

Saint John the Baptist Parish

Pastor: Msgr. J. Christopher Maloney

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

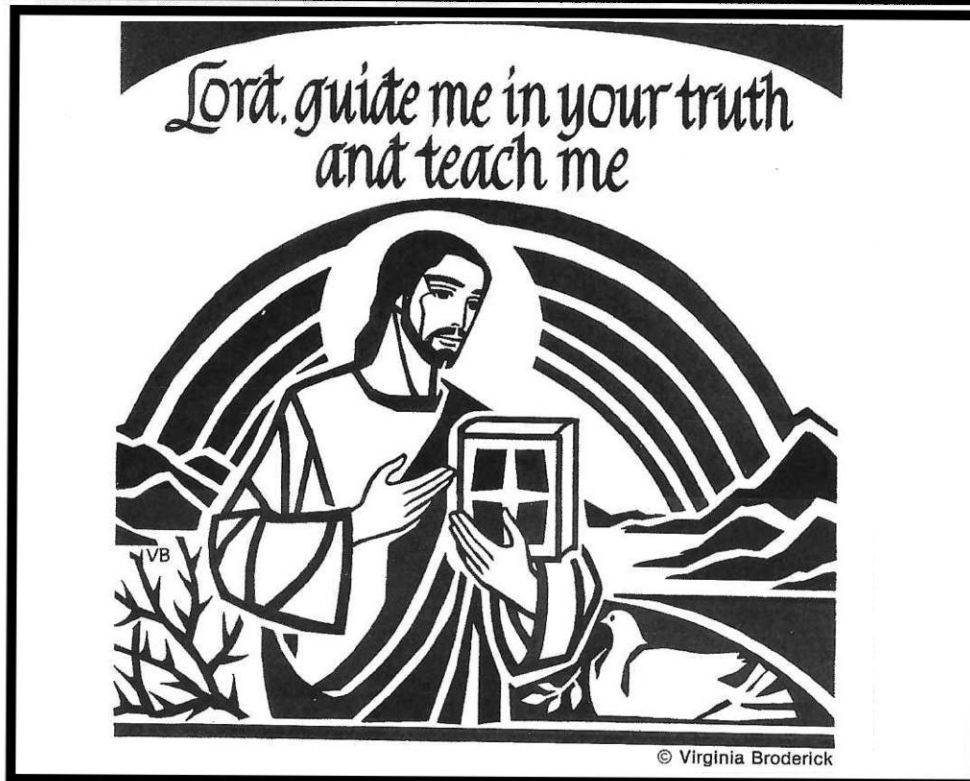
Associates: Deacon Martin J. Olivieri, Deacon Nicholas Ramoni

Retired Priest: Msgr. Walter A. Birkle

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

February 21, 2021
1st Sunday of Lent

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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 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

Monday, February 22, 2021

Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

8:00 a.m. Kristen Renee Mc Redmond

12:00 noon Aileen Marsan – 1st Anniversary

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Feast of St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

8:00 a.m. Edward Fata

12:00 noon James, Sr and James Jr. Donaghy and Elaine Iseman and Dennis Ryan

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

8:00 a.m. Denis J. O'Connor

12:00 Noon George Abraham

Thursday, February 25, 2021

8:00 a.m. Emanuel Lamptey

12:00 noon Joe Mc Kenzie - Hamilton

Friday, February 26, 2021

8:00 a.m. Antonio Canale

12:00 noon Christopher Ficaro

Saturday, February 27, 2021

8:30 a.m. Elsie Regan

Saturday, February 27, 2021

Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent

5:00 p.m. Alfred Moccio – 2nd Anniversary

Sunday, February 28, 2021

Second Sunday of Lent

8:30 a.m. Joseph Economico

10:30 a.m. Angie Montanti

12:30 p.m. Carolina Morano

WEDDING BANNES

II. Matthew Lowrey and Abigail Morgan

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 24th

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

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.

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.

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 21, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT: As today's first reading (Gen. 9:8-15) makes clear, the covenant established between Yahweh and Noah, signaled by the appearance of the rainbow, is an early indication of Israel's latest history: favor from Yahweh followed by lack of fidelity, which brings first punishment, then repentance and redemption. When the storm clouds gather, threatening another flood, Yahweh "will recall the covenant". God must not forget promised patience; we must not forget covenant commitment.

In today's second reading (1 Peter 3:18-22) St. Peter connects the flood waters of Noah's day to the waters of baptism. Just as the faithful remnant gathered on the ark survived the flood, so those who live out their baptismal promises will conquer death through Jesus Christ.

Our gospel passage (Mk. 1:12-15) is brief but powerful. Before beginning his public ministry, Jesus takes the time to make a retreat, facing temptation and preparing himself for what lies ahead. When John the Baptist is imprisoned, Jesus is ready to take up the cry, "Reform your lives and believe in the good news!"

SPECIAL SAINTS' DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday, February 22nd – Chair of Peter, Apostle

The chair (or "cathedra") of a bishop has a place of honor in every cathedral - and is a sign of the unity of faith that connects all Catholics in a diocese. This feast - which has been celebrated since the 4th century - marks the unity of Catholics all over the world who profess the one true Church built on St. Peter and his successors.

Tuesday, February 23rd – St. Polycarp

This second century martyr had been a disciple of St. John the Evangelist. He evangelized in the Middle East and eventually became bishop in Smyrna where he was burned at the stake for being Christian.

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 James Eves, Lucy Mattimore and Silvana Santini 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.

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.

Cardinal's Appeal 2021: Most of you know that during the months of February, March, and April we conduct the annual Archdiocesan Appeal. The Appeal raises critically needed funds to support the pastoral, charitable, and educational work that goes on throughout our Archdiocese. No one can exaggerate the importance of what is done for God's people thanks to the generosity of those who sacrifice for this cause; the money raised by the Appeal helps to assist: elderly priests and religious; Catholic schools, hospitals and nursing homes; parish shelters and food pantries – the list goes on and on. We realize that the deadly Covid pandemic and the economic downturn have hit a lot of our parishioners very hard; many are barely managing to make ends meet. But we also know that it is precisely the agencies assisted by this appeal that are helping those who need help most. Every year each parish in the Archdiocese is assigned a goal and for the past several years we have reached our goal – or come very close to reaching it. Ultimately, however, this is not a matter of reaching goals – it is a matter of doing our part – making a sacrifice for others in an act of practical charity. May we all give prayerful consideration to making a pledge to this important appeal in 2021.

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.**

Operation Rice Bowl: St. John's is participating in the annual Catholic Relief Services' Lenten Program, "Operation Rice Bowl" as part of our Lenten observance from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday. Packets will be distributed to all students in our parish school and Religious Education program. Additional packets will be available in the church. Please take a box home to help the poor and needy in the world.

The Meaning of Lent: The season of Lent is different from other seasons in the Church year. Like the others, it has a specific purpose and yet there are no special decorations on streets or in windows, no seasonal greeting cards in the stores, not even a fixed starting date in our calendars. Lent sort of sneaks up on us but when it comes it invites us, not just to the celebration of a single day, but into 40 days of prayer and reflection.

What makes Lent an especially holy and valuable time is the way it encourages us to take the time to sense the presence of God in our lives and hear God speaking to us. What we are likely to discover in that process is just how meaningful and truly beautiful life can be when God is a part of it. Lent also offers us an opportunity to do something that will help us become more than we are, better than we are, and because we all yearn for that, we need just such an opportunity. That 'something' may require our making a specific change in our lives (e.g. changing a behavior, altering our priorities, developing a new habit, etc.) and change is not always easy. On Ash Wednesday, however, we receive ashes and we are reminded we "are dust and unto dust will return." This is not just a reminder that we will die, it is also a reminder that there is no 'new life' without some kind of death and dying.

So, let Lent begin and before it is over may something new and beautiful be born in you. If that happens, you will have every reason to celebrate Easter.