry, but we know this is far from the truth. The blessing that so many have received from his “Yes” to the Lord in his vocation is that in Fr. Lester we encounter a sincere, genuine love of Jesus and a perseverance to faithfully love and serve all those around him. I’m sure it was true of him more than 50 years ago, and it remains true to this day.

The vocation to the priesthood is pure gift, and it is tremendously beautiful to see Fr. Lester’s 50 years of service and to still know his reverence for the Lord and for the Lord’s people has only ever increased. I share his gratitude to so many who have loved and cared for him at St. John’s/Holy Trinity and beyond, and we continue to pledge him our support and congratulations as he celebrates his anniversary with us today.

Fr. Lester, may the Lord who has begun a good work in you, continue to bring it to a gracious fulfillment, and may your “Yes” to Jesus still bear much fruit in the days and years to come. May you be renewed and strengthened this day. With gratitude on behalf of so many in our diocese, Congratulations & Ad multos annos!

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@syrдио.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

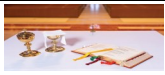
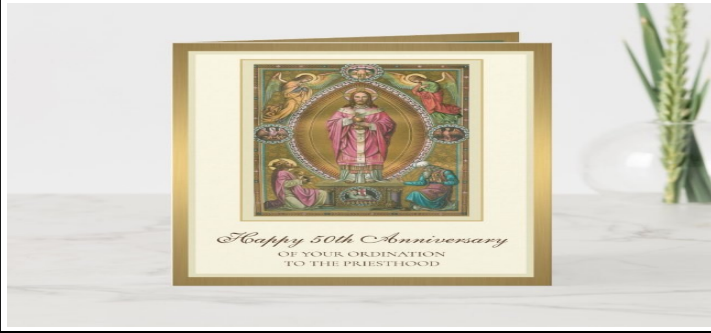
Religious Education: Betty Warren

Sacristan/Grounds: Allan Chouinard

Altar Server: Benjamin Chouinard

Congratulation's Fr. Smith 50 Years A Priest!

Congratulation's Fr. Lester Smith celebrating your 50 years as a priest. St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity parishioners were blessed to have you as a part of our parish family while you spent your retirement years here at the rectory. Always available to help at any given time with masses, funerals, confessions or visiting the sick at hospitals or homes. You truly never really retired. We are grateful for all that you brought to our parish. God Bless and many more years of celebrating in the priesthood.



Lector - Sunday June 8th

9:00am SJB/HT: Owen Donovan

Eucharistic Ministry

	Center	Mary's Side
June 1st	Cathy Horton	Larry Argiro
June 8th	Dave William	Karen Fekete
June 15th	Betty Warren	Mary Beth Cusano
June 22nd	Larry Argiro	Cathy Horton
June 29	Karen Fekete	Dave William

A Family Perspective Family Life Education

Jesus tells us today, "you are my witnesses" and guarantees the "promise of the Father" to "clothe us with the power to accomplish this mission". It is not worldly power which dominates and manipulates. It is the power of the Kingdom of God to live in peace, forgiveness, compassion, service to others, love of enemies and care for the poor and defenseless.



Pray For Vocations

In today's Gospel, Jesus prays what is known as the "Priestly Prayer," in which He prays for the unity of His Church, that we may be one as He and the Father are one. Is calling you to intercede for the Church in way of a religious sister or brother, a priest, or a deacon?

Reach out to the Vocation Office via email: vocations@syrdio.org and follow us on Instagram [@vocationssyracuse](https://www.instagram.com/vocationssyracuse).

Reflect: Readings and Gospel

1st Reading Question: As Stephen was being martyred, we hear how he forgave those who were stoning him to death. When have you found it hard to forgive someone?



2nd Reading Question: The Book of Revelation (and the entire Bible) concludes with John's prayer of petition: "Come, Lord Jesus!" Is there something you really need from the Lord?

Gospel: Jesus speaks of believers as God's gift to him. What gift might you offer this week to a family member or friend? ©LPi

The Mass Book for the remainder of the year is now open.
Please call or visit for requests for
August through December.



9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

Sunday June 1, 2025 - Maureen White - Kathleen Kelly
Lorraine & Angelo Coppola - The Family
Salvatore & Shirley Fornito - The Family
Sunday June 8, 2025 - Ralph Mott - The Family
Antonio McLaughlin - Mother
John T. & Lorraine Hillenbrand - Children

Rectory Closed

SJB/HT & OLP/SP rectories will be closed on Thursday June 19th in observance of Juneteenth Day.



Offering Envelopes

Sacrificial Giving

Week May 25th
SJB/HT Collection: \$TBA

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



That the World May Believe

I love today's Gospel because, in it, Jesus prays for me.

And you.

And the guy sitting next to you at Mass. And the priest, and the altar server, and all the people in all the churches in all the towns in all the world who woke up this morning and headed to Mass because, while it's true that God is everywhere, the Body and Blood of Jesus is only found in one place.

And he prays for the barista who will sell you your coffee later today and see your crucifix and hear you say, "God bless," and think, "That's a weird necklace, and I don't believe in God," but who will one day, at her lowest point, wonder if anyone ever truly loved her, and remember the sight of that broken and bloodied Corpus.

Today, Jesus prays for the person you passed on the way into the parking lot this morning, the one who doesn't go to Mass anymore but who always walks his dog on this street, on this morning, for reasons he can't explain.

He prays for your great-great grandparents and your great-great grandchildren.

"Those who will believe in me through their word." That's me. That's you. That's us. We're the ones who believe through the word of the Apostles, who bore witness to the life and death and Resurrection of the God-Man, Jesus Christ, and whose testimony to that life is an eternal flame illuminating the understanding of every human being who will ever say, "I believe."

But if we listen to what Jesus says today, we must understand: it's not just the Apostles' job, and it's not done. It's not a book that is closed. It's a mission that is alive and ongoing, and it's as much ours as it was theirs: that the world may believe that you sent me. ©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.



Prayer For Everyday And Everybody Prayer of Christian Unity

Help us to be one, Lord Jesus, as you prayed to the Father. Gather us all to you, diverse in culture, gift, call, way of life, and perspective. May the love we have for you overflow into the love we have for each other. Amen. ©LPi



World Communications Day 2025: Create the Condition for Dialogue June 1, 2025

The Vatican Press Office released the theme of the Catholic Church's 59th World Communications Day, celebrated on the Sunday before Pentecost. In 2025 the day will be celebrated on June 1. Pope Francis chose the theme Share with Gentleness the Hope that is in Your Hearts, communication that creates the condition for dialogue. The theme comes from the First Letter of Peter (3:15-16).

The theme aims to bring attention to the fact that in today's world, "too often communication is violent, aimed at striking and not at establishing the conditions for dialogue." This theme calls for efforts "to disarm communication, to cleanse it of aggression." According to reports in Vatican News, the notes describing the theme holds that the prevailing standard seems to be that of competition, opposition, and domination as can be seen in television talk shows to verbal wars on social media. It adds that for Christians, "hope is a person, and He is Christ." This hope is tied to community, since "when we speak of Christian hope, we cannot disregard a community that lives the message of Jesus in such a credible way as to give a glimpse of the hope that it brings, and is capable of communicating the hope of Christ with deeds and words even today."

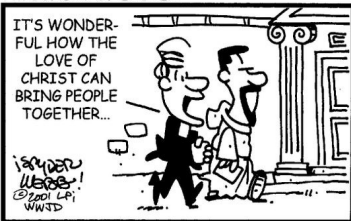
World Communications Day was established by Pope St. Paul VI in 1967 following the Second Vatican Council as an annual celebration that encourages reflection on the opportunities and challenges that the media offer and how the Church can better communicate the Gospel message.



FrancisCorps

Real, Gospel, Service. Inspired by the lives of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi, FrancisCorps volunteers ages 21-25 do not simply do a "year of service" but instead participate in an experience of Gospel living, the foundation of which is the volunteers' relationship with God. In one year a FrancisCorps volunteer devotes 1,880 hours directly serving the poor, 129 hours praying as a community and 33 days on retreat or pilgrimage. For information call 315-426-0481 or please visit the website at franciscorps.org or email info@franciscorps.org or visit Instagram/Facebook [@franciscorps](https://www.facebook.com/franciscorps). Their location is locally here in Syracuse.

7th SUNDAY OF EASTER



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

Guest Speaker



Missionary Visit - Propagation of the Faith

SJB/HT will host Rev. Leo Antony, SDV Sunday June 15th for the celebration of the Mass and to speak about his missionary work. A collection will be taken. More information will follow.



Wild Goose Video Study

Topic: the Holy Spirit meets Tuesdays at the office/convent of OLP/SP with (optional) adoration at 5:30pm, and the video beginning at 6:00pm!

Devotions Explained

Prayer After Meals, Explained

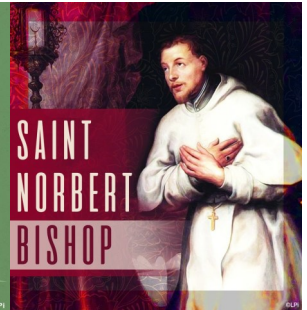
Just as praying before a meal, praying after a meal is meant to inspire in Christians an attitude of thanksgiving and an acknowledgment of our dependence on God.



Though it is a less common practice in the modern world, early Church fathers like Tertullian and St. Jerome extolled the importance of praying after a meal, and the Christian poet Prudentius composed hymns for before and after meals ("ante cibum" and "post cibum").

There are no "official" prayers for after a meal, but the most common one said by Catholics is this: "We give thee thanks, almighty God, for all your benefits, who lives and reigns forever and ever. And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace." It is a benediction which recalls our perpetual fellowship with the entire Body of Christ, including those who have passed from this life. ©LPi

St. Norbert of Xanten (c. 1075-1134) after a violent conversion experience, was ordained and became an itinerant preacher who founded the Norbertine order. He preached against heresies denying the Blessed Sacrament, which earned him the title "Apostle of the Blessed Sacrament."



Please review the below requests for prayers and contact me with any updates to remove or new request. Thank You, Nancy

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, 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, and Fred Wheeler. **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.**