

Saint John the Baptist Parish

Pastor: Msgr. J. Christopher Maloney

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

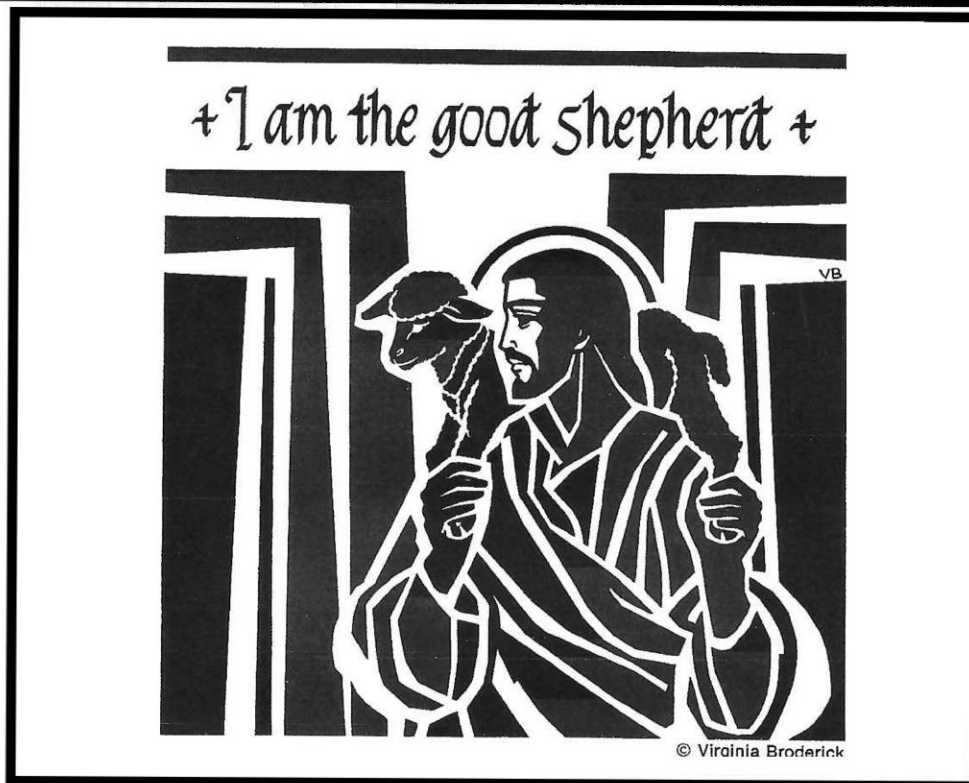
Associates: Deacon Martin J. Olivieri, Deacon Nicholas Ramoni

Retired Priest: Msgr. Walter A. Birkle

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

April 25, 2021
4th Sunday of Easter

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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, April 24, 2021

Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Easter

5:00 p.m. Lawrence Bologna

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:30 a.m. Deceased members of the Mullin Family

10:30 a.m. Deceased members of the Geraghty, Flynn, Quinn and Burke Families

12:30 p.m. Barbara Keller -- Birthday

Monday, April 26, 2021

8:00 a.m. Assunta Petrozza

12:00 noon Gordon Adsluf

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

8:00 a.m. Caroline Feeney

12:00 noon Raffele Capogna

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Feast of St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr; St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest

8:00 a.m. Denis Bernard

12:00 Noon Phyllis Sbordone -- Birthday

Thursday, April 29, 2021

Feast of St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

8:00 a.m. Mary O'Connor

12:00 noon Loreto Recine

Friday, April 30, 2021

Feast of St. Pius V, Pope

8:00 a.m. Tina and John Manning

12:00 noon Krystyna and John Jarmoszko

Saturday, May 1, 2021

Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

8:30 a.m. John Anderson – 14th Anniversary

Saturday, May 1, 2021

Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Easter

5:00 p.m. Daniel Fama – 100th Birthday

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:30 a.m. Ritchie McAuliffe

10:30 a.m. Mary and Michael Mancini

12:30 p.m. Michele Lovecchio

WEDDING BANNES

III. William Dooley and Jeanne Sherry

II. Michael Dubner and Patti Mueller

II. Marco Sanzi and Marie Acocella

I. Ivan Crespo and Kristina Hoffman

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 28th

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

Welcome Back: On Wednesday, April 28th, an old dear friend will return from winter hibernation in Florida. Yes – Msgr. Walter Birkle is coming back where he belongs. I'm sure he will be prepared with a whole new collection of stories to share with us. It is a joy to have you back Msgr. Walter!

Liturgical "Separations": In order to maintain "social distancing" for our Masses and services, the Archdiocese of NY requires churches to "block off" certain pews. Some parishes use "caution tape"; others "masking tape." Here at St. John's a generous and creative member of the Rosary Altar Society, Mrs. Gina Ramoni (ably assisted by her daughters, Teresa and Angela and occasionally her husband, Deacon Nicholas), has used ribbons and other decorative items – all in the color appropriate to the season (currently "white" for the Easter Season). We are very grateful to Mrs. Ramoni (and assistants) for making necessary "barriers" attractive and even welcoming.

Operation Rice Bowl: Our Parish Lenten Program has come to an end. Please return all rice bowl donations by April 30th. Check should be made payable to: St. John the Baptist Church and on the memo line, write "2021 CRS Rice Bowl". Donations can be returned to the rectory or school office. Thank you for helping with this worthy cause!

S.J.B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 25, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is one of the most frequently represented in ancient Christian art.

Today's first reading (Acts 4:8-12) continues Peter's explanation of his cure of the crippled beggar: he did it in the name of Jesus and has no need to defend his action. Both Peter and the responsorial psalm make use of Psalm 118 to emphasize Jesus' role as the rejected stone that has become the cornerstone: the suffering Servant who rises to glory. Only in His name is salvation possible. In stressing Christ's role as the unique Savior, St. Luke (the author of Acts) is also voicing one of his major themes. Salvation comes not from the Roman empire, but from the true prince, Jesus. Here is food for thought: do we really trust in Jesus, or do we place our trust in the trappings and promises of society?

Our second reading (1Jn. 3:1-2) assures us that we are the children of God; already blessed, to be sure; but also promised an even more glorious relationship in the future.

Even those from urban and industrialized areas cannot fail to be moved by today's gospel (Jn. 10:11-18). But there is a warning here, too, however, about false shepherds who abandon the sheep when danger threatens. Those in the position of Christian leadership must examine themselves on the true meaning of their calling; only if they shepherd the flock with the selflessness of Jesus will they help make the "one flock" a reality.

SPECIAL SAINTS' DAYS – FOURTH WEEK OF EASTER

Wednesday, April 28th – St. Peter Chanel and St. Louis de Montfort

St. Louis lived in the late 17th / early 18th centuries; he founded two religious communities and promoted devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. St. Peter was a French missionary to the people who lived on the islands of the South Pacific Ocean in the first half of the 19th century. Although Peter had some success, many of the natives opposed Christianity and in April of 1841 Peter was clubbed to death for his evangelism.

Thursday, April 29th – St. Catherine of Siena

This extraordinary woman was born in Siena, Italy in 1347. As a young woman she entered the Dominican Order and became by her intelligence, holiness, and dedication one of the most influential women in Church history. She brought many converts into the Church; promoted the renewal of religious life; counseled Cardinals and Popes; and found time to write books of inspiration and devotion. She died in 1380 and was named a Doctor of the Church in 1970.

Friday, April 30th – St. Pius

Born in Italy in 1504, Pius V entered the Dominican Order and in his early years was a professor of Theology. His talent, however, led him to being named a bishop, a cardinal, and (in 1566) pope. He worked for the reform of the Church and promoted the rosary. It is believed that Pius V – who regularly wore his white Dominican habit as a pope – is responsible for the tradition of popes wearing a white cassock.

Saturday, May 1st – St. Joseph the Worker

St. Joseph was not only the protector of Mary, his wife, and Jesus, his foster son. He was also a man who had to work to provide for his family. By honoring the carpenter of Nazareth today, we affirm the dignity of work, we respect the rights of working people and encourage workers to persevere in their religious faith.

Calling All Eucharistic Ministers: We have decided to begin asking our Eucharistic Ministers to return to their special ministry of assisting us with the distribution of Holy Communion at our Sunday and weekday Masses. We will be doing this on a limited basis at first – and then of the grip of Covid-19 cases and the current restrictions loosen, we may not be so limited. For now if you are already a trained Eucharistic Minister – and if you have been fully vaccinated against Covid-19 – and you wish to return to your former ministry, please contact the rectory to indicate your willingness to participate. At that time, please let us know the Masses you would be available for: weekend: 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil; Sunday: 8:30; 10:30 a.m.; 12:30 p.m. and/or weekday (Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon). It will make it easier if you can give us more than one choice. Naturally, all our ministries of the Eucharist will follow the usual protocols of wearing a mask and sanitizing before and after distribution. We are most grateful for your help!

Rest in Peace: Let us pray for Richard Bonfiglio and Virginia Micheletti 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.

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.

Sacrament of Penance: Because of continuing Covid-19 restrictions we are still unable to use our confessionals for this sacrament. If you wish to receive the sacrament, please call the rectory to make an appointment. In addition on one Saturday of each month we will have a Penance Service at 4:00 p.m. in the church at which we will provide the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **Next month our service will be on May 15th.**

Easter Tradition – The Easter Egg: There is an ancient legend that on the first Good Friday Simon of Cyrene was in the marketplace in Jerusalem buying food for his family. He had purchased a basket of eggs when a Roman soldier ordered him to assist a man who was carrying a cross on his way to be crucified. Simon left his basket of eggs with the grocer and went to help. When they reached Golgotha the soldier pushed Simon away, but not before Jesus thanked him and promised He would give Simon a sign that He had risen.

Simon watched from a distance as Jesus died His agonizing death and all the next day Simon was haunted by the experience. Finally two days later, Simon remembered the eggs he had bought – and he rushed back to the marketplace. The grocer handed Simon his basket – and when he looked in it he saw that each of the eggs had changed. Some were brightly colored; others had beautiful designs on them. Simon remembered the Lord’s promise – and he became a believer on the first Easter Sunday.

Easter Season: The fifty days from Easter to Pentecost are celebrated with joy as one extended feast day by the Church. One of the early Fathers of the Church, St. Athanasius, referred to the 50 day period as one “Great Sunday”. These above all others are the days for singing “Alleluia”. The first eight days of the Easter season make up the “octave” of Easter and are celebrated as solemnities of the Lord. At Mass during these days, we read the different New Testament accounts of the Lord’s resurrection and the early preaching of the disciples who were witnesses to His resurrection.

Easter Collection: We ask for your special generosity to St. John’s on Easter. We depend on your special sacrifice at times like Christmas and Easter to help us defray the cost of flowers that decorate our church at this time -- as well as some of the other expenses we incur during this special season. Special Easter envelopes are available at the exits of the Church for those who have not received them in the mail.

Honor Thy Mother: This year Mother’s day falls on Sunday, May 9th. This is a day to honor all Mothers – living and dead. This is a day to express our thanks for all they have done for us. It is a day to tell them how much we love them and to ask for their prayers even as we assure them of ours. For those mothers who have gone before us into the fullness of life with God, we give thanks to God for them as we recall their memories this day. On Mother’s Day we begin a Triduum of Masses for those mothers whose names are enrolled with us. Special Mother’s Day cards and envelopes are available at the exits of the Church or in the rectory office. Let us pray that Mary, the Mother of us all, will bless all mothers, especially expectant mothers.

S.J.B. School Registration: School Registration for September 2021 began in January. 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.

Religious Education Program: 2021 - 2022 registration for families for the St. John the Baptist Religious Education Program has begun. Registration forms were given out to the children on Wednesday, March 25th. Registration fees are included in the Registration materials. Registration for **New Families** will be at a later date.

Gold: Couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary are invited to attend a Golden Jubilee Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral on Sunday, June 6th at 2:30 p.m. Please contact the rectory by Friday, May 14th if you wish to attend.

Summer Theology Courses: Our neighbors “up the hill” at St. Joseph’s Seminary will be offering classes on various aspects of the Catholic faith to interested Catholics – either in person or (via zoom) to any location – even your home! Classes run from June 1st – July 14th with 50% off tuition for new students. For more information: www.dunwoodie.edu.