

# Saint John the Baptist Parish

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

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

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***First Sunday of Advent***  
***December 3, 2017***

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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. & 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, December 2, 2017*

*Vigil: First Sunday of Advent*

5:00 p.m. Richard, Stella and John Savino

*Sunday, December 3, 2017*

*First Sunday of Advent*

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

9:30 a.m. For the Deceased members of the  
Mc Avoy Family

11:00 a.m. R.A.S./H.N.S Monthly Mass

12:30 p.m. Roma and Guido Barone

*Monday, December 4, 2017*

*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

*Tuesday, December 5, 2017*

8:00 a.m. Denis Quill

12:00 noon Gregory Mazzanti

*Wednesday, December 6, 2017*

*Feast of St. Nicholas, Bishop*

8:00 a.m. Mary Quill

12:00 noon Assunta Branca

*Thursday, December 7, 2017*

*Feast of St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

9:00 a.m. Peter and Helen Duggan

12:00 noon Michael Walsh

*Thursday, December 7, 2017*

*Vigil: Feast of The Immaculate Conception of the*

*Blessed Virgin Mary*

5:00 p.m. Peter, Kathleen, Bernie and Eileen Fitzsimons

*Friday, December 8, 2017*

*Feast of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

8:00 a.m. Anthony Capobianco -- birthday

12:00 noon James J. Mullin

7:30 p.m. Antonio Ricciardi

*Saturday, December 9, 2017*

*Feast of St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin*

8:00 a.m. Frances Dippolito

*Saturday, December 9, 2017*

*Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent*

5:00 p.m. For the Deceased Members of the  
Gaudio and Urrico Families

*Sunday, December 10, 2017*

*Second Sunday of Advent*

8:00 a.m. Sante Zangrilli

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

11:00 a.m. For the Deceased Members of the  
Barberi and Fortuna Families

12:30 p.m. Josephine and Salvatore Miceli

## **WEDDING BANNs**

*III. Rocco Di Luna and Mary Frances Pellegrino*

*II. Aurelio Jimenez and Mercedes Suazo*

## **WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR**

*Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>*

R.A.S. Mass – 11:00 a.m. – Church

*Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>*

R.A.S. Christmas Party – 7:00 p.m. – lower Church

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

Seniors' Leisure Club – 12:00 noon – 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, December 7<sup>th</sup>*

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

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

H.N.S. Christmas Party – 7:00 p.m.

## **ALTAR SERVERS**

*Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>*

5:00 p.m. – M. Bello and W. Ferguson

*Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>*

8:00 a.m. – M. McCarthy and T. McCarthy

9:30 a.m. – A. Burke and K. Burke

11:00 a.m. – S. Osso, P. Tozzi and R. Tuffy

12:30 p.m. – R. Peter and R. Peter

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

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

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

8:00 a.m. – L. Loughran and M. Loughran

9:30 a.m. – P. Coyle and R. McLaughlin

11:00 a.m. – N. Camacho and J. Velasquez

12:30 p.m. – F. Albano and D. Liberatore

**Holy Day:** The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation is celebrated on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. 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 Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. Masses on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> are at 8:00 a.m., 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m.

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

**December 3, 2017**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT:** The Scripture readings for this Sunday provide a fitting climax to the reflections on the “final days” which was so central to last week’s liturgy. The keynote for this Sunday is the Gospel imperative: “Watch!” The entire focus of today’s gospel (Mark 13:33-37) is on the need for vigilance as we await the return of Jesus at the end of time. The parable of the absent master drives home the point that Our Lord expects the work of building God’s kingdom to go on – and vigilance to be maintained – not only by the “gatekeeper” but by the entire community. The master may be away in the flesh, but he should never be far from our thoughts.

Today’s first reading (Isaiah 63:16-64:7) is the prophet Isaiah’s bold call on God for salvation. The Lord has power to intervene dramatically and rescue His people, despite their sinfulness and hardness of heart. Finally, St. Paul in our second reading (1Cor. 1:3-9) prays that God will keep His disciples “firm” in faith and “irreproachable” in conduct as they wait for the “revelation” of the Lord Jesus. The readings today reinforce a common theme from diverse perspectives: good servants eagerly await their master’s return but they must not be idle in the meantime.

Advent is our special time to remember the birth of Jesus, to recognize His presence in our world, and so to be ever ready for the time when He will come at the moment of our death and at the end of time. We do not know when either time will be, but we put our hope in Jesus and trust that as we “wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,” God will strengthen us to the end.

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### **SPECIAL SAINTS’ DAYS THIS WEEK – ADVENT WEEK ONE**

#### **Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> – St. John Damascus**

Also known as “John Damascene”, John lived in the latter part of the 7<sup>th</sup> 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”.

#### **Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> – St. Nicholas**

The great popularity of St. Nicholas is evident in many churches that carry his name and frequent use of Nicholas as a Christian name. Yet we know very little about him, beyond the fact that he was a fourth century archbishop in Asia Minor. The memory of his charity and Christ-like love for children remains with the Church as we observe this feast. Pray today for children, especially those who do not know the love and care of parents and family.

#### **Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> – St. Ambrose**

This fourth century doctor of the Church is revered for his teaching and for his role in converting St. Augustine. He was an eloquent preacher and an original thinker who was able to use the ideas of the great Greek and Roman philosophers to support Christian truth. He was one of the great examples of the Catholic tradition of respecting faith and reason in the authentic search for truth.

#### **Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – St. Juan Diego**

Canonized by Pope John Paul II in July, 2002, this native Mexican was the humble, holy worker to whom Our Lady appeared in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Revered throughout the Americas as Our Lady of Guadalupe, she miraculously impressed her image on Juan’s cloak.

### **Special Christmas Weekend Schedule**



#### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent -- Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Vigil Mass – 5:00 p.m.**

#### **Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 and 11:00 a.m. (only)**

#### **Christmas Eve -- Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Vigil – 5:00 p.m.**

**Midnight – 12:00 a.m.**

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

#### **Christmas Day -- Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

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

There is no evening Mass on Christmas Day



**Sunday Report:** Last weekend 1,250 parishioners attended Mass; our collection totaled \$7176.00; average contribution: \$5.74. 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 Rose Rossi, John Pezzola, Victoria Batista, Teresa Ramoni, Richard Montgomery, Ida and Cosimo DeLeo and Joseph Tardibono who were buried from our church this past week. Our prayers go out to their families and friends.



**Advent:** This Sunday we begin the beautiful, prayerful season of Advent – the beginning of the Church's liturgical year and spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Among the deepest hungers we have as human beings is our hunger for meaning – our hunger for God. The sounds, images and prayers of Advent are a response to that hunger. As we begin our journey through this sacred season let us walk together, listening and learning. May Advent fulfill our deep desire to draw closer to God.

**Advent Booklet:** Once again we will provide 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 Infancy Narrative in the Gospel of St. Matthew) 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.

**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 (#846); Agnus Dei (#850).

**Monthly Maintenance:** Since this 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 this week. This collection helps with the upkeep, maintenance, and cleaning of our beautiful church. Please be generous.



**H.N.S. Christmas Dinner:** Please join the members of the Holy Name Society for their annual Christmas Dinner this Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at La Grotta Restaurant on McLean Avenue. The cost is \$40.00 per person and includes dinner, dessert, coffee, wine beer and soda. All are welcome and bring a friend! R.S.V.P. by December 4<sup>th</sup> to Vinny Vanadia at [vinny316@aol.com](mailto:vinny316@aol.com).

**Rosary Altar Society:** This Sunday, we welcome members of the R.A.S. to their monthly Mass at 11:00 a.m.



**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!

**Lessons and Carols Concert:** Next Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 faithfully to prepare for this event. The program begins at 5:00 p.m. and light refreshments will follow. All are welcome.

**Confessions in Advent:** In addition to our regular confessions on Saturdays from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m., we are participating in an Archdiocesan Program, "Reconciliation Monday in Advent" on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Confessions that day will be from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the afternoon and from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the evening. This special opportunity for confessions is being done in conjunction with most of the parishes in the Archdiocese.

**Candlelight Remembrance:** Ruggiero Funeral Home (732 Yonkers Avenue) is holding their annual "We Remember Ceremony" next week, on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Family members are invited to remember their dearly departed by placing a personal ornament on the tree that will be lighted.

**Christmas Wreaths:** Members of the Home School Association will be selling fresh balsam wreaths after all Masses this weekend. The proceeds will be going to support our school. If you are in the market for a wreath, please consider getting one here at St. John's. The cost is \$20.00.



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