

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

January 4, 2026

Epiphany OF THE LORD



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

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

Office Hours SJB/HT

Mon.-Thurs. 9:00am-4:00pm

Friday 9:00am-2:30pm

Pastor: Fr. Brendan Foley

Secretary/Bulletin Editor: Nancy Bergeson

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

Parish Council President: David William

Trustees: Gerald Mott & John Cannizzaro

E-mail - nbergeson@syrдио.org

Web Site - www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com

Syr. Dio. Web-site - www.syracusediocese.org

Please call the rectory to arrange marriages, six months prior to date, we will provide information to you for our organist, baptisms and hospital/home visits.

Epiphany Blessing

The Epiphany household blessing is a centuries-old tradition that invokes God's blessing on all who enter one's home.

All you need for an Epiphany blessing is chalk, which is usually made available by parishes either on the feast of the Epiphany or in the weeks leading up to it. There are a few different formulas for blessings out there, but the essence of the ritual is always the same: a priest or the head of the household calls down God's blessing on the house and everyone who comes into it, and an inscription is made above the door in chalk.

The inscription reads: the first two digits of the year + C + M + B + the last two digits of the year. The initials C, M and B represent the names of the magi — Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar — and also signify the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless the house."

©LPi



From Fr. Brendan Foley

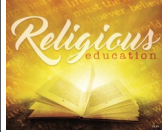
"Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory" (Isaiah 60:1-2). Remember that our celebration of Epiphany is also known as "The Manifestation" (or the manifestation of Christ to the nations). Because this day we celebrate something very profound. God is visible for all to see. He is the light to all nations. As Light, God helps us to see all things in Him, through Him, and with Him, and the light that the Lord offers is the light that best casts out all darkness! By the gifts the magi bring, we learn who this baby Jesus is. He is a King like no other King. He is a priest like no other priest. He is a victim like no other victim.

Of course we know that the gifts presented weren't very practical for a new family, new parents, or a new baby, but they give us a **glimpse of what God's earthly life will be like**. Gold for a king, frankincense for a priest, and myrrh to anoint one who is about to die. As King, Jesus will be the Good Shepherd. No ordinary king, he chooses a path of humility, willing to offer his life for his sheep—and indeed does so. As His sheep, we will always know His protection as long as we strive to hear His voice, rather than the voice of the world. As a priest, he offers the only perfect sacrifice. Like the paschal lamb, the immaculate lamb, he becomes the sacrifice. He offers his own body and blood in place of ours. His offering is not just a substitution to make reparation for us, but he offers his whole life completely, holding nothing back. As the only true high priest, he offers the once-for-all perfect sacrifice on the cross, and he opens the door to eternal life. How did the wise men know who this child was?

In the light of the star, a star that was the fulfillment of a promise through the prophets. The deep hunger and desire in their hearts led them to go. These wise men left their home, their country, everything that was comfortable for them to go in search of a God faithful to his word. They were seeking, they were courageous, and in the end they even gave of themselves to offer gifts to God. May we imitate their example and be just as reckless in our pursuit of God, knowing that God is seeking us and seeking us more than we could ever know. By the birth of Jesus, God is visible to us, God longs to be found. He wants to have room in our hearts so that He can be born into this world. I urge you to come and meet him every time you approach the altar. He constantly is here for us in the Eucharist. The Lord desires us to know his intimacy, he wants to be found. What child is this? He is Emmanuel. He is GOD WITH US.

Rectory Offices Closed

SJB/HT and OLP/SP rectory offices will be closed on Monday, January 19th in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. There is no 9:00am Mass at OLP/SP this day.



Religious Education Announcements

Religious Ed Classes resume this week. 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 - Jan. 4, 2026

9:00am SJB/HT: Pat Minnoe

Lector - Jan. 11, 2026

9:00am SJB/HT: Lisa Johnson

Eucharistic Ministry

	<u>Center</u>	<u>Mary's Side</u>
Jan. 4th	Dave William	Mary Beth Cusano
Jan. 11th	Pat Minnoe	Mary Anne Bergamo
Jan. 18th	Mary Beth Cusano	Karen Fekete
Jan. 25th	Larry Argiro	Cathy Horton



Altar Flowers

In Memory of: Mr. & Mrs. John Cifaratta Sr.,
Mr. Leonard Cifaratta & Mr. Richard Phelps
Requested by: Mr. & Mrs. John Cifaratta

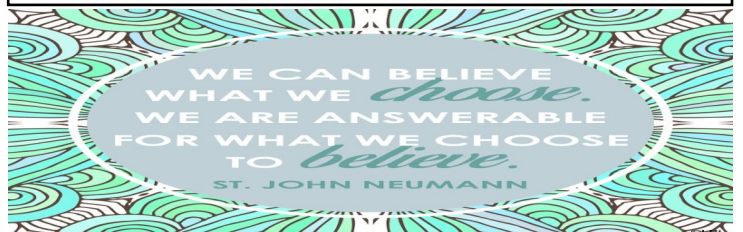
EPIPHANY



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.

Obligatory Memorial - Monday January 5th

St. John Neumann, patron saint of educators, immigrants, and sick children, was the first male saint to be canonized from the USA. An immigrant himself, he expanded Catholic education in his region from 2 schools to 100 & ministered in 6 different languages!



Live The Liturgy - Inspiration For The Week

The journey of the Magi reflects how treacherous our Christian life on earth can be. Always, evil works against us — Satan lays traps. He sows confusion. May we, like the Magi, recognize the will of God as our guiding star. ©LPi



Thank You Decorators

A very big and very appreciative Thank You to all who helped to decorate the church for Christmas 2025. Many hands made it a quick and easy job and most of all fun was had by all!

Thank you to
Rosebuds of Syracuse
who provides us with our poinsettias and wreaths.





9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

January 4, 2026 - Rosalie Emm - The Estate

Antonio McLaughlin - Mother

January 11, 2026 - Ralph Smith - The Family

Francis Galimi - Twin Brother

Emil & Mary Schnipp & Thomas C. Schnipp - Tom Schnipp

There will be no confessions on Wed. Jan. 14th at OLP/SP or on Thurs. Jan. 15th at SJB/HT. There are confessions at the Franciscan Place in the Mall Mon.-Thurs. 2:00-4:00pm.



Offering Envelopes

Sacrificial Giving

Collections for Dec. 21st, 28th and Jan. 4th will be posted in the Jan. 11th bulletin. Christmas as well.

The Three Wise Men

Question: Magi, Three Kings, Three Wise Men ...who were they?

Answer: We sing songs, give gifts, and move three mysterious men into our manger scenes. There's a rich heritage in the Catholic Church of celebrating the magi, but their origins are steeped in mystery. The original Greek calls these men magoi. The word is translated elsewhere in Scripture to mean "magician," but a similar word was used in ancient history to describe an entirely different set of people altogether. In what is now modern-day Iran, the ruling empire had a wealthy priestly caste known as the Magi. At the time of Christ, the Magi formed one of the ruling councils of the Parthian Empire. These priests interpreted dreams and read the stars to anticipate major events that could affect the fortunes of the empire.

We're not exactly sure where the magi of the Gospels traveled from. Matthew simply says "the east." History tells us that the ancient regions of Persia, Assyria, and Babylon all had a magi priesthood at the time of Christ. Whichever region they hailed from, they likely traveled over one thousand miles over the course of several months to arrive at the Holy Family. Unfortunately for the classic song, there is no concrete evidence these men were themselves kings, though they did bear gifts "from afar" at the prompting of their astronomical calculations. ©LPi



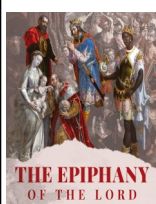
A Family Perspective

Family Life Education

Today's Gospel tells us "all of Jerusalem" was upset because "King Herod was deeply troubled." A similar ripple effect happens in families; one person's negative attitude can affect the whole family. If you want a peaceful and joyful home, it must start with you. Be peaceful and joyful!

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).



Prayer For Everyday And Everybody Epiphany Blessing

Dear God, It was You who inspired the Magi to follow the star to find You. Inspire us to seek You, as well. Bless our homes and families this season, make them places where we can encounter You through prayer and community. Amen. ©LPi



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.

Reflect: Readings and Gospel

1st Reading Question: Isaiah prophesies a coming of age when the glory of the Lord would shine upon Israel and their hearts would throb with joy. Can you share an experience that brought you deep joy and happiness?

2nd Reading Question: Paul tells the Ephesians that the Holy Spirit revealed to him that all believers in Jesus (Jew and Gentile alike) were coheirs and members of the same body. Have you ever felt like an outsider who was welcomed by others?

Gospel Question: In the story of the birth of Jesus, Matthew contrasts the fear and concern of King Herod with the joy and praise of the Magi. What feelings does the season of Christmas evoke for you? ©LPi



REMEMBER
in your prayers

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, Steven Malkoski, 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.**

Contribution Statements

If you require a SJB/HT Contribution Statement of your church donations for 2025 taxes, please contact the rectory during office hours, 315-478-0916, email at nbergeson@syrdio.org or fill in the slip below and send to SJB/HT 406 Court St. Syr. NY 13208, or, save a stamp and put your request in a plain envelope and put it into the collection basket attention "Nancy".

PLEASE DO NOT PUT YOUR REQUEST INTO YOUR CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES.

Name: _____

Address: _____

C/S/Z: _____ Envelope Number: _____