



St. John the Baptist

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

12319 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20904

Schedule of Masses

(December 12/13, 2020)

Saturday

5:00 - Fr. Kozubek

Sunday

7:30 - Fr. Kozubek

9:30 - Fr. Brault

Dcn. McCormack

11:30 - Fr. Willis

Dcn. McCormack

Daily Mass

Monday-Friday 7:30 & 9:00 a.m.

Saturday - 9:00 a.m.

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

Saturday, 4:00-4:45 p.m. or call 301-622-1122 to arrange a confession with one of our priests.

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

Website:

www.sjbssparish.org

Facebook:

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

Sunday, December 6, 2020

Advent: Second Sunday

This week's readings: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 Psalm 85 2 Peter 3:8-14 Mark 1:1-8



The response for today's psalm implored God, "Let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation."

Each of the readings contains an example of that kindness. The prophet Isaiah proclaims a forgiving God, ready to save his captive people and return them to their homeland. In the second reading, kindness can be read into the very "delay" that has caused some to doubt Jesus' return, as we hear, "... but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish." The gospel passage tells of our parish patron, John the Baptist, being sent by God to prepare the people to recognize Jesus when he comes to minister among them.

Next week's readings - Advent: 3rd Sunday

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 Response - Luke:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation Tuesday, December 8

Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon



Excerpts from Pope Francis' Letter *Laudato Si* (On Care for Our Creation)

CHAPTER SIX - Ecological Education and Spirituality



VI. Sacramental Signs and the Celebration of Rest

The Sacraments are a privileged way in which nature is taken up by God to become a means of mediating supernatural life. Through our worship of God, we are invited to embrace the world on a different plane. Water, oil, fire and colors are taken up in all their symbolic power and incorporated in our act of praise.

It is in the Eucharist that all that has been created finds its greatest exaltation. The Eucharist joins heaven and earth; it embraces and penetrates all creation. The world which came forth from God's hands returns to him in blessed and undivided adoration: in the bread of the Eucharist, creation is projected towards divinization, towards the holy wedding feast, towards unification with the Creator. Thus, the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation.

On Sundays, our participation in the Eucharist has special importance. Sunday, like the Jewish Sabbath, is meant to be a day which heals our relationships with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world. Christian spirituality incorporates the value of relaxation and festivity. Rest opens our eyes to the larger picture and gives us renewed sensitivity to the rights of others. The day of rest, centered on the Eucharist, sheds its light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor.

Next Week: VII. The Trinity and the Relationship between Creatures.

SJB Mass is being Live Streamed

Mass celebrations have resumed in the Church. If you cannot attend, you can view the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass in the Church which will be live streamed on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sjbcc. The Daily 9:00 a.m. Mass will also be live streamed on Facebook.



We continue to address streaming issues as they occur. Sometimes we have difficulties streaming Sunday Mass at the time we have indicated, especially when the Dell laptop performs unscheduled updates to the system. If this happens at the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass, we will try to stream the 11:30 a.m. Mass., so please visit the website again at 11:30 a.m. I sympathize with any frustration this has or may cause you. You should see my reaction in the sacristy when this happens.

An additional issue has to do with the volume of the sound. I will encourage those using the microphones in the sanctuary to project more than they have been doing so that their voices will be louder. Also keep in mind that any conversation or utterance in the church away from the microphone will most probably be inaudible.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

- Father David

SJB Exposition Live Streamed

The Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be live streamed on Facebook, Fridays from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. when our priests are available and the schedule permits.

Reconciliation/Confession

Saturdays, 4:00-4:45 p.m. in the Church before Mass, or a Confession can be arranged with one of our priests by calling the Parish Office, 301-622-1122.

Parish Office Hours

For Church related matters like requesting a Mass Intention, please come to the front doors of the Parish Office which will be open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. **The Parish Office is closed on Fridays.** The side doors of the Parish Office are open only to access the elevator.

Group Meetings Suspended

The Pandemic is currently making it impossible for us to hold any meetings. The guidance from the CDC, the State of Maryland and the Archdiocese of Washington is making the safety of each one of us the primary emphasis. For the time being all organizations should plan to use the electronic world for meetings. Thank you for your cooperation.

Mass Intentions (December 7 – December 13)

Monday 7:30 - Anna Nnakibirango Kikomeko (R. Kintu)
9:00 - All Souls in Purgatory (Parishioner)

Tuesday 7:30 - Lucile Dawn Ward-Hutchins (J. MacLeod)
9:00 - Richard Chauncey (G. Chauncey)
12:00 - Aileen Gogin (S. Goggin)

Wednesday 7:30 - Virginia Potter (Asdorian Family)
9:00 - Peter Huan Nguyen (Parishioner)

Thursday 7:30 - Jean Zebot (C. Bohince)
9:00 - Grandson Daniel (Grandma)

Friday 7:30 - Georges Eric Rousseau -L- (M. Rousseau)
9:00 - Lora Peters -L- (N. & J. Peters)

Saturday 9:00 - Richard Chauncey (Glenda)
5:00 - Chela M. Lewis (Kerley Family)

Sunday 7:30 - Parishioners
9:30 - Mary Garner (T. & K. Marconi)
11:30 - Rev. Eliot Nitz (J. Marsich)
No evening Mass

Parish Clergy

Rev. Y. David Brault Pastor
Rev. Cezary Kozubek Associate Pastor
Rev. Glen Willis Weekend Associate
Rev. Nicolás Rodriguez Weekend Associate
Deacon James Gorman Permanent Deacon
Deacon Ed McCormack Permanent Deacon

Parish Directory

Father Brault pastor@sjbssparish.org
Father Kozubek assocpastor@sjbssparish.org
Parish Office secretary@sjbssparish.org
Finance Office kkuzemka@sjbssparish.org
Faith Formation adultdre@sjbssparish.org
Youth Ministry youth@sjbssparish.org
Liturgy & Music secretary@sjbssparish.org
Social Concerns socialconcerns@sjbssparish.org
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

Bulletin Deadline

December 20, Bulletin & Website deadline
Thursday, December 10, at 9:00 a.m

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

Remember in Prayer those who have died:

David Asdorian, husband of Kathleen Asdorian.

Christmas Mass Signup

This year we will have signups for our Christmas Masses open until Wednesday, December 23, at 5 p.m. Please visit our website, www.sjbssparish.org, and select "Christmas Mass Signup" to sign up for the Mass you wish to attend. Please enter names individually in order to count each person attending Mass. We will have limited seating for all Masses. If you do not have internet access, please call our Parish Office, 301-622-1122. Our Christmas Mass schedule is as follows:

Christmas Eve Masses: 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 12 Midnight.

Christmas Day Masses: 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Cardinal Gregory Statement

Please see page ten for Cardinal Gregory's statement on the Vatican's investigation of Theodore McCarrick.

Sodality Collection for "Some"

Sodality will sponsor a collection for S.O.M.E. (So Others May Eat) on Saturday, December 12. Bring your items to the front of the Kazista Center 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., after the 9 a.m. Mass. Check your closets and donate everything that no longer brings you joy. Remember warm socks (most requested), sweaters and coats for men, women, and children (All Sizes). S.O.M.E. also welcomes toiletries. Please place in bags marked boy, girl, man, or woman. Please contact Teresa Haddad with questions, 240-581-3460.

**Music in Church**

At the Sunday 9:30 a.m. Mass we are experimenting with having a Cantor sing. According to the Archdiocese, parishioners are still not allowed to sing, but we are trying at least to bring music back little-by-little into our Sunday Mass.

**How to Keep Informed of SJB Parish News**

Flocknotes: Visit our SJB website, www.sjbssparish.org, and on the first page enter an email address to receive Flocknotes through email.

Bulletin: Visit our website bulletin page at <https://www.sjbssparish.org/bulletins> to access the latest SJB bulletin. To have a link to the latest SJB bulletin sent directly to your email from our bulletin printer (FATA), visit <https://www.fataonline.com/bulletins/StJohntheBaptistSilverSpring> and enter your email address.

Previous Bulletins: Previous bulletins can be viewed by visiting <https://www.sjbssparish.org/bulletins> and selecting a bulletin date.

From the Desk of our Pastor

During the past month we have had the opportunity to practice a corporal and spiritual work of Mercy – bury and pray for the dead. We commended for burial and continue to pray for two priests who served our parish for many decades. Each year, we recall members of our family and circle of friends and others who have touched our lives to prayer and remembrance. As we pray for these souls, we make a statement of faith, hope and love. There is a great consolation to all who have the blessing of Faith – death is not the end, but the beginning of life. During the month of November we had the opportunity to pray for our beloved dead and to prayerfully speak the words of love for them to God. May they rest in peace. Amen.



Father David

**Sign up for Weekend Mass
on our website,
www.sjbssparish.org**



Please sign up all members of your family **individually**.

In you don't have internet access, please call the Parish Office, 301-622-1122.

Personal Health Evaluation

1. In the last two weeks, did you care for or have close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19?
2. Do you have any of the following: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat?

If you or someone in your family can answer yes to either of these two questions, please refrain from signing up for Mass. Thank you for keeping everyone safe and healthy.

Weekly Stewardship Report

Offertory Sunday, November 22, 2020 \$7,472.00
Please see next week's bulletin for the November 29 Offertory

Please note monies given via Faith Direct are not included in the Offertory above.

Sign-up Weekly for Weekend Masses

Due to COVID-19, there are many precautions we must take for the health and safety of all as we have public celebrations of the Mass. To insure proper social distancing between people we need to limit the number of seats available at each of the four Weekend Masses:

Saturday 5 p.m.

Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
(no evening Mass)

Weekly sign-up is needed for every individual member of your family who wants to attend one of the Weekend Masses. Sign-up will open each week starting on Mondays at 12 noon and ending on Thursdays at 12 noon immediately preceding the upcoming Weekend Masses.

To sign-up to attend a Weekend Mass, please visit our website at www.sjbssparish.org. If you do not have internet access, please call the Parish Office, 301-622-1122. Sign up is not required for Daily Mass. Please arrive early for all Masses.

Please know that when you come to attend Mass:

- A mask or facial covering must be worn.
- Entry will be through the main, front, wrought iron doors – only.
- Ushers will direct you to a seat.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Next week's Second Collection, December 12/13, will be for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Catholic bishops of the United States launched this fund in 1988. Many congregations still struggle to provide for aging members. It is common that older religious served for low wages that did not include retirement benefits. Today, numerous communities face a critical shortage in retirement savings. Moreover, retired religious now outnumber wage-earning members, resulting in declining income and a rising cost of care. With your help, we can advance the mission to ensure a safe, modest retirement for senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have faithfully served our Church and world.

Scam Emails – Do Not Respond

Many different scam emails using various email addresses have been sent to SJB parishioners in Fr. David's name asking for help or money. Please do not respond to these emails. Fr. David **DOES NOT SEND EMAILS TO PARISHIONERS**. Fr. David communicates with our parishioners through the bulletin or mailings, so if you receive an email from Fr. David requesting money or assistance, please do not respond. Delete the email immediately. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office, 301-622-1122.



Knights of Columbus Car Raffle

The 51st Annual Knights of Columbus Maryland State Council car raffle is underway. Proceeds from the raffle are used to fund the State Council's various programs including Box of Joy, Seminarian Support, Sox for Souls, Coats for Kids, Essay Contest, Help Thy Neighbors, Basketball and Soccer Competition, Food for Families and Widows Program. SJB Council will retain sixty cents out of every ticket sold. Last year we raised over \$1,000 to fund our programs.

Three prizes will be awarded. The grand prize is a 2021 Ford Mustang or \$18,000 cash option. Second prize is an Apple I-Pad and third prize is a \$200 gift card. The drawing will take place at the Founders Day dinner on Sunday, March 21, 2021, at Father Rosensteel Council, 9707 Rosensteel Avenue, Silver Spring, MD. You are encouraged to attend the dinner but do not have to present to win.

Since we are not having the parish breakfast due to the COVID-19 pandemic, tickets will have to be obtained in person. The Knights help with the parish food drive the first and third Saturday of each month on the parish parking lot near the Lyon Center between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Therefore, you may pick up your tickets on one of those days which are Dec. 19, Jan. 2 and 16, and Feb. 6 and 20. When you pick up your tickets, please ask for a return address envelope. Mail ticket stubs and a check made payable to SJB K of C Council for the amount of tickets sold in the return envelope. Make sure that the number of ticket stubs equals the amount of your check. Do not mail any unsold tickets. All receipts must be received no later than Sunday, March 14, 2021.

If you have any questions, please call Stu Sklamm at 301-384-0784 or email at srsklamm@msn.com. Thank you.



SJB Men's Group

Attention men over 18 years old. Join us Saturday mornings to connect with the Word and your brothers in Christ. Deacon Ed McCormack facilitates as we unpack scripture in an atmosphere of fellowship and community. The ZOOM room opens at 7:15 a.m. and we get under way at 7:30 a.m. Guys say it's the most fruitful one hour they experience all day. To join us with video & audio just go to:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/873867511>.

Meeting ID: 873 867 511

For audio only by phone, dial: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 873 867 511.



For more information, please contact Dave Michaels at invitedtolife@gmail.com.

Social Concerns

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

Fruit Drive to Support our Sister Parish in Haiti



“Stretch forth your hand to the poor” (Sir 7:32). During this time of the COVID 19 pandemic, our brothers and sisters in Christ need us more than ever. Let’s make the holidays even more meaningful! At St. John’s, we have a history of making holiday purchases more meaningful by purchasing from organizations that are helping to sustain communities around the world.

Although we cannot attend our Alternative Christmas Bazaar this year, we can make purchases that make a difference. Our citrus fruit drive will support our Sister Parish.

Parishioners and friends, you are invited to participate in **A Citrus Fundraising at Florida Indian River Grove for our Sister Parish Program.**



Please use this link to order fruit: <https://shop.floridaindianrivergroves.com/ecommerce/1022895>

C4 Projects



We are happy and proud to report that we have successfully reopened all 4 of our major projects (Clothes Closet, Baby Closet, School Supply Program and Toy Closet) since September. We have adapted quite well and even have a plan to host our annual Toy Closet.

The annual Toy Closet will be held over 3 days this year. It will start on Friday, December 11, and go through the weekend. We are in great need of support and are all very concerned that we will not be able to meet our need for

over 2000 toys and 1000 stockings, books and stuffed animals. We are willing to be as flexible as we can to collect both toys and money. We now have a “Go Fund Me” link on our website in addition to our P.O. Box. We also enable congregation members to “ship” toys to us at 14015 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20906 or at the SJB Kazista Center. Please see page six for more details.

Please call Alyssa Ranko, President of C-4, 301-599-2108 ext. 313 if you have any questions or www.c4clothescloset.com.

Knights of Columbus Food Drive from Grand Knight Brian Murphy

As you know, our parish food drive is conducted on the 1st and 3rd Saturday's of the month from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in front of the Lyon Center. On Saturday, November 21, cars were streaming in and out all morning and we loaded up a big truck full of food for the St. Camillus food pantry. The food drive coincided with the Boy Scout food drive and four of our parish boy scouts were there to help the Knights. I was there along with a couple of other adult leaders to supervise the scouts. We collected between 1,500-2,000 pounds of food. Everyone was practicing safety with masks, gloves and distancing. It was a huge success.

For the December 19 food drive date, the Boy Scouts will again join with our Knights to focus on

Christmas dinner food items. I've asked the food pantry director for suggestions specific to the clientele of the food pantry. He advised me that for this particular date they would be looking for frozen turkeys, frozen whole chickens, rice, mashed potatoes, canned corn, and fresh fruit such as plantains, bananas, oranges, apples and melons. Also, gift cards specific to any of the supermarkets such as Safeway, Giant, Shoppers, etc. would be greatly appreciated.

As you stay safe in your car, just pop your trunk or tailgate and your donation will be unloaded.

- Grand Knight Brian Murphy



Urgent Virtual Drive for the Gabriel Project

The Gabriel Project Cluster of Montgomery County is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that assists low-income pregnant women and their children. During the pandemic and economic crisis, the need for the Gabriel Project's services has grown tremendously while typical sources of support are greatly reduced. Please see this flyer, https://e76b4f48-d447-47af-8706-36b7303b6511.usrfiles.com/ugd/e76b4f_25f6e7c9b1a545be9d80b2ad3d214140.pdf, for more information about our virtual drive to support the Gabriel Project. You can help provide critically needed material resources by purchasing essential items like baby gear, diapers, and clothing through the Gabriel Project's Amazon Charity List: GP Amazon List, https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage/ref=smi_se_cl_rd_ge?orig=%2Fhz%2Fcharitylist%2FIs%2F384MSEZYW4WVQ%2Fref%3Dsmi_ext_lnk_lcl_cl%3FpldnSite%3D1. For more information about the Gabriel Project, please visit the website at www.gpmoco.org. Thank you for your generous support!



Community Service Opportunities 2020



1) **Donate a toy to the C-4 Toy Distribution Project.** All TOYS must be **NEW and unwrapped**. Suggested amount to spend: \$15-\$20/toy; cash donations are also welcomed. Toys needed include: Baby Dolls, pre-school toys, Barbie, Bratz, and Monster High dolls, Arts and Crafts, Balls (soccer, foot, basketballs), Dress-up kits (shoes, jewelry), Nail kits, Purses for pre-teens, Perfume for pre-teens, Sports equipment and games, Trucks (electronic and regular), Remote control cars, Electronic games, Scooters / Mini skate boards. Please bring toys to the Kazista Center by **Sunday, December 6.**

2) **C4 Toy Closet 3-Day Toy Distribution** at the Colesville Center located at 14015 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD:

Day #1: Friday, **December 11**, 12-4 p.m.

Day #2: Saturday, **December 12**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Day #3: Sunday, **December 13**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information on how to volunteer or donate, please contact Alyssa at 301-599-2108 ext 313, email at alyssa@atlanticpersonnel.com or if urgent, on cell at 703-851-5993. Please note that you must call and sign up in advance to volunteer.

3) **Heads & Hands & Toes!** Looking for a fun and easy way to support the Homeless? Donate new socks and/or warm caps and gloves for homeless children, women, and men in our area. Warm hats and gloves in cold weather is easy to understand. For people who live on the fringe of society, the socks provide comfort and help ensure foot health. A homeless person getting clothing from a charitable organization may get just about everything—except socks. Though most homeless people are adults, socks for children are especially hard to come by. The ideal pair of socks is simple cotton crew socks, the kind that sell for less than 50 cents wholesale. **Bring new socks, hats & gloves to the Kazista Center by 12 noon December 13.**

4) Participate in **Blanket Sunday** by **bringing a blanket to Mass during the weekend of December 12/13.** St. John's is the sole contributor of blankets for the homeless at Shepherd's Table. Many times, shelters are so overcrowded that the homeless choose to sleep on the streets. The blankets are their only source of warmth, comfort and protection during these winter months. Please donate new or very gently used, clean, blankets, comforters, sleeping bags to help those in greatest need.

5) **Volunteer to transport blankets** Sunday, December 13, 1 p.m., to Shepherd's Table, 8106 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20910, located in Downtown Silver Spring. Shepherd's Table distributes the blankets to the homeless. Contact Cynthia Norris at 301--622-1122, ext. 108 or socialconcerns@sjbssparish.org.

6) **Adopt a single mother with children** in need for Christmas gifts and dinner. We have 8 families moving from a shelter to transitional housing in need of a move-in basket. The baskets include cookware, dishes, drinkware, towels, blankets or throws. You can prepare a basket or donate items. Baskets will be delivered to the families from SJB. Contact Cynthia Norris at 301--622-1122, ext. 108 or socialconcerns@sjbssparish.org, no later than December 13 for more information or to sign up.

*See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me.
Then suddenly the Lord you seek will come...Malachi 23:1*



Alternative Gift Christmas Catalog 2020

Too many things taking up space at home or at your loved one's home? Don't want to stand in line at the stores or post office with packages? Want to share a story of struggle and survival of someone in need?



Advent is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas. Consider giving the gift that keeps on giving, a gift of caring for your brothers and sisters in Christ in need! Select an organization from the list below, level of support, and enter number of each item in the space provided. The items listed below are only examples of what support can be provided for the donated amount. Gift cards are available if you choose to present them as gifts for Christmas.

C-4: The Colesville Council of Community Congregations (C-4) operates a division dedicated to providing needy clients with clothing and other items for expectant mothers and infants up to 3 years old. **(Make check payable to C4)**

BC-01	5 pairs of pants for toddlers (girls and boys)	\$25	#
BC-02	2 Christmas Gifts (\$15each) for a boy or girl	\$30	#
BC-03	Diapers for one month	\$50	#

E.M.E.A.N: Eastern Montgomery Emergency Assistance Network is a non-profit organization aiding eviction prevention, prescription assistance, and utility disconnection, serving Silver Spring and Burtonsville.

(Make check payable to EMEAN)

EM-01	Water for a family in crisis for one month	\$25	#
EM-02	Heat a one-bedroom apartment for one month	\$50	#
EM-03	Help with gas/electricity for a family in crises with a turn-off notice	\$50	#

Haiti Sister Parish: St. John the Baptist Catholic Community maintains a relationship with our brothers and sisters of St. Pierre Parish in Baradères, Haiti. **(Make check payable to SJB with Haiti listed on the Memo line)**

SP-01	Provide milk for one elementary school child for the school year	\$20	#
SP-02	Purchase lunch for one secondary school student for one year	\$35	#
SP-03	Pay two elementary school teacher salaries for one month	\$75	#

M.U.M: Mid-County United Ministries is a non-profit organization aiding eviction prevention, utility disconnection, serving Silver Spring and Wheaton. **(Make check payable to MUM)**

MU-01	Provide water for a senior citizen for one month	\$25	#
MU-02	Provide heat for a senior citizen for one month	\$50	#
MU-03	One week supply of supplemental groceries for a family in need	\$50	#

M.U.S.S.T: Ministries United Silver Spring Takoma Park is a non-profit organization aiding eviction prevention, utility disconnection, and prescription assistance, serving Silver Spring and Takoma Park. **(Check payable to MUSST)**

MUS-01	Prescription assistance for one individual	\$50	#
MUS-02	Utility assistance for a household	\$50	#
MUS-03	Eviction prevention for a household	\$100	#

St. Camillus Food Pantry: St. Camillus' Pantry primarily serves the community of the Silver Spring and Takoma Park areas. The Pantry assists the working poor, the homeless, and those on limited incomes.

(Make check payable to St. Camillus Food Pantry)

SCFP-01	Purchase meat or chicken for a family for 3 meals	\$20	#
SCFP-02	Purchase basic non-perishable food package for a family for 3 days	\$25	#
SCFP-03	Purchase nutritional food package including fruits and vegetables	\$75	#

Shepherd's Table: Shepherd's Table is a non-profit, community-based organization, located in downtown Silver Spring, providing food, clothing, medical and other support services to the homeless and those in need.

(Make check payable to Shepherd's Table)

ST-01	Supper for 5 homeless and hungry clients	\$20	#
ST-02	Supper for 10 homeless and hungry clients	\$40	#
ST-03	Purchase blankets for 10 clients	\$50	#

Spanish Catholic Center Clinic: Provides medical assistance and prescription medication to uninsured or under-insured low-income families who do not have health insurance. **(Make check payable to Catholic Charities)**

SCC-01	Purchase critical vaccines for one person	\$25	#
SCC-02	Purchase medical supplies	\$35	#
SCC-03	Purchase diabetes medication and equipment	\$50	#

TASSC: Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition is a coalition of torture survivors who provide direct assistance with legal, medical, housing, food, employment and other needs to survivors of torture to help them begin to rebuild their lives and heal from the horrific effects of torture. **(Make check payable to TASSC)**

TSC-01	Provide transportation for a survivor to medical appointments	\$15	#
TSC-02	Provide lunch for five clients	\$20	#
TSC-03	Purchase wintry weather clothing	\$50	#

Veteran's Supportive Services: SJB has partnered with a local organization providing supportive services to veterans and veteran families to provide Welcome Home supplies for formerly homeless vets.

(Make check payable to SJB with Veterans listed on the Memo line)

VSS-01	Purchase one set of pillows	\$10	#
VSS-02	Purchase one 11-piece Bed set (comforter, sheets, and pillowcases)	\$45	#
VSS-03	Purchase cookware set & utensils	\$50	#

100% of your donation goes to direct client services!!!!

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip _____

Email address: _____

Item #	Quantity	Each Donation	Total Donation	# Gift Cards Needed	Card Delivery Options	
					Pick- up	Mail
Grand Total				XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		

Deadline for ordering is Wednesday, December 16, 2020.

The number of cards requested will be available for pick up at the Parish Center or can be mailed to you. Submit this form and **separate check(s) payable to each charity selected**, except Sister Parish and Veteran's Supportive Services items, which should be made payable to SJB. Send check(s) to St. John the Baptist, 12319 New Hampshire Ave, S.S., MD 20904. For more info contact Cynthia at (301) 622-1122 or socialconcerns@sjbssparish.org.

Mystical Word

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

Our egos are made up of bunches of inordinate appetites, attachments to what we think constitutes eternal blessedness. Unfortunately, living with these inordinate appetites brings great peril and pain into our lives. With a surgeon's precision, John describes the harm our inordinate appetites cause us in his treatise *The Ascent of Mount Carmel*, Book 1. These inordinate appetites weary, torment, darken, defile, and weaken us (see A.1.6.1). The burdens and miseries of life come to us from these very ills. But, most of all, our unruly and selfish desires rob us of the opportunity to enjoy God's Spirit. We turn now to briefly examine each one.

First, our inordinate appetites or ego desires weary us. They never let us rest. John compares them to spoiled children: "always whining to their mother for this thing or that, and never satisfied." When we do not get our ego desires gratified, we resemble infants throwing tantrums. If we do not get what we want or cannot avoid something we hate, we throw, at least, an interior tantrum. We murmur and complain. Our spirits tire consequently.

In connection with the weariness of our ego desires, I also think of how overworked we are. We continuously push ourselves to make more and more money, so we can live more and more lavishly. But what is it all for? John illustrates this with an example: "Anyone who digs covetously for a treasure grows tired and exhausted, so does anyone who strives to satisfy the appetites' demands become wearied and fatigued." We're killing ourselves for treasures that neither satisfy nor last. The weariness sets in as we come to see that our appetites are never truly at ease, content, or gratified. We will always have to feed them. This leads to torment.

Naturally, according to John's thinking, the inordinate appetites torment us. Our attachments allow us no peace because they always need to be attended to, always demanding instant gratification. The torment is the never-ending need to satisfy these desires, allowing for no pleasurable rest. Our inordinate appetites wound us: "Like thorns, the appetites wound and hurt, stick to a person and cause pain." These aren't the intense longings of star-crossed lovers, but the greedy cravings that prevent

us from connecting with other people in a loving fashion and, therefore, make us lonely and miserable.

The torment comes as we keep goading ourselves into satisfying the outrageous demands of our attachments. We are never happy with what we have but are always looking for more. This creates an unhealthy competition with everyone else on the planet to obtain the things we want. Since there are few resources, we are quick to gobble them up before someone else beats us to it. As we trample over other people to get what we want, it may never occur to us that we may be hurting them. We have become blind, too.

John, perhaps in a way we might not expect, relies a great deal on reason. He champions the use of reason. Yet, when one is trapped by an inordinate appetite, reason not only dims but also becomes utterly blind. Our attachments

darken and blind us. They act like a film over our eyes. Then, we cannot clearly perceive what is real, true, and good.

I see this manifest today in a crusader mentality. It can appear in conservative and liberal circles alike. One wholly identifies with a cause or opinion, basically, an ideology. Then, one falls into demonizing people or an individual person. As we turn another person or group into "the enemy," we stain our souls with an ugliness, the ugliness of hate. We are defiled.

The next harm that our inordinate appetites cause is labelled by John as "defilement." Attachments, he says, make the soul ugly. I like to interpret this harm by way of the trivialization of desire and how impressionable we are.

We stifle, chain, and bridle our divine desire, using it up by feeding our addictions. We settle for less because it entertains or dazzles. We go crazy for Marvel's *Avengers*, Taylor Swift, Popeye's chicken, and loving or hating Trump. The problem with our craze for these products or experiences is that our desire is fitted to God *not* to passing realities like an upcoming music album or a popular meme. We settle for so much less than our hearts need. The desire for God gets shunted into lesser desires and the result is we get lost, too. Misery follows because all the things we want are passing away, finite, and ultimately, not God.



Statement from Cardinal-designate Gregory



As Archbishop of Washington I naturally began reading the long and difficult report on the Vatican's investigation of Theodore McCarrick with a keen personal interest in how our beleaguered Archdiocese would be portrayed. Almost immediately, though, as anxious as I had been to learn what might be revealed about this local Church I have come to love so much, I realized this was exactly the wrong approach.

In the end, this tragic chronicle is not primarily about individual dioceses. It is about unconscionable human violation and the pain that too many people endured at the hands of a deceitful man who only pretended to want what was best for them in order to get what he wanted for himself. Further, it is about leaders – Catholic leaders – who upon their ordination promised our Heavenly Father that they would always put His precious people first; yet, through failures of competence, communication and culture, they seem to have completely mismanaged what they came to know about this devious man.

The Vatican's report demands to be viewed through the eyes of the survivors and their loved ones without prejudice to where they may have first encountered Theodore McCarrick or where they may be today. As has happened too often in recent history, it revealed to me and to you dark corners of our Church of which I am deeply ashamed and profoundly angry – again. It pushed into sunlight a culture that has too often served not to build up our cherished Catholic Church – Jesus Christ's greatest Gift to us – but to undermine it, far beyond the amoral ecclesiastical tenure of a single fallen cleric. Those of us in leadership have too often failed to understand, to acknowledge, to respond to, and to prevent the damage done to our innocent faithful – minors and adults.

In the report there were mercifully no revelations of sexual abuse alleged to have been perpetrated in this Archdiocese, and while I am of course grateful for that, it provides little comfort. I promise you with all my heart that our vigilance in the Archdiocese of Washington will continue – we will support the healing of those who have been harmed, our protocols for reporting and responding to these crimes will continue unabated and with renewed vigor, our safe environment efforts on behalf of those of every age will reflect the very best practices available.

Even so, as I read the Vatican text I felt such deep sorrow for those who should have been able to rely on the ministers of Christ's Church to protect and respect them. Instead they found themselves abused by a man who may have been outwardly charming and gregarious, but who allowed himself to be motivated by his own sinful gratification rather than the diametrically opposite Gospel call to go and make disciples for Jesus Christ. For a priest of His Church there can be no greater failing, except possibly to be aware of such incongruity and, in response, do nothing.

Persons who communicated anonymously about McCarrick's behavior must have feared retribution from the structures and persons that shielded him. When harm is being done in the Name of the Holy Catholic Church, one must never again feel constrained to come forward and speak out. Pope Francis has already put into place procedures designed to uncover the truth in such cases of clerical and hierarchical wrongdoing.

The Church has taken a step forward, albeit much delayed, in looking honestly at both this particular case and at the future of ecclesial accountability. How large and how enduring a step remains to be proven to the countless people we have disappointed. There are challenges to our integrity that must be overcome before we can move forward, and yet paradoxically it seems we can't move meaningfully forward until that integrity is restored. This will require time and transparency, contrition and commitment, prayer and reconciliation, authenticity and humility. I humbly beg for God's Mercy for myself and for my brothers in the episcopacy. I implore our Heavenly Father to shower His Grace upon all whose faith has been tested too often by what we have done and what we have failed to do.

Oh my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

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