

# Saint John the Baptist Parish

**Pastor:** Msgr. J. Christopher Maloney

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

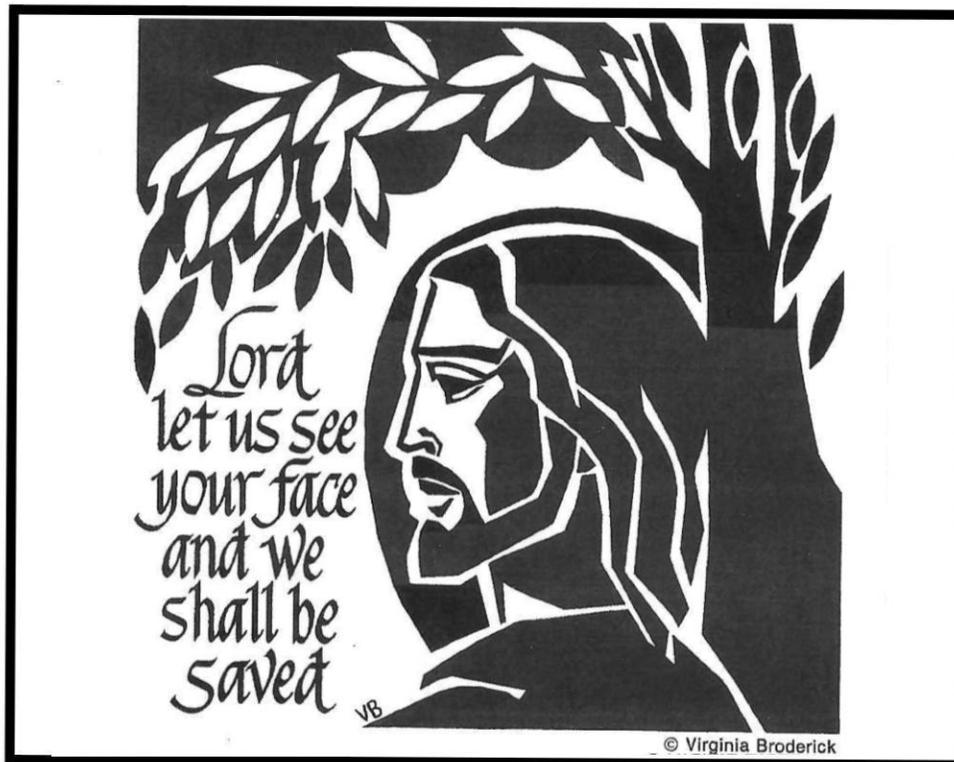
**Associates:** Deacon Martin J. Olivieri, Deacon Nicholas Ramoni

**Retired Priest:** Msgr. Walter A. Birkle

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Yonkers, NY 10704  
www.sjbyonkers.org

November 29, 2020  
First Sunday of Advent

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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

## MASS INTENTIONS

*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

*Monday, November 30, 2020*

*Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle*

8:00 a.m. Joseph Meaney  
12:00 noon Maria Scuderi

*Tuesday, December 1, 2020*

8:00 a.m. Maryanne Drobnak  
12:00 noon Roma and Guido Barone

*Wednesday, December 2, 2020*

8:00 a.m. Jaime Pineiro  
12:00 noon Assunta and Nancy Branca

*Thursday, December 3, 2020*

*Feast of St. Francis Xavier, Priest*

8:00 a.m. Antonio Ricciardi  
12:00 noon Arnaldo Da Costa

*Friday, December 4, 2020*

*Feast of St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of  
the Church*

8:00 a.m. Deceased members of the  
Musante Family  
12:00 noon Joseph Economico

*Saturday, December 5, 2020*

8:30 a.m. Denis Quill

*Saturday, December 5, 2020*

*Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent*

5:00 p.m. James J. Mullin – 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*Sunday, December 6, 2020*

*Second Sunday of Advent*

8:30 a.m. Mary Quill  
10:30 a.m. Peter Bernardini  
12:30 p.m. Deceased members of the Menchen  
and Donaghy Families

## WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

*Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>*

R.E. Grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> -- 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. – School  
R.E. Grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> -- 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. – School

**Guest Celebrant:** This Sunday at our 10:30 a.m. Mass we 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!

**Christmas Planning:** Based on past experience, two of our Christmas Masses – our Vigil Mass at 5:00 p.m. on December 24<sup>th</sup> 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 this Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 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 20<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**Advanced Planning:** The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation is celebrated on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. 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 7<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. Masses on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> are at 8:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon.

## **S.J.B. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**November 29, 2020**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT:** The Scripture readings for this Sunday provide a fitting climax to the reflections on the “final days” which was so central to last week’s liturgy. The keynote for this Sunday is the Gospel imperative: “Watch!” The entire focus of today’s gospel (Mark 13:33-37) is on the need for vigilance as we await the return of Jesus at the end of time. The parable of the absent master drives home the point that Our Lord expects the work of building God’s kingdom to go on – and vigilance to be maintained – not only by the “gatekeeper” but by the entire community. The master may be away in the flesh, but he should never be far from our thoughts.

Today’s first reading (Isaiah 63:16-64:7) is the prophet Isaiah’s bold call on God for salvation. The Lord has power to intervene dramatically and rescue His people, despite their sinfulness and hardness of heart. Finally, St. Paul in our second reading (1Cor. 1:3-9) prays that God will keep His disciples “firm” in faith and “irreproachable” in conduct as they wait for the “revelation” of the Lord Jesus. The readings today reinforce a common theme from diverse perspectives: good servants eagerly await their master’s return but they must not be idle in the meantime.

Advent is our special time to remember the birth of Jesus, to recognize His presence in our world, and so to be ever ready for the time when He will come at the moment of our death and at the end of time. We do not know when either time will be, but we put our hope in Jesus and trust that as we “wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,” God will strengthen us to the end.

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### **SPECIAL SAINTS’ DAYS THIS WEEK – ADVENT WEEK ONE**

#### **Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup> – St. Andrew**

Andrew, brother of Simon Peter, was a disciple of John the Baptist before he became a follower of Jesus. A fisherman like his brother, he was one of the first to be called by Our Lord. Several times in the gospels, Andrew is seen bringing individuals to Jesus. May Andrew inspire us to do the same.

#### **Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> – St. Francis Xavier**

Along with St. Ignatius Loyola this 16<sup>th</sup> century Spaniard helped found the Jesuit Order – then spent the rest of his life preaching and teaching in the Far East. For 10 years he tirelessly proclaimed the Gospel in India and Japan. He died, off the coast of China, far from his native land – but his example continues to inspire men and women who work in the missions.

#### **Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> – St. John Damascus**

Also known as “John Damascene”, John lived in the latter part of the 7<sup>th</sup> century. A deeply learned man, John wrote many theological works, but also composed hymns and was an eloquent preacher. He is honored as a “Doctor of the Church” and is considered the last of the Church’s “Greek Fathers”.

### **Special Christmas Schedule**



**Christmas Eve -- Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Vigil Mass – 5:00 p.m.**

**Midnight Mass – 12:00 a.m.**

*(Choral Prelude at 11:30 p.m.)*

**Christmas Day -- Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

**8:30; 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.**

There is no evening Mass on Christmas Day



### **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](http://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](http://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 are providing 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 are available at the exits of the church.

**K. of C. Membership:** In honor of the beatification of its founder, Blessed Michael Mc Givney, the Knights of Columbus has extended through the end of December its offer of one year of free online membership to Catholic men. By selecting the “Join” menu at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) and entering MCGIVNEY2020 in the promo code, Catholic men can instantly be part of the largest Catholic fraternal benefit society for free. No credit card will be required. Catholic men aged 18 and up are encouraged to take advantage of this no risk opportunity. Online members also have the option of transitioning to traditional membership with a local council. For more information contact Bob Maffucci at 917-319-5525 or at [Robert.maffucci@kofc.org](mailto:Robert.maffucci@kofc.org).

**K. of C. Christmas Items:** Members from the Knights of Columbus will be selling “Keep Christ in Christmas” lawn signs and magnets at all Masses on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at the front exit of the Church.