

First Sunday of Lent • February 21, 2021

THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AT

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH**

**The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,**

**and he remained in the desert for 40 days  
tempted by Satan. Mark 1:12-13a**



**From the Deacon's Desk***Dear friends in Christ,*

Today's reading comes from the first chapter of the **Gospel of Mark**. If you haven't read the **Gospels** before, **Mark** is a good one to start with, in part because it gets to the point so quickly. Not only is it the shortest of the four, but also it is the fastest moving of them. It doesn't even include a birth story but opens right away with **John the Baptist** announcing the arrival of the adult **Jesus** on the scene. There is a breathless quality to **Mark's Gospel** – this happened, then this, then this – bang, bang, bang.

For example, in a mere **six** verses from **9-15**, we are told about the baptism of **Jesus** by **John**, **Jesus'** temptations in the wilderness, and then his arrival in **Galilee** after **John** is arrested. There, **Jesus** preaches "*the good news of God.*"

Let's zero in on the last **two** of these verses, for this is where **Mark** gives us the essence of **Jesus'** message – that which he spent his time on earth delivering. "*Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'*" The heart of the good news is not a new idea or a fresh load of guilt or a novel philosophy of life or a new code of behavior. It is a call to respond to **Jesus Christ**. It is a call to commit our lives to following **Jesus** and obeying **God**. For some, this is hard to hear or reflect on, so they walk away.

For many people this doesn't easily connect for us because whatever was meant by the approach of the kingdom of **God 2,000** years ago, it didn't mean the end of human pain, suffering, injustice, or the unfairness of life. Many things have changed since the time of **Jesus**, but the power of evil and greed and self-centeredness have marched on unabated.

But know **two** things: First, that the **fullness** of the kingdom doesn't come until the end of time. And **second**, the kingdom is present in an inward way right now. People who commit their way to **Jesus Christ** experience a sense of joy and peace and hope that often seems not warranted by outward circumstances but which in the realm of the heart and mind – the regions where peace, joy, and hope matter most – the table is set, and we are invited.

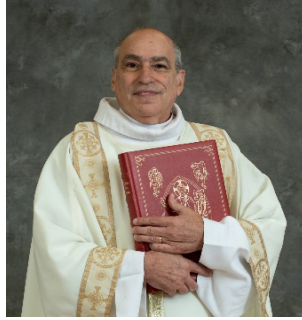
**Saint John the Baptist pray for us!**

**Happy Lent!**  
**Deacon Frank**

Dear **St. John Parishioners**, join me periodically on **St. Brigid of Kildare Parish** livestream. If you missed it, the videos are available at **St. Brigid YouTube channel** and **St. Brigid of Kildare Facebook page**.

**Celebrant for Sunday 9:30 a.m. Mass,  
February 28, 2021  
Stations of the Cross at 10:45 a.m.  
Fr. Mike Lumpe**

**Confessions Heard before Mass  
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.**

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

Sunday, February 21, 2021, 9:30 a.m.	
<b>Lector:</b>	Davide Cugini
<b>Euch. Min.:</b>	Albert Iosue
Sunday, February 28, 2021, 9:30 a.m.	
<b>Lector:</b>	Ed Pagnanelli
<b>Euch. Min.:</b>	Andrea Myers

**PARISH INFORMATION**

**The Italian Catholic Community at St. John the Baptist  
Corner of E. Lincoln and Hamlet Streets  
Church Mailing Address: 168 E. Lincoln Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215**

**(614) 294-5319 • Fax: (614) 294-4303**

**Livestream our 9:30 Sunday Mass on our St. John the Baptist Facebook page by visiting our website  
www.sjbitaliana.com**

**Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday  
Website: info@sjbitaliana.org**

**Deacon Frank Iannarino – Administrator**  
**Msgr. John Cody – Weekend Assistant**  
**Father Charles Klinger – Weekend Assistant**  
**Father Charles Cotton – Weekend Assistant**  
**Father Antonio Kim – Chaplain, Korean Catholic Community**  
**Ms. Aggie Howard – Executive Assistant**  
**Ms. Victoria Gammell – Secretary and Bulletin Editor**  
**Mrs. Gina Bishop – Director of Liturgy**  
**Mr. John Huffman – Organist and Musical consultant**

**Holy Sacrifice of the Mass – 9:30 a.m. each Sunday**  
**Sacrament of Penance – 9:00 a.m. (before Sunday Mass or by appointment)**

**Sacrament of Baptism and Baptism preparation (by appointment)**

**Sacrament of Matrimony (you must be registered at Saint John at least 6 months prior to scheduling your wedding by Deacon or Priest)**

**Sacrament of Confirmation and Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults (please make an appointment with Parish Administrator)**

**Saint John Italian Festival (please visit our website for more information)**

**Sala Hall and Marrapese Hall (scheduled with approval of Parish Administrator)**

**Bulletin Deadline: Announcements must be submitted in writing by Tuesday at noon.**

**MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Sun. 2/21	9:30 a.m.	<b>Joe Pishitelli</b> by Sos & Lee Ann Codispoti
Sun. 2/21	9:30 a.m.	<b>Capt. David Spellacy</b> by Mary Spellacy & Family
Sun. 2/28	9:30 a.m.	<b>Robert W. Contino, Sr.</b> by Teresa & Jim McCoy
Sun. 2/28	9:30 a.m.	<b>Matthew Mongolier</b> by Kara Cugini

**Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:**

**Marian Lights: Monica & Carl Ventresca**  
by Carol Ventresca  
**Blessed Sacrament: Daniel Spellacy**  
by Mary Spellacy and Family

**EVENTS THIS WEEK**

Sun. 2/21	KCC Mass, Fr. Kim, 12:00 Noon, Meeting after Mass in Sala Hall Secular Franciscan Meeting (Marrapese Hall), 12:00-5:00 p.m.
Fri. 2/26	KCC Mass, Fr. Kim, 7:00 p.m., SJB Church

**NEIGHBORHOOD PARISH REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE**

Catholic Churches	Saturday	Sunday
St. Patrick's	7:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart Church	4:00 p.m.	11:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Cathedral	5:15 p.m.	8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5:15 p.m.
St. Mary Mother of God GV	4:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
St. Francis Assisi	No Mass	9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

**2021 Liturgical Calendar & Mass Readings**

February 21 – *First Sunday of Lent*  
Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

February 22 – *The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle*  
1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19

February 23 – *Lenten Weekday*  
Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr  
Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15

February 24 – *Lenten Wednesday*  
Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32

February 25 – *Lenten Weekday*  
Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12

February 26 – *Lenten Weekday*  
Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26

February 27 – *Lenten Weekday*  
Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48

February 28 – *Second Sunday of Lent*  
Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Rom 8:31b-34/Mt 9:2-10

*\*Pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated religious life.*

**PLEASE REMEMBER OUR KNOWN ILL AND ELDERLY IN YOUR PRAYERS\*\***

*\*\*If you know of any additions or corrections, please call the parish office. Due to privacy laws, we depend on your input. For Vienna D'Alberto, who is residing at the Worthington Christian Village. Also, keep in your prayers Maria Lucchin, Laura Williams, and James Graf.*

**The Rosary before Mass on Sunday:** We begin the Rosary around 9:00-9:05 a.m., and it takes about 15-20 minutes to pray the Rosary. We need a volunteer to help schedule the Rosary for each month. At the present time, no one has signed up to lead the Rosary. If you would like to volunteer to lead the Rosary, please contact the office at 614-294-5319 for more information so we can put a schedule together and post in the bulletin. Thank you!

**PAVERS:** The front Pavilion of St. John's Church is covered with Pavers. These Pavers are available for purchase and engraving in remembrance of family members and loved ones. For more information, please call the office of St. John's at 614-294-5319.



**New Daily Mass and Confession opportunity:** Sacred Heart Parish, located at 893 Hamlet St. Columbus, is offering daily Mass, Monday through Thursday at 8 p.m. each week. Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with the sacrament of confession available will precede the daily Mass at 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. during Lent.

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN**

February 14, 2021

Number of Envelopes Used Sunday

Env.:	\$ 2,228.00
Loose:	\$ 88.00
Total:	\$ 2,316.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment	\$ (138.96)
	\$ 2,177.04
Votive:	\$ 28.00
Black & Indian Missions:	\$ 10.00
JOIN (Ash Wed):	\$ 60.00
St. Anthony Bread:	\$ 12.00
50/50 Drawing:	\$ 20.00
Total:	\$ 130.00

**?? ? ? HOW IS ST. JOHN DOING? ? ? ? ?**

Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/20-6/30/21)

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Week:	\$ 2,885.00	\$ 2,316.00	(\$ 569.00)	-20%
FYTD:	\$95,205.00	\$87,102.65	(\$8,102.35)	-9%

**SJB Collection Counters for Monday, February 22, 2021**

Linda McCreary and Aggie Howard

**SJB Collection Counters for Monday, March 01, 2021**

Ed Pagnanelli and Aggie Howard

**50/50 Drawing:** Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Roger Myers, winners of the 50/50 Drawing in January. Thank you for your support!

**The Catholic Times:** Thank you to all new and returning readers of *The Catholic Times* online and in print. It's not too late to subscribe for the upcoming year for a minimum donation of \$17.00. Sign up online at [columbuscatholic.org/catholic-times](http://columbuscatholic.org/catholic-times) under the subscription payments tab. You may also use the envelope provided in your February packet, or simply write your name and *The Catholic Times* on a plain envelope, make your check payable to the Diocese of Columbus – *Catholic Times* and drop it into the collection basket. Another option is to mail your \$17.00 check payable to Diocese of Columbus – *Catholic Times* to our office at 197 E. Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. You'll find *The Catholic Times* very useful to keep up on all of the news throughout the diocese and the Catholic Church.

**St. John the Baptist Italian Catholic Church** announces the 2021 Father Casto Marrapese Scholarship Program. If you are a high school senior student of Italian descent, attending Central Ohio High School, and accepted to an accredited two or four-year College or University in the U.S. for the 2021-2022 academic years, you are encouraged to apply for this scholarship opportunity. Application information has been sent to Central Ohio high school guidance counseling offices. Application information has been posted on Saint John's website [www.info@sjbitaliana.com](http://www.info@sjbitaliana.com). All application materials (application form, activity listing, personal recommendation letter, school recommendation and transcript, and personal essay) must be received at St. John's no later than 2:00 p.m., Monday, April 5, 2021. For information, call St. John the Baptist Catholic Italian Church at 614-294-5319.

### The Disciple Maker Index Survey is Open this Week!

It's official! The **Disciple Maker Index Survey** opens this week and we need your help!

Please help us participate by completing a 10-15-minute survey as soon as possible. You will find a hard copy of the survey in today's bulletin. The survey will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide feedback on our parish's efforts to help you grow. All responses will be confidential, and the parish will only receive information about the community. We will share with you a bit closer to the launch of the survey. The survey can be accessed online through our website: [www.sjbitaliana.com](http://www.sjbitaliana.com) from **February 17, 2021 through March 21, 2021**. There you will find a printable version of the PDF file **The Disciple Maker Index** survey or link <https://www.catholicleaders.org/columbusdmi>.

We are trying to get the highest response rate possible. This information will be invaluable to **Deacon Frank Iannarino** and our various ministries as we plan and strive to be the best disciples we can be. We will receive the results this spring/summer at which time we will share what we have learned with the entire parish.

To submit the completed paper survey, please drop off in the **Collection Basket**. To make special arrangements for getting a paper copy of the survey, please contact **Victoria Gammell or Aggie Howard at 614-294-5319**.

Thank you for helping with this important project!

**Answering COVID Vaccine Concerns: The Catholic Perspective:** There are many questions regarding the COVID vaccine. The **Columbus Diocese** recommends the following websites for guidance:

1. **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB):** <https://www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines>
2. **The National Catholic Bioethics Center:** <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e3ada1a6a2e8d6a131d1dcd/t/5fd3ce39e679895094dd1e49/1607716409962/NCBCVaccineStatementFINAL.pdf>
3. **The Ohio Catholic Conference:** <https://www.ohiocathconf.org/Portals/1/Bishop%20Statements/Ohio-Bishops-vaccine.pdf?ver=y7OHNpTaGQcG9qd-MaKqhQ%3d%3d>, Making Sense of Bioethics <https://columbuscatholic.org/making-sense-out-of-bionetics>

## AROUND US

**Liturgical Calendar:** The month of **February** is dedicated to the **Holy Family**. This year the first **16 days** of **February** fall during the liturgical season known as **Ordinary Time**, which is represented by the liturgical color green. **Green**, the symbol of hope, is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. The remaining days of **February** are the beginning of **Lent**. The liturgical color changes to purple – a symbol of penance, mortification, and the sorrow of a contrite heart.

**The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of February 2021:** We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

**Diocese to begin 40 Days of Adoration on Ash Wednesday:** Bishop Robert Brennan calls upon the **Diocese of Columbus** to celebrate **Jesus Christ's Real Presence in Eucharist** in a special way this **Lent**. Starting on **Ash Wednesday, February 17**, the diocese will launch **40 Days of Adoration**. Every day for **40 days**, a different parish throughout the diocese will host **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration** throughout the day. Go to our website: [www.sjbitaliana.com](http://www.sjbitaliana.com).

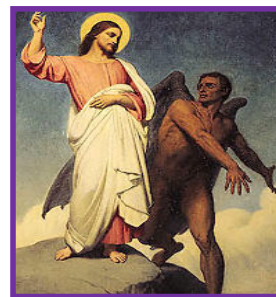
**US Church Regulations Regarding Fasting and Abstinence During Lent:** Abstinence from meat (beast or fowl) is to be observed by all **Catholics** fourteen years and older on **Ash Wednesday** and on all **Fridays of Lent**. This obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat. The law of fasting on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** applies to all **Catholics** from age 18 through age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. Those who are ill or pregnant may be dispensed from their obligation.

**It's Fish Fry Time:** One of the great parts of **Lent** is the return of that wonderful **Catholic** institution, the **Friday Fish Fry**. **COVID** has allowed many parishes to move to carry out only. But the fish is still excellent, and you do not have to cook! Please go to [columbuscatholic.org](http://columbuscatholic.org) for a complete list of the **Fish Fries** being offered throughout the **Columbus** area during **Lent**.

**Spring Clean Up: St. Joseph, Resurrection, Holy Cross and Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemeteries** will begin removing wintertime decorations beginning **March 1st**, weather permitting. Families are advised to remove any personal keepsakes they wish to retain as soon as possible.

"Lent is a time of **Grace**. A time to convert and live out our **Baptism** fully."

~ Pope Francis



### Prayer

*Heavenly Father, through the intercession of **Saint Josephine Bakhita**, grant us a poor and simple heart, like that of **Mary** and of your **Son** who became poor for the love of us. Imitating Him, let us place our confidence not in riches, but in your love and embrace.*

Through **Christ Our Lord**.

**Amen.**

## Sunday, Feb 21, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### Doing the rite thing

Today, some of our neighbors are going to make a countercultural choice. They're going to sign the Book of the Elect, signaling their decision to be baptized, confirmed, and to receive First Eucharist at this year's Easter Vigil. These Elect have been studying for months or years to embrace the life of the church. Why would anyone make this choice in the 21st century? For some, it may have begun as intellectual curiosity. For others, it's a journey of the heart. For all, it's what they've seen in folks like us that make Catholic Christianity an inspiring choice. Let's help keep the inspiration going!

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15 (23). *"The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

## Monday, Feb 22, 2021

FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF PETER, APOSTLE

### Recognize the chair

Jesus loved us so much that he entrusted us to someone he trusted deeply. In fact, in the Gospel of John, Jesus asked Peter three times if his devotion was assured. He named him "rock" so he would be a solid foundation upon which to build the church, and for 2,000 years Peter's successors have had the responsibility of tending his sheep. Today we celebrate the seat of the pope's authority as Christ's representative on Earth, the protector Jesus wanted for his flock. Ask the Holy Spirit to always guide the one who sits in Peter's chair.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19 (535). *"I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven."*

## Tuesday, Feb 23, 2021

MEMORIAL OF POLYCARP, BISHOP, MARTYR

### Words to live forever by

Polycarp's death in 155 is one of the first accounts of Christian martyrdom in a public arena. The elderly bishop was resolute and serene even as he was burned and stabbed before a frenzied crowd. Included in the accounts is the two hours of prayer Polycarp began upon his arrest, so powerful it unnerved his Roman guards. But Polycarp was also an Apostolic Father, specifically a disciple of Saint John the Evangelist. Thus, he had firsthand knowledge of John's words from Jesus: "Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15 (225). *"Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*

## Wednesday, Feb 24, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

### A good day to make amends

We are one week into this Lenten season, so perhaps it is time to have a conversation with our Lord. Imagine you are walking with Jesus, side by side, and he asks you, "Is there any person you think of who you have hurt or judged, or any action that comes to mind that you know was wrong? Anything you repent?" You take a moment, and standing next to him, you feel his love for you. Regret and sorrow arise as you admit the mistakes that come to mind. You ask for the grace to make amends in whatever way possible. Find a way today to make something right.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32 (226). *"At the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here."*

## Thursday, Feb 25, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

### Has prayer moved you?

It is tempting to think about prayer in a transactional way: I ask, therefore God gives. Today's gospel may even appear to encourage this form of thought: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find." But Catholic teaching urges us to see God's response to prayer broadly. Pope Francis explains: "Prayer always transforms reality: if things around us do not change, at least our hearts are changed. Jesus promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to every man and woman who prays." If you have a prayer that seems unanswered, consider how your heart was moved by the mere act of praying.

TODAY'S READINGS: Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12 (227). *"For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds."*

## Friday, Feb 26, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

### The low rumble within

Anger is one of our human "passions," the Catechism of the Catholic Church instructs, neither good nor bad in and of itself. Anger can provide us with helpful information that we feel wronged by someone or something. It may be intense or a low rumble within. Lent is an opportunity to become still, listen to our anger, and examine its source. How might we invite God into these rough spaces for healing? Desiring healing does not disregard hurt or suffering; rather we seek to "unhook" from anger to live in peace. Unhooking might mean talking with a loved one who hurt us. It might mean protesting against injustice. It might mean forgiving ourselves. What might be rumbling within your heart?

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26 (228). *"Go first and be reconciled."*

## Saturday, Feb 27, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time*



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