

# 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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Pentecost  
May 31, 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**

**May 31, 2020**

**Pentecost Sunday:** We may be forgiven if we feel we have been in a time “warp.” The news always seems the same – filled with grim statistics about hospital admissions and new deaths; more public events are postponed or cancelled. Some places – some stores – are opening – but there are complex rules to follow; there are more regulations to obey; more pronouncements that have to be adhered to. There are reports that normal life is returning – but that seems to be far away. And the news media isn’t interested in that. The news media is interested only in the grim statistics and the gloomy predictions. We hear about the number of people who are out of work and the number of small businesses that may not survive this shut down – but the news media is outraged by any suggestion that we should make serious efforts to get our economy going again. It seems better to wallow in misery. No wonder so many people are turning off the news. No news is better for our mental and spiritual health than an endless diet of bad news.

The first disciples of Jesus didn’t have to cope with the mindless pessimism of most of our 24/7 news media. They didn’t have to cope with a global pandemic and a once roaring economy in self-inflicted free-fall. They had to deal with a social environment that was toxic to everything they believed. They were afraid – and so they locked their doors to shut out the world. The first Christians were like us to this degree: they were anxious, they were fearful, they were isolated and completely confused about the future.

We know what happened on Pentecost. The Holy Spirit broke in on those frightened and confused disciples who were huddled together and hiding behind locked doors. The Holy Spirit arrived – with a deafening noise and a roaring fire. The Holy Spirit threw open the doors and smashed the windows and sent those anxious disciples out into the streets of Jerusalem. The power of the Holy Spirit is described in the New Testament by a Greek word: dynamis! From that word we get our English words: dynamic and dynamite. The power of the Holy Spirit is spiritual dynamite and it is fair to say that on the first Pentecost the Holy Spirit blasted the apostles out of their self-imposed imprisonment.

Pentecost marked the beginning of the Church’s mission and ministry. Pentecost is often called the birthday of the Church; perhaps it is better to call it the “break-out” of the church – a break out from isolation into the world at large. That break out has continued through the centuries – in spite of persecution and wars and plagues. The gospel has been preached; the truth has been taught; the sacraments have been administered; souls have been saved.

What has happened in the first months of the year of Our Lord 2020 is unprecedented in the history of the Church. It’s almost as if we have put the Church’s mission on “pause” for a while. It’s almost as if we had gone back behind the locked doors of 1<sup>st</sup> century Jerusalem. Not completely of course. We can read the gospels and pray the rosary and visit our churches and watch Mass on television. But that is not enough and it has gone on too long. We need to break-out. We need a new Pentecost.

“Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. Send forth your spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth!”

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## **SPECIAL SAINTS' DAYS THIS WEEK**

### **Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> – Mary, Mother of the Church**

Two years ago Pope Francis added this celebration (dedicated to the Blessed Mother under her title, “Mother of the Church”) to the Church’s liturgical calendar. It is to be observed every year on the Monday following the Feast of Pentecost. Let us pray that Mary, our mother, will watch over us! We especially entrust to her motherly care those who suffer from Covid-19 and the health care workers who look after them.

### **Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sts. Marcellinus and Peter**

There were many Christian martyrs during the terrible persecution of the Church during the reign of Roman Emperor Diocletian at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. Both of these men, leaders in the Christian community in Rome, were beheaded in 303 A.D.

### **Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> – St. Charles Lwanga and Companions**

These martyrs of Uganda who died in a bloody persecution in the 1880’s were young – mostly in their teens or early twenties. But they showed a maturity beyond their years in the willingness to suffer and die for their faith.

### **Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> – St. Boniface**

Today we celebrate another martyr – an Englishman who left the British Isles in the early part of the 8<sup>th</sup> century to work as a missionary on the continent of Europe. He combated both paganism and lax Christianity – and was killed for his efforts. He is known as the “apostle of Germany”.

### **Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> – St. Norbert**

Born in France at the end of the eleventh century, Norbert had what is often referred to as a “mis-spent youth”. He underwent a conversion in his mid 20’s and spent the rest of his life as a priest dedicated to combating heresies and renewing the spiritual life of the priests and lay people of his day. He had a particular devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

### **A Pentecost Poem** ***Veni Creator Spiritus***

Creator Spirit, by whose aid  
The world’s foundations first were laid,  
Come visit ev’ry pious mind;  
Come pour thy joys on human kind:  
From sin, and sorrow set us free;  
And make thy temples worthy thee.

O, source of uncreated light,  
The Father’s promis’d *Paraclete!*  
Thrice holy fount, thrice holy fire,  
Our hearts with heav’nly love inspire;  
Come, and thy sacred unction bring  
To sanctify us, while we sing!

Translation by John Dryden, 1631 - 1701

**AN ACTION PLAN:** On Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, Governor Cuomo made a surprise announcement that religious services could now be held in places of worship in New York State—so long as the number in attendance was no greater than 10. In addition the attendees must all wear masks and maintain ‘social distance.’ The Archdiocese of New York is currently preparing guidelines to help parishes prepare for a “return to public ministry.” These guidelines envision several stages before regular daily and Sunday Masses can begin. No precise timeline has been established –so *for the present* public celebrations of Mass and the sacraments remain suspended in the churches of the Archdiocese.

As we await further direction from the Archdiocese, we can begin to formulate a plan for how we will celebrate Sunday Mass at St. John—once that becomes possible. Certainly, some limitation of attendance will have to take place, because parishioners will want—at least for the near term—to maintain ‘social distance’ from non-family members. According to proposed Archdiocesan guidelines, we will need to limit attendance at any Sunday Mass at St. John’s to between 125 and 150. We will also have to ensure that the church is thoroughly cleaned before each of our Masses—which will require more time between Masses than we currently have. Our Masses will not include the traditional ritual of the ‘exchange of peace’; Holy Communion will be restricted to ‘communion in the hand’ and there will be no holy water in our holy water fonts. The Archdiocese also recommends removing all Missalettes and hymnals from the pews.

With this in mind, presuming that Sunday Masses become possible at St. John’s sometime in the next three months (June, July and August), we plan to reduce our Mass schedule on Sundays from four Masses to three (our Saturday vigil Mass at 5:00pm will remain the same). The new *Summer Sunday* Mass schedule will be: 8:30am; 10:30am; and 12:30pm. This should allow us enough time to properly clean each pew after every Mass.

The Archdiocese strongly encourages any elderly parishioner who has a serious medical condition to remain at home until this pandemic is over; anyone—of any age—who feels ill or who has any of the symptoms associated with the virus should remain home as well. Cardinal Dolan reminds these Catholics that their circumstances relieve them of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Let us all pray that we will soon see an end of this.

**Honor Thy Father:** This year father's Day falls on Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. This is a day to honor all fathers – living and dead. This is a day to express our thanks for all they have done for us. It is a day to tell them how much we love them and to ask for their prayers even as we assure them of ours. For those fathers who have gone before us into the fullness of life with God, we give thanks to God for them as we recall their memories this day. On Father's Day we begin a Triduum of Masses for those fathers whose names are enrolled with us. Special Father's Day cards and envelopes are available at the exits of the Church or in our rectory office. Envelopes can be brought to the rectory or placed in the collection basket that will be available in the church on Sunday. Let us pray that Joseph, the father of Jesus, will bless all fathers.

**Religious Education Program:** 2020 - 2021 registration for **new** families for the St. John the Baptist Religious Education Program will begin this Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. **To obtain a New Family Religious Education Registration Form (for your child):** Please email StjohntheBaptistred@gmail.com. When completing the registration, a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate will be necessary; families must, of course, be members of our parish. Registration fees are included in the Registration materials.

## **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](http://www.sjbyonkers.org)) for updates on parish events and activities.

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

***Saturday, May 30, 2020***

***Vigil: Pentecost Sunday***

**5:00 p.m. Micheline and Dewey Bernardini;  
Ascension and Manuel Almieda**

***Sunday, May 31, 2020***

***Pentecost Sunday***

**8:00 a.m. Lorraine and Edward Swatowy**

**9:30 a.m. Aldo Leone**

**11:00 a.m. Santina and Raniero  
Malandruccolo**

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

***Monday, June 1, 2020***

***Feast of Mary, mother of the Church***

**8:00 a.m. Elizabeth Masiello**

**12:00 noon Bridget Brady**

***Tuesday, June 2, 2020***

***Feast of Sts. Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs***

**8:00 a.m. Stephen Grouarke**

**12:00 noon Alfred Dal Pino -- Anniversary**

***Wednesday, June 3, 2020***

***Feast of St. Charles Lwanga and Companions,  
Martyrs***

**8:00 a.m. Leo and Edythe Garavento and  
Leonore Fennell**

**12:00 noon Mary Bernardini - Living**

***Thursday, June 4, 2020***

**8:00 a.m. Olympia and Pasquale Signore**

**12:00 noon Domenica and Leo Luca**

***Friday, June 5, 2020***

***Feast of St. Boniface, Bishop and Martyr***

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

**12:00 noon Peter Crudele**

***Saturday, June 6, 2020***

***Feast of St. Norbert, Bishop***

**8:00 a.m. Helen and Peter Duggan**

***Saturday, June 6, 2020***

***Vigil: The Most Holy Trinity***

**5:00 p.m. Joseph Giardina**

***Sunday, June 7, 2020***

***The Most Holy Trinity***

**8:00 a.m. Helen and John McAvoy**

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

**11:00 a.m. R.A.S./H.N.S. – Angelina Sullivan**

**12:30 p.m. Deceased Members of the Sullivan  
and Whalen Families**