

Saint John the Baptist Parish

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

Associates: Deacon Martin J. Olivieri, Deacon Nicholas Ramoni

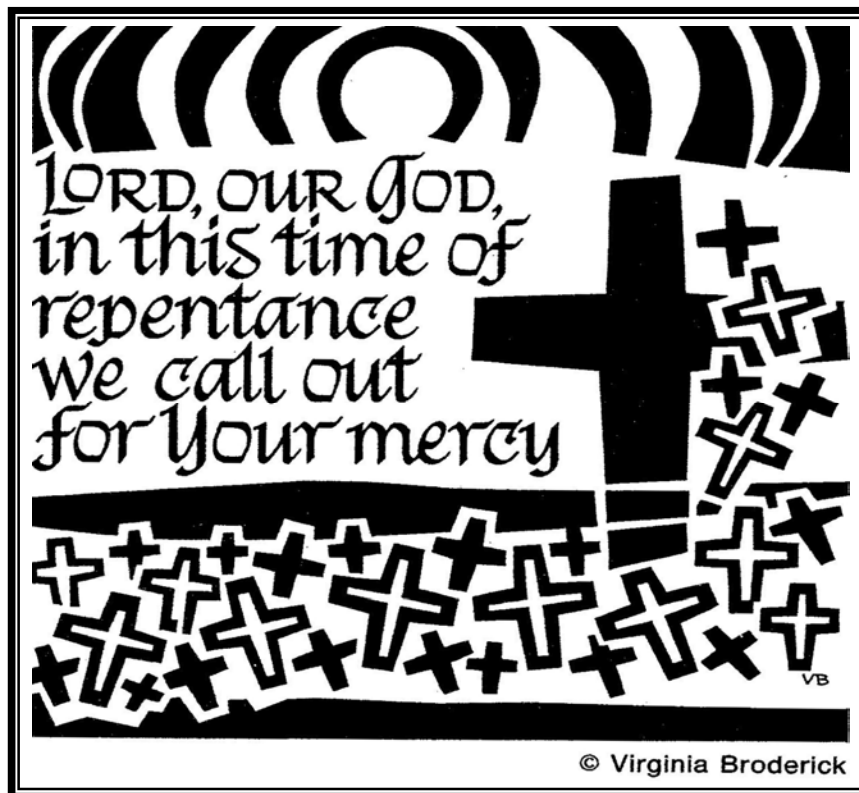
Retired Priest: Rev. Kenneth Ross; Msgr. Walter A. Birkle

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

670 Yonkers Ave.
Yonkers, NY 10704
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First Sunday in Lent
February 14, 2016

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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, February 13, 2016

Vigil: First Sunday of Lent

5:00 p.m. For the Deceased Members of the Avicolti Family

Sunday, February 14, 2016

First Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m. Helen and Meghan McAvoy

9:30 a.m. Mary and Cosmo DiNoia

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

12:30 p.m. Margherita Spataro

Monday, February 15, 2016

President's Day

8:00 a.m. Gladys Spinelli

12:00 noon Primo Ponzini

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

8:00 a.m. Fay D. Landi – 1st Anniversary

12:00 noon Thomas Giardina

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

Feast of the Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

8:00 a.m. Kevin Waters

12:00 noon Damiano Bellucci – 21st Anniversary

Thursday, February 18, 2016

8:00 a.m. Emilio Salvoti

12:00 noon Getrude Dato

Friday, February 19, 2016

8:00 a.m. Rory O'Flaherty

12:00 noon Jordan Kovacev -- Birthday

Saturday, February 20, 2016

8:00 a.m. Adalgisa and John Fantini

Saturday, February 21, 2016

Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent

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

Sunday, February 22, 2016

Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m. Roy McLaughlin

9:30 a.m. Pasquale and Carmela Colaiacovo

11:00 a.m. Anthony Racioppo – 1st Anniversary

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

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 14th

Fr. Joseph's Mass – 5:00 p.m. – Church
Reception – following Mass – lower Church

Monday, February 15th

Rectory Office Closed

Tuesday, February 16th

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

Wednesday, February 17th

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

Thursday, February 18th

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

Friday, February, 19th

Stations of the Cross – 7:30 p.m. – Church

Saturday, February 20th

School Raffles – following Mass – exits of Church

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, February 13th

5:00 p.m. – D. Reidy and P. Tozzi

Sunday, February 14th

8:00 a.m. – C. Elias and R. Peter

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

11:00 a.m. – B. Collins and R. Murphy

12:30 p.m. – C. Maher and J. Velazquez

Saturday, February 20th

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

Sunday, February 21st

8:00 a.m. – N. Camacho and J. Postighone

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

11:00 a.m. – S. Healy N. Tierney

12:30 p.m. – M. DiRosa and P. DiRosa




Most Holy Trinity Update: As Msgr. Maloney announced at all the Masses two weeks ago, the Archdiocese has reached an agreement with the Syro-Malankara Catholic community (one of several Eastern Rite churches in union with the Holy Father) to take over the church and rectory of the former parish of Most Holy Trinity in Yonkers. Since last August – and continuing for the next several weeks until the details of the transfer are finalized – St. John's will continue to see that the properties in question are cared for. It would be a great blessing if the beautiful church at Most Holy Trinity would become once again a place where the gospel is preached and the Eucharist is celebrated.



S.J.B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 14, 2016

 **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT** **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT:** As Lent begins in earnest, the Church uses today's readings to remind us of the confessional nature of our faith. In a few taut verses in today's first reading (Dt. 25:4-10), Moses recounts the wondrous events of the Passover, covenant, and settlement in Canaan, the Promised Land flowing with milk and honey. It's no wonder that the psalmist tells us with confidence that anyone who calls upon God will be answered and delivered from distress.

Our second reading (Rom. 10:8-13) from St. Paul's letter to the Romans is similarly succinct in describing the Christian confession, the core belief that Jesus is Lord, raised from the dead by God. Like the psalmist, Paul assures us that "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Each year at this time the Church places before us one Gospel account of Jesus' struggle with post-baptismal temptation. Today it is St. Luke's turn. Like the ancient Israelites, Jesus has been in the wilderness for a long time, and like them, He is tired and hungry. Unlike the Israelites, however, Jesus avoids both complaints and easy surrender, choosing instead to "confess" His faith through His actions and responses. For Jesus, life is more than bread, trust is absolute, and only God is to be worshiped. The passage closes on an ominous note; Jesus has indeed beaten the trickster, but Luke assures that the Tempter only departed "for a time."



Lent: is a holy season in our Church's year, it is holy because it calls us in a special way to holiness and encourages us to adopt holy habits of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Prayer: We should try to attend Mass as often as we can during Lent and pray the Rosary and make the Stations of the Cross (which is publicly celebrated every Friday in Lent during the Eucharistic Holy Hour that begins at 7:30 p.m.)

Almsgiving: We should try to make special sacrifices during Lent – and it is fortunate that the annual Cardinal's Appeal continues throughout Lent so that we have a very practical opportunity to assist the Church's works of charity in New York.

Fasting: We should try to practice some form of self-discipline during Lent – so that we might in some small way identify ourselves with Christ who was crucified for us.

Friday Lenten Devotion: On each of the Fridays of Lent at 7:30 p.m. there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by Stations of the Cross and a reflection by Fr. Daniel Ulloa, O.P. on the topic: "How to Live the Year of Mercy in an Unforgiving World." The evening Holy Hour will conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Lenten Fast and Abstinence: ALL THE FRIDAYS OF LENT ARE DAY OF ABSTINENCE - All Catholics above the age of 14 are obliged to abstain from meat on the days of abstinence (unless poor health excuses). Additionally, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are both fast and abstinence. Not only is meat prohibited, but on these two fast days, only one full meal is permitted. Two smaller meals may be taken to maintain strength, but these taken together should not equal another full meal. Fasting obliges from 18 to 59 (unless poor health excuses).

Latin Chant: During Lent at our sung Sunday Masses, we will use traditional Gregorian Chant whenever the Kyrie, 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: Kyrie (#853); Sanctus (#850); Agnus Dei (#854).

Lenten Seminar: St. Paul the Apostle is sponsoring a "Life in the Spirit" Seminar for the Year of Mercy on six Tuesday nights during Lent (beginning February 16th) from 7:45 to 9:30 p.m. in the Church Hall. All are invited.

Sunday Report: Last weekend 1,280 parishioners attended Mass; our collection totaled \$9512.00; average contribution: \$7.43. Thank you for your continued financial support of St. John's and its many needs. Your generosity is essential and greatly appreciated.

Tax Advantage: Once again this year, St. John's has been contacted by a representative of H&R Block regarding a program they have for tax-exempt institutions (like ours!). For every new client who goes to any H&R Block office and has them prepare your tax returns, H&R Block will contribute \$20.00 to St. John's. The only condition is that when you go to the H&R Block office, you take a coupon (which are available this week at the exits of the Church) indicating the special code which will be given to St. John's to distribute to our parishioners. N.B.: This costs you nothing! Obviously, H&R Block is doing this as a promotion to bring in new customers – but if you are considering having someone prepare your tax return (both Federal and N.Y. State) this year, please consider H&R Block. They have a nearby office – on 777 Central Avenue (in the strip mall near the Sunoco station on the corner of Mile Sq. Rd. and Central Ave.) But this offer is good at any H&R Block (you just need to bring the coupon).

Card Party: The Rosary Altar Society welcomes you to their Annual Card Party, “A Night on Broadway” on Saturday, February 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the lower Church. There will be over 400 prizes and it is sure to be a fun night. Admission is \$20.00 per person and includes sandwiches, snacks, beverages, dessert, coffee/tea and door prizes. To purchase a ticket or tickets please send a check (made payable to S.J.B. Rosary Altar Society). Anyone wishing to make a monetary or new gift donation can kindly drop it off at the Rectory. Attn: R.A.S. Card Party. For more information, please call Robyne Liberatore at 914-325-6373.

Cardinal's Appeal: Cardinal Dolan has begun this annual Archdiocesan Stewardship Appeal. Some of our parishioners have already received information about the appeal in the mail; many more will receive such information in the days and weeks to follow. In a few weeks we will have our annual “In Pew Sunday” which will give everyone an opportunity to participate in this vital campaign which does so much to assist the Church's pastoral, charitable, and educational efforts throughout our Archdiocese. In the meantime we ask everyone to pray for the success of this appeal.



St. John's H.S.A. Raffles: The Home School Association will be selling their annual raffles after each Mass on Saturday and Sunday (February 20th and 21st and February 27th and 28th) at the exits of the Church. Please assist us if you can.



Mass Requests for 2017: The Mass “book” for 2017 will be open for reservations as of Thursday, February 18th. Because of the number of Parishioners who wish to arrange Masses at St. John's, we must request that Mass reservations be made in person. On February 18th those seeking to make Mass reservations should do so in the lower church (not the rectory) starting at 9:00 a.m. Someone will be there all morning and in the afternoon until 3:00 p.m. After February 18th, Mass requests for 2017 should be made in the rectory, Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Our office staff is simply unable to handle requests by phone if they are to complete the regular volume of work they have. In addition, individual Mass reservations are limited to three on February 18th, so we may accommodate as many parishioners as possible. (After the initial day, more Mass reservations may be made at the rectory later in the week.) We remind everyone that there are a number of retired priests who are able to take Mass requests – even for 2016. We are happy to provide Mass cards for these Masses; however, they will not be celebrated here at St. John's.

Second Collection: Next 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. It is vital that we keep our school facilities in excellent condition. We ask for a contribution of \$7.00 in this monthly collection and once again express our appreciation for your generosity.



Special Children's Mass: Next Sunday, February 21st, 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.

Parish Office – February 15: This Monday, President's Day, is a national holiday. Our Rectory Office will be closed. The church and the chapel will be closed after 12:00 noon Mass.

Second Collection: This weekend we will take up our annual Peter's Pence collection for the Holy Father. This special appeal is needed to support Pope Francis' service to Christ and the world. Please give generously so that His Holiness may continue his mission as pastor to our worldwide Church and as a spokesman for peace and justice.

Lighten Up: Many parishioners have noticed that the sanctuary area of our church is “brighter.” The old fixtures which held our sanctuary lights had seriously deteriorated and had to be replaced. Moreover the “bulbs” for those fixtures are being discontinued. The new fixtures hold new LED lights which give more light and use one-third the electricity. Which sounds like a win-win!

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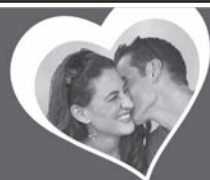
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