

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

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 21, 2025



25th Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME

"If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth?" - Lk 16:11

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1995, 1970 CCD

SLP



From Our Pastor: Fr. Brendan Foley

Today our readings present us with the frequent dilemma we all must engage in our life: God or money. While having money or wealth is not something inherently bad or evil, it might, however, be the greatest temptation or trap that the children of God fall victim to most in terms of their commitment to following Jesus wholeheartedly. Jesus says today, "No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon" (Luke 16:13). True richness lies in living generosity to the full and having hearts rightly ordered toward the Lord and the things that are eternal. Consider some snippets of wisdom from the saints:

St. Clare of Assisi: "Our labor here is brief, but the reward is eternal. Do not be disturbed by the clamor of the world, which passes like a shadow."

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta: "The more you have, the more you are occupied; the less you have, the more free you are. Let us love God and adore Him in the poor."

It often seems the case that the world around us encourages an attitude in which we use people to gain things. We could find in our Gospel today that Jesus reverses this: use things to gain people. Jesus is always about the work of calling us to himself. Dr. John Bergsma (Franciscan University of Steubenville) reminds us that pagan religion in the ancient world most often tended to be the way in which individuals would seek to manipulate the spiritual realm (the realm of the "gods") in order to gain material wealth. Christianity is precisely the reverse of this. It is a religion in which we sacrifice material goods in order to gain spiritual wealth. That is one reason why the "health and wealth Gospel" is such a perversion. Periodically one can hear ads preaching Christ as a means to the "good life" —this is a subtle return to that such paganism, a subordination of the spiritual to the material. It does not lead to true conversion because, as long as Jesus is a means to an end—and not the end itself, one is not yet a Christian.

In reality, Jesus actually teaches us in today's Gospel that material wealth—in the eternal perspective—is a matter of very little consequence at all and it serves rather for us as a "testing ground." Do I grade my spiritual life solely based on the comforts I have or don't have? Am I a good steward of what has been entrusted to me? Am I generous with all that I have been blessed with? Conversion changes us to receive the truth that you and I were made for communion with God, and the more this communion is deepened we are exposed to the indescribable richness that we would never want to sacrifice or trade for something lesser. The paradoxical beauty, too, is that as the Lord moves us toward generosity toward him and toward our brothers and sisters around us, we actually find ourselves becoming more and more like Jesus and he leads us to a profound freedom and detachment and offers us our greatest fulfillment.

I think that if we are honest with ourselves, frustration in life most often results within us when our hearts are distracted and preoccupied with the many things that can cause us to lose focus on Christ—whether these are material or immaterial. The only answer and remedy we can find for this kind of frustration is re-conversion: to call to mind whom we are serving and why, and recommit to his service. Today, let us ask for the grace to be recommitted to the Gospel, and that the Lord would help us imitate his generosity and love to all we meet, especially the most poor and vulnerable in our midst.

Office Hours SJB/HT Mon.-Thurs. 9:00am-4:00pm Friday 9:00am-2:30pm

Secretary/Bulletin: Nancy Bergeson

In Residence: Fr. Paschal Anionye

E-mail - nbergeson@syrdio.org

Web Site - www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com

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 Warren & Cecilia Judge

Trustees: Gerald Mott & John Cannizzaro

Lector - Sept. 21st

9:00am SJB/HT: Cathy Schotthoefer

Lector - Sept. 28th

9:00am SJB/HT: Chet Wisniewski

**Eucharistic Ministry****Center**

September 21 Karen Fekete

Mary's Side

September 28 Mary Beth Cusano Betty Warren

**Sacrificial Giving**

Collection: Sept. 14th—\$4,895.00

**A Family Perspective
Family Life Education**

Despite all our time saving gadgets, we still have less leisure and family time. To solve this we created the Myth of Quality Time. Don't be fooled: Quality Time is Quantity Time. Jesus counsels us today, we "cannot serve two masters" and expect to be happy. Dedicate time to your family. No one in their final hours regretted not spending more time at work.

**Pray For Vocations**

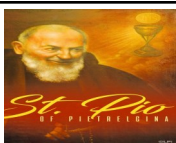
"You cannot serve both God and mammon." The life God calls us to live is so much more than what the world has to offer. What life is He calling you to live? If you believe it could be as a priest, deacon, or religious, reach out to the Vocation Office via email: vocations@syrdio.org and follow us on Instagram [@vocationssyracuse](https://www.instagram.com/vocationssyracuse).

Reflect: Readings and Gospel

1st Reading Question: Amos forewarns those who exploit the poor and disadvantaged that God will remember their greed and corruption. How might you lend a helping hand this week to others in need?

2nd Reading Question: Paul instructs Timothy on the necessity of openness and generosity in prayer. What do you think makes for a strong prayer life?

Gospel Question: In the parable of the dishonest steward, the disciples learn the importance of honesty and prudence in daily living. What other virtues would you add for the life of a Christian today? ©LPi

**St. Pius of Pietrelcina | September 23**

Best known as Padre Pio, St. Pius was born Francesco Forgione in 1887 in Pietrelcina, Italy. As a young boy he suffered many illnesses including typhoid. He joined Capuchin Franciscans at 15 and took the name of Pius or "Pio" in honor of Pope Pius I. He was ordained in 1910, and at this time he received the marks of stigmata, the wounds of Christ, but they eventually healed. Frequent illnesses continued to plague him as a young man.

Padre Pio served in the Italian Medical Corps during World War I, but he was discharged early because of illness, which was likely tuberculosis. He was assigned to the friary in San Giovanni Rotondo. In 1918, while continuing to serve at the friary, the stigmata appeared again, and this time remained until his death.

Many faithful came to see him at the friary, his days were long, beginning with Mass at 5 a.m. then hearing confessions all day with breaks to bless the sick. A simple man, content to do God's will on earth and with the ardent desire to serve the sick and poor in whom he saw Christ, he urged a hospital, Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza (House for the Relief of Suffering), to be built in San Giovanni Rotondo. It opened in 1956.

Padre Pio died at the age of eighty-one in 1968 and in 2002 Pope John Paul II proclaimed him "St. Pio of Pietrelcina."

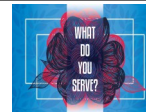
**9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT**

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

Sunday September 28, 2025 - David McLaughlin - Mother
Maria Luisi - Joe Falcone & Gloria Falcone
Deceased of the Pennacchia Family - Peg & Mary

**Recognize God In Your
Ordinary Moments**

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
God and Mammon



Dealing with money is unpleasant.

You might be good at dealing with money (I am not). You might even do it for a living (I do not). You might be careful to use as much of your money as you can for good purposes (I try to, but man, these skyrocketing grocery prices are killing me).

But ultimately, money does not bring out the best in us. We waste it. We manipulate it. We hoard it. We become obsessed by it. We let pursuit of it define our decisions. Money is something akin to — it corrupts by touch, it seems. But unlike witchcraft, you can't avoid money altogether. It's necessary. These dollars and cents keep us alive in this world, for a time. We need them for food, for warmth, for health.

Jesus' parable of the untrustworthy steward sums up all our anxieties surrounding material wealth and the delicate balance we have to strike of caring for our physical needs while prioritizing our spiritual ones. But the parable reminds us that we can't escape money, just like we can't escape the world and all the barriers forged by this world between man and the happiness his Creator intends for him. We could retreat to the highest, remotest mountaintop, but the human condition would follow us there. We would still feel doubt. We would still feel pain. We would still feel fear. We would still sin.

And we would still be hungry and cold. We would still need money.

Money will never be something that is easy to handle virtuously. But guess what? Nothing in this world is. And it's probably best that we remember that. ©LPi

**HOPE Appeal 2025**

SJB.HT's goal this year has been set at \$16,969.00. 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.



For the United Nations' International Day of Peace

- **Theme:** "Act Now for a Peaceful World".
- **Creator:** The United Nations.
- **Focus:** Emphasizes the need for concrete actions from everyone to foster peace and combat issues like hate, discrimination, and conflict.



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

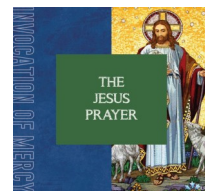
Reconciliation Wednesday 4:00-5:00pm

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.

Devotions Explained

The Jesus Prayer, Explained!

The Jesus Prayer is a short invocation of mercy in the name of Jesus: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."



The exact origins of the prayer are unclear, though it is often attributed to the tradition of Eastern Christianity, possibly via the Desert Fathers (early Christian ascetics who dwelled in Egypt). The prayer has been important to the traditions of both the Eastern Orthodox and the Eastern Catholic faithful. The text echoes the words of the publican in the parable from Luke 18:9-14, whose humble manner of prayer was praised by Jesus. Its short form and simple wording make it ideal for meditative prayer.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in paragraph 2667, highlights the Jesus Prayer, saying that "by it the heart is opened to human wretchedness and the Savior's mercy." ©LPi



Prayer – For Everyday And Everybody Prayer for Trust

Jesus, With your gentle mercy, build my trust. Help me to believe you when you say you want good for me. In every season, give me grace. In every need, be my answer. Amen. ©LPi

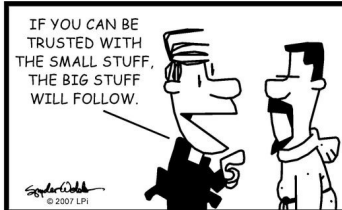
Project Rachel

If you or a loved one have had an abortion, you are not alone. Project Rachel Ministry supports those who seek hope and healing after abortion. This post-abortion healing ministry through the Diocese of Syracuse offers Days of Hope and Healing, online gatherings, and retreats for those who struggle shame or regret. For more information, contact Project Rachel confidentially at (855) 364-0076 or hopeandhealing@syrdio.org. God loves you and offers you his mercy and peace.



project rachel
Peace starts here

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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, 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.**