

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 9, 2025

Another (unusual) blessed Sunday celebration! Every November 9, the universal Church pauses to honor the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, which is the Pope's own cathedral in Rome and the mother church of the world, serving as a bold sign of our unity. Built stone by stone, it was consecrated in 324 AD. The celebration today is intended to remind us that God does not dwell in a house made by human hands alone, but in a living sanctuary. The tremendous beauty of the structures of our physical church buildings are intended to draw us into the unsurpassed beauty of God and heavenly life beyond anything we



could ever imagine. We hear St. Paul remind us today, *"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"* (1 Cor 3:16), meaning that our bodies, having been redeemed and sanctified, become temples--"living stones"--where the Lord seeks to intimately dwell, and by his presence, he strengthens his mystical Body on earth. The intended beauty of our physical churches directs us to what our interior temples should also strive to reflect, namely, the purity of divine grace and holiness.

Our bodies, enlivened by grace (in the flowing waters of Baptism) become consecrated and holy, echoing the prophet Ezekiel's vision of life-giving waters streaming from the temple threshold in our first reading. The veiled emphasis here is the power of this water streaming forth from the very sides of the temple, capable of transforming barren deserts into flourishing gardens. This vivid imagery resonates deeply with Jesus' words during the Feast of Tabernacles in John 7: **"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them"** (Jn 7:37-38). Here, Christ unveils himself as the true Temple, its perfect fulfillment, the source from which the Holy Spirit now gushes forth like an inexhaustible river. St. John relates that this water is the Holy Spirit, literally poured out from Christ's pierced side on the Cross and unleashed at Pentecost. From Jesus' side, the blood and water poured forth *the very life source* pulsing through the "sacrament" that is the Church. The Church is born from our Lord's pierced side open wide. How tremendously beautiful that quite literally from Jesus' heart pierced for us, comes forth divine life cleansing the earth and is now ceaselessly offered to us freely in the Sacraments to continue to pour forth his very life into you and me for our transformation and sanctification.

In our Gospel today, we have the familiar account of Jesus' cleansing of the temple. Jesus had already promised: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (Jn 2:19). The *new* temple is His Body; and again, by His grace we are invited to be incorporated into his mystical Body, grafted on to his life, which is sustained as He intended through the Sacramental life of the Church on earth. Jesus' reaction in the Gospel today to the state and wellbeing of the temple should strike us. We, too, must take time to evaluate the wellbeing of our own participation in his Body. What kind of "living stone" is my life? So often we tarnish and wound the beauty of our earthly temples/bodies with sin, and that the image of the Lord in us is disfigured time and again by our words and actions. So for the disciple, this beautiful feast today is a summons to renew interior intimacy and interior purification that the Lord may take up residence within us in purity of heart. The Sacrament of Mercy heals and restores what sin destroys and disfigures. We remember that prayer is much more than a duty, but rather a thirst--honest, urgent, personal--that only the Lord can satisfy. We come to Christ as He really is: the source, the spring, the river from whom true life flows. In silent adoration, in the slow savoring of Scripture, in the Eucharist received with awe, we drink from His life. And having drunk, the Spirit who wells up within us is to become a flowing current of mercy, virtue, and courage that irrigates families, workplaces, and to our world.

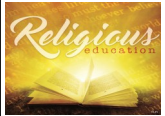
In an age of endless distractions and spiritual aridity, we are summoned to seek sincere intimacy with Jesus, approaching him daily with the raw thirst of the soul. Like the woman at the well (John 4) or the crowds at Tabernacles (John 7), we must drink deeply from his pierced side, allowing the Holy Spirit to well up life within us. It is there, in prayer, that we will discover the truth that Jesus himself is actually thirsting for you and your response to his call, for whom he gave his life and loved with unfathomable love. Consider once again the hope offered from our first reading, *"Wherever the river flows, every sort of living creature that can multiply shall live..."* May the grace that flows to us from the Holy Spirit today restore us and fill us with new life.

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

Offices Closed

SJB/HT and OLP/SP offices will be closed on Tuesday November 11th in celebration of Veteran's Day. There is no 9:00am Mass at OLP/SP as well.



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. 9th

9:00am SJB/HT: Mary Barraco

Lector - Nov. 16

9:00am SJB/HT: Chet Wisniewski



Eucharistic Ministry

	Center	Mary's Side
November 9	Karen Fekete	Dave William
November 16	Pat Minnoe	Mary Anne Bergamo
November 23	Mary Beth Cusano	Betty Warren
November 30	Cathy Horton	Larry Argiro



Pray For Vocations

Christ's love for His Father drove Him to act on His behalf in the temple, so others may see their wrong actions and turn back to God. How is God calling you to act on the Father's behalf? Is it as a deacon, a priest, or a 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 prophet Ezekiel envisions a future of restoration and renewal for the exiled Israelites held captive in Babylon. What future do you hope for with your family?



2nd Reading Question: Paul tells us that as believers in Christ, the Spirit dwells in us, making us holy, the temple of God. Can you share a time when you felt the Holy Spirit active in your life?

Gospel Question: The disciples understood the full meaning of Jesus' cleansing of the temple only after his resurrection from the dead. What has hindsight taught you about your life? ©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.



9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

Sunday November 9, 2025 - Grazia Mucci - Husband & Family
Owen Donovan - Tony & Ellie Egle
Anthony DelVecchio - Ann Carruthers
Sunday November 16, 2025 - Brian Mott - The Family
Rosalie Emm - The Estate
Antonio McLaughlin - Mother
Owen Donovan - Mr. & Mrs. Michael Morga

The Bread and Wine is offered in memory of

Owen Donovan

Requested by The Cole Family



Sacrificial Giving

Collection Week Nov. 2nd: \$6,414.00

Recognize God In Your

Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
Modern Money-Changers



The "liturgy wars" are something of a hot topic in contemporary Catholic circles.

Latin chant or guitar hymns? Communion on the tongue or in the hand? Chapel veils or bare heads? Surplice or alb? It's giving me a headache just writing it all out.

I don't mean to say that none of this matters. The worship of the Almighty God, especially in the context of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, is no trifling matter. It is good for people to be concerned about whether or not their worship is pleasing to God. I am happy that Catholics care enough about these things to have an opinion.

I'm not going to say where I fall on this spectrum of liturgical sensibility (the headache intensifies thinking of the emails I would get). And I won't pretend it's not something I feel passionate about, in my own way.

But too often I find myself sniffing dismissively at the "other camp," the folks who are drawn to a different style or tradition. Too often I see them sniffing dismissively back to me. We are, both groups, obsessed with the form of a thing — so much so that we risk forgetting the function of it.

And when I stop to think about it, I wonder if Jesus shouldn't crack the whip at us all, the modern money-changers of the temple, who have allowed worship to become a transaction (I offer x sacrifice, I am rewarded with y feeling of fulfillment and satisfaction).

I look at the Gospel today, and I can see the purpose of the money-changers. It could be argued that, in a way, they were facilitating the laws of Moses, making possible the temple sacrifices stipulated by God.

But it matters *why* you do something, not just *how* you do it.

What good is any act of worship, if at its conclusion we do not more closely resemble the One before whom we kneel? ©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.

Pro-Vita Scholarship for High School Seniors

The Office of Family/Respect Life Ministry and the Catholic Schools Office are offering the Bishop James Moynihan Pro-Vita Scholarship to Catholic public and private senior year students in the Syracuse Diocese. Two- \$1000.00 and One- \$500.00 awards are based on answering, "Why are you pro-life and how will you help build a culture of life?" Submissions may be an essay, a video, song, music, photos, or art (limit to 2 minutes or 500 words). Submissions are due by December 15, 2025 using the following link: <https://bit.ly/46377xb>. Please contact the Office of Family/Respect Life at familyrespectlife@syrdio.org for more information.



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.syrdio.org.

Church/Rectory Repair Update

There have been many contractors on sight here at SJB/HT Parish this spring through fall.

- 1) The back parking lot drain/grate was repaired.
- 2) Areas of the parking lot and upper lot were tared and repaired that had been damaged over last winter plowing.
- 3) The roof which is over the rectory has been a little issue over the past years. With temporary repairs done, it was obvious that a professional roofing company needed to be brought in and that roof has been repaired.
- 4) The front center steps of the church entrance, Park Street, are being repaired by a stone mason.
- 5) The church boiler was repaired. We were eligible for a reimbursement on the final cost of this repair. The total was \$18,852.00 and we will receive a check from our insurance for \$13,852.00.
- 6) Lastly, the heating and air conditioning in the rectory has been an ongoing issue. While the air conditioning has been worked on over the summer, we now have realized a heating issue to the rectory on both floors.



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

Devotions Explained

Simbang Gabi, Explained!

Simbang Gabi is a Filipino tradition through which Advent expectation realizes the fulfillment of Christmas joy. During Simbang Gabi, early morning Masses are offered over a series of nine days leading up to Christmas. Celebrations follow Mass, where delicacies like baked rice cakes and breakfast rolls are enjoyed.

Traditionally, Simbang Gabi Masses are held before dawn, a practice that originated in the 17th century in the Philippines when most of the faithful had to work the rest of the day in the fields.

During Mass, the priest wears white vestments and the *Gloria* is sung, a practice for which the Holy See has given special permission. Traditionally, the nine-day sequence ends with Midnight Mass on Dec. 24.

The tradition has been adapted to fit the needs of Filipino communities throughout the world, and the Masses might not even be offered in the morning at all, but in the afternoon or evening
©LPi



Prayer of Missionary Zeal

Dear Lord, Give us eyes to see the depth of grace You provide to Your Church. May that goodness ignite in us fire to share the truth of Your mercy with every soul we encounter. 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.**

A Prayer Request Update

The miracle of prayer. Over the years I have asked for prayer for my cousin Nancy Bailey who was in need of a kidney donor. She has been through many trials & delays and dialysis was draining her quality of life. I myself tested and tried to be a living donor for her but it wasn't meant to be. On Monday Oct. 20th late afternoon she received her call, "how soon can you be here, there is a kidney for you". And off she went and received the gift of her new functioning kidney from a very generous donor. God Bless this person and the family. My family is so appreciative of prayers remembered for her and for all who are in our prayer request. She has many, many months of recovery but she feels great and is already home. Please do continue to pray for her and for all that are in need. While it may not happen in the time we want it to, God does hear, God is great and God does allow miracles.

Thank You,,,, Nancy