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September 21, 2025 • The Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pizzaballa: Ending violence begins with ending dehumanizing speech



Daniel Esparza - published on 09/11/25

If, as Cardinal Pizzaballa insists, the path to violence is smoothed by speech that degrades, then a path out of conflict will run through speech that honors.

Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa says the war-scarred streets of Gaza are not only the result of bombs and bullets, **but also of words**. In a video message shared during the closing events of the *Venice Film*

Festival, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem warned that years of **dehumanizing rhetoric have helped pave the** way for real-world violence — and he called for a new language "that opens horizons and new paths."

The intervention came as Tunisia's Kaouther Ben Hania received the festival's Silver Lion Grand Jury Prize for *The Voice of Hind Rajab*, a docudrama centered on **the final phone call of a five-year-old girl killed amid the 2024 fighting in Gaza**. The film — an official competition entry — has stirred audiences and headlines across Europe.

As reported by Eduardo Berdejo of ACI Prensa, the cardinal linked today's brutality to "years of violent and dehumanizing language," urging believers, artists, and all culture-makers to "work hard" for a different narrative that resists the pull of extremism on every side.

He cautioned that even when the guns fall silent, the conflict's deeper wounds will not heal without a conversion of words and imagination.

An act of justice, a space for peace

The Venice backdrop mattered. Ben Hania's film — powered by the real audio of Hind's call — won second place and, by multiple accounts, **drew the festival's longest ovation**, while U.S. director Jim Jarmusch took the Golden Lion for *Father Mother Sister Brother*. The juxtaposition kept Gaza in the spotlight and underlined Pizzaballa's plea to reclaim public speech from "radicals" and "extremists."

For Catholics, the call for a renewed vocabulary isn't just civics — it's discipleship. The Catechism teaches that hatred "is contrary to charity" and can lead to grave sin (CCC 2303), while truth-telling and guarding our neighbor's dignity are moral duties (CCC 2477–2478).

Building a culture where every person is spoken of as fully human is an act of justice that can make space for peace.

Pizzaballa's message also offered a pastoral diagnosis: When suffering becomes overwhelming, people can lose the capacity to notice the other's pain. Changing how we speak is one practical way to resist that numbness. It begins, he suggested, with the storytellers — filmmakers, journalists, teachers, parents — who can seed a different moral imagination.

The cardinal was also echoing one of Pope Leo's first addresses.



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Deacon

Deacon Bill Lovelace

Clergy Assistance

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM, Fr. Randall Roberts, OFM Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM, Fr. Ken Breen, OdeM Fr. Victor Bartolotta

Mass Schedule

Weekday Masses, Monday - Friday 8:00 am Communion Service, Saturday - 8:00 am Weekend Masses, Saturday Vigil at 4:00 pm Sunday, 8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:30 am

Follow the Sunday Mass on our website, btsp.org

Confessions will be held Saturdays 2:45-3:45 pm

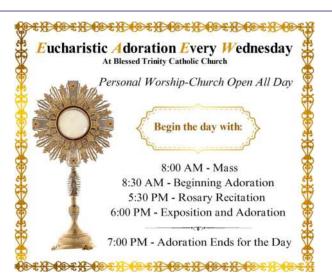
Parish Office

Monday—Friday 9:00 am-12:00 pm and 1-4 pm Closed for Lunch Noon to 1:00 pm 1600 54the Ave S St. Petersburg, Fl 33712

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To be peacemakers was the first exhortation the new pope made to journalists, just four days after his election, saying that the beatitude "Blessed are the peacemakers" is "particularly relevant" to those in this field.

He urged them to strive for a kind of communication that "never separates the search for truth from the love with which we must humbly seek it."

He told them:

Peace begins with each one of us: in the way we look at others, listen to others and speak about others. In this sense, the way we communicate is of fundamental importance: We must say "no" to the war of words and images, we must reject the paradigm of war.

'Humanization'

In that sense, *The Voice of Hind Rajab* did more than win a prize. It gave viewers a concrete human face and a small, devastated voice — exactly the kind of humanization the patriarch says is required if the region is ever to step back from the abyss.

As Catholics and as citizens, we can practice this conversion of language in our own circles: refusing slurs and sweeping labels, resisting dehumanizing memes, and choosing words that tell the truth without denying anyone's dignity. If, as Cardinal Pizzaballa insists, the path to violence is smoothed by speech that degrades, then a path out of conflict will also run through speech that honors.

That is a task large enough for governments and institutions — but small enough to begin in every conversation today.

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How to apply the Sacred Scriptures this week to your life.



September 21, 2025

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Am 8:4-7 | 1 Tim 2:1-8 | Lk 16:1-13

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

As Catholics we understand that none of our actions are truly isolated. Every virtue we practice or sin we commit affects others because we are all members of the body of Christ. Today's readings from the Old and New Testaments highlight our interconnectedness and offer guidance for how to order the life of the community according to God's will. The key to tranguil communal life is to consider the needs of others as important as our own. In the first reading, the prophet Amos decries those who exploit the poor for personal gain, putting profit over the common good. In the second reading, St. Paul begs the community to pray not only for themselves and for their close relatives, but to offer prayer and supplication for everyone. It's tempting to buy into the perspective that we need only focus on our own life. But the Lord invites us into authentic community where we intercede, sacrifice for and build up the kingdom together.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I like to think of myself as a trustworthy person, and I'd expect most of us would consider ourselves the same. But as the Lord convicts my heart with today's Gospel reading about those who are trustworthy or untrustworthy in big and small matters, I hear the Holy Spirit inviting me to ponder deeper questions: Perhaps I don't intentionally deceive people and I aim to keep my word, but when someone's name or reputation comes up in conversation, can I be trusted to build them up? Do I fall prey to petty gossip, or simply sit idly by as others fall? I am true to scheduled commitments I make, but am I trustworthy with how I spend all my time? Do I use the gift of time for God's greater glory, or do I squander it with excessive scrolling or mindless TV shows? The Spirit doesn't want us to be scrupulous, and everything must be understood through God's merciful gaze. But the Lord does intend to purify us so that we can live more fully in communion with him.

REFLECT

Today, consider how you are invited to live in community and contribute to the building of a Christ-like culture. How are you called to more trustworthy stewardship of the gifts and time God has given you so that you can use them for building up the body of Christ?



Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Seven Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4 Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm



Grief Support

At this time, individual/one-on-one *Grief Support* is available by calling Rachel at the church office.

Group support meetings will take place when a group is formed.

For more information call: 867-3663

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 20, Memorial of Saint Andrew Kim Taegon, Priest, and Paul Chong Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs

8:00 a.m. Communion Service (No Mass)

Saturday, September 20, Vigil for Twenty-Fifth Sunday in

Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Gerald Hayman (dec)

Sunday, September 21, Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Joseph Ciminera, Sr. (dec) 9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners 11:30 a.m. John Gray (dec)

Monday, September 22, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Gary Kraynak (liv)

Tuesday, September 23, Memorial of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina,

Priest

8:00 a.m. Earl W. Murray, Sr. and Charles F. Murray (dec)

Wednesday, September 24, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, September 25, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Robert Theissen (dec)

Friday, September 26, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Matt Kruse (liv)

Saturday, September 27, Memorial of Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest

8:00 a.m. Communion Service (No Mass)

Saturday, September 27, Vigil for Twenty-Sixth Sunday in

Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. William Isaac (dec)

Sunday, September 28, Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Dolores Ciminera (dec) 9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

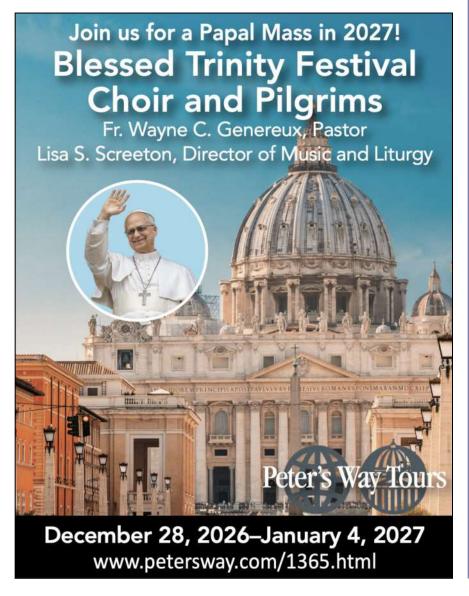
11:30 a.m. Giuseppe Di Giovanni (dec)

Prayer for Protection from Hurricanes

God, Our Father, Creator and Lord of the universe, you have set the earth on its foundation and all the elements of nature obey your command. We humbly beseech you to keep us safe from all dangers and calm the storm that threatens us. May we be secure in Your loving protection and serve you always with grateful hearts. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever.

Amen.





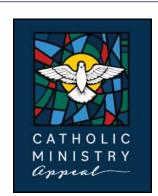


Weekly Offering

Weekly Giving 09/14/25

Offertory	\$15,726	
Other Donations	\$	710
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	444
Restoring the Sacred	\$	492

Thank you for your generosity!



Catholic Ministry Appeal



Thank you for your prayerful giving!

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 21

Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses PC

Monday, September 22

6:30 pm Life in the Spirit CYH

Tuesday, September 23

10:00 am Scripture Class CYH

Wednesday, September 24

Adoration

8:30 am Church open all day for prayer CH

5:30 pm Rosary

6:00 pm Eucharistic Exposition and Meditation

7:00 pm Benediction

Thursday, September 25

5:00 pm Handbell Ensemble in the Music Suite

6:30 pm Choir in the Music Suite

Friday, September 26

Social Group Meeting at Kahwa after the 8:00 am Mass

Saturday, September 27

3:00 pm BT Social Group's Car Wash and Bake Sale PL

Sunday, September 28

Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses PC

Monday, September 29

6:30 pm Life in the Spirit CYH

Tuesday, September 30

10:00 am Scripture Class CYH

Wednesday, October 1

Adoration

8:30 am Church open all day for prayer CH

5:30 pm Rosary

6:00 pm Eucharistic Exposition and Meditation

7:00 pm Benediction

Thursday, October 2

4:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul Meeting CYH

5:00 pm Handbell Ensemble in the Music Suite

6:30 pm Choir in the Music Suite

Saturday, October 4

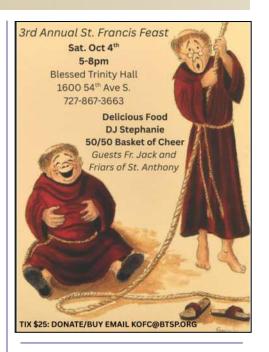
9:00 am Blessing of the Animals on the Parish Green 5:00 pm Knights of Columbus St. Francis Dinner PH

Key for Events

PC= Parish Center, MR=Music Room, CYH= Courtyard Hall, CH=Church, CYH-1= Courtyard Hall Classroom #1, CR=Choir Room, FF=Faith Formation Room, PL=Parking Lot

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Feeding Our Neighbors

Right now, many families in our area are facing food insecurity. Your contribution can make a real difference.

The Blessed Trinity Social Group is collecting non-perishable food to help St. Joseph's food pantry. Canned meat is always needed.

Please place your donations in the Narthex of the church.

Thank you for your continued generosity!





A BLESSED TRINITY CALL TO ACTION: Log YOUR Acts of Mercy!

As part of the Jubilee Year of Hope, the Diocese of Saint Petersburg is spreading hope through corporal and spiritual works of mercy. We are challenging our community to together complete 1,000,000 acts of mercy. Anyone can participate – no work of mercy is too small! Just fill out the form online (It's EASY!) to make it count towards the challenge. We want to highlight all the good works you are already doing by bringing a focus to it and invite others to join in spreading hope!

Have you....?

- Fed the hungry
- Gave drink to the thirsty
- Clothed the naked
- Sheltered the homeless
- Visited the sick
- Visited the imprisoned
- Buried the dead

- Taught others about God and the Faith
- Counseled the doubtful
- Encouraged reconciliation with God and others
- Bore wrongs patiently
- Forgiven offenses willingly
- Comforted the afflicted
- Prayed for the living and the dead

www.Mercy2025.org













Adult & Youth Faith Formation Registration 2025-2026

Blessed Trinity Catholic Church is planning our Fall Faith Formation Classes.

What sacraments are *you* in need of?

Please fill in this form and return to the parish office, or put in basket provided, no later than October 5th. Classes begin October 13th.

Family Name:							
Address:							
Phone #:							
Email:							
Child Family Member(s) you wish to register in Religious Education Please check all sacraments needed							
First, Middle & Last Name	Date of Birth	Grade	Baptism	1 st Communion	Confirmed		
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Adult Family Member(s) interested in the RCIA program

Please check all sacraments needed

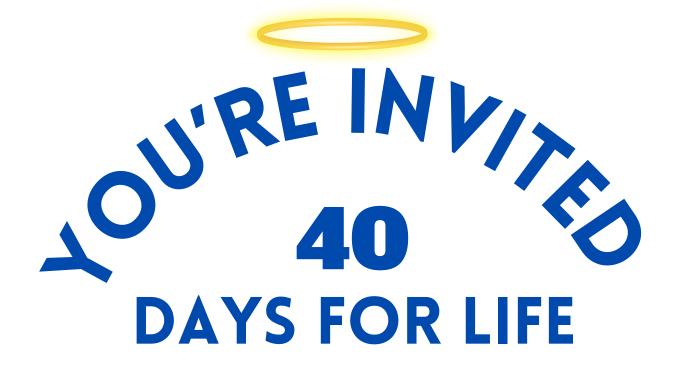
First, Middle & Last Name	Date of Birth	Baptism	1 st Communion	Confirmed

Ongoing Adult Catholic Formation

Adults interested in ongoing Catholic Faith Formation on a variety of topic	s to be determined.
Yes, I am interested in exploring my Catholic Faith. Please let me k	now the topics.
Name	
Address	
City	
State	
Zip Code	
Phone	
[mail	

Return this form to the parish office no later than October 5th. Form may be dropped off at the office or mailed to:

Blessed Trinity Catholic Church Attn: Father Wayne C. Genereux 1600 54th Ave S. St. Petersburg, FL 33712



September 24th- November 2nd

Blessed Trinity Day's: October 19th

October 30th



For Information Call: Cathy Browne

phone: (646) 552-8015

Email: cathy6browne@yahoo.com

Arnold, Barbara Baker Family Barhorst, Brady Becker, Mary Brown, Bob & Beverly Cameron, Christopher Cameron, Kalyn Calamita, John Christ, Kathryn Connor, Kathryn Cisek, Marilyn Clark, Christine and Henry Clark, Brittany Noel Comeau, Teresa Coughlin, Bernadette Curcio, Louis Daniels, Joshua D'Azzo, Lina DeLong, Judy DeLong, Todd Feltes, Lauren Fitzgerald, Dan Gawlik, Frank and Sofia Genereux, Carol

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Mays, Hank Membreno, Mary & Gus Newcomb, Jeff O'Connor, Mary Parillo, Ceil Parillo, Dave Parmigiani, Valerie Pilcher, Joel Preeper, Helen Riley, Marie Riordan, Donald Romani, Angelo Sacks, Laura Sanderson, Jack Shelby, Montez Smith, Elizabeth Stankiewicz, Cy Summerbell, Joan Thompson, Susan E. Vanderbeck, Cindy Vanderbeck, Jav Walsh, Thomas Watson, Linda Youngman, Ruth Zajac, Leslie



Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.



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