

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 28, 2025



From Fr. Brendan Foley

As we celebrate the Feast of the **Holy** Family, we may be very aware of how far we and our families have yet to go in living daily holiness. Some very beautiful (albeit, difficult!) practical advice for our families in our options for readings today. In Wisdom literature from Sirach: *"He who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother...Take care of your father when he is old; if his mind fail, be considerate of him;* Even St. Paul, has a fantastic mission statement for our homes: *Put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, above all put on love.*

But, to be sure, these words say nothing specific about **holiness**...anyone can do these things, you don't need to be a person of faith to take care of your parents, or to be compassionate, to forgive someone. All these are very good things and in fact we too as people of faith are supposed to do them....but is it what makes us **holy**? Again, today we have before us the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. What is it about them as a whole that makes them holy?

Observing the early parts of the narratives in the gospel accounts it seems it is their collective **faithful**, and **loving obedience** to the will of the Father is what makes their new little family **holy**. They recognize the priority of God in their life. They recognize God's purposes are more important than their own. Even when they have their plans changed, like their flight to Egypt, or the presentation of Jesus in the temple.

Mary received the message from the Angel, and her "yes" was her faith and trust that God would not leave her alone. We see the same with Joseph, obedience and trust to the messages of the Angel. He protected Mary, his wife, he brought her and the child Jesus safely away from the threat of Herod. By their actions Joseph and Mary reveal to us their willingness to be obedient and to trust God no matter what daunting or difficult situation lies before them. They come to see that it is possible for the Lord to bless them, even when it seems impossible. This posture is what holiness looks like, and the more we adopt this posture in our hearts the more we will see ourselves aware of God's constantly abiding presence.

We often hear obedience and think powerlessness, unable to do what we want to do. Or we hear obedience and think slavery. But it's quite the opposite. The root of the word obedience, Obedire in Latin means TO LISTEN. What makes the Holy Family *Holy*? Their existence is entirely one of openness to *listen* to God. So what about us? Wrapping up 2025 as a family gathered in worship. We know well that 'love'--especially within the family--is intimately tied to sacrifice. In this digital age when we are glued to phones and to the internet, we also are growing in our appreciation for what *real presence* is in relationships, and what it is not. Almost painfully made aware of this. And that's a good thing.

Faith in our family doesn't make life perfect but rather it mysteriously makes life beautifully possible. This feast offers an answer to our stressed out chaotic homes and lives: the School of Nazareth. Jesus, Mary and Joseph: they teach us that priority belongs to loving God—family is strongest, family is unbreakable **when trusting in God is our foundation**. And here, in a very unique way, the Church is always our family, especially when we gather to celebrate the Eucharist. LOVE, PRESENCE, SACRIFICE—this is the recipe for a *holy family*. And it is also happens to be what constitutes the Eucharist. A very blessed and healthy 2026 to you and your loved ones!

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

Secretary/Bulletin: Nancy Bergeson

Pastor: Fr. Brendan Foley

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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

New Year Day Mass Schedule

New Year Vigil Dec. 31st OLP/SP 4:00pm.

New Year Vigil Dec. 31st St. Anthony's 5:30pm.

New Year Day Jan. 1, 2026 SJB/HT 9:00am.

New Year's
Day Mass



Religious Education Announcements

There are no Religious Ed Classes this week, Dec. 28th Happy 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. 28th

9:00am SJB/HT: Chet Wisniewski

Lector - Jan. 4, 2026

9:00am SJB/HT: Pat Minnoe

Eucharistic Ministry

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| <u>Center</u> | <u>Mary's Side</u> |
| December 28 | Larry Argiro |
| | Cathy Horton |



A Family Perspective

Family Life Education

Today's Gospel says Joseph "made his home in Nazareth." A "home" is built on the foundation of love, commitment and a shared history and is decorated with forgiveness, acceptance, rituals, discipline and mutual support. The Holy Family challenges us today: Don't live "anyplace," live at HOME!

Pray For Vocations

"They prostrated themselves and did him homage."

The magi not only brought Christ gifts, they also brought themselves and worshiped. What part of you is Christ asking you to leave at his feet, in worship? Email: vocations@syrdio.org and follow us on Instagram [@vocationssyracuse](https://www.instagram.com/vocationssyracuse).



Reflect: Readings and Gospel

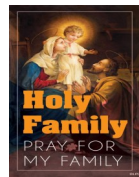
1st Reading Question: Sirach emphasizes the importance of children honoring and respecting their parents. What are some of your favorite memories of your parents?

2nd Reading Question: Paul taught the Colossians that families should show mutual respect and love toward one another. How do you encourage these virtues in your family?

Gospel Question: We hear how the Holy Family faced some very dangerous circumstances early on. Can you think of some challenges your family has had to overcome? ©LPi

Prayer For Everyday And Everybody Family Blessing

May God bless, protect, unite, mend, and renew our family. Help us to be instruments of healing and holiness, breaking generational curses, rewriting scripts, overcoming tribulation, joining in gratitude, and growing in joy ... together. Amen. ©LPi



HOLY FAMILY



9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

December 28, 2025 - Rosalie Emm - The Estate

David McLaughlin - Mother

The Emm Family - The Estate

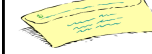
January 4, 2026 - Rosalie Emm - The Estate

Antonio McLaughlin - Mother

There will be no confessions on Wed. Jan. 14th at OLP/SP or on Thurs. Jan. 15th at SJB/HT.



Offering Envelopes



Sacrificial Giving

Collection Week Dec. 14th: \$3,462.00

Collection Week : Dec. 21st: TBA

Recognize God In Your

Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
Other Plans



I don't know exactly what kind of life Mary and Joseph envisioned when they were first betrothed — back in those simple times when they were just like any other couple who had hopes, dreams and no angels telling them what to do.

Whatever their plans were, I think it's safe to say that the future God had in store for Mary and Joseph was not one either of them expected. I would imagine they both anticipated something a little quieter. A little more stable (no pun intended). A little less tumultuous.

It exhausts me simply to read through the chaos of their movements in today's Gospel. Flee to Egypt, return to Israel (but not Judea! Herod's son is there! Divert to Galilee! Divert!). Settle in Nazareth (let me remind you, this is all happening with a baby in tow, and without the aid of a minivan). Take a deep breath, but don't get too comfortable — now it's almost time to lose your kid in Jerusalem. Then you'll have about 20 years off before he starts raising people from the dead, and that's when things start to get *really* crazy.

The story of the Holy Family is the ultimate example of the phrase "God had other plans." If any four-word sentence encapsulates what we can expect from the Christian life, it is this.

I thought I was meant for that job, but God had other plans. I thought I would live in this place, but God had other plans. I thought I was supposed to become this person, but God had other plans.

We can do all the right things. We can make all the right choices. We can say, over and over again until our voice wears out, "Thy will be done." But all we can know for sure is that God has other plans. ©LPi

All Faith Food Panty Giving Wagon



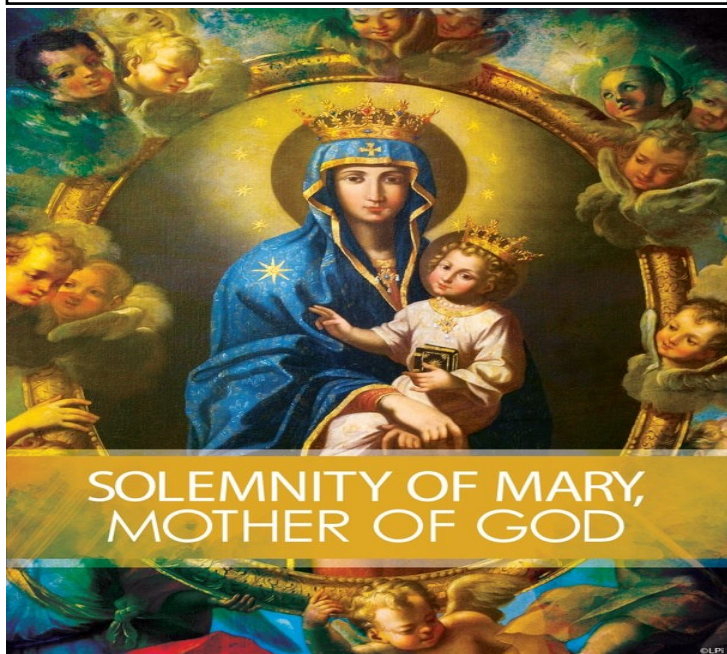
The Giving Wagon will end today Sunday December 28th. Thank you all for your generosity to the All Faith Food Wagon.

Please do continue to support the pantry with any non perishable shelf stable food items. Here is a list of the items that are appreciated. Peanut butter, crackers, jam, sauce, pasta, rice, tuna, cereal, mac & cheese, canned vegetables and fruit. The food wagons are positioned at the Park Street entrance and the parking lot entrance year round.



HOPE Appeal 2025

SJB/HT's goal this year has been set at \$16,969.00. To date SJB/HT parishioners have donated \$16,600.00 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.



She Kept All of These Things in Her Heart

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

"What was my first word? Who was there when I was born? When did I start to walk? Which toys did I play with? What made me cry when I was a baby?"

My oldest has reached the age where she has started to ask questions like this. As she grows up, she is realizing that, in order to understand the world around her, she must first understand herself. This makes her insatiably curious about her own identity, her history — her "origin story," as they say in the movies.

I've got most of it documented either in writing or in photos, but even if it's a detail that wasn't scribbled in a baby book or saved to my digital cloud, it's a memory that I can quickly summon and make real for her as we snuggle and talk about who she was, who she is, and who she may become.

I'm the mom. I have kept all of these things in my heart.

The Blessed Mother knew more about God before opening a book than most of us could discover after a lifetime of study and prayer. There is no one whose knowledge of Christ was so intimate, so deep, so simultaneously ordinary and extraordinary, as the human woman who bore him, birthed him, nursed him, raised him and eventually gave him up.

In the way that I can tell my daughter everything there is to know about the part of her life she cannot recall, Mary can tell us everything we need to know about Christ. All we have to do is ask.

Mary kept all of these things in her heart. — Luke 2:19 ©LPi

Devotions Explained

St. Gertrude's Prayer, Explained!

St. Gertrude's Prayer is a petition said on behalf of the Holy Souls of Purgatory, offering the Blood of Christ in reparation for the sins of the departed.



St. Gertrude, often called "St. Gertrude the Great," was a Benedictine nun who lived in 13th-century Saxony, present-day Germany. A mystic, she received visions of Christ beginning at the age of 25. She was also a prolific writer and devotee of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and is often invoked as an intercessor for the Holy Souls of Purgatory. Her feast day is celebrated on November 16.

The St. Gertrude Prayer reads: "Eternal Father, I offer You the most precious blood of thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, for those in my own home, and in my family. 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.**



When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. — Lk 2:21

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

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

