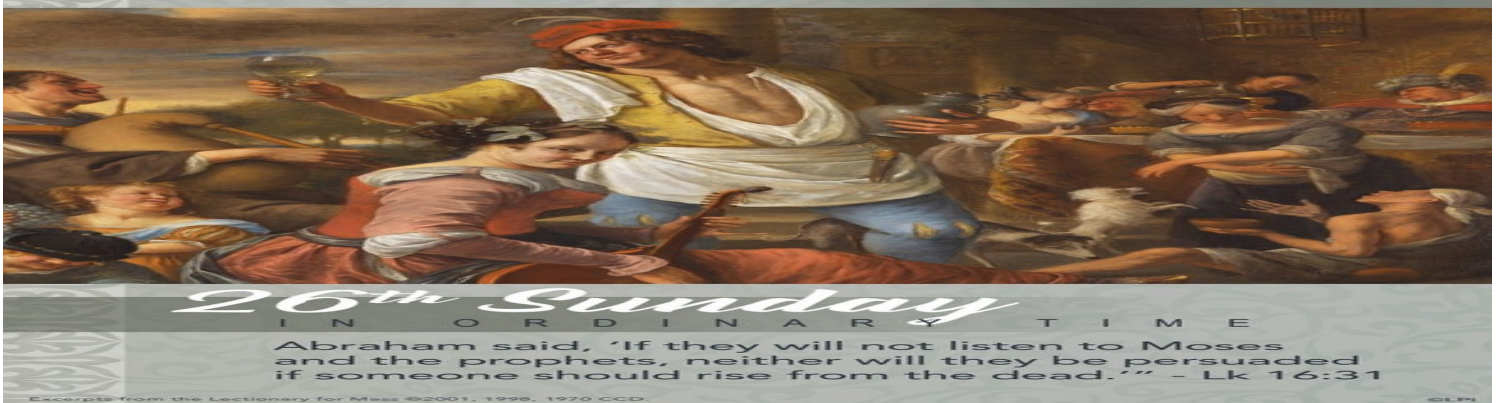


St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

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 28, 2025



From Our Pastor: Fr. Brendan Foley

Again this Sunday we are challenged by Jesus' words which seek to pierce our complacency with a stark portrait of two worlds colliding: one of luxurious excess, the other of aching need. Very characteristic of Luke's Gospel as a whole, is attention to those on the margins, a reversal of fortunes, we especially see it in Mary's Magnificat (Lk 1:46-55) how the Lord's *"mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit, he has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly, he has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy..."* These very words are prayed on the lips of disciples every day in the Evening Prayer/Vespers in the Liturgy of the Hours to recall our invitation to humility before almighty God—and like Mary every growing in appreciation of God's mercy and providence and attention to us in our poverty, we should learn to pray these words from our heart, too.

Today, Jesus offers the parable of the rich man—cloaked in purple and feasting daily—whose gate hosts Lazarus, the beggar covered in sores, craving scraps from the table. The roots of Lazarus' name in fact mean, "One whom God has helped." Dogs lick Lazarus's wounds, a grim companionship in his abandonment. Death reverses their fortunes: Lazarus finds solace in Abraham's bosom, while the rich man, now aflame in Hades, begs for a drop of water from Lazarus's finger. Abraham's reply chills: "Between you and us a great chasm is fixed." No crossing, no remedy—only the prophets' warnings ignored in life.

This echoes Amos's rebuke that we hear in our first reading to the complacent elite, lounging on ivory beds, oblivious to the nation's ruin. They feast without a thought for the afflicted, and so calamity overtakes them. Yet Psalm 146 lifts our gaze to the God who "secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry," upholding widows and orphans—divine solidarity with the overlooked. St. Paul, today urges Timothy (and us) to "pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness," while laying hold of eternal life amid fleeting treasures. Certainly a consistent theme over our past few Sundays.

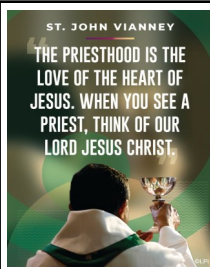
It might be worth asking ourselves: What chasm do we widen by our indifference? The rich man's sin was not his wealth but his blindness: Lazarus lay not in some distant alley but at his gate—visible, voiceless, yet unseen. St. Augustine, reflecting on this parable, warns, "The rich do not need to fear riches but vices. Let them have riches, possess it, but not be possessed by it." How often our comforts possess us, numbing us to the Lazaruses in our midst?

This Sunday, pause and ponder: Who lingers at your gate? The neighbor wrestling silent battles of mental poverty, adrift in anxiety's fog? The friend bowed by emotional desolation, unseen tears carrying the cross of grief? The coworker starved spiritually, hungering for meaning amid hollow routines? Or the one scraping by materially, in need of the basic necessities of life? Sometimes these individuals are within our own families and communities, too, not just strangers we don't know. These are not abstractions but souls entrusted to our gaze. Christ calls us not to pity from afar but to courageously enter in, and to accompany—to cross the chasm in small mercies: a listening ear, a shared meal, a prayer offered. In doing so, we bridge glimpses of heaven for those on earth, echoing God's attention to those lowliest in our midst in need of being lifted up.

May the Eucharist this day propel us outward, eyes opened, hearts attentive, and maybe even lead us to see within ourselves where the Lord wants to encounter us and provide for us in our own poverty whatever it may be.

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



Priesthood Sunday

- Sunday Sept. 28th

As we celebrate Priesthood Sunday today, let us congratulate and thank our pastor, Fr. Brendan Foley, also Fr. Lester Smith and Fr. Paschal Anionye and all the priests who have served St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity with the utmost dedication, true love and commitment to the Catholic Church and Jesus.

Did You Know

There are two types of Catholic Priests;

1) Religious Priest: These priests choose a religious community or an order, based on sharism, lifestyle and mission. They take a vow of poverty alongside their vows of chastity and obedience and only "own" things community. Some examples of the many religious orders are Dominican, Jesuit and Carmelite.

2) Diocesan Priest: Diocesan priests serve in parishes/schools assigned to their local bishop. They take a vow of chastity and obedience but not a vow of poverty. They are allowed to own property and a vehicle and live independently.



"OH, HOW BLESSED AND HAPPY ARE THEY WHO LOVE GOD."
St. Francis of Assisi



Lector - Sept. 28th

9:00am SJB/HT: Chet Wisniewski

Lector - Oct. 5th

9:00am SJB/HT: John Robinson

Eucharistic Ministry

	<u>Center</u>	<u>Mary's Side</u>
September 28	Mary Beth Cusano	Betty Warren
October 5	Cathy Horton	Larry Argiro
October 12	Dave William	Karen Fekete
October 19	Mary Anne Bergamo	Pat Minnoe
October 26	Betty Warren	Mary Beth Cusano

A Family Perspective Family Life Education

In today's Gospel the rich man died and was condemned to "a place of torment" because he ignored the poor. He asked Laszrus to go and warn his five brothers to change their ways. Evidently ignoring the poor was a family pattern. Is your family sensitive to the poor?



Pray For Vocations

The Lord says to the prophet Amos, "Woe to the complacent in Zion!" God is calling us to so much more in the plan He has for us. What more is God calling you to? If it is to be a religious

sister, or brother, a priest, or a deacon, reach out to the Vocation Office via email: vocations@syrdio.org and follow us on Instagram @vocationssyracuse.

Reflect: Readings and Gospel

1st Reading Question: The prophet Amos is critical of the Israelites living in luxury while ignoring the social decay surrounding them. How can we avoid such insensitivity to the pain and suffering of others?



2nd Reading Question: Paul encourages Timothy to be a strong and faithful leader, focusing on the return of Jesus and the goal of eternal life. Who encourages you in your faith life?

Gospel Question: Jesus forewarns the Pharisees about the great reversal in the afterlife awaiting the self-centered rich and the desperately poor. With whom could you be generous this week?

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Rectory Closed

SJB/HT and OLP/SP rectories will be closed on Monday October 13th in observance of Columbus Day and Indigenous People's Day. There is no 9:00am Mass at OLP/SP this day.



9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

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

Sunday October 5, 2025 - Maria Luisi - The Colavita Family
Donald Bill - Mr. & Mrs. Robert Palucci & Family
Janet William, Donato William, Maria William & Giuseppe William - The Family

Offering Envelopes



Sacrificial Giving

Collection Week Sept. 21st: \$2,171.00

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
Snow Days and Second Chances



Yesterday morning, my kids were playing outside in the snow, and I decided to take advantage of the quiet house to make a few important phone calls.

Fool. I forgot Murphy's Law of Parenting, which dictates that as soon as you dial a phone number, a bomb of irritation and neediness explodes within the heart of your loudest child. Sure enough, as soon as the person on the other end of the line picked up, my son was at the back door, whimpering loudly. Horror of horrors, he had snow in his boot.

I gestured to the phone. He whimpered more loudly. I mouthed and mimed threats. He threw his boot at me. I gave him The Look. He started to scream.

Well, needless to say, the phone call didn't go well, and my son's snow day was cut short. He begged for a second chance, but I explained to him that life doesn't always give you second chances. The phone call was over. Ruined. I couldn't get it back.

But that's when I remembered that moms have a superpower: creating second chances where none had existed before. So I told him that if he could be quiet while I made the rest of my calls, he could go back outside.

My son is young right now. I give him lots of second chances because second chances help him learn. Second chances are the training wheels of life.

I dread the day when the training wheels come off, and I can't save him from his bad decisions. I think every parent does.

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus highlights a reality that we often wish to ignore: at some point, we will run out of chances, and it's not because God tires of giving them to us. It's because a truly endless supply of chances would strip us of our free will. It would deny us the right of being taken at our word — and God respects us too much to do that.


My son saved his snow day. It's a good reminder: take the second (and third and fourth) chance. Don't wait for the next one. ©LPi





International Food Festival

We have completed our food vendors for this year. Italian, German, Polish, Russian and American food will be represented.

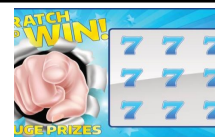


Bakers



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. See the post below for more information. **If you bake Gluten Free please mark your baked good as such. We do appreciate Gluten Free Baked Goods.**

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.



"...IN THIS WORLD I CANNOT SEE THE MOST HIGH SON OF GOD WITH MY OWN EYES, EXCEPT FOR HIS MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD."
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI


All Faiths Food Pantry Donations

Your non perishable food donations can still be brought and left in the Food Wagon's in the parking lot side and Park Street vestibule of the Church.

If you would like to make a monetary donation please make checks payable to *"All Faiths Food Pantry"*****

HOPE Appeal 2025

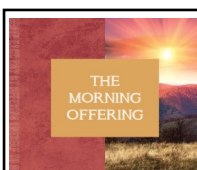
SJB/HT's goal this year has been set at \$16,969.00. To date SJB/HT parishioners have donated \$890.00 in pledges or donations. If you have not yet made your gift, we ask you to join us in strengthening our church and serving people throughout our diocese. Simply mail your donation with the provided envelope or bring your completed pledge card to Mass. You can also make a gift online at www.syrdio.org.



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

Morning Offering, Explained!

There are many variations of the Morning Offering, but all share the same purpose: to begin each day by offering oneself to God, along with all the experiences, struggles and blessings that the day will bring.


The ancient Israelites practiced the *bikkurim* ("first fruits") as described in Deuteronomy, chapter 26. This was a ritual by which the first fruits of the harvest were offered back to God in a sacrificial act of gratitude and obedience. The theology behind the Morning Offering is similar: giving to God the first moments of each day.

The most traditional form of the Morning Offering, attributed to Fr. François-Xavier Gautrelet, begins "O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day, for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart..." A full version of this text can be found at usccb.org/prayers/morning-offering. ©LPi

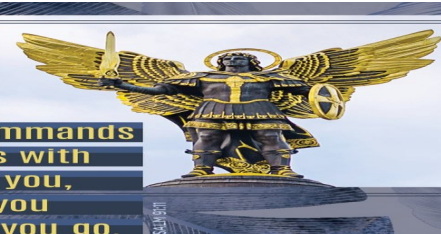
Prayer – For Everyday And Everybody

Prayer for the Sick

For those in pain and in sorrow, God be their comfort. For caretakers and medical staff, God give them grace. Surround those afflicted with Your love, care, and mercy, You who are our healing and hope. Amen. ©LPi





The Archangels Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael
Monday Sept. 29th.
The Holy Guardian Angels October 2nd.



For he commands his angels with regard to you, to guard you wherever you go.

"Abraham replied, 'My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented.'" — Lk 16:25

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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.**