

## St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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

May 18, 2025



5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
I give you a new commandment:  
I love one another." Jn 13:34a



### From Fr. Brendan Foley

Today in our first reading, there's a little quote from St. Paul in the Acts of the Apostles worth our reflection: "It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). It's probably not the most exciting thing that we would like to hear about. We're probably not too eager to want to receive or embrace that. Early commentaries on this reflect that Paul says this not to discourage us, but rather to prepare us and make us more resolute in our commitment to the Gospel; it's an invitation to greater patience and steadfastness, a posture that can draw deeper trust forth from our hearts. We know that when the road of life gets tough, the interior struggle rages on. It can be difficult for us to cling to faith, difficult to trust that the Lord's goodness or that his love for us is real—but yet we can learn something from this simple detail from our first reading today. We are not about the business of diminishing our suffering, but rather we know that our suffering has taken on a redemptive quality, we have profound hope that God chose not to abandon us in our suffering, and the first disciples knew and experienced the same challenges of faith that we do—physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual obstacles—in the face of these they offer us hope by their examples.

Not captured in the first reading today are the verses that come before this moment. If you were to open to this chapter of Acts, you would see that St. Paul was *just stoned* nearly leaving him dead, dragged out of the city: "*They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. But when the disciples gathered around him, he got up and entered the city. On the following day he left with Barnabas for Derbe. After they had proclaimed the good news to that city and made a considerable number of disciples...*" (Acts 14:19-21). Now when we hear him speak to the reality of sufferings along the way, we receive this with a new tone. Paul likely would've been swollen in face, bloodied and bruised, fat-lipped, probably not able to speak clearly, hindered in his ability to walk—clearly laden with pain. How much more compelling, now, is his witness of perseverance when we imagine him half-alive and not at all thwarted by his physical injuries? It echoes St. Maximillian Kolbe's heart too who lived his own words: "For Jesus Christ, I am prepared to suffer still more." Meaning the transformative encounter that one has with Love incarnate can be so powerful, that the trials of earthly life are never enough to persuade someone from abandoning the life of the Gospel. Incredible!

Yet what about us, what about when we feel like we are too weak of heart to be as heroic as St. Paul or St. Maximillian? We can take courage and comfort that the same sacramental graces that were active in the lives of these two are offered freely still to us even to this day. The Eucharist that contains Jesus' body, blood, soul and divinity, his power over suffering, sin, and death, that animated Paul, Maximilian, those heroic faithful ahead of us, is the same Eucharist we are about to receive. Jesus offers us his life to accomplish in us that which otherwise we would find ourselves too weak on our own. It is not Jesus' desire to abandon us in our times of great need, and with the posture of faith and perseverance, he desires to accomplish in you and me lives that give glory to God and draw others into the goodness of the Gospel. Yes, while sufferings may now be necessary parts of our lives as disciples, the Lord is not indifferent to our pain, and in his goodness he draws close to us to strengthen us and show us the way to the fullness of life in him! He makes all things new and has created us for eternal communion with him, where there will be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain. May we have an increase of faith this day to trust that the Lord will provide us every grace to accompany us in our journey of life as we walk the road to heaven and eternal life.

#### 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

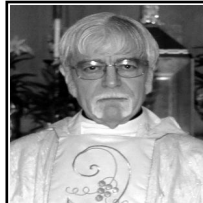
Music Director/Organist: Mr. James Stanley

Buildings/Grounds: Robert Warren

Religious Education: Betty Warren

Sacristan/Grounds: Allan Chouinard

Altar Server: Benjamin Chouinard



### Celebrating 50 Years A Priest

Fr. Lester Smith will celebrate 50 years as a Priest at Mass here at SJB/HT on Sunday, June 1st at our 9:00am Mass. Please join us on this day as a parish as we celebrate the Mass with Fr. Smith and congratulate him for his dedicated ministry as a Catholic Priest and his dedication to this parish after his retirement. During his retirement Fr. Smith kept very busy administering to this parish without hesitation. Cake and coffee will be set up in the Park Street vestibule. Weather permitting, there will be high top tables set up along the front walk of the Church. Please join us to celebrate such an honorable and dedicated priest.

### A Message From Fr. Lester Smith

Dear Parishioners of St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Parish, some of you may have heard that I am moving into the Nottingham Senior Citizen's Residence in Jamesville. Because of my back injuries, the stairs in this rectory have become too hard for me. About 20 years ago, the Diocese made a special arrangement with the Nottingham, enabling retired priests to live there at a greatly reduced rate. There are currently 14 priests there, all of whom I know. We priests are truly blest to have this available to us.

But I wanted to tell you how much I have enjoyed being part of this wonderful, loyal Catholic community for the almost eight years I have been here, and how grateful I am to God for the kind and inspiring friends I have met here. I would also like to thank you in advance for the coffee and cake reception you are putting on after my Jubilee Mass on Sunday, June 1st.

I think some of my relatives, and some friends from other parishes in which I have served will be joining us for that Mass, and as I have said to them, I would also like to say to you, that I desire no gifts; just your presence, if you can make it. Thanks again!

**SPECIAL  
ANNOUNCEMENT**



### Lector - Sunday May 25th

9:00am SJB/HT: Chet Wisniewski

### Eucharistic Ministry

	<b>Center</b>	<b>Marv's Side</b>
May 18th	Karen Fekete	Dave William
May 25th	Mary Beth Cusano	Betty Warren



Jesus said: "My children, I will be with you only a little while longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another." — Jn 13:33a, 34a

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



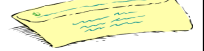
### 9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

**Sunday May 18, 2025** - Maria & Franca - The Family  
Lucy Rossomando - The Family  
Albert & Frances Bleskoski - The Family  
Lillian Greenwood - Linda, Stan & Family  
**Sunday May 25, 2025** - Catherine Mott - The Family  
Cariseo Family - The Family  
David McLaughlin - Mother

### Sacrificial Giving

Week May 11th  
SJB/HT Collection: \$2,378.00

### Offering Envelopes

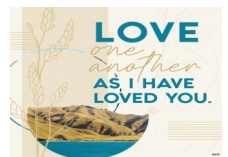


### Rectory Closed

SJB/HT and OLP/SP Rectories will be closed on Monday May 26th in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday.

### Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman  
**Resembling Jesus**



I once wrote an article about several women residents of a local nursing home. In re-searching the piece, I discovered that they had grown up in the same neighborhood as my grandmother, and that one of the women was, in fact, my grandmother's dearest childhood friend.

When I visited this woman to take her photograph, she took a long look at my face, and I could see in her eyes that she was reaching back in her memory across the years.

She said: "You resemble her."

I wept on the way home.

My grandmother died when I was nine, and for the last several years of her life she suffered from Alzheimer's disease. I have always deeply grieved the time we lost, the relationship we could have had. I have hazy fragments of memory from before her illness that lead me to believe we loved each other very much.

Being told I look like my grandmother by someone who knew her well — being identified as belonging to her in some way — was one of the more beautiful things to happen to me.

When we love someone, we want to be associated with them. We want to be recognized as *theirs* somehow. And if we love Christ, we should want to be known as belonging to him. We should want those who see us to know we are his.

The only way we can resemble Jesus is through love. It is his most recognizable quality, his most famous trait. *This is how all will know that you are my disciples.*

As Catholics, we are always talking about finding ways to live our faith boldly, unapologetically, publicly. Good — we should! But if we want people to know we are Catholic, we should love them. Bravely. Recklessly. Sacrificially.

As he loves us. ©LPi

**FYI - We are still in need of men and women who might be interested in helping serve during funeral.**

**Mass intentions \$15.00, Bread and Wine in memory of your loved one(s) \$25.00 or Sanctuary Lamp \$10.00.**





## 40th Anniversary Rev. Amedeo G. Guida

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, June 8th at 1:15pm "The Solemnity of Pentecost" here at St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Church. A reception will follow at Orchard Vali Golf Club 4693 Route 20 LaFayette, NY 13084. Musical entertainment provided by Ella Cristina. Admission to the reception is \$40.00 per person. Prepaid ticket sales, only, and will be redeemed at check-in at reception. Deadline to purchase tickets is May 28th. Make checks payable to St. Raphael Ministry and may be mailed to St. Raphael Ministry, PO Box 33 Liverpool, NY 13088.

## Prayer For Everyday And Everybody Prayer of Christian Love

Fill our hearts, O Lord, with Your love, the deepest, richest, purest love any of us has ever known. May Your love be our standard for love. May Your love be what we bring and communicate to the world. May Your love define us as Christians, made in Your image and likeness. Amen. ©LPi



## Please Be Aware "Do Not Park"

Thank you for your continued cooperation with our **DO NOT PARK** request in the back lot along the side hill, the coned off area. Parking is permitted in the back lot where the staff only signs are. As soon as weather will permit, the drainage grate will be top priority.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse joyfully announces the

## ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia presiding

**SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025 | 10 AM**  
CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



YOUTUBE.COM/@SYRDIO



Rev. Mr. John Brusa III



Rev. Mr. Joseph Ryan



## Reflect: Readings and Gospel

**1st Reading Question:** Despite facing many hardships, Paul and Barnabas succeeded in preaching the good news of Jesus crucified and risen from the dead. How do you work through personal setbacks?



**2nd Reading Question:** At the start of his final vision, John sees the age to come in which God comes to dwell with his people on earth and all tears, pain and even death itself is gone. Who in your life needs to hear this incredible message of hope?

**Gospel:** Jesus modeled for his disciples how to love one another. Do you have friends or co-workers who show you how to love others? ©LPi

## 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

**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.

## Devotions Explained

### Hail Mary

The words of the Hail Mary — undoubtedly the most recognizable Catholic prayer after the Lord's Prayer — are deeply rooted in scripture. The opening lines of the prayer are taken from the words of the angel Gabriel at the Annunciation — "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee." This line is known as the Angelic Salutation. The following words — "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus" — echo the sentiments expressed by Elizabeth at the Visitation.



The Angelic Salutation is regarded as the earliest devotional prayer to Mary, since it forms the very first words spoken to her as the Mother of God, but Catholics did not begin to utilize the Hail Mary prayer in its current form until around the 11th century.

An in-depth explanation of each line of this prayer is provided in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2676-2677. ©LPi



## A Family Perspective Family Life Education

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us: "Love one another." Love holds a family together. It is not what a family does which makes it outstanding, rather it is what it has, love for one another.

## Pray For Vocations

"As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." Christ laid down His life in love for His sheep. We are called to do the same. How is he calling you to love His people? Is it as a religious brother or sister, a deacon, or a priest? Reach out to the Vocation Office via email: [vocations@syrdio.org](mailto:vocations@syrdio.org) and follow us on Instagram [@vocationssyracuse](https://www.instagram.com/vocationssyracuse).



**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.**

**LOVING  
AS HE LOVED US**

