

THE EUCHARISTIC COMMUNITY AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JEAN BAPTISTE

Bread Broken for a New World

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 2-3, 2019

JEREMIAH 1:4-5, 17-19 1 CORINTHIANS 12:13-13 LUKE 4:21-30

GATHER HYMNAL #991

The Pastor's Reflections



We begin this week's gospel passage very dramatically. Jesus is in the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth, a middle-class town on the top of a high hill. It looked over the three trade routes that connected the major countries of the Middle East. This wasn't a backwater town. It was quite sophisticated.

He had been asked to read the scripture. He got up, chose a passage from the prophet Isaiah that announced the coming of the Messianic time. He then ended with his own prophecy. *"Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."* He then sat down. For us this gesture would mean that he was finished. However, in the style

of the rabbis, sitting was the posture for teaching.

The usual noise of the synagogue stopped. There was a nervous silence. What was he going to say after a bombshell announcement like that? We're not told what he said exactly. Luke only tells us of the effect his teaching had on the congregation. On the one hand, *"All spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth."* On the other hand, they couldn't connect their intimate knowledge of him and his family's very ordinary life with the extraordinary eloquence of his teaching. Word had spread that he was a miracle worker in Capernaum. Why wasn't he performing miracles for them?!

It would be a good guess to conjecture that Jesus had spoken to them about the need to readjust one's life in order to walk in the light of the Messianic time. His reaction to them reveals the resistance he felt from them. He told them, "Surely, you will quote me this proverb, 'Physician, cure yourself,' and say, 'Do here in your native place the things that we heard were done in Capernaum.'" As so often happened, they wanted him to perform a great miracle to prove the authenticity of his message. Faith in him wasn't enough.

He was hurt by their ambivalence toward him. He also sensed the shallowness of their faith. He wanted to tell them about the kingdom of God. He wanted to assure them of God's unconditional love for each of them, but his message was falling on deaf ears because of their lack of faith. To get to them, he tried some shock therapy. He pointed to two powerful images from their history.

Elijah, Israel's greatest prophet, came to the rescue of a gentile widow and her son during a terrible drought. She and her young son were on the brink of starvation when Elijah asked her for some water and bread. She told him that she was just about to bake a small loaf of bread with the last of the flour and oil she had, but that she would share it with him. She had exhibited great faith by conceding to Elijah's request. In response to her charity to him, he told her that that her jars of flour and oil would never be empty as long as the drought persisted. What he promised came true. The jars never emptied.

Jesus noted that there were many widows in Israel at the time, but Elijah was sent to this gentile woman because of her faith. Then, he reminded them that Elijah cured Naaman, a gentile Syrian general, of leprosy. Jesus reminded them, again, that Elijah didn't reach out to any of the lepers of Israel. He reached out to a gentile who had faith.

These two examples of faith, stung the congregation. He was criticizing their faith,

and by extension, the faith of the Jewish community. He held up gentiles as examples of true faith! They rose up in fury against Jesus, "*drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built to hurl him down headlong.*"

So much for family and friends, and the faith community. This account, so early in his ministry, proved to be a prelude to the opposition he would encounter throughout his ministry. The scribes, the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the religious leadership in Jerusalem would harass him. Eventually they would successfully plot his death. But for the meantime, "*he passed through the midst of them and went away.*"

It seems to me that this passage leads us to question our own faith in Jesus. When we read the scripture, do we turn a deaf ear to the teachings that challenge our way of thinking or acting? Do we interpret his teachings as messages from a time past to people of the past? In trying to find answers to our personal challenges and dilemmas, do we skirt the ultimate question "What would Jesus do?" What are we afraid of? In all honesty, what keeps us from pondering that ultimate faith question? Why, in our own way, do we respond to Jesus like the Jewish community in Nazareth? Why do we demand miracles?

I conclude this reflection with a short dialogue found in the Gospel of John. Jesus had just told the crowds that "*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food and my blood true drink.*" (John 6:54-55) Hearing this teaching, many disciples left him. Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, "*Do you also what to leave?*" Peter answered for the group, and for all people of faith who would follow him through the centuries. "*Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*" (John 6:68)

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

INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

Every Sunday, the Our Lady of Peace Prayer Group leads an hour of intercessory prayer from 12:30pm until 1:30pm in the church. Everyone is invited to join them.

We ask all parishioners to submit the names of friends or relatives who need prayers for whatever reason. You may bring your intentions to the group personally on Sunday, or leave them with the parish receptionist who will pass them on to the group. Praying for each other is a powerful ministry.

Please consider joining the group for the prayer. But also remember to bring your intentions to them or to the rectory office.

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 .



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC? ARE YOU AN ADULT DESIRING FIRST 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.



MUSIC OF THE LITURGY

The scripture readings may be found in GATHER at No. 991

PROCESSION HYMN:

No. 421 *"All Glory, Laud And Honor"*

KYRIE

GLORY TO GOD

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *"I Will Sing Of Your Salvation."*

SECOND READING

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL READING

CREED, NO. 143

INTERCESSIONS

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS:

No. 634 *"Shelter Me, O God"*

EUCHARISTIC 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. 806 *"Eat This Bread"*

BLESSING and DISMISSAL

RECESSIONAL:

No. 613 *"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"*

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

Richard Owen, Jr.,
Director of Music Ministries & Organist
email: owenrick@aol.com;

7:30 PM

Processional: No. 613
"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Offertory: No. 634
"Shelter Me, O God"

Communion: No. 806
"Eat This Bread"

Recessional:
"How Great Is Our God"

The splendor of a King,
clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice,
all the earth rejoice
He wraps himself in light,
and darkness tries to hide
and trembles at his voice,
trembles at his voice

**How great is our God,
sing with me
How great is our God,
and all will see
How great
How great is our God**

And age to age He stands
and time is in His Hands
Beginning and the End,
Beginning and the End
The Godhead, three in one
Father, Spirit, Son
the Lion and the Lamb,
the Lion and the Lamb

**Name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing
how great is our God**

[Repeat]



THE SIDEWALK VAULT



This is a photo of the ceiling of the vault looking west. The ceiling shows some of the steel beams. The first two are still covered with cement, the third one has lost its cement.

We've run the same bulletin article about the situation with our sidewalk vault throughout the holidays so that we could give an opportunity to share the information with the many visitors who come to St. Jean's over Christmas and New Years. When we did a similar notice regarding the up-

grade of the sound system last year we received an unsolicited gift of \$25,000 from a generous person visiting from Colorado. That was half the cost of the project. Our vault project has begun the same way. To date we've received \$192,500 in donations. A big, big thank you to all of you who took the ini-

tiative to reach out to help.

We presently have only two bids on the project. They range from \$449,500 to \$507,780. The three additional companies we've asked to bid have not gotten back to us. So we've reached out to the Archdiocesan finance office for assistance. They'll be gathering at least two more bids for us. We were also assured, that once we have half the funds needed for the project in hand, we would be eligible for a loan at 5% interest from the Archdiocese for the remainder. We hope that we won't have to borrow, but at least we're encouraged that we have the possibility to complete the project this year.

Because the condition of the vault continues to deteriorate, it would be wise that we take the bull by the horns and address the issue before it develops into an emergency.



We don't want to risk a possible collapse of the sidewalk. The six-month construction timeline we're hoping to follow would begin in late March or April. The goal is to complete the reconstruction in September or October before the cold weather arrives.

HERE ARE TWO GOALS

The first goal is to raise \$57,500 over the next two months, February and March. We would then be able to give the go-ahead for replacing the sidewalk vault. At the same time we could have all the paper work completed for a potential loan from the Archdiocese.

There remains approximately \$150,000 in outstanding pledges from our recent RENEW AND REBUILD CAMPAIGN. Though the commitment was to pay the pledge over a five-year period, perhaps some donors would be willing

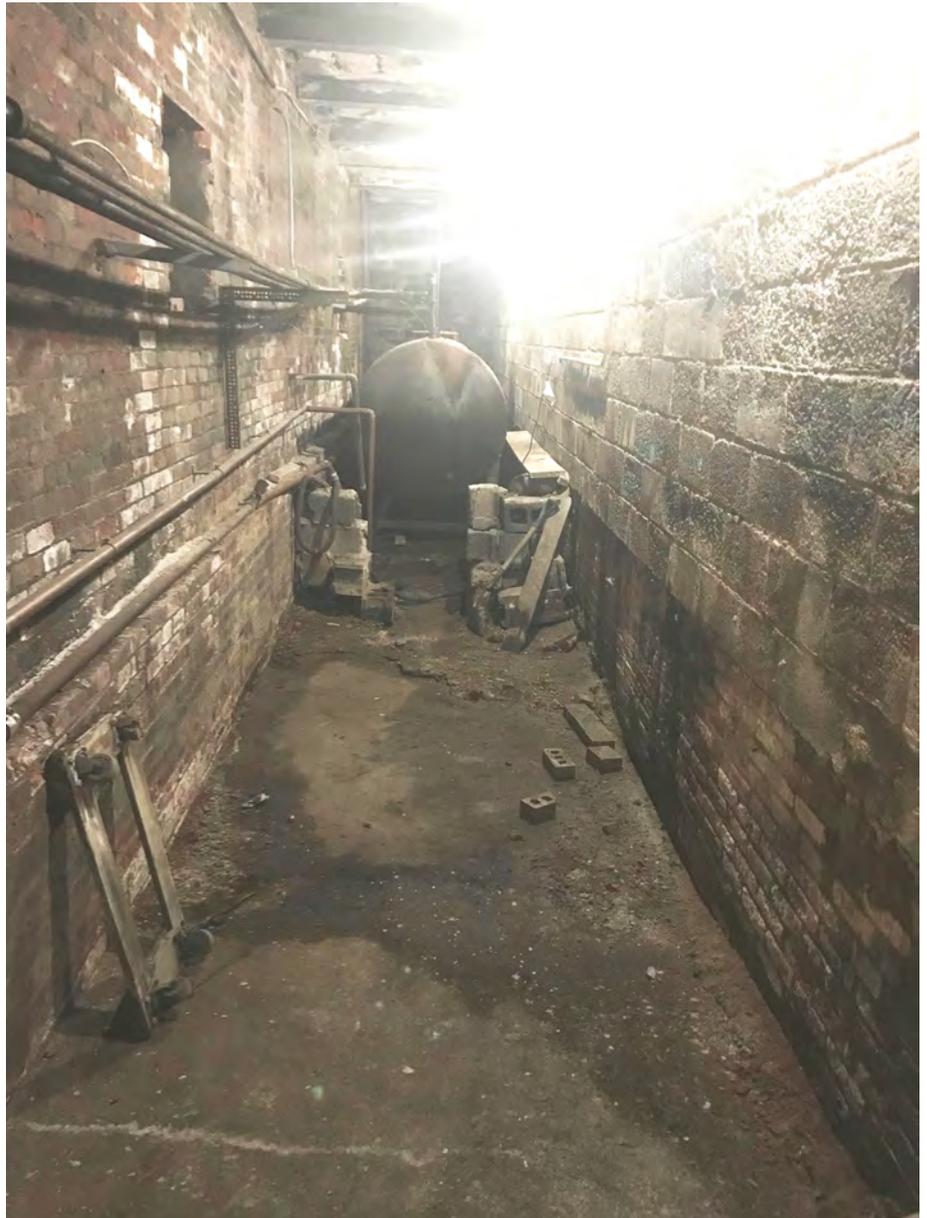
The photo on the left is a shot of the vault's ceiling.
At the left of the photo you can see an exposed steel support beam and the deteriorated cement ceiling.
The photo on the upper left shows a portion of the wall at the entrance of the vault area.

and able to advance the fulfillment of their pledges. This would be a great boost to our present challenge. However, these pledges, even if they come in slowly over the next three years, will go directly to the reduction of any debt to the Archdiocese incurred by this capital improvement.

The second goal is to raise \$250,000 by December 31st, 2019. This is a great challenge. Several suggestions have been made on strategies to meet the goal. One was to add a second collection that would be dedicated solely to chipping away at the remainder of the debt. However, a good number of second collections are already mandated by the archdiocese. Slightly more than half of the collections would

remain with the parish. Benefit dinners and concerts were also suggested for fund-raisers. These would raise some money. The problem with these types of fund-raisers is the high overhead. Our thinking is that a direct donation is the most efficient method of helping a cause. Donors know that 100% of their gift will go toward meeting the goal

We wish that we could report an anonymous gift of \$500,000, but that would be as likely as declaring that we've just won the



New York Lottery. Realistically, we have to rely on the generosity of parishioners and caring visitors. Please consider a donation to complete our first goal of raising \$57,500 by the end of February. Checks can be made out to St. Jean Baptiste. Just note that it's for the Vault Project.

Thank you so very much for your support of St. Jean's. We have a wonderful parish. It's growing and getting stronger month by month. Let's pray for each other, and for the continued success of our ministry.

This photo is taken from the mid-point of the vault looking west. It shows the walls and ceiling quite clearly. The oil tank can be seen at the end of the vault. Originally this was the church's coal bin.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Sunday collection: Checks: \$ 6,616.00
Cash: \$ 3,502.00
WeShare: \$1,095.00
Total: \$ 11,213.00

Some financial information...

Our Sunday collection covers only about half of our weekly payroll.

The rental of our facilities covers the remainder of our weekly expenses: heating, electric, gas, telephone, insurance, diocesan assessments and repairs.

SIDEWALK VAULT UPDATE (\$192,500 donated)

We need \$57,500 more to meet our March/April goal of \$250,000.

THE ST. JEAN'S PLAYERS

"The One Acts", a series of 5 short one act plays as follows:

The Darkroom

by Jeanne Chenault Porter, directed by Eric Leeb

The Pretty Trap

by Tennessee Williams, directed by Jimmy Blackman

The Workhouse Ward

by Lady Gregory, directed by Mark Rosenstein

Waiting For Lefty: Joe and Edna

by Clifford Odets, directed by Susan Horowitz

What Shall We Do With Dawn?

written and directed by Pamela Robbins

As always, we invite all parishioners and friends to attend this performance...one weekend only. Please see information below.

Friday, February 22 at 8 pm
Saturday, February 23 at 8 pm
Sunday, February 24 at 3 pm

General admission \$20, Seniors 65+ and Children through age 18 years of age \$15. Tickets are available at the door 30 minutes before show time.

ALL TICKETS ARE CASH ONLY!!!

St. Jean's Auditorium
167 East 75 Street,
Between Lexington and Third Avenues



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

WEEKLY CHILDREN'S MASS

Celebrated in the Great Hall of the Community Center.

We invite families with young children to attend this special kid-friendly celebration of the Eucharist. The Mass will take no longer than 20-25 minutes. We will be singing child appropriate songs. Father Kamas will celebrate this Mass.

This Mass is also meant to afford an opportunity for children and parents of the parish to meet one another. So come on down!

You may enter the Community Center by the ramp at the east end of the rectory building. We will start the Mass promptly at 9:30 AM.

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.

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.

VOLUNTEERING



It has been said that volunteering benefits the volunteer as much as the organization.

It makes one happy and provides a sense of purpose. Think about how you can give some time to St. Jean's and give us a call (212)288-5082 ext.

10 or e-mail sjbrcc@yahoo.com. We would certainly welcome your help in any number of ways.

Family Life

TODDLER 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.

To register for Religious Education, new families will need a copy of the child's baptismal certificate. 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.



Deepen Your Faith

at
St. Jean Baptiste
184 E. 76th Street
NYC

Religious Education for Children - REGISTER NOW
Wednesdays 4 - 6 pm

Also Available
New Weekly Sunday 9:30 am Children's Mass

Monthly Family Mass

Adult and Children's Choir

Bible Study for Adults

Spirituality and Social Justice

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults
(Sacramental Preparation for Teens and Adults)

Baptism Preparation

For further information and scheduling please call
Joan T. Prenty, Director of Religious Education
at 212-288-5082 ext. 30
or check out our website
stjeanbaptistenyc.org

FAMILY MASS 2018-2019 CALENDAR

March 3, April 7, May 5

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

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.



A fellowship of **married Catholic couples** of our parish, who seek to grow in faith, strengthen their marriages and fulfill their vocation according to God's plan.

We socialize, enjoy each other's company, good conversation and food.

Please bring an appetizer to share, but mostly good spirit and your spouse. A bottle of wine is certainly fine!

**Inaugural Meeting:
Wednesday, February 13, 2019 7-9PM**

Place: SJB Parish House
184 East 76th Street

Please RSVP to Kate Owen (845) 729-4979
Email: Klisowska@aol.com

COMMUNITY CENTER SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 4 – FEBRUARY 10

MONDAY:

9:00-1:00 **Toddler Program** (Toddler Center)
4:00-7:45 **Broadway Babies** (Great Hall)

TUESDAY:

9:00-1:00 **Toddler Program** (Toddler Center)
3:15-5:00 **Broadway Babies** (Toddler Center)
4:00-7:45 **Broadway Babies** (Great Hall)

WEDNESDAY:

9:00-1:00 **Toddler Program** (Toddler Center)
1:00-2:30 **Senior Luncheon** (Great Hall)
3:00-5:00 **Broadway Babies** (Toddler Center)
4:00-6:00 **Broadway Babies** (Great Hall)

THURSDAY:

9:00-1:00 **Toddler Program** (Toddler Center)
3:15-6:00 **Broadway Babies** (Toddler Center)
4:00-6:00 **Broadway Babies** (Great Hall)
6:00-10:00 **Elegant Dance** (Great Hall)

FRIDAY:

4:30-6:00 **Broadway Babies** (Great Hall)
6:00-8:00 **OA Meeting** (Room #2)
6:00-10:00 **Manhattan Dance** (Great Hall)

SATURDAY:

9:00-2:00 **Broadway Babies** (Toddler Center)
9:00-6:00 **Broadway Babies** (Great Hall)

SUNDAY: CHILDREN'S MASS AT 9:30 AM

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, February 3

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:00 Mara Brunetti Zocche
11:00 Lennix Lewis
5:30 Russell J. Dipietro
7:30 Hector Manuel & Josefita Aldea

MONDAY, February 4

7:30 Vincent McDonnell
12:15 The Feeley Family

TUESDAY, February 5

SAINT AGATHA

7:30 For the Parishioners
12:15 For all enrolled in the Shrine
of St. Anne

WEDNESDAY, February 6

SAINT PAUL MIKI AND COMPANIONS

7:30 Helen & Daniel Brassil
12:15 Ken Goss

THURSDAY, February 7

7:30 Hossou Namela
12:15 Andrew Pisano

FRIDAY, February 8

7:30 Lois Amendolara
12:15 Joseph Macaluso

SATURDAY, February 9

12:15 Sean Enright
5:30 Josephine Fischer

USHER/GREETER NEEDED



Ushers/greeters are needed for
ALL THE WEEKEND Masses but...

**WE ARE ESPECIALLY IN NEED OF
ADDITIONAL
USHERS AND GREETERS
FOR THE 5:30 AND 7:30 MASSES ON SUNDAY.**

Please contact the Parish Office if you
are willing to help. 212-288-5082 ext. 10.

PARISH STAFF

John A. Kamas, SSS Pastor
Bernard Camiré, SSS, Parish Associate
Antony M. Fernando, 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
Michael Lorch, Trustee
Jay Mitchell, Trustee

CONGREGATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Bernard Camiré, SSS, *Parish Associate*
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*
Antony M. Fernando, SSS, *Chaplain for 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
Rosemary Cianciolo, CND
Joann Compagno, CND
Barbara Costello, CND, *Tutor*
Eileen Good, CND, *Bursar*

IN RESIDENCE

Anne Conlon, CND
Nancy Downing, CND
Helen Klimeck, CND
Ann Marie Levangie, CND
Motoko Takahashi, 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