

Saint John the Baptist Parish

Pastor: Msgr. J. Christopher Maloney

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

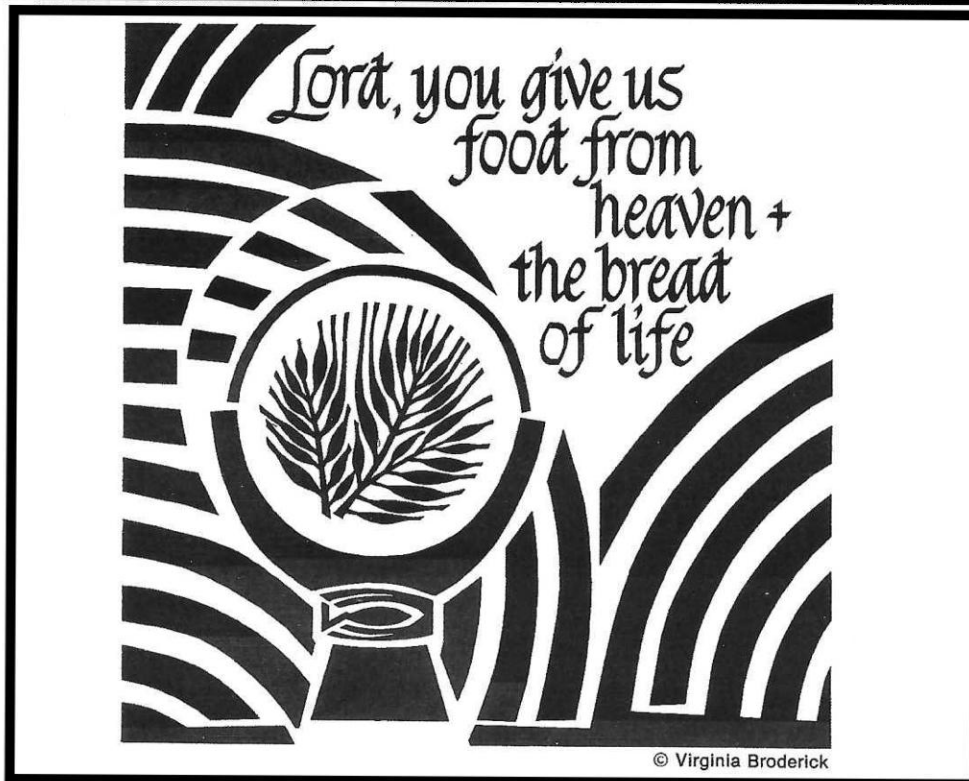
Associates: Deacon Martin J. Olivieri, Deacon Nicholas Ramoni

Retired Priest: Msgr. Walter A. Birkle

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

February 14, 2021
6th 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, February 13, 2021

Vigil: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 p.m. Barbara Vitale

Sunday, February 14, 2021

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. Susan Vanadia

10:30 a.m. Mary and Cosmo Di Noia

12:30 p.m. Frances Fortuna

Monday, February 15, 2021

President's Day

8:00 a.m. Salvatore Sbordone

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

8:00 a.m. Paschal Mondella

12:00 noon Thomas Giardina

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Joan Glas

10:00 a.m. Prayer Service

12:00 Noon Ralph Milano

4:30 p.m. Prayer Service

7:30 p.m. Prayer Service

Thursday, February 18, 2021

8:00 a.m. Rory O'Flaherty

12:00 noon Maurice Herlihy

Friday, February 19, 2021

8:00 a.m. Stephen McNamara

12:00 noon Paul Donoghue

Saturday, February 20, 2021

8:30 a.m. Maurice Herlihy and John Healy

Saturday, February 20, 2021

Vigil: First Sunday of Lent

5:00 p.m. Betty Lane and Kathleen Mc Keon

Sunday, February 21, 2021

First Sunday of Lent

8:30 a.m. Salvatore, Maria and Constantino
Caruso

10:30 a.m. Luigi Quintieri and Giovanni
Mesoraca

12:30 p.m. Francesco Paolo

WEDDING BANNES

I. Matthew Lowrey and Abigail Morgan

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, February 15th

Rectory Closed

Wednesday, February 17th

No Religious Education Program

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.

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.

Parish Office – February 15th: This Monday, President's Day, is a national holiday. Our rectory Office will be closed. The church and the chapel will be closed after the 8:00 a.m. Mass. There is no noon Mass on President's Day.

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.

S.J.B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 14, 2021

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: The readings from Sacred Scripture today invite us to consider our reaction to those whom society considers “outcasts.” We are also urged to realize that the most dangerous diseases are those that afflict the soul.

Our first reading (Lev. 13:1-2; 44-46) from the Book of Leviticus represents the realization that any human society must protect itself from deadly and dangerous disease. Only in the 20th century did the separation of lepers (now recognized as persons afflicted with Hanson’s disease) from the rest of the human community come to an end.

In the gospel (Mk. 1:40-45) Jesus shows great respect for the religious traditions of His people even as His miracle signals a messianic era in which all ritual taboos will be ended as healing and cleansing occur for every human being who is called to salvation. St. Paul in the second reading (1 Cor. 10:31-11:1) urges sensitivity when sharing table with those who are not members of our faith community. The important thing is to “do all for the glory of God.” The force of these readings is to insist on the universal call of God’s love; and they remind us that the only disease that ostracizes us from God is our own sinfulness.

WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday: This Wednesday, February 17th, is the beginning of a solemn day that begins a 40 day period of penance during which we reflect in a special way on the mercy of Almighty God. It is a day of fast and abstinence. Ashes will be distributed at each of our Masses that day. On Ash Wednesday, we will have two Masses: 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. In addition, there will be three prayer services at 10:00 a.m., 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at which ashes will be both blessed and distributed.

Ash Wednesday 2021: Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all our Masses and services that day. We will have two Masses: at 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. In addition, we will have three prayer services at 10:00 a.m., 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars. This year – given the serious concerns regarding the spread of Covid-19, the way ashes will be distributed at our St. John’s services will be different from the past. The Vatican has recommended a European method of distributing ashes by “sprinkling” ashes on the crown of each penitent’s head. We will **not** be doing this at St. John’s. At our services we will bless individual “packets” of ashes and distribute one to each penitent. This is what we have done in the past for parishioners who wish to bring ashes to the homebound – and we anticipate many more of our parishioners will wish to do something similar this year. The amount of blessed ashes in each packet should be more than enough for all members of the family. It will be a good family practice for one member to impose ashes on another using the traditional formula (“Remember that you are dust...” etc.) which will be printed on each packet. I am certain that other parishes will use other methods of distributing ashes – but we believe the method we have chosen to be both devotional and safe. Have a good Lent!

LENT

Lent: is a holy season in our Church's year, it is holy because it calls us in a special way to holiness and encourages us to adopt holy habits of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Prayer: We should try to attend Mass as often as we can during Lent and pray the Rosary and make the Stations of the Cross.

Almsgiving: We should try to make special sacrifices during Lent – and it is fortunate that the annual Cardinal's Appeal continues throughout Lent so that we have a very practical opportunity to assist the Church's works of charity in New York.

Fasting: We should try to practice some form of self-discipline during Lent – so that we might in some small way identify ourselves with Christ who was crucified for us.

Lenten Fast and Abstinence: ALL THE FRIDAYS OF LENT ARE DAY OF ABSTINENCE -All Catholics above the age of 14 are obliged to abstain from meat on the days of abstinence (unless poor health excuses). Additionally, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are both fast and abstinence. Not only is meat prohibited, but on these two fast days, only one full meal is permitted. Two smaller meals may be taken to maintain strength, but these taken together should not equal another full meal. Fasting obliges from 18 to 59 (unless poor health excuses).

Lenten Reflections: Once again we are providing a booklet of reflections to assist with a prayerful preparation for Easter. It is "The Little Black Book" published by the Diocese of Saginaw, Michigan and it offers a brief meditation for each day of Lent based on the Sunday Gospels in Lent.

Latin Chant: During Lent at our sung Sunday Masses, we will use traditional Gregorian Chant whenever the Kyrie, 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.

Rest in Peace: Let us pray for Anthony DiPaola, Marco Fraioli, Beverly Palazzo, John P. DeVasto, Alejandro Betances and Lucy Mattimore 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.

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.**

St. John's H.S.A. Raffles: The Home School Association will hold its annual raffle after each Mass on Saturday and Sunday (February 20th & 21st and 27th & 28th) at the exits of the Church. The tickets are \$5.00 and the prize is \$2000.00. This raffle is a major fundraiser for the school. Please help our school if you are able.