

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

January 31, 2021
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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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 30, 2021

Vigil: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Sunday, January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. Ita Kelly -- Birthday
10:30 a.m. Luise Lyddy and Breeda Flynn
12:30 p.m. Anna Olivieri – 18th Anniversary

Monday, February 1, 2021

8:00 a.m. Sheila O'Reilly
12:00 noon Anthony Guido, Jr.

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

8:00 a.m. William Yankowy
12:00 noon Hank Meyer

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

*Feast of St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar,
Bishop*

8:00 a.m. Carmela, Joseph and Diego Gagliano
12:00 noon Faye D'Eufemia

Thursday, February 4, 2021

8:00 a.m. Annie and William Ludlow
12:00 noon Brendan Moyna

Friday, February 5, 2021

Feast of St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

8:00 a.m. Joseph Salva
12:00 noon Salvatore Sbordone

Saturday, February 6, 2021

Feast of St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyr

8:30 a.m. Margaret Mc Redmond

Saturday, February 6, 2021

Vigil: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 p.m. Marie Pockett

Sunday, February 7, 2021

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. Tina and Raffaele Rinaldi and
Anna Lufrano
10:30 a.m. Mass for the parishioners of
St. John the Baptist
12:30 p.m. Margherita Spataro

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 3rd

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

Holy Communion for the sick and Homebound:

Before Covid-19 it was our practice here at St. John's to have Eucharistic Ministers visit the homes and bring the Eucharist to parishioners who requested it. Obviously visits to the home by non-family members is not possible under current conditions. Should someone wish communion at home we ask a family member to contact the rectory; Deacon Ramoni will arrange to meet that person and instruct him or her on how to bring communion to the sick or homebound individual. We will also provide a pyx (the vessel which holds the host).

S.J.B. School Registration: School Registration for September 2021 began on January 25th. Students for the Pre-K must be 4 years old by December 1, 2021. For more information, please call Mrs. Sanchez at 914-965-2356.

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.

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

January 31, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: We are asked to reflect again on the notion of God's call. In every age prophetic voices are needed to call us to account for our use or abuse of the gifts of creation. Prophecy addresses injustice, oppression, exploitation, excess. It condemns those who invoke God's name for personal gain, seeking the comforts of religion but ignoring its challenges. Each of us, then, is called to be a prophet.

Today's first reading from the Book of Deuteronomy (Dt. 18:15-20) is taken from a section devoted to the organization of the religious life of the Israelite community. It centers on the gift of prophecy and ensures God's people that: first, the gift of prophecy will never be lacking to the faith community; and second, Moses will always be its model. Indeed, throughout the course of salvation history, messengers of God emerged again and again to speak the prophetic word boldly and powerfully in different circumstances.

In today's liturgy, this first reading points us toward the powerful words and actions of Jesus who stands in the tradition of Moses. Jesus preaches with authority. He performs miraculous works.

Although today's second reading (1 Cor. 7:32-35) seems to focus primarily on the value of celibacy or virginity, St. Paul's larger point is to urge everyone – whether married, single or widowed – to consider how our lifestyle helps or hinders us in the effort to hear God's prophetic word and live it.

Finally, today's gospel (Mk. 1:21-28) gives us a brief snapshot of the twofold ministry of Jesus: His powerful authoritative teaching and His powerful casting out of an unclean spirit. The ministry of Jesus was to free all of those in bondage – mental or physical. His authority extends over all the powers of darkness.

SPECIAL LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Tuesday, February 2nd – Presentation of the Lord

This feast on the 40th day of Christmas is concerned with the biblical events in the temple of Jerusalem which are reported in St. Luke's gospel (2:22-38). It celebrates when Mary brings the child Jesus to the temple to fulfill the Mosaic Law (Lev. 12:1-8) and to make the traditional offerings to the poor. Since this was the occasion on which Simeon speaks of Jesus as the "Light of revelation to the gentiles" the feast has been the time for processions and the blessing of candles (hence the term "candlemas"). The candles represent Christ – the light that has come into the world and which we pray will always burn brightly in our hearts and minds.

Wednesday, February 3rd – St. Blasé

This 4th century bishop and martyr is said to have healed a boy with a fish bone stuck in his throat; thus becoming the special patron for those suffering diseases of the throat. The blessing of the throats with candles began in the 16th century. This year – because of the Covid-19 pandemic – the usual practice of placing blessed candles on each person's throat as the prayer of blessing is said – is not advisable. Therefore at the end of our 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon Masses we will replace the final blessing at Mass with the special blessing for this feast – and it will be done only once.

Friday, February 5th – St. Agatha

This young woman lived in the 3rd century – during the terrible persecution of the church by a succession of Roman emperors. She was martyred in Sicily about 251 A.D. because she refused to give up her faith. She is the patroness of Sicily.

Saturday, February 6th – St. Paul Miki and Companions

Paul was a Japanese nobleman who lived in 16th century Japan; converted by Jesuits, he himself became a Jesuit and a successful missionary preacher in Japan. He and his companions were martyred by decree of Japan's brutal, anti-Catholic dictator.

Miracle Cleaners: It's been 5 years since Julian and Diana Della Cruz took over "Miracle" Dry Cleaners on Yonkers Avenue across from our church and school. In those years they established themselves as responsible members of our community, noted for their excellent service and positive attitudes. They also moved to an apartment on Seminary Avenue, joined our parish and baptized their first child at St. John's. Julian has also been an active member of our Holy Name Society. Two weeks ago their cleaning establishment was wiped out by a terrible fire. They have very little insurance and their savings was invested in their store. Anyone who wishes to help Julian and Diana directly can do so by contributing to St. John the Baptist (in the check "memo" put "Miracle Cleaners"). We will make sure all donations go directly to Julian and Diana. Please keep them in your prayers.

Rest in Peace: Let us pray for George Torres and Serafino Triarsi who were buried from our church this past week. Our prayers go out to their families 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.

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.

Remembering St. John the Baptist: The life of this beautiful Church of ours spans most of the twentieth century and thanks to the sacrifices of those who have gone before us it continues to serve people living in the twenty-first century! Please remember to assist St. John's in its future work by including a gift in your will. Every Christian should have a will so that your loved ones will be provided for and the charitable work you support in life will also be supported after you pass from this life. Simply include a statement like the following in your will: "I leave to the Church of St. John the Baptist, 670 Yonkers Avenue, Yonkers, NY the sum of \$ _____ to be used for its general purposes." God bless you for your thoughtfulness!

Cardinal's Appeal: Cardinal Dolan has begun this annual Archdiocesan Stewardship Appeal. Some of our parishioners have already received information about the appeal in the mail; many more will receive such information in the days and weeks to follow. In a few weeks we will have our annual "In Pew Sunday" which will give everyone an opportunity to participate in this vital campaign which does so much to assist the Church's pastoral, charitable, and educational efforts throughout our Archdiocese. In the meantime we ask everyone to pray for the success of this appeal.

Mass Requests for 2022: The Mass "book" for 2022 will be open for reservations as of Tuesday, February 23rd. Because of the number of Parishioners who wish to arrange Masses at St. John's, we must request that Mass reservations be made in person. On February 23rd those seeking to make Mass reservations should do so in the lower church (not the rectory) starting at 9:00 a.m. Someone will be there all morning and in the afternoon until 3:00 p.m. After February 23rd, Mass requests for 2022 should be made in the rectory, Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Our office staff is simply unable to handle requests by phone if they are to complete the regular volume of work they have. In addition, individual Mass reservations are **limited to three on February 23rd** so we may accommodate as many parishioners as possible. **(After the initial day, more Mass reservations may be made at the rectory later in the week.)** We remind everyone that there are a number of retired priests who are able to take Mass requests – even for 2021. We are happy to provide Mass cards for these Masses; however, they will not be celebrated here at St. John's. **MASKS ARE REQUIRED.**

H.S.A. Fundraiser: St. John's Home School Association is sponsoring a Super Bowl LV 50/50 Fundraiser. If anyone is interested in purchasing a box or for more information please contact Julie Egan at 646-709-2342.