

St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Parish

406 Court Street Syracuse, NY 13208

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

February 9, 2025



From Fr. Brendan Foley

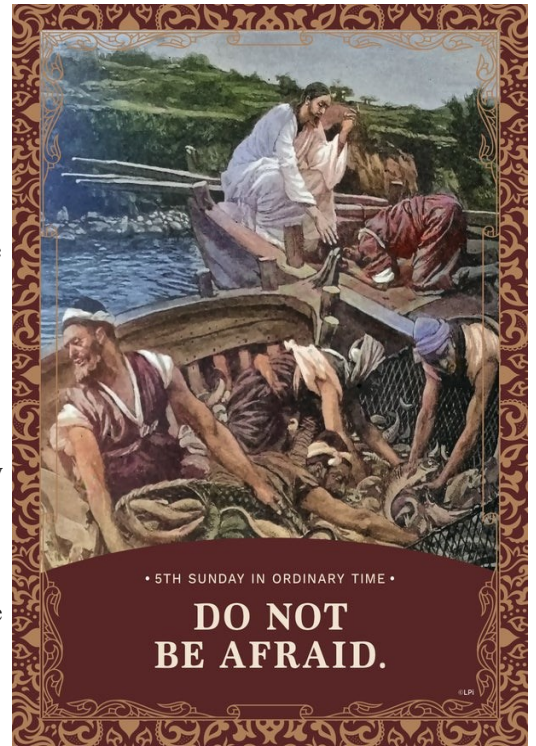
We know well the ebbs and flows of the spiritual life. We have seasons of prayer, seasons of life that are saturated with grace, joy, and encouragement. We have other times when we know better what lifelessness, dryness, or emptiness is like journeying in the desert. All too often in the ‘desert times’ we are more aware of God’s apparent absence. It’s probably also true for us that even in the fruitful, more exciting seasons of prayer we can take blessings for granted or forget our posture of gratitude. The reality of our spiritual life is that God is *always* active whether we are conscious of it or not, and the interior battle within each of us is something constantly a tension, drawing us to life in the Spirit, or toward the life of the flesh. God accompanies and abides with us cycling through these ‘seasons’ of our spiritual life, and we should be encouraged and reminded to ask for grace to make us attentive to God not only in time of blessing, but in time of desert as well.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton has an incredible story of life and holiness, and she always has practical wisdom worth sharing: “...[W]e know certainly that our God calls us to a holy life, that he gives us every grace, every abundant grace; and though we are so weak of ourselves, this grace is able to carry us through every obstacle and difficulty. But we lack courage...” This is to say, that in whatever season of life and prayer that we find ourselves, the Lord is offering us the graces necessary for our life, but sometimes we don’t see it. There is a pattern at work in our lives worth seeing. When there is a change needed within us, or when we are forced to respond to situations in our life around us, we must open ourselves up to an anticipated breakthrough of grace. Grace—or *the gratuitous gift of divine life offered to us that builds on us or within us or around us*—is necessary for us to experience the presence of God, and it is God’s desire to extend his life to us to embrace us and strengthen us. We must always be convinced of this truth of how the Lord desires us to be with him.

Both our first reading and our Gospel reading reflect major transformations in the lives of those touched or encountered by grace. The ‘call’ of the prophet Isaiah contains a moment where the Lord breaks through to Isaiah, and grace is given him in a vivid, striking way that purifies his lips to be able to be a vessel of the Lord as a messenger of his Word. Jesus does the miraculous in the presence of Simon Peter, and this graced encounter opens him up to the reality of the divine standing before him. We should notice what is hand-in-hand with these encounters. Moved by the presence of God, the individual is made aware of some sort of need for purification or deeper conversion, unpreparedness, even a recognition of sinfulness, but with this is the reality that the presence of God could draw close even in the midst of these potential ‘obstacles.’ The Lord breaks through, awakens a desire for healing, and upon offering them the gift of divine grace to meet that need, he still chooses them and sends them out on mission.

Is it possible that in our present contexts, wherever we find ourselves, that the Lord desires to bless us, to breakthrough with his grace to transform us again? Is it possible that even considering whatever we might be withstanding day by day, or week after week that through it God might transform us in an unexpected way? When God offers us the accompaniment of his grace it often takes on a character of mission, or one being sent out in a particular way. The invitation is then for us to trust that as God has broken through to us in past moments of our life, so too will he do again and again and again. The Lord draws us deeper and with each recognition of this truth our hearts and lives should be moved to a new levels of transformation and growth, not just for our own good but for the good of those to whom we are sent.

Mother Seton’s above quote, continued: “You are now in your first setout. Be above the vain fears of nature and efforts of your enemy. You are children of eternity. Your immortal crown awaits you, and the best of Fathers waits there to reward your duty and love. You may indeed sow here in tears, but you may be sure there to reap in joy.” May we be attentive to the Lord’s grace breaking through to us anew this day, and may we have the courage to respond.



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.syracusediocese.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 16

9:00am SJB/HT: John Robinson

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

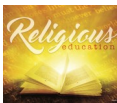
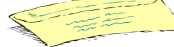
Mary's Side

Karen Fekete
Mary Beth Cusano
Dave William

Sacrificial Giving

Week February 2nd
SJB/HT Collection: \$2,260.00

Offering Envelopes



Religious Education Announcements

There are no Religious Ed classes for the next 2 weeks (Feb. 16 & Feb. 23) 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.

A Family Perspective Family Life Education

In today's Gospel Jesus asked Simon to start by "going a short distance." Later he asked Simon to "go into deeper water." The first step toward reconciliation is usually a "short distance" which gives us the courage to go further "into deeper water." Reconciliation starts with the first short step!



Pray For Vocations

"Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men...they left everything and followed him." Jesus calms the fears of those He calls to follow Him. Do you believe you are called to follow Him as deacon, priest, or religious brother or sister, but feel afraid to ask, Listen to the words of Jesus, "do not be afraid," and reach out to the Vocation Office via email: vocations@syrdio.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: In Jesus' call of the first disciples, we see Peter's obedience and humility. How might you put these virtues into practice this week?

1st Reading Question: Isaiah eagerly accepted God's call to serve once his sin was removed. What helps you be open to serve others?

2nd Reading Question: Paul reminds the Corinthians of the Gospel message he proclaimed to them about Jesus's death and resurrection appearances. What do you think makes preaching successful? ©LPi



9:00am Mass Intentions for SJB/HT

Sunday February 9, 2025 - Rosario Buccina - Timothy Erwin
John & Mildred Allen - Timothy Erwin
Sunday February 16, 2025 - David McLaughlin - Mother

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: What does it mean to lower your net? It means to listen to God, even when you don't understand Him. It means to keep trying the hard thing that you know is the right thing. It means to keep loving the person who is making life hard on you.



The Catch

I love today's Gospel passage, and not just because I love a good fish fry.

I love it because I am Peter. Over and over again, I am Peter, standing here exhausted because I relied on my own abilities, and it got me nowhere. I'm ready to call it quits. I'm ready to say it's too hard. And here comes Jesus, asking me to lower my net. To keep trying.

And I try to talk sense into him. "It's not going to work, God," I insist. "I've been trying."

"You've been trying," Jesus agrees. "But you haven't asked for my help yet."

What does it mean to lower your net? It sounds so simple and so easy, but it takes a great deal of humility and trust. I think I'm the expert on my own life, the captain of my own ship. Peter probably thought so, too — he was the fisherman, after all. Why would a fisherman listen to a carpenter on matters of fishing?

Lowering your net means giving God control and letting yourself be changed by what He chooses to show you.

It means to listen to God's instructions, even when you don't understand them, even when you find them frustrating. It means to keep trying the hard thing that you know is the right thing, even when it hasn't born much fruit. It means to keep loving the person who is making life hard on you, even when all you want to do is give into feelings of bitterness and distrust.

If we would only lower our nets, the catch would astound us.
©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.



Bishop Lucia's Part 2

Last week the insert letter from Bishop Lucia regarding foreign policy and immigration did mention a second pastoral letter, "With Liberty and Justice for All." That 7 page letter can be found placed about the church in all the vestibules.



A Lenten Retreat for Catholic Women "Forgive One Another As God has Forgiven You"

Saturday, March 15, 2025 Holy Cross Church, 4112 E. Genesee St, Dewitt 7:45am-12:15 Morning Retreat Includes:

Breakfast, Mass, Speaker Reflections, Confession, Adoration, and Rosary. Divine Mercy Chaplet and Brown Scapular Enrollment offered. Deadline is March 8th. Mail registration with \$25 payment to guarantee your spot. Payable to: Diocese of Syracuse. Please note "Lenten Retreat" on the memo of the check. Women's Commission C/O Diocese of Syracuse 240 E. Onondaga St. Syracuse, NY 13202.

Visit www.syracusecatholicwomen.org for information about the schedule and speakers. Questions, email swc@syrdio.org

Know The Lord

Ignite 2025 Catholic Men's Conference

Saturday, March 29, 2025 Bishop Ludden Junior/Senior High School Syracuse, NY Schedule: 8:00 a.m. Registration, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mass celebrated by Bishop Douglas J. Lucia. Speakers; Ben Steele, Bear Woznick and Fr. Chase Hilgenbrinck Lunch, Confession, and Vendors. Sponsored by the Diocese of Syracuse Register Early for Best Price \$65 through March 11, 2025 \$75 after March 12, 2025 \$85 at the door.

Register at www.ignitecatholicmen.org

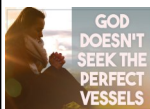
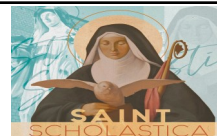


Bring strength to those of us who walk with the sick. Bring hope to all for whom the path to healing is long or may not end. Let us never forget your special care for the sick, that they may also know they are precious and loved. Amen.



Our Lady of Lourdes is a title of the Blessed Virgin Mary recalling her apparitions in 1858 in the grotto at Lourdes, France to Saint Bernadette Soubirous, a fourteen-year-old peasant girl. Our Lady instructed Bernadette to dig in the ground nearby, from which came a spring with healing properties, active to this day.

St. Scholastica is the patron saint of Benedictine nuns, education, and convulsive children, and is invoked against storms and rain. Her feast is celebrated on February 10th. Saint Scholastica's Day bears special importance in the Benedictine monastic calendar.



Prayer For Everyday And Everybody Prayer When Facing the Unknown

Dear Jesus, When you call me to places where I am unfamiliar, be with me. When you invite me to a mission I feel ill-equipped to handle, give me your strength. Help me to leave everything and follow you. Amen ©LPi

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him. — LK 5:10-11

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



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.**

