

Saint John the Baptist Parish

Pastor: Msgr. J. Christopher Maloney

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

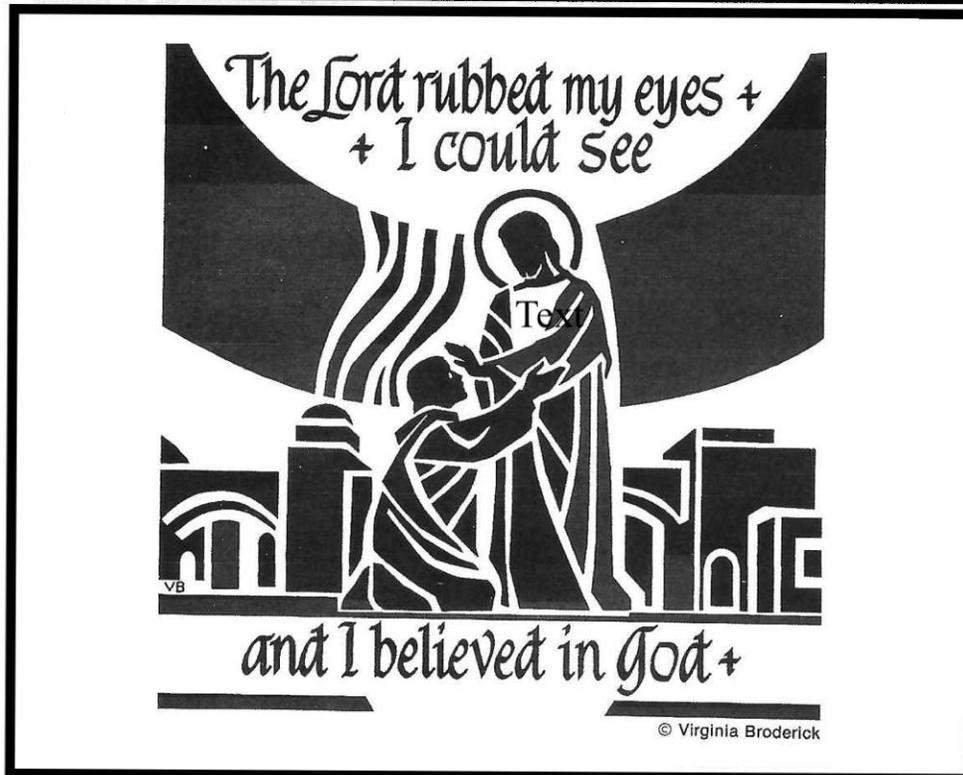
Associates: Deacon Martin J. Olivieri, Deacon Nicholas Ramoni

Retired Priest: Msgr. Walter A. Birkle

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

March 14, 2021
4th 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, March 13, 2021

Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Lent

5:00 p.m. Gail and William Merrill

Sunday, March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:30 a.m. Antonio Blasetti

10:30 a.m. Joseph Economico

12:30 p.m. Franco and Luigi Milizia

Monday, March 15, 2021

8:00 a.m. Antonio Blasetti

12:00 noon Maureen Halligan

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

8:00 a.m. Frank Lagana

12:00 noon Kristen Rodrigues -- Birthday

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Feast of St. Patrick, Bishop

8:00 a.m. Deceased members of the Caruso,
Verbene and Provenzano families

12:00 Noon Constantino Valvano

Thursday, March 18, 2021

*Feast of St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor
of the Church*

8:00 a.m. Rory O'Flaherty

12:00 noon Nicholas Theofilogiannakos

Friday, March 19, 2021

Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 a.m. Joseph Esposito

12:00 noon Elvira and Antonio Manzo

Saturday, March 20, 2021

8:30 a.m. Jimmy O'Connor

Saturday, March 20, 2021

Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Lent

5:00 p.m. Matteo Arlia

Sunday, March 21, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:30 a.m. Cpl. Patrick F. O'Keefe

10:30 a.m. Vincent Fontana

12:30 p.m. Deceased members of the
Cochrane, Gallagher and Herman
Families

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 17th

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

Sacrament of Penance – Lent: We will have two opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Penance at St. John's before Easter. On Saturday, March 20th and Saturday March 27th at 4:00 p.m. we will have a short prayer service followed by an examination of conscience and the opportunity to confess your sins, receive individual absolution, and conclude with a communal Act of Contrition. Please arrive in church no later than 4:00 p.m. on these two Saturdays.

Special Dispensation: Friday, March 19th, is the Feast of St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church. Since our Holy Father has named 2021 as the Year of St. Joseph, Cardinal Dolan has granted a dispensation from our Lent Friday abstinence from meat on March 19th.

K of C. Virtual Novena: Our Knights of Columbus council is holding a virtual Novena for Life from March 16th – 24th, at 8:00 p.m. each night. Please make time to join this novena, which comes before the solemnity of the Annunciation on March 25th, which is also the International Day of the Unborn Child. For a link to the novena, contact Austin Duffy at (914) 413-7812 or aduffy@protonmail.com.

Advanced Planning: Please note that there is a special schedule for Easter because there is **NO** 5:00 p.m. Mass on Holy Saturday. The only Mass allowed on Holy Saturday is the Easter Vigil Service at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 3rd. Our Masses on Easter Sunday will be at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Because of pandemic restrictions, we will not have our traditional Easter Egg Hunt after morning Mass this year. However, we are very grateful that – unlike last year – we are able to celebrate the Mass of the Lord's resurrection as a parish!

H.S.A. Raffle Winner: Thank you to all who participated in our H.S.A. Raffles. The winner was the Pacrami family. They have a son in 2nd and 5th grade and a son who graduated last year.

S.J.B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 14, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT: How many times have we seen at televised sports events someone holding a huge sign reading “John 3:16”? Today’s gospel includes John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life.”

God has always loved the world and has always brought life from death. Today’s first reading (2 Chr. 36:14-23) explains how God brought the Jewish people back from Babylonian exile to a new beginning in Jerusalem. Saint Paul tells us in the second reading (Eph. 2:4-10) that when we were “dead through our trespasses,” God “made us alive together with Christ.” In the gospel, Jesus says that in Him, “the light has come into the world,” and we can go from the darkness of sin and failure into His light.

When we are far away from where we should be, it is God who brings us back in Christ. When death seems to be in control, it is God who gives life in Christ. When we are overwhelmed by the darkness of failure, it is God who brings us the light of hope in Christ. “For God so loved the world...”

SPECIAL SAINTS’ DAYS – LENT WEEK FOUR

Wednesday, March 17th – St. Patrick

This is a very special feast in the Archdiocese of New York – marked by a solemn Mass in the Cathedral of St. Patrick. St. Patrick was born in the late 4th century and died in 461. As a teenager he was captured by Irish raiders and sold as a slave in Ireland where he worked in terrible conditions for over six years. He escaped to France, studied to be a priest and returned to Ireland twenty years later to begin his extraordinary work of evangelization. He is honored as Patron Saint of Ireland, Nigeria and the Archdiocese of N.Y.

Thursday, March 18th – St. Cyril of Jerusalem

Born in the year 313 in Palestine, Cyril gave early indications of both great intelligence and deep piety. More than once as Bishop of Jerusalem, Cyril was exiled because of his defense of orthodox Christianity. His many theological writings have earned him the title “Doctor of the Church.”

Friday, March 19th – St. Joseph

Joseph can be described in many ways: father and teacher of Jesus under the Law; husband of Mary; obedient son of the covenant; and skilled craftsman. Perhaps Joseph’s greatest praise is found in Matthew’s account of Jesus’ birth when he calls Joseph simply “a just man.” All of us can find in Joseph a powerful model of an ordinary person responding to extraordinary situations with a peace and acceptance that were natural outgrowths of his honest, open lifestyle.

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.

Vaccine Report – Pastoral Staff: As you know we have tried to follow all the CDC, State of NY and Archdiocesan protocols in order to ensure that our church is safe for our parishioners. In addition our pastoral staff are doing their best to avoid Covid-19 and take the recommended precautions. All three of our weekend associates – Msgr. Corrigan; Msgr. O’Donnell and Fr. Cleary have received both doses of the Pfizer vaccine; that is also true of Deacons Olivieri and Ramoni; Msgr. Maloney and Fr. Ulloa will receive the second (“booster”) dose this week (they received the first dose nearly three weeks ago). Let us pray for an end to this deadly pandemic.

Rest in Peace: Let us pray for Rose Scimeca, Anthony J. Gesualdo, Jr. and John Mucilli who were buried from our church this past week. Our prayers go out to their families and friends.

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.

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.

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

Cardinal’s Appeal 2021: Thanks to everyone who has responded to Cardinal Dolan by making a gift or pledge to this year’s Stewardship Appeal. All the charitable and pastoral agencies of the Archdiocese depend on the funds raised during this Appeal. This is a perfect way to fulfill the Lenten spiritual goal of almsgiving. Envelopes are available at the exits of the church or the rectory.

