

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 23, 2025



"The world will never be at peace until it returns to the feet of Christ the King." –St. Josemaría Escrivá

We probably can imagine the scene in our Gospel today vividly, as placed before us for reflection is Jesus' crucifixion. A dark yet essential moment to captivate us on the feast of Christ the King—an otherwise joyful and triumphant celebration. Without a doubt though, because of this scene, we are boldly reminded that Jesus is no ordinary king, and kingship for Jesus turns our perspective of earthly kingship upside down. In this scene at Calvary, Jesus is mocked as "King of the Jews." Soldiers gamble for His clothes. Passers-by hurl insults. One of the crucified criminals joins the chorus: *"Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"* But a powerful conversion happens in the other thief, dying just inches away—he sees with the eyes of faith. Somehow in a glance, mercy is met in his eyes from the one patiently offering himself on his own cross: *"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."* And with this simple gesture of faith from an unexpected man condemned as a criminal, the answer from Jesus comes, we can imagine, with gentleness yet with unmistakable strength: *"Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise"* (Lk 23:42–43).

Incredible! That word *today* changes everything. This man facing punishment for crimes committed, overwhelmed with fear and hopelessness will know Jesus' paradise *not* tomorrow, *not* after a lifetime of penance, but *today*. In other words, authentic faith in the heart of the believer can open the doors to the heavenly Kingdom which is not a distant, far-off reality, but rather, it is supremely present in the divine person of Jesus Christ, *who came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many*. Where the King is, *there* is His Kingdom. When He is invoked with trust, he boldly comes to rule with justice. The divine power that has authority over the violence of sin and death humbly now comes to dwell and reign in the hearts of all those who offer him their trust in return.

And so we know well, the Cross is a hinge of history, the moment of deepest darkness loses its grip and victory streams in. **"Christ's kingship,"** says Pope Benedict, **"is revealed in the weakness of the Cross—there, power becomes mercy, and death gives way to life."** That is precisely why the good thief could cling to hope. From the details of this account, the thief had nothing to offer—no good deeds, no pious or virtuous reputation, only a heart cracked open by sorrow, longing, and desperation. This heart, however, coupled with the recognition that Jesus is truly Lord, Savior, and King was enough. Do we have this conviction of who Jesus is? Do we live striving to be citizens of *His* Kingdom?

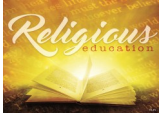
St. Augustine captures this even more simply: **"Christ is King wherever the heart kneels."** Not where our résumé is impressive or where our home or bank account is full, but where the heart kneels. Your heart and my heart are both called to respond likewise, we will ultimately go before the Lord to give an account of our life on earth. What disposition will the Lord find in us? Humility for the sake of making our lives difficult or laden with misery, is not the kind of humility that he seeks. A heart that knows its own failures, or a heart that is aware of its greatest poverty before the Lord—that is the kind of throne that Jesus Christ longs to occupy. He takes his rest there so that we might become conformed to him and share his divine life. A heart that makes a gift of itself to the Lord in this way, finds the truth that life is not lost in the process, but rather it is gained in abundance. This heart while being a servant of the Lord knows the gift of sincere, interior freedom like none other.

Psalms 122 today sings the song of pilgrims on their way home: *"Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord!"* (Ps 122:1). Good for us to recall that the house of the Lord is not only the heavenly realm we long for at the end of our earthly life; but it is also the tabernacle within the depth of our being where he alone offers a heavenly refuge, offering the accompaniment of his presence with every step of ours. The sanctuary within us where the King desires to reign is always in need of renewal, always in need of his transformative mercy. What is your response? Will you let him reign in you? Are you willing to love and serve him with every fiber of your being? Let Jesus be King and Lord of your life and you will always be at peace, both now and forever.



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



Religious Education Announcements

There are no Rel. Ed. Classes next week, Nov. 30th in observance of Thanksgiving and no classes on Dec. 7th, for Breakfast with Santa. Classes will resume on Dec. 14th. Questions, 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. 23

9:00am SJB/HT: Cathy Schotthoefer

Lector - Nov. 30

9:00am SJB/HT: Cathy Schotthoefer



Eucharistic Ministry

Center

Mary's Side

November 23 Mary Beth Cusano Betty Warren

November 30 Cathy Horton Larry Argiro



A Family Perspective Family Life Education

Today's Gospel reminds us the Kingdom of Heaven is not like Disney's Magic Kingdom. Admission to Christ's Kingdom is paid with the currency of acceptance, forgiveness, attention to the poor and love of one's enemy.

Pray For Vocations

The good thief united the rest of his life to Christ's, who was hanging next to him on the Cross, and he was saved. His example has helped others to do the same. How are you called to unite your life to Christ and help others unite theirs to Christ? Is it to be 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: The people of Israel recognized that David was a natural leader, and with the Lord's blessing anointed him king of Israel. What do you think makes someone a good leader?

2nd Reading Question: Paul offers to the Colossians a beautiful piece of poetry reflecting on how Jesus reconciled all things in heaven and on earth. Can you share a time when you were reconciled with a family member or friend?

Gospel Question: Jesus assured the repentant criminal crucified next to him that he would be with him in paradise. Who might you offer words of comfort to this week? ©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 9:00am and SJB/HT 12:15. As well the offices for both church's will be closed.



9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

November 23, 2025 - Samuel Sgroi - Fran Boody

The Emm Family - The Estate

Owen Donovan - Jerry & Butch

Cesario Palucci - Mr. & Mrs. Frank Palucci & Family

November 30, 2025 - David McLaughlin - Mother

Frankie Crisalli - Aunt Bobbie

Dan & DeDe Calkins - Dave & Victoria Calkins



Sacrificial Giving

Collection Week Nov. 16th: TBA

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The King Who Hangs Beside Us

We love to hate the bad thief.

Ancient Christian tradition has called him by the name "Gestas." In contrast to Dismas, "the good thief" who recognized and repented of his own sins, Gestas goes down bitter and swinging. With his last breaths he taunts Jesus, poking fun at the absurdity of a deity who allows himself to be crucified by mortals. "Are you not the Christ?" he sneers.

But his final words betray an undercurrent of desperation. Of terror. In the end, Gestas just wants Jesus to save him.

It's taken me a few hundred read-throughs of this Gospel passage to finally understand a painful truth: I am Gestas. I hang from my own cross — we all do, in this life. But I'm lucky enough that my cross is right beside Jesus, because the sacraments bring him as close to me as he was to Gestas — closer, even. How unfathomable is the mercy of God.

And yet, I am not grateful. I don't rejoice at my proximity to my Lord, to the flesh and blood that have bought my salvation. I don't do what I should do, and what Dismas does. I don't say, "Wherever you are King, please, let me be your subject. Wherever you are going, please, take me with you."

"Are you not the Christ?" I say instead. And what I mean is exactly what Gestas meant: "Get me down. Take this cross away. I don't want it. I can't take it."

What a tragedy it would be, if all Christ had to offer us was an easier life.

None of this looks like anyone thought it would. The long-foretold Messiah, whose majesty and might would eradicate violence and establish peace. The guy who was going to make everything okay again. The King of the Jews. And here he hangs: bleeding and dying and doing what looks like nothing. Staring at Gestas. Staring at me. Staring at you.

What will you say to him? ©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 \$10,090.00 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.svrdio.org.



Jesus is King

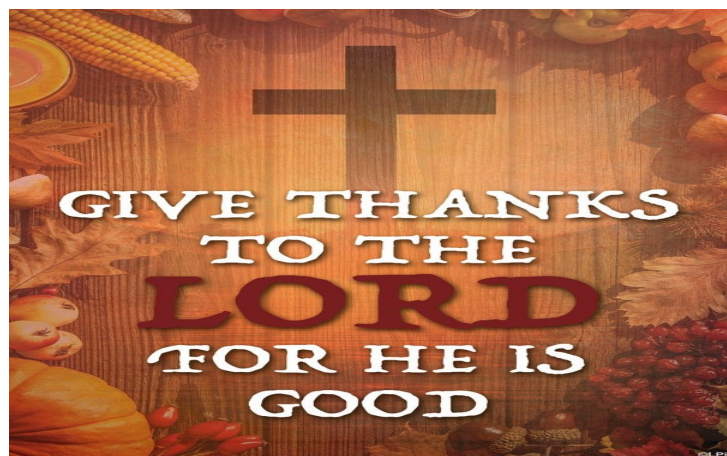
Dear Jesus, I see the kingdom you love, the one full of the broken and forgotten. I see the crown you wear — thorns out of love for me. I pick you as my King. Mold my heart to be a worthy member of your kingdom. Amen. ©LPi

Jesse Tree, Explained!

The Jesse Tree is an Advent practice which recounts the history of salvation by tracing the lineage of Christ — the foretold “shoot from the stump of Jesse” who will bring peace and unity to the people of God (Isaiah 11:1).

In a way, creating a Jesse tree is the telling of one big story — the redemption of man — through the telling of many smaller stories — the fall of Adam, God's promise to Abraham, the wandering of the Israelites, the greatness of David and the humble submission of Mary. A Jesse tree is adorned with symbols of these various people and stories, with the earliest ones hung from the top-most branches, progressing downward.

There are different versions of the Jesse Tree featuring different Old Testament figures and stories, but all begin with Adam and end with the birth of Jesus. It is an easy tradition to practice at home — all you need is a tree, paper, markers, scissors, string and a Bible. ©LPi



Let us pray...

Generous and merciful God,
we thank you for your abundant gifts to us.
As we celebrate this Thanksgiving feast,
we ask you to send your Spirit,
to open our hearts to you and our neighbor,
that we may share the gifts you have given us
as your Son Jesus taught us to.

Thank you for the many blessings of our lives:
our family and friends,
our home and the food we eat,
our health and employment.

We ask your blessing on all gathered here today,
and all your people throughout the world,
through Christ your Son.
Amen.



He said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He replied to him, “Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” — Lk 23:42-43

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

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.**

CHRIST THE KING



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.

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

