

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

**406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208**

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

**August 10, 2025**

**From Fr. Brendan Foley**

For any number of reasons sometimes the life of heaven can seem too far away from us, too ambiguous, or even something too hard for us to even conceptualize—and so it can be difficult for us to anchor ourselves or touch and taste that eternal hope as our driving motivation in life. Particularly in difficult moments and seasons of our lives, the heart of Jesus yearns for you and me to trust that we are not forgotten and that in reality our sacrifices and difficulties are known to Him, and the weight of those crosses are also felt by Him, too. You and I are not expected to carry these things alone, nor are we expected to handle the bulk of the weight. Jesus does the work, and waits for our invitation to ask his grace and his assistance, which opens us up to a deepened faith.

Faith is a theological virtue—which means we cannot manufacture it for ourselves, there's no way to artificially grow it for ourselves, but rather it is always purely *given* as gift from God (hence *Theo*-logical virtue, of the life of God). Jesus continually invites his disciples to “ask for an increase of faith” (cf. Luke 17). Faith also opens us up to receive the other theological virtues of **hope** and **love**. These virtues are powerful forces for our lives. Faith is so deeply beautiful and transformative and when one authentically has it, the witness of his or her life becomes a truly compelling presence to be around. Consider the reflection the Letter to the Hebrews provides us with today in our second reading. The faith given Abraham is something that *still* to this day is so deeply captivating and difficult to fathom. Try to consider his ability to trust given his context.

Abraham, as the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us, was at a very old age when he responded to the Lord's call to lead him to a promised land, to trust that from himself who was still childless would be the father of a great nation and have innumerable descendants. You probably know those stories well. But when you consider his journey of life, especially the quiet day in and day out sacrifices that we don't have chronicled in Genesis, it becomes even more impressive. What was it like for him waiting *years* to see the Lord's follow through on his fidelity to his word and promises? What was it like on the difficult days of his life when maybe he was consumed with fear wondering whether or not God would provide? There was likely a regular action of surrender and entrusting all that was beyond his control into the mercy and providence of God.

Even on top of those maybe more mundane actions of faith, in more of the greater difficulties of sacrifice and trust, the Lord revealed Abraham's own heart to himself and particularly shows to Abraham what he would be capable of when it came to the openness and willingness to trust when the most difficult ask of the Lord came: the offering back of his beloved Isaac (the child of the promise). Could Abraham have anticipated in himself the depth of his own faith before that moment? Incredibly, Abraham was willing to wholeheartedly believe that if the Lord could ask something so difficult and daunting and *still* maintain fidelity to his word, then it *must* be the case that the Lord even has the power to bring life out of death. What was that like for him?! How painful would it have been for him to trust in such a difficult moment. Abraham holding close what was so dear to him, and at the same time being willing to let go and entrust it back to God who first offered everything, even Isaac, to him as gift...what was that surrender like? Or even Abraham's posture to choose trust *while even knowing then in that moment* that many elements of the fulfillment of God's promises would come beyond Abraham's earthly lifetime? Would you still be willing to choose God, knowing that some of your prayers will only be fully answered after your earthly journey is complete?

I imagine that many, if not all of us, have had moments in our life where we have had to cling to the promises of the Lord and trust that he alone has the ultimate ability to provide, even when the future and its uncertainties lie beyond our reach and sight, and maybe even clouded in darkness. The encouragement Jesus offers us today is his word of benediction and we must take this to heart: **blessed are those servants, blessed are they** (see the parable). Who are the blessed? Those who stay trusting, who stay vigilant and responsible, who follow not their own path but the one set out for them, those who choose the posture of faith rather than the prison of fear. Receive confidence anew today that the blessing that lies beyond our sight, coming from the source of blessing Himself, is a blessing worth living every moment of our lives for. Yes there will be sacrifices and joys, challenges and triumphs, but receive a new interior freedom in your heart this day when you can offer the Lord the same heart that Abraham did when “*he reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead*” and give back to him what was most clung to in this life. May the Lord increase that *kind* of faith in us anew this day, and reassure us that his grace will always be enough.

**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](mailto:nbergeson@syrдио.org)**

**Web Site - [www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com](http://www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com)**

**Syr. Dio. Web-site - [www.syracusediocese.org](http://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**

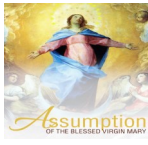
**Sacristan/Grounds: Allan Chouinard**

**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 10th

9:00am SJB/HT: Mary Barraco

### Lector - August 17th

9:00am SJB/HT: Pat Minnoe

## Eucharistic Ministry

### Center

August 10

Karen Fekete

August 17

Mary Beth Cusano

August 24

Cathy Horton

August 31

Dave William

### Mary's Side

Dave William

Betty Warren

Larry Argiro

Karen Fekete

## Offering Envelopes

### Sacrificial Giving

Week August 3rd

SJB/HT Collection:\$3,382.00

## A Family Perspective Family Life Education

In today's Gospel a servant waited for the master to return. Waiting is a normal part of family life. We wait for a child's birth, then for small legs to catch up. Later we wait for teenagers to return home safely. Finally we wait alone anticipating a call or visit from an adult child. Waiting is sacred time, for even in the waiting we are connected.



## Pray For Vocations

"Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival." How is God calling you to serve Him and be vigilant in waiting for His arrival? If He is calling you to serve as priest,

deacon or religious, 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).

## Reflect: Readings and Gospel

**1st Reading Question:** The Book of Wisdom speaks of having faith and courage in the knowledge of God's providence. What do you pray for God to provide for you and your family?



**2nd Reading Question:** Hebrews cites Abraham as the model of faith and trust in the Lord. Who would you hold up today as a role model for our faith?

**Gospel Question:** Jesus teaches the disciples to be vigilant and prudent with the gifts God has given to each of us. What are some of your gifts that you share with others? ©LPi



**TAKEN UP  
INTO HEAVEN,  
MARY SHOWS  
US THE WAY  
TO GOD,  
THE WAY TO  
HEAVEN, THE  
WAY TO LIFE.**

ST. POPE JOHN PAUL II

©LPi

"Blessed is the fruit of your womb" can be said of all mothers, because every child is "blessed" and a child of God upon whom God "looks with favor." This is our deepest identity and destiny. We do not earn this blessing. God's love is a free gift to each of us.



## 19th Sunday

IN ORDINARY TIME

"Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them." - Lk 12:37

## Office/Vacation Hours

Due to vacation the SJB/HT office will be closed on Friday August 22nd and will be open Monday-Friday August 25th-29th from 9:00am-2:00pm. We will also be closed on Monday September 1st due to the Labor Day Holiday.



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

Sunday August 10, 2025 - Angeline Viggiano - Dan & Family

Sunday August 17, 2025 - Norman Jaquin - Peter White

Deceased of the Taddeo Family - Peg & Mary

## Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman  
Are You Talking to Me?



Last summer I was at the National Eucharistic Congress when Fr. Mike Schmitz delivered an impassioned call to repentance in his keynote address during an evening revival session. The crowd received his message with great enthusiasm. Their applause and the cheers shook the Lucas Oil Stadium.

The next night, Sr. Josephine Garrett took the stage and, in her address, got into the nitty-gritty of what it means to be a disciple, what it means to live repentance — or, as she so beautifully put it, to *embrace the hunger*.

And in doing so, she called back to the previous night's thunderous approval of Fr. Mike's message.

"When I heard you clapping when Father said we need repentance, I was worried you thought he was talking about your neighbor's repentance," she said. "He is not."

In other words: he's talking about your repentance.

We all love a message about The Right Thing To Do. We all love when a priest or a nun or any Catholic with a microphone gets up and talks about the truth. We rise to our feet and applaud.

And then, too often, we take a deep breath and walk to our car and forget all about it — because we think they were talking to someone else. You know...the *others*. The ones who need to hear it. The ones who aren't being vigilant.

In today's Gospel, Peter asks Jesus, "Is this parable [of the absent master] meant for us, or for everyone?" (Luke 12:41). And Jesus answers him with a question. In so many words, he says this: "Do you want it to be for you? Are you ready to hear it?"

Whoever we are. Wherever we're from. Whatever our life looks like. However we pray. He's talking to us.

Are we ready to hear him? ©LPi



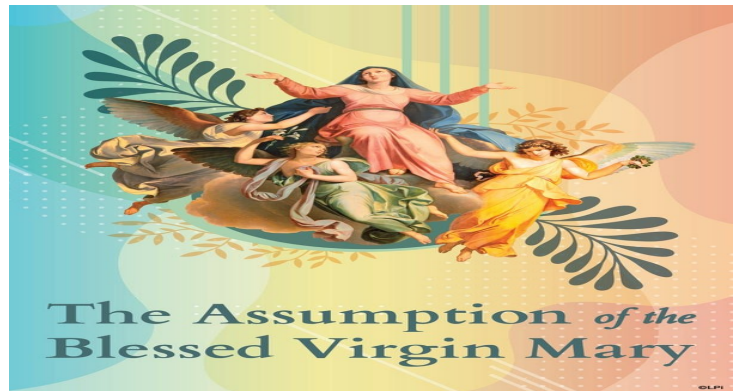
## Devotions Explained

### House Blessing, Explained!

Catholics who move to a new place of residence often wish to have their dwelling blessed, to call the favor and help of God upon all those who live in the house and all those who will enter it.

The Roman Ritual (Book of Blessings) provides two formats for house blessings: one during the Easter or Christmas season (specifically for the Epiphany) and one for Ordinary Time. Those who live in the home must be present for a house to be blessed. A priest, deacon or lay person can administer the blessing, although if a lay person does so they must use the rites accorded to lay ministers in the Roman Ritual.

A house blessing includes Scripture readings, intercessions and a prayer of blessing.  
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## Mass Schedule - Holy Day of Obligation

**Friday August 15, 2025**

**OLP/SP - 9:00am**

**SJB/HT 12:15pm**

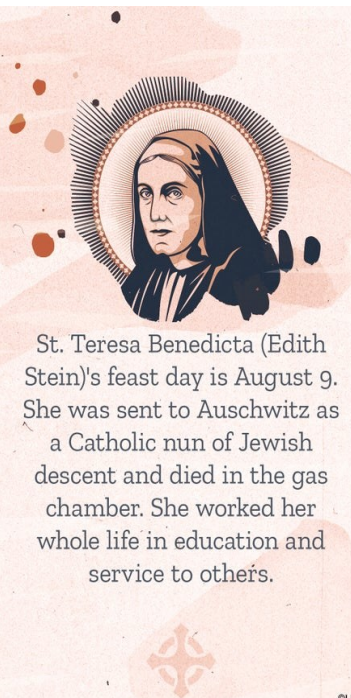
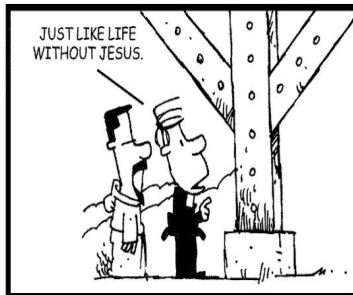
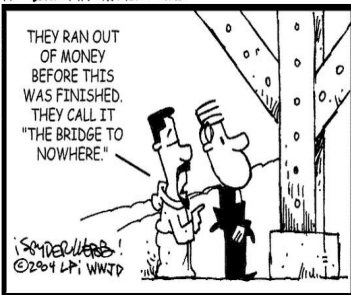


## Retirement Fund For Religious

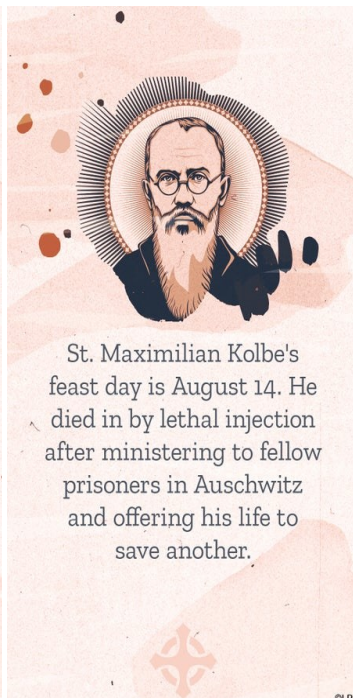
**A lifetime of service deserves care in return.**

"Thanks to your generosity, we can provide the very best care to the sisters in our community," says Sister M. Stephanie Belgeri, 73, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George in Alton, Illinois. Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide housing, medical assistance, and essential support for thousands of aging religious. Please consider giving next week. **You will find donation envelopes in the pews for this collection taking place on Sunday August 17th. You may also add a separate envelope with your donation and marked "Retirement Fund" and also your name please.**

14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



St. Teresa Benedicta (Edith Stein)'s feast day is August 9. She was sent to Auschwitz as a Catholic nun of Jewish descent and died in the gas chamber. She worked her whole life in education and service to others.



St. Maximilian Kolbe's feast day is August 14. He died in by lethal injection after ministering to fellow prisoners in Auschwitz and offering his life to save another.

## Prayer – For Everyday And Everybody Prayer for Generosity

God who has gifted me every good thing, help me to remember what truly matters. To treasure love above all else, and to serve readily. Amen.



**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.