

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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

August 17, 2025



IN ORDINARY TIME  
Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" - Lk 12:49



**From Fr. Brendan Foley**

In the Gospel today, Jesus tells his disciples, "*Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.*" (Luke 12:51). Does Jesus really mean this? There is a very sobering character to these words, and I know all too often families experience the difficult reality of conflicts arising between members, differing opinions and perspectives of how we live our lives, the choices we make, how we use our freedom, etc. All of these dynamics have implications, and that can make life and our communication with one another strained. We should acknowledge that even since Jesus' own time there has been rejection and resistance to his words, this shouldn't surprise us that even now this persists. What household among us doesn't know conflict that involves how one is or isn't living out the faith? Who among us doesn't struggle with casting judgment over how others choose to live their lives? We have all experienced the sobering reality of Jesus' words here that relationship with Him demands a choice and our own free response to follow—he won't force us, though his heart burns and yearns deeply for every one of us.

As a result, because relationship with Jesus involves our freedom, it means that there will always be people who choose *not* or choose rather *rejection*, who choose to prioritize self or one's own plans and designs over the wisdom and providence of God. Jesus points to a fundamental reality for us that there is a commitment for us even higher than the good of our family bonds, namely, the commitment to God himself. But Jesus knows well the challenge that comes with this reality, and offers us the gift of himself and his grace to constantly sustain us in this struggle. To help us know the ultimate love and the generosity we have received in God's mercy that comes to us both now and in eternity, Jesus intentionally went to the darkest depths of human suffering and took on the weight of rejection to show us on the Cross that his love *will* endure **forever**—especially in the face of abandonment from those he loved, too. A truth we must cling to if we are engaged in his sorrow is that Jesus has overcome the world, and he will bring about final reconciliation and the eternal healing of divisions, he has made this promise, and as we heard last Sunday, **he who made this promise is trustworthy** (cf. Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19).

Unfortunately for us, encountering 'the Cross' in the way of broken relationships, disappointment, and past hurts has been a difficult struggle for humanity since biblical times. Just consider the familial conflicts of Cain and Abel, Jacob and Esau, Joseph and his brothers, or even Jeremiah (today's first reading) being left to die at the bottom of the cistern because of the resulting division from God's word having been preached.

What, then, is our hope and consolation? The fact that into the heart of these conflicts, Jesus desires to bring the fire of his light and love. Jesus doesn't flee from these wounds, but will enter in when invited. When we choose to extend patience and mercy rather than harboring bitterness and unforgiveness, we find a space where Jesus can stir the 'flame' of his love both in us and in others. Because, really, Jesus is fighting for **all** of us so that we may come to know the fullness of life and reconciliation, authentic peace in him. When *his* fire fuels joy and life in our hearts, others will inevitably find in us something worth clinging to that is of greater value than anything else in this world. We ultimately find that not only does Jesus' fire bring light and life, like any blacksmith or goldsmith would know, fire also purifies and heals imperfections. In humility and trust, let's ask the Lord for the grace of openness of heart to our own ongoing conversion and healing, but also the grace to bear with one another in mercy, that all might come to know that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life—worth our all. With these graces alive and active in us, we will see **readily** the fire that Jesus desires to cast upon the world.

**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**

**Lector - August 17th**

9:00am SJB/HT: Mary Barraco

**Lector - August 24th**

9:00am SJB/HT: Ashley Crisafulli

**Eucharistic Ministry****Center**

August 17 Mary Beth Cusano

August 24 Cathy Horton

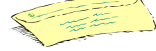
August 31 Dave William

**Mary's Side**

Betty Warren

Larry Argiro

Karen Fekete

**Offering Envelopes****Sacrificial Giving**

Week August 10th

SJB/HT Collection: \$2,749.00

**A Family Perspective****Family Life Education**

Today Jesus warns us his Word will create conflict between parents and children. In a permissive society which advocates individualism and consumerism, parents must continue to teach and live the Gospel values of respect, service to others, forgiveness, generosity and compassion/ A Christian family is a countercultural family.

**Pray For Vocations**

God is calling you to help Him set the world ablaze with His presence. Is He calling you to spread His presence through being a consecrated religious, a priest, or a deacon? 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:** One of the court officials, Ebed-Melech, pleaded for Jeremiah to be rescued from a muddy cistern. How might you help a friend or colleague this week?



**2nd Reading Question:** The author of Hebrews encourages his community to focus on Jesus as a way to stay strong and hopeful. Can you think of a time when your faith in Jesus helped you through a challenging circumstance?

**Gospel Question:** Jesus forewarns his disciples that even families will be divided over his words. Growing up, how did your family deal with tension and conflict? ©LPi

**Queenship of Mary****Question:**

Why do we have a feast for the Queenship of Mary?

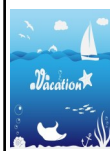
**Answer:**

For many of us, the language of kings and queens may seem like they belong to history or a medieval movie. Royalty have absolute authority over a kingdom and their subjects, a concept that is foreign to many of us today.

While Jesus doesn't rule a political kingdom, we honor and recognize him as the King of Kings, Lord of Heaven and Earth. To God alone belongs absolute authority over all of existence.

We may think of queens as the spouse of the king, but there is another key relationship: the king's mother. In Biblical history, we see instances where the mother of the king is given due as a queen herself, complete with a throne! Mary's guiding influence over her Son is seen most notably in the Wedding Feast at Cana. Mary is not Queen on her own merit. She is "full of grace" and "blessed" in "all ages" because of the reign of her Son. ©LPi

Due to the passing of Fr. Foley's grandfather, SJB/HT will not have confessions on Thursday Aug. 21st as he will be attending the wake in Binghamton. A reminder, the Friars have a chapel in the church, with confessions that same day from 2:00-4:00pm. You may have noticed that Fr. Foley tries to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to our Sunday Mass...He is usually in the confessional Sunday morning around 8:35am. Thank you for your understanding.

**Office/Vacation Hours**

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

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

**Sunday August 17, 2025** - Norman Jaquin - Peter White

Deceased of the Taddeo Family - Peg & Mary

Alfred Mastriano, Sr. - Wife Gloria & Children

**Sunday August 24, 2025** - Antonio McLaughlin - Mother

Mae Gmyr - Janet & Pam Gmyr

Donald Bill - Mr. & Mrs. Robert Palucci & Family

**Recognize God In Your****Ordinary Moments**

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman  
The Fire



This past week I have been reading a biography of St. Francis of Assisi. I admit I didn't know much about Francis going into the book, but I always had this image of him as a hippie — an easygoing nature-lover who sang about peace and let animals climb on him.

I'm not sure where that caricature of Francis came from, but since I've been reading this book I've come to see that it's not true at all. He was a lover of nature, yes. A poet who sang of God's peace, yes. And I'm sure he let a few animals climb on him from time to time (he did live in a hut in the woods).

But St. Francis of Assisi wasn't the lost fourth member of Peter, Paul and Mary. He was a man on fire. He was a man burning.

Francis walked around barefoot and slept on the ground. He abandoned a life of wealth to embrace the material poverty that Christ experienced. He embarrassed his family and they disowned him. When his father would encounter Francis in the streets of Assisi, he would curse him.

Sometimes we get this idea that Christianity is a comfortable, cozy thing. We give our lives to Christ, and we expect to feel instantly satisfied, happy, safe and warm. But the saints knew better.

The saints knew that Christ had not come to wrap us in a warm blanket. Christ has come to set us on fire. And though fire is often seen as a sign of death and destruction, it is also the precursor of new life.

Think of a field of native plants and how it benefits so richly from a controlled burn — an action that clears away detritus and releases nutrients back into the soil.

If we let Christ set fire to our lives, what would that fire burn away? What dead and festering undergrowth in our souls would be consumed by the flames? What promise of future holiness would sprout from beneath the ashes? ©LPi



## SJB/HT New Website

We have a newly designed website available for your viewing. Please visit

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

We would love to hear what you think of the new site and any suggestions and ideas to include.

## Devotions Explained

### Gregorian Chant, Explained!

Gregorian chant is an ancient form of sacred music used in liturgical worship and prayer. Defined by a monophonic (meaning a single melody without harmony or chords), unaccompanied song, this type of chant focuses the singer's mind on the content of the prayer being sung, which makes it uniquely suited for use in the Mass.

Dating to the first millennium, it derives its name from Pope St. Gregory the Great, though scholarship is unclear on when exactly this type of chant originated. Prior to the Second Vatican Council, it was standard to use Gregorian chant in the Roman Rite Mass. *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, the Constitution on Divine Worship promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1963, asserts that Gregorian chant is "specially suited to the Roman liturgy...(and) should be given pride of place in liturgical services." ©LPi



## Retirement Fund For Religious

**They gave their lives in service now they need your help.** For decades, women and men religious have cared for others, teaching, praying, and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they receive the care they deserve. Let us now offer them the dignity they have so selflessly granted to others. Your generosity today is not just a donation, it's a way of thanking them for their lifelong service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious. **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.**



## St. Rose of Lima | August 23

Born Isabel Flores de Olivia in April 1586 in Lima, Peru to Spanish colonists, Saint Rose of Lima took the name Rose at her confirmation in 1597. Legend holds that she received this nickname as an infant because a servant saw her face transformed into a rose.

Even as a child Saint Rose was dedicated to Christ. Growing up she made many secret penances. And when she was old enough to be married, deterred suitors by cutting off her hair and rubbing pepper on face to make it blister. She took a vow of chastity even though her parents wished her to marry. She fasted many times a week and permanently abstained from meat.

Eventually her parents gave in and allowed her to join the Third Order of St. Dominic, although she was not permitted to live in a convent. Saint Rose undertook severe penances, allowing herself only two hours of sleep a night in order to have more time to pray, wearing a heavy silver crown with spikes on the inside imitating Christ's crown of thorns, and even burning her own hands. However, she also cared for the sick and hungry, and sold her beautiful embroidery and fine lace, as well as flowers she grew to help raise funds for the poor.

She died at the age of 31 on August 24, 1617. Pope Clement X canonized her in 1671, she was the first saint of the New World, born in the Americas. Saint Rose of Lima is the patron saint of Latin America and the Philippines.

**GROWING**   
WITH THE **Gospel**  
CYCLE C



**COLOR**

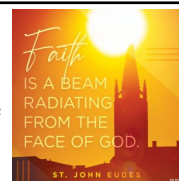
Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Luke 12:49-53

## Prayer – For Everyday And Everybody Prayer for Bravery

Dear God, In the moments when my faith is met with others' disdain or ridicule, give me the grace to be grounded in You. Remind me that Your mission matters, and that You alone bring comfort, healing, and salvation. 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.