

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 28, 2021
2nd 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 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

Monday, March 1, 2021

8:00 a.m. Mario Berta and Family

12:00 noon Elvira Manzo -- Birthday

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

8:00 a.m. Carolina Morano – 1st
Anniversary

12:00 noon Nicholas Theofilogiannakos

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Feast of St. Katherine Drexel, Virgin

8:00 a.m. Maigread Costello

12:00 Noon Anna and Epifano Di Leo

Thursday, March 4, 2021

Feast of St. Casimir

8:00 a.m. John Masiello and the Masiello
Family

12:00 noon Deceased members of the Lee
Family

Friday, March 5, 2021

8:00 a.m. Cornelius Gleeson -- Anniversary

12:00 noon Aaron Abraham – Birthday --
living

Saturday, March 6, 2021

8:30 a.m. Catherine Morrissey

Saturday, March 6, 2021

Vigil: Third Sunday of Lent

5:00 p.m. Anthony Marasciulo -- Birthday

Sunday, March 7, 2021

Third Sunday of Lent

8:30 a.m. Geraldine Purdy – 11th
Anniversary

10:30 a.m. Anthony DiPaola

12:30 p.m. Edward Makowski and Ann and
Daniel Fama

WEDDING BANNES

III. Matthew Lowrey and Abigail Morgan

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

Saturday, February 27th

H.S.A. Raffles – following Masses – exits of Church

Sunday, February 28th

H.S.A. Raffles – following Masses – exits of Church

Wednesday, March 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

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. ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 28, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT: Today's readings are enigmatic yet comforting. Abraham, St. Paul, the three disciples on the mountain: all face critical challenges and respond with faith. We are called to follow their example.

In today's first reading (Gn. 22:1-18) the story of Abraham and his willingness to sacrifice his only son Isaac is – on the surface – perplexing and even troubling. What kind of God blesses a childless couple with a long-awaited son, only to ask his father to slaughter him a short time later? The test itself suggests one solution: God tests Abraham to make sure he is worthy of the promise. So, today, Christians call Abraham “our father in faith.”

St. Paul's letter to the Romans is sometimes called his “gospel.” It is the longest of his letters and gives the fullest outline of his interpretations of the Christ event. In today's reading (Rom. 8:31-34) St. Paul contrasts life lived in the Spirit to life lived solely for oneself. Known and loved by God, we have nothing to fear. “If God is for us, who can be against us?” After all, God (like Abraham) handed over his beloved Son for us. What further guarantee of God's fidelity do we need?

The Transfiguration in St. Mark's gospel (9:2-10) occurs six days after Jesus' first prediction of his passion and death. The disciples have been thinking about the hint of suffering to come for nearly a week; now they will get a hint of the glory that will follow. Moses (law) and Elijah (prophecy) witness to Jesus, while the cloud evokes the cloud over the ancient meeting tent, a symbol of God's presence. The moment is fleeting and they have to come back down off the mountain, but they (and we) have been assured that it will, indeed, come right in the end.

SPECIAL SAINTS' DAYS – LENT WEEK TWO

Wednesday, March 3rd – St. Katherine Drexel

Born into a very wealthy Philadelphia family in 1858, Katherine grew up in a strongly religious household that believed that with great wealth comes greater responsibility. When she inherited a fortune after her parents' death, Katherine was determined to use her money to help America's poor – especially African American and Indians. She eventually devoted her life to that cause and established a religious order – The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament which built missions, rural schools – and even a university: Xavier University in New Orleans, the first American university for African Americans.

Thursday, March 4th – St. Casimir

Born in Poland in 1458, Casimir was the son of the King of Poland, but Casimir eschewed the trappings of royalty and preferred to live simply, studying, praying and serving the poor. He died of consumption in 1484 before he reached his 24th birthday.

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).

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 Adriano Vieira and Linda Verderese 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.

In-Pew Sunday: Obviously, the normal Sunday liturgy should not be interrupted except in unusual circumstances. The Cardinal’s annual Stewardship Appeal is such a circumstance – and the officials of the Archdiocese agree, because they have encouraged pastors in the Archdiocese to conduct an “In-Pew” appeal on a weekend in the early stages of the Appeal. We at St. John’s will have our In Pew Appeal next Sunday!

Every parishioner will be invited to complete one of the pledge envelopes that we will place in the pews. Even if you have already made a pledge, we ask you to complete this “In-Pew” pledge form and check the appropriate box. Those who have been prayerfully considering a pledge are asked to make a decision – in the presence of our parish family. No one is asked to write a check or to make a payment, we will send reminders to everyone after the pledge envelopes are processed. We do urge everyone to make a pledge – not a one-time gift. A pledge is a promise to journey in faith into the future. Your pledge will help us to ensure that the critical pastoral, educational and charitable work of the Archdiocese will continue.

S.J.B. School Registration: School Registration for September 2021 began last month. 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.

Mass Requests for 2022: The Mass “book” for 2022 is now open for reservations. 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 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. 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.

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 HAVE BEEN available in the church. Please take a box home to help the poor and needy in the world.

Time Change Alert: Daylight Savings Time will begin in two weeks on Sunday, March 14th. Since clocks are to be turned AHEAD one hour at 2:00 a.m. that morning, better to do it before you go to bed on Saturday. Remember, “Spring ahead! Fall back!” which means – even though it isn’t Spring yet, we will lose an hour of sleep!

R.D.C. Fundraiser: Please join us for this year’s 2021 Virtual Friendly Gathering to be held via Zoom on March 14th at 5:00 p.m. This is the annual fundraiser for *The RDC Center for Counseling & Human Development*, located at 52 N. Broadway in White Plains. Our honorees this year are THE DEDICATED STAFF OF WHITE PLAINS HOSPITAL and HON. NITA M. LOWEY. Join us in thanking them for their dedicated and compassionate care of all of us. There will be Irish Dancing and entertainment by “Dueling Pianos.” Also you can order a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner for the event from Sam’s of Gedney Way by calling Sam’s at 914-949-3543 anytime. (Meal(s) to be picked up on March 14th between 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.) To reserve a ticket to the event either go on our website, rdccenter.org or call Lee Hickey at 914-949-0504 x1106). We look forward to seeing you!