

Community Notes

News of the Community of St. John Baptist

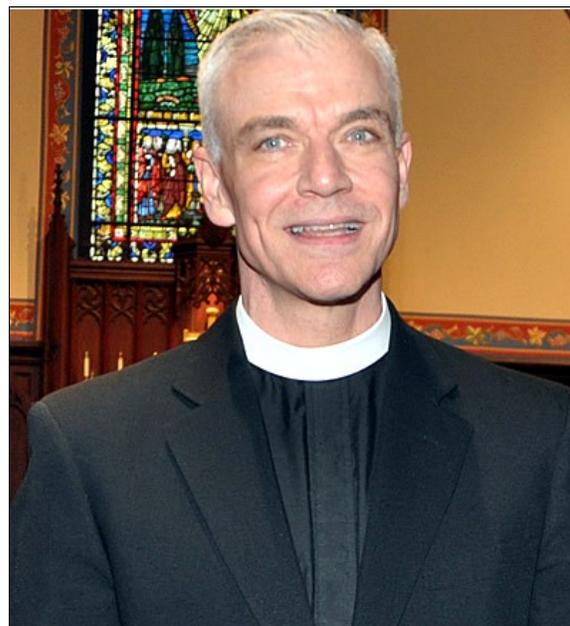
Vol. XX, No. 3

Winter 2018-19



**The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes,
Bishop of Newark,
Visits the Community**

**The Rev. John Beddingfield
is Installed as
Community Pastor**



Also Featured: News of the Sisters, Recent Events, Calendar, and Pets!

Box 240, Mendham, NJ 07945 www.csjb.org - csjb@csjb.org

Upcoming Events



Being Christian

In an Inter-religious Era

3rd Saturdays February thru May, with Robert Corin Morris. Nurture your spiritual journey with a year of prayer, study and community. Tuition \$1300 includes lunch and one retreat. **Register:** information@interweave.org or 908-277-2120.



Cultivating Compassion

"A Multi-Faith Conversation" Sunday, March 3, 2:00-4:00pm at the Retreat House. Facilitators: Sr. Eleanor Francis, Rabbi Debra Smith, Dr. Shabiha Sheik. Contact Sr. Eleanor Francis sref@csjb.org or 973-543-4641 ext. 3



Dances of Universal Peace

Sunday, March 10 & June 15, 2-4 pm - Harmony and Healing in Movement. In the Convent Main Chapel. Rejuvenate your spirit and open your heart with sacred circle dancing and joyous group singing honoring the world's mystical traditions. 908-277-2120 or www.interweave.org



Forgiveness:

What It Is and What It Isn't:

A Retreat with Barbara Crafton, Priest, Author and Spiritual Director. Saturday, April 6, 9:30-3:00pm. Retreat presentation by the Rev. Barbara Crafton. All are welcome. Contact Sr. Eleanor Francis sref@csjb.org or 973-543-4641 ext. 3



A Meditative Day

Experience the Stations of the Cross in Art

Saturday, April 13, 2019, 9.30-3:00 pm. A quiet day, leading us into Holy Week: Meditations on the Stations of the Cross. Conducted by Eileen Kennedy, artist and Associate. \$50 includes lunch. Contact sr-pamela@csjb.org or 973-543-4641, ext. 9.

Remember the Community of St. John Baptist ✠

Planned giving is the means by which persons may make use of their resources by supporting the Community through **Bequests, Life Income gifts, Life Insurance, A Life Estate, or Appreciated Property.** Income from an Endowment Fund will be available for programs of retreat, worship, education, or special projects, as well as the future support of the Sisters. Contact: office@csjb.org or 973-543-4641 ext. 0

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes, Bishop of Newark, Visits the Community

Our new Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Carlye J Hughes, paid a visit to the Convent on November 20. Bishop Carlye was consecrated last September 22, as the eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of Newark. It was an honor to have her with us.

Originally from Fort Worth, Texas, Bishop Carlye was ordained to the priesthood in 2005 and served two parishes in the Diocese of New York before returning home to serve as Rector of Trinity Church, Fort Worth. She holds a bachelor's degree in drama from the University of Texas and a master of divinity degree from Virginia Theological Seminary.

Bishop Carlye is the first woman and the first African American to serve as Bishop of the Diocese of Newark. We look forward to working with her in the coming years.



The Rev. John Beddingfield Installed as Community Pastor

On December 6, the Rev. John Beddingfield was installed as Community Pastor. The position of Community Pastor includes ministry to the Sisters and liturgical leadership at Community functions. Father Beddingfield is Rector of the Church of the Holy Trinity in New York City. Previously, he worked with the Sisters at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in New York. Last fall he led our Associates' Retreat.

Originally from North Carolina, Fr. Beddingfield was a minister in the Presbyterian Church until 2003, when he was ordained as an Episcopal priest in the Diocese of New York. In 2014 he completed a Doctor of Ministry in congregational development from Virginia Theological Seminary.

Fr. Beddingfield is a Third Order Franciscan and serves as Convener for the New York City Fellowship of TSSF. He also serves on the board of trustees of Sr. Hilda and St. Hugh School in New York.



Fr. John Beddingfield and Erwin DeLeon

The Rt. Rev. Mary Glasspool Visits the Convent



The Rt. Rev. Mary Glasspool, Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of New York, came to the Convent for Noonday Prayer, lunch and a tour on October 17, at the invitation of Sr. Eleanor Francis.

Bishop Mary came to the Diocese of New York from Los Angeles in 2015, and serves as assistant to the Bishop of New York, the Rt. Rev. Andrew Dietsche. She is a graduate of the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Prior to her consecration, she served parishes in Philadelphia, Boston, and Annapolis. She was elected Bishop in the Diocese of Los Angeles in 2009.

Bishop Mary Glasspool and Sr. Eleanor Francis

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Daytop Holiday Brunch

Each year in mid-December, the Daytop Choir gives two performances of holiday music, one for the families of the residents and the other for friends of Daytop. This program includes not only music, but also life stories presented by current and past residents about the way in which Daytop has changed their lives.

The Daytop program includes a fully accredited high school where the students can continue with the courses that were begun in their schools at home. Seniors who have fulfilled the requirements for graduation may graduate from the high school in their district. Some students attend the County College of Morris.



The Epiphany Party



On Sunday, January 6, about 40 Associates and friends gathered at the Convent to celebrate the shining of Christ's light in the world. Epiphany is a season, which this year will end on March 6, the date of Ash Wednesday.

There are traditionally three Sundays when the revelation of Christ's light in the world is shown in story. The first commemorates the Bethlehem star that guided the three wise men to the stable.

The second tells of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, when he saw the Spirit descend in the form of a dove, and heard the Father saying "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

The third story is Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana, when water was transformed into wine. Let us remember that we also are called to share the light of Christ by bringing peace and love to the world around us.

COMMUNITY NEWS

New Associates Received

Two new Associates, Sun Spriggs and the Rev. Kenneth Bocchino, were received on January 6 at Vespers, before the Epiphany party. We are happy to have both of them as part of our Associate family.

Sun, who serves at the Church of the Redeemer in Morristown, is a spiritual director and Centering Prayer facilitator. She leads Centering Prayer at The Upper Room, a retreat center in Neptune, NJ.

Ken is a Deacon at St. George's Church in Maplewood, where he manages the church's website and list-servs. He also assists the clergy who minister there.



Sun Spriggs and the Rev. Ken Bocchino with Sr. Eleanor Francis

At the present time, the Sisters of St. John Baptist are working in three area parishes. Sr. Barbara Jean has been at St. Mark's in Mendham since 2010, as supply priest and parish member. She conducts services when needed and helps with parish projects.

Sr. Victoria Michelle has served at the Church of the Messiah in Chester for several years, serving on the altar guild, teaching Sunday school and Vacation Bible School, and assisting with mission trips.

Sisters Deborah Francis and Monica Clare are at All Saints Church in Millington, where they attend services and help with the homeless ministry. Sr. Monica Clare sings with the choir.

The Community also participates in activities with the Episcopal Diocese of Newark.



Sr. Barbara Jean performed a baptism at St. Mark's in Mendham on December 30



Sr. Deborah Francis (left) and Sr. Monica Clare chat with a parishioner at All Saints Church, Millington, NJ



Sr. Victoria Michelle and the Rev. Margaret Otterburn, Associate, CSJB, with parishioners at the Church of the Messiah, Chester, NJ

Rescue Work by Our Community in England

Sr. Monica Clare writes: “Sister Victoria and I are so grateful to have been invited to visit our CSJB Sisters in England and to be educated about the crucial work they are doing to fight modern slavery.

We had the privilege of attending the October 18 launch of the new phase of the Clewer Initiative at Lambeth Palace. This latest program seeks to bring awareness of trafficking to schools throughout the UK, and we were astonished to learn how far-reaching and respected the Clewer Initiative has become in only a year of its existence.

On October 19 we had lunch with Bishop Alistair Redfern at the House of Lords and learned more about the Initiative. Needless to say, we instantly became inspired and motivated to bring this vital work to the Episcopal Church in the US. We have already started discussing how to present it to the parishes in which four of us American Sisters are working, and to spread the program throughout our area and beyond.

We heard a presentation from Rachel Carnegie of the Anglican Alliance on October 22 regarding their efforts to stop human slavery throughout the world. We also hope to work with Rachel to present this crucial information to the educational workshops of the American church.

October 23 was a full day. We visited a drop-in center for prostitutes in the Bristol area called One Twentyfive and we saw a house that our English Sisters generously purchased to help this program expand its facilities. We also visited a safe house for former trafficking victims.



Srs. Monica Clare, & Mary Stephen, Carol Wotherspoon, Srs. Anne and Victoria Michelle at the rescue house in Bristol



The Sisters visit a house that is being used by the Clewer Initiative as a safe place for women rescued from the streets

It is so inspiring to see these works being supported by the English Community in the spirit of Mariquita Tennant and of our Mother Foundress Harriet Monsell, who sought all her life to give women strength, dignity and hope.



*Interweave
Presents*

First Sunday Series Cultivating Compassion: A Multi-Faith Conversation

Sunday, March 3, 2-4 pm at the Retreat House

Led by

Sr. Eleanor Francis, Rabbi Debra Smith, and Dr. Shabiah Sheik

**To enroll, contact Sr. Eleanor Francis
sref@csjb.org or 973-543-4641 ext. 3**

Silence

By Paul Hawker, Visitor from Australia

Silence, like sorrow, is a great leveler.

The learned cannot impart their wisdom so the less learned don't feel so dumb.

In silence with others I don't have to 'keep up' with outer conversations, so I can better pay attention to the inner ones.

In silence I don't have to discuss, defend and debate. Instead, I can better hear the inner voice of love.

Silence means those who are verbal and dominate conversations are now as equal as the shy.

Silence peels off the masks I wear, leaves me more open and vulnerable, less judgmental, more accepting.

Silence teaches me to wait - to pray rather than talk, to turn to the Father first, rather than last.

Silence makes me look and listen, see and smell - to pay attention to what is going on around me, rather than thinking of what next to say, where next to be, what next to do

Silence imparts reverence and peacefulness. It is infectious. Our tranquility reaches out and comforts in ways words can not.

Silence lets my child heart rise up within me, the part of me that is closest to the Father; the place where my longings cease and I find myself at peace. Silence.

No wonder Jesus took himself off so often to be alone, to listen and be with his Father, for He is so very fond of us and loves our company so.



Paul Hawker is an Australian TV producer who spent a month of retreat at the Convent in the fall of 2018.

Sisters Present Advent Series

At Church of the Holy Spirit, Lebanon



A recent practice in some churches has been to observe seven weeks of Advent, following the Orthodox custom of fasting in preparation for Christmas. At the Church of the Holy Spirit in Lebanon, this six-week period was observed as a time of learning about prayer. On each of the six weeks, a Sister or Oblate of CSJB came with a presentation on a particular kind of prayer. Some of the topics covered were Centering Prayer, Prayer with Icons, Lectio Divina, Journaling and Meditation.

“Advent,” which means “coming,” brings balance to the rushed commercialism between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Good Shepherd Home News



Good Shepherd Home, our orphanage in Cameroon, West Africa, is doing well. Although there has been a civil conflict going on in the English-speaking provinces, the Home has not been involved.

The greatest challenge has been education for the children, since the schools are closed. During this period, the younger children have received instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic from older children and friends of the Sisters on an informal basis. Sr. Jane Mankaa, the founder of the Home, reported that some of the children have been taken to the capital, Yaoundé, for schooling since there is no fighting there. Sr. Jane reported recently that an effort is being made to restore peace. The Northwest and Southwest provinces have been demonstrating for their rights.

The Challenge of Education

Please pray for the restoration of peace in Cameroon and equality for the English-speaking people.

Not only the younger children are affected by the fighting, but also those seeking to attend college. Many are leaving the country for safer living conditions.



Ateh Cavur

Sponsors Needed

During this stressful time, every effort is being made to give the children a normal life. Ateh is in need of a sponsor to enable him to pay tuition fees and continue his medical training at the university. He hopes, like Gilbert, to become a doctor and help the people of Cameroon. If any of our readers know of a source for medical education in the third world, please contact Sr. Mary Lynne or our business office at office@csjb.org - 973-543-4641 ext. 0

Alumnae of St. John Baptist School

- 1941 Katherine (Kit) King Rockwell** is an Oblate of our Community and attends meetings when able. She has two children, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She is active in her church and keeps up with friends.
- 1952 Charlyn Crandal Heidenreich** sent a Christmas card with pictures of herself and Bob on their recent trip to Spain.
- 1956 Nancy Munch Bilheimer** sent Christmas greetings
- 1960 Christine Chrystal** sent Christmas greetings. She hopes to visit next summer.
- 1965 Madeleine Cutler Thompson** sent holiday greetings with a picture of their children and grandchildren.
- 1966 Peggy Salter Barrus** sent Christmas greetings
- 1966 MaryLynn Shegogue** sent Christmas greetings and best wishes for the New Year. She enjoys receiving the Newsletters.
- 1967 Marjory Watts Hopper** and husband John traveled to Europe last summer. They also recently became grandparents of identical twin boys (the second set of identical Watts twins—Jane has the other!)
- 1968 Elizabeth Cumming Gheno** sent Christmas greetings
- 1969 Clare Samsonoff Phillips** sent Christmas greetings.
- 1970 Lisa Kaltenbach Boynton** sent Christmas greetings.
- 1970 Deb Blair Kamins** sent Christmas greetings
- 1971 Kate Symonds** sent a card. She enjoys our csjb.org website.
- 1972 Nancy Hildebrand** wrote in with memories of her years at SJBS. After high school, she studied music and English at the University of Texas and later earned a law degree. She remembers Mr. Papps, who taught her organ and piano. She also has a degree in Library Science. Nancy still keeps up with Lucinda Almy.
- 1972 Jane Watts Hanson** sent Christmas greetings with pictures of her two grandchildren.
- 1972 Christine Brodeur MacClellan** and her husband Don enjoy traveling, and plan to visit cousins in Florida in the near future.
- 1980 Ellen Kohn Perry** is Assistant Rector at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chatham, NJ. She also recently became a member of the St. John Baptist School Corporation board, which manages the account and awards education grants to young women.
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Departed Associates

Gloria Spencer Crowson passed away peacefully on June 30, 2018. She was 87. Gloria had been a 1949 graduate from St. Helen's Hall (now known as the Oregon Episcopal School), run by the Sisters in Portland, Oregon. She was a registered nurse and a mother of five children. Gloria became an Associate in 1964, and served the Church on several Diocesan and national organizations. She always kept in touch with the Community, and occasionally came to visit. We give thanks for her life of prayer and service.

The Rev. Ledlie I. Laughlin passed away on January 21, 2019 at age 88. He had been an Associate since 1960. Fr. Laughlin had worked with the Sisters at Grace Church Van Vorst in Jersey City in the 1950's, and served as Dean of Trinity Cathedral in Newark 1963-69. Later, he was Vicar of St. Luke in the Fields, NYC. He is remembered for his commitment to the civil rights movement and the LGBT community.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

By Sr. Victoria Michelle

Dear God, In thankfulness and praise we remember all your many blessings, given to us each day. Give us grace to walk in your love. Renew our faith for with God everything is possible. With God our journey is richly blessed with joy and peace. We pray for the truth of your love to reach deeper into our understanding as we praise and bless your name in our lives. Help us to follow you day by day. Amen.

Animal Stories

Pony's Point of View



And winter greetings to you all! From my perspective, so far it hasn't been too difficult a season, well, so far anyway. Not too much snow, yet we are getting those Polar Vortex events again. The week that I am writing this, we are supposed to be having a few days in the single digits. But I am not concerned, because I have a

thick winter coat that keeps me quite warm. I'm really enjoying spending more time in my shed, curling up in the corner in the fluffy pine shavings. Three times a day I get a hot mash, which I really look forward to eating. When I see someone coming out with it, as they approach, I try to help by pushing my "bowl" under the fence toward them. They seem to appreciate that... Oh, before I forget, there was a whole flock of robins on the cedar trees in my back enclosure, a wonderful sign of spring, filled with hope and the promise of new life. Well, that's about it for now. Stay warm and healthy... *Love, pOnY*

Clara's World

Happy New Year, everyone!

I hope you have had a warm and fuzzy holiday with friends and loved ones.

My Special Person made our apartment look just beautiful with decorations, and there were treats for me and for our guests.



With all of these people coming and going, I have been trying to find a nice warm place to rest. Sometimes it is on her bed or in her chair. I protest when she moves me! After all this time, she should know that all cats are kings and queens! I have royal blood!! Didn't you know? On the whole, however, we get along very well and I have great food. Also, I have my own friends. One of them is Jennie. We have a good time playing together. Best wishes to all— *Clara*

Jennie's Story



Hello Everyone,
As you all know, we have a new manager of the retreat house, who has a dog Ranger. Ranger has become a good friend. We go for walks together. Whenever my Sister takes us both for a walk, she always lets Ranger go

off the leash. Sometimes he will go into the bushes, so my job is to get him out. We have such fun, but I have to train him a little. You know he is a few years younger than me!

Last Fall I mentioned Kookie – the *other* cat who lives here. I said she was very 'stand-offish' toward me. Well, I am pleased to say our relationship is getting warmer. I hope we shall be good friends soon, just like Clara Elizabeth is with me. I was given a bone for Christmas with peanut butter in it. I was finally let loose with it on Sunday, oh my, was I pleased. I buried in my bed, under the blanket and the inside of the bed underneath. I guessed no-one would find it there. The Sisters were amazed at seeing me unearth it under all those covers. Now I have to find another place to hide it!!!

Love, *Jennie*

Kookie's Message



Dear All,

Life is quite a bit different from NYC. At least the vittles haven't changed and I am not lacking in that or attention. I have a nice quiet space with 4 choices of places to sleep. It is sunny most afternoons. I get to roam the hallway a couple of times a day to investigate and stretch my legs. The one thing that is still a bit confusing, is the daily schedule. Each day has its own particular variation.

Love & Paws, Kookie

Coming Events Winter - Spring 2019

CONVENT OF ST. JOHN BAPTIST
82 West Main Street, Box 240, Mendham, NJ 07945
973-543-4641 CSJB@csjb.org www.csjb.org

CENTERING PRAYER Thursdays 7:15 - 8:15 p.m. Join us for a quiet hour and learn a new way to pray. Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. For info, call Sr. Barbara Jean 973-543-4641 ext. 1 or srbj@csjb.org.

LABYRINTH WALKS Saturdays: Feb. 23; Mar. 16, 30; Apr. 13, 27; May 11, 25. Walk our labyrinth and learn about this ancient way of prayer. Phone Sr. Barbara Jean at 973-543-4641 ext. 1 or e-mail srbj@csjb.org Meet at the white Convent building.

YOGA AT THE CONVENT at The Retreat House. Join us Mondays from 4:45 - 6:00pm for gentle Yoga. Experience how Yoga can benefit your overall well-being. \$12.00 per class ~ Classes are subject to change. Contact: Jean Marie at 908-850-6475. Give us your email address and we will add you to the class.

BEING CHRISTIAN IN AN INTER-RELIGIOUS ERA 3rd Saturdays February thru May, with Robert Corin Morris. Nurture your spiritual journey with a year of prayer, study and community. Tuition \$1300 includes lunch and one retreat. Register: information@interweave.org or 908-277-2120

WINTER SEARCH PROGRAM February 15-18 2019 For those seeking God's Call in their lives. A Live-in with the Sisters to experience the Religious Life and the opportunity to learn about any vocation in the Church. Write or e-mail Sr. Monica Clare 973-722-3197 or sistermonica@icloud.com

CULTIVATING COMPASSION: A Multi-Faith Conversation Sunday, March 3, 2:00-4:00pm at the Retreat House. Facilitators: Sr. Eleanor Francis, Rabbi Debra Smith, Dr. Shabiha Sheik. Contact Sr. Eleanor Francis sref@csjb.org or 973-543-4641 ext. 3

DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE Sun. March 10, 2-4 pm - Harmony and Healing in Movement. In the Convent Main Chapel. Rejuvenate your spirit and open your heart with sacred circle dancing and joyous group singing honoring the world's mystical traditions. 908-277-2120 or www.interweave.org, and See June 15

"O DANNY BOY:" A Celtic Irish Concert, by the Adelphi Chamber Ensemble. Sunday, March 17, at 4 pm, in the Convent Chapel. All are invited for refreshments following the concert. (see back page)

FORGIVENESS: What It Is and What It Isn't: A Retreat with Barbara Crafton, Priest, Author and Spiritual Director. Saturday, April 6, 9:30-3:00pm. Retreat presentation by the Rev. Barbara Crafton, all are welcome. Contact Sr. Eleanor Francis sref@csjb.org or 973-543-4641 ext. 3

A MEDITATIVE DAY Saturday, April 13, 2019, 9.30-3:00pm. A quiet day, leading us into Holy Week: Meditations on the Stations of the Cross. Conducted by Eileen Kennedy, artist and Associate. \$50 includes lunch. Contact sr-pamela@csjb.org or 973-543-4641 ext. 9.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER AND SKETCHING IN NATURE, Directed by Debra M. Cook. June 1, 10-2:00pm. Come experience inner peace while creating in the presence of God. \$45. For more information, call Debra at 973-680-1769 or dmcook617@gmail.com. Art supplies will be provided. Bring your own lunch.

DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE Harmony and Healing in Movement. Sat. June 15, 10 - 12:00pm. In the Convent Main Chapel. Rejuvenate your spirit and open your heart with sacred circle dancing and joyous group singing honoring the world's mystical traditions. 908-277-2120 or information@interweave.org

COMMEMORATION DAY Sat. June 22, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. Mark the date now for our Community's annual celebration with Associates and friends. Celebrant and Preacher: Bp. Robert Ihloff. Solemn Eucharist, lunch and fellowship on the cloister. RSVP-Sr. Eleanor Francis 973-543-4641x3, sref@csjb.org

Celtic Journeys

RETREAT ON HOLY ISLAND (Lindisfarne) Feb. 22- March 2, 2019
IRELAND: May 15-26 SCOTLAND: Sept. 6-14 www.celticjourneys.org
For more information: Contact Sr. Margo at srmargo@gmail.com or 973-543-4641 ext. 4

**The Community of St John Baptist
Presents**



'O Danny Boy'
A Celtic Irish Concert
with
**The Adelphi Chamber
Ensemble**

**Sunday March 17,
2019
4:00pm**

Donation

Musical selections ranging from Baroque Period composer Turlough O' Carolan to modern day composer Casey Rule, in addition to a wide variety of traditional ballads, airs, reels, and jigs. Come and join us in celebrating Irish heritage and culture with music beautifully arranged for string quartet and flute trio in this stunning chapel venue. There will be a reception to follow.



Community of St John Baptist

82 West Main St
Middletown, NJ 07945

973-543-4641 x 0 www.csjb.org

Come to

Commemoration Day

Saturday, June 22

10:30 a.m.

Solemn Eucharist, Reception of Associates
Luncheon on the Cloister

+

Celebrant and Preacher:

The Rt. Rev. Robert Ihloff

Bishop Associate of the Diocese of Virginia

+

RSVP-Sr. Eleanor Francis
973-543-4641x3, sref@csjb.org

Holy Week and Easter 2019



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| April 14 | Palm Sunday—7:30 am service |
| April 15 | Monday in Holy Week—5:00 pm Eucharist |
| April 16 | Tuesday in Holy Week—4:45pm Eucharist |
| April 17- | Wednesday in Holy Week—8:00 am Eucharist |
| April 18 | Maundy Thursday—7:30 pm Choral Eucharist |
| April 19 | Good Friday—10:45 am—Way of the Cross
12:30—Good Friday Liturgy |
| April 20 | Holy Saturday—8:00 am—Lauds and
Ante -Communion |
| April 21 | Easter Sunday—6:00 am Great Vigil of Easter
and Eucharist |