

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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May 25, 2025



From Fr. Brendan Foley

The challenge of our readings this Sunday is one that invites us to contemplate the transformative power of God's peace and the necessity to live with docility to the guidance of the Spirit. Acts 15, the first reading, is a critical moment in the life of the first disciples. We encounter the Church grappling with division over whether the new gentile converts must also follow Jewish customs, specifically circumcision. The apostles and elders, guided by the Holy Spirit, convene to address this conflict. We can learn from how they address this issue, how they handle the solution, and we can even take great comfort in realizing the fact that there has never been a time in the history of the Church where there weren't challenges and difficult subjects needing to be addressed.

The result reflects a biblical truth that is still relevant today. While their ancestors were called to live the covenant as God's chosen people with the law of Moses, time and again they found themselves observing merely the external components of this relationship without continuity in the interior disposition of their hearts. In other words, often the discord within the heart impacted the genuineness of their practice of the faith. And so, rightly the apostles discern that the matter of living the faith must move beyond simply observing practices and laws. It is also deeply concerned with the conversion of the heart that should naturally inform the actions or expression of one's faith. Our lives as disciples should reflect an integrated, holistic life that gives and receives from our communion with the heart of God and the truth of the Gospel. The faith is intended to be something that we live and breathe, not just something we do here and there, and it's because the Lord desires for us to live in his peace and abundance.

The gospel again today presents Jesus offering us a tender promise: those who love Him will keep His word, and the Father and Son will come to dwell within. This intimate indwelling is paired with the gift of the Holy Spirit, who will teach and remind the disciples of Jesus' words. The peace Jesus offers is not worldly but a deep, abiding assurance that transcends fear. Peace in the spiritual life is not merely a sense of comfort or an absence of conflict or finding answers to our questions, but rather it is the upward movement of our soul to love God more. It is true that you can abide in this kind of peace, and have access to the abundance of divine life, while simultaneously facing great hardships and difficulties in life. "Peace" that Jesus offers is quite sincerely the gift of himself, which teaches us that we can't just create or force this to come, but through the help of the Holy Spirit we come to receive this more and more as we turn and ask for it with humble and trusting hearts. The disciples experienced the truth while discerning with the Holy Spirit and followed after even though there were differing opinions of what the answer to their question should be.

Together, these readings weave a tapestry of love, unity, and divine guidance. They call us to live as a community that reflects our ongoing commitment to conversion of interiority of heart, to trust in the Spirit's ability to give divine wisdom, and the call for us to anchor our lives in the peace of Christ. As we navigate our own challenges, may we embody this vision, becoming beacons of God's light in a world longing for hope.

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



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 June 1st

9:00am SJB/HT: Cathy Schotthoefer

Eucharistic Ministry

	<u>Center</u>	<u>Mary's Side</u>
May 25th	Mary Beth Cusano	Betty Warren
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

Today Jesus gives this advice: "Do not let your hearts be troubled." Worry and anxiety can consume our lives preventing us from seeing the love which surrounds us and binds us to one another. Don't miss the forest for the trees. We are living today what we worried about yesterday.



Pray For Vocations

"Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." Jesus spoke these words to encourage His disciples in their mission He gave them. He speaks these same words to us. What is calling and encouraging you to do? If you feel it is to be a priest, deacon. Or religious, reach out to the Vocation Office via email: vocations@syrdio.org and follow us on Instagram [@vocationssyracuse](https://www.instagram.com/vocationssyracuse).

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.



9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

Sunday May 25, 2025 - Catherine Mott - The Family
Cariseo Family - The Family
David McLaughlin - Mother

Sunday June 1, 2025 - Maureen White - Kathleen Kelly
Lorraine & Angelo Coppola - The Family
Salvatore & Shirley Fornito - The Family



**THE ASCENSION
OF JESUS**

Thursday May 29 Holy Day of Obligation

OLP/SP 7:15am
Assumption 9:00am
SJB/HT 12:15pm

Sacrificial Giving

Week May 18th
SJB/HT Collection: \$2,316.00



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
My Peace I Give to You



When John has a vision of heavenly Jerusalem, he sees walls.

"A massive, high wall," to be more precise. In the modern lexicon, walls have a negative connotation; we use them as metaphors for all that is exclusionary and rigid. But throughout much of history, walls have meant something very different. In the ancient world, walls meant safety.

Walls meant peace.

"My peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you," Jesus tells his disciples in today's Gospel. "Not as the world gives do I give it to you."

So what's the difference between the peace we know in the world, and the peace we know in Christ?

Well, I would argue that the difference is that the peace we know in Christ *exists*. We know no real peace in this world. Sometimes, we witness a sort of mirage of peace — something *like* it, but just a little off, and always on the horizon, never within reach.

Peace, to me, means rest. It means quiet. It means the absence of confrontation, of conflict, of anxiety. But I can't actually experience any of that in this life, not in a substantial way. I can rest — but I never really feel rested. I can retreat to a room by myself to have silence, but someone always knocks on the door, and even if they don't, my thoughts get pretty loud.

And boy oh boy, are those thoughts full of confrontation. Full of anxiety, full of conflict. Wherever I go to find peace, the world finds *me* and banishes it.

I think of the walls of heavenly Jerusalem, so high and so sturdy, guarded so scrupulously by God's strongest angels. These walls are not barriers. They are shields. They are arms, encircling us, gathering us in.

In Christ alone can we find peace in this world. ©LPi



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 for Peace

Fill us with Your peace, Lord, as you promised in Your word. Peace in our comings and goings, Peace that You are working and moving, Peace for what has happened, the places we find ourselves today, and in the future to come. 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.



A Blessing For Our Military Service Members

Lord God, we are ever mindful of the cost paid for the liberty we possess, we ask that you bless the members of our armed forces. Give them courage, hope and strength. May they ever experience your support, love and healing. Be their power and protector, leading them from darkness to light. Amen.



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.

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER



Prayer For Our New Pope

God of all people, In trust and gratitude, we turn to your Holy Spirit. We know your Spirit has been active during this time of conclave, guiding the prayerful discernment that has brought your Church to this important moment. Now, as Pope Leo XIV as-

sumes the Petrine Ministry, we pray that your Spirit draw ever closer to our new Holy Father, illuminating his path so that he may faithfully see and respond to the needs of your people.

We pray that Pope Leo XIV be strengthened in his ministry. May he continue building bridges that connect us to one another. May he be an example of faith, hope, and love. We pray that you give him joy in his work and a renewed fervor for your Gospel message. May he never lose sight of Christ who walks before us and among us—particularly in the most vulnerable, the forgotten and the outcast.

Christ Jesus, bless Pope Leo XIV—and bless us, your holy people, as together we strive to be your Body in our wounded world. Amen.



Reflect: Readings and Gospel

1st Reading Question: We hear how the church in Jerusalem resolved their conflicts through dialogue and compromise. When has your faith community had to resolve a conflict?

2nd Reading Question: As John's final vision continues, he sees the splendor and glory of God lighting the city of Jerusalem. Can you think of a time when you felt really close to God?

Gospel: Jesus taught his disciples that the Holy Spirit will be sent to believers to teach them and remind them of his words. Can you share a time when you have felt inspired by the Holy Spirit?

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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.

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

