

# Saint John the Baptist Parish

**Pastor:** Msgr. J. Christopher Maloney

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

**Associates:** Deacon Martin J. Olivieri, Deacon Nicholas Ramoni

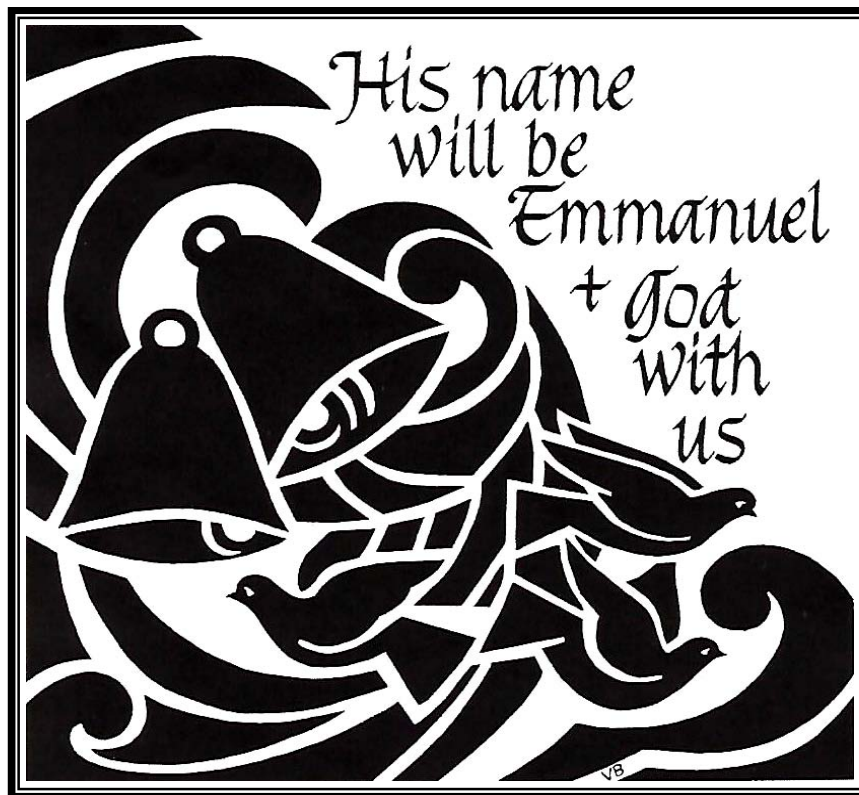
**Retired Priest:** Rev. Kenneth Ross; Msgr. Walter A. Birkle

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

670 Yonkers Ave.  
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***Fourth Sunday of Advent***  
***December 24, 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**

*Sunday, December 24, 2017*

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

9:00 a.m. Anthony Sbordone  
11:00 a.m. Margherita Spataro

*Sunday, December 24, 2017*

*Vigil: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)*

5:00 p.m. For the Deceased Members of the  
Reamer, Lennon and Razza Families  
12:00 Mid. Rev. Peter J. McKeown

*Monday, December 25, 2017*

*The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)*

9:00 a.m. Rose and George Milder and  
John Di Nome  
11:00 a.m. For the deceased Members of the  
Vanadia and Ludlow Families  
12:30 p.m. Anna and Mario Procaccino

*Tuesday, December 26, 2017*

*Feast of St. Stephen, The First Martyr*

8:00 a.m. Josephine and Joseph Guido

*Wednesday, December 27, 2017*

*Feast of St. John Apostle and Evangelist*

8:00 a.m. Mary Crowley  
12:00 noon Marie and Harry Bova

*Thursday, December 28, 2017*

*Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs*

8:00 a.m. For the Deceased Members of the  
Abraham Family  
12:00 noon Anthony Quagliara

*Friday, December 29, 2017*

*Feast of St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr*

8:00 a.m. William J. Mc Carthy  
12:00 noon Kathleen McCarthy

*Saturday, December 30, 2017*

8:00 a.m. For the Deceased Members of the  
Schiavetta and Orsi Families

*Saturday, December 30, 2017*

*Vigil: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

5:00 p.m. Joseph Ferrari

*Sunday, December 31, 2017*

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

9:00 a.m. Gemma Rizzi  
11:00 a.m. For the Deceased Members of the  
Moriarty, Preston and Burke Families  
12:30 p.m. Mass for the Parishioners of  
St. John the Baptist

## **Special Christmas Schedule**

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

*Vigil Mass – 5:00 p.m.*

*Midnight Mass – 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

## **WEDDING BANNES**

*III. Tyler Sadler and Melissa Petrozza*

*III. John Richard Hein and  
Victoria Adamo*

## **WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR**

*Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>*

Rectory Office Closed

*Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>*

No Seniors' Leisure Club  
No Religious Education Program

## **ALTAR SERVERS**

*Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>*

5:00 p.m. – M. Bello and W. Ferguson

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

9:00 a.m. – C. Murphy and P. Winter  
11:00 a.m. – A. Cassidy and M. McLaughlin

*Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup>*

5:00 p.m. – L. Calhoun, A. Cassidy and C. Maher

*Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>*

9:00 a.m. – D. Corcoran, J. Corcoran and R. Corcoran  
11:00 a.m. – M. Luby and O. Luby  
12:30 p.m. S. Joyce and N. Leo

**Daily Mass Alert:** There will be no noon Mass on Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> (the day after Christmas). We will have only one daily Mass at 8:00 a.m. Also the rectory office will be closed all day Tuesday (December 26<sup>th</sup>), the day after Christmas.

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

**December 24, 2017**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:** Our liturgy today centers on the coming of Jesus in the flesh; Today we meditate on the Savior's entrance into our world as a child, within a family, as part of a people with a rich history. Today we begin a week of wonder at the circumstances through which the Word became flesh.

Our first reading (2 Samuel 7:1-16) focuses on King David's concern that the place of God's dwelling is too humble – especially when compared to his royal palace. The prophet Nathan reveals to David that his concerns are not God's concern. It is God who does the protecting; it is God who builds and cares for David's "house". The second reading (Romans 16:25-27) is the conclusion of Paul's Epistle, wherein Paul gives praise to God for the mystery of Christ; it is that mystery that unlocks all of scripture and allows us to enter into the very life of God.

The gospels read on the Fourth Sunday in Advent in all three liturgical cycles stress the role of Mary – but most clearly in this cycle as we hear the gospel of the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38). Mary's surprise and confusion at the Archangel Gabriel's message are combined with her faith-filled openness to God's will. It is a sacred moment that has inspired Christians (and especially artists) throughout the centuries. Although she was young, poor and powerless, Mary "found favor" with God – a clear indication that once again God works in mysterious ways – almost always reversing human expectations.

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### **THE SPECIAL FEASTS OF CHRISTMAS WEEK**

#### **Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> – St. Stephen**

The Christmas celebration continues with eight days following, known as the *octave*. Prayers are assigned to each of these days, the first of which honors Stephen, the first martyr. In the shadow of the *first-born* Son of God, we celebrate the victory of eternal life for the *first-born* martyr of the Christian faith. Looking at it from a human perspective, the celebration of martyrdom might seem out of place on the day after Christmas. But as the prayers and readings make clear, the Church understands Stephen's death as a celebration of birth. Stephen is radiant with the message of the Risen Lord and will not cease preaching it. The Incarnation is fulfilled in the Resurrection. We celebrate Stephen's martyrdom to remind us that with the birth of Jesus we enter into His life, death and resurrection.

#### **Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> – The Feast of St. John**

St. John is the second of the "companions of Christ" whose feast follows close upon Christmas. John is known as the Beloved Disciple because of the special friendship he shared with Jesus. His feast day is a good occasion to recall the importance of Christian love and fellowship. As we celebrate his day in the Church, we are reminded of the legacy he left in his writings. The First Reading echoes the Gospel of Christmas Day and reminds us that Jesus is the word of life. And in today's Gospel we are brought again to the Easter mystery as we hear the story of the discovery of the empty tomb.

#### **Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup> – Holy Innocents**

Matthew's Gospel reports how King Herod, out of fear and jealousy of this newborn king, ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under – (Mt. 2:16). Having been warned in a dream, Joseph took Mary and the Infant Jesus and fled to Egypt. Jesus escaped, but these innocent little ones became the victims of Herod's insane fear.

#### **Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup> – St. Thomas Becket, Martyr**

Born in London in 1118, Thomas became Lord Chancellor of England under King Henry II; Henry then persuaded the Pope to appoint Thomas Archbishop of Canterbury. The king hoped his friend would help him exercise control over the church, but Thomas defended the church and was murdered by agents of the king in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170.

## **Special New Year's Weekend Schedule**



**I. Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup> -- The Holy Family**  
**Vigil -- 5:00 p.m.**

**II. Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> -- The Holy Family**  
**Masses at: 9:00; 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.**  
(There is no evening Mass on New Year's Eve)



**III. Monday, January 1, 2018 -- The Feast of Mary, Mother of God**  
**9:00a.m. Mass (only)**

**Sunday Report:** Last weekend 1,285 parishioners attended Mass; our collection totaled \$8474.00; average contribution: \$6.60. 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 Peter Giannantonio and Stella L. Bellini who were buried from our church this past week. Our prayers go out to their families and friends.

**Christmas Envelopes:** For anyone who did not receive a Christmas envelope in the mail, they are available at the exits of the Church and in the sacristy. Christmas is traditionally a time for giving – because we are especially aware at this holy season of everything that God has given us through His Son. Your special sacrifice at this time of year does so much to insure that St. John's will be able to meet the many needs of our people and continue to be such a special church in which to pray, to hear God's word, and to receive the sacraments. God bless you for your goodness.

**Calendars:** The beautiful religious calendars for 2018 are made available to St. John's parishioners' thanks – once again – to the generosity of Tony and Mark Flower and all our friends at Flower Funeral Home who have served the needs of the St. John's community with compassion and sensitivity for many years. We are very grateful for their thoughtfulness. These calendars may be found at the exits of the Church.

**Special Guest Speaker:** At all our Masses next weekend we will have a guest preacher, Fr. Rick La Brecque of the Diocese of Charleston, SC. He will be speaking about a non-profit, sponsorship organization called "Unbound." This charitable foundation was started in 1981 by a group of Catholic lay men and women and it assists poor children, teenagers and the aging in 21 countries. Unbound assists these folks by inviting others to "sponsor" them with a personal monthly gift. Fr. La Brecque will explain the process next weekend. There will not be a special collection. Welcome Fr. La Brecque!

**Save the date:** Since so many parishioners had a fun time at last year's picnic, we've locked in next year's Parish Picnic already. The 2018 Parish Picnic will be held on Saturday June 2, 2018 at Saint Joseph's Seminary. More details to follow after Christmas.



**The Meaning of Christmas:** For faithful Christians Christmas is and always has been a celebration of the birth of the Savior. It is a time we hold sacred because it is about the Lord whom we love. It is the feast of His Incarnation. It is a celebration of the mystery of God becoming man, so that human beings could share in the life of God.

The season of Christmas embraces both the Nativity and the Epiphany. The Nativity centers on Jesus' birth and the events immediately surrounding it. The Epiphany in turn celebrates three episodes of His early public manifestation: the visit of the magi, the baptism of the Lord, and the first miracle of Jesus – at the wedding at Cana, when he changed water into wine.

The Christmas season is the time when we retell some of our most cherished stories as a faith community. Not only do Christians meditate upon the marvelous infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke, they also discern in these stories rich symbols of Christ's identity. He is the suffering Messiah, the light to the nations, the glory of Israel, the one promised to the humble faithful, to name just a few themes that are highlighted at Christmas.

**Kidney Needed:** One of our parishioners is awaiting a kidney transplant. If anyone is an organ donor or knows a donor and would like to be tested please call Mae at 914-476-9787. Please consider saving a life. We are grateful for any assistance and ask for your prayers.

**New Year's Day:** On some years January 1<sup>st</sup> is a Holyday of Obligation. However, **this** year because it falls on Monday, it is **not** a day on which Catholics are obliged to attend Mass. We will celebrate **one** Mass in the morning of Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

**Baby Bottle Drive News:** The Bottles for Babies drive collected \$4,000.00. Thanks to all who participated in making this event a success. The proceeds this year went to The Elinor Martin Residence for Mother and Child. It will be used towards the new home in Yonkers.



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