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

Associates: Deacon Martin J. Olivieri, Deacon Nicholas Ramoni

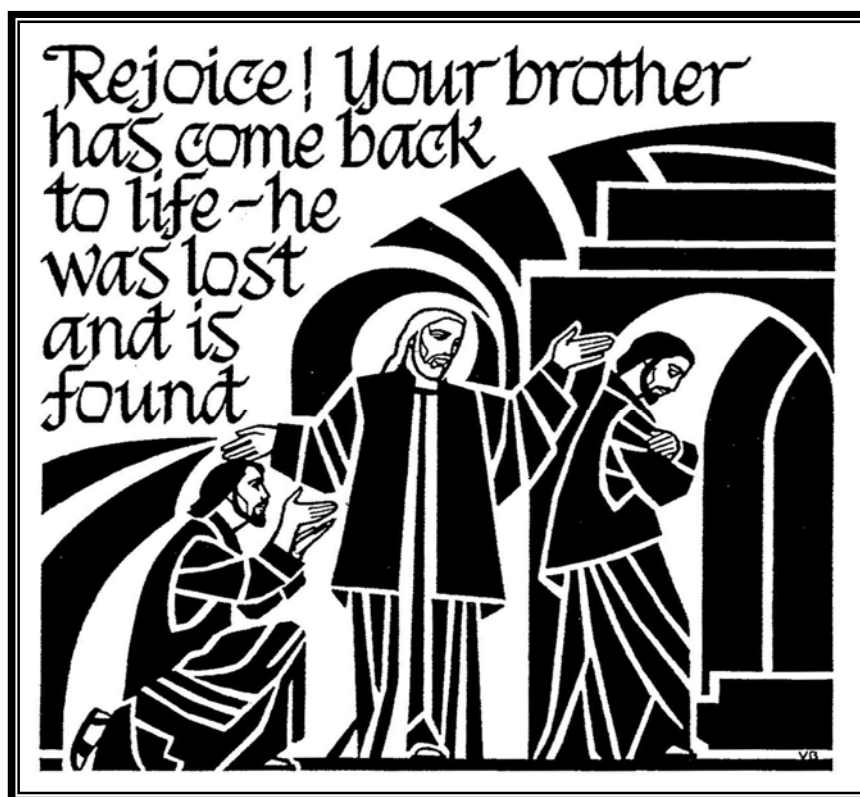
Retired Priest: Rev. Kenneth Ross; Msgr. Walter A. Birkle

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

670 Yonkers Ave.
Yonkers, NY 10704
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Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 06, 2016

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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, 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. – Marjorie K. Massey

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

Monday, March 7, 2016

Feast of Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs

8:00 a.m. Margaret Biglin

12:00 noon Louann and Maria Cardone

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Feast of St. John of God, Religious

8:00 a.m. Frank Leone

12:00 noon Joseph and Josephine Guido

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Feast of St. Frances of Rome, Religious

8:00 a.m. Lisa Giannantonio

12:00 noon Anna and Epifanio DiLeo

Thursday, March 10, 2016

**8:00 a.m. Giuseppina Abruzzese – 1st
Anniversary**

12:00 noon Josephine and Salvatore Miceli

Friday, March 11, 2016

8:00 a.m. Peter and Helen Duggan

12:00 noon Joe Licata

Saturday, March 12, 2016

8:00 a.m. Domenico Guglielmi

Saturday, March 12, 2016

Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Lent

**5:00 p.m. For the Deceased Members of the
O'Leary Family**

Sunday, March 13, 2016

Fifth Sunday of Lent

**8:00 a.m. For the Deceased Members of the
Cocco Family**

9:30 a.m. Kathleen McCarthy

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

**12:30 p.m. Kathleen, Peter, Bernadette and
Eileen Fitzsimons**

WEDDING BANNs

III. Steven Savino and Kimberly Caraballo

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, March 6th

R.A.S./H.N.S. Mass – 11:00 a.m. -- Church

Monday, March 7th

R.A.S. Monthly Meeting – 8:00 p.m. – lower Church

Wednesday, March 9th

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 10th

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

Friday, March 11th

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

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

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, March 5th

5:00 p.m. – S. Farrelly and M. Graham

Sunday, March 6th

8:00 a.m. – N. Conlon and M. McCarthy

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

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

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

Saturday, March 12th

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

Sunday, March 13th

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

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. Velasquez

Rosary Altar Society: We welcome the members of the Rosary Altar Society at their monthly Mass this Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Their monthly meeting will be held on Monday, March 7th at 8:00 p.m. in the lower Church.

Time Change Alert: Daylight Savings Time will begin next week on Sunday, March 13th. Since clocks are to be turned AHEAD one hour at 2:00 a.m. that morning, better to do it before you go to bed next Saturday. Remember, "Spring ahead! Fall back!" which means – even though it isn't Spring yet, we will lose an hour of sleep.



S.J.B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 6, 2016

The Fourth Sunday of Lent: Laetare! Rejoice, Jerusalem! Our Lenten pilgrimage already half over, we are reminded that the sorrow of the journey is not its ultimate goal. Lent is only meaningful in light of the Easter to which it leads.

There is a special significance to the celebration of Passover described in today's first reading from Joshua (Jos. 5:9-12). The exodus is now complete; the unfaithful generation has died out; the new generation is in the Promised Land. For the first time the Israelites used the produce of the land for their Seder supper. As miraculously as it had begun, the manna – bread of the wilderness – ceased. The Israelites had come home.

In today's gospel (Lk. 15:1-3; 11-32) St. Luke describes a homecoming and a father's joy at the return of a son given up for lost. But the story of the prodigal son – or merciful father, if you prefer – is, on a deeper level, a story of true repentance and, once again, a warning against complacency. Self-satisfaction may well be, as one scholar put it, the "occupational hazard of the elect." The elder son is hurt because the father seems to reward his brother's lack of responsibility. How often are we the elder brother? And, when we do stray, do we truly believe that like his lavish father, God not only welcomes us back and accepts our sorrow, but sees us while we are "still a long way off," and runs out to meet us? Even more direct, in today's second reading (2Cor. 5:17-21) St. Paul insists that God forgives everyone, not counting our sins against us. All of us, elder son or wasteful brother, need reconciliation, freely given by our generous God.

SAINTS' DAYS – LENT – WEEK FOUR

Monday, March 7th – Saints Perpetua and Felicity

These two women who lived in the third century in North Africa were martyred for the faith during a Roman persecution. Their powerful witness is remembered whenever the First Eucharistic Prayer is used at Mass.

Tuesday, March 8th – St. John of God

Born in Portugal in 1495, John pursued a military career as a young man, until he was moved by God's grace to devote himself to the care of the sick and infirm. He spent his last years in southern Spain where he found a hospital and a small nursing order (Order of Hospitallers) devoted to the sick poor. He died in Granada in 1550.

Wednesday, March 9th – St. Frances of Rome

Frances was born in Rome in 1384; she married and had three sons. She lived during a time of plague and devoted her later life to care of the sick and the dying. In 1425 she founded the Congregation of Oblates under the rule of St. Benedict. She died in 1440.



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.

Sunday Report: Last weekend 1,345 parishioners attended Mass; our collection totaled \$8738.00; average contribution: \$6.50. Thank you for your continued financial support of St. John's and its many needs. Your generosity is essential and greatly appreciated.

Rest in Peace: Let us pray for James Moore, Rose Rascona, Anne Dama, Bettina M. Bagnara and John Nuccio, Sr. who were buried from our church this past week. Our prayers go out to their families and friends.



In-Pew Weekend: Parishes in the Archdiocese – as part of the annual Cardinal's Appeal campaign – are asked to take time during Mass this weekend to have what is called an "In Pew Appeal." Every member of the parish – whether formally registered or not – is given the opportunity to make a pledge to the important effort.

Obviously, the normal Sunday liturgy should not be interrupted except in unusual circumstances. The annual Cardinal's Appeal is such a circumstance – and the officials of the Archdiocese agree, because they have asked all parishes to conduct an "In-Pew" appeal at all Masses this weekend.

Every parishioner will be invited this weekend to complete one of the pledge envelopes that have been placed in the pews. Even if you have already made a pledge, we ask you to complete this "in-pew" pledge form and check the appropriate box.

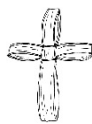
Those who have been prayerfully considering a pledge are asked to make a decision today – in the presence of our parish family. No one is asked to write a check or to make a payment today; we will send reminders to everyone after the pledge envelopes are processed. We do urge everyone to make a pledge – not a one-time gift. A pledge is a promise to journey in faith into the future. Your pledge will help us to ensure that the critical pastoral, educational and charitable work of the Archdiocese will continue.

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).

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.



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



Palm Crosses: The Holy Name Society will be selling Palm Crosses next weekend (March 12th and 13th) and also Palm Sunday weekend (March 19th and 20th). The suggested donation for each cross is \$10.00. They will be available in the vestibule of the church.

Great Success: Thanks to the Rosary Altar Society and the special committee that ran such a successful Card Party on Saturday, February 27th. Whether you were at the event or donated, we very much appreciated it. Most of those who attended went home with one of the many wonderful prizes that were awarded. Anyone who has ever been involved in running such an affair knows how difficult it can be: it takes months of planning and lots of hard work. It also brought an evening of joy to all of us who have been coping with this winter. Congratulations to the women of the R.A.S.!



Silver and Gold: Any couples who are celebrating 25 or 50 years of marriage this year (2016) are asked to contact the rectory. Those celebrating a Golden (50th) anniversary will be invited to St. Patrick's Cathedral for a ceremony on Saturday, June 25th at 1:30 p.m. and Sunday, June 26th at 2:00 p.m. Pre-registration is **absolutely necessary** for Mass at the Cathedral so any couple that is celebrating 50 years of marriage should call the rectory by Friday, June 15th, at the latest. The date of our parish celebration for St. John's jubilarians (both 25th and 50th) will be Sunday, April 10th. If you would like to join us for our parish celebration, please contact the rectory by Friday, April 3rd.

Picketing Report: We regret if any of our parishioners at last Sunday's 9:30, 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Masses were inconvenienced by the pickets from the Rockland County group which has been affiliated with the Syro-Malabar Eastern Rite Catholic community there. The bishop of that community has made it clear that all communities under his jurisdiction in the United States should conduct Mass and sacraments in a consecrated church or chapel. For the past couple of months that religious community has been worshipping at the beautiful Marian Shrine of Don Bosco in Stony Point. The separatist group (which picketed here last Sunday) refuses to obey the bishop and insists that Mass and sacraments be celebrated in a community center which they own. They were protesting at St. John's because Fr. Joseph, who serves that community, has been assigned residence in our rectory with the approval of the Archdiocese. We thank everyone for their patience. We also thank Mr. Liam McLoughlin who worked with the Yonkers police to ensure that the "protest" remained peaceful. We deeply appreciate the sensitivity, understanding and support shown by the members of the Yonkers Police department who were here last Sunday.

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