

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity

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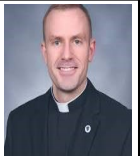
September 29, 2024



26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From Fr. Brendan Foley

Let's check in with the Catechism this Sunday... "Where does prayer come from? Whether prayer is expressed in words or gestures, it is the whole man who prays. But in naming the source of prayer, Scripture speaks sometimes of the soul or the spirit, but most often of the heart (more than a thousand times). According to Scripture, it is the heart that prays. **If our heart is far from God, the words of prayer are in vain.** (CCC2562)



The heart is the dwelling-place where I am, where I live; according to the Semitic or Biblical expression, the heart is the place "to which I withdraw." The heart is our hidden center, beyond the grasp of our reason and of others; only the Spirit of God can fathom the human heart and know it fully. The heart is the place of decision, deeper than our psychic drives. It is the place of truth, where we choose life or death. It is the place of encounter, because as image of God we live in relation: it is the place of covenant." (CCC 2563)

After hearing today's Gospel (Mk. 9:45, 47-48), we might be able to identify Jesus speaking in hyperbole. And while certainly in effect, he is employing a specific rhetorical strategy, there is a literal sense to his words. It is indeed better to enter into eternal life, into heaven, than to go off into Gehenna. This part is literally true. However, the rest of his words have another meaning. We don't have evidence of the apostles or the earliest disciples cutting off their limbs or plucking out their eyes. Why is that? They of course would have fought sin the way we all do.

Realistically the reason the apostles never did this is because they know that sin is not caused by these particular members or parts of our bodies, but rather sin comes from the heart. The eye is not the cause of one objectifying the person, but rather it is at the level of the heart that one does this. The tongue or the mouth is not the ultimate source of gossip or harsh words, but rather they come forth from the heart. The second reading from St. James is again challenging us. He uses the image of corrosion which is helpful. If we think about the various forms of media we consume all throughout the week, are there places where what we consume is having a corrosive effect on our heart? If we take in too much slander or gossip, does that not also eventually form our hearts to do the same? If the eye takes in too many visuals of violence or manipulation of others, does that not also corrode our ability to see beauty or to see others as God created them? Corrosion is something that usually happens subtly over time, but you can also see it and recognize it. It's worth asking ourselves what is corroding our hearts.

What should our response be? Both our psalm and first reading today offers a path forward answer... "The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul; the decree of the LORD is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple." We should strive to meditate on the words and teachings of the Lord—there is true wisdom. And secondly, as Moses implores, "Would that the LORD might bestow his spirit on [us] all!" Invoking the Holy Spirit more and more by simply praying quietly, "Come Holy Spirit" or "Fill me Holy Spirit," we can trust that our minds and hearts will more and more be conformed to the heart of the Lord.

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@svrдио.org

Web Site - www.stjohnthebaptist-holytrinity.com

Syr. Dio. Web-site - www.syracusedioecese.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

World Mission Sunday Collection

This collection will be taken up on Sunday October 20, 2024. "Go and invite Everyone to the banquet (Mt. 22:9). Your gift helps support, 38,140 Seminarians, 8,750 Shelters and Orphanages, 12,000 Health Centers, 844,000 Catechists and 258,540 Religious Sisters. You can find more information at: www.onefamilyinmission.org/wms.



From Assumption Church

Transitus of St. Francis (Oct 3) Thursday 7:00pm

(Traditional Franciscan service utilizing St. Francis' words preparing for his passing from death to eternal life)

Feast Day Mass (Oct 4) Friday October 4 8:30am

Blessing of Animals Saturday October 5 11:30am
(All at Assumption Church)



2025 Mass Book and Special Requests

The 2025 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.** 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.



A Family Perspective Family Life Education

The words in today's Gospel, "Whoever gives a cup of water in the name of Christ will not lose their reward" hits us at home. As parents, we gain our "reward" when we bring water to a frightened child in the middle of the night, or Kool Aid to parched five year olds, or hold ice chips to the fevered lips of a spouse. It is that simple and that sacred. In our homes, we give until it hurts "in the name of Christ."

Pray For Vocations

"Whoever is not against us is for us." Pray for your priest. They heard God calling them to the priesthood and chose to serve Christ. Now, they enrich our spiritual well being everyday in the name of God. Reach out to the Vocation Office via email: vocations@syrdio.org and follow us on Instagram [@vocationsyracuse](https://www.instagram.com/vocationsyracuse).



Weekly Readings And Observances Readings for the week of Sept. 29, 2024

Sunday: Nm 11:25-29/Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14 (9a)/
Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Monday: Jb 1:6-22/Ps 17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7/Lk 9:46-50

Tuesday: Jb 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23/Ps 88:2-3, 4-5, 6, 7-8/Lk 9:51-56

Wednesday: Jb 9:1-12, 14-16/Ps 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15/Mt 18:1-5, 10

Thursday: Jb 19:21-27/Ps 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14/Lk 10:1-12

Friday: Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5/Ps 139:1-3, 7-8, 9-10, 13-14ab/Lk 10:13-16

Saturday: Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17/Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130/
Lk 10:17-24

Next Sunday: Gn 2:18-24/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 (see 5)/Heb 2:9-11/Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-1

Observances for the week of Sept. 29, 2024

Sunday: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Priesthood Sunday

Monday: St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Tuesday: St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Wednesday: The Holy Guardian Angels

Thursday:

Friday: St. Francis of Assisi

Saturday: Saint Faustina Kowalska, Virgin; Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest

Next Sunday: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday ©LP

Reflect: Readings and Gospel 26th Sunday In Ordinary Time



First Reading: Moses hoped the Spirit of the Lord would be bestowed on all the Israelites, not limited just to the seventy elders. What are you hoping for this week?

Second Reading: James holds the rich in low regard, warning them against the trappings and dangers of excessive wealth. How are you generous toward others with your resources?

Gospel: Jesus taught his disciples the valuable lesson: "Whoever is not against us is for us." How do you promote unity rather than division at work or at home? ©LPi

(Practicing) Catholic - Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman The Angel in the Marble



If you show up to the gates of heaven completely whole, I kind of doubt you'll be let inside.

I know that sounds pretty awful, because what kind of God doesn't want all of you, exactly as you are? "Be yourself," we tell our kids. "If someone expects you to change to be their friend, you don't want to be that person's friend."

And sure, all of that is true ... to an extent. But I think if we really analyze our closest friendships, we'll see that we *have* been changed by them. We aren't the same person we were on the day we met our best friend or before we fell in love with our spouse. The good relationships should always change us, form us. They should call us to some higher plateau on the mountain climb that is life. But to be nimble enough for the climb, there will be parts of ourselves that we have to jettison — preconceived notions, prejudices, selfish tendencies, habits that we cling to like a security blanket.

This is how we become who we are meant to be: by discerning what isn't helpful and good in our own nature, and letting it go.

"I saw the angel in the marble," Michelangelo once said of his artistic process, "and I carved until I set him free."

Would it not be a terrible tragedy if we all remained shapeless hunks of marble, untouched by the chisels of experience and relationship, thinking ourselves perfect exactly as we are?

God looks at us and he sees the angel hidden in the marble, imprisoned there by the constraints of earthly life: original sin, the weakness of our flesh, the unceasing enticement of the evil one. He sees past what we need to excise, what we need to lop off, what we need to relinquish. He knows we are greatly attached to every part of ourselves, even those parts that lead us to sin.

He sees more than what is. He sees what can be.

"Cleanse me from my unknown faults!" — Psalm 19:13 ©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.

9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

Sunday Sept. 29, 2024

9:00am SJB/HT - Barbara Varre - The Family
Kevin Donovan - The Family
Rosemary Lane & Family - The Estate
Donald Bill - Mr. & Mrs. Robert Palucci

Sunday October 6th, 2024

9:00am SJB/HT - Janet William - The Family
Antonio McLaughlin - Mother
Tommasina Carfagno - Twin Brothers
Rita Carroll - Annette & Mark Hartman
Francis Galimi - Theresa & Daryl Hegarty

Lector - Sunday Oct. 6th

9:00am SJB/HT: Chet Wisniewski



Eucharistic Ministry

We have returned to using Eucharistic Ministers to help distribute the Eucharist at Mass on Sundays. If you would like to help with this, please contact Betty Warren at 315-420-6357 or email at warrenbeliz@yahoo.com.

Below is the list of ministers for October.

Center

Oct. 6th Maryann Bergamo
Oct. 13th Cathy Horton
Oct. 20th Karen Fekete
Oct. 27th Mary Beth Cusano

Mary's Side

Dave William
Larry Argiro
Joan LaVergne
Betty Warren

We have collected 65 Scratch Off Lottery Tickets to date!
Thank you to all who donated and we are still accepting Scratch Off Lottery tickets anytime between now and our International Festival October 12th.



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

Our International Food Festival will be held on Saturday October 12 from 12:00-6:00pm. And this is what you can expect to see there.

Our volunteer food servers will be offering: Samples for foods at \$1.00 and \$4.00 for available meals. **German** Sauerbraten, **Italy** Meatball Subs, **Russia** Beef Stroganoff, **Sweden** Swedish Meatballs, **Mexico** Tacos, **Italy** Eggplant Parmesan, Beans & Greens w/ Garlic Bread, **America** Chicken & Biscuits and Pulled Pork and Chili. We will serve \$3.00 Hot dog \$4.00 Hamburger w/ chips. Fried dough 1/\$2.00 6/\$9.00.

We will have a Baked Goods table. **(If you would like to donate a baked good, information above).**

We are collecting gift certificates/cards from various supporters for raffling at 1/ \$1.00, 6/\$5.00 and 15/\$10.00 and a 1/\$5.00 or 3/ \$10.00, 50/50 raffle at the end of the event.

See you all at the Festival!!



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

God Bless Our
Pastor

Prayer for Priests

Lord God, most holy, we approach you in gratitude for your holy ordained priesthood. You have called these men to be set apart and to shepherd your people, as you shepherd your entire church. We pray for them in their daily work. Grant to them an increase in spiritual gifts and grace, so they may be prepared for the tasks at hand. Lead them not into temptation and protect them from the grasp of the evil one. It is through the sacraments they confer that we encounter the divine in a real and profound way. May your church never lose sight of these, your special sons, and may we, the body of Christ, never fail to cherish the gift of their lives, which they have freely given to you and your holy church. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son. Amen.

Thank You Fr. Brendan Foley, Fr. Lester Smith and to all the priests who were a part of St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parishes

Rectories Closed

St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity and Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peters rectories will be closed on Monday October 14th in observance of Columbus Day. Please check with OLP/SP for the Monday Mass that day. 315-422-7163.



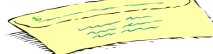
The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for:
Kevin Donovan
Requested by The Family

HOPE Appeal 2024

Thank you for your support of the 2024 HOPE Appeal. We have raised \$2,590.00 towards our goal of \$16,968.00. If you have not yet made your gift, we ask you to join us in strengthening our church and serving people throughout our diocese. You may bring your completed pledge card to Mass next week, drop it by the parish office or use the return envelope with your letter. You can also make a gift online at www.syrдио.org.



Offering Envelopes



Sacrificial Giving

Week September 22nd
SJB/HT Collection: \$1,914.00

Remember: Mike Affleck, Shawn Babcock, Nancy Bailey, 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, Luciano & Maria 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, 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.**

