

Saint John the Baptist Parish

Pastor: Msgr. J. Christopher Maloney

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

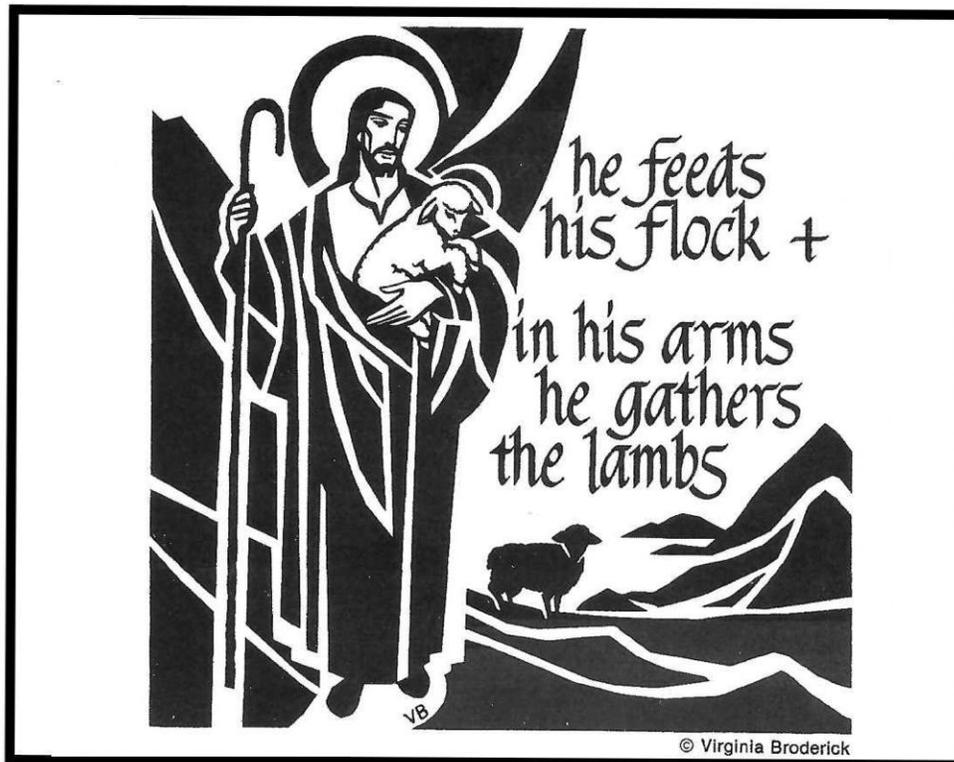
Associates: Deacon Martin J. Olivieri, Deacon Nicholas Ramoni

Retired Priest: Msgr. Walter A. Birkle

670 Yonkers Ave.
Yonkers, NY 10704
www.sjbyonkers.org

December 6, 2020
2nd Sunday of Advent

Tel: (914) 963-1486
Fax: (914) 375-1115
stjohnsp@optonline.net



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

Saturday, December 5, 2020

Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent

5:00 p.m. James J. Mullin – 5th 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

Monday, December 7, 2020

Feast of St. Ambrose, Bishop; Doctor of the Church

8:00 a.m. Julia and John Soracco

12:00 noon Helen and Peter Duggan

Monday, December 7, 2020

Vigil: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

5:00 p.m. Deceased Members of the Urrico and Gaudio Families

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Feast: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 a.m. Anthony Capobianco - Birthday

12:00 noon Salvatore Caruso

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Feast of St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

8:00 a.m. Joseph Meaney

12:00 noon Conchita Millan

Thursday, December 10, 2020

8:00 a.m. Rosanna Ciardullo

12:00 noon Vivian and Dan Siano and Madio and DeMarzo Families

Friday, December 11, 2020

Feast of St. Damasus I, Pope

8:00 a.m. Anthony J. Del Giudice, Sr. –

50th Anniversary

Anthony J. Trotta – 10th Anniversary

12:00 noon Alma Layug

Saturday, December 12, 2020

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:30 a.m. Sherry Enea

Saturday, December 12, 2020

Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent

5:00 p.m. Jenny Giardina

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. John Montanti

10:30 a.m. Deceased members of the Lupinacci and Fiore Families

12:30 p.m. Deceased members of the Barberi and Fortuna Families

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

Saturday, December 5th

K.O.C. Christmas Sales – following Mass

Sunday, December 6th

K.O.C. Christmas Sales – following Masses

Wednesday, December 9th

R.E. Grades 1st through 5th -- 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. – School

R.E. Grades 6th through 8th -- 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. – School

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 this weekend at the front exit of the Church.

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.

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. These tickets will be available at the rectory (Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) until we reach our limit. 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.

Holy Day: 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.

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.

S.J.B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 6, 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Try to picture yourself a thousand miles from home, living in a refugee camp, separated from family and friends. This was the fate of the Jews exiled at Babylon in the sixth century before Christ. Today's first reading (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11) promises them God's comforting presence and powerful protection. God was a mighty king who would rule them, a gentle shepherd who would lead them home.

Many of these refugees did return to Jerusalem, but life was not easy. Centuries of persecution followed, and faithful Jews longed for the salvation promised by Isaiah. In the fullness of time, a child was born at Bethlehem and thirty years later was proclaimed Savior by John, the voice crying in the wilderness.

In today's second reading (2 Peter 3:8-14), Peter sees us as exiles far from home. Our present abode will pass away in God's good time and we will be brought to a new earth. On this second Sunday in Advent, we are assured that, as the Good Shepherd came in fulfillment of Isaiah's promise, so He will come to us to lead us safely home.

Today's gospel (Mk. 1:1-18) is the opening and prologue of St. Mark's gospel, but it is also true that Mark's Gospel (all 16 chapters) is the "beginning" of something that continues far beyond it. Indeed Mark's Gospel is an announcement of salvation that continues in the life of the Church right down to the present day. How appropriate it is (when the Church's liturgical calendar is barely one week old) that we hear the announcement of the beginning of the Good news. The Son of God is coming. Salvation is at hand. Now is the time. Advent's season of consolation and hope, of conversion and repentance, is all for one purpose: to bring us face to face with Christ the Lord.

SPECIAL SAINTS' DAYS THIS WEEK – ADVENT WEEK TWO

Monday, December 7th – St. Ambrose

This fourth century doctor of the Church is revered for his teaching and for his role in converting St. Augustine. He was an eloquent preacher and an original thinker who was able to use the ideas of the great Greek and Roman philosophers to support Christian truth.

He was one of the great examples of the Catholic tradition of respecting faith and reason in the authentic search for truth.

Wednesday, December 9th – St. Juan Diego

Canonized by Pope John Paul II in July, 2002, this native Mexican was the humble, holy worker to whom Our Lady appeared in the 16th century. Revered throughout the Americas as Our Lady of Guadalupe, she miraculously impressed her image on Juan's cloak.

Friday, December 11th – St. Damasus

Born in Spain in the early 4th century, Damasus came to Rome and was eventually elected Pope at a particularly difficult time in the history of the Church. Beset by persecution from without and heresy within, Damasus sought to guide the Church with holiness and dedication.

Saturday, December 12th – Our Lady of Guadalupe

Today is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We remember Mary's appearance as a native Mexican expectant with child, shining like the sun and moon together. In Advent Mary teaches us how to wait. She is the wise virgin robed in midnight blue, patiently awaiting the groom; and she is the pregnant one, robed in the blood-red of the Spirit, yearning to see God cradled in her own arms.

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.

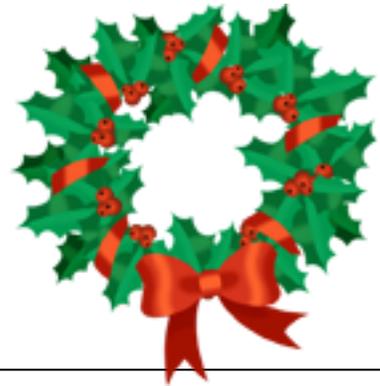
Practical Matters:

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.

Special Christmas Schedule



Christmas Eve -- Tuesday, December 24th
Vigil Mass – 5:00 p.m.
Midnight Mass – 12:00 a.m.
(Choral Prelude at 11:30 p.m.)



Christmas Day -- Wednesday, December 25th
8:30; 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
There is no evening Mass on Christmas Day

Rest in Peace: Let us pray for Patrick Quinn who was buried from our church this past week. Our prayers go out to his family and friends.

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.

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.

Latin Chant: During Advent at our sung Sunday Masses, we will use traditional Gregorian Chant whenever the Sanctus and Agnus Dei are sung. The chant melodies are very easy to sing and the words of these responses are so familiar in English that the Latin shouldn't pose a problem, even for someone who has never studied Latin. Moreover, it gives us an opportunity (however small) to recapture the long tradition of singing Gregorian Chant.

Christmas Traditions: *The Christmas Tree* - This Christmas tradition is usually traced to pre-Christian pagan sources. Its specifically Christian origin is unclear – although many suggest that St. Boniface who evangelized the Germans in the 8th century may have been the first to use it. As an “evergreen” tree it was an obvious symbol of life and a connection to the Cross as the “tree of eternal life” was easy to make. The Lutheran Reformer, Martin Luther, is said to have been the first to put candles on the tree to symbolize the light of Christ. The custom of hanging figures on the tree seems traceable to a period when cookies in a variety of shapes were put on the tree – the cookies suggesting the bread of the Eucharist made life giving when it is transformed into Christ's Body and Blood in the Mass.

Hanukkah: In the Jewish calendar, this “Festival of Lights” usually falls early in the Advent season. This year the eight day celebration begins on December 11th. The celebration centers around the lighting of the menorah (an eight-branched candelabrum) that recalls the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem by Judas Maccabeus in 165 B.C. (see 1 Maccabees 4) It is interesting that only Catholics include the Book of Maccabees in the Canon of Sacred Scripture. Though we do not observe the Hanukkah prayers and traditions, we respect its meaning as a moment of new insight, light and happiness for the Jewish people. The image of light brought forth with the lighting of a new candle each day makes it a time of progressive growth in love and generosity.

Christmas Envelopes: For anyone who did not receive a Christmas envelope in the mail, they are available at the exits of the Church and in the sacristy. Christmas is traditionally a time for giving – because we are especially aware at this holy season of everything that God has given us through His Son. Your special sacrifice at this time of year does so much to insure that St. John's will be able to meet the many needs of our people and continue to be such a special church in which to pray, to hear God's word, and to receive the sacraments. God bless you for your goodness.