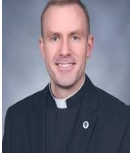


St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

Office (315) 478-0916 Fax (315) 423-8096

December 29, 2024



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.*

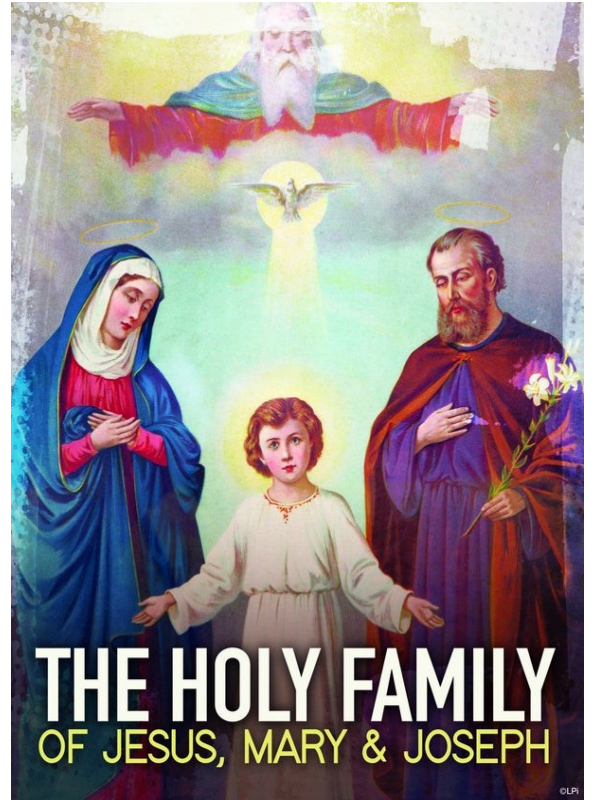
But, to be sure, these words say nothing specific about **holiness**...anyone can do these things, you don't need to be a person of faith to take care of your parents, or to be compassionate, to forgive someone. All these are very good things and in fact we too as people of faith are supposed to do them....but 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 2024 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.



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@syrdio.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

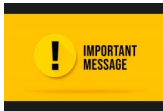
Religious Education: Betty Warren

Sacristan/Grounds: Allan Chouinard

Altar Server: Benjamin Chouinard

Please Be Aware “Do Not Park”

For your safety, we ask that you **Do Not** park along the side hill that goes up to the upper lot off of Carbon Street parking area. We had hoped the drainage grate would have been repaired by now but the contractors have not been able to get to it before winter weather. Parking is permitted along all the “Staff Only” areas in our back area.



Religious Education Announcements

There are no Religious Ed classes this week, Dec. 29th. Classes will resume on Jan. 5th. Happy New Year. We offer classes from Pre-K (4 years old) to Confirmation II. Please pray for our Students and our Teachers, that they will have a successful and enjoyable year. **If you wish to have your child participate, please call Betty Warren at 315-420-6357.**

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. 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.



Lector - Sunday January 5th

9:00am SJB/HT: Pat Minnoe



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.

Center

Dec. 29	Dave William
Jan. 1	Bob Warren
Jan. 5	Cathy Horton
Jan. 12	Karen Fekete
Jan. 19	Mary Beth Cusano
Jan. 26	Dave William

Mary's Side

Mary Anne Bergamo
Betty Warren
Larry Argiro
Allan Chouinard
Betty Warren
Mary Anne Bergamo

A Family Perspective Family Life Education

Today's Gospel contains this truth about parenting: "but his parents did not know." One of the reasons parenting is so difficult is because our children don't tell us everything. If the Holy Family had trouble with their teenager, why do we think it will be easier for us?



Pray For Vocations

"Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Even from a young age, Jesus was conscious of His Father's and mother's calls to Him, and He faithfully carried out their wishes. Is Our Father in heaven calling you to serve His house as religious brother or sister, a seacon or a priest? Reach out to the Vocation Office via email: vocations@syrdio.org and follow us on Instagram @vocationssyracuse.



Prayer For Everyday And Everybody Prayer for Family

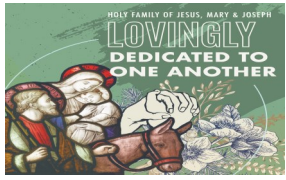
Dear God,
Help my family to be holy, too! Amen. ©LPi



9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT Sunday December 29, 2024

9:00am SJB/HT - Brian D. Mingoelli, Sr. - The Family
Sunday January 5, 2025
9:00am SJB/HT - Donald Fox - William Koslowski

(Practicing) Catholic - Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman Where is Jesus?



Every mother who has ever lost sight of her child in a crowd, even for a few seconds, knows the panic.

I think of Mary living with that level of anxiety for three straight days. I doubt she slept, but I'm sure Joseph forced her to lie down at night, imploring her to think of her health, to rest while he kept on searching the streets of Jerusalem. I imagine her lying there, eyes open and staring at the ceiling. Mary, full of grace. Mary, spotless of sin. Weeping in the dark, whispering, "Where is he?"

It's an experience that we all have at one point or another. Running through the world, desperate and confused, just trying to find God and failing so miserably that we wonder if He's purposefully eluding us.

If Mary couldn't even find Him, do we stand a chance?

Why didn't Mary think to look in the temple? She had wisdom beyond anyone else who ever lived, at least when it came to Jesus. But I think God purposefully dropped a veil over her reasoning for these three days, so that He could show us it's okay to lose our way.

He isn't eluding us. In fact, He's trying to make it easy. He's staying put, in one place, the very place we should know to look. But the streets of our life are so crowded and loud, so full of distraction.

The Christmas season is about God revealing to us who and what and where He is. He has told us. The question is, have we listened? ©LPi

Reflect: Readings and Gospel The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

First Reading: In gratitude to the Lord, Hannah returned the gift of her son, Samuel. Is there a gift from the Lord for which you are particularly grateful?

Second Reading: As children of God, John teaches us that believers should love one another and believe in the name of Jesus. In addition to faith and love, what else do you think unites us as children of God?

Gospel: Luke presents an anxious experience that Mary and Joseph had as parents raising the young boy, Jesus. Do you recall a time when your parents were worried or anxious about you?
©LPi



January 1, 2025

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
**COVER US
WITH YOUR
MANTLE OF LOVE**



New Year Masses

December 31, 2024 Vigil Masses
OLP/SP Church: 4:00pm
January 1, 2025 New Year Day Masses
SJB/HT Church: 9:00am (Lector needed please)



HOPE Appeal 2024

Thank you for your support of the 2024 HOPE Appeal. We have raised \$17,183.33 passing 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 completer 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.syrdio.org.

Sacrificial Giving

Week Dec. 8th
SJB/HT Collection: \$2,674.00
Week Dec. 15th
SJB/HT Collection: \$3,474.00



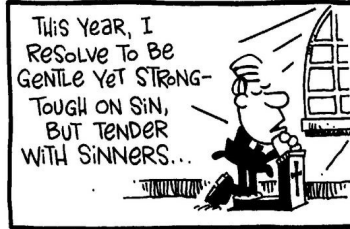
Not finding [Jesus], they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. — Lk 2:45-47

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

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

New Year




Rectory Closed

SJB/HT and OLP/SP rectories will be closing at 12:00 Noon on Tuesday December 31st and closed on Wednesday January 1, 2025. Happy New Year!

**Prayer – For Everyday And Everybody
Prayer for the New Year**

Dear Lord, With thanksgiving we entrust our year to You: whatever it holds, whoever we encounter, wherever we traverse. What You supply is gift. May our comings and goings be aligned with Your will. Amen. ©LPi

GIANNA BERETTA MOLLA

St. Gianna Beretta Molla (1922-1962) is the first woman doctor and working mom to be canonized. During her last pregnancy, a uterine tumor was surgically removed so she could bring her daughter into the world, even at the expense of her own life.



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, Patrick St. Thomas IV, 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.**

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.