

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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

February 16, 2025



From Fr. Brendan Foley

“Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord. He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream: it fears not the heat when it comes; its leaves stay green; in the year of drought it shows no distress, but still bears fruit” (Jeremiah 17:7-8—our 1st Reading today). A vivid metaphor for us of what it looks like to live life nourished by grace. At the same time this image is contrasted with that of a barren desert, or like something trying to grow in an uninhabitable land, and equates this to one who decides to trust rather in one’s self, in human beings, or in the fleeting consolation of merely earthly things (Jer. 17:5-6).

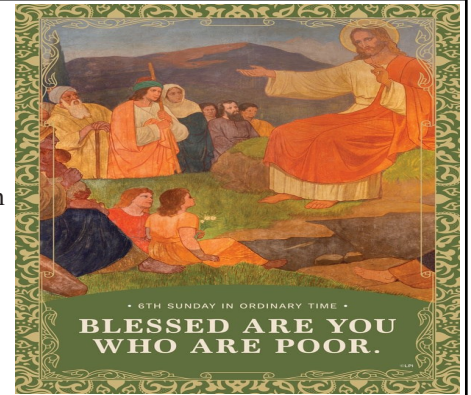
In John’s Gospel, Jesus offers an invitation and a similar reminder: “Let anyone who is thirsty, come to **me**, and let the one who believes **in me** drink... ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’ Now he said this about the Spirit which believers in him were to receive” (John 7:37-39). “[W]hoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (John 4:14).

Flowing water and abundant life is one way Jesus chooses to reflect to us the spiritual life and his gift of the Holy Spirit. We wrestle (probably daily) as his disciples with the choice to live life in the Spirit and to avoid succumbing to living solely for ‘the flesh.’ St. Paul, of course, picks up on this struggle and shares from the vulnerable place of his heart. He says he often faced every kind of difficulty in striving to live in the Spirit. He describes his own spirit as being ‘willing’ to follow after the good, but his own flesh is too weak on its own (cf. Romans 7:15ff). He recognizes the good he ought to do but continually is unsuccessful in following through. But the good news is that while we might feel discouraged in this same struggle, Jesus and the life of grace is an answer that provides us profound hope. (And it’s not that the flesh is intrinsically bad, our humanity is **good**, our body is good, but when we allow ourselves to be led away by our passions we risk making a god or idol out of something that is not God.)

Our Gospel today also lays out what is at stake in this tension that we find ourselves living in regarding the interior battle of the ‘flesh’ and the spirit. There is a path that leads to our destruction and a path that leads us to life. Jesus deeply desires us to come--in freedom--to the fullness of life and to know the path to authentic fulfillment and joy. It’s not the path that the world would easily recognize. It’s a perspective quite turned upside down. Blessed *rather* are not the rich but the poor, blessed *rather* are the hungry than those who are full, blessed are those who weep or know the experience of the prophet rejected rather than those laughing or those able to use others for their own benefit. While there may be some rhetorical strategy at work here, what matters is docility or disposition of heart choosing rather to place confidence and hope in God rather than in man.

We are encouraged to cling to theological hope which is a grace gifted to us that completely orients our life toward *eternal* wisdom and *heavenly* perspectives and **anchors** our lives with God. When this grace comes to us through the consolation of the Holy Spirit, we are immovable by the workings of the enemy, or by the sufferings of our earthly life. As Pope Benedict rightly points out in Spe Salvi paragraph 2, “the Gospel is not merely a communication of things that can be known—it is one that makes things happen and is life-changing. The dark door of time, of the future, has been thrown open. **The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life.**”

This is why our lives as disciples matter greatly even on a worldly scale. If we live life according to the power of the Spirit, if we live attached to heavenly things rather than to merely earthly things, we walk with greater freedom in this world because of the confidence we have in God and are actually better equipped for being in relationship with others. St. Paul, Letter to the Romans: “[H]ope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts **through the holy Spirit** that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly ... [b]ut God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:5-8). Recall with great hope this day that since your baptism, the Lord has desired to flood your heart and life with the gift of His Spirit and that while each of our earthly contexts change from day to day, week to week, month to month, year to year—the Lord longs to make of you and me trees with deep roots that fear not the changes of life, but trust rather in the permanence of his Spirit given to sustain us with ‘water’ that wells up 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 23

9:00am SJB/HT: Mary Barraco

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. 16 Betty Warren

Feb. 23 Mary Anne Bergamo

Mary's Side

Mary Beth Cusano

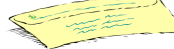
Dave William

Sacrificial Giving

Week February 9th

SJB/HT Collection: \$2,460.00

Offering Envelopes



Religious Education Announcements

There are no Religious Ed classes this week, Feb. 16th or next week Feb. 23rd for Winter Recess. Classes will resume on March 2. 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.

Ash Wednesday and Stations Schedule

Ash Wednesday March 5th:

OLP/SP - 7:30am

Assumption Church - 8:30am

SJB/HT - 12:15pm

The Franciscan Place - 12:15pm & 5:00pm

St. Anthony Church - 6:00pm



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

SJB/HT - Friday's 4:00pm

OLP/SP - Saturday's 3:15pm (before 4:00pm Mass)

Assumption Church - Saturday's 3:15pm (before 4:00pm Mass)



A Family Perspective

Family Life Education

Don't look very far when you hear today's Gospel speak of poverty, sorrow, or exclusion. These things happen in families. Children feel "insulted" when they are constantly criticized. Spouses "hunger" for affection. Grandparents feel "excluded" by divorced and custody decisions. Parents "weep" because they feel alienated from their children.

Pray For Vocations

Psalms 40 speaks of those who hope in the Lord as a tree planted near running water, bearing much fruit in due season. Are you called to plant the tree of your life and bear fruit in the waters, or vocations of priesthood, the diaconate, or the religious life? Reach out to the Vocation Office via email: vocations@syrdio.org and follow us on Instagram @vocationssyracuse.



Reflect: Readings and Gospel

Gospel Question: We hear today how Jesus brought comfort to those struggling in life and challenged those who lived a life of ease. Is there someone you know who could benefit from your words of comfort this week?

1st Reading Question: Jeremiah believes it is wise to trust in the Lord. When have you had to place your trust in God?

2nd Reading Question: Paul challenged those in the Corinthian community who did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. How do you support family or friends who are non-believers??

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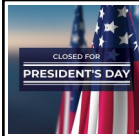


9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

Sunday February 16, 2025 - David McLaughlin - Mother

Sunday February 23, 2025 - Steve P. Taddeo - The Family

Ellen Therese Reid - Mary Reid



Office Closed

SJB/HT and OLP/SP offices will be closed on Monday February 17th in observance of Presidents Day. There is no 9:00am Mass at OLP/SP this day.

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini Reflection: Jesus was radical in his teaching that the "stuff" in life wasn't all that important. It was radical for him to say that the worldly signs of success did not amount to a whole lot in the grand scheme of things and that suffering could sanctify us. Are we ready to be radical, too?



In the End, Does it Matter?

When I was a teenager, the priest I would go to for confession used to tell me, over and over: "In the end, we all get the same dirty hole in the ground."

What he meant was, it doesn't matter how rich or smart or well-liked we are. We're all heading to the same place. This life comes to an end for every man. All the money he earns, all the stuff, all the worldly esteem, will at some point be of no further use. We all get the same dirty hole in the ground.

It was an important message for me to hear, because at the time, it all seemed so important: my after-school job and my FAFSA application and my grades. The admiration of my friends and teachers. I was so consumed with what I was going to become that I wasn't spending a lot of time thinking about who I was going to become. But the who is the only thing that lasts until the next life.

And to be honest, it's all still too important to me. Avoiding sadness and disappointment. Saving money and being liked. Focusing on "the five-year plan" when it comes to career, house plans, and a whole bunch of other things I can't take to my dirty hole in the ground.

Jesus was radical in his teaching that the "stuff" in life wasn't all that important. It was radical for him to say that the worldly signs of success — wealth, popularity, pleasure — did not amount to a whole lot in the grand scheme of things and that suffering could sanctify us. It was radical in the ancient world, and it's radical today.

Are we ready to be radical, too? ©LPi

Distribution Of Ashes/Communion For Homebound



Please contact the office if you are homebound and would like to receive ashes and communion on Ash Wednesday March 5th. Only by contacting the office will someone be able to visit you.



Coffee And Cookie/Doughnut

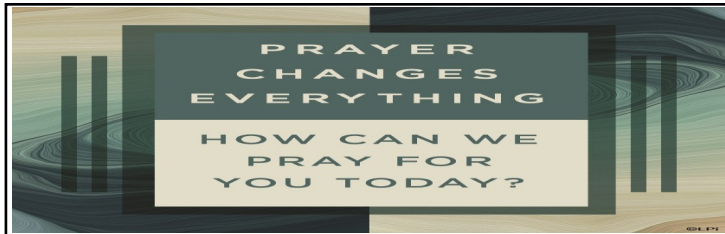
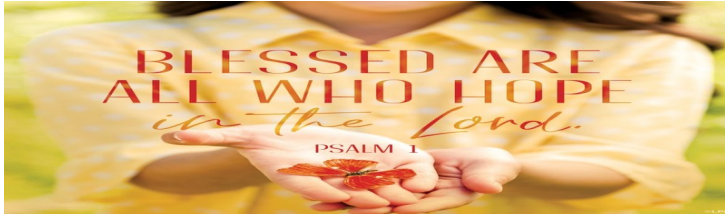
Before you commit to giving up sweets for Lent we will offer after the 9:00am Mass on Sunday March 2nd coffee and cookies/doughnuts in the back of the church, Park Street vestibule.

Prayer For Everyday And Everybody

Prayer of God's Blessing

Bless me, Lord, mold my heart in imitation of Yours. Bless me, Lord, help me to see people as You do, and to hear their needs.

Bless me, Lord, replace my understanding with Yours. Amen.



Prayer Requests

Please do continue to put your prayer requests into the prayer boxes. The boxes are located in the Park St. vestibule and inside the Church at the parking lot entrance. Fr. Lester has graciously agreed to offer up your requests when he says Mass for himself, which he faithfully does everyday. The prayers will be collected each Monday and kept on the altar in the Chapel.

All Faiths Food Pantry Donations

Your non perishable food donations can still be brought and left in the Food Wagon's in the parking lot side and Park Street vestibule of the Church.



If you would like to make a monetary donation please make checks payable to *"All Faiths Food Pantry"*****

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.

SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS OF THE SERVITE ORDER

The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order are:

Bonfilius: Born Bonfilius Monaldi

Alexis Falconieri: Born Alessio Falconieri

Manettus: Born Benedict dell'Antella

Amadeus: Born Bartholomew Amidei

Hugh: Born Ricovero Uguccioni

Sostene: Born Gerardino Sostegni

Buonagiunta: Born John Manetti

The Seven Holy Founders were a group of Italian cloth merchants from Florence who founded the Servite Order in the 13th century. They were canonized in 1888 by Pope Leo XIII. Their feast day is February 17.

How they became founders

The men were drawn together by their devotion to the Virgin Mary. They had a vision of the Virgin Mary who told them to leave the world and serve God. They left their homes and businesses to live as hermits on Monte Scenario. They adopted the name "Servants of Mary" and the Rule of St. Augustine.

What they did

They lived a life of prayer and penance.

They spread devotion to the Seven Sorrows of Mary.

They lived as mendicant friars.

They were active in apostolic work.

Alexis, who out of modesty refused ordination, served the order in various ways as a lay brother; he outlived the other founders and reportedly died at age 110.

*"Blessed are you who are now hungry,
for you will be satisfied.
Blessed are you who are now weeping,
for you will laugh." — Lk 6: 21*

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

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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.**