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Parochial Vicars: Rev. Daniel Ulloa, O.P., Rev. Renny Abraham

Associates: Deacon Martin J. Olivieri, Deacon Nicholas Ramoni

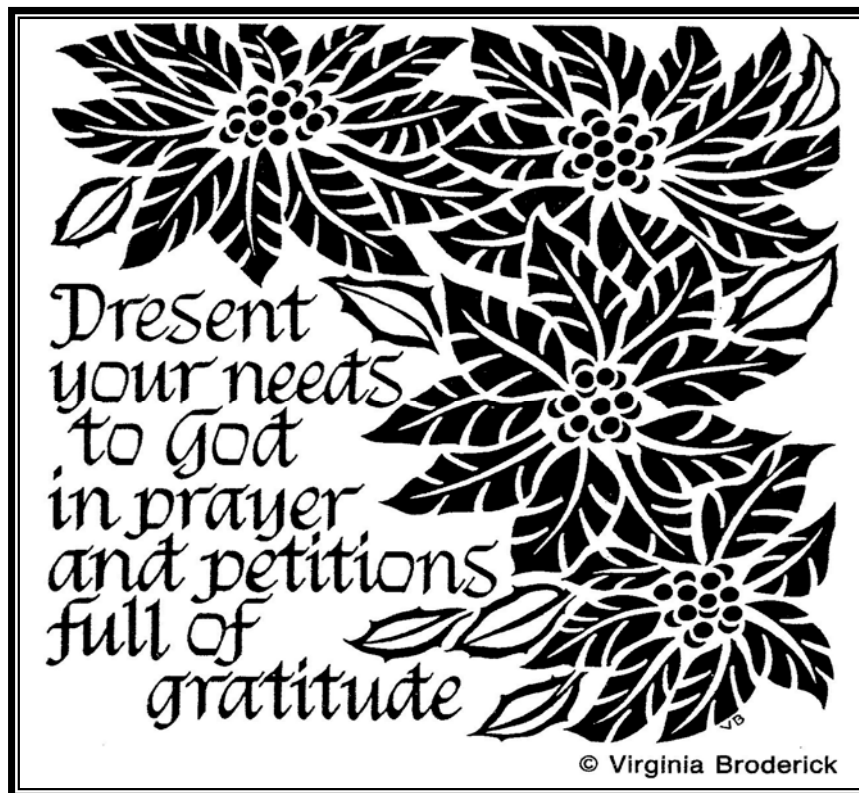
Retired Priest: Rev. Kenneth Ross; Msgr. Walter A. Birkle

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

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Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2015

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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, December 12, 2015

Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent

5:00 p.m. Jenny Giardina

Sunday, December 13, 2015

Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Sante Zangrilli

9:30 a.m. Mass for the Parishioners of
St. John the Baptist

11:00 a.m. Kathleen, Peter, Bernadette and
Eileen Fitzsimons

12:30 p.m. Conte Family, Daniel Fama, Edward
Makowski and Robert Brescia

Monday, December 14, 2015

Feast of St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of
the Church

8:00 a.m. Nicola Currado

12:00 noon Josiane Piasecki

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

8:00 a.m. Mario and Anna Procaccino

12:00 noon Fiorino Guglielmi

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

8:00 a.m. Rev. Johnny Dominic

12:00 noon Rev. John Lennon

Thursday, December 17, 2015

8:00 a.m. Makram Yacoub

12:00 noon Margherita Spataro

Friday, December 18, 2015

8:00 a.m. Regina Capobianco – Birthday

12:00 noon Frank Lagana

Saturday, December 19, 2015

8:00 a.m. Sheila and Patrick Fitzpatrick

Saturday, December 19, 2015

Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:00 p.m. For the Deceased Members of the
Moshier, Delaney and Meehan Families

Sunday, December 20, 2015

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Edward Reilly

9:30 a.m. Rocco Cipriano

11:00 a.m. Mass for the Parishioners of
St. John the Baptist

12:30 p.m. Luise Lyddy



Christmas Mass Schedule

Thursday, December 24th –

Christmas Eve

Vigil Mass – 5:00 p.m.

Midnight Mass – 12:00 a.m.

(Choral Prelude at 11:30 p.m.)

Friday, December 25th –

Christmas Day

8:00; 9:30; 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

There is no evening Mass on Christmas Day

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 13th

Lessons and Carols – 5:00 p.m. -- Church

Refreshments – following Lessons and Carols – lower Church

Tuesday, December 15th

2nd Grade Cub Scouts – 2:30 p.m. – lower Church

Wednesday, December 16th

Senior Club – following 12:00 noon Mass – 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, December 17th

3rd Grade Cub Scouts – 2:30 p.m. – lower Church

Friday, December 18th

4th Grade Girl Scouts – 2:30 p.m. – lower Church

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, December 12th

5:00 p.m. – R. Duffy and C. Maher

Sunday, December 13th

8:00 a.m. – J. Postighone and D. Vanadia

9:30 a.m. – E. Higgins and E. McLaughlin

11:00 a.m. – N. Camacho and M. Luby

12:30 p.m. – M. McCarthy and L. McGarvey

Saturday, December 19th

5:00 p.m. – B. Collins and R. Murphy

Sunday, December 20th

8:00 a.m. – D. Browne and T. Browne

9:30 a.m. – A. Burke, K. Burke and N. Leo

11:00 a.m. – F. Albano and K. Gilligan

12:30 p.m. – N. Conlon and R. Tuffy



S.J.B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 13, 2015

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: This day is sometimes called Gaudete Sunday because the first word of the entrance antiphon in Latin is “gaudete,” which means rejoice. The antiphon is taken from Philippians 4:4, Paul’s warm and loving letter to the community he founded in Philippi. It doesn’t sound very elegant to call this the “Rejoice Sunday” but that’s the idea. It is a day of joy. The prayer of the Church echoes that sentiment as it calls us to “Rejoice! The Lord is near!” We know all too well the challenge of trying to integrate the religious Advent/Christmas message of the liturgy into the “Let’s party!” message of our culture. Scripture today shows us that in rejoicing, we are invited to examine our spiritual readiness for the coming of Christ while still being engaged in the task of daily preparations for the Christmas celebration. To strengthen our spiritual readiness, we are offered a summary of the goals of Christian ministry in today’s first reading from the Old Testament’s prophet Isaiah (Is. 61:1-2, 10-11). Our Lord would recall the words of Isaiah when He stood in the synagogue before the people of His village (see Lk. 4:15-21). In today’s second reading (1 Thes. 5:16-24) St. Paul sees joy as a sign of faith – a sign that is not diminished even by suffering or loss or persecution. We have received the gift of the Holy Spirit in baptism – and we are called to be joyful witnesses, even in this “vale of tears.” As we prepare for the feast of the Incarnation, we examine our hearts to see how we are doing in our mission given to us in baptism. Once again the prominence of John the Baptist in today’s gospel (Jn. 1:6-8; 9-28) will enhance our reflection.



SAINT’S DAY – ADVENT: WEEK THREE

Monday, December 14th – St. John of the Cross

Today is the memorial of St. John of the Cross, the 16th century Spanish mystic and Doctor of the Church. His spiritual classic, The Dark Night of the Soul suggests an important truth to remember in Advent: in darkness – under the shadow of the cross, we find light. St. John teaches us how to seek God’s will and trust in God’s grace.



Lessons and Carols Concert: This Sunday afternoon, our talented and dedicated choirs (along with some of our eloquent lectors) will present “Lessons and Carols: An Evening of Sacred Christmas Music” under the direction of Mr. John Stufano. The program will include both well-known classical works and traditional carols along with scripture readings in an effort to help us make a prayerful preparation for the Christmas season. Come support the Adult choir, Youth choir, and all who have worked to prepare for this event. The program begins at 5:00 p.m. and light refreshments will follow. All are welcome.



Confessions in Advent: In addition to our regular confessions next Saturday (December 19th) from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m., we are participating in an Archdiocesan Program, “Reconciliation Monday in Advent” this Monday, December 14th. Confessions that day will be from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the afternoon and from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the evening. This special opportunity for confessions is being done in conjunction with most of the parishes in the Archdiocese.



Christmas Traditions: *The Candy Cane* – One of the oldest – and certainly the tastiest – Christian “symbol” is the peppermint candy cane – which is more than a piece of candy; it is rich – not only in sugar – but in symbolism. It’s made in the shape of a shepherd’s “crook” – which recalls the shepherds who came to see the Christ Child in the manger; the Christ Child who would call Himself the “Good Shepherd.” The colors – red and white – are highly significant. The white represents purity – the purity of Our Lord – as well as the purity He calls us to. The red represents the blood He shed for us – and the sacrifices He asks us to make for one another. Remember all these associations when you place candy canes on your Christmas tree during this special season of grace.



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.

Passing the Torch: For a little over a year, Fr. Renny Abraham has been living with us at St. John's, where he served the Eastern Rite Catholics who are part of the Syro – Malabar Catholic community in the tri-state area. Because of his responsibilities in that community, his service here at St. John's was primarily celebrating week day Masses at our parish, because he usually was travelling on weekends. Fr. Renny has been appointed to serve another Syro – Malabar community in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, so he will be leaving us this week. Happily, another priest has been appointed to serve their community in this area and he will be coming to live at St. John's. His name is Fr. Joseph Mathew and we look forward to welcoming him soon. Please keep Fr. Renny in your prayers.



Rest in Peace: Let us pray for Nicholas Riccio and James (Jarlath) Mullin who were buried from our church this past week. Our prayers go out to their families and friends.

Latin Chant: During Advent at our sung Sunday Masses, we will use traditional Gregorian Chant whenever the 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. The text of and music for these acclamations can be found in the Music Issue: Sanctus (#850); Agnus Dei (#854).



Local "Coat Drive": The Sts. Peter and Paul – St. Ursula Men's Club is sponsoring a winter coat drive from now until to December 21st, to benefit those in need in the local community. We are in need of new or gently used adult and children's coats. Coats can be brought to Sts. Peter and Paul – St. Ursula Rectory (129 Birch Street, Mt. Vernon) or you can call 914-668-9815 to schedule a pickup of your donation.

Retired Religious: This weekend we will take up the annual special collection to assist our Retired Religious. Over 40,000 religious men and women – many with no pension and only minimal Social Security benefits – depend on this collection to assist with their living expenses and health care costs. This is an opportunity to give back to those who have given their lives to the Church.



Catholic Widows/Widowers: The Catholic Widows and Widowers of Yonkers will hold their monthly meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 17th, in the Fr. Anthony Hall, next to St. Ann's Church, 31 College Place, Yonkers. Coffee and cake will follow after the meeting. New members welcome.

Sunday Report: Last weekend 1,395 parishioners attended Mass; our collection totaled \$8159.00; average contribution: \$5.85. Thank you for your continued financial support of St. John's and its many needs. Your generosity is essential and greatly appreciated.



Special Children's Mass: Next week at our 9:30 a.m. Mass, we once again welcome younger boys and girls to a special Mass where they will be excused after the Opening Prayer and go to the Church Hall for a special Liturgy of the Word. After this Mass please join us for a Family Coffee and Craft Hour in the school cafeteria at which we will have refreshments and make crafts for the family. We are very grateful to the parent-leaders (as well as some older children) who are assisting with this program.

Operation Care Package 2015: Many thanks to all who participated in our Care Package Drive for members of our Armed Services. Thank you to everyone who donated money, items, or your help in packing the boxes. This shows how our parish community can pull together to do great things. We were able to ship 116 boxes to our service men and women who will have something to look forward to this Christmas. May God bless all of you and Merry Christmas!



Daily Mass Alert: There will be no noon Mass on Thursday, December 24th (Christmas Eve) and no 8:00 a.m. Mass on Saturday, December 26th (the day after Christmas). Also the rectory office will be closed on Christmas Eve at 12:00 noon.

Every Little Bit Helps: With the new larger format of our Missalettes and Music Books, there is very little "room" left in those pew "slots" for anything else. However, some folks continue to stuff bulletins and other programs or papers in them. We'd ask everyone to please remove any extraneous material from those "slots." It will help if everyone pitches in. Please take our Sunday bulletin home with you – or leave it on the radiator in the vestibule. Thanks!

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