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

Associates: Deacon Martin J. Olivieri, Deacon Nicholas Ramoni

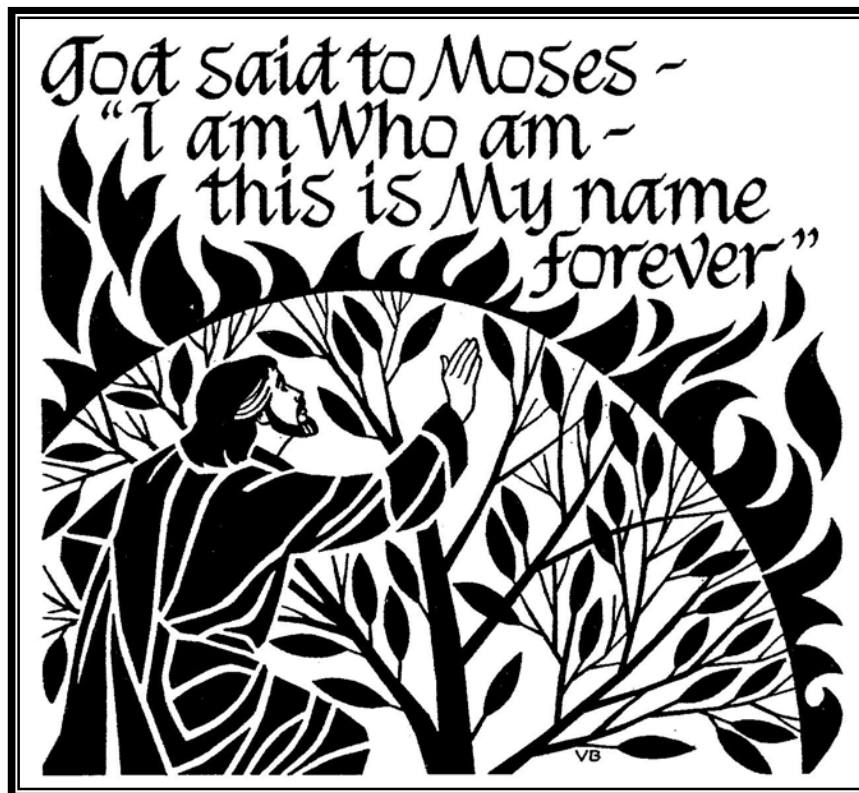
Retired Priest: Rev. Kenneth Ross; Msgr. Walter A. Birkle

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

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Third Sunday in Lent
February 28, 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 27, 2016

Vigil: Third Sunday of Lent

5:00 p.m. Joseph Vento

Sunday, February 28, 2016

Third Sunday of Lent

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

9:30 a.m. Cpl. Patrick F. O'Keefe

11:00 a.m. Frank Nestor

12:30 p.m. Luigi and Franco Milizia

Monday, February 29, 2016

8:00 a.m. Shannon Sakosits

12:00 noon Josephine and Salvatore Miceli

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

**8:00 a.m. For the Deceased Members of the
Camillo and DiFabio Families**

12:00 noon Daniel J. Harrington

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

8:00 a.m. Salvatore and Carmelina Rocco

12:00 noon Mario Chiovitti – 1st Anniversary

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Feast of St. Katherine Drexel, Virgin

8:00 a.m. Maigread Costello

12:00 noon M. Victor DiFede

Friday, March 4, 2016

Feast of St. Casmir

8:00 a.m. Estrella Jimenea and Porferio Tanoy

**12:00 noon David and Charles Kerr and
Karen Meltz**

Saturday, March 5, 2016

8:00 a.m. George Abraham

Saturday, March 5, 2016

Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Lent

5:00 p.m. Cornelius Gleeson – 3rd Anniversary

Sunday, March 6, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m. Settimia Soprano and Nancy Rubbo

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

**11:00 a.m. R.A.S./H.N.S. Mass –
Marjorie K. Massey**

12:30 p.m. Edward Makowski and Daniel Fama

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 28th

School Raffles – following Mass – exits of Church

Tuesday, March 1st

1st Grade Cub Scouts – 2:30 p.m. – lower Church

Wednesday, March 2nd

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, March 3rd

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

Friday, March 4th

Holy Hour/ Benediction/Stations of the Cross –
7:30 p.m. – Church

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, February 27th

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

Sunday, February 28th

8:00 a.m. – S. Joyce and M. Luby

9:30 a.m. – M. Barrett, K. McGarvey and R. Tuffy

11:00 a.m. – A. Burke and K. Burke

12:30 p.m. – R. Duffy and N. Leo

Saturday, March 5th

5:00 p.m. – N. Conlon and M. McCarthy

Sunday, March 6th

8:00 a.m. – D. Browne and T. Browne

9:30 a.m. – E. Loughran and M. Loughran

11:00 a.m. – D. Liberatore and S. Osso

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



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. Next weekend 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.



S.J.B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 28, 2016

The Third Sunday of Lent: People spend millions of dollars each year to “reform” their bodies. Spas, diet centers, personal trainers. Sadly, many of these same seemingly health-conscious (even health-obsessed) individuals never apply the same fervor to their spiritual checkup.

In today’s first reading (Ex. 3:1-15) the smoking brazier and flaming torch of Abraham’s vision give way today to the bush that burns but it is not consumed. Approaching the bush, Moses enters into dialogue with a God so awesome that a face-to-face encounter meant almost certain death. Moses not only survives, but, after unsuccessfully citing his tenuous suitability for a mission to the court of Pharaoh – Moses is, after all, a fugitive – he has the presence of mind to ask God’s name. In an event unique in human history, God reveals that name: I AM. Whatever the name means, it points to God as the one creator, the fullness of all life.

In today’s gospel (Lk. 13:1-9) Our Lord reminds us of the retribution theology that was so much a part of ancient thinking: the good are rewarded and the evil punished. How we wish this were true! As Jesus points out, people who suffer are neither better nor worse than the rest of us. Having said that, Our Lord goes on to insist that a failure to repent will result in the only suffering that ultimately deserves the name: the eternal loss of God’s friendship.

SAINTS’ DAYS – LENT – WEEK THREE

Thursday, March 3rd – St. Katherine Drexel

Born into a very wealthy Philadelphia family in 1858, Katherine grew up in a strongly religious household that believed that with great wealth comes greater responsibility. When she inherited a fortune after her parents’ death, Katherine was determined to use her money to help America’s poor – especially African Americans and Indians. She eventually devoted her life to that cause and established a religious order – The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament which built missions, rural schools – and even a university:

Xavier University in New Orleans, the first American university for African Americans.

Friday, March 4th – St. Casimir

Born in Poland in 1458, Casimir was the son of the King of Poland, but Casimir eschewed the trappings of royalty and preferred to live simply, studying, praying and serving the poor. He died of consumption in 1484 before he reached his 24th birthday.



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).

Sunday Report: This past weekend 1,335 parishioners attended Mass at St. John's. Our collection was \$9196.00 (avg. \$6.89). We are grateful that so many of our envelope users (who couldn't get to church the previous week – because of the brutally cold weather) put both envelopes in this past Sunday's collection. Thank you!



Belated Christmas Report: A confusing schedule from our bulletin company (our Christmas/New Year's bulletins had to be prepared in advance) caused us to neglect our annual report. Christmas attendance was very good (2,250 parishioners) and our collection of nearly \$40,000 was the highest in years! Your generosity has helped us complete work long overdue (like the replacement of our sanctuary lights). We are grateful to so many who helped make this Christmas so special (including Mr. Bob Yedowitz who provided poinsettias that lasted until February!) We sincerely thank our parishioners who sacrifice so generously for St. John's.

Local Concert: Annunciation-Our Lady of Fatima Parish is presenting a concert, "The Last Words of Christ" by Théodore Dubois, on Sunday, March 13th at 3:00 p.m. at Annunciation Church. Admission is free. All are welcome.



St. John's H.S.A. Raffles: The Home School Association will be selling their annual raffles this weekend after each Mass at the exits of the Church. Please assist us if you can.

Special Concert: There will be a Benefit Concert for Maryknoll Sisters Global Mission Outreach, Sunday, March 6th at 3:00 p.m. at the Maryknoll Sisters Center, 10 Pinesbridge Rd. Ossining, NY. Tickets are \$25.00 each and may be purchased on their website www.MaryknollSisters.org/concert16, by calling 1-866-662-9900, or at the door the day of the event. Credit cards, cash or checks accepted. For more information, please visit our website.

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).

Rest in Peace: Let us pray for Ellen Halpin who was buried from our church this past week. Our prayers go out to her family and friends.



Mass Requests for 2017: The Mass "book" for 2017 is now open for reservations. 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 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. 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.

Fuel Collection: This Sunday we take up our annual special collection to assist us with the cost of heating our church, convent and rectory during the winter months. Although this winter was milder than last year -- at least until recently – there's a lot of winter left! Happily, we have had no problems with our boilers and all of them work efficiently. But in order to pay our bills in a timely manner, we must depend on your generosity. Let us pray that spring arrives early!

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. Information can also be found on the Archdiocesan website, 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.



Mass and Brunch: The Archdiocesan Catechetical Office is holding its annual Mass and Brunch for Catholic Teachers in Public Schools on Saturday, April 2nd at the Riverview (One Warburton Road, Hastings on Hudson) from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$30.00 per person. For more information call Jasmine Gomez (646-794-2692) or Sister Zelide (914-965-0490).

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).

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