



St. John the Baptist

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

12319 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20904

Sunday and Daily Masses have been suspended until further notice.

Baptism

Parishioners are asked to call the Parish Office for the times of the monthly liturgical celebrations and to arrange for classes.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Please call the Parish Office to arrange a confession.

Marriage

Parishioners requesting a marriage date must have been registered in the parish for six months.

Phone Numbers

Parish Office & Rectory:
301-622-1122
Fax: 301-625-9266
School: 301-622-3076

sjbssparish.org

[FaceBook.com/sjbcc](https://www.facebook.com/sjbcc)

[@SJB_Catholic](https://www.facebook.com/SJB.Catholic)

Sunday, April 5, 2020

Lent: Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

This week's readings: Isaiah 50:4-7 Psalm 22 Philippians 2:6-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66



In this Lenten season, our focus is on the psalms we sing each Sunday.

Today's readings take us from the crowd's triumphant shouts of "Hosanna" to the silence of the tomb where Jesus' body is placed. Psalm 22 ("My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?") contains the same contrast of triumph and despair, as it ends with a call to all the descendants of Israel to praise the Lord and give glory to him.

We find all human emotions brought to God in the psalms, from anger and despair, to love and trust. In Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection, God enters into the fullness of human emotion. They remind us that we need not be afraid to bring all of who we are to our loving Father.

Next week's readings - Easter Sunday

Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37-43 Psalm 118 Colossians 3:1-4 John 20:1-9

Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter Laudato Si' (On Care for Our Common Home)

Chapter Two – *The Gospel of Creation*

III. The Mystery of the Universe

Pope Francis begins this section by noting, "In the Judaeo-Christian tradition, the word creation has a broader meaning than nature. Nature is usually seen as a system which can be studied, understood and controlled. Creation has to do with God's loving plan in which every creature has its own value and significance. It can only be understood as a gift from the outstretched hand of the Father of all, and as a reality illuminated by the love which calls us together into universal communion."

If we acknowledge the value and the fragility of nature and, at the same time, our God-given abilities, we can finally leave behind the modern myth of unlimited material progress. A fragile world, entrusted by God to human care, challenges us to devise intelligent ways of directing, developing and limiting our power.

Continued next week



The Archdiocese of Washington has announced continued suspension of public Masses through Easter. Palms will not be distributed this year.

Archbishop Gregory will be celebrating the Holy Week liturgies at St. Matthew's Cathedral, which will be live streamed to allow the faithful of the Archdiocese to join in prayer.

<https://adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/>
www.facebook.com/adw.org

Year-End Statement

If you would like a year-end statement from St. John the Baptist Parish, please call the Parish Office, 301-622-1122. Faith Direct will be sending statements directly to participants.

Jubilarian Mass Registration Open!

The annual ADW Jubilarian Celebration of marriage, honors couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years. This year the Mass will be held on Sunday, June 28, at 2 p.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with his Excellency, Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, as the celebrant. To register, please contact the Parish Office, 301-622-1122 no later than Friday, May 15, to let us know if you will be attending.

SJB School Gala - A Night at the Races,

The SJB School Gala scheduled for March 28 has been cancelled. Alternative plans are under discussion. Please check the school website (<http://sjbsilverspring.org>) for updates.



"Queen Esther" trip is cancelled

The SJB Sodality has cancelled their trip to see the play "Queen Esther" at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA, scheduled for Wednesday, April 29. For more information, please contact Ellen Cygnarowicz, 301-879-0232, or Mary Ellen Monk, 301-622-2892.

SJB Athletics Positions Available

SJB Athletics seeks volunteers for several positions including Athletic Director, coordinators and coaches. All volunteers and coaches must be Virtus Certified. Interested candidates should contact current Athletic Director Michael Diokno at michael.diokno@gmail.com.

Annual Appeal 2020

Thank you to all parishioners who made a gift to the Annual Appeal. The ADW Annual Appeal continues and it is still possible to contribute. As in the past, 100% of your contribution will be designated to the ministries and programs supported by the Appeal. Thank you for your generosity. You may also make your pledge online at appeal.adw.org.



Visit the Holy Land

Join Fr. Tony D'Souza (301-990-3203) and Fr. Brian A. Coelho for a 10-Day Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, July 20-29, 2020. For more information, please contact the St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church Office at 301-753-9177, parish@staroftheseaandianhead.org or Lilian Signoret at 346-351-5668, lilian@nativitypilgrimage.com or visit <http://www.nativitypilgrimage.com/frbrian-washington>. See the flyers in the SJB Parish Office or posted on our bulletin boards.

Mass Intentions (April 6 - April 8)

Monday - Norm Legasse (C. Schwab)
- Irene Corraya & John Binsaint (T. Gomes)
Tuesday - Jean-Charlot Charles (M. Charles)
- JoAnne Norris Williston -L- (C. Norris)
Wednesday - Diosdado Ulep (Family)
- Peter Huan Nguyen (Parishioner)

The Mass intentions for the week will be prayed by both priests.

Parish Clergy

Rev. Y. David Brault Pastor
Rev. Cezary Kozubek Associate Pastor
Rev. Glen Willis Weekend Associate
Rev. Austin Charles Ochu Weekend Associate
Rev. Eliot Nitz Weekend Associate
Rev. Nicolás Rodríguez Weekend Associate
Deacon James Gorman Permanent Deacon
Deacon Ed McCormack Permanent Deacon

Parish Directory

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Athletic Ministry www.sjbathletics.org
Parochial School brian.blomquist@sjbsilverspring.org
Bulletin sjbulletin@sjbssparish.org
Parish Website www.sjbssparish.org
School Website www.sjbsilverspring.org

Early Bulletin Deadline

April 19 Bulletin & Website deadline
Wednesday, April 8, at 9:00 a.m.

Send Bulletin announcements to
sjbulletin@sjbssparish.org
Send Website announcements to
kbrown@sjbssparish.org

Remember to Celebrate this Holy Week at Home

Holy Thursday, April 9

Day of the Lord's Last Supper

Good Friday, April 10

Day of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday, April 11

Day of Remembering our Baptism into the Lord's Resurrection

Easter Sunday, April 12

Alleluia!



Remember in Prayer those who have died:

Michael John Lively, brother of David Lively; and
Kirstin Vasauskas, daughter of Ronald & Theresa
 Vasauskas

ADW Updates

Visit www.adw.org/coronavirus for the latest updates from Archbishop Gregory and the Archdiocese of Washington, along with links to online Holy Week Liturgies.

Changes to Activities at St. John's

As we comply with the directive of the Archbishop and the request of the Maryland governor, no Masses will be celebrated at St. John the Baptist until further notice. This also includes any formally scheduled activities at St. Johns. The Chapel will be open during weekday hours while the Parish Office is still open.

Archbishop Gregory has issued a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass during this time to all parishioners of the Archdiocese of Washington.

The Light is ON for you!

Confessions will be available Wednesday evening, April 8, 6:30 - 8 p.m. by driving to the Mary statue between the Rectory and the Church. At the statue, park then get out of your car and walk to the seated area by the statue. Fr. David or Fr. Cezary will be there for confessions.



Please know that you can always schedule a confession by calling the Parish Office, 301-622-1122.

Haiti Secondary School Collection

Haiti Secondary Fund donations can be mailed to St. John the Baptist, 12319 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20904 or dropped at the Parish Office. Faith Direct is a great online resource for donations if you don't currently contribute that way. Thank you for your generosity.



Share the Cross 2020

Due to the CoVid19 Pandemic, we will not have a collection as previously scheduled. However items that were listed in the bulletin and on the crosses are still very much needed. Please bring your donations to the Parish Office, Monday - Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thank you, as always, for your continued generosity.

Weekly Stewardship Report

Our Weekly Stewardship Report will be suspended until our Masses resume.

While we are temporarily not celebrating Mass, your weekly donations to help keep our bills paid are appreciated. Please mail them to St. John the Baptist, 12319 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20904 or drop them off at the Parish Office when we are open.

From the Desk of our Pastor

This Holy Week is unlike any that I have experienced before and ever hope to again. However, we have access to the internet, we have devotion materials at home, i.e. crucifixes, rosaries, images on holy cards, statues, and, of course, the Holy Bible.



I would encourage you as families to celebrate Holy Thursday by referring to the Gospel of St. John for the account of the Last Supper. On Good Friday refer as well to the Passion narrative of St. John. Lastly, Easter the glory of the Resurrection, again turn to St. John's Gospel. Please take advantage of the services on EWTN and the sites available listed on page one and page five of this bulletin.

Father David

Prayer for Sodality - Coronavirus Outbreak

For all who have contracted coronavirus,
 We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable,
 We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety,
 We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions

between food on the table or public safety,
 We pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health insurance,
 We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status,

We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world,
 We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decisionmakers,
 We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.

Grant peace.

Grant comfort.

Grant healing.

Be with us, Lord.

Amen.

Source: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/covid-19-prayer-of-solidarity.cfm>



Parish Office & Chapel Holy Week Hours

The Parish Office and the Chapel will be closing Holy Thursday at noon and be closed through Easter Sunday, reopening Easter Monday at 9 a.m.

Social Concerns

Cynthia Norris, 301-622-1122, social_concerns@sjbssparish.org

Feeding those in need

Many people have asked how can they help others during this critical time. Here are a few resources for parishioners wishing to provide food or financial donations to organizations with food pantries. *(If you wish to donate items, please call the organization to confirm they are open.)*



Catholic Charities Choice Food Pantry

12247 Georgia Avenue / Silver Spring, MD 20902, 301-942-1790

Our pantry is a Choice Food Pantry where clients come in to choose and shop (they do not pay). Our pantry is open 3 days a week. We serve anyone in Montgomery County. ****For now, we no longer need any canned vegetables, canned beans, canned soup or any soup packets (incl. Ramen and Cup-o-Noodles).**

Chrisma Closet's Feeding Program

Chrisma Charities, P. O BOX 2654, Washington, DC. 20013, 202-427-2816 (Local and Mobile Food Pantry)

Chrisma Closet's Feeding Program was established to ease budgetary constraints for families with limited means. They partner with Feeding America and other local nonprofit organizations to provide nutritional food items to vulnerable youth and families in need. Families that participate in the Feeding Program receive groceries to supplement their food budgets and are taught the importance of taking care of their bodies. They assist in developing healthy eating habits and the prevention of early onset of medical issues due to poor diets in an effort to promote wellness and wholeness. Children who are at risk of chronic hunger receive necessary nutrients that support student achievement in the classroom. They also provide supplemental, nutritious food every month to families that qualify under The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) guidelines.

Manna Foods Silver Spring

12301 Old Columbia Pike, Suite 200, Silver Spring, MD 20904, 301-424-1130

Manna is now accepting donations of hand sanitizer. Manna is temporarily waiving income requirements to provide food to any Montgomery County resident impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

MidCounty United Ministries

P.O. Box 1924, Silver Spring, MD 20915, 301-929-8675 (Local and Mobile Food Pantry)

MUM's choice food pantry helps thousands of clients with a selection of nonperishable items such as pasta, cereal, canned meats, vegetables and fruit. The pantry carries the name of Captain Joseph A. Mattingly Jr., a longtime Montgomery police officer who championed community service in the mid-county area before his death in 2003. Food Pantry hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

MUM's Mobile pantry serves the community at the following locations each month:

First Sunday:

Aspen Hill Christian Church
13501 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20906
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Second Sunday:

Millian Methodist Church
13016 Parkland Drive
Rockville, MD 20853
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Fourth Sunday:

Pepper Tree Farms Apartment
14120 Weeping Willow Dr.
Silver Spring, MD 20906
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

See page five for more places to donate.

Food Wish List

- Chef Boyardee/Spaghetti-Os/Ravioli/etc.
- Canned Chili/Sloppy Joe/Hash
- Mac & Cheese
- Rice-A-Roni/other boxed or packaged, flavored rice
- Hamburger Helper/Pasta Roni/Pasta Sides
- Snacks (i.e., crackers, cookies, granola bars, other bars, fruit snacks, popcorn, pudding cups, etc.)
- Cake Mix/Brownie Mix/Cookie Mix/Muffin Mix
- Dry pasta/noodles (not lasagna)
- Cereal/Oatmeal/pancake mix
- Canned Tomatoes (whole/diced/sauce/paste/puree/etc.)
- Canned tuna/salmon/chicken/sardines/sausages
- Canned Fruit
- Jelly
- Dry beans (not canned)



Feeding those in need - continued

Shepherd's Table

8106 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301-585-6463

Serving Brunch 10:30- 11:30 a.m., and Dinner 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome!!

St. Camillus Food Pantry

1600 St. Camillus Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20905, 301-434-8400

Friday: 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.; Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



ADW Information Resources

As Catholics, caring for our spiritual and sacramental lives is paramount. Therefore, the Archdiocese is providing the following pastoral guidance and resources for your use:

The Archdiocesan website has a page with informational resources on coronavirus: <https://adw.org/coronavirus/>. At the pastor's discretion, churches may remain open for personal prayer. Please follow all protocols recommended by health professionals about maintaining safe interpersonal distance.

The Archdiocesan website has resources on how to receive spiritual communion: <https://adw.org/coronavirus-dispensation-and-prayers/>.

Take time to read and reflect upon the readings from Sunday Mass. You can find the readings at usccb.org and a Sunday Gospel reflection on our [YouTube channel](#).

The Archdiocesan website has audio and written Stations of the Cross: <https://adw.org/coronavirus-dispensation-and-prayers/>.

Our archdiocesan Sunday TV Mass is available online: <https://adw.org/parishes-masses/sunday-tv-mass/>.

Here is a prayer by Pope Francis to Mary during the coronavirus pandemic: <https://adw.org/text-of-popes-prayer-to-mary-during-coronavirus-pandemic/>.

Pastoral care to the sick will continue incorporating protocols recommended by health professionals.

The Archdiocese will continue to make additional spiritual and informational resources available and provide regular updates on their website, www.adw.org. Please know of Archbishop Gregory's prayers and love for you.

Why did Jesus wash the Disciples' feet?

In the ancient world, even more than now, feet were dirty things. Sandals were common dress, and they often trod unpaved streets that doubled as sewers and channels for every kind of refuse. As a result, having clean feet, especially when entering a place, was important.

The ancient world knew nothing of germs, but they understood the importance of cleanliness, as it was instructed to them in the holy texts of the time. Today, we understand the scientific basis behind the ancient rules which demanded people be clean in their interactions.

According to the Gospel, Jesus performed a final act of service for his Disciples, following the Passover meal. Arising from the table, He tied a towel about His waist and filled a basin with water. Then, one after another, He washed the feet of each disciple, except Judas, who had already departed to betray Him.

When Peter protested that Jesus was about to wash his feet, Christ admonished, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

After washing the Disciples' feet, Jesus explained what He did and why. "You should wash one another's feet," He told them. "I have set an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." (John 13:1-17)

The point Jesus was trying to make is already spelled out in the Scriptures, and needs little interpretation. We are to serve our neighbors, even if it means we must do things we might not like to do. Even if the work is dirty or hard, or even if we think it beneath us, we must still do our work. After all, Jesus Himself, the Son of God, washed the feet of His disciples. And we are no greater than Jesus, so surely we too should do the same.



In church, the foot washing ceremony is an important call for all people that they too should be willing to serve others. In the Catholic Church, this is called the Holy Thursday Mandatum, and the rite takes place after the homily. Members of the congregation are chosen to sit and have their feet washed by the priest, who plays the role of Christ. One by one, the priest will wash the participant's feet with a basin and a towel.

Allow us to be explicit in stating the significance of this ceremony. It is a reminder that we are of the Body of Christ and as such, and His followers, we too are called to serve others in a spirit of humility. And we are to do so, even if we do not feel the desire to do so. As Christians, this is our duty.

Source: <https://www.catholic.org/news/hf/faith/story.php?id=68009>

Mystical Word

written by L.J. Milone, Director of Faith Formation, ljmilone@sjbssparish.org

As if the pandemic is not bad enough, we can see many people falling into conflict. There is fiery blaming between the parties on Capitol Hill. Accusations fly in the White House and at the White House. Indeed, impatience, intolerance, anger, fear and worry can crop up at home as well. These are all instances of a basic lie that plagues humanity that the Bible labels "Satan," which means "accuser." We suffer from the lie of accusation. This means that we think the other is the problem. We think other people, situations, life itself are the problem. And so, we accuse everything and everyone. We think evil is in the other. This is called scapegoating, and it happens all the time.

The Gospel of John remarks about the high priest at the trial of Jesus, "It was Caiaphas who had counseled the Jews that it was better that one man should die rather than the people" (John 18:14). Expanding on this, Gil Bailie comments, "Caiaphas was invoking a mechanism for preserving culture that is as old as culture itself...cultures have forever commemorated some form of sacred violence at their origins and considered it a sacred duty to reenact it in times of crisis...Up to this very day, cultures rely on scapegoating violence to a far greater degree than we realize." Some examples are the demonization of immigrants, lynchings, and the Holocaust.

Jesus reveals this myth for what it is: a lie. And, Jesus shows us the best way to respond to all the evil and pain in the world is by following him to the cross. The Gospel is not only a truth to accept but also a path to take. The path of the good news of the kingdom is the path of nothing. This is the message in the second reading where St. Paul says Jesus Christ "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave...he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Phil 2:7-8). Jesus ritualizes this nothingness, this kenosis or emptying, at the Last Supper as he offers the bread as his Body broken and the wine as his blood poured out. These are not antiseptic images. His real body is physically broken, and his actual blood is drained on the cross. When we eat and drink the Eucharist, we not only commune with the Crucified Lord but also commit to his path of nothingness.



Jesus further shows us the way of nothingness as he is led to Golgotha to be crucified. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus surrenders to God: "not as I will, but as you will." On trial, accused, mocked, and beaten, Jesus remains silent. Even as the people who once welcomed him into Jerusalem now violently turn on him and demand his crucifixion, Jesus stays silent. The Roman soldiers mock, beat, and strip him. He is then led out to Golgotha and crucified. And, at his lowest point, Jesus feels abandoned by God: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Jesus was reduced to nothing. We are to follow him. Meister Eckhart says, "The single action of the spiritual life is to reduce self to nothingness." This requires practice every single day, and even every single moment of every single day. We have to practice letting go, losing, as much as possible. This is the divine way: God became human and died on the cross kenosis, self-emptying, or nothingness. As Eckhart says, "God died so that I might die to the whole world and to all created things." We surrender into God's self-identity and nameless nothingness. Silent within, letting go of attachments – the instinct to blame and accuse, in particular, we wait for the realization that our deepest reality is the divine nothing. In other words, we follow Jesus along this path by practicing non-thinking nothingness within. Then, we surrender all preoccupation with power, prestige, and possessions. In imitation of Jesus walking the way of the cross, we tread a path unknown to and unwanted by the world.

It remains for us to die with Christ Crucified. But it doesn't end in death. We undergo crucifixion to be brought to resurrected life. Being crucified is the radical path of descent that involves letting go at every moment. In our prayer this means interior silence – allowing all thinking, even the self, to fall away. We simply sink into God. As we sink deeper and deeper into God, we breakthrough into the divine nothingness. We die to *who we think God is* and penetrate the *God beyond God*. We consent to the Infinite's deconstruction of our world, our ego, our separate-self, and especially our image of God. Nothingness is how we follow Jesus in his life, his teachings, his passion, and his death. With Christ Crucified we pass over our thoughts into the Holy Mystery. Resurrection awaits.