

**St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish**

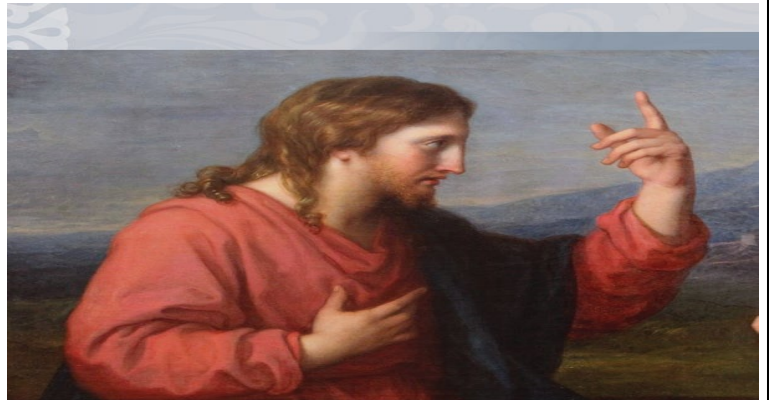
**Sunday Mass: 9:00am Confession : Thursday 4:00-5:00pm**

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

**November 16, 2025**



We know well that the end of our liturgical year is quickly approaching and soon we'll blink and Advent will be upon us! The concluding Sundays of Ordinary time each year take on a character of anticipation and expectation, pointing us to the reality of the brevity of our lives on earth, and as well as inevitable judgment that will come at the conclusion of all things. It's not comfortable for us to reflect on death and judgment, we often feel a sense of daunting powerlessness or vulnerability, but even in the midst of this serious topic, our Scripture readings today offer us profound hope that we must cling to: for those with authentic reverence for the name of God, those who lived and changed accordingly, *the sun of justice will arise with its healing rays* (cf. Malachi 3:20a). In other words, at the end of life and at the end of all things, the experience of God's justice and judgment for those who love him and live for him will confidently know the healing power of God's mercy.



**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday**  
IN ORDINARY TIME

"You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed." - Lk 21:16-18

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

CLIP

The rising "sun of justice with healing rays" is metaphor in the Prophet Malachi that Dr. John Bergsma says evokes something of the ancient Near Eastern symbol of divine justice as radiant light, a theme that threads through Scripture from the burning bush (Ex 3) to the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-9, and Luke 9:28-36). "Judgment, then," says Bergsma, "is not arbitrary wrath but the necessary heat that refines, leaving the faithful luminous and restored." Even consider opening your bibles a few verses earlier and you will find the consolation continue: *Then those who fear the LORD spoke with one another, and the LORD listened attentively... They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, my own special possession, on the day when I take action. And I will have compassion on them, as a man has compassion on his son who serves him.* (Mal 3:16-17) With humble, trusting hearts, we can submit ourselves to the Lord's compassion—something we should do in the present moment, and also in the twilight of our life.

What to make of Jesus' words in our Gospel today? I would like to call our attention to Jesus' invitation to steadfastness in the face of overwhelmingly great challenges around us and around the world. In the context of continuing reflection on the end of life and the end of all creation, Jesus gives the sobering image of the destruction of the Temple. The Jerusalem Temple was Israel's architectural heartbeat, and in the end Jesus says it will be reduced to rubble—"not one stone left upon another." For first-century Jews, this was tantamount to the collapse of the cosmos—utterly shocking and fear-inducing. Yet Jesus reframes destruction as disclosure. The temple's fall signals **not** God's absence but the unveiling of a greater sanctuary—the indwelling by the Spirit in the human heart (like we saw in the feast last Sunday, Jesus' body as Temple, by the Holy Spirit you and I becoming dwelling places of the Holy Spirit). A deeper, truer intimacy for us with the Lord is now revealed and will come to be for eternity.

Jesus' point is that wars, famines, betrayals, horrific sufferings throughout the world, etc.—these are "birth pangs", labor pains preceding the New Creation, the eternal beatitude of the fullness of life in Heaven. As a result, endurance must become our posture, not mere stoic resignation but rather active trust that God is birthing something through the very contractions of history. This means that even in our personal trials—conflict, illness, aging, the approach of death—all carry with them the same truth presented by our readings. The temple of our body will crumble, but the Sun of Justice rises within. I was very moved a few years ago by Pope Benedict's own words as he faced his own mortality and offered this luminous testimony: "Quite soon, I shall find myself before the final judge of my life. Even though, as I look back on my long life, I can have great reason for fear and trembling. I am, however, serenely confident: there is no doubt in my soul that God will give glory to Abraham and to me, according to his own merciful promise." This is no denial of fear but rather its transfiguration. Pope Benedict's hope rests not on flawless performance but on the covenantal fidelity of a God who raises suns, not just judges sins. May we courageously seek the Lord's mercy anew for our hearts and live boldly the hope that only comes to us from the Gospel.

**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**

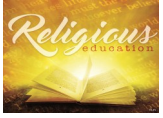
**Religious Education: Betty Warren**

**Sacristan/Grounds: Allan Chouinard**

**Altar Servers: Benjamin Chouinard**

**Alyssa Warren & Cecilia Judge**

**Trustees: Gerald Mott & John Cannizzaro**



## Religious Education Announcements

We offer 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.

Please pray for our Students and our Teachers, that they will have a successful and enjoyable year.

### Lector - Nov. 16

9:00am SJB/HT: Chet Wisniewski

### Lector - Nov. 23

9:00am SJB/HT: Cathy Schotthoefer



### Eucharistic Ministry

#### Center

#### Mary's Side

|             |                  |                   |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| November 16 | Pat Minnoe       | Mary Anne Bergamo |
| November 23 | Mary Beth Cusano | Betty Warren      |
| November 30 | Cathy Horton     | Larry Argiro      |



## A Family Perspective Family Life Education

So many conflicting voices and influences make parenting difficult. In today's Gospel Jesus encourages parents to bravely "give testimony" and trust He will give us the "wisdom" to be good parents. You are not alone in parenting; a loving Father is standing with you.

### Pray For Vocations

Jesus says there will be many people who will come and claim to speak in His name before the end of the world, but actually do not speak in His name. But He still calls some to prepare the world for His coming; is He calling you to this as a priest, deacon or religious? Reach out to the Vocation Office via email: [vocations@syrdio.org](mailto:vocations@syrdio.org) and follow us on Instagram [@vocationssyracuse](https://www.instagram.com/vocationssyracuse).



### Reflect: Readings and Gospel

**1st Reading Question:** The prophet Malachi tells us that those who "fear" the Lord will be spared at God's coming judgment. What does it mean to "fear the Lord"?

**2nd Reading Question:** Paul gave the Thessalonians some very practical advice: work quietly and eat your own food! Are you open to taking advice from a loved one?

**Gospel Question:** Jesus forewarned his followers that they will be persecuted for their faith in him, even with relatives and friends. How do you support friends and co-workers who are fellow believers? ©LPi

### Breakfast With Santa

Mark your calendars for our next event **Breakfast with Santa** on Sunday December 7th 8:00am - 11:00am. Our breakfast menu: pancakes, scrambled eggs toast, sausage, bacon, juice & coffee. Adults \$10.00, Children 5-12 \$5.00 Children under 5 free with adult purchase. Raffles 1/\$1.00, 6/\$5.00 & 12/\$10.00.



### Raffle Baskets

If you would like to donate a basket for raffle, we will be happy to start collecting them between now and December 5th. We always have so much fun and such generous and creative raffles for our breakfast. Thank You!



### All Faith Food Pantry Staple Needs

The All Faith Food Pantry has supplied a list of basic and very helpful needs that at this time would be very much appreciated. Your kind generosity is always appreciated. Shelf stable food is always best - Peanut butter, crackers, jam, sauce, pasta, rice, tuna, cereal, mac & cheese, can vegetables and fruit.

## SJB/HT Thanksgiving Day Mass

Thanksgiving Day, November 27th, Mass at 9:00am.

**A lector will be needed if you are available please call the office.** As well, the rectory will be closed Nov. 27th and 28th.

Looking ahead to the Holy Day Monday Dec. 8th Mass will be at OLP/SP at 7:15 and SJB/HT 12:15. As well the offices for both church's will be closed.



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

**Sunday November 16, 2025** - Brian Mott - The Family  
Rosalie Emm - The Estate  
Antonio McLaughlin - Mother  
Owen Donovan - Mr. & Mrs. Michael Morga  
**November 23, 2025** - Samuel Sgroi - Fran Boody  
The Emm Family - The Estate  
Owen Donovan - Jerry & Butch  
Cesario Palucci - Mr. & Mrs. Frank Palucci & Family



### Sacrificial Giving

Collection Week Nov. 9th: \$1,866.00

## Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman  
Two Things Can Be True At Once



As my husband and I drove our firstborn child home from the hospital, I sat alongside my daughter in the backseat. Terrified, exhausted, exhilarated, confused, hopeful — I was all of these things at the same time. I gazed at her, this magnificent little creature whose face was both familiar and strange to me, thinking: *She is exquisite. She is the future. She is life.*

And then I burst into uncontrollable sobs.

"What's wrong?" my husband cried, panicked, glancing in the rearview mirror.

"She's — going — to — die — someday," I blubbered, choking on my own tears.

"Ohhh, honey." I'll never forget the tone of his voice as he clearly debated turning this car around and taking me back to the hospital for an emergency psych evaluation. "I think you might be tired."

Ten years later, it's a memory we laugh about. I hadn't slept more than four hours in four days. Postpartum hormones had lain waste to my senses. Here, on the threshold of new life, all I could think of was death. It's funny. It's absurd.

But it also makes a lot of sense.

Love and hate. Hope and fear. Joy and sorrow. Death and life. What lasts forever, and what is even now passing away before our eyes. To be human is to know that these feelings, these realities, can and often do occur at the same time. To be Christian is to know that it means something — even if we cannot understand what. Not yet.

In every moment of his earthly life, Christ shows us that two things can be true at once. A virgin is a mother. An exile is a king. The temple will be destroyed, and it will last forever. The world is ending. The world is beginning. The cross is death. The cross is life. ©LPi



## 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.

## HOPE Appeal 2025

SJB/HT's goal this year has been set at \$16,969.00. To date SJB/HT parishioners have donated \$10,010.00 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.syradio.org](http://www.syradio.org).



## Calling Priests Father

**Question:** Why do Catholics call priests Father?

**Answer:** One of the common objections evangelical Christians have to Catholics is our practice of calling priests by the title Father. They will often cite a passage in Matthew's Gospel in which Jesus tells his followers: "Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven" (23:19). It seems pretty straightforward, but when we put this verse in context, we see that Jesus is speaking out against religious leaders who had forgotten what their proper role was and who were bad examples through their own hypocrisy and elitist attitudes.

In other Gospels, we find Jesus himself using the title father for different characters, such as in the Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man (Luke 16:19-31) and the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). If we put the verse from Matthew into the full scope of Jesus' teachings, he isn't saying that we can't use words like "father," "rabbi," or "master." Rather, he is telling us that we should be mindful of the full meaning of those titles and not to misuse them.

To call a priest "Father" is more than a sign of respect for the office of the priesthood. It goes all the way back to the way St. Paul understood his own work as a missionary and evangelizer. Paul wrote, "I am writing you in this way not to shame you but to admonish you as my beloved children ... It was I who begot you in Christ Jesus through my preaching of the Gospel. I beg you, then, be imitators of me. This is why I have sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful son in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 4:14-17).

Yes, we have God alone as our heavenly Father, but there are also those here with us who nurture and nourish our faith through their teaching and care. This is why the title of Father has been applied to the church's pastors in different ways since the earliest days of the Church, including monks and nuns using the title "abbot" and "abbess" (from abba) for their spiritual leaders and Christians around the world recognizing the "Holy Father" or "pope" (from papa) as the head of the family that is the Church. The title Father is a reminder that priests have a special responsibility to care for, protect, feed, listen to, and nourish those who have been entrusted to them, all after the example of our Father in heaven who never ceases to give us what we truly need. ©LPi

**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.



The Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Temple recalls – according to the apocryphal gospels, the day on which Mary, while still a child, was brought to the temple in Jerusalem to be offered to God. The Church wants to emphasize not so much the historical event in itself, of which there is no trace in the Gospels, but the total gift that Mary made of herself, by listening: "Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and observe it" (Lk. 11:28). This experience prepared the young girl from Nazareth to become the "temple of the Son of God".

The celebration of this feast dates back to the 6th century in the East with the dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary the New built by the Emperor Justinian I near the ruins of the temple in Jerusalem. There is evidence that various monasteries in Italy celebrated the feast in the 9th century. It was not until the 15th century that it was included in the Roman Missal.

This is also the on which the Church celebrates the World Day of Cloistered Life, established by Pope Pius XII in 1953

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



## Prayer in Seasons of Trust

O Lord, Be with me now, I feel so alone. Bring Your blessings to me, like the light of a candle in darkness. Wrap me in Your mercy, give me strength to face every hardship. 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, 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.**

## 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