

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 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of
ADVENT



From Fr. Brendan Foley

This is the last time to be able to greet you before our celebration of Christmas! Please know how I am always overwhelmed by your generosity and kindness to me, and I'm grateful to be journeying with you all. We know how time quickly passes us, and after blinking, our Advent season is dwindling. You will soon be invited anew into the consolation of the profound reality heralded in the Gospel: Motivated by unfathomable love, the Lord of the universe took on our human flesh to dwell among us, and because of this truth, everything has changed. Pope Benedict writes, "Again and again [the beauty of this Gospel] astonishes us that God makes himself a child so that *we may love him*, so that we may dare to love him, and as a child, he trustingly lets himself be taken into our arms." Incredible the heart of God that he would entrust his life to us in this way.

We will hear joyfully on the morning of Christmas, "*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, "Your God is King!"*" (Is 52:7). We often speak of our faith as being *incarnational*, meaning that it is something fleshly, something we must embody—the unseen aspects of our faith and of our spiritual life must become a living force in us and through us. For someone outside of the Church to truly receive the Good News that we announce in this celebration, this Truth must inform the way we live and the way we speak. The responsibility is entrusted to **all of us** to be the feet of the Gospel and to bear the Good News in and to the world that has forgotten or neglected it.

Pope St. Paul VI describes this for us well: "The task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church. It is a task and mission which the vast and profound changes of present-day society make all the more urgent. Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. **She exists in order to evangelize**" [*or to become heralds of this message to all*]. Earlier in Advent Paul's Letter to the Romans makes this hit home for us: "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Rom 15:5-6). We are challenged by Christmas, by the Incarnation of the Lord, that each of our very lives must bear the 'fragrance of Christ' and proclaim the joy of the Gospel.

Let us not for a moment take for granted that Christmas day we celebrate the birth of our Savior who *really* took on our flesh and *really* became incarnate in the womb of Mary. We shouldn't let the sentimentality or gift-giving of this celebration overshadow the reality of this moment. Jesus bore our flesh and spent months in Mary's womb, his heart beat within her, and upon his birth God allowed himself to be completely dependent on her care. Our humanity is forever elevated because of the humility of God. The closeness of God now to us through Jesus' life in the flesh reveals to us now what is possible when the divinity of God enters *us* and transforms. When the Gospel and the Sacraments change our lives, Jesus continues his life in our flesh. He has done this from no other motivation but pure love. May the Lord richly bless you and your loved ones with joy this Christmas.

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.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

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

There are no Confessions Christmas Day or New Years, but also please remember that Fr. Foley tries to get to our Church with ample time ahead of Mass to sit in the confessional if that time is more convenient for you! He is usually there hearing Confessions by 8:35am.



Religious Education Announcements

There are no Religious Ed Classes this week, Dec. 21st Merry Christmas, or next week Dec. 28th for New Year. Classes will resume on Jan. 4th.

Lector - Dec. 21st

9:00am SJB/HT: Ashley Crisafulli

Lector - Dec. 28th

9:00am SJB/HT: Chet Wisniewski

Eucharistic Ministry

	<u>Center</u>	<u>Mary's Side</u>
December 21	Betty Warren	Mary Beth Cusano
December 28	Larry Argiro	Cathy Horton



A Family Perspective Family Life Education

The child born to Joseph and Mary was named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." Every child is EMMANUEL, reminding us "God is with us." Children are signs of God's continuing presence in our lives.

Pray For Vocations

"Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory". Christ seeks to enter into our lives. Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for his entry. Let Christ in. There is no telling where he will take you. Email: vocations@syrdio.org and follow us on Instagram [@vocationssyracuse](https://www.instagram.com/vocationssyracuse).



Reflect: Readings and Gospel

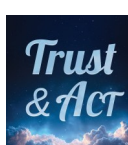
1st Reading Question: Seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah prophesies to King Ahaz that a virgin would bear a son and name him, Emmanuel ("God is with us"). When have you felt close to God this Advent season?

2nd Reading Question: Paul instructs the Roman Christians that they are "called to be holy." What do you see as some of the steps toward growing in holiness?

Gospel Question: We hear how Joseph struggled initially with the news of Mary's pregnancy. How do you discern making difficult decisions? ©LPi

Prayer For Everyday And Everybody Prayer for Advent – Miracles

Dear God, You are in the miracle business. I still believe that You can move mountains and separate seas. Break into every unknown and astound us with Your goodness and grace. Amen. ©LPi

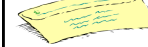


9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

December 21, 2025 - Deborah Gmyr - Janet Gmyr
Angie Banac - Twin Cousin
Francis Galimi - Twin Brother
Lauren Reid - Tim & Mary Reid
Domenico Tropepi - Wife, Maria

December 28, 2025 - Rosalie Emm - The Estate
David McLaughlin - Mother
The Emm Family - The Estate

Offering Envelopes



Sacrificial Giving

Collection Week Dec. 7th: \$3,917.00
Collection Week Dec. 14th: TBA

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
The First Transfiguration



I imagine Joseph waking up the morning after the dream, blinking in the dim half-light of the dawn.

One day, decades from now, the baby his wife carries will stand on a mountaintop. His face will shine like the sun, and those who look upon him will fall down upon their own faces in fear.

We call this the transfiguration, and Joseph won't be there to see it. But that doesn't matter. What those men will learn on the mountaintop, Joseph already knows. He learned it last night.

Today, he shrugs off the remnants of slumber and stands up.

"Rise, and do not be afraid." This is what the baby — a baby no longer, but a man now, one in the last days of his life — will say to his companions on the mountain a few decades from now. They will look up to see him standing there the same as he always was, and they will realize that he did not change at all. They did.

"Do not be afraid." This is what the angel said last night as he revealed to Joseph the will of God: that Joseph take Mary and the Child as his own, despite having so many reasons not to do so. And today Joseph wakes up and the world is the same as it always was: Mary is pregnant, and the Child does not belong to him.

No, the world has not changed. Joseph has.

He rises, and goes to Mary.

Advent is drawing quickly to a close, and Christmas is coming soon. The change is upon us. Do we rise to accept it, or do we fall on our faces in fear? ©LPi



Reflect: Readings and Gospel

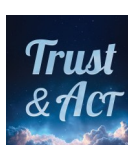
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All Faith Food Panty Giving Wagon

The Giving Wagon will end on Sunday December 28th. Thank you all for your generosity to the All Faith Food 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.

O COME
LET US
Adore
HIM.



The Nativity of the Lord

Take a moment to contemplate the symbols of the season. The crèche tells us the Gospel stories: first from Luke, which details the human birth in a lowly stable and the angels' message to shepherds; and later from Matthew, which describes the arrival of Magi who signify that God's salvation extends to all. The angels stand as heralds of the good news, an emblem for each of us on this solemn feast of our own duty to spread the message that Christ is born and saves us from our sins. The tree stands as a symbol of life, its green branches unfading even in the winter cold, just as God's life remains in us even though our human form should die. The wreath made of evergreens reminds us that God is one, without beginning or end. The candles recall the birth of him who is forever the Light of the world. Today, we celebrate the fact that God came to earth as a beautiful, innocent infant who rejects no one. We rejoice this day in the birth of Christ! And tonight, we remember that Jesus Christ came into this world quietly, humbly, and gracefully, an example of how we should live our lives.

CHRISTMAS *blessings*

Christmas

Today marks the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season. We have lighted four candles these past four weeks and asked God to help us be present to our neighbors and friends. Now in the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh to our world.

Let us pray...

God,
you became human through the obedience
of a simple young woman named Mary.

Mary is our model of faith.

May we be faithful to your word as Mary was.

Give us the courage to face each day
with the yes that Mary gave to you.

We ask this through the incarnate God,
who comes to us again during this Christmas season.
Amen.



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 Morgia, 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.**

