

The Church of Saint John The Baptist

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NATIVITY
OF THE LORD

DECEMBER 25, 2011 – CHRISTMAS: NATIVITY OF THE LORD



Bro. Luke Benbrook	<i>Pastoral Assistant</i>	Rev. John Clermont	<i>Honduras, CA</i>
Rev. Edward Conway	<i>V.A. Hospital Chaplain</i>	Rev. Philip Fabiano	<i>Sabbatical</i>
Rev. Thomas Franks	<i>Pastor & Fraternity Vicar</i>	Rev. Ramón Frías	<i>Parochial Assistant</i>
Rev. Francis Gasparik	<i>Provincial Minister</i>	Rev. Leonard Glavin	<i>Parochial Assistant</i>
Rev. Gerard Mulvey	<i>Parochial Vicar</i>	Bro. George McCloskey	<i>Comm. And Public Relations</i>
Rev. John Baptist Riordan	<i>Guardian & Parochial Vicar</i>	Rev. Matthias Wesnofske	<i>SFO Provincial Spiritual Assistant</i>

ST. JOHN'S BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY: *Bags of food are distributed Each Wednesday from 12:30 to 2:45 in the church hall. People must be registered to receive food. Registration during above hours.*

St. John's Bread of Life Food Pantry serves hundreds of needy persons every Wednesday, among them many children. We provide approximately half of the weekly nutrition needs of the poor who come to us, and would give more if we could. ***We continue to need your assistance!*** Call Joe Spicketts at 212-564-9070 ext. 203 for additional information.

Pennies for our Pantry: Our Bread of Life Food Pantry asks you to donate your pennies to help us feed the needy. A jar has been set up in the parish office where you can deposit any loose change you may have. Every penny counts!

ST. JOHN'S BREAD OF LIFE HOLIDAY APPEAL: Once again we begin our annual appeal for Thanksgiving and Christmas. As in prior years, in addition to the weekly foods supplied, we try to provide a turkey, chicken or ham. In past years your Holiday Appeal donations have allowed us to brighten the holidays of the population we serve. This year more than ever we need your support. All of us are experiencing higher prices at the grocery store and no one is suffering more than the clients we serve. Make the coming holidays special by using the *St. John's Bread of Life Holiday Appeal Envelopes*.



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: In keeping with sacred tradition, the decorations here at St. John's take us on a visual journey from Advent to the Baptism of the Lord. The white birch branches around the Sanctuary have blossomed into evergreens trees or dogwood blossoms. The Christ Tree symbolizes Jesus, the everlasting Prince of Peace, with gold accents to show his Priestly nature. The birch branches on the back Altar have spotted dogwood blossoms, flowers long associated with the Passion of Jesus. A fable says that a dogwood tree was used for the Cross, and it sprouted blooms showing the five wounds and crown of thorns.

Our manger – a great Franciscan tradition – is displayed as when it was first carved over 170 years ago in Southern Germany, set in the forest. Mangers are often set up to mirror the locations of the faithful; a way of expressing that Jesus was truly born as one of us. The Christ Child is found where each of us resides, not just that one time and place more than 2000 years ago in Bethlehem.

The use of white poinsettia and gold accents keeps with the solemnity of this festive time; our tradition tells us that the colors of Christmas are white and gold. The evergreen wreaths placed throughout the Nave and the doors of the church remind us that Jesus and His Church are never-ending, and our entrance hallway garland reminds us that we are on a journey toward the light of Christ. We hope that these displays in their silent witness help remind us of Christmas' true meaning, that Christ was born as one of us, and now reigns as the eternal Prince of Peace, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

PASTORAL STAFF & SERVICES

PARISH PROGRAM COORDINATORS

Carmine Marotta	<i>St. Padre Pio Shrine</i>
Joan Prenty	<i>R.C.I.A.</i>
Laurence Rosania	<i>Director of Music and Liturgy</i>
Joseph Spicketts	<i>Bread of Life Food Pantry</i>

PARISH PROGRAMS

Bread of Life Food Pantry	<i>Wed 12:30 to 2:45</i>
R.C.I.A.	<i>Sun 9 to 10:45</i>

ORGANIZATIONS

Charismatic Prayer Group	<i>Tue 6 to 8</i>
Edith Stein Guild	<i>1st Sat 10 to 12</i>
Father Solanus Guild	<i>2nd Sat 1 to 2</i>
Fatima Blue Army Cell	<i>Wed 5:45</i>
God the Father Cenacle	<i>3rd Sun 1 to 4</i>
Padre Pio Prayer Group	<i>4th Sat 12 to 3:30</i>
Singles for Christ	<i>3rd Sun 5:15 Mass</i>
Two Thousand Hail Marys	<i>3rd Sat 7 to 5</i>

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER – FRATERNITIES

Immaculate Heart of Mary	<i>1st Sun 12 noon</i>
Sts. Elizabeth and Louis	<i>2nd Sun 12 noon</i>
St. John's Fraternity	<i>4th Sun 12 noon</i>

OUTREACH

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)	<i>Mon/Wed 6 to 7</i> <i>Tue/Thu 12 to 1; Sat 3 to 4</i>
Al/Anon	<i>Fri 12:30 to 1:30</i>
Catholic Council of Electrical Workers	<i>3rd Fri 4 to 8</i>
Debtors Anonymous (BDA)	<i>Tue 5:30 to 7; Wed 5</i>
Japanese Bible & Prayer Study	<i>4th Sun 4 to 7</i>
Police & Fire	<i>4th Sun 1 to 3</i>
Line of Duty Widows	
SMA	<i>Sat 4:30 to 5:30</i>
Sexaholics Anonymous (SA)	<i>Thu/Fri 6 to 7:30</i>

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS LOCATED AT ST. JOHN'S

Ar-Rahman Foundation	<i>Fri 12:30 to 2:30</i>
Central City Chorus	<i>Thu 6 to 10</i>
Visiting Nursing Service of NY	<i>Mon 1; Tue 2; Fri 9:30</i>



CHRISTMAS MASSES: Our Christmas Eve Liturgy will be celebrated on Saturday, December 24th at 4:00pm. It will be preceded by the singing of Christmas Carols in the Church at 3:30pm. On Sunday, December 25th there is one Christmas Day Mass at 10:30am. On Monday, December 26th there will be Masses at 6:45am, 7:45am, 12:15pm and 5:15pm. However the office will be closed and there will be no Exposition or Confessions on that day. We will resume our regular schedule on Tuesday, December 27th.



ARE YOU FEELING SAD, WORRIED OR OVERWHELMED? We are living in extremely challenging times. If you or a loved one are feeling down, worried, or are struggling with a life issue, you can find affordable psychotherapy at Maria Droste Services. Services are offered on a sliding scale basis, which means fees are set based on your income and ability to pay. A change in your life circumstances should not mean that you can't get help when you need it most. You can talk to our compassionate counselors about your personal and relationship issues, family problems, loss and bereavement, work or job-search related issues, stress, anxiety or depression. Help is just a phone call away at 212-889-4042 or information can be found at www.mariadrosteservices.com



SECULAR FRANCISCANS: The Third Order of St. Francis (the Secular Franciscan Order) is a Way of Life Seeking Greater Holiness. It is intended for Catholic Men & Women, Married or Single, desiring a communal path to God in imitation of our Holy Father Francis. *For more information call 212-564-9070.*



HOLY LAND HERITAGE OF FAITH PILGRIMAGE: Join the Shrine of St. Pio at the Church of St. John the Baptist, with Fr. Tom Franks, OFM Cap., in pilgrimage to the land of our faith. The pilgrimage will take place April 18 to 29, 2012 and visit Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Jordan Valley, Tiberius, Haifa & Capernaum. Concludes with a 3-night stop in Rome, Italy. For information and reservation call the Shrine Office at 212-56-9070 ext. 280 or Bove Travel at 718-680-3333.



WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: "All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God." Celebrate the joy of HIS birth by giving each other the gift of a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. The next weekend is February 11/12. Call toll free: 877-NYS-WWME ext. 3 or visit their website for more information at www.wwmearchny.org.



"Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!" This is our response to the psalm today. At first some sticklers for English grammar might take exception to the present tense in the sentence. After all, wasn't Jesus born more than two thousand years ago? Yes, that's true. In Bethlehem in Judah in a stable a child was born. He was heralded by angels and honored by shepherds. He was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, hardly an auspicious beginning for the King of all the world.

But Christmas is much more than remembering the birth of a child two millennia ago. That is because his birth has real effects for each of us today! The birth of Christ affects our lives. That moment, first witnessed and experienced two thousand years ago, continues to truly impact everything in our lives and in our world. That is why we boldly join together in proclaiming, "Today is born our Savior."

Think about it. In the midst of our run up to celebration of Christmas many of us opened our hearts and our wallets to those in need. Why did we do that? We did it because we believe what Jesus taught us: to love our neighbor as ourselves. In doing so, Christ is born in our hearts.

Many of us sent greeting cards with good wishes to others. Why did we do that? Because we believe what Jesus taught us: to announce the good news to others. In doing so, Christ is born in our hearts.

We come to worship on Christmas Day just as we do on any Sunday. Why do we do that? Because we believe what Jesus taught us: to love God with all our heart, and mind, and soul. In doing so, Christ is born in our hearts.

When Christ is born in us, he is born again in the world. As women and men baptized in Christ's name, we carry him in our hearts to others: to those who walk in darkness, to those who are burdened, to those who feel forsaken.

Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!

~ Fr. Thomas Franks, OFM Cap.



**Mass Intentions
for the Week**

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 25, 2011

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 A.M. For Those Enrolled in the
Christmas Novena of Masses

MONDAY

DECEMBER 26, 2011

6:45 A.M. *(dec.) Carmela DeStefano, req. by Teresa Marri*
7:45 A.M. *(dec.) Giusepina Gigliotti, req. by Joseph Filippis*
12:15 P.M. For Those Enrolled in the
Christmas Novena of Masses
5:15 P.M. Living & Deceased Members of St. John's
Fraternity, *req. by the Fraternity*

TUESDAY

DECEMBER 27, 2011

6:45 A.M. Living & Deceased Members of the S.F.O.,
req. by the 3 Fraternities of St. John's
7:45 A.M. *(dec.) Francesco Santino & Teresa Giordano,*
req. by Teresa Marri
12:15 P.M. For Those Enrolled in the
Christmas Novena of Masses
5:15 P.M. *(dec.) Ascencion Fernandez,*
req. by Lilia Francisco

WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 28, 2011

6:45 A.M. Milagrosa Berberabe Kieth,
req. by Concepcion DeLeon
7:45 A.M. Yvanne Jean-Louis, *req. by Yvon Jean-Louis*
12:15 P.M. For Those Enrolled in the
Christmas Novena of Masses
5:15 P.M. *(dec.) Mr. & Mrs. Alfonso and Bertha Giordano,*
req. by Alfonso Giordano
6:30 P.M. For Those Enrolled in the
Mother of Perpetual Help Novena

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 29, 2011

6:45 A.M. *(dec.) John Lagan, Sr., req. by Donna Grusaky*
7:45 A.M. K.I.A. U.S. Military Forces,
req. by Mr. & Mrs. Marty O'Grady
12:15 P.M. For Those Enrolled in the
Christmas Novena of Masses
5:15 P.M. Ginah Laraque, *req. by La Mercie Laraque*

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 30, 2011

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

6:45 A.M. Sean Morgan, *req. by Elena MacLeod*
7:45 A.M. Rev. Hugh Patrick Murphy, *req. by Eileen*
12:15 P.M. For Those Enrolled in the
Christmas Novena of Masses
5:15 P.M. *(dec.) Antonio & Soledad Mallonga,*
req. by Concepcion & Noemi

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 31, 2011

12:15 P.M. For Those Enrolled in the
Christmas Novena of Masses
4:00 P.M. *(dec.) Kreszenzia Schiller,*
req. by Charlotte La Colla

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Kitchen Hours: Monday & Tuesday - 11:00am to 11:00pm
Wednesday thru Saturday - 11:00am to 12 midnight, Sunday - 12 noon to 11:00pm
Bar Hours: Monday thru Saturday - 11:00am to 4:00am, Sunday 12 noon to 4:00am

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Shrine of Padre Pio
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Attention: Shrine Office
Please join us in prayer every Monday at 6:30 PM Mass for the Perpetual Novena in honor of Padre Pio
send in your petitions if you are unable to attend and your petitions will be placed on the Altar.
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