

Saint John the Baptist Parish

Pastor: Msgr. J. Christopher Maloney

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

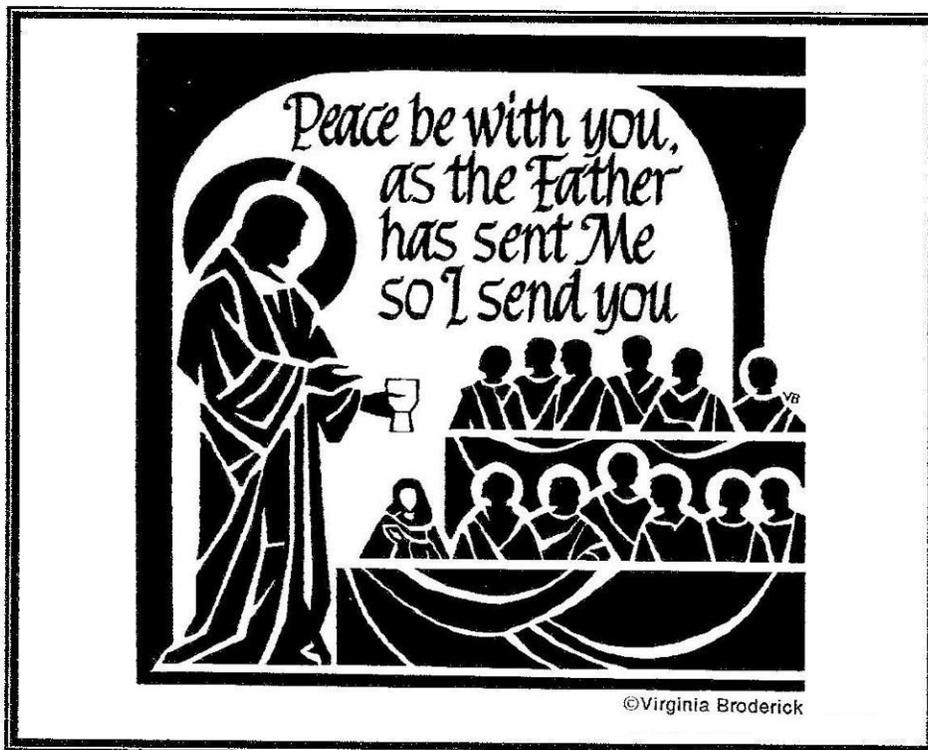
Associates: Deacon Martin J. Olivieri, Deacon Nicholas Ramoni

Retired Priest: Msgr. Walter A. Birkle

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Yonkers, NY 10704
www.sjbyonkers.org

2nd Sunday of Easter
April 19, 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

S.J.B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter: For most of us who grew up as Catholics, this Sunday always centered on “Doubting Thomas”—the Apostle who refused to believe the testimony of his fellow disciples that Jesus was risen! “Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands...I will not believe!” Eventually, of course, Thomas was present when Jesus appeared again and Thomas’ doubt gave way to faith as he affirmed: “My Lord and my God!”

During the pontificate of our late beloved Holy Father, Pope (now Saint) John Paul II, the focus of the Second Sunday of Easter shifted from the doubt of Thomas to the promise of Jesus – the promise that He made when He appeared to His disciples after His resurrection and told them He was sending the Holy Spirit upon Them and They would receive a great power: “Whose sins you forgive are forgiven!”

St. John Paul II named the Second Sunday of Easter “Divine Mercy Sunday” and asked Catholics to use this Sunday to celebrate the mercy of God. This year the Church is celebrating the Second Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday – in the midst of a global pandemic which has claimed the lives of thousands, afflicted millions, and brought the world economy to a virtual halt. In addition the novel coronavirus has isolated people to such an extent that we cannot even gather in churches to celebrate the Eucharist.

If ever our faith were tested, if ever we needed God’s mercy, it is **now** – in this non spring of 2020.

I am certain that all of us have heard people who argue that this global pandemic is some kind of divine punishment for the world’s many sins. It is certainly a punishment of some kind – although faithful Christians may be excused for thinking that the source of this affliction may be found in human behavior – not divine action.

Faithful Christians do not seek to blame God for this terrible scourge. God created us in His image and likeness; He created us so that one day we would happy with him forever in Heaven. In order to fulfill that, God sent His Only Begotten Son to save us from sin and death. Why? Because He loves us. “God so loved the world that He sent His Only Son....”

Can we really believe that a God who wishes to punish sinners would take vengeance on doctors and nurses who have spent their lives caring for others – and in recent days exhausted themselves trying to heal coronavirus patients? Would a merciful God strike down dedicated priests who ministered to the sick and dying without regard for their own safety? Would God inflict punishment on so many innocent people – perhaps some in our own family – perhaps some in our own neighborhood – some like one of the distinguished members of our parish, Detective William Sullivan of the Yonkers Police Department, who spent his life trying to keep others safe?

This Sunday we pray that Thomas will strengthen our faith; we pray that Jesus will show mercy to all of us – even sinners. We pray that God our Father will bring an end to this scourge and restore all of us to health!

Easter Traditions: The Alleluia: The very familiar Easter exclamation “Alleluia” has a long history in the praise and celebration given to God by His faithful people. The word itself is a combination of two Hebrew words: the imperative form of the verb “Hillel” (meaning “to praise”) and “Jah” (an abbreviated form of “Jahweh,” the Hebrew name of God). So “Alleluia” is an ancient form of “praise God” that became quite a common part of the Jewish prayer life – figuring prominently in many of the Old Testament Psalms. In the New Testament, it appears only in the Book of Revelation to describe the heavenly praise given to the triumphant Lamb of God. In the history of the Church the term “Alleluia” became more and more a part of the Church’s official prayer (The Divine Office) and her liturgical formulas – especially in the responses, acclamations and antiphons that were used in the most joyful seasons of the Church year. (The use of “Alleluia” is not permitted during Lent). Easter as the most joyous season in the liturgical calendar is most truly an “Alleluia” season.

SPECIAL SAINTS' DAYS – SECOND WEEK OF EASTER

Tuesday, April 21st – St. Anselm of Canterbury

Like St. Augustine in the 5th century, St. Anselm was a philosopher and theologian, a teacher and bishop in the 12th century Church. Though born in northern Italy (Piedmont), Anselm entered a Benedictine abbey in Normandy, France and was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury, England in 1093. He insisted that theology was “faith seeking understanding.” He was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1720.

Thursday, April 23rd – St. George

Sometimes, with saints who lived long ago, it is hard to separate fact from pious legend. That is certainly the case with St. George who lived in the 4th century and was martyred in Palestine. In the popular mind, he will always be identified with the myth that grew up about him in the 12th century – the myth that transformed him into a medieval crusader and a slayer of dragons. St. George is the patron saint of England and Constantinople.

Friday, April 24th – St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen

Born in Germany in the late 16th century, Fidelis was a brilliant student – earning a degree in law and a doctorate in philosophy in 1603 – when he was 25 years old! He felt called to the priesthood and became a Capuchin priest. He dedicated his life to caring for the poor and preaching missions – especially in the areas where Protestants dominated. He was attacked and killed by armed thugs in 1622.

Saturday, April 25th – St. Mark

A cousin of Barnabas, Mark accompanied St. Paul on his first missionary journey and went with him to Rome. Mark became a close disciple of St. Peter and tradition holds that Peter’s teaching was the basis for Mark’s gospel. St. Mark is said to be the founder of the church at Alexandria. Today might be a good day to read a few chapters of Mark’s gospel.

Practical Matters

1. Our main church will remain closed from Monday to Saturday; however our Eucharistic Chapel is open
 - a) Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 - b) Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
2. Our church and chapel will be **open** for private prayer on Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
3. Our 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.
4. 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 – look for “online Donations” on the title page) or by bringing or mailing your contribution to our rectory office or dropping it into one of the baskets in church on Sunday.
5. Our parish office is open Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
6. Please consult our parish website (www.sjbyonkers.org) for updates on parish events and activities.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 18, 2020

Vigil: Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

5:00 p.m. Rosemary D'Addato

Sunday, April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

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

**9:30 a.m. Deceased members of the
 Geraghty, Flynn, Quinn and
 Burke Families**

**11:00 a.m. Deceased members of the Gleeson,
 Herlihy and Flynn Families**

**12:30 p.m. Deceased members of the
 Longinetti, Gallagher and
 Cochrane Families**

Monday, April 20, 2020

**8:00 a.m. Camillo, Virginia, Vincent and
 Joseph Di Benedetto
 Special Intention--
 Eleanor Di Benedetto)**

12:00 noon Frank Zito

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

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

8:00 a.m. Moira Cunningham

12:00 noon Martha Colombini

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

8:00 a.m. Julia and John Soracco

12:00 noon Margaret and Thomas Coleman

Thursday, April 23, 2020

***Feast of St. George, Martyr; St. Adalbert, Bishop
and Martyr***

8:00 a.m. Frances Dippolito

12:00 noon Padraig Gallagher

Friday, April 24, 2020

***Feast of St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and
Martyr***

8:00 a.m. Angela Cavalli

12:00 noon Patrick White

Saturday, April 25, 2020

Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist

8:00 a.m. Karl Tinelle

Saturday, April 25, 2020

Vigil: Third Sunday of Easter

5:00 p.m. Laurence Bologna

Sunday, April 26, 2020

Third Sunday of Easter

**8:00 a.m. Deceased members of the Esposito
 and Kelly Families**

**9:30 a.m. Mass for the Parishioners of
 St. John the Baptist**

11:00 a.m. Joseph Barberi

12:30 p.m. Barbara Keller