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Parochial Vicars: Rev. Daniel Ulloa, O.P., Rev. Renny Abraham

Associates: Deacon Martin J. Olivieri, Deacon Nicholas Ramoni

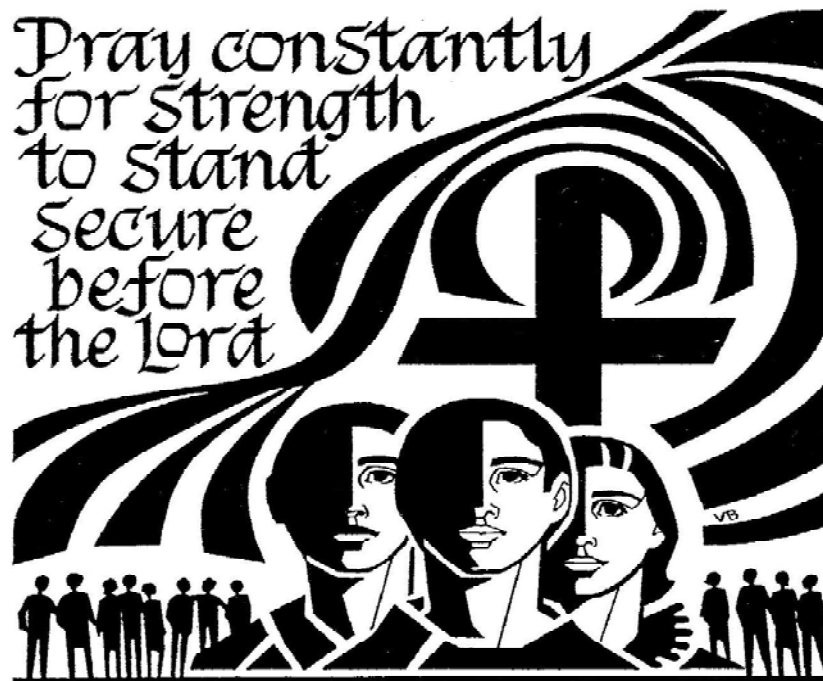
Retired Priest: Rev. Kenneth Ross; Msgr. Walter A. Birkle

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

670 Yonkers Ave.
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www.sjbyonkers.org

First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2015

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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. & 9:00 a.m.

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, November 28, 2015

Vigil: First Sunday of Advent

5:00 p.m. Mary Viggiani

Sunday, November 29, 2015

First Sunday of Advent

**8:00 a.m. For the Deceased Members of the
Rinaldi, Rubbo, Fontana and Soprano
Families**

9:30 a.m. Pat Petitti

11:00 a.m. Antonio Ricciardi

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

Monday, November 30, 2015

Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle

8:00 a.m. Robert Peteshel

12:00 noon M. Victor DiFede

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

8:00 a.m. Assunta Branca

12:00 noon Maryanne Drobnak

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

8:00 a.m. Catherine Samperi

12:00 noon Alma Layug

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Feast of St. Francis Xavier, Priest

8:00 a.m. Mary Verlin

12:00 Giovanni Reda

Friday, December 4, 2015

**Feast of St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the
Church**

8:00 a.m. Julia and John Soracco

**12:00 noon For the Deceased Members of the
Menchen and Donaghy Families**

Saturday, December 5, 2015

8:00 a.m. Denis Quill

Saturday, December 5, 2015

Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent

5:00 p.m. Giacomo and Esterina Magretti

Sunday, December 6, 2015

Second Sunday of Advent

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

9:30 a.m. Mary Quill

11:00 a.m. R.A.S./H.N.S. Mass – Joan Pangia

**12:30 p.m. For the Deceased Members of the
Luppinnacci and Fiore Families**



Wedding Banns

III. Jeryes Freih and Lisa Libertone

I. Mark Dubouzet and Megan Aniban

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, November 29th

Operation Drop Off – 1:00 p.m. – lower Church

Wednesday, December 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

Friday, December 4th

Senior Club's 1st Friday – following 12:00 noon Mass –
lower Church

1st Friday Holy Hour – 3:30 p.m. -- Chapel

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, November 28th

5:00 p.m. – D. Reidy and P. Tozzi

Sunday, November 29th

8:00 a.m. – C. Elias and R. Peter

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

11:00 a.m. – A. Burke and K. Burke

12:30 p.m. – M. DiRosa and P. DiRosa

Saturday, December 5th

5:00 p.m. – M. Colaiacovo and M. McCarthy

Sunday, December 6th

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

9:30 a.m. – S. Healy and N. Tierney

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

12:30 p.m. – S. Joyce and J. Velasquez



Operation Care Package 2015: The Rosary Altar Society is collecting items to be used in care packages for our troops. The drive is this Sunday,

November 29th in the lower Church from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. This is our parish's fourth drive and we need your help. Anyone interested in donating items can drop them off to the church in the boxes labeled "Support Our Troops" by Sunday, November 29th. For a list of items, please pick up sheets at the exits of the church. If you know someone's address who is serving our country or for more information please call Gina Ramoni at 914- 776-1187. If you would like to sponsor a box for \$15.00, please make checks payable to St. John the Baptist, R.A.S. and put it in an envelope labeled "Support Our Troops". Thanks for your support.



S.J.B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 29, 2014

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: With the first Sunday of Advent we begin a new liturgical year. While the continuous reading of the Gospel of Luke commences with the Sundays of Ordinary Time, passages pertinent to these seasons of anticipation, preparation and celebration give us a spiritual direction and perspective in this all too commercial time of the year.

Today's readings are filled with hope and promise, the two-fold message of the Advent season. We hope once again for the coming of Christ in our daily lives and in our present world, and we remember the distant, ever-existing anticipation of the Second Coming of Christ.

The Gospel reading today (Lk. 21:25-36) calls us to that second theme, when Christ will come again. The words of our Lord sound like something that could be read in today's headlines. These warning words keep us on alert. All three readings bring us to an attentive stance, telling us to pray constantly, continue to improve, give and receive healing and compassion. We long to stand firm in the Lord that we may enjoy the "security to come".



SPECIAL SAINTS' DAYS - ADVENT WEEK ONE

Monday, November 30th – St. Andrew

Andrew, brother of Simon Peter, was a disciple of John the Baptist before he became a follower of Jesus.

A fisherman like his brother, he was one of the first to be called by Our Lord. Several times in the gospels, Andrew is seen bringing individuals to Jesus. May Andrew inspire us to do the same.

Thursday, December 3rd – St. Francis Xavier

Along with St. Ignatius Loyola this 16th century Spaniard helped found the Jesuit Order – then spent the rest of his life preaching and teaching in the Far East. For 10 years he tirelessly proclaimed the Gospel in India and Japan.

He died, off the coast of China, far from his native land – but his example continues to inspire men and women who work in the missions.

Friday, December 4th – St. John Damascus

Also known as "John Damascene", John lived in the latter part of the 7th century. A deeply learned man, John wrote many theological works, but also composed hymns and was an eloquent preacher. He is honored as a "Doctor of the Church" and is considered the last of the Church's "Greek Fathers".

Special Christmas Schedule



Thursday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

Vigil Mass – 5:00 p.m.

Midnight Mass – 12:00 a.m.

(Choral Prelude at 11:30 p.m.)

Friday, December 25th – Christmas Day

8:00; 9:30; 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

There is no evening Mass on Christmas Day



Missalette Change: With the First Sunday of Advent (November 29th) in addition to the usual liturgical changes, we will be changing to a new, larger print format for our Missalettes and Music Issues. This will certainly help reading the text of scripture readings and hymns more easily. The downside, however, is that the larger sizes will limit the number of the books we can put in the pews. Since we ordered the same number of these books as we did in the past, we will have extras in the sacristy, should they be needed.



First Friday: This Friday, December 4th is the First Friday of December. Our First Friday devotion – including a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament – begin at 3:30 p.m. We thank

Deacon Martin Olivieri who leads this beautiful devotion each month. We are blessed to have him with us.

Rosary Altar Society: We invite you to join us in celebration of the Eucharist at our monthly Rosarian Mass next Sunday, December 6th at 11:00 a.m. Please note: Our Christmas Party will be held on Monday, December 7th. There will not be a normally scheduled meeting held in the lower Church.



R.A.S. Christmas Party: “Please join us for an evening of dinner, dancing and good times!” at the Rosary Altar Society’s Annual Christmas Party on Monday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the lower Church. Tickets are \$25.00 for members and \$30.00 for non-members. The cost includes a buffet dinner, desserts, beverages, door prizes and DJ entertainment. Dark Secret and a 50/50 raffle will be sold throughout the evening. For tickets and information, please contact Kathy Michalak at 968-9057 or Mary Browne at 968-2468. Please make checks payable to Rosary Altar Society.

Advent Booklet: Once again we are providing a devotional booklet for our parishioners to use during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Entitled the “Little Blue Book”, it is produced by the Archdiocese of Saginaw, Michigan, and provides a prayerful reflection (based on the Gospel of the day) for each day of these two seasons. It also includes other prayers, meditations and suggestions on how to make these special seasons of grace. These will be available at all our Masses this weekend.



Advanced Planning: The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation is celebrated on Tuesday, on December 8th. This is the title by which we honor Mary as Patroness of the United States. Our Masses for the Feast are as follows: Vigil Mass on Monday, December 7th, at 5:00 p.m. Masses on Tuesday, December 8th are at 8:00 a.m., 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m.

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



Lessons and Carols Concert: On Sunday December 13th, our talented and dedicated choirs (along with some of our eloquent lectors) will present “Lessons and Carols: An Evening of Sacred Christmas Music” under the direction of Mr. John Stufano. The program will include both well-known classical works and traditional carols along with scripture readings in an effort to help us make a prayerful preparation for the Christmas season. Come support the Parish choir, Children’s choir, and all who have worked to prepare for this event. The program begins at 5:00 p.m. and light refreshments will follow. All are welcome.



Christmas Traditions: *The Advent Wreath* – Wreaths have always been associated with the Christmas season so it’s no surprise that Christians have used a wreath to signify their spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. The origins of the Catholic custom of putting candles on a wreath probably go back to pre-Christian times when people in Germany and Scandinavia were accustomed to place candles around a wheel (symbolizing the sun) during the winter time – as they awaited the season when the sun would stay longer in the sky and warmth would return. Christians took the pagan custom and adopted it. They put greens – evergreen branches – around the wheel to symbolize the life that continued even in darkest winter; they saw the wheel – not as a symbol of the sun – but of eternity – the eternity of God, the immortality of the human soul and everlasting life. Soon after four candles were placed on the wreath to signify the four weeks of Advent and in time their colors (3 purple, one rose or pink) became fixed: the 3 purple candles representing prayer, penance and works of charity to be performed as we prepare for Christmas; the rose candle representing the joy that Christians have because Christ will be born among us. Often a single white candle is placed in the center of the wreath; this candle represents Christ Himself, the Light of the World; it remains unlit until Christmas Day. We can learn a great deal if we pay close attention to the lessons we are taught by all the beautiful traditions of this magical season!

Monthly Maintenance: Since next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month of December, we will take up our regular “First Sunday of the Month” second collection after Communion next week. This collection helps with the upkeep, maintenance, and cleaning of our beautiful church. Please be generous.



Silly Season: It’s that time of year again! The stores are decorated with lights and garland; the shelves are full of seasonal wares and seasonal music fills the air – but what season is it? What ‘holiday’ occasions all this effort? It’s a mystery! Why? Because Christmas (for some) is the season and the holiday that dare not speak its name. One wonders: is anyone out there really offended if stores advertise their goods as “Christmas” items? Christians are rightly offended that this is the one season/holiday that never receives its due. Perhaps we should only shop in stores courageous enough to acknowledge why we’re spending our money there.

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