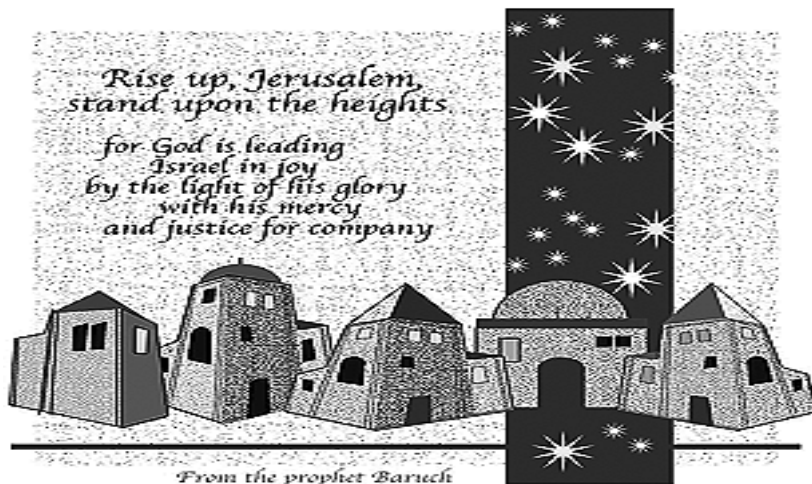


December 6, 2009 - Second Sunday of Advent

# The Church of Saint John The Baptist

A MINISTRY OF THE CAPUCHIN FRANCISCANS  
WITH SHRINES OF SAINT PIO OF PIETRELCINA (PADRE PIO)  
AND MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP



## SUNDAY MASSES

**Saturdays:** 4:00 P.M. (*Vigil Mass*)  
**Sundays:** 9:00, 10:30 A.M., 12:00 P.M., 5:15 P.M.

## WEEKDAY MASSES

6:45, 7:45 A.M., 12:15, 5:15 P.M. **Saturdays:** 12:15 P.M.

## CONFESSIONS—SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**Monday through Friday:** from 7:15 A.M. to 7:45 A.M.  
and from 11:45 A.M. to 12:15 P.M. in church;  
from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. in the parish office  
(Reconciliation Room)  
**Saturdays:** from 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.  
and from 3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. in church

**NATIONAL HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE:** One Mass only, at 10:30 A.M.

## EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday through Friday, after the 12:15 P.M. Mass. **BENEDICTION** at 5:05 P.M.

## ALL NIGHT VIGIL

Each Friday before the First Saturday from 9:00 P.M. to 5:30 A.M.

## SAINT PIO OF PIETRELCINA (PADRE PIO)

**NOVENA WITH BLESSING OF THE RELIC**  
Thursdays, following the 5:15 P.M. Mass

## BLESSING WITH THE RELIC OF THE TRUE CROSS

Fridays, following the 12:15 P.M. and 5:15 P.M. Masses

## OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP

**NOVENA AND MASS**  
Wednesdays at 6:30 P.M.

**ROSARY:** Monday through Friday at 11:55 A.M. and 4:55 P.M. Saturdays at 12:00 P.M.

**SAINT PIO OF PIETRELCINA PRAYER GARDEN** open daily

**PRIEST ON DUTY:** Monday to Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

**SOCIAL WORKER AVAILABLE:** Wednesdays 12:00 P.M. to 1:00 P.M. and 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.; Thursdays 12:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

## 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.*

210 West 31<sup>st</sup> Street (at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue)  
New York, N.Y. 10001  
tel 1-212 564-9070  
fax 1-212 564-3964

**OFFICE HOURS:** Sundays from 9:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.  
Mondays & Tuesdays and Thursdays & Fridays from 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.  
Wednesdays from 9:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Saturdays from 10:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.  
e-mail: [stjohnbap@aol.com](mailto:stjohnbap@aol.com) web: [www.padrepioshrine.com](http://www.padrepioshrine.com)

**CAPUCHIN FRANCISCANS**

(OFM CAP) AT SAINT JOHN'S

Bro. Luke Benbrook	<i>Pastoral Assistant</i>
Rev. John Clermont	<i>Honduras, CA</i>
Rev. Edward Conway	<i>Parochial Vicar</i>
Rev. Valerian D'Silva	<i>Parochial Assistant</i>
Rev. Philip Fabiano	<i>Pastor</i>
Rev. Thomas Franks	<i>Parochial Vicar</i>
Rev. Ramón Frías	<i>Parochial Assistant</i>
Rev. Francisco Gasparik	<i>Capuchin Mission &amp; Development Dir.</i>
Rev. Leonard Glavin	<i>Parochial Assistant</i>
Rev. Thomas Houle	<i>Chaplain, N.Y. State Corrections</i>
Bro. George McCloskey	<i>Comm. and Public Relations</i>
Bro. Salvatore Patricola	<i>Guardian/Parochial Vicar/Deacon</i>
Rev. John Baptist Riordan	<i>Parochial Assistant</i>
Rev. Matthias Wesnofske	<i>SFO Prov. Spiritual Assistant</i>

**PARISH PROGRAM COORDINATORS**

Mary Bivona	<i>Social Services</i>
Joan Prenty	<i>RCLA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)</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 1 to 2:45</i>
Christ in the City Silent Retreat	<i>Sat 4 to 10 (twice a month)</i>
RCLA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)	<i>Sun 9 to 10:45</i>
Tuesday Together at the Friary	<i>2nd Tue 7, 12 and 5:30</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 10:30 to 12</i>
Fatima Blue Army Cell Prayer Group	<i>Wed 5:45</i>
God the Father Cenacle Devotion	<i>3rd Sun 1 to 4</i>
Padre Pio Prayer Group	<i>4th Sat 12 to 3:30</i>
<i>(Blessing with the Relic of St. Pio after the</i>	<i>12:15 p.m. Mass)</i>
Singles for Christ	<i>3rd Sun: 5:15 Mass, 6:30 Rec.</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 and Wed 6 to 7</i>
<i>Tue and Thu 12 to 1</i>	<i>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	<i>Tue 5:30 to 7; Wed 5</i>
Japanese Bible & Prayer Study	<i>4th Sun 4 to 7</i>
Police & Fire Line of Duty Widows	<i>4th Sun 1 to 3</i>
SMA	<i>Sat 4:30 to 5:30</i>
Sexaholics Anonymous (SA)	<i>Thu/Fri 6 to 7:30</i>

**OTHER ORGANIZATIONS LOCATED AT SAINT JOHN'S**

Ar-Rahman Foundation	<i>Fri 12:30 to 2:30</i>
Central City Chorus	<i>Thu 6 to 10</i>
St. Mary of Zion Ethiopian Church	<i>Sun 8 to 4</i>
Visiting Nursing Care Service	<i>Mon 1; Tue 2; Fri 9:30</i>

**OTHER MINISTRIES LOCATED AT SAINT JOHN'S**

Capuchin Franciscan Development Office  
 Capuchin Franciscan Foreign Mission Office  
 Courage—National Office; Lamp Ministries

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**SUNDAY**

9:00 A.M. **DECEMBER 6, 2009**  
*(dec.)* Evaristo M. Dayrit  
*req. by the Dayrit family*  
 10:30 A.M. All parishioners and benefactors of  
 St. John's Church  
 12:00 P.M. *(dec.)* Nicholas Viscovich  
*req. by Ron Viscovich*  
 5:15 P.M. In honor of St. Jude, *req. by Colette Jacques*

**MONDAY**

6:45 A.M. **DECEMBER 7, 2009**  
 For the intention of John Lyon  
 7:45 A.M. *(dec.)* Frank Bruno  
 12:15 P.M. *(dec.)* Jean Ancona, *req. by Lillian*  
*Mannarino and Jeanette Ancona*  
 5:15 P.M. Claudette Joseph  
 [special intentions and thanksgiving]

**TUESDAY**

6:45 A.M. **DECEMBER 8, 2009—THE IMMACULATE**  
**CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**  
 Living and deceased members of  
 the Secular Franciscan Order  
 7:45 A.M. *req. by the three Fraternities of St. John's church*  
 Anthony Pillio and the deceased  
 members of the Ruocco family  
 12:15 P.M. *(dec.)* Fred V. Weese  
*req. by Elizabeth Weese*  
 5:15 P.M. *(dec.)* Giuseppe Gigliotti  
*req. by Joseph Filippis*

**WEDNESDAY**

6:45 A.M. **DECEMBER 9, 2009**  
*(dec.)* Frances Giacopelli  
 7:45 A.M. Tom and Amy O'Grady  
*req. by Mr. and Mrs. Marty O'Grady*  
 12:15 P.M. For the intention of  
 Fr. Francis Gasparik, O.F.M.  
 5:15 P.M. In honor of The Immaculate Conception,  
*req. by Colette Jacques*  
 6:30 P.M. For those enrolled in the  
 Mother of Perpetual Help Novena

**THURSDAY**

6:45 A.M. **DECEMBER 10, 2009**  
 For the intention of  
 Rocky and Violie Souza  
 7:45 A.M. K.I.A. U.S. Military Forces  
*req. by Mr. and Mrs. Marty O'Grady*  
 12:15 P.M. *(dec.)* Guadalupe Fernando  
*req. by Dolores Suárez*  
 5:15 P.M. *(dec.)* John, Catherine and Josephine  
 Bacionga, *req. by Mary Anne Bacionga*

**FRIDAY**

6:45 A.M. **DECEMBER 11, 2009**  
*(dec.)* Frances Giacopelli  
 7:45 A.M. For the intention of Phorlie Magsumbol  
 12:15 P.M. For the intention of Patrick Daly  
 5:15 P.M. For the intentions of  
 Joseph Paulous and family

**SATURDAY**

12:15 P.M. **DECEMBER 12, 2009**  
**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**  
 4:00 P.M. *(dec.)* Thomas G. Byron  
*(dec.)* Eugene Tiernan  
*req. by his family*



**EVENTS OF THE WEEK**

**December 6 to December 13, 2009**

**Sun 6 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

> *Immaculate Heart of Mary Fraternity,*  
12:00 noon to 4:00 P.M., church/hall

**Tue 8 THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF  
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

— A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION —

Masses at 6:45 A.M., 7:45 A.M., 12:15 P.M. and 5:15 P.M.

> **Tuesday at the Friary,** 7:00 A.M., 12:00 noon,  
5:30 P.M., parish office conference room  
> *Charismatic Prayer Group,* 6:30 P.M., church hall

**Wed 9** > *Food Pantry,* 1:00 P.M. to 2:45 P.M., church hall

> *Fátima Blue Army,* 5:30 P.M., church

**Thu 10** > **Spirituality**—*Reflection on Faith with*

*Fr. John Baptist Riordan,* 6:00 P.M., church

> *Worship Committee mtg.,* 6:00 P.M., conf. room

**Sat 12 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**

> *Fr. Solanus Guild mtg.,* 9:00 A.M., mtg. room

> **Christ in the City Retreat**

4:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M., church/meeting room

**Sun 13 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

> *Sts. Elizabeth and Louis SFO Fraternity,*  
12:00 noon, church/hall

**THE NEW PADRE PIO ORGAN:** Our new organ was heard for the first time on the Feast of Christ the King and Saint Cecilia (*Patron Saint of Sacred Music*) Day (November 22, 2009.) Since 2010 will be a remarkable year because it marks the double centennial of Padre Pio and the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our parish (see below), our new organ will be formally blessed and dedicated on the Feast of St. Pio (September 23, 2010.) *Please consider supporting this once-in-a-lifetime event—donation envelopes are available in the church lobby.* For more details, please read one of our fliers .

**FR. LEONARD'S PREVIEW OF SUNDAY READINGS:**

Since the Church year ended on November 28, Fr. Leonard has ceased his weekly classes on the Sunday Scripture readings. He thanks all participants and looks forward to future classes in 2010.

**ST. JOHN'S 170<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY !**

We will celebrate the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of our parish in **JUNE** of 2010. It is a milestone, and we want to celebrate this anniversary in a quiet but special manner. One of the activities that the committee is planning is to publish a **PARISH COOK BOOK** of your favorite recipes. Since ethnically we are a very diverse parish, are hoping to have recipes from all groups who worship here at St. John's. *Please consider sending us your favorite recipe, giving us permission to print it in our 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary cookbook. Please forward or give it to Fr. John Baptist Riordan.* Thank you for your consideration.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)**

is a Catholic formation / education program for people interested in full initiation into the Catholic Church through the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist (*Sundays 10:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.*). It is also for Catholics who have been baptized and have not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist (*Sundays 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.*) *Those who are interested please call Joan Prenty at 1-212 564-9070, extension 217 and leave your name and phone number.*

**DAY OF RECOLLECTION FOR WOMEN:**

On Saturday, December 12 there will be a Day of Recollection for women at St. Paul the Apostle (59<sup>th</sup> Street at Lincoln Center.) Fr. Joseph Koterski, S.J. will preach on Advent preparation. The theme will be *Hope in Christ.* There will be a fee of \$25, which includes lunch. The retreat is sponsored by **Women for Life** and **The Sisters of Life.** *To register, please call 1-212 721-4507.*

**TUESDAY AT THE FRIARY**—an experience of reflection, prayer and sharing—will take place this **December 8**, before work (from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 A.M.); at lunchtime (from 12:00 P.M. to 1:00 P.M.); or on your way home (from 5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.) *Pray the Liturgy of the Hours, reflect on Bible passages and join in intercessory prayer.* For more information, please call Brother Salvatore at 1-212 564-9070, extension 247.

**CHRIST IN THE CITY RETREAT** will take place on **Saturday, December 12**, beginning with the 4:00 P.M. with Vigil Mass in church and continuing in a meeting room until 10:00 P.M. *The theme for this retreat will be "Dorothy Day—Who Was She?" Because the number of participants is limited to sixteen, it is important to register early—call Br. Salvatore at 1-212 564-9070, extension 247.*

**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. *Help us feed our needy neighbors !*

**OUR CHURCH IS HERE FOR YOU !** As cold winter weather approaches, we ask for your assistance in surrounding the needy with the warmth of God's love. If you can, please contribute fast food certificates, supermarket and drugstore gift cards, and/or MTA metro cards. These will meet the immediate needs of those facing difficult times. Even if you cannot give these material gifts, we ask you to please pray for those who truly need to feel hope instead of despair. If you have any questions, call our social worker, Mary Bivona, at 1-212 564-9070, extension 204. She is present on Wednesdays and Thursdays, but can be contacted on other weekdays at the above number. A psychologist is also available for counseling and can be reached by calling the rectory reception. Do not hesitate to contact us if you feel the need to talk to someone. This includes anyone who feels he or she might have a problem with possible addictions to drugs, gambling etc. *Help is available, and we assure you of full confidentiality as well as our prayers and interest in every individual situation.*

# *The Church of Saint John the Baptist*

210 West 31st Street—New York, N.Y. 10001 (*between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenues*)

*Your Church in the city when you are away from home*

Dear Friends at St. John,

**PEACE AND EVERY BLESSING! PAZ Y BIEN! PACE E BENE! SLAVA ISUSU CHRYSU!**

Here we are at the second week of our preparation for the coming of Jesus ever more present to us. This week we also celebrate the feast of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of our Blessed Lady. Mary was conceived “full of grace” from her conception. We honor her as the pride of our human race!

On this Second Sunday of Advent our Gospel speaks of our patron saint, John the Baptist; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: “PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD: MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS.”

Our reflection this week centers on two very strong people of faith: Mary and John the Baptist. These were not weaklings! No, quite the opposite. They were filled with the grace of conviction that all the promises made by God to them and their ancestors would be fulfilled. This is the challenge of faith: to live in the presence of the God who walks with us, promises us every good gift and then delivers on His sacred promises. We glorify Mary and rightly so for her strength of faith. We look to John the Baptist as the announcer of God’s grace. We place them at the helm of the Church with Jesus.

However, we must also look to their living out their convictions in very difficult surroundings. Mary saying YES to her Creator and bearing a Son before her marriage to Joseph. What would her society think of her? Yet she proclaims: “My soul magnifies the Lord!” She seems to say: Yes, Lord, I come to do your will. It is a kind of strength that says: “OK, bring on the challenge!” John spent years in the desert steadfastly proclaiming: “A baptism of repentance!”—also not really worrying about what his peers might have to say about him. “OK, bring on the challenge!”

I do not mean to say that these good people were fighters; by no means. But they knew what God promised them and they also knew that these promises would be fulfilled. Confidence, kindness, meekness, vulnerability and hearts big with love of their God and their neighbors.

With that confidence also came experiences of the desert. John actually lived in a desert beneath the stars, experiencing the grandeur of God; Mary lived in the desert of the neighborly gossip, sharp tongues. John speaks of repentance and Mary sings: “My soul rejoices in God my Savior!”

When I think of the challenges of my own experience, I have to fall on my knees in thanksgiving to the God who calls me and continues to ask me to live my life in the fullness of faith and grace. Yes, there are deserts! Yes, there are joys! The question for me is what am I doing in the space of the desert and joy? Do I remember God’s promises? Do I give in easily to discouragement? Do I remain faithful?

ALERT! ALIVE! CONSCIOUS! All this, whether I am in the desert or shouting for joy at God’s presence in my life. Through my living out my personal faith will “ALL FLESH SEE THE SALVATION OF GOD” ? Mary helps us; our patron saint John helps us. Do I help others as well? The cry of Advent: COME LORD JESUS!

God bless you and make St. John your home away from home.

Fr. Philip F. Fabiano, O.F.M. Capuchin  
Pastor

December 6, 2009 — Insert