

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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

August 31, 2025



2nd Sunday

I N O R D I N A R Y T I M E

*"Do not recline at table in the place of honor.
A more distinguished guest than you may
have been invited."* - Lk 14:8bc



From Fr. Brendan Foley

Our readings begin with the beautiful invitation from some wisdom literature in the book of Sirach: *"My child, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts. Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favor with God."* Let's consider this with the backdrop of some elegant wisdom from some holy friends helping us along our journey of life and faith:

"A pure soul is like a fine pearl. As long as it is hidden in the shell, at the bottom of the sea, no one thinks of admiring it. But if you bring it into the sunshine, this pearl will shine and attract all eyes. Thus the pure soul, which is hidden from the eyes of the world, will one day shine before the Angels in the sunshine of eternity." —St. Jean Vianney

"When our heart is pure and united to God, we feel within ourselves a joy, a sweetness that inebriates, a light that dazzles us." — St. Padre Pio

"Holy Purity, the queen of virtues, the angelic virtue, is a jewel so precious that those who possess it become like the angels of God in heaven, even though clothed in the weakness of humanity." — St. John Bosco

Our faith is always filled with captivating paradoxes: the way of the cross is the way to life, the meek shall inherit the earth, blessed are those who mourn, the lowly will be lifted up, 'the more you humble yourself the greater you are' (Sir 3:17)—all these elements of our lives as disciples might be obvious to us now given our familiarity with Jesus, but they still should nonetheless be seen and received as unexpected, countercultural, perplexing. Today's readings again offer us the invitation to reflect on what true exaltation looks like, from God's perspective, and what ultimate values in our lives are worth prioritizing.

It's possible we take this call to lowliness for granted since we have heard it for the many years of our lives, but there is always need to reconsider this truth with newness and fresh eyes. The Lord calls us to humility not because he desires life to be difficult for us, but on the contrary it is a disposition necessary to truly enter into the spiritual life and to lead a fulfilling life with purpose, and in freedom. The paradox here is that such a disposition of heart actually makes life significantly **more possible** because no longer is the burden on us to provide for all our needs, but rather the Lord in his goodness, offers us the fidelity of his presence and providence to be a firm foundation. It also grows the gift of gratitude in us, which is something so tender and necessary for the health of our heart.

A good prayer for us today could be asking for a strengthening in the grace of purity of heart, to have the obstacles within us removed that keep us from trusting fully in the Lord and in his ability to provide for our needs. Jesus always wants to remind us of his eagerness to be with us, and the more we allow him to grow this humble trust in us, the more it becomes natural for our hearts to echo this posture of faith! It is also in the more simple, smaller gestures of exercising this trust daily, that prepares us slowly for the moments of life when greater trust is asked.

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



Lector - August 31st

9:00am SJB/HT: Chet Wisniewski

Lector - Sept. 7th

9:00am SJB/HT: Lisa Johnson

Eucharistic Ministry

	<u>Center</u>	<u>Mary's Side</u>
August 31	Dave William	Karen Fekete
September 7	Betty Warren	Mary Beth Cusano
September 14	Larry Argiro	Cathy Horton
September 21	Karen Fekete	Dave William
September 28	Mary Beth Cusano	Betty Warren

A Family Perspective Family Life Education

Family life will lived confirms the words of Jesus in today's Gospel, "Those who humble themselves will be exalted." Commitment, intimacy, loyalty and love are the rewards of humble service and care for one another.

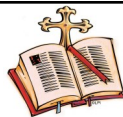


Pray For Vocations

"Blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you." We are called to imitate Christ and to give everything, but God will give us our reward at the end. How is God asking you to give everything? As a priest, deacon, or religious? 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: Sirach speaks of the virtue of humility and the wisdom of knowing one's limits. Can you think of a time when you needed to depend on others?



2nd Reading Question: The author of Hebrews speaks of our direct access to God through the new covenant established by Jesus. How might we take advantage of such a gift?

Gospel Question: With the parable of the wedding banquet, Jesus teaches the Pharisees to be open and even inviting to the poor and marginalized. How might you exercise this virtue in the coming week? ©LPi



Order of Christian Initiation of Adults Becoming Catholic, or coming to Full Communion

--Do you know someone who is desiring to respond to the presence of God in life, who has an openness and curiosity of heart to know Jesus and his Church? If you or someone you know is interested in Baptism as an adult, please reach out to Fr. Foley (easiest way is via email bfoley@syrdio.org) or call the office. He would love to meet with you and simply converse with you to accompany you along this journey of faith. Entering the Catholic Church as an adult involves one's free response to relationship with the Lord, and while this certainly involves formation and learning and engaging questions, it's not class, nor is one 'locked' into a timeline of how that happens and when. If you were baptized Catholic and have sacraments of initiation still to receive, please reach out! If you are married civilly but not married in the Church, please reach out! If you were baptized outside of the Catholic Church and would like to become Catholic, please reach out! Remember that the Sacraments of the Church were initiated by Christ to offer us the **ordinary** means of grace that we need for our lives and our journey to heaven. If the Lord is nudging your heart to any of these things, or if you have questions, Fr. Foley wants to connect.



Office Closed

SJB/HT and OLP/SP will be closed on Monday September 1st due to the Labor Day Holiday.

SJB/HT New Website

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

www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com.

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



9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

Sunday August 31, 2025 - David McLaughlin - Mother Norm Jaquin - Loretta, Mary Anne, Loraine & Alberta

Sunday September 7, 2025 - Angela Abbatiello - The Family Louis & Frances Aiello - The Family Giulia Palucci - Mr. & Mrs. Robert Palucci & Family



Sacrificial Giving

Week August 24th
SJB/HT Collection: \$TBA

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
What Did You Expect?



Moms have a lot of jobs, and it's usually the case that none of them pay very well.

My work as a chef? Zero compensation, and my clientele are very rarely pleased with my efforts. My role as a teacher, a maid, a chauffeur, a therapist — same deal. Ironically, these jobs consume so much of my time that I am constricted in my work as a writer — the only sphere where I do actually garner any earnings.

It is so easy to grumble about all of this, and I do it all the time. Because despite the fact that I know better, I expect repayment for my good deeds. Deep in my soul, I expect it.

That's a huge problem.

In my defense, I don't think this is a very uncommon thing. I think, if we're being really honest, we all expect "payment" for being a good person. We want God to give us what we ask. We want people to treat us a certain way. We want our day to go smoothly. We expect these things as a matter of course; we feel entitled to them, and we become grumpy when we are denied them. *I worked so hard. I gave so much. What was it all even for?*

But what if we expected absolutely nothing?

When you hold a banquet, Jesus said, invite those who cannot return the favor. Give not just without the expectation of repayment, but without the possibility of it.

Think about that for a minute. What does that even look like — no possibility of payment?

I know what that looks like in my own life. It's giving more to the literal poor, yes, but it's also giving more — and more happily, more lovingly — when I cook and clean and drive and write and console. It's not lamenting that no one appreciates me — it's actually hoping no one does.

It's learning to love the lowest place at the table. Because in the lowest place, we are closest to God. ©LPi



Devotions Explained

Imago Divina, Explained!

Imago divina (Latin for “divine image”) is an extension of the ancient practice of *lectio divina* (“divine reading”). *Imago divina* is, in a sense, praying with one’s eyes, or using the medium of artwork to assist in lifting the mind to God.

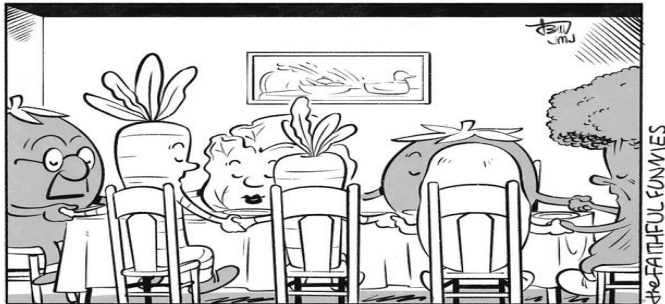


Believers have always connected with the divine through visual representations of faith. This can be seen in the frescoes that adorn the walls of the catacombs, in the glory of Rococo architecture, and in the stained glass windows of a simple country church. “Art is capable of making visible our need to go beyond what we see and it reveals our thirst for infinite beauty, for God,” said Pope Benedict in 2011.

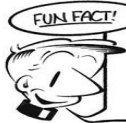
In practicing *imago divina*, just like with *lectio divina*, the faithful “read” (or view), reflect, respond and rest with the image, inviting the Holy Spirit to move them accordingly.

©LPi

“What did the vegetables say before they started praying?”

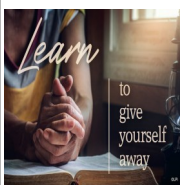


“Lettuce pray.”



Praying together is a beautiful part of Christian life. We can pray to thank God for His blessings, ask for His guidance in our lives, or just to spend time with Him.

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Prayer – For Everyday And Everybody Prayer for Humility

Dear God, Mold my heart after Yours. Help me to see myself as You see me: surrounded by Your love. Help me to see others as You see them as well. Give me knowledge of your ways, today and always. Amen. ©LPi

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.



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.



St. Gregory The Great Feast Day Sept. 3rd



Saint Gregory the Great lived in a most turbulent time. There were devastating episodes of plague, the sacking of Rome and the breakdown of strong Roman rule, invasions by Lombards and Franks, floods, and a widening gap between imperial Byzantium and the Roman Church.

Born around 540 into a noble Roman family, Saint Gregory was probably trained in law, and started his public service as a Prefect of Rome. However, upon the death of his father, he converted his family home to monastery, where he resided as a monk. He built six more monasteries in Sicily and one in Rome.

Often called the father of the medieval papacy and Apostle of the English, Saint Gregory was named Pope by acclamation in 590. Although he was reluctant to assume this post, preferring the cloistered life, his accomplishments were many. He was an extremely capable manager of Church estates and tenants and is known for his reform of the liturgy. He was instrumental in the consolidation of papal power and led the fight against the many heresies promoted by small Christian groups at the time. Through his prolific correspondence he oversaw monastic life, curtailing the power of grasping bishops, correcting abuses, and enforcing discipline. He was particularly concerned with the conversion of England, sending 40 monks from his monastery to evangelize there.

Saint Gregory died in 604 and was sainted immediately. He is one of four key doctors of the Western Church. Among the miracles attributed to him is a Eucharistic miracle in which the woman who prepared the bread for communion laughed at the consecration, denying the transformation of the bread to the real presence of Jesus. Saint Gregory prayed for the Lord to show the congregation the truth and confirm their belief. The piece of bread transformed into a piece of flesh and then returned to bread, reforming the woman, and strengthening the faith of all. St. Gregory the Great, pray for us! © 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.**