

# Saint John the Baptist Parish

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**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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*Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*  
*December 27, 2015*

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Father -   
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**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 26, 2015

Vigil: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
5:00 p.m. Joseph Ferrari

Sunday, December 27, 2015

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00 a.m. Marie and Harry Bova

9:30 a.m. For the Deceased Members of the  
Barberi and Fortuna Families

11:00 a.m. For the Deceased Members of the  
Naryniecki and Kozlowski Families

12:30 p.m. Mass for the Parishioners of  
St. John the Baptist

Monday, December 28, 2015

Feast of The Most Holy Innocents, Martyr

8:00 a.m. Eddie Meyer

12:00 noon Alma Layug

Tuesday, December 29, 2015

Feast of St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

8:00 a.m. John M. Preston

12:00 noon William O'Dowd

Wednesday, December 30, 2015

8:00 a.m. Benito and Maria Odoardi

12:00 noon Rina Gonzini

Thursday, December 31, 2015

Feast of St. Sylvester I, Pope

8:00 a.m. Jeronimo Acuna

5:00 p.m. Rev. Peter J. McKeown

Friday, January 1, 2016

Feast of the Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God

8:00 a.m. Fiorino, Maria and Antonio Guglielmi

Saturday, January 2, 2016

Feast of St.s Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen,  
Bishops and Doctors of the Church

8:00 a.m. John O'Connor

Saturday, January 2, 2016

Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord

5:00 p.m. Joseph and Maria Carmela Federico

Sunday, January 3, 2016

The Epiphany of the Lord

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

9:30 a.m. Jordan Kovacev – 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

11:00 a.m. John Ricciardi

12:30 p.m. Salvatore Spataro

## WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>

No Senior Club

No R.E.

Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

Happy New Year!

Rectory Office Closed

## ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

5:00 p.m. – C. Castaldi and N. DeMatteo

Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

8:00 a.m. – C. Elias and R. Peter

9:30 a.m. – J. Corcoran and R. Corcoran

11:00 a.m. – E. Loughran and M. Loughran

12:30 p.m. – M. DiRosa and P. DiRosa

Saturday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

5:00 p.m. – D. Reidy and P. Tozzi

Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>

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

9:30 a.m. – S. Joyce and M. Luby

11:00 a.m. – S. Healy and N. Tierney

12:30 p.m. – D. Liberatore and S. Osso

## A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

*May God make your year a happy one!  
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;  
Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
Not by taking hardships from you,  
But by taking fear from your heart;  
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
But by keeping your face bright, even in the  
shadows;  
Not by making your life always pleasant;  
But by showing you when people and their causes  
need you most,  
and by making you anxious to be there to help.  
God's love, peace and joy to you  
for the year ahead.  
Amen*



## **S.J.B. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**December 27, 2015**

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY:** Today's feast echoes the reality of the Incarnation: by becoming flesh, Jesus became part of a particular family in Nazareth as well as the universal family of humanity. The "holy family" is not insulated from suffering and sorrow. They are a real family who knows what it means to be persecuted and driven from their homeland but who trust in God nonetheless.

Our first reading (1Sm. 1:20-28) recalls Hannah's action of presenting her child Samuel in the temple and dedicating him to the Lord – a clear foreshadowing of the presentation Joseph and Mary will make of the infant Jesus. Our second reading (1Jn. 3:1-24) insists that the love God had bestowed on us through His Son has made us His children; we are now members of God's family. Finally, our gospel (Lk. 2:41-52) recounts the pilgrimage made to Jerusalem by the Holy Family when Jesus was 12. This episode – the only gospel story about Our Lord's life from the time of His infancy to His baptism by John in the Jordan – demonstrates how Jesus' focus on His Father's will is balanced by His mother's equally intense effort to discover God's will for her family.

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### **CHRISTMAS WEEK -- SAINTS' DAYS**

#### **Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup> – Holy Innocents**

Matthew's Gospel reports how King Herod, out of fear and jealousy of this newborn king, ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under – (Mt. 2:16). Having been warned in a dream, Joseph took Mary and the Infant Jesus and fled to Egypt. Jesus escaped, but these innocent little ones became the victims of Herod's insane fear.

#### **Tuesday, December 29<sup>th</sup> – St. Thomas Becket, Martyr**

Born in London in 1118, Thomas became Lord Chancellor of England under King Henry II; Henry then persuaded the Pope to appoint Thomas Archbishop of Canterbury. The king hoped his friend would help him exercise control over the church, but Thomas defended the church and was murdered by agents of the king in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170.

#### **Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – St. Sylvester I, Pope**

Sylvester was Pope in the early part of the 4<sup>th</sup> century – at a time when Constantine became the first Roman emperor to end the persecution of Christians. There was still a great deal of hostility and many heretical sects to be defended against. Sylvester was one of the first non-martyrs to be venerated as a saint.

#### **Friday, January 1, 2015– Feast of Mary, Mother of God**

Following the ancient tradition of celebrating the octave (eighth day) of an event, we celebrate again the mystery of Jesus' birth, but this time with our eyes on Mary. This is actually the oldest feast of Mary in our Calendar. When we celebrate her as the Mother of God we are, at the same time, celebrating the divinity of Jesus, who was truly Man and truly God. Today is the first day of the new calendar year – and it is appropriate that we begin the year by honoring Mary who was instrumental in bringing God's son into the world. Indeed, the celebration of Christ at Christmas is still very much the context of this special feast. The Preface of the Blessed Virgin Mary which is used at all Masses today speaks of the motherhood of Mary and refers to her son as the "light of the world" – a significant Christmas theme. When the Church's Council of Ephesus in 431 formally conferred the title of "Mother of God" on Mary, it was also clarifying the true nature of Jesus as truly God and truly man. In celebrating today's solemnity, we honor Mary and we acknowledge the true identity of her child.

Our first reading today (Num. 6:22-27) is an ancient Jewish blessing traced back to Moses and Aaron – a threefold divine affirmation of highest regard. In our second reading, (Gal.4:4-7) St. Paul celebrates the relationship we enjoy with God by adoption. Thanks to the incarnation of God's Son "born of a woman", we are no longer slaves – we are God's heirs and we are able to call God "Abba" –

Father! Finally in the gospel (Luke 2:16-21) the shepherds came to see the Christ Child and go away rejoicing and witnessing to others. In the center of this reading is the figure of Mary, thoughtful and prayerful. Throughout Luke's gospel Mary is a figure of hope – the one who brings about in her Son fulfillment of all the ancient prophecies, the true disciple who lives the good news that her son proclaims.

#### **Saturday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> – St. Basil and St. Gregory Nazianzen**

These two men – leaders of the so-called "Eastern" Church (an area whose center in the early church was Constantinople, instead of Rome) lived in the fourth century. They were bishops, theologians and outstanding leaders. Later they were named "doctors of the church" because of their contributions to Christology and the understanding of the Mystery of the Trinity.

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**Rest in Peace:** Let us pray for James Costabile, Anthony Caruso and Maddalena Rapa who were buried from our church this past week. Our prayers go out to their families and friends.



**Christmas Traditions:** *The Crèche*

- The most meaningful of all Christmas traditions is the nativity scene, for it brings to our mind Jesus – the center of Christmas and of our lives. Although there were representations of the Christmas crib in both the Holy Land and in Rome beginning in the fourth century, St. Francis of Assisi in the thirteenth century is usually credited with erecting the first complete manger scene. Francis saw in the Child Jesus a perfect model for us to imitate – and he wanted to make Jesus the center of Christmas celebration. So, near a church near Assisi, Francis set up the first manger with live animals and real people playing the roles of Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. The popularity of nativity scenes in churches and homes quickly spread – and reached artistic heights in the figures made by 18<sup>th</sup> century artisans in Naples, Italy.

**Holy Day Schedule:** This Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, the Feast of Mary, Mother of God, is a holy day of obligation. We will have one Vigil Mass on New Year’s Eve, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m.; we will have one Mass on Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. There will be no evening Mass at St. John’s on New Year’s Day.

**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 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 2016.

**New Year’s Day:** Following the ancient tradition of celebrating the octave (eighth day) of an event, we celebrate again the mystery of Jesus’ birth, but this time with our eyes on Mary. This is actually the oldest feast of Mary in our Calendar. When we celebrate her as the Mother of God we are, at the same time, celebrating the divinity of Jesus, who was truly Man and truly God. In recent times January 1<sup>st</sup> has been designated as a day of prayer for peace. This recommendation calls us as the New Year begins, to pray and work for peace in our homes, in our nation and in our world. This feast of Mary, Mother of God, is a holy day of obligation. We will have one Vigil Mass on New Year’s Eve, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m.; we will have one Mass on Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. There will be no evening Mass at St. John’s on New Year’s Day.



**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.

**Calendars:** The beautiful religious calendars for 2016 are made available to St. John’s parishioners’ thanks – once again – to the generosity of Tony and Mark Flower and all our friends at Flower Funeral Home who have served the needs of the St. John’s community with compassion and sensitivity for many years. We are very grateful for their thoughtfulness. These calendars may be found at the exits of the Church.

**Second Collection:** This weekend we will take up our monthly special collection to support our school and maintain our school facilities. The school is not only used for our grammar school children, our CCD classes and our RCIA program, but for a variety of community and parish activities. We ask for a contribution of \$7.00 in this monthly collection and once again express our appreciation for your generosity.



**Advanced Notice:** The rectory office will be closed at noon on Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>; will remain closed on New Year’s Day and will reopen on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.

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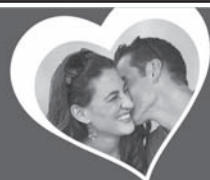
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