

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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

February 2, 2025



From Fr. Brendan Foley

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord...this moment is one of the joyful mysteries of the rosary, and reflecting on this mystery we can recall that “the fruit of this mystery is **Obedience**.” So when we reflect on this memory from Jesus' life and the life of Mary and Joseph we are drawn to consider humility of heart before what the Lord asks of us, and what that looks like in each of our lives. We find the Presentation of Jesus to be a **joyful** mystery, though, which might be interesting for us.

Why is *obedience* the fruit of reflecting on this moment, and how does obedience lead us to joy? Mary and Joseph were following the prescriptions of the law. They were doing what was expected of them in the eyes of God, *every first-born male must be consecrated to God* (cf. *Leviticus 12:2-8, Ex 13:2,12, 1 Sam 1:24-28, Num 3:47-48*). So where is the joy? As we are diligent in striving to live the commands of the Lord, in accepting his invitation to life, we are given the assurance of God's presence, fidelity, and his blessings. The Lord always transforms us through our simple and faithful obedience.

While it might be hidden, this event is overflowing with meaning, and the earliest disciples in the Church loved to ponder and write about it, so much so, that these words of Simeon of having seen the glory and promise of God fulfilled before his eyes (Lk 2:29-32) are prayed EVERY DAY in the Church in the Liturgy of the Hours. In fact, these words are so pivotal that they are incorporated into Night Prayer—what is the symbolism? Among the very last words on one's lips each day is Simeon's response to having encountered the Incarnate Lord and a readiness to pass from this life to eternal life. Beautiful! Simeon's words recognize life as pure gift, and that God is always faithful to his word, and always accompanying us, even if our day doesn't appear to go as planned. So yes, I would very much agree that these words **must be on our lips daily**—even better if they are the last words we say each day, potentially the last words we utter in this life, should we ever go home to the Lord in our sleep.

Consider this reflection from Origen (d.~254) an early disciple in the history of the Church: “*Simeon knew that no one could release a man from the prison of the body with hope of life to come, except the anointed One whom he enfolded in his arms. Hence he also says to him, “Now you dismiss your servant, Lord, in peace. For, as long as I did not hold Christ, as long as my arms did not enfold him, I was imprisoned and unable to escape from my bonds.” This is true not only of Simeon but of the whole human race. Anyone who departs from this world, anyone who is released from prison and the house of those in chains, to go forth and reign, should take Jesus in his hands. He should enfold him with his arms and fully grasp him in his bosom. Then he will be able to go in joy where he longs to go. ...*

Then he entered the temple—but not by chance or naively. He came to the temple in the Spirit of God. ... If you wish to hold Jesus, and to embrace him with your hands, and to be made worthy of leaving prison, you too must struggle with every effort to possess the guiding Spirit. Just come to God's temple. See, you stand now already in the temple of the Lord Jesus, his church. This is the temple built from living stones.”

As we come before the Lord into his sanctuary this day to again behold Him, may we respond to his embrace of us and trust that when we are obedient to following in the footsteps of his life, he will lead us safely to eternal life!

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@syrдио.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

Lector - Sunday February 9

9:00am SJB/HT: Owen Donovan

Eucharistic Ministry

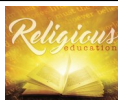
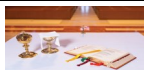
If you would like to help as a Eucharistic Minister, contact Betty Warren at 315-420-6357 or email at warrenbeliz@yahoo.com.

Center

Feb. 2 Larry Argiro
Feb. 9 Allan Chouinard
Feb. 16 Betty Warren
Feb. 23 Mary Anne Bergamo

Mary's Side

Cathy Horton
Karen Fekete
Mary Beth Cusano
Dave William



Religious Education Announcements

Please pray for our students as they continue their education. Please especially pray for our 2 Confirmation II students who will be confirmed on April 5th.

If you wish to have your child participate, please call Betty Warren at 315-420-6357.

A Family Perspective Family Life Education

Family life provides opportunities to grow in holiness. We are never perfect on this side of Heaven. Each of us has areas that could be presented to the Lord for purification. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your family in finding those areas and offering them to God.



Pray For Vocations

Both Simeon and Anna waited and prayed in the temple for the coming of our Lord. Upon seeing Him, they proclaimed His presence and the work He came to do. They were the first of many faithful witnesses to Christ. How is God calling you to be a witness to Him? Possibly as a religious, a priest or a deacon? Reach out to the Vocation Office via email: vocations@syrдио.org and follow us on Instagram @vocationssyracuse.

Wildfire Relief

We are all aware of the devastating wildfires burning in the greater Los Angeles area and through the Diocese of Syracuse you can make a "safe" donation that will be used to help in many ways. You can support the displaced with a contribution put directly into the collection basket. **Make checks payable to The Diocese of Syracuse and write Wildfire Relief in the memo.** Your checks will be forwarded to the Diocese and then the funds will go directly to the Catholic Charities Relief Fund. Please keep the first responders working tirelessly and all those displaced due to this tragic fire.



Reflect: Readings and Gospel

Gospel Question: Mary and Joseph received incredible news from Simeon and Anna about the infant Jesus at his presentation in the Temple. Who helps you process startling or unsettling information?

1st Reading Question: Malachi prophesied a coming messenger who will purify those making offerings to the Lord. How do you prepare for Sunday worship?

2nd Reading Question: Hebrews teaches that Jesus was tested and suffered so that he could be merciful and understanding with our struggles and challenges. What are you facing this week that Jesus could help you with ©LPi



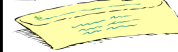
9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

Sunday February 2, 2025

9:00am SJB/HT - Jack Wall - Jerry Mott
Antonio McLaughlin - Mother

Sunday February 9, 2025 - Rosario Buccina - Timothy Erwin
John & Mildred Allen - Timothy Erwin

Offering Envelopes



Sacrificial Giving

Week January 26th
SJB/HT Collection: \$2,046.00

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in memory of
Joan Schreyack
Requested by **Max and Karen**



Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini Reflection: The oldest trick of the devil is to distract us from thinking about our hearts. It's not hard for him to do, there are so many other things we could be doing. So, do we have the courage to look to our own hearts, to come face to face with our own choices, our own true selves?



The Thoughts Of Many Hearts

When Simeon cradles the infant Messiah in his arms, he speaks of salvation and glory and revelation. He speaks of his own death. He speaks of the fulfillment of God's promise to all people.

But most memorable, in my opinion, are his words about the hearts of men. This Child, he says, will be the way "the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Perhaps you're like me. Perhaps you don't enjoy scrutinizing yourself, your actions, your intentions. You don't like reflecting on why you feel or react the way you do, and you really don't enjoy measuring those feelings and reactions against what you know they could be.

It's exhausting to sit with God, your heart in your hands, both of us looking at it, talking about it. So far too often, I opt out.

The oldest trick of the devil, you see, is to distract us from thinking about our hearts. It's not hard for him to do. There are so many other things I could be doing, after all. Answering emails. Catching up on laundry. Scrolling Facebook. Worrying about inflation and the election. Stressing about my kid's dance recital and next week's busy schedule.

But where is God truly at work? Where is the place God will point to, when my life on Earth has come to its close?

It is the very depths of my heart. The place where I am my most authentic self, for better or worse. The place where all my pretensions crumble away, and I am alone with the truth of who I am and what I choose to do.

Am I brave enough to look into the depths of my own heart?
©LPi

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD



3 TIPS FOR HAVING A GOOD CONFESSION EXPERIENCE

CONFESSION TIP 1

Look up confession times before you go and make a plan so you aren't rushed.



CONFESSION TIP 2

Write down what you want to confess and any prayers you don't have memorized so you don't forget in the moment.



CONFESSION TIP 3

Be humble, sincere, and entire. These are the chief qualities of a good confession.



WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

God of all goodness, you have called people to follow you faithfully. Humans have heard that call and many choose to follow your call in varied and faith-filled lives. Some follow your call in private, silent lives as hermits; some choose to follow you with lives lived as virgins and widows; while others choose public lives of vowed men and women as religious brothers and sisters. Abundantly give to these men and women the courage to follow their call as witnesses to your gifts and faith and service to the world. We ask this in faith through the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

Prayer For Everyday And Everybody Prayer of Faith

Dear God, Open my eyes to Your movement in my life. And, even when I don't see it or don't understand, help me to rely on the promises of Your love and mercy. Amen.

Contribution Statements

If you require a SJB/HT Contribution Statement of your church donations for 2024 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: _____

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

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.



Parishioners, please look through the prayer list and let me know if anyone should be removed as well as added. Thank you very much,,,,, Nancy



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.**

