

Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church

12319 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20904

Sunday, January 24, 2021

This week's readings: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 25 1 Corinthian 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20



It's hard to keep from singing in church. Singing is an integral part of Catholic liturgy. So often it's the text of a hymn or song that helps us remember the gospel of the day. Today, for instance, the story of Jesus calling the fisherman at the Sea of Galillee is told in the words of "Lord, When You Came" (Pescador de Hombres) by Cesário Gabarám.

Ordinary Time: Third Sunday

The men respond: O Lord, in my eyes you were gazing,

Kindly smiling, my name you were saying; All I treasured, I have left on the sand there: Close to you, I will find other seas.

This gospel passage begins with Jesus' first spoken words in the Gospel of Mark, and within them the general theme of the whole of Jesus' preaching.

"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

The Greek word for repentance, "metanoia," evokes more than just a sorrow for individual sins but an actual turning of one's whole being toward the Lord. We've begun a new year – a year unlike any we've known before. We are challenged to find the "other seas" referenced in that song. Now is the time to be part of the kingdom, to turn our whole lives toward God.

Next week's readings - Ordinary Time: 4th Sunday Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 95 1 Corinthian 7: 32-35 Mark 1:21-28

Schedule of Masses (January 30/31)

Saturday 5:00 p.m. - Fr. Brault

Dcn. McCormack

Sunday 7:30 a.m. - Fr. Rodriguez 9:30 a.m. - Fr. Kozubek

11:30 a.m. - 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.sibssparis

Website: www.sjbssparish.org Facebook: facebook.com/sjbcc

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SJB Mass is being Live Streamed

If you cannot attend Mass, you can view the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass in the Church which is live streamed on Facebook at



www.facebook.com/sjbcc. The 9:00 a.m. Weekday Mass will also be live streamed on Facebook.

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.

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.

Mass Intentions (January 25 – January 31)

Monday 7:30 - Dcn. Roberto Salgado (Parishioners)

9:00 - In Thanksgiving for Co-Workers on School

Staff -L- (P. Galan)

Tuesday 7:30 - Robert Thompson -L- (J. MacLeod)

9:00 - Matthew Peters -L- (N. & J. Peters)

Wednesday 7:30 - Magdalena Kovari (B. Chang)

9:00 - Louise Malanoski (Asdorian Family)

Thursday 7:30 - Dcn. John Somerville (Parishioners)

9:00 - Sylvester J. & Philomena Aquino

(D. & J. Aquino)

Friday 7:30 - Felicia Johnson (Parishioners)

9:00 - Gordon Lester (F. Schueler)

Saturday 9:00 - Mary Cermak (SJB Sodality)

5:00 - Rev. Eliot Nitz (Jackson Family)

Sunday 7:30 - David Asdorian (McGinnis Family)

9:30 - Rev. Msgr. Francis Kazista (J. & L. Sherman)

11:30 - Parishioners

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 sjbbulletin@sjbssparish.org Parish Website www.sjbssparish.org School Website www.sjbsilverspring.org

Bulletin Deadline

February 7, Bulletin & Website deadline Thursday, <u>January 28</u>, at 9:00 a.m

Send Bulletin announcements to sjbbulletin@sjbssparish.org Send Website announcements to kbrown@sibssparish.org

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Sign up for Weekend Mass on our website,

www.sjbssparish.org



Please sign up all members of your family **individually**, so we can count each person attending Mass to maintain the required social distancing. In you don't have internet access, please call the Parish Office, 301-622-1122.

More Mass information on page five.

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.

Pax Christi-SJB Meeting

In 2017, in accord with Pope Francis' call to abolish nuclear weapons, the Holy See was the first nation-state to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). On <u>January 22, 2021</u>, the TPNW, which has now been ratified by 51 nation-states, went into effect, thereby making nuclear weapons internationally illegal.

You can also sign the resolution at https://preventnuclearwar.org Join us in urging the United States to declare a "no first strike" policy, as a next step toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

If you would like more information, come to the Pax Christi-SJB meeting on <u>February 8</u>; contact Ronnie Fellerath-Lowell, <u>vmfny@aol.com</u>, for the zoom link.

Bereavement Ministry

Due to Covid 19, our Bereavement Ministry is still unable to safely hold monthly meetings at St. John the Baptist Church. We know that so many are grieving and may not have any other outlet for expressing the grief that you feel. We are brokenhearted that we cannot be with each of you to share your grief and comfort one another. If you need to speak with someone in the Ministry, please leave a message for Ruth Anne McCormick, 301-622-0664, or Maryanne Dulski, 301-384-1743. You may also email Ruth Anne at drram612@gmail.com.

From the Desk of our Pastor

Since the Kazista Center was built we have had ongoing issues with the HVAC system stemming from poor design which caused air flow issues. We have nursed the



system along but recently reached a point where it needed to be replaced when we had no AC during the summer. The HVAC unit components were mostly original equipment installed during construction of the Kazista Center. The compressor, indoor coil and air handler were replaced at a cost of \$21,196.71. However, new equipment did not resolve the air flow issues. The original air flow zoning system controller was not working properly so a new zoning system with new dampers, controller and actuator needed to be installed at a cost of \$7,595.75. The timing couldn't have been worse, but we are fortunate your contributions to the Capital Improvement Fund enable us to cover these expenses.

Gratefully,

Father Dand

Year-End Statement

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

Faith Direct Annual Mailing

Next week Faith Direct will send out their annual renewal for 2021. Please review and make changes if you wish. Also note that this year there is a line for "Indonesian Donation" which is only for use by our Indonesian Catholic Community. Thank you for your continued support through Faith Direct!

Scam Emails - Do Not Respond

Scam emails from 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.

Weekly Stewardship Report

Please see next week's bulletin for the January 17 Offertory.

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How to Keep Informed of SJB Parish News

Flocknotes: Visit our SJB website, <u>www.sjbssparish.org</u>, 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.

Parish Envelopes

You should have received your donation envelopes, as many families finally received them. However, if you have not, please call the Parish Office at 301-622-1122. Know that you can always put your check in a regular envelope with your name and the fund you want it to go towards. This might also be a good time to consider signing up for Faith Direct. No matter which method you choose, thank you for your continuing support of the parish.

Knights of Columbus Car Raffle

The 51st Annual Knights of Columbus Maryland State Council car raffle is underway. 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 be 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 February 6 and February 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. Please 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.

Rides to March for Life Cancelled

The National March for Life is Friday, <u>January 29</u>. As a result of the decision of the March for Life organizers to make the "March" a virtual "March," the SJB Knights will not be offering rides to the "March for Life."



You can learn more about the march at: Statement on 2021 March for Life - March for Life

Maryland March for Life

The Maryland March for Life has been scheduled for <u>February 4</u>, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Due to the pandemic and virtual session, the March will look different from years past. The event will involve a life chain



in-person gathering outside the state capitol in Annapolis, outside the Miller Senate Building. All social distancing guidelines will be followed, and masks will be required. We encourage you to save the date for this important event! More information can be found at https://www.mdmarchforlife.com/

Virtual Rally and Mass for Life

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Archdiocese of Washington will be hosting a Virtual Youth Rally and Mass for Life, which will begin on Friday, January 29, at 8:30 a.m. This live event will feature Josh Brahm from the Equal Rights Institute, who will speak about pro-life apologetics. The virtual rally will also feature music from Sarah Kroger, Out of Darkness, and Ivan Diaz. The Youth Rally will be followed by a Mass with Cardinal Gregory and local bishops, livestreamed from St. Matthew's Cathedral with music from PJ Anderson. The event will be livestreamed from our Youtube page @WashArchdiocese and will also be available on our website at https://youthrallyandmassforlife.org/

Support Pregnant Mothers & their Babies

During this Right to Life Month, 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. For more information about the Gabriel Project, and to support our efforts, please visit the website at www.gpmoco.org and look for the link for the Gabriel Project's Amazon Charity List at the top of the home page. Thank you for your generous support!

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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 <u>limit</u> 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 <u>every individual member</u> <u>of your family</u> 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.

The SJB Parish Food Drive will be on the

SJB Food Drive - Courtesy of the SJB Knights

first and third Saturday morning of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Please drive to the table in front of the Lyon Center and as you stay safe in your car, just pop your trunk or tailgate and your donation will be unloaded. Dry goods are preferred. Food donations will be distributed to the St. Camillus Food Bank. Thank you for your generosity. If you have a question or need more information, please email Brian Murphy at oliverb1960@gmail.com.

Three to Get Married Marriage Prep

Feb 11-14, (Virtual Only) / Feb. 18-21 (In-Person Only) Mar. 11-14 (In-Person Only) / Apr. 22-25 (Virtual Only) The Three to Get Married Marriage Preparation Program is a Catholic Pre-Cana program for seriously dating and engaged couples. This marriage preparation course is an intensive preparation experience true to the teachings of the Catholic Church. Convenient one-weekend schedule. FOCCUS administration is included. \$315 per couple. Space will be limited and these weekends fill up quickly, so reserve your spot today! Find more information on the website https://ourladyofbethesda.org/programs/marriage/virtual-marriage-prep. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, Bethesda, MD.

Faith Formation Ministry

L.J. Milone, Director, 301-622-1122, adultdre@sjbssparish.org

A service of Lament, Hope, and Healing

Monday, January 25, 7-8:30 p.m.

New offering of the Living the Gospel: Contemplation and Action program

This Adult Faith Formation program is a partnership of several Maryland Catholic parishes: St John the Baptist, St Camillus, St Patrick's, and parishioners from Resurrection.

This past year has been hard. Many of us have lost beloved family members and friends. Our country is more divided than ever. We have also lost many other things: our jobs, peace of mind, our ability to move around freely, opportunities, and more. We lament violence and divisions in our country as well as any violence that festers in our neighborhoods, homes, and hearts. In faith, we can bring these losses to God for healing. Join us on the evening of January 25 for a Liturgy of Lament to pray, share in small group sharing, and surrender to God amidst our losses. Hoping in God, healing can begin.

Register here:

Meeting Registration - Zoom

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please mark your calendars:

February 8, 7-8:30 p.m.:

The Gospel in Our Time - Why the Good News is Good

What does the Good News of Jesus have to do with our tumultuous times? The Good News of Jesus can help, heal, transform our world. Format -- lecture, group discussion, and prayer.

Lenten Retreat, <u>February 27</u>, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.: Released from all worry and fear

Consider the birds of the air, the lilies in the field....A morning retreat to encounter the goodness of God in Jesus' preaching. Jesus offers us liberation, release from anxiety. Prayer over the Gospel readings, silence for meditation, spiritual conferences, small-group sharing, and prayer.

Inclement Weather Information

Due to Covid-19, the St. John the Baptist School closings for weekday weather related cancellations/delays will be determined by the Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Schools Office. The Parish Office follows the Federal Government for cancellations and delays. Despite the weather and related closures, Mass will always be celebrated.

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Mystical Word

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

<u>"O happy nothingness, and happy hiding place</u> of the heart!" There it is! Happy nothingness! When we remain in a spiritual state of nothingness, we are happy! Nothingness is a spiritual state, an interior state, or a

state of the heart that is totally prayerful. To be happy is to be nothing within. Our interior and spiritual state has to be reduced to nothing. And we must be not only okay with that, but also rejoicing in it. John counsels us: "Souls will be unable to reach perfection who do not strive to be content with having nothing, in such fashion that their natural and spiritual desire is satisfied with emptiness; for this is

necessary in order to reach the highest tranquility and peace of spirit. Hence the love of God in the pure and simple soul is almost continually in act."

The fullest contentment and deepest desire of our hearts is found in nothingness. Both our "natural and spiritual desire" must be "satisfied with emptiness." We are pleased, in other words, to have and be nothing. In such a way, which is no way at all because it is nothingness, we rest in God alone. For, according to St. John of the Cross and the whole host of Christian mystics, God is not a thing but transcendent mystery. As such, God seems to us like nothing. So, if we are happy with God alone, who is not a thing, we can rest content with our interior world "void of all things." Where there is interior vacancy, there is God. To be content with God alone is to be content with nothing since God is not a thing and since the soul must be left empty and void of all attachments and all thinking.

Again, happy nothingness is a spiritual state residing in the heart. It is "where" the heart hides from its cravings and attachments. Happy nothingness is when we allow our hearts to rest in nothingness without reacting to their cravings by satisfying them. It is an interior state in which we must remain "empty, naked, and purified of every appetite." And happy nothingness is not only an interior state which we practice but also a state into which God brings us. For, there comes a time when God takes us deeper into contemplative silence as we continuously abide in the empty state of being content with God alone. As God takes us deeper, we lose interest in the things that use to stimulate and excite our inordinate desires. We take delight in the nothingness within.

At its core, the practice of happy nothingness means to stop thinking since all our inordinate desires lie in our minds. John writes, "Let there be no particular knowledge or affection or other consideration in any of

> the spiritual faculties...and let there be no other digressions, forms, images, or figures of objects, or other natural operations in any of the bodily senses and faculties, either interior or exterior (the imaginative power and phantasy, and so on, sight and hearing, and so on). The soul says this because, for the perfect enjoyment of this communion with God, all the senses and

faculties, interior and exterior, should be unoccupied, idle, and empty of their own operations and objects."

Besides the fact that our inordinate appetites lie in our thinking, the other major reason we have to stop thinking is that our knowledge, composed of thoughts and feelings, cannot grasp God in the divine mystery that God is. He says that those who seek God "must lean on dark faith...and rest on nothing of what they understand, taste, feel, or imagine. All these perceptions are darkness that will lead them astray. Faith lies beyond all this understanding, taste, feeling, and imagining" (A 2.4.2). God transcends our "understanding, taste, feeling, and imagining," in short, our thinking. No matter how exalted our experiences or thoughts of God, John counsels us, "that knowledge or experience will have no resemblance to God and amount to very little" (A 2.4.3). So, he is not talking about general thoughts only. He is also talking about good and holy thoughts, even thoughts about God. Happy nothingness, as John describes it, is the state of not thinking. He tells us to stay put in this state of quiet without adverting to anything exterior or interior. Happy nothingness is the practice of letting go of chronic thinking and of all mental phenomena while enjoying God as God whom we experience as nothing.

Now, based on our reflections on the selection from Letter 16, we can define "happy nothingness" as a dynamic state of contemplative prayer in which we rest contented and glad about God alone by not thinking and abiding in the nothingness within. We rest happy with God through interior nothingness, a spiritual state of not paying attention to our thinking.

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