

THE EUCHARISTIC COMMUNITY AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JEAN BAPTISTE

Bread Broken for a New World

NEW YEAR'S
2018

LUKE 2:22 - 40
GATHER HYMNAL

The Pastor's Reflections

Because of the way Christmas and New Year's fell this year we're celebrating several feasts on successive days. Sunday, December 31 we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, which we normally celebrate on the Sunday between Christmas and January 1st. On the following day, January 1st we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of the Church. This feast continues our reflection on the mystery of the Nativity and concludes with the Celebration of the Epiphany, Matthew's Nativity Narrative, on January 6th. The Church officially ends the Christmas Season on January 14th with the celebration of the Baptism of Jesus.

For my Christmas reflection, I stayed close to St. Luke's narrative, beginning with the account of the birth of John the Baptist, and ending with the shepherds' discovery of the child wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in the manger.

I will begin this reflection with the text that immediately follows. *"When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,' and to offer the sacrifice of a 'pair of turtledoves or to offer two*



young pigeons,' in accordance with the dictate of the Law of the Lord."

Luke 2:21-34

Three ancient ceremonies are recalled in this passage: circumcision, the redemption of the first-born, and the purification following the birth of a child.

Circumcision:

God prescribed the rite of circumcision to Abraham as *"the mark of the covenant between you and me (Genesis 17:10)."* Over time, it was connected to the spirituality of the Sabbath, the commemoration of the creation of the world in seven days. The custom to celebrate the circumcision on the eighth day ensured that the child had lived through one full week, therefore acknowledging God as his creator. He was then ready to enter into the covenant that God had made with Israel.

The Redemption of the First Born:

"Consecrate to me every first-born that opens the womb among the Israelites both of man and beast, for it belongs to me. (Exodus 13:2)" According to this law, every first-born was sacred to God. The rite acknowledged God as the source of all life. It may also have been a "purified" remnant of the pagan days when the first-born child was sacrificed to gods. The rite consisted of giving five

shekels to the priests to "buy back" the child from God. It could not be celebrated sooner than thirty days after the child's birth.

The Mother's Purification after Childbirth:

If a woman gave birth to a boy she was unclean for



forty days, eighty days for a girl. She could go about her household chores, but was forbidden to enter the temple or participate in religious ceremonies. At the end of that time she was to bring a lamb for a sacrifice to God, and a pigeon as an offering for her sins. Lambs were expensive, so two pigeons could be offered for those who could not afford a lamb. It was called “the offering of the poor.”

Luke 2:22-40

By noting these rites Luke was stressing two important ideas. First, Jesus was given his name, brought into the Jewish fold, and marked with the sign of the covenant, his circumcision. His name, in Hebrew, was Joshua, which means “God is generous.” Joshua was the leader who succeeded Moses, and led the Israelites into to the Promised Land. Secondly, he was redeemed with the “offering of the poor.” He and his family were ordinary. They blended into the Jewish landscape of the day. However, when the family journeyed to the temple in Jerusalem for the rites of the Redemption of the First-born and Mary’s Purification, they encountered two extraordinary people, Simeon and Anna.

Simeon was a holy man who “*awaited the consolation of Israel.*” The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that, one day, he would see the Messiah. When Mary and Joseph entered the temple they were amazed when he came up to them, took the child in his arms, and declared him, “*a light of revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel!*” He even prophesied. “*Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted. And you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.*”

Anna was an eighty-four year old woman who was regarded as a prophetess. She spent her days fasting and praying in the temple. She, too, came forward to acknowledge the child. Like the shepherds who left the scene “*glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard,*” Anna “*gave thanks to God, and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.*” The common folk, and the voice of ancient prophecy, immediately proclaimed the Messiah’s arrival. The birth of Jesus was anything but a secret!

After the great manifestation in the temple Mary, Joseph and the child returned to Nazareth. They disappeared into the ordinariness of life until the day when Jesus entered his adult life at the age of twelve. Jesus had just become “a son of the law,” bar mitzvah. So the family took him to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover as the law required of every male Jew living within a fifteen-mile radius of Jeru-

salem. At the close of the celebration, the family joined the caravan to return home, the men traveling in one group, and women in another. When they joined up with each other in the evening to make camp, they discovered that Jesus had been left behind. In a panic, Mary and Joseph returned to Jerusalem. For three days they desperately searched for him. They found him in the temple.

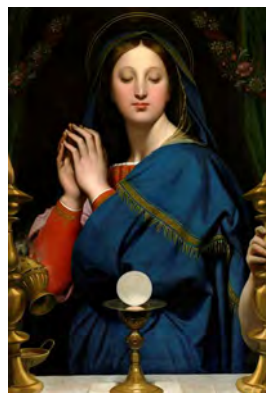
It was customary during the Passover for the Sanhedrin to meet in public inviting questions and discussion about the law and religious beliefs. Mary and Joseph found Jesus with them. He was listening and participating in the discussions. As soon as Mary saw him she exclaimed, “*Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.*” His answer is the culmination of Luke’s infancy narrative.

Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” God was his Father!

Luke’s narrative is extraordinarily rich. My short reflection just skims its surface. He skillfully weaves his theme of the harmony of the old time and new time through his accounts of Mary and Elizabeth, and Simeon and Anna. However, this child is not only the fulfillment of Israel’s hope, he is the “*light of revelation to the Gentiles.*” The promise Israel held close to its heart will extend, through him, to the entire human family.

His text also has a prophetic quality. The child’s swaddling cloths intimate his redemptive death and burial. The manger looks ahead to the Eucharist he will inaugurate on the night before his death. His first Passover in Jerusalem, and his conversation with the Sanhedrin, is a prediction of his personal passover, his three day sojourn in the tomb, and the final “conversation” he will have with a Sanhedrin that will hand him over for crucifixion.

I encourage you to read the first two chapters of Luke’s Gospel on your own, especially during this season. Read it slowly. Read it over and over again. Let the story find a place in your heart. Twice in the narrative, Luke tells us that Mary “*kept all these things in her heart.*” (Luke 2:19 and Luke 2:52) He uses the phrase after the shepherds leave the scene of Jesus’ birth, and after Jesus is found speaking to the elders in the temple declaring to Mary that God is his Father. This is an invitation to you, and me, and anyone who will read his account because, for Luke, Mary is the image of the Church. He asks us, like her, to ponder, generation after generation, the meaning of Jesus’ birth, sacrificial death and resurrection. He asks us to ponder Jesus the man, the Messiah, the Son of God.



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 –

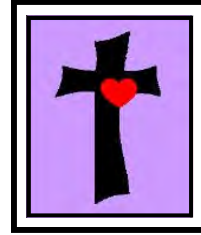
Thursday after the 12:15 Mass

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. 895

HYMN OF GATHERING:

No. 380 "Once In Royal David's City"

KYRIE

GLORIA

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *"Blessed Are Those Who Fear
The Lord And Walk In His Way."*

SECOND READING

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL READING

HOMILY

CREED, NO. 143

INTERCESSIONS

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS:

No. 387 "What Child Is This"

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. 359 "O Little Town Of Bethlehem"

BLESSING and DISMISSAL

RECESSIONAL:

No. 361 "Angels We Have Heard On High"



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:

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
(1st Sunday Each 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*

"A person who sings prays twice." ---St. Augustine

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY: 5:30 PM VIGIL MASS
11:00 PM MASS
11:00 AM MASS
5:30 PM MASS**

Processional: No. 775 "O Sanctissima"

Offertory: No. 373 "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"

Communion: No. 365 "Away In A Manger"

Recessional: No. 378 "The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy"



HOLIDAY DANCE FESTIVAL

The next event in the St. Jean's Concert Series will be a "Holiday Dance Festival" presented in the Theatre at St. Jeans, 150 East 76th Street, on January 5, 6 and 7, 2018.

The Festival will feature top professional dancers and choreographers along with rising stars of the Harlem School of the Arts. The musical accompaniment will be performed by the Camerata New York Orchestra under the direction of St. Jean's Music Director, Richard Owen.

The program will include the debut of Christopher Caines' "Glimpsed Through Birches" set to music by Edvard Grieg, Pedro Ruiz's "Aria" set to Heitor Villa-Lobos' Bachianas Brasilia, and Leyland Simmons' version of "Guilty Pleasures" set to Karl Jenkins' Palladio: III.

The Harlem School will offer a variety of works, by its resident choreographer, Aubrey Lynch, with its young dancers set to the music of Bach, Chopin, Debussy and Elgar.

It promises to be an exciting evening. Mark your calendars and plan to join us.

Friday, January 5 7:30 PM
Saturday, January 6 7:30 PM
Sunday, January 7 2:00 PM

Tickets: \$25 and \$20 (Students/Seniors)

Can be purchased at EventBrite or at the Parish Office.
Call (212) 288-5082 (X10) or e-mail sjbrcc@yahoo.com.





ADULTS

SACRAMENTS FOR ADULTS--RCIA

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.

USHERS/GREETER NEEDED!



Ushers/greeters are needed for the Saturday and Sunday evening Masses. Please contact Joan Prenty director of St. Jean Baptiste Religious Education at 212-288-5082 ext. 30

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP



Following the 11:00AM Mass each Sunday we invite everyone in the church to gather for coffee, juices, bagels and fellowship in the High School Auditorium. Enter the Auditorium through the large doors behind the organ area. We look forward to having you join us.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING

The Our Lady of Peace Prayer group meets every Sunday from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM in the Wave Café of the High School, 173 E 75th Street. You may enter through the ramp of 76th Street at the East end of the rectory building. All are welcome!

CALLING ALL SENIORS!

All are welcome at the Senior Luncheons which take place every Wednesday at 1:00 PM in the Great Hall of the Community Center. Donation: \$3.00.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The Sunday collection.....Checks: **\$3,439.00**
Cash: **\$1,823.00**

WeShare donations amounted to: **\$1,273.00**

Total: \$6,535.00

Christmas Collection.....Checks: **\$93,639.00**
Cash: **\$6,404.00**

Total: \$100,043.00

Please take note: For those who donate through ParishPay, you will no longer have access to the website. ParishPay has now transitioned to a new company, WeShare. All user data, scheduled recurring donations, and scheduled one-time donations will now be handled by WeShare another online giving service.

CHRISTMAS STEWARDSHIP

Many thank to all our parishioners and friends. Your unsolicited generosity has been extraordinary. Our Christmas collection was over \$100,000 this year!

We've had a busy year taking care of a number of repair jobs in the church. We've painted and sealed the 14 stained glass windows in the clerestory, and the 12 windows in the dome.

We've repaired the plaster and decorative moldings surrounding one window on the north side of the clerestory that had suffered serious water damage. We've also touched up a dozen or so spots on the ceiling that were peeling.

We've dealt with a number of plumbing issues in the church and the rectory. This included some major leaking in the radiators above the confessionals and in the balcony. We repaired all the gutters of the church's perimeter.

Next week work will begin on the installation of the new sound system in the church and the school auditorium.

All this "ordinary" maintenance and capital improvement is possible because of your generosity and love for our parish.

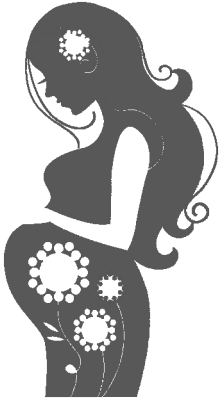
In a plant that's over 100 years old we need to be on constant alert because a little problems can easily escalate into a major issues.

So we're ending the year in very good shape. Now, as a project for the coming year, I encourage you to concentrate on inviting people to join our community. We have 600 register parishioners. Let's try to bring it up by another hundred by the end of this year!

God bless and have a blessed New Year!

FAMILY LIFE

SPECIAL BLESSING FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS



Attention all expectant moms and families. Please come and share in our parish's joy for a special blessing on Sunday, January 7 at the 11 am Mass. Please contact Ms. Joan Prenty for more information at 212-288-5082 ext. 30

TODDLER PLAY GROUP

Our Toddler Play Group is in session in the Community Center From September through June.

The children enjoy their first "school" experience in our well-equipped and friendly play room.

For information call the Play Group Director Pauline Reenock, at 212-472-2853 Ext. 2

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education classes are available for children preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation and their continuing religious education.

For more information call Ms. Joan T. Prenty, Director of Religious Education, at 212-288-5082, ext 30, or email her at:

stjeanbaptistereligioused@gmail.com.



FAMILY MASS 2017-2018 CALENDAR



January 7, 2018

February 4, 2018

March 4, 2018

April 8, 2018

May 6, 2018

Every Family Mass will be held at 11:00 AM followed by a reception in the SJB High School Auditorium immediately following the Mass. All are welcome!

--VERY IMPORTANT--

Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item to benefit the New York Common Pantry. The children will have the opportunity to bring these to the Altar.

NEW INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

The Our Lady of Peace Prayer group has launched an Intercessory Prayer Ministry every Sunday afternoon from 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM. They gather in front of the Blessed Sacrament in the church for intercessory prayer for healing and special intentions. All are welcome to participate.

If you can't come to the church, you can leave your intentions at the desk in the Parish Office or e-mail the intentions to: olpprayercommunity@gmail.com

COMMUNITY CENTER SCHEDULE

JANUARY 1 – JANUARY 7

MONDAY:	NO EVENTS
TUESDAY:	NO EVENTS
WEDNESDAY:	NO EVENTS
THURSDAY:	NO EVENTS
FRIDAY:	NO EVENTS
SATURDAY:	NO EVENTS
SUNDAY:	NO EVENTS

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.

ABOUT OUR WEBSITE

The website for the Church of St. Jean Baptiste, www.stjeanbaptisteny.org, now has an active "DONATE" feature. You may now use your credit cards to donate or pay fees for programs at the church. These include:

1. Building Maintenance and Restoration
2. General Support
3. Concert Tickets
4. Religious Education Fees
5. Toddler Program Tuition
6. Support for Scholarships for SJB High School

You may also designate whether you would like to give a one-time gift, a bi-weekly gift, a monthly gift or yearly gift. A "comments" section also allows you to relay further information concerning your gift. An e-mail confirmation is sent to you upon completion of your transaction.

NOCTURNAL ADORATION

The St. Jean's Chapter of the Nocturnal Adoration Society will hold its monthly Prayer Vigil on Friday, January 5, 2018, from 5:00 pm (Evening Prayer) to 9:00 pm.

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, December 31
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH
9:00 Jose Gabriel Batista
11:00 Thomas Hogan
5:30 Vincent Gigante & John & Millie Buttino
12:00 Christmas Novena

MONDAY, January 1
THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
10:00 Christmas Novena

TUESDAY, January 2
SAINTS BASIL AND GREGORY
7:30 For the Parishioners &
12:15 In Honor of St. Anne

WEDNESDAY, January 3
7:30 Vincent McDonnell
12:15 Mr. James McDermott

THURSDAY, January 4
SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON
7:30 Ann Foster
12:15 Brendan Rush

FRIDAY, January 5
SAINT JOHN NEUMANN
7:30 Rafael Paviera
12:15 Frances Temasowski

SATURDAY, January 6
12:15 Gilbert Parker
5:30 Juliette Kromwell

CELEBRANTS FOR JANUARY 5-6

Saturday 5:30 Fr. John Kamas, SSS
Sunday 9:00 Fr. Bernard Camiré, SSS
11:00 Fr. John Kamas, SSS
5:30 Fr. Norman Pelletier, SSS
7:30 Fr. John Kamas, SSS



CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS



Harold & Jewel Augustine
Walter J. Barauskas, Jr.
Russell Battaglia
The Beasley Family
Charles D. Beirne
Genevieve Boehning
Laoreple & Elizabeth Boland
Brancaccio Family
Mary & Rowan Bright
Kauman S. Chany
Ming Wei & Chung Oi Chin
Lillian Ciembrano
Bro. Austin Coleman, S.S.S.
Beatrice Costa
Thomas Crotty
Elmer & Marion Daigler
Joseph David
Leo David
Betty & Art Dursey
The Holt & Edelmann Families
Karen Emden
Luis Estrada
Leonor Feliciano
Danilo Gallileo
Helen & John Gallucci
Yolanda Gerrasi
Angelina & S. Alfred Giarratano
Mary Greason
The Grech Family
John P. Hagan
Maryann & Owen Hagan
Virginia & Clyde Hart
Helen Healy
Thomas Hogan
August & Helen Hutmaker
Patricia & Matthew Kelly

Rose & Michael Kieran
The Kilbride Family
Sara & Sharon Lamont
Anne & Thomas Laverty
Louis, Robert & Dennis Manley
The Moeder Family
Jennie & Charles Nazzaro
Michael O'Brien
Frank Occhiuto
M.S.S.P
Omar & Mana Panella
Gilbert Parker
Linda Porzio
Francisco Quismorio
Sicilia & Andriano Rico
Catherine & Joseph Ricotta
Columbia Salvatore
Frank Salvatore
Rose Salvatore
Marie Scesney
Albert, Emily & John Shivickas
Ellis Spoonholtz
Frances Spoonholtz
Laura Staiger
Hilaria & Herman Sy
Rosalind Thomas
Joan & John Thornton
Lee Townsend
Thomas John Veith
Bob & Josephine Vrooman
Cynthia Ward
Mark Ward
Rosemarie Yount
Santiago Asensio's Mother & Aunt
For children in wars



PARISH STAFF

John A. Kamas, SSS Pastor
Bernard Camiré, SSS, Parish Associate
Hashendra Perera, SSS, Chaplain at Lenox Hill Hospital
Richard Owen, Jr., Director of Music Ministries
Lennix Lewis, Business Manager
Joan Prenty, Director of Religious Education
Angelica Contreras, Parish Secretary
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

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173 EAST 75 STREET, NY, NY 10021
212-288-1645
www.stjean.org

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