A religious painting of Jesus Christ with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a light blue tunic and a dark blue cloak. He has a glowing heart with a cross on it. His right hand is raised in a gesture of blessing, and his left hand is resting on his chest. The background is a soft, golden light.

February 19, 2023
Seventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time

But I say to you,
**love your
enemies,**
and pray for those
who persecute you.

Matthew 5:44

The Italian Catholic Community at
St. John the Baptist Church

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There is a story from the life of **Abraham Lincoln**:

When **Abraham Lincoln** was running for president of the **United States**, there was a man called **Stanton**, who never lost an opportunity to vilify him.

Yet when **Lincoln** won the election, he gave **Stanton** a post in his cabinet. Why? Because he considered him the best person for the job. **Lincoln** was proved right. **Stanton** gave him loyal service. Asked why he didn't destroy his enemies, **Lincoln** replied: "**Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?**"

In today's **Gospel** passage from **Jesus' Sermon on the Mount**, **Jesus** continues His demand for higher holiness, a more sacred sanctity, a great goodness, than the **Old Law** demanded. The **Old Law** defined justice. It limited vengeance to what was just and equal: "**An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth,**" no more. But **Jesus' New Law** not only goes much farther, from justice into mercy, forgiveness, kindness, and compassion but is different in principle.

Jesus' radical new lifestyle is based on a radically new principle: **LOVE**, unselfish love.

And this **LOVE** is radical because it is for all, for enemies as well as friends. And is for all because it is a participation in the love that **God** has for all. And we know this love, the love that is the very nature of **God**, because of **Jesus Christ**, who is the complete and perfect image of **God**: like a **Father**, like a **Son**. He loved His enemies, who hated Him and tortured Him and killed Him. He loved them so much that He died for them. And as we call ourselves: **Christians**, **Christ** bearers, **Christ** followers, **Christ** disciples, we must all learn to imitate Him.

"So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."

This is nothing less than the whole meaning of our **Christian** spiritual life. As we are loved by **God**, so love one another, keep smiling, be positive...

Fr. Andrew

The **Mass** is available on **St. John's Facebook** page or **YouTube** channel, **Saint John the Baptist, Cbus**. Go to our website: www.sjbitaliana.com under **Livestream Mass**.

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

MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday 2/19	9:30 a.m.	+ Thomas Rego by Pam & Don Kutsick
Monday 2/20		NO MASS
Tuesday 2/21	9:00 a.m.	+ Roseanne Susi-Fuller by Louise Masdea
Wednesday 2/22	5:00 p.m.	Living and Deceased Members of St. John the Baptist
Sunday 2/26	9:30 a.m.	+ Karen Mikalonis by Heininger Family
Sunday 2/26	11:00 a.m. at SH	+ Joe Pishitelli by Judy & Phillip Pishitelli
Monday 2/27	9:00 a.m.	+ Phyllis N. Militello by Angela Capoccia
Tuesday 2/28	6:00 p.m.	+ Jim Behal by Linda & Sam McCreary

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Sunday	February 19, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Kurt Heininger, Gretchen Heininger
Euch. Min 1 & 2.:	Ed Pagnanelli, Al Iosue
Sunday	February 26, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Valerie Milano, Andrea Myers
Euch. Min 1 & 2:	Nick Sciarretti, Pat Rossetti

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 or YouTube channel, Saint John the Baptist, Columbus, by visiting our website www.sjbitaliana.com.

Office Hours: are from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Office will be closed Monday, February 20, 2023, in observation of President's Day. Hours will resume

Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Email: info@sjbitaliana.org

Father Andrew Kozminski, SAC – Administrator/Rector

Father Antonio Kim – Chaplain, Korean Catholic Community

Ms. Aggie Howard – Executive Assistant

Ms. Victoria Scruggs – Secretary and Bulletin Editor

Ms. Gina Bishop – Director of Liturgy

Mr. John Huffman – Organist and Musical consultant

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass – 9:30 a.m. each Sunday
9:00 a.m. Mondays & Tuesdays

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.*

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, Laura Williams, Guy Williams, John Contino and Tony Caradonna.**

Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:Marian Lights: **Joyce Tisone**

by Carl Tisone

Blessed Sacrament: **John Consolo & Family**

by Gianantonio & Family

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. If you would like information on how to lead the Rosary, please contact Kevin Koesters 937-902-7446 or via email k.koesters32@gmail.com. Leaders for February and March are:

February 19 Need someone to sign up.

February 26 Gary Bosco

March 5 Maureen Iosue

March 12 Gary Bosco

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 22, 2023

St. John the Baptist – Mass and Distribution of Ashes at 5:00 p.m.

Simple Supper after Mass in Marrapese Hall

Sacred Heart – Mass 10:00 a.m. and Distribution of Ashes at 7:00 p.m.

Korean Catholic Community – 7:00 p.m. Services

SIMPLE SUPPER

St. John the Baptist – following the 6:00 pm Mass every Tuesday through Lent in Marrapese Hall

ADORATION and STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Sacred Heart – Adoration after 6:00 p.m. Mass every Thursday through Lent for 30 minutes after Mass until 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross after 6:00 p.m. Mass every Friday through Lent

EVENTS THIS WEEK

2/19 Sunday	SJB Mass – Fr. Andrew Kozminski 9:30 a.m. – SJB Church KCC Religious Education – Italian Cultural Room 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. KCC Meeting – Marrapese Hall 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. KCC Mass – Fr. Kim – SJB Church 12:00 Noon-3:00 p.m. – Meeting in Sala Hall
2/20 Monday	SJB – NO Mass NO Rotary Club Luncheon PRESIDENT'S DAY – OFFICE CLOSED
2/21 Tuesday	SJB – Mass – Fr. Andrew Kozminski 9:00 a.m. – SJB Church
2/22 Wednesday	SJB -Ash Wednesday Mass at 5:00 p.m. and Simple Supper will immediately follow in Marrapese Hall
2/23 Thursday	Sacred Heart Young Professionals Meeting – Fr. Kozminski 7:00-8:30 p.m. Italian Cultural Room
2/24 Friday	KCC Mass – Fr. Kim 6:00 p.m. SJB Church
	Altar Guild Reminder – Every 2nd Sunday of the Month – Marrapese Hall at 10:45 a.m.
	Le Donne Group Meetings are the last Sunday of each month after Mass in Marrapese Hall

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

February 12, 2023

Number of Envelopes used Sunday 32

Reg. Env:	\$ 1,400.00
Loose:	\$ 278.00
Total	\$ 1,678.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment	\$ -(100.68)
	\$ 1,577.32
Votives	\$ 79.00
Total	\$ 79.00

? ? ? ? ? **HOW IS ST. JOHN'S DOING?** ? ? ? ?**Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (07/01/22 – 06/30/23)**

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Wk.:	\$2,885.00	\$1,678.00	-\$1,207.00	-42%
FYTD:	\$95,205.00	\$91,147.27	-\$4,057.73	-4%

SJB Collection Counters for Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Ed Pagnanelli and Aggie Howard

SJB Collection Counters for Monday, February 27, 2023

Ed Pagnanelli and Aggie Howard

LENTON SIMPLE SUPPERS are returning to St. John's this year! The Altar Guild is organizing the Simple Suppers during Lent. A donation of \$10.00/person includes Soup, Salad, Rolls & Butter. All proceeds will go directly to the Pallotine Missionary Foundation Salvatti helping Ukraine. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, Mass will be at 5:00 p.m. and Simple Supper will immediately follow in Marrapese Hall. The following five Tuesdays through Lent, Mass will be at 6:00 p.m. and Simple Supper will immediately follow in Marrapese Hall. There will be no Simple Supper during Holy Week.

The sponsoring groups and dates for the Simple Suppers:
Wednesday, February 22 – The Columbus Italian Festival Executive Board

Tuesday, February 28 – Le Donne

Tuesday, March 7 – The Piave Club

Tuesday, March 14 – St. John's Altar Guild

Tuesday, March 21 – Sacred Heart

Tuesday, March 28 – The Abruzzi Club

FESTA DI SAN GUISEPPE/ST. JOSEPH'S DAY CELEBRATION

BREAKFAST: This year's Festa di San Guiseppe Breakfast will be Sunday, March 19, 2023, after the 9:30 a.m. Mass. The Altar Guild is sponsoring this event and will be selling tickets after Mass each Sunday. Tickets are \$12.00/person (children 6 and under are free). All tickets **MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE!** The menu includes scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, fresh fruit, juice, coffee and of course St. Joseph's Table. Please bring a tray of cookies to share and be blessed as part of this year's St. Joseph's Table.

Parli Italiano? Have you ever wanted to learn to speak Italian?

Here's your opportunity! Join us on Sunday mornings from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Italian Cultural Center Marrapese Hall for Italian language classes, taught by our very own Maria Lucchin! The session consists of eight classes starting February 26 through May 7 (no classes on 3/19, 4/2, and 4/9). These are basic conversational Italian language classes for adults, 18 years and older. Price is determined by the number of students. Limited seating is available. To sign up, contact Ida Shook at shook4@gmail.com or 513-314-5047 or Tania Wade at t.wade73@gmail.com or 614-562-7468. Come learn the bella lingua Italiana... **Ciao!**



Requiescat in pace! In the charity of your prayers, please remember the family and friends of: **Ruth Bianco** who passed away last week. **May she Rest in Peace** with the **Risen Lord!**

Applications available for the Father Casto Marrapese Scholarship Program – deadline Monday, April 3, 2023

St. John the Baptist Italian Catholic Church announces the **2023 Father Casto Marrapese Scholarship Program**. If you are a high school senior student of **Italian** descent, attending a central **Ohio** high school and accepted to an accredited **two** or **four-year College** or university in the **U.S.** for the **2023-2024** academic years, you are encouraged to apply for this scholarship opportunity. Application information has been posted on **Saint John's website** at www.info@sjbitaliana.com and has also been sent to central **Ohio** high school guidance counseling offices. 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 3, 2023**. For information, call **St. John the Baptist Catholic Italian Church** at **614-294-5319**.

Greetings from The Church-Budget Envelope and Mailing Company: Some of you may be aware of delays in the offering envelope mailings over the past couple of months. Due to supply chain and the inability to add employees at the rate necessary has created a slow draw on production and shipping. Recently, both of those issues have been resolved. However, the "catchup" would jeopardize long-term delivery. To get back to expected levels of timely deliveries, we are forced to suspend the production of the remaining supply of your **February** envelopes. The offering envelopes will resume and be delivered by the first **Sunday** in **March**. Quarterly supply will restart in **April**. Never in our company's history have we had to skip scheduled mailings and we are doing all we can to make sure this never happens again. We deeply apologize for this necessary course of action and the inconveniences this has caused you and your church family. **In the meantime, please put your envelope number on a regular envelope and put in the collection. If you don't know your envelope number, contact the parish office at 614-294-5319. We appreciate your understanding.**
The Church – Budget Envelope and Mailing Company Management Team

😊 Smile Break 😊

Q: What days are the strongest?

A: Saturday & Sunday. The rest are weak days.

Proverbs 15:15: "For the despondent, every day brings trouble; for the happy heart, life is a continual feast."


AROUND US

Liturgical Calendar: The month of **February** is dedicated to the **Holy Family**. The special devotion which proposes the **Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph** as the model of virtue of all **Christian** households began in the **17th century**. The **first 3 and a half weeks of February** fall during the liturgical season known as **Ordinary Time** which is represented by the liturgical color green. The remaining days of **February** are the beginning of **Lent**. The liturgical color changes to violet or purple.

The Holy Father's Intention for the Month of February 2023:
For Parishes: We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

Ash Wednesday: February 22: At the beginning of **Lent**, on **Ash Wednesday**, ashes are blessed during **Mass**, after the homily. The blessed ashes are then **"imposed"** on the faithful as a sign of conversion, penance, fasting and human mortality. The ashes are made from the palms used at the previous **Passion Sunday** ceremonies.

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. The Fish Fry is a chance to not only make a personal sacrifice, but also strengthen your bond with your spiritual community by joining other Catholics at these weekly gatherings.

Please go to columbuscatholic.org for a complete schedule of the Fish Fries being offered throughout the Columbus area during Lent.

Today's Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48: In today's **Gospel**, **Jesus** calls us to a higher love. **Jesus** calls us to forgive and love our enemies! Clearly this is no small task. **Saint Francis de Sales** stresses that perhaps the best way to be instruments of **God's** merciful, forgiving love is to first accept that same divine merciful and forgiving love ourselves. Truly in no way must we lose heart. For even though we are weak, our weakness is not nearly as great as **God's** mercy toward us. In all good faith, try to do all for **God**. It is **God's** merciful love that constantly transforms us, so let us do what we can. First thing in the morning, prepare your heart to be at peace. Then take great care throughout the day to frequently call your heart back to that peace. And as it were, take your heart in your hand. If you happen to do something that you regret, do not be astonished or upset. Acknowledge your failing. Quietly place yourself before **God** and try to regain your gentle composure. Say to your soul: **"There we have made a mistake, but let's go on now and be more careful."** Each time you fall do the same. When you are inwardly peaceful, don't miss an opportunity to perform as many acts of gentleness as you can—and as frequently as you can—no matter how small these acts may seem. For as Our **Lord** says, **"To the person who is faithful in little things, greater ones will be given."** ~ oblates.com

"Love not only means that we wish others well or that we are good to others, but first and foremost, at the root, that we welcome others, make room for others, make space for others." @Pontifex



Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to You. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen

Sunday, Feb 19, 2023**Kindness and care, from beginning to end**

Sometimes you have to do things for yourself. Mathilda Beasley (1833-1903), of Creole and Native American parents, founded a Franciscan community of color in Savannah with little help from normal church channels. Her sisters cared for orphaned black children, continuing the work until things ran out: money, housing, and the health of Mother Beasley. Though the community was suppressed, Mother Beasley was the third founder of an order of black sisters in the United States, after Elizabeth Lange and Henriette Delille. God measures our efforts, not our success.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48 (79). *"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God."*

Monday, Feb 20, 2023**Either part of the problem, or . . .**

Imagine being a lifelong Catholic—yet being refused admittance to a Catholic school. Or being asked to move to the back of the church at Mass because of your race. Professor Thomas Wyatt Turner (1877-1978) experienced plenty of discrimination, which is why he helped found the NAACP in 1909 as well as the Federated Colored Catholics in 1924. The latter group pledged their services to the church "for whatever good they were able to effect in the solution of the problems facing the group in church and country." On this World Day of Social Justice, be part of the solution.

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 1:1-10; Mark 9:14-29 (341). *"Why could we not drive the spirit out?" [Jesus] said to them, 'This kind can only come out through prayer.'*"

Tuesday, Feb 21, 2023**Climb to holiness**

Dante Alighieri, writing *The Divine Comedy*, paid Peter Damian the great honor of placing him in one of the highest circles of Paradise. In fact, Peter is the first of two important monastic figures to greet Dante in "seventh heaven," the other being Saint Benedict of Nursia. Both represent this heavenly level: spiritual contemplatives who've lived a life of temperance and prayer. Dante has Peter and Benedict climbing up and down a golden ladder, reminiscent of the "Ladder of Humility" (12 steps) described in the Benedictine Rule and the "Ladder of Divine Ascent" (30 steps) written by monastic Saint John Climacus. If you need to build a Lenten practice, step up to the task tomorrow.

MEMORIAL OF PETER DAMIAN, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 2:1-11; Mark 9:30-37 (342). *"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."*

Wednesday, Feb 22, 2023**Out of the ashes**

Happy Ash Wednesday! Yes, it can be a cause for celebration. Best known as the first day of Lent, this day remains sacred to Catholic communities in the West as a day of solemnity following the Carnival season, capped off yesterday with Mardi Gras ("Fat Tuesday"). Though most often associated with revelry and excess, the season just completed is also a holy one. Carnival is full of Catholic symbolism and festive acknowledgement of God and creation, in keeping with the church year and its marking of spiritual times and seasons. Now, as we enter a period of fasting and abstinence, let's remember to continue seeking God's

goodness in the rich traditions of the faith. Don't forget to stop by church for ashes today!

ASH WEDNESDAY; DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

TODAY'S READINGS: Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 (219). *"For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him."*

Thursday, Feb 23, 2023**Emulate those who stood firm**

Polycarp was a bishop, and his death the church's first recorded martyrdom. He was born in 69, just a few years after Peter and Paul were executed, and Roman authorities burned him to death after what one account calls a "witty conversation" between Polycarp and Statius Quadratus, Roman proconsul. Polycarp became one of what would turn out to be a flood of Christians who have been put to death, and continue to be so, for not renouncing their faith. Sometimes "not renouncing" means publicly living Christian ethics against pressure; sometimes it means stating one's belief in words. Strive to be a courageous witness for faith, as those who came before us have been.

MEMORIAL OF POLYCARP, BISHOP, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25 (220). *"What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself?"*

Friday, Feb 24, 2023**Fast approaching**

The practice of fasting during Lent finds its genesis in our Lord's journey into the desert where he fasted and prayed for 40 days and nights in preparation to begin his public ministry (Matthew 4:1-2; Luke 4:1-3). We observe the 40 days of Lent in imitation of Christ's time in the desert. We walk into the desert with Christ and fast so as to have the strength to do good and avoid evil, with the help of God's grace. We strive to atone for our sins and purify our lives in preparation for the celebration of Christ's glorious rising from the tomb.

FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15 (221). *"This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: . . . Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own."*

Saturday, Feb 25, 2023**What's on your bookshelf?**

It is often said that Lent is a time to take spiritual inventory and do a "spring cleanup" as we renew our baptismal promises. The conjunction of Lent with Black History Month and Catholic Press Month affords us an unprecedented opportunity to take spiritual inventory of our bookshelves, too! What books do we have from the black Catholic community that can enrich us, expand our spiritual horizons, and even challenge us? This Lent, consider picking up *Uncommon Faithfulness: The Black Catholic Experience* (2009) or *Black Catholic Studies Reader: History and Theology* (2021). Make one of these books or a similar one part of your Lenten renewal.

SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32 (222). *"Then the LORD will guide you always and give you plenty even on the parched land."*

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



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