

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

May 2, 2021
5th 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, 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

Monday, May 3, 2021

Feast of Sts. Philip and James, Apostles

8:00 a.m. Julia and John Soracco

12:00 noon Louis Gaudio

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

8:00 a.m. Francesca and Vincenzo Zambito

12:00 noon Liam O'Driscoll

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

8:00 a.m. Tina and John Manning

12:00 Noon Deceased members of the
St. John's Senior Club

Thursday, May 6, 2021

8:00 a.m. Thomas Valentino

12:00 noon Carol Ciardullo

Friday, May 7, 2021

8:00 a.m. Joseph Femia

12:00 noon Joseph Economico

Saturday, May 8, 2021

8:30 a.m. Joan Tracey

Saturday, May 8, 2021

Vigil: Sixth Sunday of Easter

5:00 p.m. Ann and Daniel Fama and
Edward Makowski

Sunday, May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

8:30 a.m. Virginia De Lucci and
Emma Federico

10:30 a.m. Frances Di Paola

12:30 p.m. Deceased members of the
Kozlowski & Naryniecki Families

WEDDING BANNES

III. Michael Dubner and Patti Mueller

III. Marco Sanzi and Marie Acocella

I. Oscar Moscoso and Wendy Ochoa

Welcome Back: Last Wednesday an old dear friend returned from winter hibernation in Florida. Yes – Msgr. Walter Birkle is 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!

First Eucharist: This Saturday morning (May 1st), 44 of our younger boys and girls received their First Holy Communion at two special Masses that were celebrated for them, their families and their friends. We congratulate these youngsters and their parents – and we thank the teachers in our school and Religious Education Program who worked so hard to prepare them for this special day. Please keep these boys and girls in your prayers. May they always remain close to Jesus in the Eucharist.

Holy Day Coming: The feast of the Lord's Ascension falls on Thursday, May 13th. It is a Holy day of Obligation. Our Masses for the Ascension are as follows: Vigil Mass on Wednesday, May 12th at 5:00 p.m.; Masses on Thursday, May 13th are at 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. There is **no evening Mass on Ascension Thursday.**

A Message to the S.J.B. Family: Another year has drawn to a close for the religious Education Program; and what a year it has been. The Covid-19 Pandemic, heavy rains, snow, wind and fire, but all that did not stop us, we continued to be here for you and your children. Our 8th grade received Confirmation on April 13th; and our 3rd grade received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and their 1st Holy Communion on May 1st. I cannot thank all of you – parents, teachers, support staff, parishioners – enough for your faithfulness to the Church and support for the Religious Education Program this year and every year. Thank you again and God bless you all – Angela Minchilli, DRE (P.S. Please remember that next year's registration for students in our program should be done ASAP!)

S.J.B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 2, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: As human beings and Christians, we need other people. Christianity was never meant to be a purely individual pursuit; we are, truly, all in this together.

As is clear from today's first reading (Acts 9:26-31) after his conversion, Paul felt a real need to be connected with Jesus' followers in Jerusalem. They fear him, and not without cause: he had consented to those who stoned Stephen; he himself had been an ardent persecutor of this new sect. Paul must depend on Barnabas if he is to be accepted as a disciple. Once accepted, Paul uses the same fiery zeal and energy he directed against Jesus' followers to preach fearlessly.

Our second reading (1Jn. 3:18-24) both assures us and challenges us; having accepted Jesus as our Savior, we "can be sure that God is with us." It challenges us to keep the commandments and live in love. Both Acts and John also underscore the pivotal role of the Spirit.

Today's gospel (Jn. 15:1-8) paints another vivid image: of vines and vine grower. Anyone who has seen a vineyard knows how humble, even scruffy, the vines can appear. It is the relationship between vine and vine grower that produces the miracle of the crop. Like Isaiah's vineyard song, John's passage warns that we cannot produce good fruit in and of ourselves.

SPECIAL SAINTS' DAY – FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER

Monday, May 3rd – Sts. Philip and James

These two apostles remind us of the foundations on which our Church stands. Philip had been a disciple of St. John the Baptist before becoming Jesus' follower; James, a cousin of Jesus, took charge of the first Christian community in Jerusalem and wrote the epistle that bears his name.

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!

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 ASAP. Checks 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!

Rest in Peace: Let us pray for Raffaella Barile who was buried from our church this past week. Our prayers go out to her family 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: 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. **This month our service will be on May 15th.**

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.

Easter Traditions: The Easter Parade: In New York City, the Easter Parade tradition dates back to the mid-1800’s, when the upper crust of society would attend Easter services at various Fifth Avenue churches then stroll outside afterward, showing off their new spring outfits and hats. Average citizens started showing up along Fifth Avenue to check out the action. The tradition reached its peak by the mid-20th century, and in 1948, the popular film “Easter Parade” was released, starring Fred Astaire and Judy Garland and featuring the music of Irving Berlin. The title song includes the lyrics: “In your Easter bonnet, with all the frills upon it/You’ll be the grandest lady in the Easter Parade.”

The Easter Parade tradition lives on in Manhattan, with Fifth Avenue from 49th Street to 57th Street being shut down during the day to traffic. Participants often sport elaborately decorated bonnets and hats. The event has no religious significance, but sources note that Easter processions have been a part of Christianity since its earliest days. Today, other cities across America also have their own parades. Sadly, like a lot of popular customs, the Covid-19 pandemic has meant that – for two Easters now – there has been no Easter Parade. Maybe next year!

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 next 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.