

THE EUCHARISTIC COMMUNITY AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JEAN BAPTISTE

Bread Broken for a New World

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 15-16, 2017

ISAIAH 55:10-11; ROMANS 8:18-23; MATTHEW 13:1-23

GATHER HYMNAL # 1022

The Pastor's Reflections

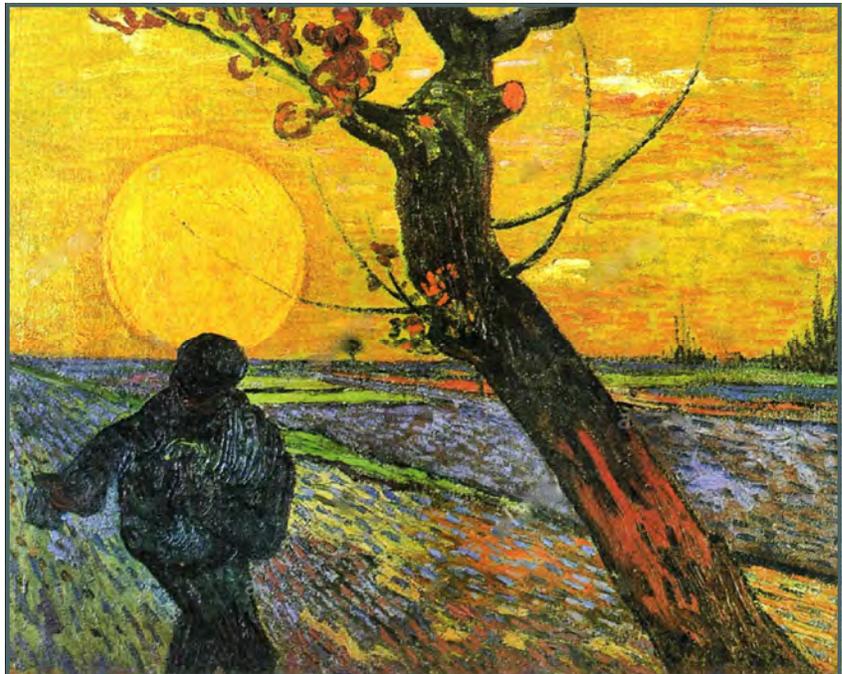
In the first reading in this Sunday's liturgy, one sentence taken from the prophet Isaiah, has been chosen as an introduction to the Gospel passage, the parable of the sower. Isaiah's teaching is about God's communication with the human family. He uses the image of God's greatest gift, and our most essential commodity, water. It comes from heaven in the snow and rain that water the earth "*making it fertile and fruitful.*" It's the source of all life. Without water nothing can live or grow. Without water there can be no food, no "*bread to the one who eats.*" In a similar way the word of God is essential to our lives. It makes our lives fruitful and fertile – truly alive.

Jesus' parable of the sower also looks at the dynamic of God's communication with us, but he has a different take from Isaiah. God is presented as a sower who is lavishly tossing seeds across a varied landscape. Some seeds fall on a footpath, some on rocky ground, some among thorns and some on fertile soil.

The first thing we need to note in interpreting this parable is the caprice of the sower. A typical farmer would be cautious with the seeds he sows. Seeds are costly; they're the farmer's investment for a fruitful harvest. He needs to get as much bang from his buck as possible. A farmer would avoid casting seeds on the footpath or rocky soil or among the thorn bushes. He would make sure that they fell on fertile ground. Jesus' sower isn't the typical farmer, however. He scatters the seeds everywhere. It's almost as if he's consecrating the entire earth with

the seeds he casts. It makes no difference to him where they might fall.

The second thing we need to note is that most of the seeds that the sower casts take root. Those that fall on rocky soil only live a short while be-



cause they can't take root fast enough, and so the sun scorches the seedlings. The seeds that fall among the thorn bushes can't get a start because the thorns choke them. They don't have much of a chance to take root. They try, but have only a short life. Others fall on a footpath, but have no chance to take root because the birds immediately swoop down and eat them up. But some seeds fall on fertile soil and "*produce fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.*"

Let's get into Jesus' mind as we continue interpreting this parable. I don't think it's all that useful to read the ending of this passage that gives an interpretation to each set of seeds. Biblical scholars tend to agree that this interpretation is a commentary added later to the Gospel. The interpretation isn't bad, but it's just one person's interpretation. Each of us needs to read the parable, and allow it to speak directly to our hearts.

I suggest that as you read the parable you keep in mind Jesus' image of a sower who sows with capricious abandon. The seeds go everywhere, like God's word represented by the snow and rain in today's passage from the prophet Isaiah. Keep in mind, also, that most of these seeds experience life, if only a short one. Even the seeds that are eaten by the birds have a purpose; they're food for the birds.

Please don't be frustrated because I didn't tell you what the parable means. A parable is meant to be interpreted very personally. We have one interpretation at the end of the Gospel passage. That's enough. And don't be thrown off by it. It's only one person's interpretation. Rabbis used the medium of the parable to teach. They would simply present the parable leaving it for the disciple to interpret – to discover its deeper, very personal, meaning.

Instead of giving you my personal interpretation, I want to invite you to journey into the parable by yourself. In this Sunday's liturgy we have two excellent passages that can be used to set us on a good track for a personal interpretation. Reread that one, wonderful, sentence of Isaiah. Then reflect for a while on its message.

"Just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:10-11)

Now, read the Responsorial Psalm. After you've given some time to reflect on both passages return to the parable. Then, give yourself time to listen – listen to God's word for you. Here's Responsorial Psalm.

Psalm 65

"You have visited the land and watered it; greatly have you enriched. God's watercourses are filled; you have prepared the grain. Thus have you prepared the land: drenching its furrows, breaking up its clods, softening it with showers, blessing its yield. You have crowned the year with your bounty, and your paths overflow with a rich harvest; the untilled meadows overflow with it, and rejoicing clothes the hills. The fields are garmented with flocks and the valleys blanketed with grain. They shout and sing for joy."



**We are now on
Facebook
and
Instagram
[@stjeanbaptistenyc.org](https://www.instagram.com/stjeanbaptistenyc.org)**

**Follow us for
additional
information and
updates on
services and
activities.**

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT DAILY

MASSES

WEEKDAYS

7:30 – 12:15

SATURDAY

12:15 – 5:30 Vigil Mass

SUNDAY

9:00 – 11:00 – 5:30 – 7:30

HOLY DAYS

7:30-12:15-7:00pm

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

RECITED ON WEEKDAYS

8:00 AM and 5:00 PM

SUNDAY

5:00 PM

RECONCILIATION

WEEKDAYS

11:45 until 12:10

SATURDAY

11:45 until 12:10

5:00 until 5:30

ROSARY

WEEKDAYS AT 11:55

NOVENA PRAYERS

St. Anne – Tuesday after the 12:15 Mass

St. Peter Julian Eymard –

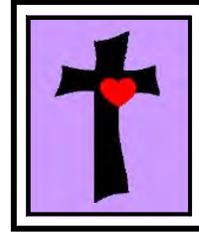
Thursday after the 12:15 Mass

JOIN OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Please register at the parish house, 184 East 76th Street any day during office hours from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily or fill out a registration card found at the rear of the church.

BAPTISM & MARRIAGES

To schedule a baptism or a marriage please contact the parish office to speak with Fr. John Kamas.



COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Please call the parish office to schedule a home visit with one of the priests. 212-288-5082 Ext. 10

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC OR AN ADULT NEEDING COMMUNION AND/OR CONFIRMATION?

Make an appointment with Joan Prenty, Director of Religious Education, through the Parish Office by calling 212-288-5082 ext 30. Leave your contact information and she will get back to you to set up an appointment.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING

TIME AND VENUE:

The Charismatic Prayer Meeting will be held every Sunday from 2:30 PM-4:30 PM in Wave Café of the High School, 173 East 75th Street. You may enter through the ramp on 76th Street at the east end of the rectory building .



MUSIC OF THE LITURGY

The scripture readings may be found in GATHER at No. 1022

HYMN OF GATHERING:

No. 496 "How Great Thou Art"

KYRIE

GLORIA

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *"The Seed That Falls On Good Ground Will Yield A Fruitful Harvest."*

SECOND READING

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL READING

HOMILY

CREED, NO. 143

INTERCESSIONS

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS:

No. 616 "Eye Has Not Seen"

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

ACCLAMATION

*When We Eat This Bread and Drink This Cup,
We Proclaim the Death of the Lord
Until He Comes Again*

THE GREAT AMEN

MUSIC AT COMMUNION:

No. 830 "Seed Scattered And Sewn"

BLESSING and DISMISSAL

RECESSIONAL:

No. 613 "Love Divine All Loves Excelling"

**MUSICIANS
WANTED!**



If you sing or play an instrument, come join the music ministry. We always welcome new volunteers to join us at the Sunday Masses: 11:00 AM, 5:30 PM or 7:30 PM. This is a perfect time to dust off your instrument or clear your throat to praise the Lord in song. Contact Richard Owen for more information.

ADULT CHOIR OF ST. JEAN BAPTISTE:

11:00 AM Sunday Mass; Rehearsal Sunday 10:00 AM ,
Choir Room.

5:30 PM Sunday Mass; Rehearsal 5:00 PM. Choir Room.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR:

11:00 AM Sunday Mass (first Sunday of the month);
Rehearsal Wednesday 5-5:30 PM, Choir Room

MODERN ENSEMBLE :

7:30 PM Sunday Mass; Rehearsal 7:00 PM, in the Church

*Richard Owen, Jr., Director of Music Ministries & Organist
email: owenrick@aol.com; mobile: 845-729-4986
website: RichardOwenJr.com*

THE 7:30 SUNDAY MASS

Processional: “Open The Eyes Of My Heart”

**Open the eyes
of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes
of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You
(repeat)**

To see You high
and lifted up
Shinin' in the light

of Your glory
Pour out Your power
and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy
(repeat)

**Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
I want to see you
(repeat)**

Offertory: No. 496 “How Great Thou Art

Communion: No. 830 “Seed Scattered And Sewn”

Recessional: No. 613 “Love Divine All Loves Excelling”

135th Annual
NOVENA TO ST ANNE
JULY 17 - 26



Saint Jean Baptiste Church
 EAST 76TH STREET (AT LEXINGTON AVENUE)
 PARISH OFFICE: 184 EAST 76TH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021
 TELEPHONE: 212-288-5082 EXT. 10

WEEKDAYS

11:45 a.m. Rosary
 11:45 a.m. Confessions
 12:15 p.m. Novena Mass
 7:00 p.m. Confessions
 7:30 p.m. Novena Mass & Procession
 of The Blessed Sacrament

SUNDAY, JULY 23RD

11:00 a.m. Novena Mass with Blessing of
 the Children & Grandparents
 7:00 p.m. Confessions
 7:30 p.m. Novena Mass & Procession
 of The Blessed Sacrament

SATURDAY, JULY 22ND

11:30 a.m. Confessions
 11:45 a.m. Rosary
 12:15 p.m. Novena Mass with Anointing
 of the Sick
 7:00 p.m. Confessions
 7:30 p.m. Novena Mass & Procession
 of the Blessed Sacrament

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26TH
THE FEAST OF ST. ANNE

11:30 a.m. Confessions
 11:45 a.m. Rosary
 12:15 p.m. Novena Mass
 7:00 p.m. Confessions
 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Procession from the
 rectory courtyard to the Church
 and the closing Novena Mass.

Rev. John A. Kamas, SSS, Pastor, will conduct the Novena Masses

Visit our website www.stjeanbaptisteny.org or our St. Anne's Facebook events page for updates and details.
 Please feel free to sign the St. Anne's guestbook to receive the St. Anne's newsletter and future updates.

**RELIGIOUS
LIFE
IN THE
CATHOLIC
CHURCH
2017**



Sr. Ona B. Bessette, CND

“It is true that all I have ever desired most deeply and what I still most ardently wish is that the great precept of the love of God above all things and of the neighbor as oneself be written in every heart.”

(Writing of Marguerite Bourgeoys, p. 187)

IN THE MOTHER HOUSE OF THE CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME, these words of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys are presented in French, English, Japanese, and Spanish in a small oratory containing the ashes of her heart. Sitting in prayer there, I contemplate the call that God has placed in my heart to continue the work begun by St. Marguerite in Montreal. As a member of the General Council of the Congregation, I am reminded that leadership is an act of service – an invitation to show love and compassion. As Jesus washed the feet of the disciples and invited them to do the same, leaders in all walks of life are called to be beacons of care and fight for the advancement of others. Throughout her life,

St. Marguerite expressed this love and service to all she met. She was eager to help the young women of the colony and to ensure education for the children of the colonists and the native peoples. Today, sisters, associates and colleagues of the Congregation of Notre Dame continue to respond to the needs of their neighbors across the globe. The ministry of leadership in the Congregation is an invitation to live the spirit of St. Marguerite in the current context of a world that longs for compassion. We live in a time when it is nearly

impossible to be ignorant of the many places in the world where love and freedom are difficult to see. Yet when we look into the eyes of refugee child seeking a place of security, hope can be seen. Our God is the source of hope in the darkness of despair; our God is the light that illuminates the way to freedom. Our task, as the people of God and those inspired by St. Marguerite, is to be a tangible source of love and compassion to others. While we may not be physically able to offer shelter to that child, we have the power to advocate for change and the gift of praying hearts. Prayer that rises from the heart of compassion is a powerful force for liberation in our world. *St. Marguerite, intercede for those in our world who seek hope and freedom.*

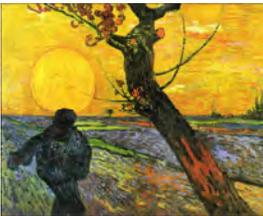
STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The Sunday collection amounted to \$7,776.00
ParishPay amounted to \$3,966.38

Total: \$11,742.38

ALERT: Please keep St. Jean's in mind when you travel or vacation. We rent every possible space in the complex in order to make up for our yearly shortfall. The weekly collection barely covers half the Parish expenses. When our collection dips below \$10,000 we feel a terrible strain on our cash flow. Please commit to the support of the parish. Thank you.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND



The second collection this weekend is for the support the Missions for the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the world.

Father Michael Irudhagaraj will be speaking after communion at all the Masses sharing about the ministry of the congregation in

the developing countries of the world. Your support is greatly appreciated!

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Are you interested in exploring Catholicism for yourself, or perhaps you know someone who might be interested in finding out more about our faith?

Were you baptized in another Christian Church, and are thinking about becoming a Catholic? Are you Catholic, but never received Confirmation or First Communion? Please consider joining the RCIA program.

Contact Ms. Joan T. Prenty, DRE at 212-288-5082 ext. 30 or stjeanbaptistereligious@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Join the Religious Ed family at St. Jean Baptiste. St. Jean Baptiste welcomes all children and adults for religious education. Classes for children are held on Wednesdays, but we will try to accommodate all!

Contact Ms. Joan T. Prenty, DRE at 212-288-5082 ext. 30 or stjeanbaptistereligious@gmail.com

OLD TESTAMENT STUDY DAY

Join Mrs. Elizabeth Brim, MA, DRE and Professor at St. John's University for a day of reflection of the Old Testament on Wednesday, August 16 from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM in the Eymard Room. RSVP Joan T. Prenty, 212-288-5082 or stjeanbaptistereligious@gmail.com.

TODDLER PLAY GROUP



We are enjoying a most successful year with the Toddler Play Group. Eighty children ranging from 18 months to 3 1/2 years old are having their first "school" experience in our well-equipped and friendly play room. The program runs until June and reservations for the upcoming year, which begins in mid-September, have started to come in. If you, or any friends, will be looking for a

place for the Fall, we urge you to reserve now.

Call the St. Jean's Toddler Play Group Director, Pauline Reenock at 212-472-2853 Ext. 2 for more information or to plan a visit.

GRIEF AND BEREAVEMENT SERVICES

Calvary Hospital's Grief and Bereavement services will soon be starting a "Precious Moments" group in Manhattan! The group is offered to children between the ages of 6 to 11, who have experienced the death of a loved one. This group is open to both Calvary Hospital families, as well as community members, and it is free of charge. The group itself will be located at St. Jean Baptiste High School, 173 East 75th Street, between 3rd and Lexington Avenue.

"Precious Moments" is an age-appropriate group designed for children to come and express themselves on a topic that is usually difficult for them to share. In this space, children are given the time and attention needed to find their voice and to disclose their feelings. Most often, this is done so through artistic expression such as arts and crafts, storytelling, and puppetry.

If you know of or are in contact with children who may benefit from this group, please feel free to contact Brittany Dalbow, Bereavement Counselor, at (646) 771-6604 to schedule an initial intake for the group, as well as to gain further information.

THE NEW YORK COMMON PANTRY

New York Common Pantry is dedicated to reducing hunger throughout New York City while promoting dignity and self-sufficiency. St. Jean's is one of the early benefactors of the program and continues to support the distribution of healthy, nourishing food to those in need.

PLEASE ASSIST THE WORK OF THE PANTRY

by leaving donations of non-perishable food at St. Joseph's altar. The pantry picks up regularly from the Parish Office.

COMMUNITY CENTER SCHEDULE

JULY 17- JULY 23

MONDAY:

9:30-3:00 **Applause Summer Camp** (Community Center)
6:00-8:00 **LA Meeting** (Toddler Center)

TUESDAY:

9:30-3:00 **Applause Summer Camp** (Community Center)

WEDNESDAY:

9:30-3:00 **Applause Summer Camp** (Community Center)
1:00-2:00 **Senior Luncheon** (Eymard Room)

THURSDAY:

9:30-3:00 **Applause Summer Camp** (Community Center)
6:00-10:00 **Elegant Dance** (Great Hall)

FRIDAY:

9:30-3:00 **Applause Summer Camp** (Community Center)
10:00-2:00 **Senior Bingo** (Eymard Room)
6:00-10:00 **Manhattan Dance** (Great Hall)

SATURDAY:

NO EVENTS

SUNDAY:

1:00-3:00 **Elegant Dance** (Toddler Center)

The Center is available for seasonal and special events, parties, business meetings, wedding receptions, lectures and birthdays. For information as to availability and rates, contact the Director: Mr. Antonio Boccia at (212) 472-2853, ext. 1.

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, July 16

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:00 Joan Memmlinger
11:00 Arcangelo Rosato
5:30 Florence Delavalette
7:30 Florence Delavalette

MONDAY, July 17

7:30 Mamduh Abutaa
12:15 St. Anne's Novena
7:30 St. Anne's Novena

TUESDAY, July 18

7:30 For the Parishioners
12:15 St. Anne's Novena
7:30 St. Anne's Novena

WEDNESDAY, July 19

7:30 Oliver Bennett
12:15 St. Anne's Novena
7:30 St. Anne's Novena

THURSDAY, July 20

7:30 The Zocche Family
12:15 St. Anne's Novena
7:30 St. Anne's Novena

FRIDAY, July 21

7:30 For the Parishioners
12:15 St. Anne's Novena
7:30 St. Anne's Novena

SATURDAY, July 22

12:15 St. Anne's Novena & Anointing of the Sick
5:30 Angelina Giarratano
7:30 St. Anne's Novena

CELEBRANTS FOR JULY 22-23

Saturday

5:30 – Rev. Norman Pelletier, SSS

Sunday

9:00 – Rev. Bernard Camiré, SSS

11:00 – Rev. John Kamas, SSS

5:30 – Rev. Norman Pelletier, SSS

7:30 – Rev. John Kamas, SSS

RENEW AND REBUILD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

We're underway! We've signed contracts with PASCOM SOUND to conclude the upgrading of the sound system in the church. This involves a great deal of digital programming, and the installation of two major speakers (one is 15 feet long and the other 7 feet), and replacing and repositioning the present speakers in the church. This has a price tag of \$59,985. We're budgeting an additional \$10,000 for electrical work. The school auditorium is getting a completely new system. We've budgeted \$75,000 for the sound system and electrical work.

Both the church and the auditorium are daunting projects because of the amount of reverberation in both spaces. The church has the additional challenge of the many columns that interfere with the streaming of direct sound. To address that issue, we're going to add new speakers on the columns.



We don't have a date for the installation work yet. We've given a down payment of \$40,000 to purchase the speakers from the manufacturer.

A sidewalk bridge has been erected along 76th street. Over the next few weeks we'll be scaffolding the dome in preparation for some stone repair at the base of the cooper roof, and the recaulking, painting and sealing of the 12 stained glass windows. The construction of the scaffold will take about a month, the window and stonework about 6 weeks, and another month to take down the scaffold. (That's if everything goes as planned. Enough said!) The down payment for the scaffolding was \$100,000 with another \$26,000 to be paid at the conclusion of the job. The window repair and restoration was estimated at \$60,000. The stone work can't be estimated until the stone is inspected after the scaffold has been erected.

Finally, FELIX CHAVEZ, INC. is currently working in the vestibule of the church repainting parts of the walls that have been damaged over the years. The company is also restoring the exterior doors that aren't in good shape. They suffer from extensive exposure to rain and snow. This is a \$25,000 project.

We thank everyone who donated to the 2016-17 RENEW AND REBUILD CAMPAIGN that the diocese initiated. We're presently waiting for the first check from the diocese, about \$100,000. Concerned and generous parishioners give regularly for the maintenance of the church building. We managed to squirrel away \$179,000 outside the RENEW AND REBUILD CAMPAIGN for restoration maintenance. We're using this money to jumpstart the present projects. Thank you for your stewardship and dedication to the maintenance of this architectural gem and monument to the Catholic faith.

PARISH STAFF

John A. Kamas, SSS Pastor
Bernard Camiré, SSS, Parish Associate
Hashendra Perera, SSS, Chaplain at Lenox Hill Hospital
Richard Russo, Deacon Emeritus
Richard Owen, Jr., Director of Music Ministries
Lennix Lewis, Business Manager
Joan Prenty, Director of Religious Education
Angelica Contreras, Parish Secretary
Ellen Hagan, Shrine of St. Anne
Antonio Boccia, Director of the Community Center
Pauline Reenock, Director of the Toddler Program
Ayesha Bulchandani, Trustee
Michael Lorch, Trustee

CONGREGATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Bernard Camiré, SSS, *Parish Associate*
George Dunne, SSS, *Provincial Ministries*
Ernest Falardeau, SSS, *Ecumenical Ministry*
James Hayes, SSS, *Chaplain, Mt. Sinai Hospital*
John A. Kamas, SSS *Pastor*
Thomas Mella, SSS, *Community Hospitality*
Michael O'Leary, SSS, *Community Treasurer*
Norman Pelletier, SSS, *Community Superior*
Hashendra Perera, SSS, *Chaplain at Lenox Hill Hospital*
Michael Perez, SSS, *Novice Master*

PARISH OFFICE

212-288-5082 Ext. 10
184 East 76 Street, NY, NY 10021
Website: www.stjeanbaptisteny.org
Email: sjbrcc@yahoo.com

CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME

ST. JEAN BAPTISTE HIGH SCHOOL
Maria Cassano, CND, *Principal*
Alla Anne Boyle, CND
Simone Camiré, CND
Mary Caplice, CND
Rosemary Cianciolo, CND
Joann Compagno, CND
Barbara Costello, CND, *Tutor*
Eileen Good, CND, *Bursar*

IN RESIDENCE

Anne Conlon, CND
Helen Klimeck, CND
Ann Marie Levangie, CND

SUPPORT STAFF

Robert Addison
Manuel Batista
Ana Maria Feliz Lara
Francisco Francisco
Wilfredo Ortiz
Isaac Quansah
José Reyes

St Jean Baptiste High School
173 EAST 75 STREET, NY, NY 10021
212-288-1645
www.stjean.org

Toddler Play Group
212-472-2853, ext. 2