



St. John the Baptist

Roman Catholic Church

1488 North Country Road, Wading River, NY



February 7, 2021
Fifth Sunday of the Year



WHO IS ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST?



REFLECTIONS ON OUR PARISH PATRON SAINT
by Father Frank Schneider

11. "Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees."
2/7/21)

The gospels of Matthew and Luke contain more details about the preaching of John the Baptist. We have looked at John's metaphors of the brood of vipers, the winnowing fan, and this week the "ax" ready to cut down the trees:

Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire (Mt 3: 10 and Lk 3:9).

John again draws from his experience, as trees would have grown in the wilderness near the Jordan River, and would have been harvested for construction in nearby Jerusalem.

The guild prophets said to Elisha, "There is not enough room for us to continue to live here with you. Let us go to the Jordan, where by getting one beam apiece we can build ourselves a place to live." "Go," Elisha said. "Please agree to accompany your servants," one of them requested, "Yes, I will come," he replied. So he went with them, and when they arrived at the Jordan they began to fell trees (2 Kings 6: 1-4).

The cutting down of a tree is a symbol of judgment for the prophets:

Behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, lops off the boughs with terrible violence; the tall of stature are felled, and the lofty ones brought low; the forest thickets are felled with the axe...(Is 10:33-34)

Jesus also uses this image in the parable of the barren fig tree:

And he told them this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. [So] cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?' He said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.'" (Lk 13:6-9)

We see yet another example where the preaching of John the Baptist and Jesus "overlap."

Reflection Question for the week: *Where are the "good fruits" that I am producing on my life now?*

As this series continues this year, all segments are on the parish website.

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021

Please remember that Ash Wednesday is not (and has never been) a holyday of obligation. Catholics are also not obligated to receive the sacramental ashes as Lent begins.

The Vatican has issued guidelines for the distribution of ashes during the pandemic. Churches will return to the ancient practice of receiving ashes by sprinkling on the forehead in silence. (Every year the Holy Father receives ashes in this way.)

For those who would like to receive ashes this year, they will be distributed at Mass at 8:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., and also at prayer services at 12 noon and 4:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, please email Father Frank, pastor@sjbwr.org.





Preschool Registration for September 2021-June 2022

Now Open

For more information, please call 631-929-3220

Pre-K M/T/W/TH/F-AM	4 yr olds 9:15 AM-12:00 PM	Nursery T/TH - AM	3 yr olds 9:00 AM-11:30 AM
Pre-K M/W/F - AM	4 yr olds 9:00 AM-11:45 AM	Nursery T/TH/F - AM	3 yr olds 9:15 AM-11:45 AM
Pre-K T/W/TH - PM	4 yr olds 12:15 PM-2:45 PM	Nursery T/TH-PM T/W/TH-PM	3 yr olds 12:15 PM-2:45 PM 12:15 PM-2:45 PM
Talented Twos M/W - AM	2 yr olds 9:30-11:45 AM		



Would you like to support Thomas Constantine's Eagle Scout Project?

My name is Thomas Constantine and I am a member of Boy Scout Troop 161 in Shoreham, NY. I also am a member of St. John the Baptist Church. I am a Life Scout preparing to begin my Eagle Scout Project at the church. For my Eagle Scout project, I am going to take

down the two old benches on St. John the Baptist's preschool grounds. I will replace the old benches with new, safe, synthetic wood benches. An old shed that was damaged by Hurricane Isaias will also be taken down.

To complete this project, I am asking the congregation for donations. My estimated cost for this project is \$1,000. All funds raised will exclusively benefit this Eagle Scout project. Any excess funds raised will be given directly to the church.

Please consider donating to this project so myself and fellow Boy Scout Troop members can beautify the preschool grounds allowing people to have a safe place to sit and enjoy the outdoors.

"Thomas Constantine Eagle Scout Project Donations" can be given to the church or dropped at the Parish Office. Please mark your check "Eagle Scout Donation" in the "memo line." Thank you for your consideration!

A special thanks for those who have volunteered as Tuesday Drivers to pick up the food from Island Harvest!

Peggy’s Pantry is the most active part of Outreach Ministry. Here are the sources of our donations:

- L.I. Cares Food Network and Island Harvest. They provide us with a substantial amount of the food that we are able to give out to our families.
- Local merchants and farmers.
- Parishioners provide some food weekly, this year with Covid 19 you have been especially supportive.



Despite all these sources, we sometimes experience shortages in some of the items that we like to keep in the Pantry. For this reason, we include a list of the shortages in the parish bulletin each week. Every time you bring to Church one of the items on the Peggy’s Pantry Needs List, you help with these shortages. Our Recycling Program and our St. Patrick’s Day Gala have been suspended until we have cleared the pandemic. We hope these programs and events will return soon.



- ◇ coffee
- ◇ rice
- ◇ ketchup
- ◇ canned veggies
- ◇ cat food

WEEKLY PARISH CALENDAR February 7-13, 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Mass 8:00am Mass 10:30am Mass livestream 10:30am	Mass 8:30am	Mass 8:30am Outreach is open 10:00am - 2:00pm	Mass 8:30am Eucharistic Adoration 2:00pm - 4:00pm	Mass 8:30am Outreach is open 10:00am - 2:00pm		Confessions 4:15pm Mass 5:15pm

Mass Presiders Schedule

Saturday, February 6, 5:15 p.m.	Msgr. Bennett
Sunday, February 7, 8:00 a.m.	Father James
Sunday, February 7, 10:30 a.m.	Father Frank

Next Weekend

Saturday, February 13, 5:15 p.m.	Father Frank
Sunday, February 14, 8:00 a.m.	Msgr. Bennett
Sunday, February 14, 10:30 a.m.	Father James

As we prepare for our 100th anniversary, all are invited to the parish website for the on-going series about our patron saint, St. John the Baptist, and updates on the centennial events.

Sunday Mass
is live-streamed
10:30 a.m.

www.sjbwr.org

Follow the link to our YouTube channel!



Kids Corner

READ THE
GOSPEL &
COLOR



Simon Peter's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a fever. Jesus went to her. He took hold of her hand and helped her up. The fever left her. She felt so good, she cooked them a nice meal to celebrate. Neighbors brought all of their sick loved ones to be cured. When we pray today, Jesus still comes to those who are sick and heals them. He cures through doctors, nurses, medicines, and machines.

PRAYER

Lord, heal my family and friends who are sick today.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

I will make get well cards for three sick people in our church.



Monday, February 8, 8:30 a.m.,
Anne Losquadro

Tuesday, February 9, 8:30 a.m.,
Rae D'Onofrio

Wednesday, February 10, 8:30 a.m.,
Jacqueline Sessa

Thursday, February 11, 8:30 a.m.,
Spencer & Thora Tweed

Saturday, February 13, 5:15 p.m.,
William Pridham

Sunday, February 14,
8:00 a.m.
Josephine & Leo Gedger

10:30 a.m.
Cheryl Morse



Please remember the faithful departed.

May they rest in peace.

During the pandemic, Funeral Masses can be scheduled. Approximately 100 are permitted to attend.



Upcoming Baptism Dates:

12:00 Noon

February 21

March 7

March 21

Baptism Class last Sunday of the month
right after the 10:30 a.m. Mass

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Sunday Collection: January 31, 2021 \$ 7,934.17 (down 9.54%)

Sunday Collection: February 2, 2020 \$ 8,771.18

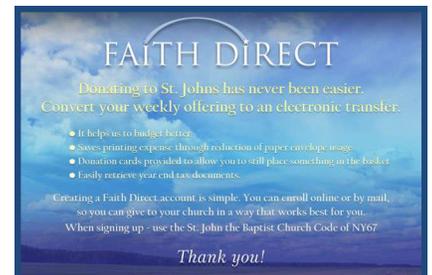
The Christmas collection is not ready to report as donations are still coming in! Thank you!

Many are facing financial hardship, and we are deeply grateful to those who have mailed in their envelope, dropped it in the mailbox in the upper parking lot, or used Faith Direct.

Thank you to those who “caught up” with a full month’s donations!

Please consider “automated giving” as you reflect on support of our parish family!

The fruitful ministries at our parish are examples of how many of you have answered, and continue to answer, that call. To ensure such work can continue requires not only gifts of time, but also of financial help. I ask you to prayerfully consider supporting our parish with electronic donations through Faith Direct. You can find paper enrollment forms in the parish office, or you can sign up online at www.faithdirect.net by using our church code, NY67.



Special Collections:

02/07 Grammar Schools
02/17 Ash Wednesday for the Poor
02/21 Church in Need
02/28 Outreach

2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal

Goal \$52,300.00
 Pledges \$21,260.00
 Over (Under) (\$31,040.00)
 Donors 79
 Payments \$16,585.00
 Average Gift \$269.11
 Percentage of Goal 40.65%

Finance Committee, 2020-2021

Dr. Barbara Fontana, Trustee, *ex officio*
Steven Gallagher, Trustee, *ex officio*
Robert Lutz, *Chair*
Richard Amper
Thomas McEnany
Lisa Kelly

Worship Committee, 2020-2021

Cheryl MacDougall, *chair*
James MacDougall
William Hennessy
Barbara Johnston
Liz McNeill
John O'Hare
Elizabeth Waskowiak
Edward Waskowiak

**Pastoral Council Members,
2020-2021**

Vincent Manzello, *Chair*
Daniel Bealey
Linda Bealey
Rosemary Desimone
Dr. Barbara Fontana (trustee)
Michelle Gaffney
Michelle Gallucci
Kevin Heavey
Maria Maxwell
Richard Rossin

PASTORAL STAFF

Phone: 631-929-4339

Pastor: Father Frank Schneider, ext. 16

Associate Pastor: Father James Calledo

Deacon: Fred Finter, ext. 44

Deacon: Vincent Pozzolano, ext. 45

Faith Formation Coordinator: Mrs. Jane Oliva, ext. 12

Outreach Director: Deborah O'Hare, ext. 22

Music Coordinator: Liz McNeill (631) 495-8913

Pastoral Assistant: Barbara Johnston

Bookkeeper: Lindsay Finter, ext. 17

Receptionist: Sue Kozakiewicz, ext. 10

Preschool Director: Mrs. Gayle Mercurio, ext. 14

Secretary: Susan Plattner, ext. 19

Preschool Phone: 631-929-3220

Maintenance: Servio Ortiz

Weekend Priest Assistants: Msgr. John Bennett

Parish Outreach Hours: Tues & Thurs 10am-2pm

pastor@sjbwr.org
paxjim94@yahoo.com
deaconfred@sjbwr.org
v7vac@hotmail.com
reled@sjbwr.org
stjohnsparishoutreach@gmail.com
emcneill@sjbwr.org

lfinter@sjbwr.org
office@sjbwr.org
preschool@sjbwr.org
preschool@sjbwr.org

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Website: www.sjbwr.org

General Mailbox/Front Desk: ext. 10. Contact us by email: office@sjbwr.org

Bread, wine, altar candles



Should you like to donate the candles, bread, wine for the celebration of the weekend Eucharist, especially in memory of a loved one, please contact the Parish Office, 631-929-4339, ext. 10.

Tabernacle Lamp

The Tabernacle Lamp indicates that the Blessed Sacrament is present in church. The red candle can be memorialized for the week of your choice.



All memorials are published in the bulletin.

Eucharistic Adoration

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for Adoration on the main altar in the church every Wednesday afternoon.



All novenas and devotions are suspended at this time.

Silent prayer during Adoration Hours.



For those serving in the Military

Michael Brennan, Patrick Hanley, Jeffrey L. Beilman Jr., Ryan Santiro, Thomas G. Verbeeck, Michelle Verbeeck, Joseph DeMonte IV, Nicholas Altman, Michael Anderson, Devin Henry, Marielle Verbeeck, Cassidy Vail, Evan Purdy, Sean Tully, Sean Brady

For the Homebound, the Sick and in Hospice Care

For all those who are suffering from the coronavirus, and also John Ryan, Thomas Mongiello, Ann Bertolini, Edward Hegel, Jacqueline Sessa, Christine Pernice