

# St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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

January 26, 2025



## From Fr. Brendan Foley

**Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life!** (Psalm 19). On September 30, 2019, the feast of St. Jerome (d. 420), Pope Francis shared with the Church his desire for the third Sunday in Ordinary Time each year to be a day dedicated “to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God.”

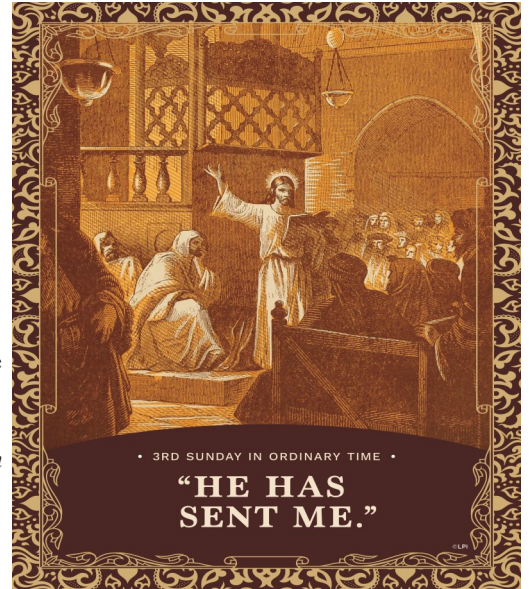
Appropriately chosen on that day because St. Jerome most famously reminds us of a deep truth which he allowed to govern his life: “Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.”

If we want to grow deeper in our relationship with the Lord and better know who he is and how to recognize his voice, we might consider how much time we sit with His Word before our eyes, minds, and heart open to receive. Because there, in that space, we come into direct contact with God’s self-revelation. Dei Verbum is a treasured document of the church that explains what it means for God to make himself known to us in the Scriptures: *“For in the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven meets His children with great love and speaks with them; and the force and power in the word of God is so great that it stands as the support and energy of the Church, the strength of faith for her sons, the food of the soul, the pure and everlasting source of spiritual life. Consequently these words are perfectly applicable to Sacred Scripture: “For the word of God is living and active” (Heb. 4:12) and “it has power to build you up and give you your heritage among all those who are sanctified”.* Every time the word of the Lord is open before us, his words (living and active!) provide us with consolation and direction needed for **today**.

We will hear throughout all of 2025 about how this is a **Jubilee Year**, and that we are being called to live as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’. A jubilee year is a year that has been consecrated or set apart as “sacred time” for drawing all into the good news of the Gospel, in particular to renewed efforts for reconciliation and mercy, with reorientation toward everlasting hope. Roots of this celebration date back to the Book of Leviticus, and really the significance of the Jubilee encapsulates the overarching narrative of the bible, and God’s purpose for our relationship with him: **setting the captives free**. It is no accident that Jesus in the Gospel today picks up this particular scroll to read before all gathered in the synagogue and proclaims that the very message of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah that he is reading is to be fulfilled before their very eyes in HIM! What is the promised fulfillment he offers? *“Glad tidings to the poor...liberty to captives...sight to the blind...freeing the oppressed...a time acceptable to the Lord”* (cf. Luke 4, Isa 61)

The eyes of all gathered around are intently on Jesus as he makes this known. Their familiarity with this passage would have been boldly present in their minds, and the implications are significant because there is something new here. This passage of Isaiah directs us to the last portion of his book dedicated to the messianic fulfillment and restoration of hope for God’s people returning from the long journey of exile...and Jesus’ audience would have known and recognized this in connection to the legal observance of the Jubilee (which entails mercy in the form of freedom of slaves, returning of inheritance/property, etc.), but because of the radicality of the claim that Jesus himself would embody this in their midst, in their disbelief they force Jesus out of the temple. Jesus stood before them to declare he is the Lord who alone has the power to set free and to show mercy, and that to him belongs the hope of eternal life--yet he was rejected.

Growing in familiarity with God’s word invites us daily, and deeper into the heart of God. What does it say about the heart of God for us, if he is solely intent on offering his very life for us to have eternal access to him to liberate us from our captivity or enslavement to sin, or to give us renewed sight, or to instill within us eternal hope? How will you respond? May our hearts be fertile soil to receive the seed of God’s word planted anew within us, and may this jubilee year be a merciful one in which our lives are transformed into signs of hope leading others to the joys of eternal life. **Your words, Lord, are Spirit and 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 February 2

9:00am SJB/HT: Cathy Schotthoefler

## 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).

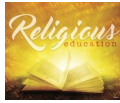


### Center

Jan. 19	Mary Beth Cusano
Jan. 26	Dave William
Feb. 2	Larry Argiro
Feb. 9	Allan Chouinard
Feb. 16	Betty Warren
Feb. 23	Mary Anne Bergamo

### Mary's Side

Betty Warren
Mary Anne Bergamo
Cathy Horton
Karen Fekete
Mary Beth Cusano
Dave William



## Religious Education Announcements

Religious Ed classes resume this week. 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.

## Alter Server Information

Looking for Altar Servers who have made their First Communion. There will be a training session with Fr. Foley on Saturday, February 1st at 2:00pm in the Church. Please call Betty Warren at 315-420-6357 if your child(ren) is interested.



## A Family Perspective Family Life Education

In today's Gospel Jesus was 'praised by all' except at home in Nazareth where the "eyes of all were intently on him." Acceptance can be hard to find at home due to unreal expectations. Jesus challenges us to "proclaim liberty" to anyone "oppressed" or "captivity by our expectations."

## Pray For Vocations

Jesus read the passage from the scroll that said the Spirit of the Lord is upon Him to do the Lord's work for all of us. Is He calling you to do the same work for your brothers and sisters as a priest, deacon or religious? Reach out to the Vocation Office via email: [vocations@syrdio.org](mailto:vocations@syrdio.org) and follow us on Instagram



## All Faith Food Pantry Message

Thank you for your support of All Faith's Food Pantry. The most recent donations of personal hygiene during the Christmas season, were especially appreciated. We are always grateful and appreciative of your generosity throughout the year. Thank you!!!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring glad tidings to the poor...  
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.

— Lk 4:18a, 19

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



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

Sunday January 26, 2025

9:00am SJB/HT - Debbie Greenfield - The Family

Sunday February 2, 2025

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

Antonio McLaughlin - Mother

## Offering Envelopes



## Sacrificial Giving

Week January 19th

SJB/HT Collection: \$1,884.00

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

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman  
These Evil Days



"Alas, that these evil days should be mine."

If you've ever seen "The Lord of the Rings," you might recognize this quote from "The Two Towers." The words are spoken by King Theoden at the grave of his only son and heir, as Theoden contemplates the coming war for Middle Earth, a war which has already claimed the life of his son, a war he wants no part of, a war that seems utterly hopeless and unwinnable.

*These evil days.*

You don't have to be a fantasy enthusiast or even a Tolkien fan to identify with Theoden here. We have all experienced this same feeling of despair, perhaps increasingly in this age of technology and social media, when the ills of the whole world — violence, injustice, moral disorder and chaos — are in our faces, on our phones, looming over our days.

But when we despair like this, we forget an important truth: this is the time of fulfillment, and we are lucky enough to be living through it.

Yes, the world is broken. It was broken two thousand years ago, too, when Jesus stood up in the synagogue on the Sabbath and read the words of the prophet Isaiah: "He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives...and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."

Jesus didn't come to fix the brokenness of the world. He came to fix *our* brokenness. He offers us not relief from the trials of life, but an answer to the question of how to live in joy, in love and in purpose in the midst of these evil days. ©LPi



## Reflect: Readings and Gospel

**Gospel Question:** We hear how Jesus began to reveal his true identity as Israel's long-awaited Messiah in his hometown of Nazareth. Have you ever received news that you thought was unbelievable? What was it?

**1st Reading Question:** Ezra and Nehemiah (the religious and political leadership of the day) grounded their work in Scripture. How does Sacred Scripture guide your life?

**2nd Reading Question:** Paul uses the human body as an analogy for the many and varied parts of the Christian community. What role would you like to have in your parish? ©LPi



### HOPE Appeal 2024

Thank you for your support of the 2024 HOPE Appeal. We have raised \$18,153.33 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).

### 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.



### Prayer For Everyday And Everybody Prayer of Mission

Spirit of the Living God, Anoint me to bring your love, light, and freedom to the places you call. From the heights to the depths: you are there, you are actively moving, and when you call, you will also provide. Amen. ©LPi

### Examination of Conscience

Examination of Conscience, Explained In Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians, the apostle writes that it is imperative for a Christian to reflect on his conscience before he partakes of Holy Eucharist: “Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup” (1 Corinthians 11:28). The practice of examining one’s conscience before seeking the Sacrament of Reconciliation thus dates to the very beginning of the Christian faith and was encouraged as a regular practice by many saints and founders of religious orders as a means of growing in virtue.



An examination of conscience, when it relates to the sacrament, simply means reflecting on one’s actions (and particularly the intentions behind those actions) since the penitent’s last absolution, making note of lapses in judgment that should be confessed. A good basis for this reflection can be the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and the seven deadly sins. ©LPi  
**SJB/HT Confessions: Thursday’s 4:00-5:00pm**

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

### St. Blaise | February 3 Blessing of the Throats

You may be familiar with the annual “blessing of throats” that many parishes in the United States use to commemorate the beloved bishop and martyr. St. Blaise lived in the fourth century in Turkey and Armenia. Due to religious persecution, he was forced to flee and hide in a cave in the back country in order to save his life.

History has it that one day a group of hunters stumbled upon where St. Blaise was living. They found the bishop kneeling in prayer, surrounded by wolves, lions, and bears that he had tamed. The legend has it that as the hunters dragged Blaise off to prison, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise’s command, the child was able to cough up the bone and thus lived.

Today we remember the saint on his feast day by taking two candles, crossing them against the throat, and saying the following prayer:

**Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. ©LPi**



**\*\*\*\*A general Blessing of the throats will be on Sunday February 2nd during Mass or if you prefer Fr. will bless throats after Mass\*\*\*\***

**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.**

### 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.