

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish Sunday

Sunday Mass: 9:00am Confession: Thursday 4:00-5:00pm

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208 Office (315) 478-0916 Fax (315) 423-8096
September 14, 2025



From Our Pastor: Fr. Brendan Foley

"In difficult moments, I will fix my gaze upon the silent Heart of Jesus stretched on the Cross, and from the exploding flames of His merciful Heart, will flow down upon me power and strength to keep fighting." – *St. Faustina Kowalska*

Today is another one of these beautiful opportunities that doesn't happen very often: September 14 falling on a Sunday. Today is the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, and when it falls on a Sunday, it becomes the priority celebration.

While we have likely become very accustomed to seeing the cross with fondness, perhaps we wear it in some way around our neck or around our wrists, maybe we have it in our cars, and yes it marks us every time we begin to pray—it should not be lost on us how paradoxical and counterintuitive this is. In the ancient world the cross was intended to be the most vile form of punishment for crimes, and sought to impose the greatest amount of suffering that would lead to a slow and painful death. Quite literally, this is where the origin of our word "excruciating" comes from... agony *from the cross*. The Romans employed this brutal form of torture so as to motivate by fear, teaching others not to even think about committing the crime of the individual facing crucifixion. It is a matter purely of God's wisdom and power that you and I as disciples now hold up this instrument of death as the foundation of our hope, and this should not be taken for granted.

The cross of Jesus is our anchor of profound hope in the face of the sufferings we experience in our lives, and as St. Maximilian Kolbe simply puts it, "The Cross is the school of Love." There is much we could say about the gift of Jesus' Cross, this treasure of our faith, and our readings today point us to further reflection on this paradox of our almighty God choosing the path of humility and suffering as the way he deemed necessary for our redemption and reconciliation. It embodies what we encounter to be true all throughout Sacred Scripture: that God raises up the lowly, and has power to bring life from death. I'd like to borrow from the very wisdom that Mother Church asks us to pray with today, that comes from the spiritual life of lesser-known St. Andrew of Crete (d. ~720):

"We are celebrating the feast of the cross which drove away darkness and brought in the light. As we keep this feast, we are lifted up with the crucified Christ, leaving behind us earth and sin so that we may gain the things above. So great and outstanding a possession is the cross that he who wins it has won a treasure. Rightly could I call this treasure the fairest of all fair things and the costliest, in fact as well as in name, for on it and through it and for its sake the riches of salvation that had been lost were restored to us.

Had there been no cross, Christ could not have been crucified. Had there been no cross, life itself could not have been nailed to the tree. And if life had not been nailed to it, there would be no streams of immortality pouring from Christ's side, blood and water for the world's cleansing. The legal bond of our sin would not be cancelled, we should not have attained our freedom, we should not have enjoyed the fruit of the tree of life and the gates of paradise would not stand open. Had there been no cross, death would not have been trodden underfoot, nor hell despoiled. Therefore, the cross is something wonderfully great and honorable. It is great because through the cross the many noble acts of Christ found their consummation – very many indeed, for both his miracles and his sufferings were fully rewarded with victory. The cross is honorable because it is both the sign of God's suffering and the trophy of his victory. It stands for his suffering because on it he freely suffered unto death. But it is also his trophy because it was the means by which the devil was wounded and death conquered; the barred gates of hell were smashed, and the cross became the one common salvation of the whole world. The cross is called Christ's glory; it is saluted as his triumph..."

It should be noted again that our attention to the Cross is not to be received as a space where we experience God desiring our pain and suffering, but rather the opposite. We receive the humility of the heart of God as him deeply desiring to save us from our experience of death, and as proof, he himself chose to go ahead of us to the cross, to that space of utter powerlessness to open to us the gates of heaven and to allow us even now to experience the power of his divine life through the gift of divine grace. Grace can now enter us, lift us up, enlighten and transform us. Every time we gather together in our church we see boldly before us the gift of the cross. Yet, it's not difficult for us to find in our own lives the places where the weight of the cross "shows up"...the difficulty is then asking for the grace to trust, and to patiently accept and embrace the cross *with* Jesus in these areas of our lives where He wants to meet us and reveal to us his power. This is precisely what is most difficult for us, but if we make such an offering in our prayer, we can trust that we will experience Jesus carrying the entirety of the weight, keeping us close to his pierced and merciful heart, and *there* we will find life.

Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00am-4:00pm Fri. 9:00am-2:30pm
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Syr. Dio. Web-site - www.syracusediocese.org
Parish Council President: David William

Music Director/Organist: Mr. James Stanley
Buildings/Grounds: Robert Warren
Religious Education: Betty Warren
Sacristan/Grounds: Allan Chouinard,
Altar Servers: Benjamin Chouinard,
Alyssa Waren & Cecilia Judge
Trustees: Gerald Mott & John Cannizzaro



THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man." For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. — Jn 3:13, 17



Lector - Sept. 14th

9:00am SJB/HT: Mary Barraco

Lector - Sept. 21st

9:00am SJB/HT: Cathy Schotthoefer

Eucharistic Ministry

Center

Mary's Side

September 14	Larry Argiro	Cathy Horton
September 21	Karen Fekete	Dave William
September 28	Mary Beth Cusano	Betty Warren

HOPE Appeal 2025

SJB/HT's goal this year has been set at \$16,968.00. If you have not yet made your gift, we ask you to join us in strengthening our church and serving people throughout our diocese. Simply mail your donation with the provided envelope or bring your completed pledge card to Mass. You can also make a gift online at www.syrdio.org.



Rooted in Faith, Growing in Hope 2025 HOPE Appeal Prayer

Loving God, source and foundation of all life help our diocesan family to be rooted in faith and growing in hope. On our pilgrimage through life help us to let your radiant love shine through us and among us so that restless hearts may know of your abiding presence - a hope that will not disappoint. Bless now our efforts to reach out in faith, hope and love, through the 2025 HOPE Appeal. May all that we say and do bring honor and glory to your holy Name, and help others to draw closer to your loving embrace. Amen.



Our Lady Of Sorrows Monday September 15th

- 1) **The Prophecy of Simeon** - (Luke 2:34-35): The holy man Simeon prophesied that a sword would pierce Mary's own soul, foretelling the deep suffering she would endure.
- 2) **The Flight into Egypt** - (Matthew 2:13-21): Mary and Joseph had to flee their homeland with the infant Jesus to escape King Herod's soldiers, enduring the hardship of being refugees.
- 3) **The Loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple** - (Luke 2:41-50): Mary and Joseph lost Jesus for three days while visiting Jerusalem, a time of great anguish and fear for them.
- 4) **Mary Meets Jesus on the Way to Calvary** - (John 19:17): Mary encountered her son as he carried his cross to be crucified, witnessing his pain and suffering up close.
- 5) **The Crucifixion of Jesus** - (John 19:18-30): Mary stood at the foot of the cross as her son was crucified and died.
- 6) **Jesus Taken Down from the Cross** - (John 19:39-40): After his death, Jesus's body was taken down from the cross, and Mary received him into her arms.
- 7) **The Burial of Jesus** - (John 19:39-42): Mary witnessed the burial of her son's lifeless body in the tomb, a final act of sorrow and loss.



9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

Sunday September 14, 2025 - Antonio McLaughlin - Mother

The Baker Family - The Boys

Robert Greenfield - The Family

Sunday September 21, 2025 - Guiseppi Migliore - The Family

Speranza & Raffaele Migliore - The Family

In Memory of SJBA graduates Nancy, Tom, Mike,

Linda & Debbie - SJBA Class of 1975

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
The Cross is Not Negotiable



"Holiness isn't for wimps," Mother Angelica famously said. "And the cross isn't negotiable, sweetheart — it's a requirement."

I love Mother Angelica, and I love this quote. Following God is tough, and to do it you have to make a decision to be tough, to endure tough things — and ultimately, to love the toughness of it all, because within that struggle God meets us with mercy and salvation.

But in light of today's readings, I think Mother Angelica would forgive me for tweaking her words a tiny bit.

Holiness is for wimps, because the cross isn't negotiable.

When the unfaithful among the Israelites were bitten by the serpents, they were healed by looking upon the instrument of their suffering: the serpent itself, mounted on Moses' staff. With a literary flourish that puts Homer and Shakespeare to shame, God inverts that primitive symbol. To heal us, he invites us to look upon the cross — the sacrifice which achieved our redemption.

Jesus came here to die on that cross for us. For the wimps. Because we couldn't do it ourselves, even if we tried. We couldn't right all of our wrongs, not if we had a million years to do it. We would keep screwing it up. We would keep failing. We're wimps; that's what we do.

But the cross — the cross is a magnificent invitation to something more. Divinity Himself, assuming the cloak of flesh and the weight of sin, so that when we look at the cross, we might recognize ourselves. So that we might see what we have been, what we are, what we could be.

And none of it is negotiable. ©LPi





International Food Festival Sign Up Form

Saturday, October 25 Noon-4:30pm

Show off your cooking skills; Italian, German, Polish, Mexican, etc. As in years past, if you would like to volunteer as an International Chef, you will be responsible to bring your choice of food, pre cooked, any special supplies you need, such as crock pot or electric griddle, and any decorations, if you desire, for your table. We will supply the paper products you need & plastic wear. We will offer sample size servings for \$2.00. We are very grateful for your generosity in donating your food, time and talent. We also ask that you be present or assign someone responsible for your table throughout the event.

I would like to participate as a Chef. Name:

This is my donation of food:

_____ **I would like to donate to the Baked Goods Table.**

_____ **I would like to volunteer my time at the event setting up on Friday Oct. 24th TBA.**

Name _____

_____ **In the kitchen event day.**

Name _____

You can put this form in the collection basket, if you wish drop in the mail or call the rectory. Thank you so very much.

Lottery Scratch Off Tickets

We would like to have a lottery raffle as one of the Food Festival raffles. And, as last year, we are asking for your help in collecting tickets. Would you so kindly help us by donating a scratch off or two for the raffle, please. You may put them into the collection baskets or drop them off here at the rectory office. We are collecting gift certificates/cards from various supporters for raffling. Do you know a small business or restaurant that might like to donate a gift certificate/card? A tax exempt letter can be provided if you would like to ask and donate.



Bakers

Would you like to donate a baked good for the Baked Good Table at the International Festival? We Accept!! Baked goods can be dropped off on Friday October 24th during office hours 9:00am-2:30pm or the day of the event, Friday October 25th, doors will be open by 9:00am. As well we would love any volunteers to help and have fun for this event.

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.



Important Information

From the afternoon of Monday September 15 to the afternoon of Wednesday September 17, Bishop Lucia gathers the priests and deacons of the diocese for an annual conference. Please keep them close to your prayers! There is no daily Mass at Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter Tuesday or Wednesday. However, the Franciscans will still have their daily Masses at Assumption and in the Mall. Fr. Foley will return in time for the normal offering of Confessions Wednesday evening at 4pm at OLP/SP.

Devotions Explained

Litany, Explained!

A litany is an ancient form of prayer incorporating repetitive refrains (often "hear our prayer" or "pray for us"). Litanies are used in a variety of liturgical settings and in both private and public acts of devotion.



The basis of the word "litany" comes from the Greek word for "supplication" or "petition." In a litany, the leader will make an appeal or a statement and the congregation will make the response. Litanies can also be said by one person acting as both the leader and the respondent.

Many litanies have been written, including litanies to the Holy Name of Jesus, the Sacred Heart, the Most Precious Blood, litanies appealing to the intercession of various saints, and litanies to the Blessed Mother under her different titles. There are also litanies composed for the attainment of graces and virtues, including the Litany of Humility and the Litany of Trust. ©LPi



Prayer – For Everyday And Everybody

Prayer of Love

Dear God, Expand my heart in new ways today, to understand the love You have for me, to take that love deeply into myself, and to act from that love. Amen.

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.

You can join Fr. Foley as he will also be attending



REMEMBER
in your prayers

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 Morgia, 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, 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.**