

# 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  
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January 3, 2021  
Feast of the Epiphany

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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

*Saturday, January 2, 2021*

*Vigil: Epiphany of the Lord*

5:00 p.m. Joan and Eddie Winters

*Sunday, January 3, 2021*

*Epiphany of the Lord*

8:30 a.m. Mass for the Parishioners of  
St. John the Baptist

10:30 a.m. Julia and John Soracco

12:30 p.m. Salvatore Spataro

*Monday, January 4, 2021*

*Feast of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious*

8:00 a.m. Gloria Abreu

12:00 noon Sofia T. David

*Tuesday, January 5, 2021*

*Feast of St. John Neumann, Bishop*

8:00 a.m. Ken Sullivan

12:00 noon Jack Romano

*Wednesday, January 6, 2021*

*Feast of St. André Bessette*

8:00 a.m. Thomas Amodeo

12:00 noon Frances DiPaola

*Thursday, January 7, 2021*

*Feast of St. Raymond of Peñafort, Priest*

8:00 a.m. Virginia De Lucci

12:00 noon Consuela Rosario

*Friday, January 8, 2021*

8:00 a.m. Giuseppe Albanese

12:00 noon Cristen Santiago

*Saturday, January 9, 2021*

8:30 a.m. Antonio Manzo – 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

*Saturday, January 9, 2021*

*Vigil: Baptism of the Lord*

5:00 p.m. Maria Carmela and Joseph  
Federico, Sr.

*Sunday, January 10, 2021*

*Baptism of the Lord*

8:30 a.m. John Ricciardi

10:30 a.m. Deceased members of the  
Schmidt Family

12:30 p.m. Francesca Bonavita

## WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

*Wednesday, January 6<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 Season:** This wonderful season of hope and joy officially ends this Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. On Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, we return to what is called “Ordinary Time” in the Church Year. We hope that this special season has brought you many graces and blessings. It has served to remind us that God loves us so much, He sent His only Son for our salvation. Every celebration and every tradition of this beautiful season draw their meaning from this wonderful and consoling truth that gives glory and peace to all people of good will.

**Christmastime:** The “*Twelve Days of Christmas*” – immortalized in a famous song -- are the days from December 25<sup>th</sup> to January 6<sup>th</sup> – the traditional date of the Epiphany. More recently, Epiphany is celebrated on the second Sunday after Christmas, so it has become a “moveable” feast. However, for a long time the 12 day period after Christmas was a time for special prayer, pageants, religious festivals and feasts. Part of the tradition included a formal ceremony of removing all Christmas decorations on “Twelfth Night”. The popular song is often thought of as a children’s song; however, some have suggested that it had its origins during the persecution of Catholics in England during the 16<sup>th</sup> century and that each day represented some aspect of the Catholic faith that it was important for all Catholics to remember – children and adults both. Thus, for example, the “10 Lord’s A-Leaping” referred to the 10 commandments; the “8 Maids A-Milking” recalled the Beatitudes; “the 4 Calling Birds” referenced the four gospels – and so on. Whether this is historical fact or “urban myth”, the point is that this special season has a rich heritage – and many of its aspects can lead us to a fuller realization of the wonders of God’s love!

**New Year’s Resolution:** One resolution we can all make is to try to participate more fully and more prayerfully in the Mass. Coming to Mass on Sunday is truly THE most important thing we do in the whole week. We should try to arrive early, spend some time in prayer before Mass then actively respond to the prayers (and in sung Mass, the hymns) of the Mass. Whenever possible there should be some time after Mass for a brief Thanksgiving. At the very least let us resolve never to arrive late for Mass or leave Mass early during 2021.

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

**January 3, 2021**

**FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY:** Epiphany comes from a Greek word which means a manifestation or appearance. Christians celebrate the Incarnation in stages, remembering Jesus' birth in Judea on December 25<sup>th</sup>, His manifestation to the nations on the feast of the Epiphany, and His baptism celebrated this on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Symbols abound in today's readings: light, rich gifts, exotic visitors, a guiding star. Today's first reading (Isaiah 60:1-6) captures the wonder and joy of the Israelites who, upon their return from exile in Babylonia, are making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The words of Isaiah fairly trip over each other in his outburst of enthusiasm and encouragement to his people who have suffered so much.

Isaiah's description of gifts of gold and frankincense are echoed in the symbolic tokens of the wise men in Matthew's gospel (Mt. 2:1-12). Tellingly, Matthew adds myrrh, so that the mystery of Jesus' divinity, humanity, and passion are foreshadowed: gold for royalty, frankincense for divinity, myrrh for a suffering servant. Matthew's "wise men" are non-Jews, themselves symbols of the universality of Jesus' mission. Paul reminds the Ephesians of this in today's second reading (Eph. 3:2-6) when he observes that the Gentiles are "coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise."

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### **SPECIAL SAINTS' DAYS THIS WEEK**

#### **Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> – St. Elizabeth Seton**

Born in New York City in 1774, Elizabeth Ann Seton married and began a family. She also founded a welfare society for widows with young children. At age 30, she became a widow herself. To support her children, she began the first Catholic school in the United States (near Baltimore) and founded the Sisters of Charity. She died in her late forties, having met every adversity with courage and every challenge with enthusiasm.

#### **Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> – St. John Neumann**

Bohemian-born John Neumann (1811) was ordained a priest in 1836 in New York. After ministering to German speaking Catholics in upstate New York, he joined the Redemptorist community in 1840 and did missionary work in Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia. When he became bishop of Philadelphia, he built many new churches and schools. He even wrote 2 catechisms that were used for some 35 years in Catholic schools. He died today in 1860 and in 1977 was made the first U.S. male saint.

#### **Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> – Blessed André Bessett**

Born near Quebec, Canada in 1845, André entered the congregation of the Holy Cross and spent his life devoted to prayer and the care of the poor. He was known as the "Miracle Worker of Montreal" because of the many cures attributed to him.

#### **Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> – St. Raymond of Peñafort**

Born in Barcelona, Spain in 1175, Raymond became the third superior general of the young Dominican Order. He became a confessor to the Pope who looked to Raymond's wisdom and organizational genius to help guide the Church during a challenging time.

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**Rest in Peace:** Let us pray for Joseph Lionetti, Antonio Perruzza, Rodolfo Forchetti and Joseph Dennis Hebert who were buried from our church this past week. Our prayers go out to their families and friends.

**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.

**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.

**New Parishioners:** If you are new to our parish community here at St. John’s we welcome you and invite you to become an active member of our parish – participating in any of the parish societies or organizations which may interest you. Please make sure to register with us. You can find new parishioner registration forms in the back of the church or in the rectory. Once completed, you can give them to one of the priests or ushers – or you may drop them off at the rectory during the week.



**The Three Kings**

*Three Kings came riding from far away,  
Melchior and Gaspar and Baltasar;  
Three Wise Men out of the East were they,  
And they traveled by night and they slept by day,  
For their guide was a beautiful, wonderful star.  
The star was so beautiful, large and clear,  
That all the other stars of the sky  
Became a white mist in the atmosphere,  
And by this they knew that the coming was near  
Of the Prince foretold in the prophecy.*