

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 30, 2025

First Sunday of ADVENT



"Come, let us climb the LORD's mountain ...that he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths" (Isaiah 2:3). It's difficult to believe, but it's here already: our beautiful season of Advent! ...Pope Benedict XVI: "Advent is concerned with that very connection between **memory** and **hope** which is so necessary for man. We *remember* the past full of grace, and *this* opens us to the future. Every year, Advent is a powerful reminder that life does not belong to us. We are waiting for **Someone**." So, of course, in Advent our readings help enact this supremely. We are attentive to Jesus' *first* coming (his coming in the flesh in Bethlehem). We are presented with the reality of his *final* coming (at the end of all things). And we are also attentive to how humbly the Lord also comes to us even in the mundane and the inbetween; he takes up residence within us, to sustain us moment by moment in the temple of our body.

What is the fruit of meditating on these arrivals of Christ? Well, it reveals to us that the Advent of our Lord is "like the dawn: little by little the darkness is scattered, and the light of salvation rises in the hearts of those who watch" (says St. Isaac the Syrian). This is to say, that as we journey **day by day** expecting this Light of Christ to *grow* with each passing moment, we can deeply sense why it is, then, that Advent fills us with **hope**. Advent nudges us to fix our mind toward God's intentional entrance into his creation—something that eventually can only be explained by generosity and selfless love. God, infinitely perfect in himself, was in need of nothing, and the more we contemplate this truth, the more we come to understand that in the midst of a seemingly perpetually dark world around us, the graciousness of God will never cease to accompany us through it all, to ultimately share his victory over suffering and death. His persistence reveals that the powers of sin, suffering, and death were not intended to have residence in his creation, a fact we must frequently be reminded of when we are overwhelmed by the violence, pain, and division throughout the world. In the end, the inevitable fruit of this kind of meditation is a **HOPE** that grows and sustains.

Hope as we know, is a theological virtue—meaning it is something that is purely gift, it can't be fabricated by ourselves, and if we try to force it on our own, it's not fully real; not freely given nor freely received. And this side of heaven, Hope is pivotally important for us. One who has this hope lives differently in the midst of this world. A favorite reflection of the spiritual author, Fr. Jacques Philippe, says that while St. Paul teaches that **love** is the "greatest" (1 Cor 13:13) of theological virtues, it can be said that **hope is the most important**, because "as long as hope remains, love develops. If hope is extinguished, love grows cold. A world without hope soon becomes a world without love."

So why is this important season of Advent worth your while? Simply put: so that your love doesn't grow cold, so that your hope isn't extinguished. Should we allow ourselves to be purified by grace during this season, should we offer ourselves more intentional times of silence, of prayer, of actual preparation, without a doubt we will experience the reception of a new, profound, and sincere hope that doesn't fade, disappoint, nor leave our love growing cold. With such a gift, we can't help but live and serve differently, nor can we doubt that the celebration of the birth of our savior will ever lose its power to uplift or cease to set us free.

Office Hours SJB/HT Mon.-Thurs. 9:00am-4:00pm Friday 9:00am-2:30pm

Secretary/Bulletin: Nancy Bergeson

In Residence: Fr. Paschal Anionye

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Web Site - www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com

Syr. Dio. Web-site - www.syracusedioecese.org

Parish Council President: David William

Music Director/Organist: Mr. James Stanley

Buildings/Grounds: Robert Warren

Religious Education: Betty Warren

Sacristan/Grounds: Allan Chouinard

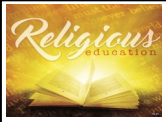
Altar Servers: Benjamin Chouinard

Alyssa Warren & Cecilia Judge

Trustees: Gerald Mott & John Cannizzaro

Mass With Bishop Lucia

We are very honored to welcome Bishop Douglas Lucia to St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity to celebrate our 9:00am Mass with us on Sunday December 14th. Please join us after the Mass for coffee/cookies.



Religious Education Announcements

There are no Rel. Ed. Classes this week, Happy Thanksgiving. There are 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. 30th

9:00am SJB/HT: Cathy Schotthoefer

Lector - Dec. 7th

9:00am SJB/HT: John Robinson

Eucharistic Ministry

	<u>Center</u>	<u>Mary's Side</u>
November 30	Cathy Horton	Larry Argiro
December 7	Dave William	Karen Fekete
December 14	Mary Anne Bergamo	Pat Minnoe
December 21	Betty Warren	Mary Beth Cusano
December 28	Larry Argiro	Cathy Horton



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.

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!

A Family Perspective Family Life Education

In today's Gospel Jesus advises: "Stay awake, watch out, and pray for the strength to hold your ground" when "fearful and bewildering signs" appear threatening your family. Resist being "fearful;" fear cripples! Instead "pray for the strength" to be courageous.



Pray For Vocations

"Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." Advent is a time of joyful preparation. A time where we can set our hearts and minds on the coming of Christ. God speaks to us in our joy. Where is God calling you? Email: vocations@syradio.org and follow us on Instagram @vocationssyracuse.



Reflect: Readings and Gospel

1st Reading Question: The prophet Isaiah envisioned a future with no more wars and nations united in belief and worship of Israel's God. What does a world totally at peace look like?

2nd Reading Question: Paul encouraged the Romans to live with a sense of urgency in anticipation of their own salvation. What motivates you to live a moral life?

Gospel Question: Jesus taught his disciples that no one knows when the Son of Man will return, so you must always be prepared. How do you plan to use the season of Advent this year to welcome Jesus into your life? ©LPi



Holy Day Mass/Office Closed

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 30, 2025 - David McLaughlin - Mother

Frankie Crisalli - Aunt Bobbie

Dan & DeDe Calkins - Dave & Victoria Calkins

December 7, 2025 - Nancy Gaynor - The Family

Steve P. Taddeo - Peg & Mary

Anthony Barraco - Peter & Annette Saule

Owen Donovan - Mr. & Mrs. Michael Morga



Sacrificial Giving

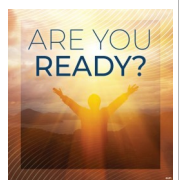
Collection Week Nov. 16th: \$3,653.00

Collection Week Nov. 23rd: TBA

Recognize God In Your

Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
Watershed Moments



In every life there are watershed moments.

I think of our time on this earth as resembling, in the beginning, a fine, firm sheet of metal, suspended with perfect balance in time and space. If a drop of water falls upon the sheet, it remains precisely where it lands.

But life goes on. We see things, we feel things, and in the seeing and the feeling, the flat, smooth metal sheet is nicked. The impacts created by those experiences are like BB pellets riddling armor; before long, the surface is pockmarked. A falling drop of water will drain or pool either in one way or the other, its action determined by the closest indentation.

A watershed has been created, a summit or valley that disrupts the smooth flatness of life.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks about the end of the world. I'm no Biblical scholar, but I suspect the topic at hand is the Apocalypse (capital A). The big one. The explosion that upends the sheet itself and sends every drop of water crashing down. But I think, in a smaller way, it's also about all the indentations on the plane: those little apocalypses (lowercase a), the things that felt like the end of the world (or the beginning of a new one).

The loss of a job. The breakup of a relationship. The suffering of a loved one.

Of course the world is ending. It has been ending forever. And the Son of Man is coming — but don't forget, he was already here, too. And his Spirit, even now, is renewing the face of the earth.

"But how?" we ask. "And when? And where?"

Without the chinks in the armor — without the watershed moments — there is tremendous smoothness, certainly. But there is also no movement.

So look to the watershed moments, these little (and big) apocalypses. In these moments that change us, for better or worse, God is there, working, waiting. ©LPi

Fr. Jude DeAngelo of Assumption

Rest In Peace Fr. Jude DeAngelo, OFM Conv., the current pastor of Assumption Church, who passed away on Tuesday November 18th. We send to the community of Assumption Church, and also to his family, our deepest condolences and many prayers.



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.syrdio.org.



December: Holy Hour, Mass, and March for Life

Save the date for the Syracuse Holy Hour, Mass and March for Life with Bishop Lucia on January 17th! Bring your family and friends to show your support for mothers and children and to pray and march for the protection of all human life!

All Faith Food Panty Giving Wagon

We will again have the Food Wagon all wrapped up and placed at the floor below the Blessed Mother's Altar. The pantry is requesting personal hygiene items for men, women and children and house hold cleaning products. As always all shelf staple food items are appreciated. **Please** no baby items such as diapers and foods.



Christmas Flowers For The Altar

SJB/HT invites you to make a donation towards our Christmas Flowers. A list of donors and their request will be printed as an insert to the bulletin the week of Christmas December 21st. Please put donations with the form below in an envelope marked "FLOWERS" in the collection basket, mail or drop it off to the rectory no later than Thursday, Dec. 18th. Checks should be made payable to SJB/HT. Please do not add this form to your weekly contribution envelopes.

Donor _____
Phone _____ Amount _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Devotions Explained

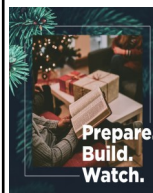
Advent Wreath, Explained!

The Advent Wreath as we know it today is a modern spin on an ancient practice — or rather, several of them.



Christians have always utilized candles to illustrate the metaphor of Christ as the "great light" shining on a people waiting in darkness (Isaiah 9:2). Historians tell us that pre-Christian societies in Europe also viewed candles as symbolic of the coming light of spring, and may have used wreaths of natural material along with these candles. Traditions and rituals surrounding an "Advent Wreath" are often thought to have originated in the Lutheran tradition in 16th-century Germany. Today, Advent Wreaths are a practice embraced by most Christians in the Western world.

An Advent Wreath consists of a circle of evergreen and four candles, one for each week of Advent. Three of the candles are purple; one is rose, representing Gaudete Sunday, a time of rejoicing at the closeness of Christmas. In Catholicism, Advent Wreaths are blessed on the First Sunday of Advent. For Advent Wreaths in private homes, it is appropriate for a family member to perform the blessing. ©LPi



Prayer For Everyday And Everybody

Prayer for Advent – Arise

Bless God's Holy Name! Prepare our hearts for Your coming, Lord. Awaken them from any places that have become sleepy or despondent. Inspire us with new visions. Be with us as we climb closer to You. Amen. ©LPi

SJB/HT Christmas Ornament

The Christmas Ornaments are available for purchase at \$20.00 each. They will be available after the 9:00am Mass, or you can call the rectory to stop by for them. If you would like us to mail the ornament, anywhere, there is a \$5.00 mailing fee added. It is a picture of the stained glass window in the church of the Holy Family. And St John the Baptist Holy Trinity is stamped on the bottom. A wonderful memento of our parish.



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.**

