

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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Trinity Sunday
June 7, 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

June 7, 2020

Feast of the Most Holy Trinity: This feast falls almost three months to the day since the last time we celebrated public Sunday Mass at St. John the Baptist! We celebrated that Mass at 12:30 p.m. on March 8th; it was the Second Sunday of Lent. We knew at the time that other places in the world which are home to a large number of Catholics and Christians (places like South Korea and Italy) were beginning to close their churches and restrict religious services. We began to take modest precautions here at St. John's also – because the reports of the spread of this new aggressive virus were beginning to alarm many.

Looking back at it now, those precautions were indeed modest: no exchange of peace; Holy Communion received in the hand; no holy water at the entrances of the church. At the time several parishioners expressed their disapproval of those precautions. Then – in less than one week – on Saturday afternoon, March 14th – all pastors in the Archdiocese were informed (and the public announcement was made to the press): there were to be no public Masses in the churches of the Archdiocese until further notice. For a short period after that baptisms and funerals were allowed to be celebrated (with attendance severely restricted to – at most – 10 family members) – but in a matter of days, that permission was rescinded.

After that, day followed day and week followed week. The weeks of Lent passed; Holy Week came and went; there were no processions on Palm Sunday; no washing of feet or Altar of Repose for the Eucharist on Holy Thursday; no veneration of the Cross on Good Friday; no lighting of the Pascal Candle on Holy Saturday; no renewal of Baptismal vows on Easter Sunday.

Easter week followed – and Divine Mercy Sunday – and the Season of Easter – the season of “alleluia” seemed very much the same as the five weeks of Lent that followed the official suspension of all public liturgy. Last Sunday – Pentecost Sunday – we marked the day when the Holy Spirit descended on the first frightened disciples – and turned them into eloquent evangelists – public witnesses of God's love. For us – Catholic Christians in the 21st century America it was just another day of isolation and anxiety.

We do see signs of change. Some states seem to be returning to normal. There even are places where churches are beginning to hold public Masses and celebrate the sacraments. It so happens (it's our bad luck!) that we live in one of the nation's “hot spots” for COVID-19 ; which means that our return to some form of “normal” may take a little longer.

In the meantime perhaps we – as people of faith – may spend some time reflecting on what – if anything – has been a positive for us in this season of “isolation and silence.” Have we learned anything about ourselves? Have we found new ways to interact with our family and friends? Have we discovered new ways of doing things? Have we developed a greater appreciation for things we once took for granted?

Today our Scriptures all reflect on different aspects of the Most Holy Trinity – the great mystery of our faith that believes that God is one and God is also three. But the doctrine of the Church that there are Three Persons in one Devine Nature is not some abstract, philosophical teaching. It teaches us that God is essentially a Supreme Being whose identity is a relationship of love – the love of Father and Son which (because that love is divine) is expressed in a Third reality which we refer to as the Holy Spirit.

This Trinitarian Love has created a whole world that has its origin in love. Indeed, that world is most beautiful and most real when it is faithful to the love which keeps it in being: God's Trinitarian love invites us to examine our own lives – and the lives of our families, our communities, our nation. Do they reflect love – and peace – and understanding? Let us pray that when we finally come out from under this pandemic, we will be better persons, better Catholics and better Americans.

SPECIAL SAINTS' DAYS THIS WEEK

Tuesday, June 9th – St. Ephrem of Syria

St. Ephrem lived in the fourth century; he was a deacon and theologian who lived a life of prayer, sacrifice and scholarship. His writing and teaching in defense of the faith eventually led to his being honored as a “Doctor of the Church” – the only Syrian so honored. He has the title, “Harp of the Holy Spirit”.

Thursday, June 11th – St. Barnabas

Barnabas is designated in the Church’s calendar as an “apostle”. Like St. Paul, he was not one of the original Twelve, but in the first century Christian community, he was an acknowledged leader. He was respected by all for his prayerfulness, his devotion to the gospel, and his missionary zeal.

Saturday, June 13th – St. Anthony of Padua

St. Anthony lived in the early years of the 13th century and by his preaching, teaching and holiness of life, he had a profound impact on the Church of his own time – and on the Church in the Centuries that followed. Eight centuries after his death, St. Anthony remains one of the most revered saints in the Church’s calendar. (He remains the “go to” saint for everyone who has ever lost something that “must be found”).

Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation: We have begun celebrating the Sacrament of Penance at St. John’s on Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. in our main church. However, we will not be using our traditional “confessionals” (they would have to be sanitized after each penitent left the confessional.) In order to maintain social distancing we will be offering this sacrament as part of a penance service – so all who wish to participate should arrive (wearing the required mask) at 4:00 p.m. The service will include prayers, a reading from scripture, a short homily and the presentation by each penitent of a written statement of personal sins which will be handed individually to the priest (no words spoken). A communal act of contrition will follow – with penance and absolution. A final blessing will conclude the service.

Religious Education Program: 2020 - 2021 registration for **new** families for the St. John the Baptist Religious Education Program will begin on Monday, June 1st. **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.

Honor Thy Father: This year father’s Day falls on Sunday, June 21st. 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.

Family Consecration: The Knights of Columbus is organizing a Consecration to the Holy Family to revitalize our parishes by urging parish families to devote themselves to the ideal model of familial love set by Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The event will run for 10 days beginning on June 14th with prayer at 8:00 p.m. each night via audio/video conference. The Consecration will be on the last day (June 23rd). Please email, call or text our Program Director (Frank Giacoio) to receive more information and to sign up for this devotion. He can be reached via fgiacoio@yahoo.com or on (914) 413-1680. You can also visit our website to see what your Knights are up to... <https://jrkofc3995.wixsite.com/kofc3995>

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.

AN ACTION PLAN: On Wednesday, May 20th, 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.

MASS INTENTIONS

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**

Monday, June 8, 2020

8:00 a.m. Richard Daniel Strickrodt

12:00 noon Walter Naryniecki

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

***Feast of St. Ephrem, Deacon and Doctor of the
Church***

8:00 a.m. Anthony Capobianco

12:00 noon Jimmy Brito

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

8:00 a.m. Mamie McAuliffe

**12:00 noon Noreen Mac Donald and
Christine O'Connell**

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Feast of St. Barnabas, Apostle

8:00 a.m. Rev. John Lennon

12:00 noon James Kennedy

Friday, June 12, 2020

8:00 a.m. Maurice Shanahan

12:00 noon Gloria Savona

Saturday, June 13, 2020

***Feast of St. Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor
of the Church***

8:00 a.m. Carlos Torres

Saturday, June 13, 2020

***Vigil: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
(Corpus Chrristi)***

5:00 p.m. John Antonaccio

Sunday, June 14, 2020

***The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus
Chrristi)***

8:00 a.m. June Kenny

9:30 a.m. Frances Di Paola

11:00 a.m. James Linton

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