

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

December 14, 2025



From Fr. Brendan Foley

As we gratefully welcome Bishop Lucia to visit our parish family today, we are also reminded by the newly lit Rose Candle that our lives as disciples should always bear a character of rejoicing! The change in color reflects the **joy** expressed in the Entrance Antiphon for the day's Mass, **and serves as a special reminder of the joyful event that awaits us at the close of the Advent season.**

The name "Gaudete" which gives this Sunday its name, is taken from the Entrance Antiphon of Mass, which typically we don't hear on Sunday because we usually sing a hymn together in its place. The verse that gives this Sunday its name is taken from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians, which also happens to be our second reading today, and, in Latin, it reads: "**Gaudete** in Domino semper; iterum dico, gaudete. Dominus enim prope est." In English, the text commands us, "**Rejoice** in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. For indeed, the Lord is near."

Our first reading today also gives us a rich insight into why it is that we have cause for rejoicing: The Lord our God will "*Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing.* (**Isaiah 35:3-6**) —If we continue to receive this promise from the Lord as a truth even for the here and now, the cause for rejoicing within us is a profound invitation for hope. Regardless of all the reasons we may have to not rejoice, or to live in doubt, grief, or despair, we must be reminded again of our call, of the One who has made us for relationship with Him. Strengthened by this invitation, we will **always** have cause for joy and eternal gladness. Only the Lord has the possibility to bring about the reconciliation and peace of all things, only the Lord has power over sin and death, and by his initiative he comes to us to bear this gift of hope. "Nothing is impossible for God" (Luke 1:37).

How are we responding to this love shown to us by the Lord? How are you changing the routine of your daily schedule during Advent to give greater access to the Lord so that he can remind you of his love/of this hope? He meets us in prayer with the gift of his life to strengthen us, and upon receiving grace, we are **always** uplifted, regardless of whatever may weigh us down. Sometimes we need to ask, too, for an increase of faith—we hear very often that Jesus says to those whom he heals, "your faith has saved you" or "let it be done for you according to your faith"—it can happen that we don't believe the Lord has enough power to give us what we need to free us for such rejoicing, or that he can heal after much time has passed or that our wounds are incurable.

Jesus offers all of us access to his transformative life in the Sacraments, in them he quite literally touches us with divine power—but are we awake to it? The Sacraments are always efficacious, they always accomplish what they intend—yet the variable is our participation, our readiness to receive from them. If we expect little from them, well then, I suppose we shouldn't be surprised to see little fruit! If we prepare ourselves and participate in them with great faith, the fruitfulness of the Sacraments for us will become infinite... Jesus doesn't force this out of us, but to those who ask, he will bestow abundance. There's still time this Advent season to be renewed by the Lord and granted a greater receptivity to his grace that is ceaselessly at work. Consider the healing the Lord desires for you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation—the Light is On event is a great way to prepare! Let the Lord surprise you with his love and mercy!

Office Hours SJB/HT Mon.-Thurs. 9:00am-4:00pm Friday 9:00am-2:30pm
Secretary/Bulletin: Nancy Bergeson
Pastor: Fr. Brendan Foley
E-mail - nbergeson@syrдио.org
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

Welcome Bishop Lucia

St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity welcomes Bishop Douglas Lucia as he celebrates our 9:00am Mass with us today. Please join us after Mass for coffee & cookies and decorating the Church.

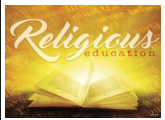


Christmas Office Hours

The rectories of SJB/HT and OLP/SP will be closed on Wed. Dec. 24th, Thurs. Dec. 25th and Fri. Dec. 26th.



SJB/HT Wednesday December 24th - 4:00pm
SJB/HT Thursday December 25th - 9:00am
OLP/SP Wednesday December 24th - 4:00pm
OLP/SP Wednesday December 24th - 12:00 Midnight
OLP/SP Thursday December 25th - 7:30am
OLP/SP Thursday December 25th - 11:30am



Religious Education Announcements

Religious Ed classes resume this week. There are no Religious Ed Classes for the next 2 weeks, Dec. 21st & 28th, in observance of Christmas & New Year. Classes will resume on Jan. 4th. 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 - Dec. 14th

9:00am SJB/HT: Pat Minnoe

Lector - Dec. 21st

9:00am SJB/HT: Ashley Crisafulli

Eucharistic Ministry

	Center	Mary's Side
December 14	Mary Anne Bergamo	Pat Minnoe
December 21	Betty Warren	Mary Beth Cusano
December 28	Larry Argiro	Cathy Horton



A Family Perspective Family Life Education

The question put to Jesus in today's Gospel is also put to us today: "Are you the one?" Are you the one who will give guidance to the children in your life or must they look to TV sitcoms, films, videos and music lyrics for direction? Are you the one? Will you be the one?

Pray For Vocations

"Go and tell John what you hear and see." The joy which becomes manifest when we encounter Christ is meant to be shared with the world. How is Christ asking you to share your joyful encounter? Email: vocations@syrdio.org and follow us on Instagram [@vocationssyracuse](https://www.instagram.com/vocationssyracuse).



Reflect: Readings and Gospel

1st Reading Question: The prophet Isaiah taught his community to "be strong, fear not!" because God has planned a remarkable future where both the people and the land will be restored. Is there a friend or co-worker who needs your encouragement this week?

2nd Reading Question: James encourages his community to be patient and firm of heart in waiting for the coming of the Lord. What are you waiting for during this Advent season?

Gospel Question: In prison, John the Baptist seemed uncertain about who Jesus is. Who do you talk to when you have questions about Jesus? ©LPi



9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

December 14, 2025 - Owen Donovan - Joan Clark
Antonio McLaughlin - Mother
Rosaro Buccina - Timothy Erwin
John & Mildred Allen - Timothy Erwin
December 21, 2025 - Deborah Gmyr - Janet Gmyr
Angie Banac - Twin Cousin
Francis Galimi - Twin Brother
Lauren Reid - Tim & Mary Reid
Domenico Tropepi - Wife, Maria



Sacrificial Giving

Collection Week Dec. 7th: TBA

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
What We See in the Desert



I've always wanted to see a real desert.

I know all about frigid, snowy winters and warm, wet summers. I grew up on rich soil that yields lush vegetation and bountiful harvests. But I've never experienced a desert, not in my own country or abroad, and I'm curious.

I know there must be something magical about the desert for it to feature so heavily in Scripture, for it to provide a backdrop to so many crucial moments of salvation history. The Israelites following the cloud, the temptation of Christ, the voice crying out: "Prepare the way for the Lord."

Why do these moments have to happen in a desert? Why do they make so much less sense in a tropical rainforest or a verdant forest?

I think it's because the desert doesn't have anything to offer us, at first glance. No one longs for the physical sensation of a dry heat and a beating sun. But the vast emptiness and the almost mystical harshness — even if we don't desire and delight in it, this is a setting that we understand, somehow, intrinsically. We know it deep within our soul. God is there.

We go to Mass. We go to Confession. We pray. We read Scripture. In doing all these things, again and again, we go out to the desert.

Why? What are we expecting to see?

If we expect to be entertained, we will be disappointed. If we expect reassurance, we will be disappointed. If we expect to feel pleasant and safe and sheltered, we will be disappointed.

The desert is there to challenge us. The desert is there to show us who we are, and who we can be.

So go. ©LPi



Thank You

A big Thank You to all our parishioners who attended our Breakfast With Santa last week. We very much appreciate your support. And Thank You to all our amazing volunteers who helped before during and after the breakfast and to all who donated a basket for raffle. Thank You Santa Claus who is back at the North Pole working on his list for his upcoming busy night.



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.

The Light Is On

The Light Is On Monday December 15th SJB/HT Church will be open 12:00-2:00pm for confessions and Eucharistic Adoration. OLP/SP will be open from 3:30-5:00 and The Friars at the Mall 2:00-6:00pm and Assumption Church 4:00-6:00pm.



HOPE Appeal 2025

SJB/HT's goal this year has been set at \$16,969.00. To date SJB/HT parishioners have donated \$12,740.00 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.

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 _____



All Faith Food Panty Giving Wagon

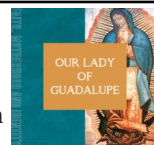
We will again have the Food Wagon all wrapped up and placed at the floor below the Blessed Mother's Altar. The pantry is requesting personal hygiene items for men, women and children and house hold cleaning products. Specifically items needed are; bar soap, deodorant (men & women) tooth brushes & toothpaste, shampoo & conditioner, body or hand lotion, razors & shaving cream, dish soap and laundry soap in POD's. As always all shelf staple food items are appreciated. **Please** no baby items such as diapers and foods.

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.

Devotions Explained

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Explained!

The four apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe took place in December 1531, when Juan Diego, an indigenous convert to the Catholic faith, encountered a woman dressed as an Aztec princess on Tepeyac Hill in present-day Mexico City. The woman, who was pregnant, spoke to him in his native language. She identified herself as the Mother of God.



Over the next four apparitions, Our Lady requested that Juan Diego implore the local bishop to build a church on the hill, and performed miracles to prove her identity. Through one of the miracles, she imprinted her image onto Juan Diego's tilma, or cloak; the *tilma* bearing that image can still be viewed today at the basilica which now stands on the site of the apparition.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is venerated as the Patroness of the Americas, and she is beloved worldwide as a symbol of motherhood, faith and identity. Her feast day is Dec. 12. ©LPi



Prayer For Everyday And Everybody

Prayer for Advent – New Growth
Dear God, Bring new life! Your love creates and cultivates. Bring Your power into the places I think of as "deserts" and your grace to the prayers I fear may be "deserted." You can redeem and restore, bring a new song to my heart. 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.**

OR SUNDAY OF ADVENT

