

# Saint John the Baptist Parish

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**Associates:** Deacon Martin J. Olivieri, Deacon Nicholas Ramoni

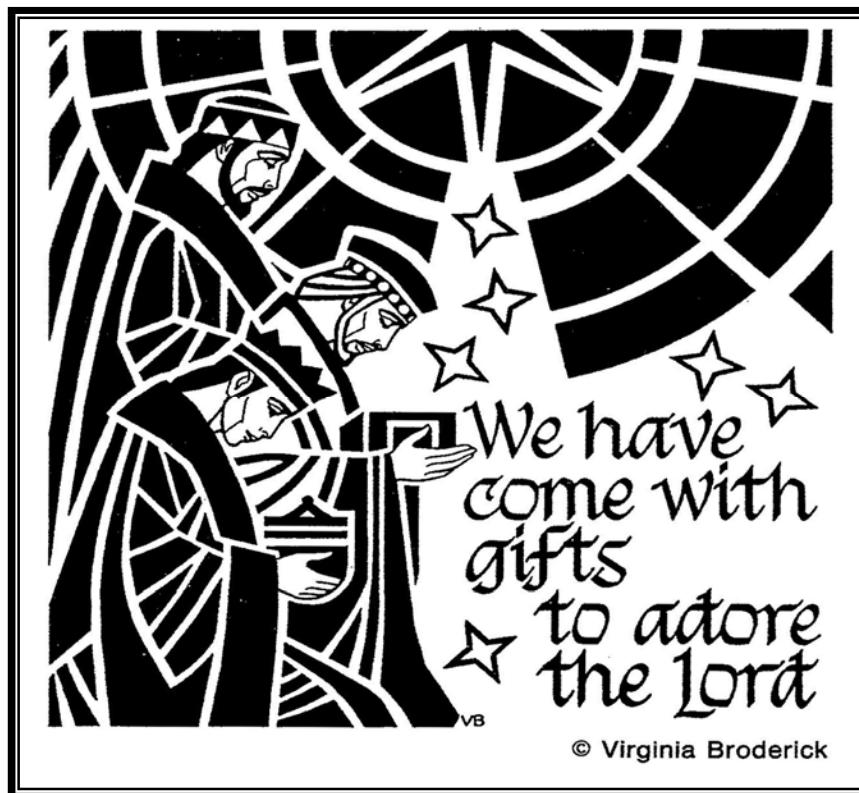
**Retired Priest:** Rev. Kenneth Ross; Msgr. Walter A. Birkle

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

670 Yonkers Ave.  
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www.sjbyonkers.org

*The Epiphany of the Lord*  
*January 03, 2015*

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**Director**  
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**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 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**

**Monday, January 4, 2016**

**Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**

**8:00 a.m. Vincent Buonocore**

**12:00 noon Marie D'Albora**

**Tuesday, January 5, 2016**

**Feast of St. John Neumann, Bishop**

**8:00 a.m. Danny Carey**

**12:00 noon Vincent Buonocore**

**Wednesday, January 6, 2016**

**Feast of Blessed André Bessett, Religious**

**8:00 a.m. Francesca Bonavita**

**12:00 noon Attilio and Elvira Lonardo**

**Thursday, January 7, 2016**

**Feast of St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest**

**8:00 a.m. Virginia DeLucci**

**12:00 noon Helen and John Meehan**

**Friday, January 8, 2016**

**8:00 a.m. Rachel Benischek**

**12:00 noon Consuela Rosario**

**Saturday, January 9, 2016**

**8:00 a.m. Roy McLaughlin**

**Saturday, January 9, 2016**

**Vigil: The Baptism of the Lord**

**5:00 p.m. Luke and Sabina O'Malley**

**Sunday, January 10, 2016**

**The Baptism of the Lord**

**8:00 a.m. Nancy and John Rubbo**

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

**11:00 a.m. Josephine and Salvatore Miceli**

**12:30 p.m. Emidio and Francesca Cianfaglione**

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## WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

**Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>**

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Cub Scouts – 2:30 p.m. – lower Church

**Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**

Senior Club – following 12:00 noon Mass –  
lower Church

R.E. Grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> -- 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. – School

R.E. Grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> -- 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. – School

**Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**

1<sup>st</sup> Grade Cub Scouts – 2:30 p.m. – lower Church

1<sup>st</sup> Penance Parents Meeting – 7:30 p.m. –

School Cafeteria

**Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**

H.N.S. Movie Night – 7:00 p.m. – lower Church

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## ALTAR SERVERS

**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

**Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 p.m. – M. Colaiacovo and D. Odume

**Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 a.m. – S. Farrelly and D. Hijazin

9:30 a.m. – B. Doran, E. Loughran and M. Loughran

11:00 a.m. – E. Higgins and E. McLaughlin

12:30 p.m. – F. Albano and K. Gilligan

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**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.

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

**January 3, 2016**

**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 25<sup>th</sup>, His manifestation to the nations on the feast of the Epiphany, and His baptism celebrated this year next Sunday.

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."

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### **SPECIAL SAINTS' DAYS THIS WEEK**

#### **Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> – St. Elizabeth Seton**

Born in New York City in 1774, Elizabeth Ann Seton married and began a family. She also founded a welfare society for widows with young children. At age 30, she became a widow herself. To support her children, she began the first Catholic school in the United States (near Baltimore) and founded the Sisters of Charity. She died in her late forties, having met every adversity with courage and every challenge with enthusiasm.

#### **Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> – St. John Neumann**

Bohemian-born John Neumann (1811) was ordained a priest in 1836 in New York. After ministering to German speaking Catholics in upstate New York, he joined the Redemptorist community in 1840 and did missionary work in Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia. When he became bishop of Philadelphia, he built many new churches and schools. He even wrote 2 catechisms that were used for some 35 years in Catholic schools. He died today in 1860 and in 1977 was made the first U.S. male saint.

#### **Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> – Blessed André Bessett**

Born near Quebec, Canada in 1845, André entered the congregation of the Holy Cross and spent his life devoted to prayer and the care of the poor. He was known as the "Miracle Worker of Montreal" because of the many cures attributed to him.

#### **Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> – St. Raymond of Peñafort**

Born in Barcelona, Spain in 1175, Raymond became the third superior general of the young Dominican Order. He became a confessor to the Pope who looked to Raymond's wisdom and organizational genius to help guide the Church during a challenging time.

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

**Christmas Season:** This wonderful season of hope and joy officially ends next Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. On Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**Christmastime:** The "Twelve Days of Christmas" – immortalized in a famous song -- are the days from December 25<sup>th</sup> to January 6<sup>th</sup> – 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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!



### *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.*

**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.

**Monthly Maintenance:** Since this Sunday is the first Sunday of the month of January, 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.

**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. School Registration:** Registration applications, for September 2016 may be picked up in the school office 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. during the week of January 25<sup>th</sup> through January 29<sup>th</sup>. Pre-K registrants must be 4 years old by December 1, 2016.

**The Christmas Octave:** The English word *octave* is derived from the Latin word *Octave* (dies), meaning the eighth day of a festival. In music, an Octave is an interval of eight degrees between two tones, one of which has twice as many vibrations per second as the other. In poetry in verse, an octava is a stanza of eight lines. In fencing, an octave is a rotating parry. And in liturgy, which gave English the word to begin with, an octave is the eight day period beginning with a feast and ending eight days later.

In the liturgical calendar, there are only two feasts important enough that the Church sets aside eight days to celebrate them fully. Those two feasts are Easter and Christmas. The octave of Christmas is therefore a time of heightened festivity. It starts with Jesus (Christmas), ends with Mary (Mary, the Mother of God), and is packed with feasts of saints – some of whom are mentioned in the New Testament. Eight is not an arbitrary number. It suggests the mystery of redemption and the fullness of time. At Christmas, one day is not enough. Take time off to celebrate!

**Mandated Announcement:** Anyone who needs to report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, religious or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York is asked to contact Sr. Eileen Clifford, O.P. at 212 371-1000 x2949 or Deacon George J. Coppola at 917-861-1762. Both may also be reached via e-mail at [victimassistance@archny.org](mailto:victimassistance@archny.org). Information can also be found on the Archdiocesan website, [www.archny.org](http://www.archny.org). In keeping with the Archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse of minors, this information is provided to ensure that our children remain safe and secure.

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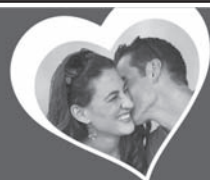
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