

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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November 8, 2020
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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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:
8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,
12:30 p.m.

Monday thru Friday:
8:00 a.m., 12:00 noon

Saturday:
8:30 a.m.

**Sacrament of
Penance**
By appointment only

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

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

S.J.B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 8, 2020

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: As the liturgical year draws to a close and nature prepares to surrender to the stark beauty of winter after the green of summer and the reds and golds of fall, the Church invites us to contemplate our own mortality. Much as our own society would have us ignore or even deny the fact, we will, all of us, die. The question is not whether we will die or even when we will die. The truer question is how we will meet this moment of transition, this Day of the Lord.

Today's first reading from the Book of Wisdom (Wis. 6:12-16) points the way, reminding us that the greatest goal in life is not riches but faith, the mysterious gift that opens us up to praise God. If we seek Wisdom, we shall not be disappointed, for she graciously appears to those who watch her. If, with the psalmist, we thirst for God, we can be reassured that Wisdom will satisfy our longing.

In our second reading (1 Thes. 4:13-18) and the gospel (Mt. 25:1-13) we are reminded to be prepared to meet the Lord. Christians in Paul's day believed that Jesus' Second Coming – the Parousia – was imminent, that the end was, quite literally, near. Using cosmic images appropriate to the time, Paul assures the Thessalonians that no one who believes in Jesus will “miss out” on the glory to come. Although we see the world differently today, we can still take comfort in Paul's confidence about the glorious destiny awaiting us.

Our Blessed Lord, too, offers an image of the end of the world. Since we do not know when Jesus will return, we must be ever vigilant. His message seems to be one of warning; we have to be prepared for a long wait. We must not allow the oil of our good deeds, our commitment, our faith, to run out.

SPECIAL SAINTS' DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday, November 9th – Dedication of St. John Lateran

Today we commemorate the dedication of the Lateran Basilica, built by Constantine in the early 4th century and named in honor of St. John the Baptist. Until the 14th century, the Lateran was the official seat of the Bishop of Rome and it is still the cathedral of Rome. Today's feast then reminds us that, although our parish is our local and primary church, we are related in a special way to the universal Church, which is symbolized by the mother – Church in Rome.

Tuesday, November 10th – St. Leo the Great

This 4th century pope – also a Doctor of the Church – was a defender of the faith; he refuted heresies that sought to weaken the Church from within and stood up to the barbarians who attacked the Church from without.

Wednesday, November 11th – St. Martin of Tours

This day is a special day for Americans; named Veterans' Day or Armistice Day, it first marked the end of World War I. It is a day when our nation pauses to remember those who gave their lives in defense of the United States of America and its precious freedoms. It is also a day for us to pray for peace – in the world, in our nation, in our hearts. Christians celebrate the feast of St. Martin of Tours on November 11th. St. Martin was a 4th century soldier who exchanged his sword and shield for a hermit's tunic. He is the patron of both soldiers and beggars and is usually represented on a white horse, dividing his cloak to share with a freezing beggar. May this day begin for us a special concern for the homeless and the poor who suffer so terribly in the winter months.

Thursday, November 12th – St. Josaphat

Born in the Ukraine at the end of the 16th century, Josaphat was ordained a priest, then served as a bishop and spent his life working for unity in the Christian Churches of Eastern Europe.

Friday, November 13th – St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

Born in Lombardi, Italy in 1850, the woman who came to be known as Mother Cabrini was a powerful evangelist in her native country where she started an order of Missionary Sisters and established schools, hospitals and orphanages. Then in 1889 Pope Leo XIII asked her to go across the ocean and help the young church in America. Her zeal and capacity for hard work was equal to her love for Christ and His people. She founded more schools, more hospitals, more orphanages – working until her death in 1917. She became a citizen of the United States and was the first U.S. citizen to be canonized as a saint.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 7, 2020

Vigil: Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 p.m. John Antonaccio

Sunday, November 8, 2020

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. Maria Hinostroza

10:30 a.m. James, Catherine and Sr. Joanne
Murphy

12:30 p.m. Franco Milizia

Monday, November 9, 2020

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

8:00 a.m. Eileen Dillon

12:00 noon Margaret McKenna

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

Feast of St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

8:00 a.m. Martha Colombini – 1st Anniversary

12:00 noon Mary Frances Costa

Wednesday, November 11, 2020

Feast of St. Martin of Tours, Bishop

8:00 a.m. Anne Harrington

12:00 noon Victor Campione

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Feast of St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr

8:00 a.m. Serafino Criseuolo

12:00 noon Ann Marie Guiry -- Living

Friday, November 13, 2020

Feast of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin

8:00 a.m. Carmela, Joseph and Diego Gagliano

12:00 noon Jeanne Shanahan

Saturday, November 14, 2020

8:30 a.m. Damian Muldarry

Saturday, November 14, 2020

Vigil: Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 p.m. Matilda Del Giudice –
12th Anniversary

Sunday, November 15, 2020

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. Sante Zangrilli

10:30 a.m. Christina Nadia and Sochan and
Myskiw families

12:30 p.m. Concetta Taibi

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

Wednesday, November 11th

No Religious Education

A Practical Blessing: During ordinary years during “flu season” we would often hear people saying “God bless you” to those suffering from colds and flu. We often say it almost automatically when someone sneezes, but why do we do so? Scholars have several different theories on how the practice started. One theory is that during the Bubonic Plague in the 6th century, Pope Gregory I asked people to pray to God to help fend off the illness from Rome. As sneezing was seen as a sign of the disease, people said “God bless you” to the sneezer. Another theory is that people thought the heart stopped when someone sneezed. Saying “God bless you” was believed to help them come back to life. We don’t need to wait for someone to sneeze to ask God to bless them. Asking for God’s blessing on the lives of those around us should be second nature. God has called us to take care of each other and to support each other in good times and in bad – and this year during Covid-19 we are all in need of God’s blessing!

Important Reminder: We make every effort to sanitize our church before and after every Mass – and we offer sanitizers at our church entrances for those who don’t have their own. We ask all of our parishioners to wear masks while they are in church. This is a requirement by both the archdiocese of New York and New York State. Just as importantly it is an example of practical charity; even if we find wearing a mask difficult, our concern for the health and wellbeing of others should overcome our personal preferences. In addition, we ask everyone to observe “social distancing” both in where we sit in church and especially in coming to communion. What we want to avoid is making people feel anxious about coming to St. John’s for Mass.

Remembrance: November is the month that we pray for all our dearly departed. During this month, we remember our friends and loved ones who have gone before us into eternal life. Those whose names are returned to us on All Souls envelopes will be remembered at all Masses at St. John’s during the month of November.

Rest in Peace: Let us pray for Kristen Rodrigues and Felicia Felicina Ricciardi who were buried from our church this past week. Our prayers go out to their families and friends.

St. John's Mass Schedule:

- a) **Daily Mass:** Our new daily Mass schedule for the rest of 2020 and continuing into 2021 will be: two daily Masses (Monday – Friday) at 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. On Saturday our one daily Mass in the morning will be at 8:30 a.m.
- b) **Sunday Mass:** In order to properly sanitize our church, we have **changed** our Mass schedule on Sunday to **three** Masses: at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.; the Saturday vigil Mass remains the same at 5:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation: The Archdiocese of New York has determined that this Sacrament should only be celebrated individually. Therefore we will no longer hold our Saturday afternoon Penance Service. For the foreseeable future, since we are unable to use confessionals, the Sacrament of Penance will be available by appointment only. Please call the rectory for further details.

Second Collection: In order to limit the interaction between ushers and parishioners at Mass, we will eliminate second collections until further notice. The ushers will pass the baskets only once – at the usual time. If a second collection has been scheduled, we ask envelope users to place both envelopes for that Sunday in the collection basket – and we ask everyone to be as generous as their means permit.

Practical Matters:

1. The **Weekly Collection** remains absolutely essential to our parish operations. Parishioners may contribute 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.
2. Our parish office is open Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
3. Please consult our parish website (www.sjbyonkers.org) for updates on parish events and activities.

National Holiday: Thanksgiving Day this year falls on Thursday, November 26th. As is our custom, we will have a special Vigil Mass on Wednesday evening, November 25th at 5:00 p.m. and one Mass on Thursday, Thanksgiving Day at 8:30 a.m. However, because of the many restrictions and concerns caused by Covid-19, our Thanksgiving Masses will be different this year. Children from our Religious Education Program and our school will not be assisting at our Vigil Mass on Wednesday evening; nor will our youth choir be singing (although we will have our organist Mr. John Stufano and one or two cantors at the Vigil Mass). We have also decided that it would not be wise for us to prepare breads that would ordinarily be blessed and distributed at our Thanksgiving Masses. This is one more sacrifice demanded by this pandemic. However what is most important is that we gather together as a community of faith to pray for each other, to pray for the sick among us (as well as those who care for them), to pray for our country and to give thanks to Almighty God for the blessings we have received – especially the opportunity to share the Eucharist! On the Friday after Thanksgiving we will have one Mass at 8:30 a.m. There will be no noon Mass on Friday, November 27th. Both the rectory and school office will be closed on Friday.

H.N.S. Thanksgiving Project: For several years the St. John's Holy Name Society would collect and package canned goods and other non-perishable food items – including turkeys – and would distribute them to needy families in the Yonkers community. Because of the pandemic, they will not be doing this until next year. We thank all of those who have supported this charitable effort in the past.