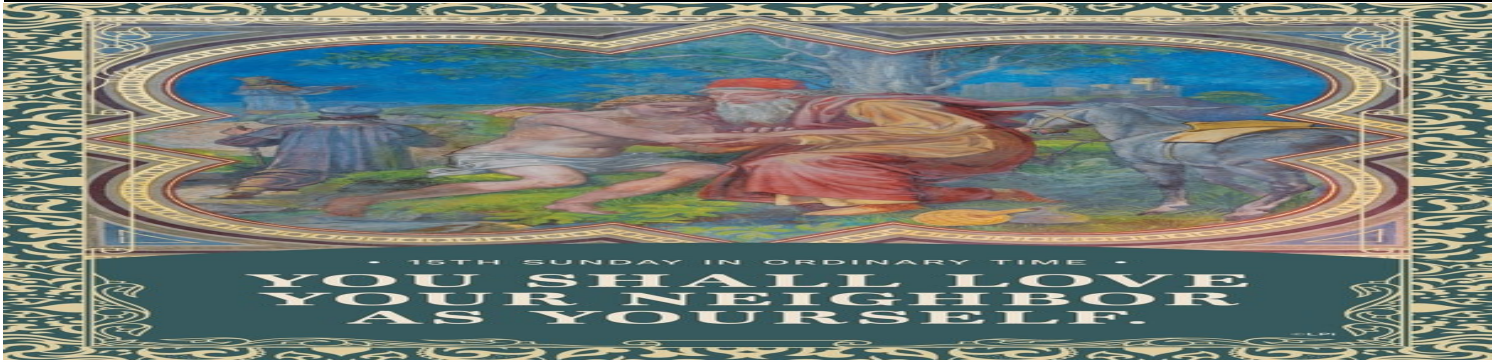


St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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

July 13, 2025



From Fr. Brendan Foley

For most, the parable of the Good Samaritan is a very familiar story, and we know its lofty call to action, too. It is important to remember that, like the scholar who puts the question to Jesus in our Gospel today, each of us can have a tendency to reduce who we see as our "neighbor" or to narrow who we are willing to extend mercy toward. We can find excuses at any moment as to why we should or shouldn't help someone in need, why we would rather avoid this person or that one, why we will or will not forgive, etc.—it's easier and more comfortable for us to extend mercy when it's on our terms. But yet, it is helpful for us to have this parable's reminder presented to us again and to approach it with fresh eyes and ears, because Jesus embodies a far more radical and challenging kind of love.

St. Augustine offers insightful commentary on this passage from Luke's Gospel inviting us to look even deeper at who truly is the Good Samaritan. Augustine examines the details and invites us to see this exact parable as the description of salvation history, and to come to know Jesus' heart for humanity. For example, simply recognizing the setting of this story: *a man on his way from Jerusalem to Jericho*. Augustine says this reflects Adam's original sin and exile from the garden of Eden, God's earthly dwelling place: A man leaves Jerusalem, the place of the temple, the place of God's dwelling—the place of life—and chooses rather to leave and set out for the town of Jericho—idiomatically the *farthest* place from God's dwelling, the place of self-indulgence, of sin and immorality—a place of darkness and death, where compassion would not be sought.

Beaten by thieves, left half-dead along the way is the description of the interior reality of what happens when sin dwells in our being. Choosing sin time and time again we are robbed of our communion with God, left longing for true life and real healing that can only come from God. And so, of course, who is the Good Samaritan? It is Jesus. It is Jesus who was sent by the Father into the depths of our darkness and abandonment to heal us, save us, redeem us, bring us back to life in Him.

Take note! How does Jesus do it? He comes seeking us! He goes out in search of us! He lifts us up on his own animal, which Augustine says is the image of the Church, and takes us to a place where we can recover and find refuge. How does he heal us? He pours wine and oil deep into the wounds. Of course, Augustine says, this is Jesus pouring out the Sacramental life of the Church. Oil anoints us when we are sick, oil anoints us in baptism, confirmation, and holy orders to be conformed to the life of God. The wine directs us to the Eucharist, the same blood of Christ that when his body is in us we have His life sustaining us.

This is Jesus. That's how Jesus operates. He draws near to us in our desperation and poverty, he himself is the means of healing, he pays the price for our wounds, to bring us back to life. How important it is for us, my friends, to see this passage as the reminder that we are left half-dead on the side of the road, or rather, **we are only half-alive when we try to live our own way, when we try to go into life without the Lord**. As Moses says to the flock in his midst, "You know this, this level of love is close to you, in you, in your heart, on your lips, but now you just need to live it." What keeps you from living it? What keeps you from being fully connected to Jesus throughout your day? Because remember that Jesus comes to you always seeking to give you life. When you see yourself as the one on the side of the road in need of new life and healing, keep in mind that Jesus is longing for you to meet him far more than you could ever imagine. The story of the Good Samaritan is much more of a picture of how the Lord draws near to us. And so we keep the words of the Psalmist today on our lips and in our hearts, because it is the Lord who runs to our aid to give us life: *To you, Lord, I lift up my prayer, come to my aid quickly; hear me according to your clemency, faithful God in help. Listen to me, Lord, for you are good, and turn your eyes to me in your calf.*

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@syrдио.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

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

Lector - July 13th

9:00am SJB/HT: Ashley Crisafulli

Lector - July 20th

9:00am SJB/HT: Chet Wisniewski



Eucharistic Ministry

	<u>Center</u>	<u>Mary's Side</u>
July 13	Cathy Horton	Larry Argiro
July 20	Dave William	Karen Fekete
July 27	Betty Warren	Mary Beth Cusano



A Family Perspective Family Life Education

Children learn by watching us. Do they see you helping others like the Good Samaritan, or do they see you avoiding others like the Levite in today's Gospel. Worry more about what your children see in your life than what they see on TV.

Pray For Vocations

It was the man who treated the stranger with mercy that Christ affirms in His parable today, and He tells us to do likewise. Is Christ asking you to dispense His mercy to people through the priesthood, diaconate, or religious life? 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: Moses taught the Israelite that the Lord is not remote but nearby to each of us. When was a time you felt especially close to God?

2nd Reading Question: Today's reading is a poem composed by Paul to describe the divinity and supremacy of Jesus. How do you express your thoughts about Jesus to others?

Gospel Question: In the parable of the good Samaritan, Jesus teaches the lawyer that a neighbor is anyone you treat with mercy. Who might you treat with mercy this week? ©LPi

Bishop Grimes Night At The METS!!

Come out to NBT Bank Stadium on Thursday, July 24th at 6:35pm for Bishop Grimes Night with alumni and students to celebrate the Cobras for Dollar Thursday! Fans can enjoy \$1.00 Coca-Cola fountain drinks, \$2.00 Hot Dogs and Cooney's, and \$3.00 16oz. select beers and cider. Stay after the game to enjoy post-game FIREWORKS!



\$5.00 of each ticket purchased will go to help current Bishop Grimes students buy uniforms and school supplies for their transition to Bishop Ludden-Grimes!

You must select your graduating class in the dropdown before checking out. If your class sells the most tickets by 12:00PM ON JULY 23RD your class will receive one first pitch for Thursday's game! See you at the ballpark! Go Cobras!

<https://www.gofevo.com/event/Bishopgrimesnight>

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

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 July 13, 2025 - Joe Valentine - Joe Falcone

Antonio McLaughlin - Mother

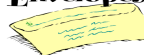
Albert & Frances Bleskoski - The Family

Sunday July 20, 2025 - Maureen White - Peter White

Jeanne Viggiano - Dan & Family

Francis & Loretta Cooney - Judy & Fran

Offering Envelopes



Sacrificial Giving

Week June 29th

SJB/HT Collection: \$1,918.00

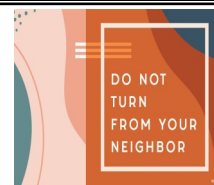
Week July 6th

SJB/HT Collection: \$3,816.00

Recognize God In Your

Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
Crossing the Street



It takes a cold, hard, godless heart to step over a wounded man on the street.

But in the parable of the Good Samaritan, the priest and the Levite didn't step over the half-dead traveler. I think we picture them doing so, in our collective imagining of this well-known story, but the words of the Gospel are quite clear. "When he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side," Jesus says of both.

So they saw him. They saw his need. It made them uncomfortable; it confused them — many scholars have said that Judaic law concerning the touching of dead bodies might have made them reluctant to approach — and so they decided the simplest way to file this situation in the Not My Problem category was to cross the street.

But that still leaves a half-dead guy on the road. And we all, 2,000 years later, still think of the priest and the Levite as cold and hard and godless — even if they didn't *want* to be, even if they didn't think of themselves that way — because the bottom line is, they didn't see the half-dead guy as their problem.

As Christians we know that everyone is our neighbor. It's drilled into us from the first time we hear this reading.

Well, I don't know about you, but I find myself crossing the street a lot more than I should.

There is so much pain and suffering in the world. We certainly can't begin to alleviate it all. But we have to start with the pain and the suffering that we *see*, that's right in front of us — even if it's something we really, really want to ignore. Even if we find it inconvenient or confusing or scary or weird.

The heroism of the Good Samaritan wasn't in his selfless actions, although those were certainly commendable. It was in his courage. "He approached the victim," Jesus said.

Can we approach the victims we see? Do we have that courage? ©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.



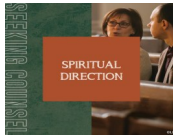
Thank You For Making An Impact

We are grateful for your support of the 2024 HOPE Appeal. In today's bulletin you will find the HOPE Impact Report summary with a thank you from Bishop Lucia. On behalf of the many individuals and families who were helped by your goodness, thank you for spreading hope. We also surpassed our goal! St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Parish received a total of \$1,019.00 through parish sharing. The full version of the report can be found at <https://syracusediocese.org/hopeappeal>.

That is Kathy and Larry Argiro with Bishop Lucia on the front of the summary report!!

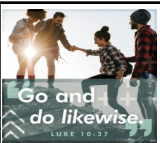
Devotions Explained Spiritual Direction

Spiritual direction is the practice of seeking counsel from someone who is trustworthy and learned in the faith for the purpose of discerning the will of God in one's life and for more effectively living out one's baptismal calling.



All Christians are commanded, in a way, to provide spiritual aid to one another ("Go, make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" — Matthew 28:19), but a spiritual director is usually an individual who has received some form of training or formation for this specific purpose. The Catholic Church, however, does not have explicit requirements, professional standards or a formal certification process for spiritual directors. Spiritual directors can be lay, religious or ordained persons.

Spiritual direction is not to be confused with the sacrament of Penance, though the latter does usually include some spiritual counsel. ©LPi

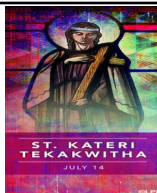


Prayer For Everyday And Everybody Prayer for Charity

Give me the grace, Lord, to truly see those around me: the overlooked, the uncomfortable, the odd and disliked. Your kingdom is one of belonging, help us to be the types of neighbors who see and respond with Godly generosity. Amen. ©LPi

St. Kateri Tekakwitha

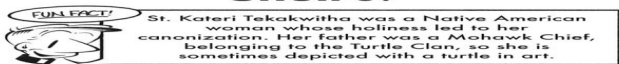
On July 14th, we celebrate the feast of the "Lily of the Mohawks." St. Kateri Tekakwitha is the first Native American woman to be canonized. Orphaned by a smallpox outbreak, Kateri survived with severe scarring and impaired eyesight. Despite tragedy, she was a devout girl at a young age, often building crosses from sticks in the woods. When she was 18, she began secret instruction in the Catholic faith with French missionaries. Her commitment to Christianity and vow of virginity was misunderstood and ridiculed by her fellow villagers. She escaped to a nearby mission, where she attended daily Mass, taught the children, and cared for the sick and the elderly. Sometimes the greatest misunderstandings can come from those closest to us. Like St. Kateri, God invites us to be faithful to our commitments of faith and to always respond in love.



"How does St. Kateri Tekakwitha greet her turtle friends?"



"Shell-o!"



St. Kateri Tekakwitha was a Native American woman whose holiness led to her canonization. Her father was a Mohawk Chief, belonging to the Turtle Clan, so she is sometimes depicted with a turtle in art.

PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

CARE
ROBBERS
ATTACKED

LEAVING
PRIEST
WALKED

SAMARIA
TREATED
NEIGHBOR

M N S W G O I N W F R
A T T A C K E D O N M
J R U L E T J C H E R
O E B K S A M A R I A
R A S E T C K E D G M
I T M D A N G R A H E
V E R P R I E S T B Y
H D C I N G H A D O E
T Y A E R O B B E R S
B H R M U P A R A O F
I L E A V I N G H E A

MISSION

Ask your parents if your family could give money to help the missions in another country.



Summer Content

SJB/HT is pretty quiet with events and happenings and news of the parish during the summer, so using some of the various kids puzzle's and other offered content from Liturgical Publication, to fill the bulletin. If you would like to submit a "Happy Happenings" within your family that you would like to share, please submit to nbergeson@syrdio.org by Monday for the coming Sunday bulletin. Even if the happy happening already happened! All requests are subject to review and any necessary changes. And, all content should pertain to parishioners. **No advertisements, no community announcements and no outside meetings.** If you do not have internet access slip a note in an envelope marked "For Bulletin" into the collection basket.



"A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight." — Lk 10:30b-31, 33

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



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 & 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.**