

Saint John the Baptist Parish

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

Associates: Deacon Martin J. Olivieri, Deacon Nicholas Ramoni

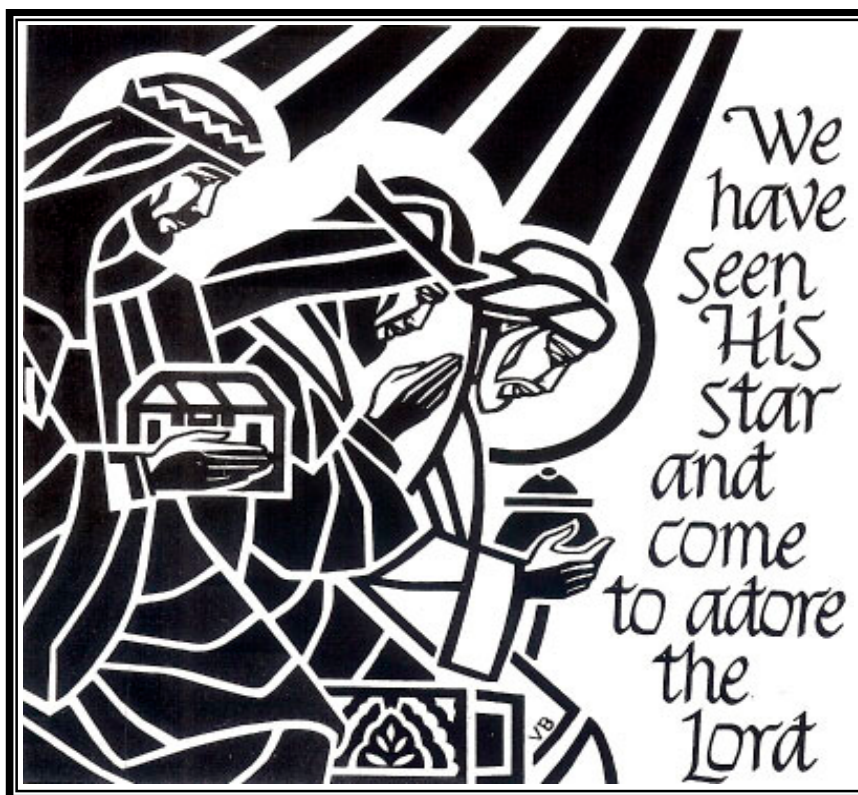
Retired Priest: Rev. Kenneth Ross; Msgr. Walter A. Birkle

Pastoral Associate: Sr. Mary Beth Read, O.S.U.

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Epiphany of the Lord
January 7, 2018

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Director
Sr. Mary Beth Read, O.S.U.

Director of Music & Organist
John Stufano

Masses
Saturday Vigil:
5:00 p.m.

Sunday:
8:00, 9:30,
11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

Monday thru Friday:
8:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon

Saturday:
8:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance
Saturday:
4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Sacrament of Marriage
Make arrangements six months
prior to wedding

Sacrament of Baptism
Every Sunday
after the 12:30 Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 6, 2018

Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord

5:00 p.m. Joseph Federico, Sr.

Sunday, January 7, 2018

The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 a.m. Mass for the Parishioners of
St. John the Baptist

9:30 a.m. Consuelo Rosario

11:00 a.m. Virginia De Lucci

12:30 p.m. Salvatore Spataro

Monday, January 8, 2018

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

8:00 a.m. Giuseppe Albanese

12:00 noon Miriam Bergensen

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

8:00 a.m. Arthur Rozett

12:00 noon Antonio Manzo

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

8:00 a.m. Paul Windels III

12:00 noon Josephine and Salvatore Miceli

Thursday, January 11, 2018

8:00 a.m. Salvatore Calvello

12:00 noon Frances Di Paola – 4th Anniversary

Friday, January 12, 2018

8:00 a.m. Primo, Vera and Phyllis Vanadia

12:00 noon Anthony Marascuilo –
2nd Anniversary

Saturday, January 13, 2018

Feast of St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:00 a.m. For the Deceased Members of the
Cocco Family

Saturday, January 13, 2018

Vigil: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 p.m. Joan Winters and Bridie Kerns

Sunday, January 14, 2018

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Mass for the Parishioners of
St. John the Baptist

9:30 a.m. Helena Coyle – 1st Anniversary

11:00 a.m. Alessandro Moschetta -- Birthday

12:30 p.m. Kowgios Family, Gabriel, Sr., Teresa,
Gabriel, Jr. and Irene Fahey

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 10th

Seniors' Leisure Club – 12:00 noon – lower Church
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

Thursday, January 11th

Cub Scout Meeting – 2:30 p.m. – lower Church

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, January 6th

5:00 p.m. – P. Tozzi and R. Tuffy

Sunday, January 7th

8:00 a.m. – C. Komosinski and R. Rica

9:30 a.m. -- A. Carroll and C. Gilsenan

11:00 a.m. – N. Camacho and J. Velasquez

12:30 p.m. -- M. McLaughlin and V. Militzia

Saturday, January 13th

5:00 p.m. – M. McCarthy and T. McCarthy

Sunday, January 14th

8:00 a.m. – L. Loughran and M. Loughran

9:30 a.m. – P. Coyle and R. McLaughlin

11:00 a.m. – R. Peter and R. Peter

12:30 p.m. – F. Albano and D. Liberatore

Christmas Season: This wonderful season of hope and joy officially ends this Monday, January 8th, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. On Tuesday, January 9th, we return to what is called “Ordinary Time” in the Church Year. We hope that this special season has brought you many graces and blessings. It has served to remind us that God loves us so much, He sent His only Son for our salvation. Every celebration and every tradition of this beautiful season draw their meaning from this wonderful and consoling truth that gives glory and peace to all people of good will.

Hail and Farewell: This week we welcome back from the sunny south our old and dear friend, Msgr. Walter Birkle, who will escape the gators and the rattlers for a little over a month as Msgr. Maloney begins his study sabbatical in Rome. After Msgr. Birkle leaves Fr. James Healy (retired pastor of St. Paul the Apostle in Yonkers and St. Vito's in Mamaroneck) will be at St. John's (ably assisted by our wonderful pastoral associate, Fr. Ulloa and our two extraordinary deacons – Martin Olivieri and Nicholas Ramoni). Msgr. Maloney will return in early April.

S.J.B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 7, 2018

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY: Epiphany comes from a Greek word which means a manifestation or appearance. Christians celebrate the Incarnation in stages, remembering Jesus' birth in Judea on December 25th, His manifestation to the nations on the feast of the Epiphany, and His baptism celebrated this ON Monday, January 8th.

Symbols abound in today's readings: light, rich gifts, exotic visitors, a guiding star. Today's first reading (Isaiah 60:1-6) captures the wonder and joy of the Israelites who, upon their return from exile in Babylonia, are making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The words of Isaiah fairly trip over each other in his outburst of enthusiasm and encouragement to his people who have suffered so much.

Isaiah's description of gifts of gold and frankincense are echoed in the symbolic tokens of the wise men in Matthew's gospel (Mt. 2:1-12). Tellingly, Matthew adds myrrh, so that the mystery of Jesus' divinity, humanity, and passion are foreshadowed: gold for royalty, frankincense for divinity, myrrh for a suffering servant. Matthew's "wise men" are non-Jews, themselves symbols of the universality of Jesus' mission. Paul reminds the Ephesians of this in today's second reading (Eph. 3:2-6) when he observes that the Gentiles are "coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise."

SPECIAL LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Monday, January 8th – Baptism of the Lord

The Advent-Christmas-Epiphany season concludes with one final manifestation of the relationship of Jesus to His Father. The story of the Baptism of the Lord carries with it the announcement by God acknowledging His Son, upon whom His favor rests. In the Opening Prayer, we ask that we may be kept faithful to our own baptism, making the connection between the presence of Christ in the world and our Baptismal response.

In today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah (Is. 42:1-7) we hear one of the famous "Servant Songs" describing God's "servant" as one upon whom God's Spirit has been bestowed so that he might be a light to the nations. After His anointing by God, Jesus went around doing good works and healing all who were in the grip of the devil. In the same way, by our Baptism we are called to find out what good works need to be done and how we can heal those caught in the clutches of evil.

Saturday, January 13th – St. Hilary

St. Hilary was born in the city of Poitiers (France) in 300 a.d. Because of his outstanding holiness and leadership he was chosen to be a bishop at a time when the Church was engaged in a great struggle against a heresy known as Arianism – which in effect denied the divine nature of Jesus. Hilary was a staunch defender of orthodoxy and suffered much for his fidelity to the truth of the gospel.



The Three Kings

*Three Kings came riding from far away,
Melchior and Gaspar and Baltasar;
Three Wise Men out of the East were they,
And they traveled by night and they slept by day,
For their guide was a beautiful, wonderful star.
The star was so beautiful, large and clear,
That all the other stars of the sky
Became a white mist in the atmosphere,
And by this they knew that the coming was near
Of the Prince foretold in the prophecy.*

Sunday Report: Our attendance at Christmas Masses was 2,110 – and the collection was over \$35,000. On December 31st, 990 parishioners attended Mass; our collection totaled \$7,206.00; average contribution: \$7.28. We thank you for your generosity to St. John's and we understand some parishioners continue to make their Christmas contributions.

Rest in Peace: Let us pray for Charles Pennachio, Muriel Martin, George Fletcher and Charles Zanchelli who were buried from our church this past week. Our prayers go out to their families and friends.

Christmastime: The “*Twelve Days of Christmas*” – immortalized in a famous song -- are the days from December 25th to January 6th – the traditional date of the Epiphany. More recently, Epiphany is celebrated on the second Sunday after Christmas, so it has become a “moveable” feast. However, for a long time the 12 day period after Christmas was a time for special prayer, pageants, religious festivals and feasts. Part of the tradition included a formal ceremony of removing all Christmas decorations on “Twelfth Night”. The popular song is often thought of as a children's song; however, some have suggested that it had its origins during the persecution of Catholics in England during the 16th century and that each day represented some aspect of the Catholic faith that it was important for all Catholics to remember – children and adults both. Thus, for example, the “10 Lord's A-Leaping” referred to the 10 commandments; the “8 Maids A-Milking” recalled the Beatitudes; “the 4 Calling Birds” referenced the four gospels – and so on. Whether this is historical fact or “urban myth”, the point is that this special season has a rich heritage – and many of its aspects can lead us to a fuller realization of the wonders of God's love!

New Year's Resolution: One resolution we can all make is to try to participate more fully and more prayerfully in the Mass. Coming to Mass on Sunday is truly THE most important thing we do in the whole week. We should try to arrive early, spend some time in prayer before Mass then actively respond to the prayers (and in sung Mass, the hymns) of the Mass. Whenever possible there should be some time after Mass for a brief Thanksgiving. At the very least let us resolve never to arrive late for Mass or leave Mass early during 2018.

Monthly Maintenance: This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month of January, so we will take up our regular “First Sunday of the Month” second collection after Communion this week. This collection helps with the upkeep, maintenance, and cleaning of our beautiful church. Please be generous.

Christmas Envelopes: For anyone who did not receive a Christmas envelope in the mail, they are available at the exits of the Church and in the sacristy. Christmas is traditionally a time for giving – because we are especially aware at this holy season of everything that God has given us through His Son. Your special sacrifice at this time of year does so much to insure that St. John's will be able to meet the many needs of our people and continue to be such a special church in which to pray, to hear God's word, and to receive the sacraments. God bless you for your goodness.

New Parishioners: If you are new to our parish community here at St. John's we welcome you and invite you to become an active member of our parish – participating in any of the parish societies or organizations which may interest you. Please make sure to register with us. You can find new parishioner registration forms in the back of the church or in the rectory. Once completed, you can give them to one of the priests or ushers – or you may drop them off at the rectory during the week.

S.J.B. Senior / Leisure Club News: The Senior Club will meet on Wednesdays (weather permitting) during January after the noon Mass. No special events are planned for January because of the uncertain weather. Our February meetings begin on Friday, February 2nd and a sandwich lunch for \$4.00 will be offered followed by Bingo. On Wednesday, February 7th will be a pre-Shrove Tuesday. We ask members to bring a covered dish for lunch. We will meet February 14th, Ash Wednesday, which begins Lent. On Friday, March 2nd, after the noon Mass, we will have a pizza lunch (\$3.00). Bingo is played at each meeting. Contact Deacon Olivieri at 914-423-4859 for information.

Family Bingo: Are the kids bored with nothing to do on a cold, wintry Friday night? Well, how about coming out to the Rosary Altar Society's Annual Family Bingo Night on Friday, January 19th in the lower Church. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$6.00 per person- which includes 1 game card, light snacks, beverages, dessert and coffee. Additional playing cards can be purchased that evening. You are more than welcome to ‘bring your own’ snacks. There will be cash prizes throughout the evening and a 50/50 drawing. For more information, please contact Tina at 914-879-2975.

S.J.B. School Registration: Registration application, for September 2018 (Pre-K through 8th) may be picked up in the school office from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. beginning Monday, January 22nd. Pre-K registrants must be 4 years old by December 1, 2018. The school office number is 914-965-2356.

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