

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

August 29, 2021
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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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:
8:30 a.m.

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, August 28, 2021

Vigil: Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 p.m. Marianne Monopoli

Sunday, August 29, 2021

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. Deceased members of the
Swatowy and Parish Family

10:30 a.m. John McCarthy

12:30 p.m. Sabino Morano

Monday, August 30, 2021

8:30 a.m. Sylvester Grillo

Tuesday, August 31, 2021

8:30 a.m. Felicia Ricciardi -- Birthday

Wednesday, September 1, 2021

8:30 a.m. Nick Perraca

Thursday, September 2, 2021

8:30 a.m. Ixa Morales

Friday, September 3, 2021

*Feast of St. Gregory the Great, Pope and
Doctor of the Church*

8:30 a.m. Joseph Economico

Saturday, September 4, 2021

8:30 a.m. Margaret Geoghegan and
Mary C. Cox

Saturday, September 4, 2021

Vigil: Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 p.m. Egidia and Giuseppe Di Mauro

Sunday, September 5, 2021

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. Chris Vetere

10:30 a.m. Elizabeth and John O'Connor

12:30 p.m. Thomas Donnelly

Rest in Peace: Let us pray for Dario Felicissimo and Martha Scholl who were buried from our church this past week. Our prayers go out to their families and friends.

Renew and Rebuild: The work in and around our parking lot is finished – just in time to begin a new school year. Everyone seems to agree that it makes a part of our facilities (which were looking a bit of the worse for wear) look like new! There is more “infra-structure” work to be done (we need to repair and restore the stained glass windows on “St. John’s” side of the church, for example) but that will probably have to wait until spring – we shall see. In the meantime, we once again thank those who sacrificed for our Renew and Rebuild Campaign two years ago – and for all who continue to fulfill their pledges so faithfully.

Advanced Planning: One week from this Monday is Labor Day (September 6th), a national holiday and a time to celebrate the efforts of millions of men and women who contribute to our free economy and make our country great. Please note: Our parish office will be closed on Labor Day. The church will be open for our 8:30 a.m. Mass; after the 8:30 a.m. Mass, the church and chapel will be closed.

Daily Mass: As of Tuesday, September 7th, we will resume our 12:00 noon Mass. Our daily schedule of Masses (Monday – Friday) will be 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon.

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. **Our next service will be on Saturday, September 11th.**

S.J.B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 29, 2021

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: Today, having concluded our five week reflection on the Bread of Life as recounted in the sixth chapter of St. John's gospel, we return to the gospel of St. Mark – the focus of year B in the liturgical cycle. Today's gospel (Mk. 7:1-23) centers on the customs surrounding the Jewish meal and the importance of seeing ritual customs within the larger context of the observance of religious lives. Our first reading from the Book of Deuteronomy (Dt. 4:1-8) emphasizes the life and death character of the law given to us by God.

While these two readings are firm in their conviction that belief and the practice of the law are very closely related, our second reading from the letter of James (1:17-27) summarizes that relationship. St. James spells out clearly what the Christian community must do if it is to live up to its name. Looking after orphans and widows has always been the responsibility of the followers of God's way. In Christ we are also called to look after our own spiritual obedience in order to be authentic in our teaching and in our prayer.

SPECIAL SAINT'S DAY THIS WEEK

Friday, September 3rd – St. Gregory the Great

Born in Rome in 540, St. Gregory started out as a public official who showed great promise as a civic leader. However, God had other plans for this gifted young man. He entered a monastery, but the Church recognized that he had extraordinary leadership qualities. In 590 he was elected Pope and spent the next fourteen years promoting the Church's missionary work; encouraging the care of the poor; working for reform – particularly of the moral life of the Church. One of his reforms focused on Church music and his name to this day is associated with that special choral music known as "Gregorian Chant". About thirty years ago Benedictine monks in Spain produced a CD of Gregorian Chant that sparked a renewed interest in the wonderful treasure which has been a part of the Church's repertory for 1500 years. Unfortunately in some places in the late 20th century that wonderful musical tradition was completely replaced in favor of trendy, more "contemporary" tunes. We are blessed to know, however, that the "ever ancient, ever new" beauty of Gregorian Chant has not been lost and is now experiencing a renaissance.

Back to School: St. John the Baptist School welcomes its wonderful students in their school uniforms according to the following schedule:

Wednesday, September 8 th	-- PK through 8 th from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Alphabetically A - K
Thursday, September 9 th	-- PK through 8 th from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Alphabetically L – Z
Friday, September 10 th	-- PK through 8 th from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. All Students
Monday, September 13 th	-- PK through 8 th from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. All Students

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. Throughout the summer we will continue to have **only one** collection; if you have two (2) envelopes on any given Sunday, please put both in the one collection.
3. Our parish office is open Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
4. Please consult our parish website (www.sjbyonkers.org) for updates on parish events and activities.
5. Upon recommendation of the Archdiocese we will continue not filling holy water fonts; we will maintain the weekly sanitizing of the church (and sanitizing between Masses); there will be no “exchange of peace” and communion will be in the hand.
6. We continue to expect those who are not yet **vaccinated** to wear masks at all Masses and services.

Summer Mass Schedule: As we do every summer at St. John’s, our daily Mass schedule (Monday – Friday) will be changed slightly. Instead of having Mass at 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon, our one daily Mass will be at 8:30 a.m. This extends until Tuesday after Labor Day (September 7th).

Religious Education Program: 2021-2022 registration for **new families** for the St. John the Baptist Religious Education Program has begun. To obtain a New Family Registration Form (for your child); please email Stjohnthebaptistred@gmail.com. When completing the registration, a copy of your child’s Baptismal Certificate will be necessary; families must, of course, be members of our parish. Registration fees are included in the Registration materials.

A Call to Service: Our Religious Education Program at St. John’s is growing! Our Director of Religious Ed., Mrs. Angela Minchilli is looking for volunteers who would be willing to assist us in preparing our children as they grow in faith. You may be able to assist in several ways: **first** as catechists – the men and women who teach in one of our eight grades (Mrs. Minchilli will assist anyone who may need help in preparing for this); **second** as catechetical assistants who are there to help as teacher “aides”; **third** as volunteers who welcome students and parents, direct visitors to classrooms, and generally act as “trouble-shooters.” In most of these tasks, no experience is necessary – just a willingness to help. The men of the parish are especially invited to assist the program – and Seniors are most welcome! Just call Mrs. Minchilli at 914-965-2338.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (popularly known as “RCIA”) is the process designed by the Church for adults to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion. The goals are to give a complete overview of Catholic teaching and practice and to begin to deepen a Christian spiritual life centered in the Sunday Scripture readings. The sacraments are received at the Easter Vigil Mass. **It is open to adults who:**

1) Have never been baptized; they would be preparing for all three sacraments. **2)** Were baptized in a non-Catholic Christian denomination who are interested in becoming Catholic; they would be preparing for Confirmation and First Communion. **3)** Were baptized Catholic but never received Confirmation and/or Communion; they would be preparing for the sacraments they have not yet received.

The 2021-2022 program at St. John’s which prepares adults (and older adolescents) to receive sacraments will begin in October. However, if you (or anyone you know) is interested in learning more about our program, please leave your name at the rectory 963-1486.

Covid-19 Update: Most of us were hoping and praying that at least by September we would be seeing the final stages of a disease that has claimed so many lives, caused so much sickness and suffering and disrupted nearly every aspect of what we used to consider “normal life.” Sadly – as the continuing reports make clear – we are not anywhere near a return to life as we knew it. Though the vaccines have certainly made a significant difference (praise God and modern medicine), we are still having (at times) to wear masks and are urged to continue the hygienic methods (hand washing, sanitizing, distance at social gatherings, etc.) which were enjoined upon us in the first stages of this pandemic. Here at St. John’s – at least for a little while longer – we will be continuing to “deep clean” the church once a week and sanitize the pews after each liturgy. We will continue to “mark off” some of our pews so we allow those who may still be unvaccinated – to keep a proper distance. We will continue to omit the “exchange of peace” at Mass; we will not fill holy water fonts; and we will insist on communion “in the hand.” Our liturgical ministers (priests, deacons, etc.) have been fully vaccinated – but we will continue to ask our ministers to wear masks during the distribution of communion. Anyone who is still not vaccinated is expected to wear a mask in church and although they are not required to do so, we understand if those who have been vaccinated prefer to wear their mask at Mass. Let us pray for an end to this terrible curse!

Baby Bottle Drive: For the past several years our parish “Right to Life” committee sponsored a very successful “Baby Bottle” fundraiser during the month of October (“Respect Life Month”). The proceeds always went to a local pro-life group. We are grateful to all of those who assisted with this worthy cause. Last year – blame the pandemic! – we suspended that fundraiser. Sadly, once again, it has been decided that it is necessary for us to suspend the fund raiser for another year. The fund raiser will be resumed when we can conduct it safely.