

# St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208  
Office (315) 478-0916 Fax (315) 423-8096

August 25, 2024



## 21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." - Jn 6:67-69

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

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### From Fr. Brendan Foley

It's very troubling to consider here, nearing the end of John 6, that after one of Jesus' most powerful and striking teachings, a number of his followers drop out, and say "No," "This is too hard," or "I'm done, I can't keep following," and leave everything all together. For us all these years later, the beauty and comfort of Jesus' words about himself as the Bread of Life and the revelation of his persevering love for us, matched by his desire for us to literally have divine life in us, only leave us saddened and disappointed looking down on this multitude who walked away.



Yet, without realizing it, we can often be quick to critique Jesus' audiences throughout the Gospel stories—be it these disciples, crowds, or the Pharisees and Scribes. We might imagine that we would have responded differently to Jesus' words and miracles if we were there. A common space for us to go in our heads, too, is to think that the people of Jesus' time had it easier when it comes to faith and discipleship since He was right in front of them. Unfortunately, it's not that simple. The courage to respond with trust to the person of Jesus is something that we all must grapple with, regardless of what time or age in the world we find ourselves.

At some point we must all intentionally consider who Jesus really is and whether or not I, myself, have changed to allow this truth to be the governing truth of my life. Have I actually considered the evidence? *Have I taken into my heart Jesus' own words and especially his claims about himself?* If you haven't been asked to do this before, it's never too late to do it. If we haven't been ultimately changed by Him and His love for us then it's possible we're operating just like the crowds in front of Jesus in the Gospel today who listened to his words returned to life unchanged. It's easy for us to think we would have responded differently. But what moves in our hearts when we receive the look on Jesus' face as he turns to his apostles and asks, "Do you also want to leave?" Am I also challenged?

Pope Benedict XVI: "Are we not perhaps all afraid in some way? If we let Christ enter fully into our lives, if we open ourselves totally to him, are we not afraid that He might take something away from us? Are we not perhaps afraid to give up something significant, something unique, something that makes life so beautiful? Do we not then risk ending up diminished and deprived of our freedom? . . . **No! If we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great. No! Only in this friendship are the doors of life opened wide. Only in this friendship is the great potential of human existence truly revealed. Only in this friendship do we experience beauty and liberation.** And so, today, with great strength and great conviction, on the basis of long personal experience of life, I say to you: Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return. Yes, open, open wide the doors to Christ – and you will find true life. Amen."

What does it look like for us to also live Peter's bold affirmation of Jesus and to say, "There's nowhere else to go, Lord" and firmly believe it? With the help of grace, may we all continually be drawn deeper into belief and knowledge that Jesus really is "the Holy One of God" (Jn 6:69).

#### Mass Schedule SJB/HT

Sunday - 9:00 am

Reconciliation Thursday 4:00-5:00 pm

#### Office Hours SJB/HT

Monday - Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm Friday 9:00am - 2:30pm

E-mail - [nbergeson@svrdio.org](mailto:nbergeson@svrdio.org)

Web Site - [www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com](http://www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com)

Syr. Dio. Web-site - [www.syracusedioocese.org](http://www.syracusedioocese.org)

**Pastor:** Father Brendan Foley

**Secretary/Bulletin:** Nancy Bergeson

**Senior Priest in Residence:** Fr. Lester Smith

**In Residence:** Fr. Paschal Anionye

**Music Director/Organist:** Mr. James Stanley

**Buildings/Grounds:** Robert Warren

**Religious Education:** Betty Warren

**Sacristan/Grounds:** Allan Chouinard

**Altar Server:** Benjamin Chouinard



## A Family Perspective Family Life Education

Even though many found the teachings of Jesus “difficult”, He did not back down. In our families, it is important to say what is difficult to hear, to speak the truth with kindness, to correct with love and guide with understanding.

## Pray For Vocations

“You have the words of eternal life.” Could God be calling you to be a vessel of his eternal love and wisdom that guides and inspires others? Follow Him into a life of service to others as a priest or religious brother or sister. Reach out to the Vocation Office via email: [vocations@syrdio.org](mailto:vocations@syrdio.org) and follow us on Instagram @vocationssyracuse.



## Weekly Readings And Observances Readings for the week of Aug. 25, 2024

Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 (9a)/ Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69

Monday: 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5/Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 6:17-29

Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11/Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 25:14-30

Next Sunday: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 1a/Jas 2:1-5/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/ Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

## Observances for the week of Aug. 25, 2024

Sunday: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday:

Tuesday: St. Monica

Wednesday: St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Thursday: The Passion of St. John the Baptist

Friday:

Saturday:

Next Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time ©LPi

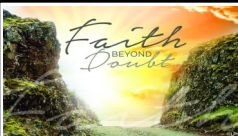
## Reflect: Readings and Gospel 21st Sunday In Ordinary Time



**First Reading:** Upon entering the Promised Land and remembering the Exodus from Egypt, both Joshua and all twelve tribes of Israel pledged their faithful to God alone. What has God done in your life that you can acknowledge and celebrate?

**Second Reading:** Toward the end of his letter to the Ephesians, Paul takes up the topic of husbands and wives. He speaks of the importance of mutual respect and love. What do you add as key parts for a successful marriage?

**Gospel:** John tells us that many of Jesus’s disciples stopped following him because they found some of his teachings too hard to accept. What keeps you following Jesus? ©LPi



## Prayer – For Everyday And Everybody Prayer of Declaration

Lord, In the season when faith is hard, help me to be as bold as Peter who picked you above all others saying, “To whom shall I go? You have the words of eternal life.” You’re my God. I’m yours. There is nowhere else I would rather be. Amen. ©LPi

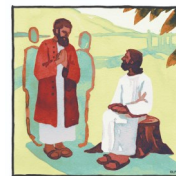
**Call the Rectory to arrange** for marriages, arrangements made six months prior to date. Contact our organist directly. Information will be provided. Call the rectory for baptisms and hospital/home visits.



## 2024 HOPE Appeal

St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Parish will be joining other parishes throughout the Diocese of Syracuse to kick off the 2024 HOPE Appeal. The appeal raises funds to cultivate Catholic leadership, advance social justice and empower parish communities. We look forward to sharing this year’s message “*Firm in Faith, Active in Charity, Together in Hope.*” For it is together we strengthen our church and serve others.

## (Practicing) Catholic - Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman To Whom Shall We Go?



A friend of mine, who is a far better Christian than I can ever hope to be, once shared with me that her family sneers at her belief system and lifestyle.

She believes in fairy tales they tell her. She’s looking for simple solutions from a kind-faced man in the sky because she doesn’t want to grapple with complicated answers to complicated problems.

Religion, they argue, is the easy way out.

As she spoke about this, her voice became unsteady. Not with anger, but with emotion. “I would never call this life easy,” she said. “If I was looking for something that was easy, I wouldn’t choose Catholicism.”

What was unspoken was *why* she has chosen Catholicism. I know the answer, but only because I know her. I knew her before she chose it wholeheartedly, and I know her now, and I see the difference. I see that these words are written so clearly across the days of her life: “Master, to whom shall we go?”

Once the truth is known in your soul, you see, it can never be unknown.

Following Christ is not about easy answers and simple teachings. Sure, it all sounds very basic: love one another as I have loved you. What could be more straightforward?

But what does that mean? What does that look like in daily, modern life, in a world full of the fallen, whose flaws have given us rough edges and weakened wills?

I’ll tell you what it looks like — it looks like a struggle. It looks like failure and mess and confusion and losing your way and finding it again, all because you remembered that within you there is a compass pointing due north. It’s a constant state of wandering in the dark, following a Voice that asks you to go where you’re afraid to go. And you follow the Voice not because it’s the only voice there is and not because it’s the voice that says what you want to hear, but because it’s the only one that speaks the truth, and the truth pulls on you in a way you can’t quite resist.

When Christ asks, “Do you also want to leave?” he is not gaslighting us. It’s a genuine question. We are free to go. We are not prisoners.

But we have heard the words of everlasting life, and now we can only have peace if we follow where they lead.

“As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” — Joshua 24:15 ©LPi






The SJB/HT rectory will be closed on Monday September 2nd in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.

**9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT**  
**Sunday August 25, 2024**  
 9:00am SJB/HT - Mae Gmyr - Pam Gmyr  
 DeDe Calkins - Rich & Susan Kane  
 Donald Bill - Mr. & Mrs. Robert Palucci & Family

**Lector Schedule - Sunday September 1**  
 9:00 am SJB/HT: John Robinson

**Sacrificial Giving**  
 Week August 18th  
 SJB/HT Collection: \$2,580.00 OLP/SP Collection: \$5,601.00

 **BAKERS**  
 Would you like to donate a baked good for the Baked Good Table at the International Festival? We Accept!! Baked goods can be dropped off on Friday October 11th during office hours 9:00am-2:30pm or the day of the event, Friday October 12th, doors will be open by 9:00am. As well we would love any volunteers to help and have fun for this event. See the post below for more information.



**International Food Festival Sign Up Form**  
**Saturday, October 12 Noon-7:00pm**  
 Show off your cooking skills; Italian, German, Polish, Mexican, etc. As in years past, if you would like to volunteer as an International Chef, you will be responsible to bring your choice of food, pre cooked, any special supplies you need, such as crock pot or electric griddle, and any decorations, if you desire, for your table. We will supply the paper products you need & plastic wear. We will offer sample size servings or full plate. Price TBA. We are very grateful for your generosity in donating your food, time and talent. We also ask that you be present or assign someone responsible for your table throughout the event.

**I would like to participate as a Chef. Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**This is my donation of food:**  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **I would like to donate to the Baked Goods Table.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I would like to volunteer my time at the event setting up on Friday Oct. 11 TBA. Name** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **In the kitchen event day.**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

You can put this form in the collection basket, if you wish drop in the mail or call the rectory. Thank you so very much.

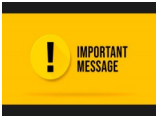
**Mass Schedule OLP/SP 315-422-7163**  
 Saturday Vigil - 4:00pm Vietnamese Mass 6:00pm  
 Sunday - 7:30am, 11:30am  
 9:30am Vietnamese  
 Monday - Thursday 9:00am in the Chapel  
 Reconciliation Wednesday 4:00-5:00pm



**Retirement Fund For Religious Collection**  
**Women and men religious offer gratitude.**

“Sincere thanks to the donors of the Retirement Fund for Religious. I hope we meet, if not in this world, then in the next,” says Sister Teresa Korycha, 81, of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. Your gift impacts over 24,000 senior women and men religious, providing them a dignified retirement. To learn how your donation helps, visit [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org). Envelopes can be found scattered among the pews and on the tables in the vestibule of the church. Or you may put your donation cash or check, payable to SJB/HT, in a white envelope with your name on the front and also include “Retirement Fund” on the envelope and or check please.

**The “Poor” Envelope**  
 We will no longer be offering the donations from the Poor envelope as a direct contribution to Fr. Paschal’s family.



**St. Elizabeth Mission Society**  
**Sunday September 1st.**

We will have a visiting missionary from St. Elizabeth Mission Society with us on Sunday September 1st to introduce us to this mission. The Mission Society’s founder, Rev. Mother Jean Marie Greeley, sought to bring their mission work of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany closer to the American people and provide permanent financial support to the ministries of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany. In partnership with its members and benefactors, the Mission Society is committed to supporting a life of service making Christ present in the World, and responding to human needs. Each year, the Mission Society provides over \$150,000 in grant funding and ongoing support to programs where the Franciscan Sisters are actively ministering to those who are poor in Jamaica, Brazil, Bolivia, Mozambique and the United States. Visit [www.FranciscanHope.org](http://www.FranciscanHope.org) for more information. **Make checks out to St. John the Baptist with memo for St. Elizabeth Mission Society please. We will forward all donations.**

“The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father.” As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. — Jn 6:63c-64a, 65-66



**Remember:** Mike Affleck, Shawn Babcock, Nancy Bailey, Jean Brooker, B.J. Bubniak Family, Arlene Bukowski, Ashley Caiello, Robert Capria, Catherine Cushman, Linda Deapo, Theresa Domathowski, Hank Donohue, Ginny & Erin Donovan, Jenny Emmi, Jon English, 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, Maria Luisi, Judy & Skip Marioritti, Michael & Darlene Morga, Diane Moro, Peggy Palerino, The Pavia Children, Antoinette Perotta, Cherie S., Faith Setzer, Marion Sherwood, Esther Sindoni, John Sobon, Patricia Soule, Timothy K. Suppes, Barbara Traino, Gerry Vaccaro, Shelly Visco, Matthew Watkins, Fred Wheeler and Maureen White. **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.**