

**St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish**

**406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208**

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

**May 11, 2025**



**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish." - Jn 10:27-28b**

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

SLP



**From Fr. Brendan Foley**

The fourth Sunday of Easter is celebrated each year as "Good Shepherd Sunday" and we can certainly hear in our readings this theme. We continue to ask the "Lord of the harvest to send more laborers," especially for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, those called to imitate deeply for the world the heart of the Good Shepherd. Today we receive a small snippet from Jesus' words in the tenth chapter of John's Gospel. It's worth opening your bible up to reflect with the full text. Either way, we receive a tremendously consoling reminder from Jesus in these words today: "I know [my sheep], and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand."

Amazing! If you have a moment, sit with those words and read and reread them. Because you belong to the Lord and to his flock, he *knows you*, it is his desire that you receive eternal life from him. Abiding in his flock, you will not perish, we come to experience the safety of his hand. What kind of shepherd do we have in Jesus? A **good** shepherd. Good especially if we continue the chapter from John's Gospel. Jesus contrasts himself with a hired hand who merely is concerned in his pay, and not invested in the wellbeing of the flock entrusted to him. And Jesus, as shepherd demonstrates not just in word but in *bold action* his willingness to lay down his life for his sheep so that his sheep would stay safely in the embrace of his fold.

The words that he begins our Gospel with, though, are our important invitation. "My sheep hear my voice." We must pause and ask ourselves, do I know the voice of the shepherd? Can I distinguish *his* voice from all the other voices I encounter? This is not something that happens by accident, it's the contemplative muscle of our heart that the Lord desires to grow in us. Our seeking to hear his voice is the disposition that calls out to the Good Shepherd that we are willing to be led by him. This takes gentle but consistent discernment, it's a muscle that can easily grow and also it can easily atrophy, which is why Jesus' care for his flock most sincerely comes to us by way of relationship with him. Let's continue asking for that grace to recognize the voice of the Good shepherd and have the courage to respond and abide in the confidence of his protection...

Also today, we of course are attentive to the blessing and gift of our mothers, living and those who have already gone home to the Lord—those women who have certainly worked to imitate for us the love, self-sacrifice, protection, and care of the Good Shepherd in a unique and unrepeatable way. We ask the Lord to bless them today, and to also bless those who may be hurting or desiring healing in their relationship with their mother, those who have had deep desire to know motherhood but have yet to receive that grace. We recognize with due reverence the special and privileged role that mothers play for each of us, and for our world. We ask our Mother Mary, who is always mother to us all and who looks at us with the same eyes that she looked at Jesus, to continue to intercede for us and keep us close to the refuge and heart of her Son!

**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**

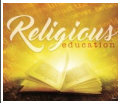
## Lector - Sunday May 18th

9:00am SJB/HT: Ashley Crisafulli



## Eucharistic Ministry

	<u>Center</u>	<u>Mary's Side</u>
May 11th	Larry Argiro	Cathy Horton
May 18th	Karen Fekete	Dave William
May 25th	Mary Beth Cusano	Betty Warren



## Religious Education Announcements

Happy Mother's Day to all of our moms. Today is the last day of our 2024-2025 Religious Education year. I would like to take this time to thank everyone who helped run the program this year. Fr. Foley for all of his Spiritual leadership and support. The teachers: Mrs. Karen Fekete, Mrs. Cathy Schotthoefer, Mrs. Mary Wisniewski, Ms. Nikki Varre, Mrs. Lisa Johnson and Mr. Chet Wisniewski, for their dedication to our parish and our children. Our teachers have gone above and beyond to make sure our children got the religious education they deserved despite their own family challenges. I also need to thank my Husband, Bob the Maintenance Supervisor for our Parish, for setting up or classrooms to comply with the Health and Safety guidelines and to continuously keep them clean and safe to use. I would like to thank Nancy Bergeson, our Parish Secretary for all her help throughout the year and especially with the bulletin announcements. I want to thank Cathy Horton, Patty Hillenbrand and Cathy Schotthoefer for maintaining our Church Bulletin Boards throughout the year. Thank you to all of our Parishioners for their support and prayers for our program.

**And to you Betty, for running such a loving and dedicated Religious Education Program for SJB/HT. Thank you for all your time and love put into this program. For you, SJB/HT Parish is grateful.**



## A Family Perspective Family Life Education

Today's gospel reminds us to be shepherds for our children who depend on us to be their guides and role models. Where are we leading them? When they "hear our voice" what message do they hear?



## Pray For Vocations

"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me." Where is the Lord calling you to follow Him? If it could be to the priesthood, diaconate, or religious life, reach out to the Vocation Office via email: [vocations@syrdio.org](mailto:vocations@syrdio.org) and follow us on Instagram @vocationssyracuse.

## Reflect: Readings and Gospel

**1st Reading Question:** Paul and Barnabas experienced resistance from some of the Jews and leaders of the city of Antioch. What sustains you in difficult and challenging experiences?



**2nd Reading Question:** John sees a vision in which those who have suffered and died for the faith are comforted by God and relieved of their distress. Is there a family member or friend you could comfort this week?

**Gospel:** We hear how Jesus gives eternal life to all who follow him. How does following Jesus impact your work or family life?  
©LPi

## The Mass Book is now open through July 31st.



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

**Sunday May 11, 2025** - All Mother's Deceased

**Sunday May 18, 2025** - Maria & Franca - The Family

Lucy Rossomando - The Family

Albert & Frances Bleskoski - The Family

Lillian Greenwood - Linda, Stan & Family

## Offering Envelopes



## Sacrificial Giving

Week April 20th Collection: \$2,498.00

Easter Envelopes April 20th Collection: \$1,767.00

Week April 27th Collection: \$1,309.72

May 4th Collection: \$4,982.00

Easter Flowers Collection: \$1,077.00



The Bread and Wine is offered in memory of

**Lillian Greenwood**

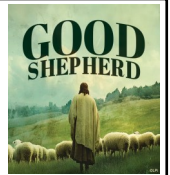
Requested by Jerry Mott

## Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## We Don't Follow Strangers

I get a little crazy when it comes to my kids' safety. We've probably had a few too many conversations that could be entitled "What to Do If Mommy Loses You At the State Fair" or "Don't Trust People Just Because They Smile At You." Am I making them paranoid? Possibly. But that's something they can sort out later with their therapists.



Because here's the bottom line of it all — I don't want to instill a fear of strangers into my kids, but I do want them to understand that you can't always trust people you don't know (heck, you can't always trust the people you *do* know, but that's another therapy-provoking conversation we can have when they're older).

If someone says, "Hey, follow me," and we don't know them, it's not always a great idea to comply. First, we have to ask questions. "Where are you taking me? Why are we going? Who else will be there?"

But if someone we know and love and trust says, "Hey, follow me," we don't even think twice, and we don't need to ask any questions. We know wherever we're going is a safe place for us because we have a relationship with the person doing the leading. We feel comfortable putting ourselves in their care.

That's why it's so important to Christ that we know him. That we have a relationship with him. That we trust him.

Because we don't follow strangers, do we?

I don't have all the answers to the questions I would love to ask Christ. "Why is this happening? Where are you taking me?" But the beautiful thing is, I don't actually need those answers. I know him. He's got my hand. Wherever we're going is where I want to be. ©LPi

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER







May the Lord  
richly bless  
both you and  
your children.

### Prayer For Everyday And Everybody Prayer to the Good Shepherd

Beloved Shepherd,  
You guide in a way often beyond my understanding.  
You lead to paths yet undiscovered. Keep me in Your  
care, as together we seek green pastures and still wa-  
ters. Amen. ©LPi



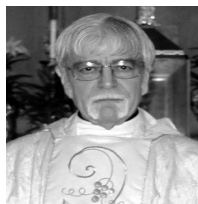
### All Faiths Food Pantry Donations

Your non perishable food donations can still be  
brought and left in the Food Wagon's in the parking lot  
side and Park Street vestibule of the Church.

**If you would like to make a monetary donation  
please make checks payable to  
\*\*\*"All Faiths Food Pantry"\*\*\***

### 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. We will have a cake and coffee  
gathering after the Mass in the cafeteria. Please join us to cele-  
brate such an honorable and dedicated priest.



### 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.

### The Tradition of Genuflection

**Question:** Why do Catholics genuflect?

**Answer:** Genuflection is an act of devotion that liter-  
ally means "to bend the knee." For many Catholics,  
it's an almost automatic gesture that we perform be-  
fore entering our pew or row of seats at Mass. But,  
like many of the symbols and gestures of our faith tradition, gen-  
ufling can also be an invitation for deeper reflection.



The practice of "bending the knee" is an ancient way of recogniz-  
ing the presence of someone greater than we are. It has been said  
that the practice dates back to the time of Alexander the Great,  
but it became a common part of etiquette in the royal courts of  
the Middle Ages. From throne rooms and palaces, it was a small  
step to genuflecting becoming part of the devotional lives of  
Christians, who used this secular gesture as a way of recognizing  
the presence of the One who is King of Kings, especially in the  
Eucharist.

Today, Catholics are asked to genuflect in the presence of the  
Blessed Sacrament (whether in the tabernacle or exposed on the  
altar during eucharistic adoration). So, while it has become sec-  
ond nature to genuflect before entering your seat in church, we  
should pay attention to where the Blessed Sacrament is kept in  
each church or chapel that we visit, and genuflect in the direction  
of the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. In church-  
es or chapels in which the tabernacle is in a separate space, we  
are invited to simply bow toward the altar.

In addition to genuflecting before the Blessed Sacrament, we are  
also instructed to genuflect before the cross used for veneration  
on Good Friday (during the solemn celebrations of the Lord's  
Passion) and any time a relic of the True Cross is displayed for  
veneration. This long-standing tradition is a way of honoring the  
cross as the great sign of our salvation and of showing devotion  
to the passion of Jesus. ©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.**

**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.**

