

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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

August 3, 2025



15th Sunday

IN ORDINARY TIME

[Jesus] said to the crowd, "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions." - Lk 12:15

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCB

SLP



From Fr. Brendan Foley

Where your treasure is, there your heart shall be... These words of Jesus (Mt. 6:21) are not found in our Gospel today but they certainly resonate with the theme of our Mass readings today. There's a difficult balance that must be navigated throughout our lives: living in and among the things of this earth, while at the same time having our heart completely oriented toward the things of heaven. The parable of the man in the Gospel today preoccupied with what to do with all the wealth he has accumulated challenges us to also consider the question of whether or not the priorities of my own life are rightly ordered or not. This is something that can only be accomplished with the grace of the Holy Spirit, and it is delicate and takes patience and persistence.

We should also at the same time remember that to have wealth or to have means is not evil in itself—there are many saintly examples who have contributed heroically to the care of the poor and the spread of the Gospel through the gift of what they have. The threat, however, is our temptation to solely pursue wealth for its own sake, or to give ourselves a sense of security, or convince ourselves that we are the ones ultimately in control of our lives. The parable we hear from the Lord today presents us bluntly how such a disposition of heart falls short. If our hearts receive everything they need from the Lord, who alone can truly provide for our life, we are freer to engage earthly things with a heavenly perspective and we won't fall victim to being a slave to the things that will ultimately fade or not matter for eternity. Our identity is not rooted in what we have accomplished or accumulated in our lives.

Readings from the book of Ecclesiastes (today's first reading) always provide challenges for reflection. The book itself belongs to the genre of Wisdom Literature in the Old Testament, and left alone without the rest of the bible, it can seem quite bleak and empty. The author's use of the word "vanity" can get conflated with our more familiar use of the word "vain" thinking arrogant, self-centered, consumed with our own image, etc., but there is a deeper meaning in the context of the text that points us to that which is "vain" like vapor or a breath, it comes and goes, a thing is here and then it fades away. So with the book taken as a whole, Ecclesiastes challenges us with many questions for reflection: What is the point of life if all these (earthly) things are fading? What is the point of our hard work and toil if eventually it is all for naught? Do we live simply to die?

The way the interpretive tradition of this text is essentially that Ecclesiastes poses all the questions of which Jesus is the only answer. With the incarnation of God taking on our humanity, the questions of the ephemeral or fleeting aspects of our existence don't leave us empty and despairing, but rather compel us toward Christ who is our sure hope. Only Jesus can satisfy the deepest longings of our being, only his life, death, and resurrection provide us with a firm foundation. By calling us to life with him Jesus gives us purpose, meaning, and a horizon that orients us for all our life. From time to time it is critical for our own reflection to consider the question, "What is my highest priority?" Do all other good and important things (family, friends, virtue, etc) flow **first** from my being oriented toward the Lord? It is always the desire of the Lord to help us be free from disordered attachments and live more authentically in a joy that only He can provide. And yet, it takes much courage and trust to live this way day in and day out. But so that we don't have to shoulder this burden on our own strength, God in his goodness, offers us the promised accompaniment of his grace through the Sacraments and the life of the Church, through our brothers and sisters in the faith, and in the transformation of our hearts contemplating always Jesus, the Incarnate Word. May our lives always be built on the foundation of the Lord's enduring love.

Pastor: Father Brendan Foley

Mass Schedule SJB/HT Sunday 9:00am

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

Secretary/Bulletin: Nancy Bergeson

In Residence: Fr. Paschal Anionye

Music Director/Organist: Mr. James Stanley

Buildings/Grounds: Robert Warren

Religious Education: Betty Warren

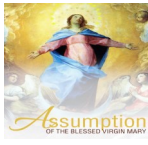
Sacristan/Grounds: Allan Chouinard

Altar Servers: Benjamin Chouinard

Alyssa Warren & Cecilia Judge

Rectories Closed/Holy Day

SJB/HT and OLP/SP rectories will be closed on Friday August 15th in observance of the Holy Day; The Assumption Of The Blessed Virgin Mary. This day is a Holy Day of obligation and our Mass times are: **OLP/SP 9:00am and SJB/HT 12:15pm.**



Lector - August 3rd

9:00am SJB/HT: Owen Donovan

Lector - August 10th

9:00am SJB/HT:

Eucharistic Ministry

	Center	Marv's Side
August 3	Larry Argiro	Cathy Horton
August 10	Karen Fekete	Dave William
August 17	Mary Beth Cusano	Betty Warren
August 24	Cathy Horton	Larry Argiro
August 31	Dave William	Karen Fekete

A Family Perspective Family Life Education

In today's Gospel Jesus teaches us: "One's life does not consist of possessions." We spend so much time working to obtain more stuff; we don't have time for the people in our lives. What is enough? Are the words of Jesus, "You fool", meant for us?



Pray For Vocations

We are called to store up treasure in heaven where it won't decay, not here where it will. We gain this treasure by following God's call. What is calling you? If it is the diaconat, religious life, or priesthood, reach out to the Vocation Office via email: vocations@syrdio.org and follow us on Instagram [@vocationssyracuse](https://www.instagram.com/vocationssyracuse).



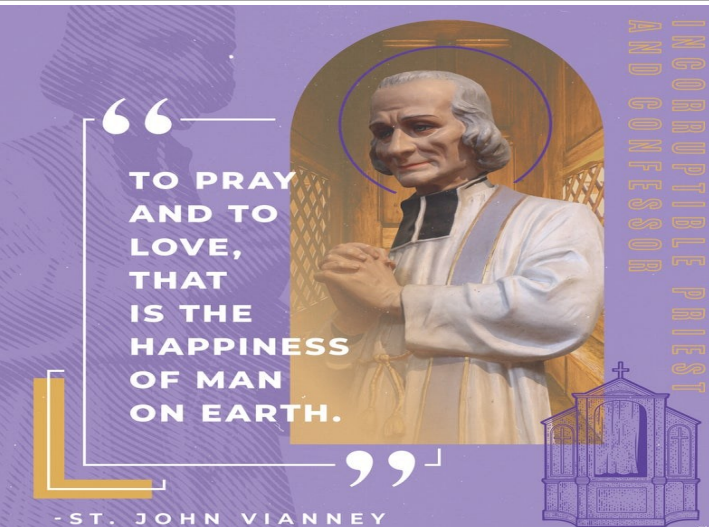
Reflect: Readings and Gospel

1st Reading Question: The author of Ecclesiastes speaks of the futility of an anxious heart and restless mind. What helps to ground you in your day-to-day living?



2nd Reading Question: Paul encourages the Colossians to put to death the "old self" (bad behavior) and to live into the "new self" (life in Christ). What could you do this week to practice this "new self"?

Gospel Question: Jesus tells the crowds the parable of the rich fool, warning against excessive material wealth. How do you balance your material needs with "what matters to God"? ©LPi



Bring your bottled water to church during these hot and humid Sunday Masses. It's very important to stay hydrated even during Mass.

The Mass Book for the remainder of the year is now open.

Please call or visit for requests for
August through December. Intentions are \$15.00.
Bread and Wine in memory of your loved one \$25.00.
Sanctuary Lamp in memory of your loved one \$10.00.



9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

Sunday August 3, 2025 - John "Butch" O'Brien -

The Tarson Family

Giulia & Cesario Palucci - Mr. & Mrs. Robert Palucci & Family
Sunday August 10, 2025 - Angeline Viggiano - Dan & Family

Offering Envelopes

Sacrificial Giving

Week July 27th

SJB/HT Collection: \$2,046.00

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
The Barn



It's 9:08 on a Saturday morning, and I am too darn busy for confession.

I've probably written before about how hard I find it to get to confession — I say 'probably' because I really can't remember. I whine about it so frequently that it's hard to tell if I've made it the subject of a written piece or if it is simply an oft-recited refrain from the Litany of Colleen's Perpetual Complaints.

During the week, it's tough to get to confession because I have little kids who are attached to me like Velcro, and I don't need them listening in on (and eventually repeating to everyone) my sins. On the weekend it's a little easier, but our parish doesn't offer it before or after Sunday Mass, just on Saturdays. Saturday is when I get most of my work done, so getting absolution usually comes at the expense of productivity.

And that, friends, right here, is my barn. Productivity. That's the proverbial storehouse of my earthly harvest. For the rich man in the parable, it's a literal barn, filled to bursting with sellable crops. For you it might be money or your job title or what your life looks like to other people on social media. For me, it's Getting Things Done. That's my barn, the repository that holds the whole of my worldly preoccupations.

And it's so full I want to tear it down and build a new one. A bigger one. One that can hold more worry, more time for work, more focus on output and crossing things off a to-do list. Vanity of vanities, indeed.

If I die tonight, the deadlines will go unmet, and no one will even notice. But God, when He meets me in the world to come, will surely ask me why I couldn't take 45 minutes to accept a gift He tried again and again to give me.

I have to burn the barn, friends. I don't want to, but I have to. I'm closing my laptop and going to church. ©LPi

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me." He replied to him, "Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?" Then he said to the crowd, "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."

— Lk 12:13-15

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

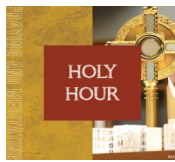
Devotions Explained

Holy Hour

A holy hour is the practice of spending one hour's time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, praying and meditating on the agony of Jesus Christ. More broadly, a holy hour can also refer to any 60 minutes set aside in prayer and reflection, whether in church or elsewhere.

The holy hour devotion dates to the late 17th century, when St. Margaret Mary Alacoque received visions of Jesus Christ. In these visions, the Lord requested that St. Margaret Mary spend one hour every Thursday evening lying prostrate and meditating upon his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. This practice calls back to the Gospel of Matthew, which tells of Jesus' desire for the disciples to "remain here and keep watch with me" (Matthew 26:38) as he awaited his passion.

Holy hours can be made privately or in community, and the USCCB has created a variety of different holy hour formats that can be found at usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/eucharistic-devotion. ©LPi



Rite of Candidacy

The Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders is celebrated when it has been established that the intention of those aspiring to Holy Orders is supported by Bishop Lucia and those involved in their formation and that they have the qualifications and maturity to proceed with their formation toward priestly ministry.

The Rite of Candidacy will be celebrated on Monday, August 4th at 6:30 PM following the Bishop's Annual Vocations Picnic at Immaculate Conception in Fayetteville.

Please join us in celebrating these young men and their formation: Mr. John Buttner, Mr. Carlos Gonzalez, Mr. Jonathan Hoole, Mr. Gianni Verginio, Mr. Douglas Villanella.

The Transfiguration Of Jesus

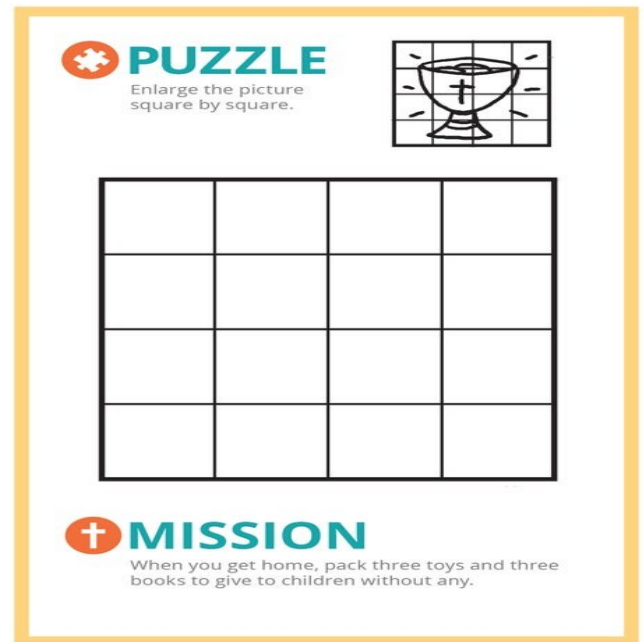
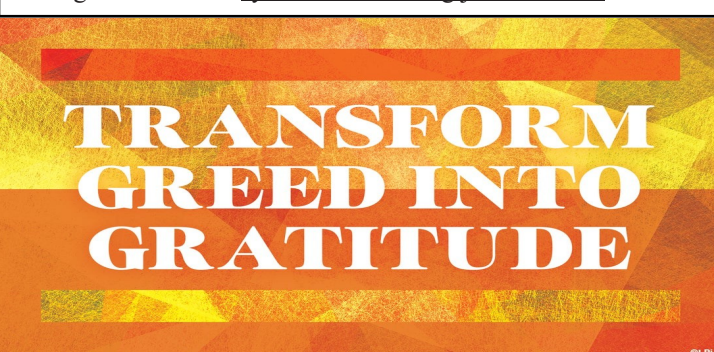
Wed. Aug. 6th - Not a holiday of obligation.

During the Transfiguration, Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a mountain where he was transformed, his face shining like the sun and his clothes becoming dazzling white. Moses and Elijah appeared, and God's voice from a cloud declared Jesus as his Son, instructing them to listen to him. The event served as a preview of Jesus' future glory and a confirmation of his divine identity.



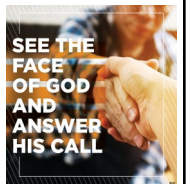
Pilgrimage Divine Mercy Shrine

Diocese of Syracuse invites you to participate on the 1 day Pilgrimage to "The Divine Mercy Shrine" on Saturday, September 27, 2025 in Stockbridge, Ma. \$75.00 per person, bus departs from Holy Cross in DeWitt and check in is 7:30am. Estimated return time 7:00pm. For details and registration visit: syracusediocese.org/jubilee-2025.



Prayer – For Everyday And Everybody Prayer for Open Hands

Lord, I do not know what any day holds, I cannot take for granted any of the gifts You have given. Help me to use them, then, as You would have me. Help me to live according to Your invitations. Amen. ©LPi



Parishioners, please look through this list for any names that should be removed. Also, if you have a loved one to request for prayers call the office to have their name added.

Remember: Mike Affleck, Shawn Babcock, Nancy Bailey, Jack Brien, 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 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

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.