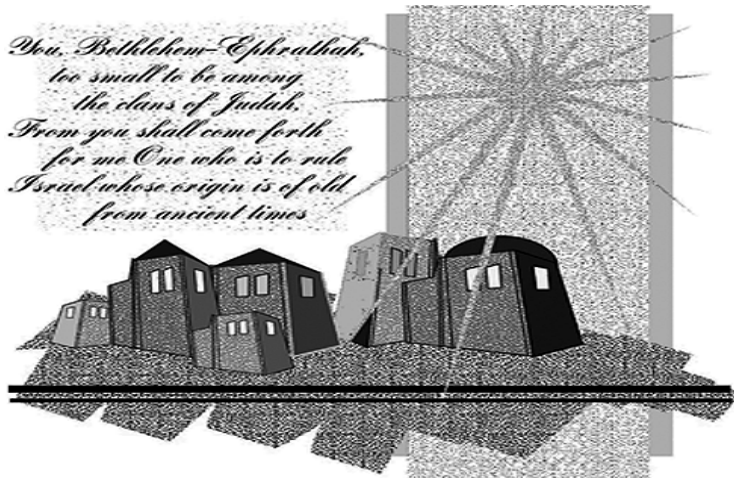


December 20, 2009 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

*You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah,
too small to be among
the clans of Judah,
From you shall come forth
for me One who is to rule
Israel whose origin is of old
from ancient times*



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 31st Street (at 7th 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 web: 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. Francis Gasparik	<i>Capuchin Mission & 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. (dec.) Kathryn Ricciardelli
req. by Paul Ricciardelli and family
 10:30 A.M. All parishioners and benefactors of
 St. John's Church
 12:00 P.M. (dec.) Rosa Scavo
req. by Nancy Scavo and family
 5:15 P.M. (dec.) Carlo Dinardo Di Maio
req. by his brother Giustino

MONDAY

6:45 A.M. Living and deceased members of
 the Heimbücher family
req. by Elena MacLeod
 7:45 A.M. K.I.A. U.S. Military Forces
req. by Mr. and Mrs. Marty O'Grady
 12:15 P.M. (dec.) Eladio and Margarita Blanco
 5:15 P.M. (dec.) Augusta Victoria Canessa
req. by Patricia Sares

TUESDAY

6:45 A.M. Living and deceased members of
 the Secular Franciscan Order
req. by the three Fraternities of St. John's church
 7:45 A.M. (dec.) Joseph and Angelina Poveromo, and
 Joseph DeVincent, *req. by Lena Poveromo*
 12:15 P.M. (dec.) Francis Kelly, *req. by Catherine Agnelli*
 5:15 P.M. Flaviana G. Faylon [94th birthday]
req. by Lynn Enstaquio

WEDNESDAY

6:45 A.M. For the intentions of
 Pilar and Sergio Abundo
 7:45 A.M. K.I.A. U.S. Military Forces
req. by Mr. and Mrs. Marty O'Grady
 12:15 P.M. (dec.) Henry Magliato
req. by Rosary E. Magliato
 5:15 P.M. (dec.) John M. Dombroski, and Edith and
 Louis Russo, *req. by Clarinda Dombroski*

THURSDAY

6:45 A.M. In honor of the Infant Jesus
req. by Kathleen Day
 7:45 A.M. (dec.) Frances Giacopelli
 12:15 P.M. (dec.) John La Colla
 5:15 P.M. In honor of the Infant Jesus
*req. by the Velásquez, Meléndez
 and Villavicencio families*

FRIDAY

10:30 A.M. For those enrolled in the
 Christmas Novena of Masses



Christ our Savior is born!

SATURDAY

12:15 P.M. For those enrolled in the
 Christmas Novena of Masses
 Living and deceased members of
 Padre Pio Prayer Group
req. by St. John's Fraternity
 4:00 P.M.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

December 19 to December 27, 2009

Sat 19 > **Two Thousand Hail Marys**,
7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., church hall/ church
> **Side by Side Celebration**—Light breakfast and
reflection, 10:00 A.M., rectory office conference room.
Renewal of Marriage Vows, 12:15 P.M. Mass

Sun 20 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
> *God the Father Cenacle Devotion*
1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M., church hall
> **Advent Vespers**, 4:00 P.M., church

Mon 21 > Parish Board meeting, 6:00 P.M., rectory office conf. room

Tue 22 > Charismatic Prayer Group, 6:00 P.M., church hall

Wed 23 > Food Pantry, 1:00 P.M. to 2:45 P.M., church hall
> *Fátima Blue Army*, 5:30 P.M., church

Thu 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

Fri 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

(Offices and meeting rooms
remain closed all day)



Sat 26 > Padre Pio Prayer Group, 12:00 noon, church/ hall

Sun 27 **THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**
> St. John's SFO Fraternity, 12:00 noon, church/ hall

The **TWO THOUSAND HAIL MARY PRAYER GROUP** meets in the church hall on the third Saturday of the month. *The day begins at 7:30 A.M. and closes with the 4:00 P.M. Sunday Vigil Mass on Saturday, December 19.*

DOES YOUR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY FALL IN DECEMBER? If so, the friars invite you to renew your vows ("*Side by Side Celebration*") at the **12:15 P.M. Mass on Saturday, December 19.** Please complete a registration form found at the entrance of the church and return it to Brother Salvatore. For more information, call him at 1-212 564-9070, extension 247. **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

SPIRIT IN ACTION (SIA) is a group of mature (age 45+) single Catholics who meet to share spiritual, social and cultural activities. For information about membership as well as upcoming events, please call our **hotline number: 1-212 560-2366.**

A VOCATION VIEW: If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, please call Fr. Charles Szivos at 1-914-968 1340 (*Priesthood*), Sr. Deanna Sabetta at 1-212-371 1000, extension 2803 (*Religious*) or Deacon Anthony Cassaneto at 1-914-968 6200, extension 8269 (*Diaconate*.)

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 170th 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 .

ST. JOHN'S 170th ANNIVERSARY! We will celebrate the 170th 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 170th anniversary cookbook. Please give it to Fr. John Baptist Riordan.*

THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE sincerely thanks **each** of you who contributed to and supported our pre-Christmas sale. All proceeds were contributed to the Thanksgiving Apple Project. Your generosity allows us to continue to share the **love** at St. John's. *In particular, we want to express our gratitude to the members of the family of Teresa De Maio (deceased), who shared many of their mother's religious treasures with us. Mrs. De Maio was an active worker into her nineties at the Church of the Assumption in Roselle Park, New Jersey, and was well known for the vestments she created as well as the many other contributions she made of her time and talent to her parish throughout her life. Please remember Teresa and her family in your prayers.*

GRACE INSTITUTE is currently accepting applications for its **TUITION-FREE Business Skills Program.** This four-and-a-half month and nine-month training program teaches women the skills needed to succeed in the workplace. The program includes an in-depth study of computers, keyboarding, business writing, communications and office procedures. *All graduates receive job placement assistance.* Classes meet Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., and will begin in February 2010. Evening classes will also be available in September. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED, fluency in English and be eligible to work in the U.S. *Grace Institute is located at 1233 Second Avenue (between 64th & 65th Streets).* For more information, phone 1-212 832-7605 or visit the web site at **www.graceinstitute.org.** Open houses take place every Wednesday in December and January, at 12:00 noon and 4:00 P.M.

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!*

The Church of Saint John the Baptist

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

Your Church in the city when you are away from home

Dear Friends of St. John,

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

Tradition and Custom—these are precious experiences and at times many people look for NEW experiences and possibly have a heavy hand toward tradition and custom. As believers, we have a very long history of tradition and a very long list of customs. Hopefully these, for us, are based and founded in FAITH. The fact is that many things in our lives pass away but the remaining factors are always faith, hope and love. Jesus promises us: “Heaven and earth may pass away but my WORD will never pass away!”

We come to the season of THE WORD OF GOD BECOMING FLESH! In Advent we have attempted to emphasize the birth of Christ in our hearts; the coming of Christ to us and we inviting the very WORD of God to stay with us. We are on the treshold of celebrating the greatest promise made to us by our Creator: “AND MY WORD WILL BECOME FLESH!” We praise Mary for being so willing to be THE TABERNACLE OF THE MOST HIGH.

This week the Liturgy turns to Scripture to describe for us the various characteristics of the Redeemer in the O ANTIPHONS. These are seven descriptions of the Messiah. I offer them to you as preparation prayers for the feast of the Birth of Jesus. These make wonderful reflective prayers, and I believe they open our hearts wider to Christ. We are always attempting to open the doors of our hearts wider and wider or else suffer “hardness of heart.”

O WISDOM, you came forth from the mouth of the most high, and reached from end to end, and disposed of all things sweetly and mightily; come and teach us the way of prudence. Amen!

O ADONAI, and leader of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the flame of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: come, and with an outstretched arm, redeem us. Amen!

O ROOT OF JESSE, who stood as a sign for the people, before you kings shall remain silent, and to you the Gentiles shall make supplication: come to deliver us, and delay not. Amen!

O KEY OF DAVID, and scepter of the house of Israel: you open and no one shuts; you shut and no one opens. Come and lead forth from his prison the captive sitting in the darkness and in the shadow of death. Amen!

O DAYSPRING, brightness of eternal Light and Sun of Justice: come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. Amen!

O KING OF NATIONS, and their Desired, the Cornerstone who makes all one: come and save our race, whom you formed out of clay. Amen!

O EMMANUEL, our King and Lawgiver, the Desire of all nations and their Savior: come and save us, O Lord our God! Amen!

For several thousands of years people of faith awaited the arrival of the Messiah and for two thousand years we celebrate His presence among us. Is that not a glorious, everlasting promise? Micah, the prophet of the first reading describes the Messiah: “You, Bethlehem, from you shall come forth to shepherd my flock ... and he shall reach the very ends of the earth.”

And the Gospel presents Mary and Elizabeth—two generous women of faith—who by merely being in each other’s presence KNEW Christ. Elizabeth, so filled with faith, asks: “How can this be?” It was not doubt but supreme joy that she was chosen and Mary, so filled with Jesus she prayerfully shouts: “My soul magnifies the Lord!”

Are we echoing these sentiments during these days immediately preceding Christmas? Can we sense some of the joy of Mary and Elizabeth? WE are made worthy of this joy because the Messiah wishes to be one with us NOW!

COME, LORD JESUS, DO NOT HESITATE!

Remember St. John as your home away from home!

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

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The Church of Saint John the Baptist
A Capuchin Franciscan Ministry

210 West 31st Street, New York, N.Y. 10001 (opposite Penn Station)

Caring and Sharing Christmas Cheer

We ask you to help those who feel the poverty of not being loved at Christmas time. Thus, we are asking for a few minutes of your time to assist St. John the Baptist to give Christmas cheer to those who are poor. Your contribution will add the *Merry in Christmas* for those who come seeking help at St. John the Baptist.

A few suggestions;

— **NURSING HOME RESIDENTS:**

Candy, powders, toiletries (lotions, creams, soap).

— **SENIOR CITIZENS AND TEENAGERS:**

Warm nightgowns (small, medium, large), flannel shirts, wallets, costume jewelry, lightweight pocket-books, pajamas, socks, underwear, button-down sweaters, pullover sweaters, snap housecoats.

— **CHILDREN:**

Underwear (boys, girls, toddlers), coloring books and crayons, dolls, games, pajamas.

— **INFANTS:**

Crib sheets, undershirts, pajamas, diapers.

— **HOMELESS:**

Hats, gloves, scarves, thermal underwear, socks, men's and women's underwear, fast food gift certificates.

Please wrap the gift(s) and attach a label stating the nature of each gift.

We can also shop for you! Circle the item(s) you would like to donate from the above list, attach a check payable to St. John the Baptist Church, and send to the above address, attention Mary Bivona or Aida Martínez. Packages or checks can be left during office hours (see bulletin cover) at the reception desk, until December 22. Thank you and may God bless you for your generosity.

For more information, do not hesitate to call Mary Bivona at 1-212 564-9070, extension 204, or Aida Martínez at the same number, extension 221.

