

# Saint John the Baptist Parish

**Pastor:** Msgr. J. Christopher Maloney

**Parochial Vicars:** Rev. Daniel Ulloa, O.P., Rev. Mathew Biby

**Associates:** Deacon Martin J. Olivieri, Deacon Nicholas Ramoni

**Retired Priest:** Msgr. Walter A. Birkle

670 Yonkers Ave.  
Yonkers, NY 10704  
www.sjbyonkers.org

Fifth Sunday of Lent  
March 29, 2020

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**School**  
(914) 965-2356

**Principal**  
Sister Maryalice Reamer, R.D.C.

**Religious Education**  
(914) 965-2338

**Director**  
Mrs. Angela Minchilli

**Director of Music & Organist**  
John Stufano

**Masses**  
**Saturday Vigil:**  
5:00 p.m.

**Sunday:**  
8:00, 9:30,  
11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

**Monday thru Friday:**  
8:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon

**Saturday:**  
8:00 a.m.

**Sacrament of  
Penance**  
**Saturday:**  
4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

**Sacrament of  
Marriage**  
Make arrangements six months  
prior to wedding

**Sacrament of  
Baptism**  
Every Sunday  
after the 12:30 Mass

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

*Saturday, March 28, 2020*

*Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Lent*

5:00 p.m. Evelyn Moccio

*Sunday, March 29, 2020*

*Fifth Sunday of Lent*

8:00 a.m. John Mc Avoy

9:30 a.m. Maria and Giovanni Reda

11:00 a.m. Martino Olivieri

12:30 p.m. Mass for the Parishioners of  
St. John the Baptist

*Monday, March 30, 2020*

8:00 a.m. Anthony Machiano

12:00 noon James Yedowitz -- Birthday

*Tuesday, March 31, 2020*

8:00 a.m. Yolanda Guglielmi

12:00 noon Fernanda Botticelli

*Wednesday, April 1, 2020*

8:00 a.m. Olga Illari

12:00 noon Deceased members of the  
Ligniti Family

*Thursday, April 2, 2020*

*Feast of St. Frances of Paola, Hermit*

8:00 a.m. Rose, Chester and Anthony Santia  
and Nicholas and Amelia Fanelli

12:00 noon Alfred Dalpino -- Birthday

*Friday, April 3, 2020*

8:00 a.m. Catherine Economico and Souls in  
Purgatory

12:00 noon Christine Ragazzo

*Saturday, April 4, 2020*

*Feast of St. Isidore, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

8:00 a.m. Martin Joe Coyne

*Saturday, April 4, 2020*

*Vigil: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord*

5:00 p.m. Deceased members of the  
Mullin Family

*Sunday, April 5, 2020*

*Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord*

8:00 a.m. Mass for the Parishioners of  
St. John the Baptist

9:30 a.m. Rev. Paddy, Sara and Tony Tuffy

11:00 a.m. R.A.S./H.N.S

12:30 p.m. Christopher Michael Stewart

## **CANCELLATION!**

On Saturday afternoon, March 14<sup>th</sup> the Archdiocese of New York announced that starting that afternoon – and until further notice – all Masses (Sunday and week day) and all services (including Stations of the Cross) were cancelled in every parish and every church in the Archdiocese. Churches (chapels) would remain open – for private prayer only. In addition any parish activities involving more than ten (10) persons were to be cancelled. All of this is part of the Archdiocesan response to the global crisis caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. In addition all classes and sports activities at Archdiocesan schools (like St. John's) are cancelled until Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **PRAYERS AND PRIVATE MASSES**

At St. John's the priests and deacons are praying for all our parishioners during this difficult time. Msgr. Maloney, Fr. Ulloa and our resident priest, Fr. Mathew, have been celebrating Mass daily – so that we may fulfill the intentions that our parishioners have made. Although we cannot be united physically around the altar of St. John the Baptist, our family can be joined spiritually.

## **PRACTICAL MATTERS**

The **Weekly Collection** remains absolutely essential to our parish operations. Even though we will not gather physically for Mass, please continue to give via WeShare (go to [sjbyonkers.org](http://sjbyonkers.org) – look for “online Donations on the title page) or by bringing or mailing your contribution to our rectory office.

These are truly unprecedented times for us all, but we, in faith, will make it through this period of trial by continuing to trust in the Lord and turn to Him in prayer. We will try to keep you updated via our parish connection points: the Parish Office at 914-963-1486 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday to Friday, and the parish website ([www.sjbyonkers.org](http://www.sjbyonkers.org)).

May Holy Mary, Health of the Sick and Mother of The Church, pray for all of us!

## **S.J.B. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**March 29, 2020**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT:** Lent is drawing rapidly to a close. As if to remind us of our ultimate goal, the purpose behind our prayer, fasting and acts of charity, all three readings today speak of resurrection and life beyond life.

Our first reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel (Ez.37:12-14) comes from the conclusion of the prophet's dramatic vision of dry bones. After describing a field full of bleached, disconnected bones, Ezekiel eloquently pictures Yahweh blowing into them the breath of life, followed by the reemergence of human bodies. Then the punch line: these bones are the whole house of Israel. Utterly destroyed by the Babylonian Exile, Israel will now be restored by the spirit of Yahweh. And this promise rings down through the ages until it reaches us, the latest inheritors of the ancient covenant. When we are tempted to despair or indifference, the Lord will breathe new life into our dry bones and rekindle our hope.

Our second reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans (Rm. 8:8-10) serves as a reminder that this new life of ours must look new. It must be a life devoted to righteousness, not sin. It must be a life dedicated to the works of justice and peace; of truth and mercy. Only then will we be worthy of the spirit within us. We are not the only ones who are aware of the looming road to Calvary. In today's gospel (Jn. 11:1-45) St. John presents us with the story of the raising of Lazarus, the final straw for those who had already had enough of Jesus, the Galilean upstart. Martha again is the active sister; she runs to meet Jesus while Mary stays in the house. Martha's simple observation that Lazarus would not have died if Jesus had come sooner elicits from Jesus first the revelation that He Himself is the resurrection and the life and then the restoration of her beloved brother. The sign is effective, many more put their faith in Jesus.

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### **SPECIAL SAINTS' DAYS – LENT WEEK FIVE**

#### **Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – St. Francis of Paola**

Francis was born in Calabria, Italy in 1416 and as a young man was drawn into an austere contemplative life. As his reputation for holiness grew, others joined him and he founded a congregation of hermits who dedicated themselves to prayer and simplicity of life.

#### **Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – St. Isidore**

Isidore was born in Seville, Spain in 560, came from a family of saints (his brother, sister and father were all named saints!) and was a brilliant student who became a wise and learned bishop who authored an encyclopedia of religion that was used as a textbook in Europe for nine centuries.

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## ARCHDIOCESAN DIRECTIVES

In order to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community, Cardinal Dolan, in collaboration with the leadership of the Archdiocese of NY and local health officials, has put the following directives in place:

1. The public celebration of Holy Mass is suspended pending the decision of the Cardinal and health officials.
2. Dispensation has been granted to all Catholics in our Archdiocese from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. It continues until the crisis is over.
3. All public celebrations of the Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Hours, Exposition and Adoration, Stations of the Cross, and all other group activities are to cease.
4. Weddings, funerals, and baptisms will continue but will be celebrated in a simplified manner and scope at the discretion of the parish priests. Call the Parish Office for information.
5. The latest public statements and information from the Archdiocese regarding COVID-19 can be found at <https://archny.org>.

## PRAYER AND SACRAMENTS AT ST. JOHN'S

1. Although our main church is closed, our Eucharistic Chapel remains open according to the following schedule:
  - a) Monday to Friday: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
  - b) Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
  - c) Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
2. The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is offered by appointment only. All regular schedules have been suspended. Call the Parish Office to schedule a time for Confession.
3. The **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion** will continue to be celebrated whenever possible with the extremely sick and the dying. Please contact the parish office if you or a loved one needs these Sacraments. They are of great importance, especially for the dying.

## A QUARANTINE VIOLATION

The CDC now recommends that everyone stay at home and avoid going out as much as possible. Despite this, reports are that God is breaking quarantine and going absolutely everywhere. Hospital, nursing homes, prisons – wherever He is needed, God is going. He is reportedly visiting everyone and checking on everyone in this time of need and not using any amount of social distancing. God is said to be following the absolute best practices, though, and is at no risk of making people sick but only making people better. “We have absolutely no control over Him,” said the CDC spokesman Jim Wells, “which is extremely frustrating. We want to remind you, though, that you’re not God, so please stay put in small groups.” God is also reportedly trying to get people to stop hoarding toilet paper and instead build up their treasures in Heaven. Treasures that don’t include toilet paper.

## PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Although we may not be able to attend Mass or receive the Eucharist, we can all pray daily a simple prayer that will unite us with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist:

*My Jesus, I believe that  
You are truly present  
in the Blessed Sacrament.  
I adore You! I love You!  
Please, come into my heart, I pray! Amen!*