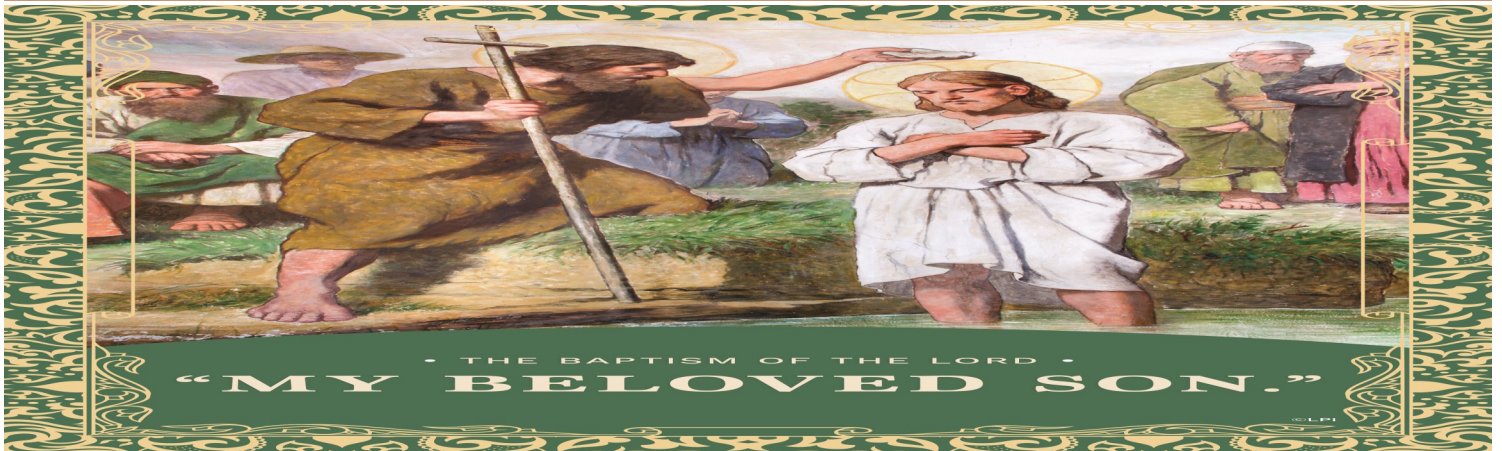


# St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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

January 12, 2025



## From Fr. Brendan Foley

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, a feast that keeps us connected to the Epiphany celebrated last Sunday. Something incredible happens at the moment of Jesus' Baptism as he was praying: heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Like the Epiphany, we are drawn into the mystery of who Jesus is, and the incredible goodness we have in God manifesting this truth and choosing to reveal himself and the mystery of the Trinity.

We might be tempted to wonder, why now? Why in this particular moment of Jesus' life does God the Father choose to make this declaration? The explanation lies in Jesus' purpose in coming to John and being baptized by him. John, we know, is preaching a baptism of repentance. At first John tries to prevent Jesus, but he insists. And Jesus' insistence expresses what he intends: he means to stand in solidarity with sinners. He means to be where they must be. The same thing is expressed by the Apostle Paul using a different kind of language: "He who knew no sin became sin for our sake" (2 Cor 5:21).

And it is precisely in this moment of intense solidarity with sinners that this immense trinitarian epiphany takes place. The Father's voice thunders from heaven, declaring, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." And we must understand that what pleases the Father is precisely the Son's willingness to stand in solidarity with sinners. In this way he shows himself to be the Son of this Father, this Father "who so loved the world that he gave to it his only Son" (Jn 3:16). In the same instant, the Spirit appears like a dove descending upon the Son, as if to redeclare in the presence of all around, his true identity marked by this seal of the Spirit.

The same Spirit accompanied Jesus in every moment of his earthly existence, shaping each of his actions into a revelation of his Father. Thus, we can hear this morning's text from the prophet Isaiah as an expansion within the heart of Jesus on the Father's words "You are my beloved Son." Their loving dialogue continues: "You are my chosen one with whom I am well pleased, upon whom I have put my Spirit ... I the Lord have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness."

Jesus' baptism is the pattern also of ours. In baptism we go down with Christ into the waters of death, and our sins are drowned in those waters. And because we have gone down with Christ, we also come up from the waters together with him and hear – mighty and majestic – the Father's voice directed to us as well. It pronounces a new name for each of us, in the depths of each of our hearts: "Beloved! In whom I am well pleased." We hear this name as ours not because of any good deeds we have done but because Christ in his overflowing love willed to share his relationship to his Father with us. May we recall this day anew the tremendous gift we have received in our Baptism and be set free to live our baptismal identity as beloved sons and daughters of the heavenly father. Through baptism we are incorporated into the family of God, we have firm hope for eternal life, divine grace can now set us free from whatever binds us, and our eyes and hearts are opened to Truth, and we may forever follow the light of 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](mailto:nbergeson@syrдио.org)

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

Syr. Dio. Web-site - [www.syracusedioecese.org](http://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 January 19th

9:00am SJB/HT: Ashley Crisafulli

### 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](mailto:warrenbeliz@yahoo.com).

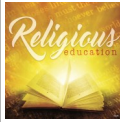
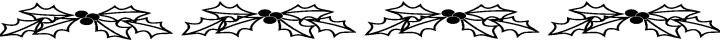


#### Center

Jan. 12 Karen Fekete  
Jan. 19 Mary Beth Cusano  
Jan. 26 Dave William

#### Mary's Side

Allan Chouinard  
Betty Warren  
Mary Anne Bergamo



### 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. There are no Religious Ed. Classes next week, Jan.

19th, for Martin Luther King Day.

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

### 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.



### 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. If you would like us to mail the ornament, anywhere, there is a

\$5.00 mailing fee added. 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.

### A Family Perspective Family Life Education

In today's Gospel Jesus was publicly affirmed by his Father: "You are my beloved son, with you I am very pleased." As parents we can become so focused on misbehaviors we overlook the good behaviors. Jesus needed affirmation and so do our children.



### Pray For Vocations

From Isaiah, we read of the Lord's chosen one, upon whom His Spirit rests, to bring justice to the nations.

You are chosen by the Lord, but to do what? If you

believe it could possibly be to give your life as a religious, a priest or a deacon, reach out to the Vocation Office via email: [vocations@syrдио.org](mailto:vocations@syrдио.org) and follow us on Instagram @vocationssyracuse.

### Prayer For Everyday And Everybody Prayer for Baptism

Oh God,  
You desire each of us to be a part of Your sacred family, called and invited into relationship with You. May the grace of our Baptisms surround us anew, who are beloved and chosen by You. Amen. ©LPi



### 9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

Sunday January 12, 2025

9:00am SJB/HT - Ralph Smith - The Family  
Giuseppe Migliore - The Family

Sunday January 19, 2025

9:00am SJB/HT - Vincenzo Abbatiello - The Family  
Concetta & Pasquina Bruno—The Family

### (Practicing) Catholic - Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Mini Reflection:** It makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. But the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow.



### Beneath the Surface

When I was seventeen, I wasn't sure that I wanted to be confirmed. It was a rough period in my life, and I was having some intense questions and doubts. It upset my mother, understandably. She knew that, at such a pivotal and difficult moment, I needed the grace of the sacrament more than ever. So, she called our priest and asked him to talk to me.

After that meeting, I made the decision to be confirmed.

To be honest, I can't remember anything he said to me. All I remember is that he sat with me. He listened to me. He let me talk and talk and talk (and cry). And when he said whatever he said, whatever it is that I cannot remember, it was obvious that he had listened to me.

Reading today's Gospel, it makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. Of course it seemed natural that he would be "the one." The one they were all waiting for.

But instead, the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow — and in doing so, he sanctified it. He made it a means of redemption.

Jesus is our Savior, yes. When we dig ourselves a hole of sin and confusion and we can't climb out, he is the one who brings us back to the surface. But he doesn't pull us out; he lifts us. He jumps down into the pit. He looks around. He offers his hand, gives us a leg up, and by his strength and not our own, we are brought back into the light. ©LPi



### Reflect: Readings and Gospel January 12, 2025 Baptism of the Lord

**Gospel Question:** The Holy Spirit affirms Jesus as the Christ, the beloved Son of God. When do you sense the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?

**1st Reading Question:** The prophet Isaiah brought words of comfort and hope from God to the Israelites exiled in Babylon. Is there someone in your life who needs hope for the future?

**2nd Reading Question:** Paul challenged Titus to reject godless ways and worldly desires. Do you have any family or friends who consider a role model in living an exceptional life? ©LPi



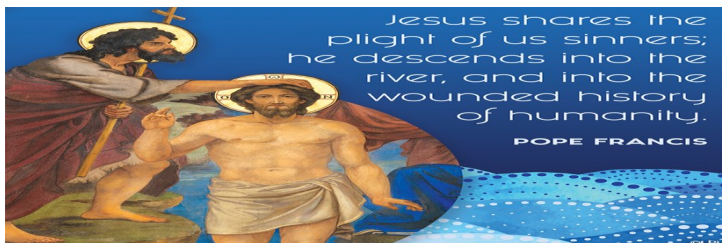


### Christmas Flower Request

Requested for: The Deceased members of the DeMauro & Mignacca Families  
Requested by: The Barraco Family

### Coat Donation

Gently used winter coats are being collected by the NEHDA, North East Hawley Development Association, and you can help with any coats unused in your closets. They also participate with the needs of the northside. We will have a donation box in the Park Street vestibule for collection. Deadline is January 26th. Check out the flyers on the Church bulletin boards for information as well. These coats will be distributed to those in need of winter warmth.



*After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. — Lk 3:21-22a*

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



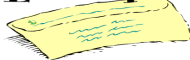
### HOPE Appeal 2024

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](http://www.syrdio.org).

### Sacrificial Giving

Week Dec. 22nd  
SJB/HT Collection: \$1,998.00  
Christmas Eve and Day Collection: \$5,152.00  
Week Dec. 29th  
SJB/HT Collection: \$1,698.00  
Week Jan. 5th  
SJB/HT Collection: \$3,733.00  
Christmas Flowers for the Altar Collection: \$1,573.71

### Offering Envelopes



**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 at this time.** 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.

### 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](mailto: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

### Baptismal Bib

#### Question:

At my grandson's Baptism, the priest put a bib on the baby. I do not remember seeing this before. Why is this done? Is it something new?



#### Answer:

When an adult is baptized, there is a part in the ceremony when the newly baptized is vested in a white garment. It is symbolic of the changes that baptism brings in the life of the baptized as they are freed from the bonds of sin and brought into the saving grace of Christ. Realities that are so profound are symbolically presented so that we might better grasp and understand them.

Infants are often dressed in a baptismal dress, which is the baptismal garment. In some places, the bib is used as a kind of baptismal garment. At the place in the ceremony where the investiture takes place, the bib is used. Some are poncho-like and fit over the baby's head. Others are simply placed on the baby's chest. If the baby is dressed in a white garment, nothing else is needed. The prayer says it all: "See in your white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity ... bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven." In baptism, we are given our purpose and goal in life as believers and this is symbolized by the white garment. ©LPi



**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.**

**FYI - We are still in need of men and women who might be interested in helping serve during funeral.**

**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.