

# The Church of Saint John The Baptist

**A MINISTRY OF THE  
CAPUCHIN FRANCISCANS  
WITH SHRINES OF  
SAINT PIO OF PIETRELCINA  
AND OUR MOTHER OF  
PERPETUAL HELP**

210 West 31<sup>st</sup> Street (at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue)  
New York, N.Y. 10001

Tel 212-564-9070  
Fax 212-564-3964



## **SUNDAY MASSES:**

Saturday: 4:00 (Vigil)

Sunday: 9:00, 10:30, 12:00, 5:15

On holidays the Mass Schedule is a 10:30 am Mass only

## **WEEKDAY MASSES:**

6:45, 7:45, 12:15, 5:15

Saturdays: 12:15

## **CONFESSIONS - SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:**

Monday through Friday: from 7:15 to 7:45 and 11:45 to 12:15 in the church;  
from 1:00 to 5:00 in the parish office

Saturdays: 11:30 to 12:30 and 3:00 to 4:00 in the church

## **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

*The mission of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, in the spirit of the Capuchin Franciscan Order and the tradition of the Catholic Church, is to be Christ in the City - to assist in the spiritual, social and personal development of the members of the parish, the community of midtown Manhattan, and the people of the New York metropolitan area. St. John is a Spiritual Center; where individuals can seek peace, holiness and sanctuary, alone or in the community. St. John is a responsive and evolving community which encourages growth in our relationship to God and to one another, so that through these relationships we can find strength, joy and happiness.*

## JANUARY 8, 2012 – EPIPHANY 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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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>



**MARCH FOR LIFE:** Monday, January 23, 2012 join us with hundreds of thousands in Washington, DC to pray and publicly witness so that hearts and minds may be opened to the Gospel of Life and laws may be changed to reverence all human life. A Manhattan bus will be leaving from Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Mass 6:15am/depart 7:00am sharp (457 West 51<sup>st</sup> Street). The cost for the trip is \$40. For further info contact Sr. Shirley at (212) 361-1011 x3195 or Sr.ShirleyAnn@archny.org.



**LOS REYES MAGOS:** In many Hispanic cultures, it not Christmas Day but rather the Epiphany, or the Day of the Three Kings, when gifts celebrating the birth of Christ usually appear. The night before, hay and a bucket of water are left outside the house for the camels who carry the Magi. A box or old shoes are put under the bed in which the Wise Men will leave gifts for the children. On the evening of the feast families gather for dinner, and cut into the rosca de reyes, a ring-shaped sweet bread decorated with candied fruit. Baked inside is a small figure of baby Jesus. Whoever finds the figure in his or her piece will host the final feast of the Christmas season, el día de la Candelaria on February 2. On that day new clothes are presented to enrobe the figure of baby Jesus in the Nativity scene of the family or the church.



**COMMUNICATIONS COLLECTION & CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY:** This weekend there is a combined second collection for Communications and Catholic University. Please help support the goals of evangelization in various forms of media and the formation of young men and women studying at the Catholic University of America.



**EPIPHANY HOME BLESSING:** Some Christians bless their homes on this feast with a chalk inscription on the inside lintel above the front door. The letters have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words "Christus mansionem benedicat" – "May Christ bless this house." **20 + C + M + B + 12**



**NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK:** January 8-14, 2012 is a time to pray and work on behalf of migrants. Just as on the road to Emmaus, Christ's disciples met him in the guise of a stranger, this reminds us that Christ makes himself present to each of us in the lonesome traveler, the newcomer, and the migrant. We are called to open our hearts and provide hospitality to those in need. It is our duty to create a space of welcome and acceptance to the migrant who finds himself or herself far away from home and in a vulnerable situation.



The prophet Isaiah returns one more time in this Christmas season, now on the feast of the Epiphany. In the final chapters of Isaiah (chapters 56-66), the prophet is proclaiming God's word to the Israelites who have returned to Jerusalem after the Exile in Babylon. What at first was a joyful return, has turned inward. Those who have taken up positions of power after returning to Jerusalem have marginalized even the Israelites who remained in the land during the Babylonian Captivity, not to mention the people of other nations whose defeat of Babylon actually facilitated Israel's restoration. In response, Isaiah proclaims that God's salvation is for all. Every nation will stream to Jerusalem to worship the Lord.

Isaiah's message is reflected in Matthew's Gospel as he tells the story of the birth of Jesus. Christ comes for everyone! The followers of Christ in Matthew's community are not only the Jews who became Christians, but also the Gentiles who came to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. In Matthew's Gospel this latter group is represented by the Magi, who come from afar, while the Jewish Christians, who believe in God's word, are represented by Joseph, the faithful spouse of Mary.

While the Epiphany is a great and joyous feast, it contains a cautionary message as well. God's salvation is for everyone. That means that no one can be excluded from the invitation to follow Christ. And once they choose to do so, they become our brothers and sisters in the Lord. If that is the case, when we demean, cast aside, or ignore others, we open ourselves to the same condemnation with which Isaiah castigated the powerful in Jerusalem in the sixth century BC. If we add statues of the Magi to our Nativity scene, it also means that we must add the stranger, the foreigner, the person not like us, to our life in Christ. Fittingly, the USCCB calls our attention to this task by naming these days as *National Migration Week*. A time to pay special attention to those who so often find themselves abandoned or alone. May we pray for the grace in this continuing Christmas Season to see the needy, the lost, the lonely in our midst and to show them the light of true Christian fellowship.

~ Fr. Thomas Franks, OFM Cap.



**Mass Intentions  
for the Week**

**SUNDAY**

**JANUARY 8, 2012**

9:00 A.M.

*(dec.)* George Tracey (2<sup>nd</sup> Ann.),  
*req. by Margaret & Ed Donovan*

10:30 A.M.

All Parishioner and Benefactors of St. John's

12:00 P.M.

Living & Deceased Members of the  
St. Elizabeth and St. Louis Fraternity

5:15 P.M.

*(dec.)* Joan S. Kearney, *req. by her family*

**MONDAY**

**JANUARY 9, 2012**

6:45 A.M.

*(dec.)* Marie F. & John J. Grabec,  
*req. by Marina Marinalli*

7:45 A.M.

In Thanksgiving to St. John the Baptist,  
*req. by Marielise Dubois*

12:15 P.M.

For the Intentions of the Concepcion Family,  
*req. by Roseanna C. Gee*

5:15 P.M.

Milton Graves, *req. by Lucia & Nicolo*

6:30 P.M.

For Those Enrolled in the  
St. Pio of Pietrelcina Novena

**TUESDAY**

**JANUARY 10, 2012**

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.)* Nicola Filippis, *req. by Joseph Filippis*

12:15 P.M.

*(dec.)* Francoise & Altela Destine,  
*req. by Freda Baptiste*

5:15 P.M.

*(dec.)* Samuel Vega,  
*req. by God the Father Cenacle*

**WEDNESDAY**

**JANUARY 11, 2012**

6:45 A.M.

*(dec.)* Signora Rafaela Febus,  
*req. by Charlotte La Colla*

7:45 A.M.

John, Stella & Jennie Dombroski,  
*req. by Clarinda Dombroski*

12:15 P.M.

Carmel Woods, *req. by Emma Gillespie*

5:15 P.M.

*(dec.)* Pierre Bathard,  
*req. by Concepcion Mallonga*

6:30 P.M.

For Those Enrolled in the  
Mother of Perpetual Help Novena

**THURSDAY**

**JANUARY 12, 2012**

6:45 A.M.

For the Intention of Mrs. Carmen Hernandez,  
*req. by Charlotte La Colla*

7:45 A.M.

K.I.A. U.S. Military Forces,  
*req. by Mr. & Mrs. Marty O'Grady*

12:15 P.M.

*(dec.)* James Donovan, *req. by his family*

5:15 P.M.

Georgina Rivera, *req. by Carmen Volkers*

**FRIDAY**

**JANUARY 13, 2012**

6:45 A.M.

*(dec.)* Henry Warren, *req. by Elena MacLeod*

7:45 A.M.

*(dec.)* Antonella, *req. by Rosaria and friends*

12:15 P.M.

*(dec.)* Anthony Gimignani

5:15 P.M.

In Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help,  
*req. by Jacqueline & Myriam Destin*

**SATURDAY**

**JANUARY 14, 2012**

12:15 P.M.

*(dec.)* Michael Kavanagh,  
*req. by Katherine Kavanagh*

4:00 P.M.

*(dec.)* Gunther Nolting, *req. by Ruth Nolting*

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**Shrine of Padre Pio**  
St. John's Church, 210 W31 St., New York, NY 10001  
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.  
Petition \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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