

Saint John the Baptist Parish

Pastor: Msgr. J. Christopher Maloney

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

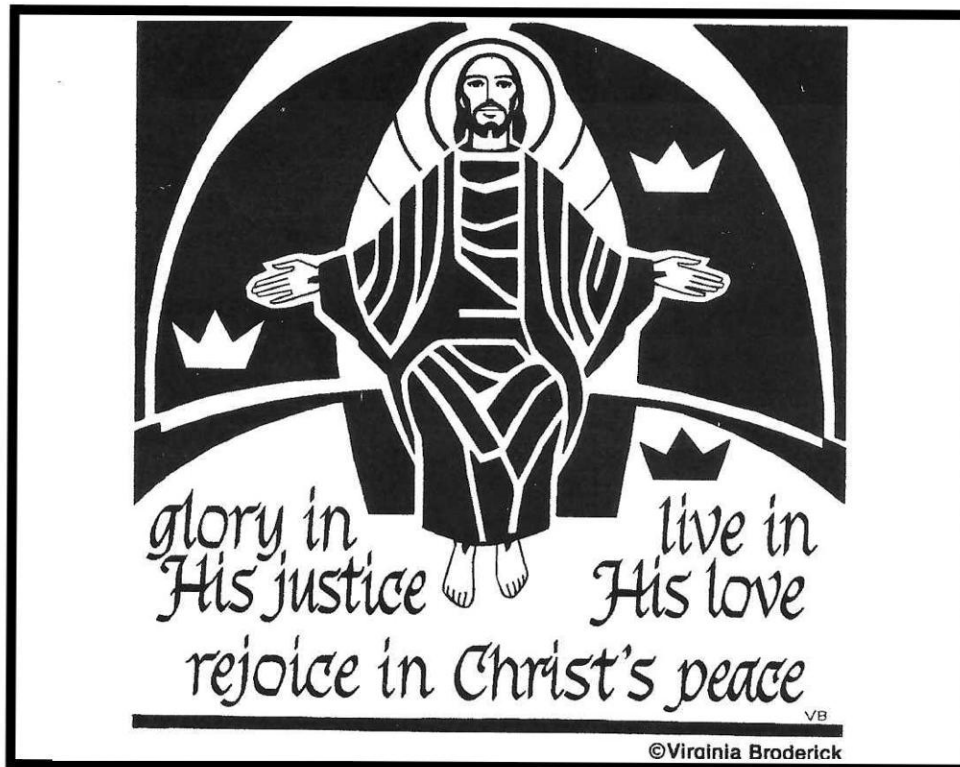
Associates: Deacon Martin J. Olivieri, Deacon Nicholas Ramoni

Retired Priest: Msgr. Walter A. Birkle

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www.sjbyonkers.org

November 22, 2020
Christ the King

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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 22, 2020

CHRIST THE KING: In 1925 Pope Pius XI established the feast of Christ the King, to be celebrated on the final Sunday of the Church year. Based on the biblical vision of kingship as applied to Jesus, today's feast emphasizes the mutual trust and care that exist between Christ and the Church. By calling Christ our King, we pledge loving service and faithful commitment to Jesus, who in turn responds to our human needs. Christ's kingship is more service than sovereignty, more giving than receiving.

In today's readings the prophet Ezekiel and Our Lord use pastoral images of God as the keeper of sheep rather than regal images of palace and throne. Although most of us do not have firsthand knowledge of the relationship between a shepherd and his flock, we cannot fail to be moved by the love and devotion of Ezekiel's shepherd, whose whole concern is for the sheep he tends. The last verse, though, with its allusion to judgment, sets the stage for today's gospel demand that the members of the flock follow the shepherd faithfully.

Today Jesus describes the day of reckoning that will come for all of us and on that day the only thing that will matter is how we treated one another. This is both comforting and challenging. Jesus reminds us that just keeping the rules is not enough; that, in fact, is taken for granted. No, what is important is the love that motivates our religious fidelity. Our king lives among the poor, the marginalized, the downtrodden. If we would find Jesus, we must look in prisons, not palaces.

SPECIAL SAINTS' DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday, November 23rd – St. Clement and St. Columban

St. Clement was the third pope after Peter; he lived at the end of the first century and is remembered for his prayerfulness and devoted leadership. St. Columban was an Irish monk who lived in the 6th century and was instrumental in establishing monasteries both in Ireland and on the continent.

Tuesday, November 24th – St. Andrew Dung-Lac

This day honors over 100 martyrs who worked with Fr. Andrew Dung-Lac to spread Christianity in Viet Nam in the 19th century and suffered persecution and death for their efforts.

Wednesday, November 25th – St. Catherine of Alexandria

This scholarly, learned woman lived in the 4th century; after her conversion to Christianity, she became an evangelizer in the area near Alexandria, Egypt. Under the persecution of the Roman emperor Maximian she was tortured by being placed on a spiked wheel and was eventually beheaded. She is the patroness of philosophers.

Prayer for Thanksgiving

Gracious God and Eternal Father, we give thanks today for the many blessings you have bestowed on us.

We thank you for the goodness of the people of this country and for our heritage of freedom and justice that has provided a beacon of hope for people throughout the world.

We thank you for the beauty and bounty of our land and the challenge of our cities.

We thank you for our work and our rest, and for all the gifts you have given us.

For all that we have spoken and all that we keep in our hearts, accept our prayers on this Thanksgiving Day.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 21, 2020

Vigil: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

5:00 p.m. Catherine, Henry, Rae and Anthony
Tavernia

Sunday, November 22, 2020

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

8:30 a.m. Barbara Keller
10:30 a.m. Arturo Ramoni
12:30 p.m. Patricia Sullivan

Monday, November 23, 2020

*Feast of St. Clement I, Pope and Martyr; St. Columban,
Abbot*

8:00 a.m. Deceased members of the Badolato,
Costanzo and Pfau Families
12:00 noon William O'Connor

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

*Feast of St. Andrew Dung –Lac, Priest and Companions,
Martyrs*

8:00 a.m. Rory O'Flaherty
12:00 noon Richard Sullivan

Wednesday, November 25, 2020

Feast of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr

8:00 a.m. Joseph Meaney
12:00 noon Roger Mancini – 1st Anniversary

Wednesday, November 25, 2020

Vigil: Thanksgiving Day

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

Thursday, November 26, 2020

Thanksgiving Day

8:30 a.m. Peter Bernardini

Friday, November 27, 2020

8:30 a.m. Arlene and Christopher Morris

Saturday, November 28, 2020

8:30 a.m. Kristen Renee Mc Redmond -- Birthday

Saturday, November 28, 2020

Vigil: First Sunday of Advent

5:00 p.m. Deceased Members of the Savino and
Marra Families

Sunday, November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Helen Sullivan and Family
10:30 a.m. Denise Columbo
12:30 p.m. Ann and Daniel Fama and Edward
Makowski

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

Wednesday, November 25th

No Religious Education

Lectors: Your "2021" Workbook for Lectors is ready to be picked up in the Sacristy no later than Friday, November 27th. They are in alphabetical order by Mass times.

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.

Thanksgiving: is one of our nation's most venerable and cherished traditions. It is a day to reflect on the goodness of God and the abundant blessings we have received – especially in this great country of ours with its history of freedom and opportunity/. 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.

Guest Celebrant: Next Sunday at our 10:30 a.m. Mass we will welcome as our celebrant and homilist the newly appointed rector of St. Joseph's Seminary (who is also an Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn), Bishop James Massa. The bishop is visiting churches in the area to emphasize the closeness of parish ministry and the work being done at our seminary to prepare young men for that ministry. Welcome Bishop Massa!

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.

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.

Advent: Next Sunday we begin the beautiful, prayerful season of Advent – the beginning of the Church's liturgical year and spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Among the deepest hungers we have as human beings is our hunger for meaning – our hunger for God. The sounds, images and prayers of Advent are a response to that hunger. As we begin our journey through this sacred season let us walk together, listening and learning. May Advent fulfill our deep desire to draw closer to God.

Advent Booklet: Once again we will provide a devotional booklet for our parishioners to use during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Entitled the “Little Blue Book”, it is produced by the Archdiocese of Saginaw, Michigan, and provides a prayerful reflection (based on the Sunday Advent Gospels) for each day of these two seasons. It also includes other prayers, meditations and suggestions on how to make these special seasons of grace. These will be available at all our Masses next weekend.

Advanced Planning: The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation is celebrated on Tuesday, December 8th. This is the title by which we honor Mary as Patroness of the United States. Our Masses for the Feast are as follows: Vigil Mass Monday, December 7th, at 5:00 p.m. Masses on Tuesday, December 8th are at 8:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon.

Christmas Planning: Based on past experience, two of our Christmas Masses – our Vigil Mass at 5:00 p.m. on December 24th and our Mass at Midnight – have had unusually large numbers of parishioners in attendance – far more than are currently permitted by NY State and Archdiocesan guidelines. Currently Mass attendance at churches in Westchester is limited to between 33% and 50% of capacity – which for St. John's would be just a little more than 200 parishioners. (Our Masses on Christmas Day should not cause any attendance problems.)

In order to guarantee that attendance at our Vigil Mass and Midnight Mass remains within the prescribed limits, we will require that parishioners have a ticket. Starting on Monday, November 30th, these tickets will be available at the rectory. There will be no charge for tickets – but we will restrict each family to no more than four (4) tickets. However, we will have a “waiting list” if any parishioner would like more than four; if we have tickets available on December 20th, we will contact those on the mailing list.

We regret the necessity for this limitation, but we feel it must be done so that those who do attend these Masses do not feel anxious about the possibility of violating the social distance guidelines required by the Archdiocese. Whatever the limitations, we are grateful that we will be able to celebrate Christmas Mass together as a parish.