

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 7, 2025



From Fr. Brendan Foley

Last Sunday, St. Paul's challenge in the letter to the Romans was to "awaken from sleep" and to recognize the reality of the Lord's presence already alive and available to them as disciples *now* even as they anticipated with confidence the Lord's final coming in glory. Yes--we are likely aware of ourselves that we also could be more attentive to this reality, too, especially if we don't often take stock of the larger scope of our lives on earth and the time and gifts that have been entrusted to us. A favorite spiritual author of mine, Fr. Jacques Philippe reminds us simply, "The Lord is **always** coming, but we are not always ready to receive Him. The essential work of the spiritual life is to keep our hearts open and free so that Jesus can enter." And so enter our season of Advent. These days give us pause, they call us to again prepare for the final day of the Lord, to return to the healing mercy of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and to help us fix our gaze or reorient us toward the things that ultimately will endure. And truly we know ourselves, we know that we get distracted or busy, even with good intentions, and so the humble invitation from the Church during these brief days and weeks to us is, **let Advent *be* Advent.**

We should strive to respond to the invitation to be still, precisely stillness *with* the Lord. Our time of intentional entering into silence and prayer is not to force ourselves into an abyss of emptiness or isolation from the cares of the world, but rather to be *with* the One who alone offers us refuge and strength to then go and engage the various tasks and callings we have received. Fr. Jacques continues, "Peace of heart does not consist in having no more difficulties, but [rather] in waiting for God to act with confidence and love [as our steadfast posture]. It is the attitude of a child who knows he is loved and who waits for everything from his father." And this kind of genuine trust and confidence is precisely what St. Paul wanted to awaken in his fellow disciples. Something changes deeply within us when we live in greater awareness of the closeness of the Lord's presence, or as he described last Sunday, that the reality in which we now live is that salvation is closer to us than when we first believed. One of the many fruits of abiding *always* in this kind of trust is the unfathomable 'harmony' that St. Paul describes today in our second reading (Romans 15:4-9).

Enter today one of our pivotal Advent figures, St. John the Baptist, who also boldly proclaims this reality of the closeness of the Lord in our Gospel today: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" is what he announces. Hidden in the original Greek for "at hand" is "has drawn near" or more literally "has arrived." So John, like Paul, shakes us with an urgency that the Lord is nearer to us than we realize or have previously recognized. What changes for us in our lives if we become more attentive to the reality of the Lord's constantly "drawing near"? What are the things in our life that form obstacles that make it difficult to recognize the subtlety of his presence? **Now is the time** to make changes in our life that would lend to us recognizing more readily the desire of the Lord to maintain communion with us or offer the sweetness of his harmony with us. Thanks be to God, the constant invitation to be cleansed of the things we substitute for the Lord can be made actualized in the mercy we receive in the Sacrament of Confession--not something to be feared or ashamed of, but to be acknowledged with joy. If we humbly go before the Lord there acknowledging, yes, there are ways that I allow my heart and mind to be filled with distractions that keep me from recognizing the generous closeness of the Lord at all times (even in difficulty, grief, or illness, etc.) day by day I will gain the freedom of heart to understand the distinct urgency of St. John and St. Paul.

This is simply what I am suggesting in saying "Let Advent *be* Advent" for us. If we simply observe what the season draws forth from us, we will learn what it looks like to abide continually in a hope-filled posture of anticipation that the Lord is coming *always*, and will ultimately come again at the end of all things. Doing so, the Lord will gently remove fear and anxiety from our hearts and in their place he will restore the strength and confidence of his presence. Let's strive to better allow this work of grace to come to fulfillment in our hearts in these Advent days so that we may be moved with gratitude and overcome by the generosity of the Lord who takes the initiative to come to us and make his presence known.



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



Breakfast With Santa Today 8:00am-11:00am Join us in the Parish Center



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 and a meet and greet with Bishop Lucia.



IMMACULATA
AWARDS

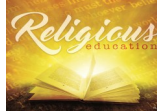


The Immaculata Award

This year the Immaculata Award is being given posthumous to **Owen Donovan**. Owen was a life long member of St. John the Baptist having attended SJBA from kindergarten through graduation in 1968. He was a Saturday Mass lector for so many years joining the Sunday lectors over the last 2 years. Owen attended a daily Mass if not here, somewhere. He was always a presence here at SJB in past years helping with all the festivals and helping with all events in setting up and taking down one table after another. Owen's wife Virginia and family will accept the award on his behalf today, Sunday Dec. 7 at 2:00pm at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception downtown.

Religious Education Announcements

There are no classes this week for Breakfast with Santa. Classes will resume on Dec. 14th. 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. 7th

9:00am SJB/HT: John Robinson

Lector - Dec. 14th

9:00am SJB/HT: Pat Minnoe

Eucharistic Ministry

	<u>Center</u>	<u>Mary's Side</u>
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

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

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



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

December 7, 2025 - Nancy Gaynor - The Family

Steve P. Taddeo - Peg & Mary

Anthony Barraco - Peter & Annette Saule

Owen Donovan - Mr. & Mrs. Michael Morga

December 14, 2025 - Owen Donovan - Joan Clark

Antonio McLaughlin - Mother

Rosaro Buccina - Timothy Erwin

John & Mildred Allen - Timothy Erwin



Sacrificial Giving

Collection Week Nov. 23rd: \$2,291.00

Collection Week Nov. 30th: \$1,918.00

Recognize God In Your

Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Culturally Catholic



Catholic culture is so thick, you could spread it on a scone. Or a baguette. Or a slice of ciabatta bread. Or naan (Wait, do you put butter on naan? I would, because I'm Midwestern, but I sense that this is, perhaps, incorrect).

Okay, maybe my comparison is imperfect, but what I'm saying is this: Catholic culture is delicious, it's versatile, and it's nourishing. It's the same everywhere, even though it also looks and feels totally unique in every place. The Day of the Dead in Mexico, Simbang Gabi in the Philippines, St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, Meskel in Ethiopia, Semana Santa processions in Spain: these are all touchstones of Catholic culture.

It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But today, when I hear John the Baptist's words to the Pharisees and the Sadducees, I am reminded that Catholicism is so much more than just cultural expression.

The Pharisees and Sadducees were loyal sons of Abraham and scrupulous observers of the law of Moses. Their culture, you could say, was strong. But John the Baptist is telling them — and he's telling us — that culture isn't enough.

Actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

It's something to remember especially as we approach Christmas, a time when culture and cultural rituals become so (beautifully) prominent. In the cultural practice of Christmas, we are like the Wise Men approaching the manger, bearing our gifts. But how terrible would it have been if the wise men had hurried away, their culture expressed, their ritual complete, and gone back to the world unchanged by the gaze of the Infant?

So be culturally Catholic. Bring these gifts to the Christ Child — but linger there. Reflect. And then when you return to the world, you will bring Catholic culture with you. ©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.

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 3:30-5:00pm.



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.syradio.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 _____



Reflect: Readings and Gospel

1st Reading Question: Isaiah foresaw God's future when the world will be ruled by a new and ideal 'King David' ("a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse") and the earth will be filled with knowledge of the Lord. What do you hope for in your future?

2nd Reading Question: Paul encouraged the community of believers in Rome to be in harmony with each other in thought and mind. Are there relationships in your life you consider to be harmonious?

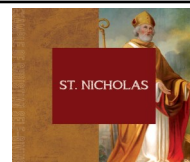
Gospel Question: John the Baptist taught the people to prepare for the kingdom of heaven by repenting of sins and producing "good fruit." What could you do this second week of Advent to make a positive impact? ©LPi



Devotions Explained

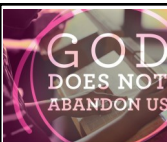
St. Nicholas, Explained!

St. Nicholas was a fourth-century Christian bishop who lived in modern-day Turkey. There is minimal historical scholarship dating to the period of his life, but stories and traditions that developed after his death emphasize his profound spirit of generosity, especially towards the poor.



One particularly famous oral tradition tells that St. Nicholas saves three young women from a life of destitution and ruin by secretly giving them a dowry so they could marry. His popularity increased in the centuries following his death, and by the medieval period he was a beloved model of Christian charity invoked in a particular way during the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

On his feast day, Dec. 6, children often wake up to find small gifts or treats in their shoes or Christmas stockings, a tradition which has variations across different ethnic groups. In the United States, St. Nicholas gift-giving practices are especially popular in places where large numbers of German and Dutch immigrants settled. ©LPi



Prayer For Everyday And Everybody

Prayer for Advent - Peace

Come, Lord Jesus! Bring your peace to our world. Inspire reconciliation, heal divisions, bind wounds, rewrite scripts. You are the Prince of Peace, bring that light into every space. 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.



2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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.