

# 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 13, 2020  
3rd Sunday of Advent

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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 12, 2020*

*Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent*

5:00 p.m. Jerry 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

*Monday, December 14, 2020*

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

8:00 a.m. Mario Bonavita

12:00 noon Even Sheehy

*Tuesday, December 15, 2020*

8:00 a.m. Rory O'Flaherty

12:00 noon Mario Procaccino – 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*Wednesday, December 16, 2020*

8:00 a.m. Frances Dippolito

12:00 noon Denis J. Burbridge, Jr.

*Thursday, December 17, 2020*

8:00 a.m. Domenick J. Paglia, Sr. –  
2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

12:00 noon Cesare Recine -- Birthday

*Friday, December 18, 2020*

8:00 a.m. Regina Capobianco -- Birthday

12:00 noon Frank Lagana

*Saturday, December 19, 2020*

8:30 a.m. Michele Loveccio

*Saturday, December 19, 2020*

*Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent*

5:00 p.m. Catherine and Jerry O'Sullivan

*Sunday, December 20, 2020*

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

8:30 a.m. Allen, Geraldine and Allen, Jr. Purdy

10:30 a.m. Mass for the Parishioners of  
St. John the Baptist

12:30 p.m. Margherita Spataro

## WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

*Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</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

**Christmas Masses:** As this bulletin is being prepared, we still have a number of tickets for each of the two Masses for which we are requiring tickets: the 5:00 p.m. Vigil on December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve) and the Christmas midnight Mass. Since these Masses (in the past) have had standing room only attendance, it was prudent for us to use tickets to be sure that our attendance at those Masses did not exceed the limits imposed by New York State and the Archdiocese. We do not believe (if past experience is any guide) that there will be a problem with our three Masses on Christmas Day (8:30; 10:30 a.m.; 12:30 p.m.), so no tickets will be required for them.

Tickets are available at the rectory, Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There is no charge for these tickets; however at this point we are limiting each family to four (4) tickets. Should anyone wish more, we will have a “waiting list” and if tickets are still available as of December 21<sup>st</sup>, we will call folks on the waiting list. Thank you for your understanding.

**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.

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

**December 13, 2020**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:** This day is sometimes called Gaudete Sunday because the first word of the entrance antiphon in Latin is “gaudete,” which means rejoice. The antiphon is taken from Philipians 4:4, Paul’s warm and loving letter to the community he founded in Philippi. It doesn’t sound very elegant to call this the “Rejoice Sunday” but that’s the idea. It is a day of joy. The prayer of the Church echoes that sentiment as it calls us to “Rejoice! The Lord is near!” We know all too well the challenge of trying to integrate the religious Advent/Christmas message of the liturgy into the “Let’s party!” message of our culture. Scripture today shows us that in rejoicing, we are invited to examine our spiritual readiness for the coming of Christ while still being engaged in the task of daily preparations for the Christmas celebration. To strengthen our spiritual readiness, we are offered a summary of the goals of Christian ministry in today’s first reading from the Old Testament’s prophet Isaiah (Is. 61:1-2, 10-11). Our Lord would recall the words of Isaiah when He stood in the synagogue before the people of His village (see Lk. 4:15-21). In today’s second reading (1 Thes. 5:16-24) St. Paul sees joy as a sign of faith – a sign that is not diminished even by suffering or loss or persecution. We have received the gift of the Holy Spirit in baptism – and we are called to be joyful witnesses, even in this “vale of tears.” As we prepare for the feast of the Incarnation, we examine our hearts to see how we are doing in our mission given to us in baptism. Once again the prominence of John the Baptist in today’s gospel (Jn. 1:6-8; 9-28) will enhance our reflection.

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

#### **Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> – St. John of the Cross**

Today is the memorial of St. John of the Cross, the 16<sup>th</sup> century Spanish mystic and Doctor of the Church. His spiritual classic, The Dark Night of the Soul suggests an important truth to remember in Advent: in darkness – under the shadow of the cross, we find light. St. John teaches us how to seek God’s will and trust in God’s grace.

#### **Special Christmas Schedule**



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

***Vigil Mass – 5:00 p.m.***

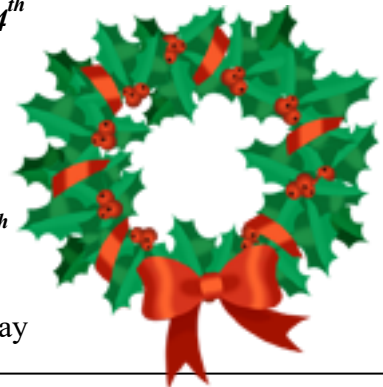
***Midnight Mass – 12:00 a.m.***

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

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

***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 Alessandro Sicilia and Lucia Torres 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.

**Daily Mass Alert:** There will be no noon Mass on Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve) and no 8:30 Mass on Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup> (the day after Christmas). Also the rectory office will be closed on Christmas Eve at 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.

**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.

**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 Candy Cane* –One of the oldest – and certainly the tastiest – Christian “symbol” is the peppermint candy cane – which is more than a piece of candy; it is rich – not only in sugar – but in symbolism. It's made in the shape of a shepherd's “crook” – which recalls the shepherds who came to see the Christ Child in the manger; the Christ Child who would call Himself the “Good Shepherd.” The colors – red and white – are highly significant. The white represents purity – the purity of Our Lord – as well as the purity He calls us to. The red represents the blood He shed for us – and the sacrifices He asks us to make for one another. Remember all these associations when you place candy canes on your Christmas tree during this special season of grace.

**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.