

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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

September 7, 2025



From Fr. Brendan Foley

First, I would like to again express my gratitude to our parish family for the many condolences received at the loss of my grandfather, Paul. He was a tremendous source of faith for me for all my life, and being where I am today in my vocation has moved me to even deeper reflection and gratitude for the commitment of his own heart and his own journey of faith. Faith absolutely has a claim on our lives, and if we want to see it grow or have the ability to sustain us, wrestling with it and engaging it sincerely is a must. The more we wrestle, I'd like to suggest that there we discover the ever-deepening beauty of the heart of God, and sometimes we can't appreciate the beauty unless we have authentically engaged in the struggle. I think about the many, many moments of sacrifices over my grandfather's 95 years of earthly life where he would have had to reaffirm his trust in the Lord, and, like all of us, ask the increased grace to help him trust when the road got tough—Paul would be first to tell you all of it is worth it, and all of it, even the weight of the cross, can be received with gratitude.

Thinking about him is helpful given the difficulty of our readings today. After hearing his words in the Gospel (Luke 14:25-33), we might be inclined to wonder if we have what it takes to follow Jesus or to be his disciple. Jesus says boldly that we must renounce all of our possessions and place our commitment to him over and above everything else in our lives—even above our families. Unless we do so, Jesus says we **cannot** be his disciple! When we hear this challenge, it's easy to begin thinking of ourselves as never making it to where he wants us to be. "Counting the cost" is a phrase that also sticks out when reading today's Gospel. Simply thinking of what it would take to be *that* kind of disciple or follower, I'm necessarily confronted with the various obstacles or the thoughts, "but what about this" or "but what about that." We "count the cost" all the time, even when we're not recognizing it.

In the meantime though, before we assess ourselves as to whether or not we have what it takes, we have to consider first the radical gift of self that Jesus offers us. He only asks everything of us because he has first held nothing back of himself in offering his life for ours. He has deeply wanted to prove his love to us, wanted to remind us of our worth being greater than we could ever perceive, and when this is our starting point I find myself much more encouraged to think of responding to this call of discipleship. Following through and living out this commitment is not something I can do on my own strength. This is okay, because Jesus offers us grace, or divine life, to build in us to help us do that which otherwise we would lack the strength for. It is actually in embracing our various poverties, insecurities, and sufferings etc. *with* Jesus that we come to discover the radical gift of strength that he desires to live in us when we courageously respond.

While the sacrifices to be a disciple may at times seem daunting, or while we might not always see the fruit of our attempts at making a gift of self to another, we must cling with confidence that the reward for our commitment is beautiful beyond our ability to fathom. Jesus revealed it to me and reminded me again of the richness of blessings that came to me through my grandfather's faith, and I pray that each of us may continue to joyfully persevere along our journey of faith. Jesus didn't count the cost when he mounted the cross for us, he only wanted to further prove his love and commitment to us, and to his heavenly Father. May we have an increase of grace to fill us all with the faith we need to continue the journey to our heavenly home, with gratitude for the blessings we have received in the here and now to support us along the way.

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 - Sept. 7th

9:00am SJB/HT: Lisa Johnson

Lector - Sept. 14th

9:00am SJB/HT: Mary Barraco

Eucharistic Ministry

	<u>Center</u>	<u>Mary's Side</u>
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

Today's Gospel is clear: commitment to another involves sacrifice. Before we accept a commitment such as marriage or parenting, we must plan carefully like the king in today's Gospel. These are serious commitments which demand complete self-giving and are not for the faint hearted or selfish.



Pray For Vocations

"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." Being a disciple means following Christ to learn and be strengthened by Him to carry our cross. What is the path

that God is asking you to carry your cross in? each 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: The author of Wisdom teaches us that our limited understanding can be overcome by the gift of wisdom from God's Holy Spirit. Have you ever prayed for the gift of wisdom in discerning a difficult course of action?



2nd Reading Question: Paul is asking Philemon to welcome back his runaway slave, Onesimus, as a brother in Christ. Who do you consult when making difficult life decisions?

Gospel Question: Jesus challenges the crowds to weigh carefully the high cost of discipleship. What have you given up following Jesus? ©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.

SJB/HT New Website

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

www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com.

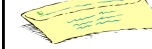
We would love to hear what you think of the new site and any suggestions and ideas to include.



9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

Sunday September 7, 2025 - Angela Abbatiello - The Family
Louis & Frances Aiello - The Family
Giulia Palucci - Mr. & Mrs. Robert Palucci & Family
Sunday September 14, 2025 - Antonio McLaughlin - Mother
The Baker Family - The Boys
Robert Greenfield - The Family

Offering Envelopes



Sacrificial Giving

Week August 24th

SJB/HT Collection: \$1,616.00

Week August 31st TBA

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
How to Hate the Christian Way



When I was a kid, we had the Dumb Stupid Hate Chair.

It was a chair in my parents' foyer where an offending child had to sit for five or ten minutes if they uttered the words "dumb," "stupid" or "hate." The rules in my house growing up were very clear. We don't call anyone stupid. We don't call anyone dumb. And we hate no one and nothing.

Well, today, Jesus has to sit in the Dumb Stupid Hate Chair.

For someone who talks about love so much — for whom love is a legacy and a commandment — it seems weird that in today's Gospel Jesus is calling us to hatred. It makes us question everything we think we understand about him, about God, about discipleship.

I'll let you guess which of the kids in my family spent the most time in the Dumb Stupid Hate Chair (Hi! It was me). But I didn't really think my sister was stupid, and I didn't really hate my brother. Those were just the words I used, even though they were strictly forbidden — maybe because they were strictly forbidden. They were the strongest words I knew, and you need strong words for strong feelings.

Jesus knew that hate is a really strong word. It's a word that gets people's attention. And I think what he wants to do today, more than anything, is get our attention. He wants to force us to consider the ways in which our attachments to this world — and even to other people — supersede our attachment to God. He wants us to radically evaluate what (and who) we love and how we love it and how much of our souls, our lives, ourselves we have let this love consume.

It's a tough assignment, and we don't like it. Maybe we kind of hate it. That's okay: hate has its place. So take a seat in the chair and give it a ponder. ©LPI

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





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

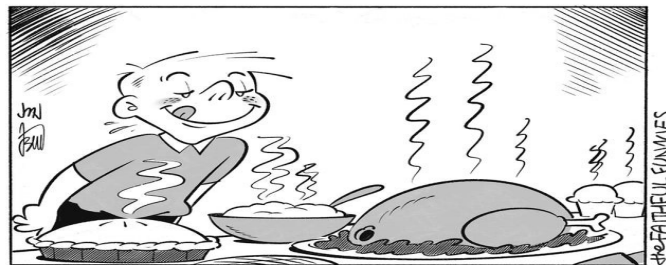
9:30am Vietnamese

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.

"What smells the best at Grandma's house for dinner?"



"Your nose!"



Tradition says that Mary's parents were named Anne and Joachim. They are the patron saints of grandparents, since they were Jesus' grandparents!

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Devotions Explained

Lectio Divina, Explained!

Lectio divina ("divine reading") is a practice of praying through the reading of Scripture, opening oneself to the inspiration and communication of the Holy Spirit.

The practice of Lectio divina dates to ancient monastic communities, but it has gained popularity in modern times as a way to meaningfully engage with the word of God.

The formula for Lectio divina is simple and follows four steps. The text of the Scripture is read (lectio) multiple times, and the reader takes note of any words or phrases that resonate with him in a particular way. The reader then reflects deeply on the passage (meditatio) and the words that he noticed, turning them over in his mind. Following this, the reader prays with the passage (oratio), and dialogues with God, inviting him to illuminate the reader's understanding of the text. Finally, there is rest and contemplation (contemplatio). ©LPi

Prayer – For Everyday And Everybody

Prayer of Simplicity

Dear God, In my desire for You, take away anything that keeps me from knowing You, myself, or my mission here on earth. Help me to remember what is truly important, and to seek and treasure that. 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.**