

## 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  
October 5, 2025



### From Our Pastor: Fr. Brendan Foley

Faith amid life's trials is never easy. Faith, one could say, is one of the most misunderstood words in the English language. Faith is *not* superstition, it's not the acceptance of things on the basis of no evidence. Rather, faith has to do with a progression toward that which is unseen. What's required in faith is a humble surrender in trust to God's perspective, God's plan, God's purposes. An acceptance in humility and trust is not easy by any stretch of the imagination, but the

Lord reveals to us how he is in fact *worthy* of our trust. Our readings today again have this invitation to see our faith as being rooted in relationship with the One who alone has the power to provide. Faith is not a static possession but a living flame to be nurtured, a humble service to be offered, and a trust in God's unfolding vision.

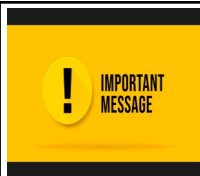
Consider the experience of heart in the words of Habakkuk in the first reading...the prophet cries out in anguish: "How long, O Lord? I cry for help but you do not listen!" Amid destruction and strife, God responds not with immediate rescue but with a call to patience: "Write down the vision... for the vision still has **its time**...and will not disappoint; if it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late." What do you make of this? If the Lord was asking you to trust him, to keep progressing forward even in darkness, are you willing to go? The reading concludes with this certainty: "the just one, because of his faith, shall live." I'm sure this challenge resonates with all of us. It echoes our own experiences—times of personal hardship, pain and grief, societal violence, or spiritual dryness when to us it seems that God remains silent. Yet, the message is clear: God's gift to us of faith is what sustains us. Faith is the anchor that allows us to wait with certain hope, to believe that God's promises will not disappoint.

This is important for us because what more readily is our posture during difficult times? *"If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."* Like the Israelites in the desert, we are tempted to test God when hardships arise. But rather than demand answers or responses, we might consider how this psalm calls us first to worship, to kneel before the Lord, softening our hearts and opening us up to a willingness to be docile to His guidance. Again, not easy, but it something that the Holy Spirit can stir in you and me, which is what St. Paul reminds Timothy. While he is overcome by anxieties and the weight of his ministry, he needs to be reminded to "stir into flame the gift of God," embracing a spirit of power, love, and self-control—what God himself offered to Timothy to sustain him in the midst of trials. This gift of the Holy Spirit has been planted within you and me, too. We are not to shrink from hardship but to guard the "rich trust" of faith with the Holy Spirit's help (2 Tm 1:14).

The Gospel from Luke continues this theme. The apostles plead, "Increase our faith," (just as we should!) and Jesus replies with the image of mustard-seed faith uprooting a mulberry tree. While this might be received with discouragement, it should be seen as the opposite. Rather than be critical of self and perhaps our lack of faith, let us cling to what becomes possible every time we make that act of the will, that surrender in trust—let's believe that it is indeed possible for the Lord to accomplish that which otherwise we might believe to be impossible or a lost cause. St Thérèse of Lisieux implores us...“we receive as much from the Lord as we hope for.” If our trust and hope in the Lord is great, so too can we expect great and tremendous things from him. Faith, even small, achieves the impossible when rooted in God. Yet, Jesus tempers this with the parable of the unprofitable servant: after dutiful service, we say, "We have done what we were obliged to do." This humility counters any pride in our efforts; true faith manifests in selfless service, not seeking praise or attention, but rather offering all we have and are to the Master. In a world of uncertainty—be it personal struggles, global conflicts, or doubts—let us ask boldly with the apostles: *Lord, increase our faith! Stir the flame within us, soften our hearts to Your voice, and help us serve humbly, trusting Your vision will prevail and satisfy.* May our readings and worship this Sunday renew our commitment: to live by faith, serve without reserve, and open our hearts to God's transformative power.

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](mailto:nbergeson@syrdio.org)  
Web Site - [www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com](http://www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com)  
Syr. Dio. Web-site - [www.syracusediocese.org](http://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



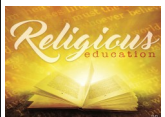
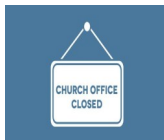
## Minor Policy Changes to Our Entrances to Church

As requested by our Parish Council for the continued safety and concern for our parish family, the parking lot side door (the handicap accessible entrance of the Church) will be locked once Mass begins. While we are aware that this does not remove incidents of all potential risk, it would simply ensure that our ushers would be able to attend to anyone entering the Church at our main doors once Mass has begun. All arrivals to the Church once Mass has begun are kindly asked to enter through our main doors. If an individual has need for use of the ramp after Mass has begun, one of the ushers or a nearby parishioner can certainly open the door and assist. Thank you for your understanding and for your cooperation, and we anticipate that this simple change in procedure won't cause anyone grave inconveniences nor create cause for alarm. This policy will go into effect beginning Sunday October 19.

## 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.

\*\*\*\*SJB/HT Rectory will be open from 9:00am-2:00pm from Tuesday October 14th through Friday 17th.\*\*\*\*



## Religious Education Announcements

We will be starting Religious Education classes on October 19th. Classes will be from 9:45am-11:00am. We will be having classes from Pre-K (4 yrs. Old) to Confirmation 1. If you wish to have your child participate, please call Betty Warren at 315-420-6357.

## Lector - Oct. 5th

9:00am SJB/HT: John Robinson

## Lector - Oct 12th

9:00am SJB/HT: Pat Minnoe



## Eucharistic Ministry

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

Faith is one of those things we just can't get enough of! In today's Gospel the apostles asked Jesus to "Increase our faith." It is faith in ourselves, our spouse, our children and our parents which equips us to overlook annoyances, helps us to forgive and urges us to ask forgiveness. "Lord, increase our faith!"

## Pray For Vocations

It is worth giving everything, more than what we are "obliged to do," in the service of Christ, because nothing else will ever bring us as much joy and fulfillment as His love. Is God asking you to serve as a religious, a priest, or a deacon? Reach out to the Vocation Office via email: [vocations@syrdio.org](mailto:vocations@syrdio.org) and follow us on Instagram @vocationssyracuse.



The Bread and Wine is offered in memory of

**Janet William**

Requested by The Family



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in memory of

**Janet William**

Requested by The Family



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

**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

**Sunday October 12, 2025** - Anthony Capria - The Family  
Antonio McLaughlin - Mother  
Owen Donovan - Mr. & Mrs. Michael Morga



## Sacrificial Giving

Collection Week Sept. 28th: \$1,761.00

## Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Father Who Knows What You Want



It's easy to give your kid what he's asking for. It's hard to give him what he wants.

If a kid asks to eat an ice cream cone, there's nothing wrong with giving him one. But if he's grumpily demanding an ice cream cone at 7:45 in the morning, what he wants — whether he realizes it or not — is some protein and whole grains and a little encouragement to get him going on his day.

So you give him eggs and toast, and you watch him struggle to accept it. Sometimes he does and sometimes he doesn't, but either way, you'll be here. You'll forgive him for whatever names he calls you and you'll put the healthy breakfast in the fridge, waiting for him when he's ready to eat it.

"Increase my faith." I've said it to God plenty of times, imagining a prayer life that is effortless and a sacramental life that is uncomplicated, an acceptance of truth that is unshakeable. Easy faith — that's what I'm asking for, and lots of it, please.

But easy faith isn't faith at all, and faith that you aren't strong enough to hold will break your arms. And what God will never do is say, "Sure, kiddo, here you go," and pass off a false gift as the real thing, just to make us both feel good. He won't hand me something I'm not strong enough to hold.

That would be a classic lazy-father move. That would be an ice-cream-cone-at-7:45 a.m. move.

Instead, He watches carefully while I navigate the bumpy terrain of the spiritual life, ready to whisper directions in my ear. He holds his breath while the challenges of this world create deep grooves in my soul — and then He irrigates those grooves with the life-giving waters of grace, transforming them into valleys of consolation and respite.

Sometimes I call Him names. Sometimes I refuse what He's offering. It's not what I asked for, after all.

But it's what I want. Luckily, He knows that better than me.  
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## 2026 Mass Book and Special Requests

The 2026 Mass Book is open for your intentions for the 9:00am Sunday Mass. **\*\*Note: we will only be booking Masses and requests from January-April at this time.** Please call 315-478-0916 or stop by the rectory during office hours for your intentions. Masses are **\$15.00**. As well, you may request to have the **Sanctuary Lamp \$10.00 or Bread and Wine \$25.00** in memory of your loved one(s) for the week.



## International Food Festival

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



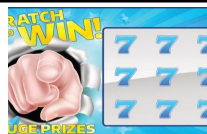
### Bakers

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.



## World Mission Month: A Call to Hope

Each October, the Church invites us to rediscover our missionary vocation. This year, Pope Leo XIV, following the inspiration of Pope

Francis, calls us to become "Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples," inspired by St. Paul's words: "Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit" (Rom 5:5)

In the 50th anniversary year of Evangelii Nuntiandi, we are reminded that "modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers" (41). Through prayer, sacrifice, and giving, we too become witnesses, bringing the hope of Christ to those who long for love, justice, and peace. Let us begin this month with open hearts, ready to respond to the Church's call to support the 1,124 mission territories where the Church is young, growing, and often persecuted. Together, may we be bearers of hope where it is needed most.

## HOPE Appeal 2025

SJB/HT's goal this year has been set at \$16,969.00. To date SJB/HT parishioners have donated \$2,495.00 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](http://www.syrdio.org).



## Devotions Explained

### Good is Good, All the Time: Explained!

Perhaps you have been a member of a congregation to whom the pastor says, expectantly, "God is good!" The congregation responds, faithfully, "All the time." In turn, the speaker repeats: "All the time." And the congregation affirms: "God is good!"



A collective affirmation of God's faithfulness amidst the trials of life, this refrain communicates a theme presented again and again in Scripture: Come what may, God will be with us.

There is no official consensus on the origins of this saying, though it is often associated with African Christianity. Whatever this saying's roots, its message is truth: "For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endures to all generations," says Psalm 100:5. "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever," echoes 1 Chronicles 16:34. Jesus confirms this in Matthew 28:20: "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." ©LPi



### Prayer – For Everyday And Everybody Prayer to Respect Life

Dear God, Help us to hear Your voice, especially when You speak on behalf of the voiceless, the overlooked, and the forgotten. Keep our ears attuned, and work through us in a way that loves, blesses, assures, supports, and strengthens LIFE. Amen. ©LPi

## October: Respect Life Month

October is Respect Life Month. The Catholic Church recognizes the dignity and value of all human life, created in the image and likeness of God, from conception to natural death. For information on local pregnancy centers or post-abortive healing ministry, please refer to the Waling With Moms in Need and Project Rachel flyers displayed on our vestibule bulletin boards. If you would like to be involved in Respect Life Ministry please contact the Office of Family/Respect Life Ministry at [familyrespect-life@syrdio.org](mailto:familyrespect-life@syrdio.org) or 315-472-6754. To learn more about Respect Life, visit [syracusediocese.org](http://syracusediocese.org) on the Family/Respect Life page.



**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.**

**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.