



Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church

12319 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20904

Rooted in Tradition ~ Led by the Spirit

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Easter Season: Fifth Sunday

This week's readings: Acts 9:26-31 Psalm 22 1 John 3:18-24 John 15:1-8



The heart of today's gospel is a well-known principle to farmers, arborists, gardeners, even the person with a tidy little plant on the windowsill. Pruning vegetation promotes good growth, makes it more fruitful, and usually increases its beauty. Careful tending implies careful pruning. Jesus gives us an image of the great intimacy and interdependence that exists between himself, his Father,

and his disciples. "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower: – and we are the branches."

So significant was the image of the vine to the people of the Old Testament that on one facade of the Jerusalem temple sanctuary they carved an ornamental vine with golden clusters of grapes as big as a human hand. And the early Christian community painted a vine on the walls of the catacombs in memory of Christ, the true vine. All the branches are tangled together as they grow from the central stock, undifferentiated by anything but their fruitfulness. Such is the relationship of Jesus to the new community that grows from his death and resurrection. The community to which we belong by virtue of our baptism.

To remain healthy and productive the vine must be pruned by our vine-grower God. What needs to be pruned in our lives to increase our potential for greater fruit-bearing?

Next week's readings - Easter Season: 6th Sunday
Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 4:7-10 John 15:9-17

Schedule of Masses (May 8/9)

Saturday 5:00 p.m. - Fr. Willis
Dcn. McCormack
Sunday 7:30 a.m. - Fr. Rodriguez
9:30 a.m. - Fr. Kozubek
11:30 a.m. - Fr. Brault
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

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.

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.

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.

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 (May 3 - May 9)

Monday 7:30 - Victor Salinas-Linares (Parishioners)
9:00 - Sinsoroso "Larry" Burgess (B. Chang)

Tuesday 7:30 - Mark Manalo (Perez Family)
9:00 - Lee Wurtzer Family -L- (N. & J. Peters)

Wednesday 7:30 - Omar Khiel (M. Khiel)
9:00 - Grandma Doa (Granddaughter)

Thursday 7:30 - Agnus Joan Martin (Parishioners)
9:00 - Marcial del Pilar (del Pilar Family)

Friday 7:30 - Souls in Purgatory (Ceron Family)
9:00 - Patricia Buchanan (Family)

Saturday 9:00 - Sharon DiFonzo (J. Perito)
5:00 - Parishioners

Sunday 7:30 - Lucia Love (D. & B. Ponchione)
9:30 - Linda Murrow (Kuzemka Family)
11:30 - Marie Celine Durkan (Dante Stumpo & Family)
No evening Mass

Parish Clergy

Rev. Y. David Brault Pastor
Rev. Cezary Kozubek Associate Pastor
Rev. Glen Willis Weekend Associate
Rev. Nicolás Rodríguez 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

May 16 Bulletin & Website deadline
Thursday, May 6, at 9:00 a.m

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

Remember in Prayer those who have died:

Edward R. Collins, Jr. former parishioner; and Girous Peguese, father of Kevin Broadus.

SJB School Religious Ed. Teachers Needed

Are you interested in teaching religion in the parish school to students in grade 6, grade 7, or grade 8? St. John the Baptist Catholic School is seeking certified Catechists who are interested in teaching religion in the parish school for the 2021-22 school year. This is a part-time job. Please visit this website for information about Catechist certification, <https://adw.org/learning-the-faith/faith-formation/certification/>. If interested, please contact the Principal, Brian Blomquist at brian.blomquist@sjbsilverspring.org.



Little Sisters of the Poor Collection

Due to the pandemic, the Little Sisters of the Poor will not be able to make their yearly visit to the Parish to ask for help in their ministry to the Elderly Poor. St. John the Baptist Parish is usually most generous to them. They have asked us to take up a special collection for them in order to continue their mission. This year also marks their 150th Anniversary of existence in Washington, DC. Please place your donation in the 'Little Sisters' baskets at the back of Church. This collection will be May 2 through May 30. Thank you in advance for your support.

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 information on page four. More Mass information on page four.

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.

Annual SJB Parish Baby Bottle Campaign

St. John the Baptist Parish will resume its traditional Baby Bottle Campaign, which will run from Mother's Day May 9 through Father's Day June 20. The Campaign will aid expectant mothers at the Centro Tepeyac and the Gabriel Network pregnancy centers. Empty baby bottles will be distributed after all Masses on May 8 & 9 at the Church exits. Alternatively, they may be picked up in the Kazista Center at any time during the campaign. These bottles are to be filled with loose change, but paper money and checks made out to Knights of Columbus Council #11106, Centro Tepeyac or the Gabriel Network are also welcome. Once filled, they can be placed in the cradle in the Sanctuary at the Offertory at any of the Father's Day Masses, or delivered to the Kazista Center. Your contributions will help mothers with crisis pregnancies choose the priceless gift of life for their babies.



Centro Tepeyac and the Gabriel Network have mutually complementary roles in supporting women involved in crisis pregnancies. The mission of Centro Tepeyac Women's Center is to encourage, educate, and empower women and men to make life-giving decisions for themselves and their unborn children. They do this through compassionate lay counseling, practical support and walking with the women they serve every step of the way. Their staff is bilingual and their services are free and confidential. They offer free pregnancy tests, and ultrasound sonography as well as ongoing support, during pregnancy, childbirth and after birth, with parents, boyfriend or husband, as needed. They also offer referral to prenatal and parenting classes, support groups, and child-care programs, as well as, baby clothing and supplies. Their office is located at the Catholic Charities Center at 12247 Georgia Ave in Silver Spring near the Glenmont Metro (Georgia and Randolph). They may be reached at 301-587-9516 and on the web at www.centrotepeyac.org. Centro Tepeyac is totally supported by donations. They do not receive any government support. They are thankful for any support that they receive.

Gabriel Network provides long-term supportive relationships with local church teams and transitional maternity housing to women experiencing crisis pregnancies. They have three maternity homes and have 38 local Angel Friend Teams that provide material, emotional, and spiritual support to pregnant women and their families across Maryland and DC, serving over 100 families each month.

Weekly Stewardship Report		
Offertory	Sunday, April 25, 2021	\$7,666.00
Please note monies given via Faith Direct are not included in the Offertory above.		

Sign-up Weekly for Weekend Masses on our Website, www.sjbssparish.org.

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

SJB Parish 'Drive Out Hunger' Food Drive

The SJB Parish Food Drive drop off will be the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month near the Lyon Center from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. 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, oliverb1960@gmail.com.



Scam Emails

Scam emails have been sent to SJB parishioners in Fr. David's name. Fr. David communicates with our parishioners through the bulletin or mailings, so if you receive email from Fr. David requesting money or assistance, please do not respond and delete the email. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office, 301-622-1122.



End of Life - Have You Had the Conversation?

95% of Americans want to talk about their wishes at the end of life – but it is hard to talk about. It can be scary. Our faith gives us hope in the Resurrection. It is important to have conversations about what your healthcare at the end of life will look like, glorifying God in this life and celebrating with Him in the next. The Conversation Project can help you start talking about healthcare and your wishes for the end of life with your family. Visit mdcatholic.org/endoflife.

Prayer of the Other

Loving God,

Turn my *eyes* to the other,

That I may see each other as you see me-

With an innate dignity that transcends
appearances, circumstances,
class, and all earthly status,

which are temporary.

Help me to see the other as Your
beloved child, eternally.

Turn my *ears* to the other,

That I may hear their cries as you hear mine –

With a compassion and tenderness
that draws me closer in the
midst of suffering.

Help me to hear the other as

Your beloved child, eternally.

Turn my *mind* to the other,

That I may come to understand them

As you understand me –

Struggling to find meaning and
wholeness in a world that's fragmented,
and your light in a world that's
dimmed.

Help me to understand the other as

Your beloved child, eternally.

Turn my *feet* to the other,

That I may approach them across the
gaps that divide us –

gaps too often widened by illusion of
family, tribe, creed, race...even
otherness itself.

Help me to approach the other as Your

beloved child, eternally.

Turn my *hands* to the other,

That I may serve them as You serve me –

with a touch that cleanses, that heals,
that feeds, and that reassures.

Help me to serve the other as Your

beloved child, eternally.

Turn my *heart* to the other,

that I may love them as you love me –
steadfast, forgiving, ever-merciful, with
patience, seeing my joy in theirs.

Help me to love the other as Your

beloved child, eternally.

Loving God,

Turn my *life* to the others,

that I may live in solidarity with them,
and thus with you,

forever.

Amen.

Catholic Relief Services.

Faith Formation Ministry

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

Nihil Sessions

This is a contemplative, nondual, wholistic, mystically oriented, and ongoing series on the essentials of Catholic faith and spirituality led by L.J. Milone. Come for an entirely different way of talking about God, faith, and spirituality.

The word “nihil” means “nothing” and reflects the core goals of these sessions: to follow Jesus along the way of the cross or the way of nothingness, to encounter the God who is no-thing, incomprehensible mystery, to affirm and explore the self-emptying love of God in the core teachings of Catholicism, to explore and apply the path of letting go to our lives, to discover the power and healing of silence, and to delve into the many mystical spiritualities in the Catholic tradition.

In these sessions you will be challenged to grow spiritually, to appreciate the life-changing truths of our faith, and to open yourself ever more to the Infinite Spirit of God.

Each session ends with silent meditation.

Tuesday nights, 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

For the zoom link email ljmilone@sjbssparish.org



Jubilarian Mass

Are you celebrating a special wedding anniversary? Each year the Archdiocese of Washington honors couples married 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 and 70+ years at the annual Jubilarian Mass. This year’s Mass will be held Sunday, June 27 at 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Matthew. Seating is limited to allow for social distancing. The Mass will also be live-streamed at www.adw.org to allow all Jubilarian couples to participate virtually.

Registration to attend the Jubilarian Mass will be open until May 13 and is required to attend the Mass in person. To register to attend the Mass in person, or to receive a signed Jubilarian anniversary certificate, please contact our Parish Office at 301-622-1122 to notify us of your wedding anniversary as soon as possible.

Saint Rose Venerini’s Story – (February 9, 1656 – May 7, 1728)

Rose was born at Viterbo in Italy, the daughter of a doctor. Following the death of her fiancé she entered a convent, but soon returned home to care for her newly widowed mother. Meanwhile, Rose invited the women of the neighborhood to recite the rosary in her home, forming a sort of sodality with them.

As she looked to her future under the spiritual guidance of a Jesuit priest, Rose became convinced that she was called to become a teacher in the world rather than a contemplative nun in a convent. Clearly, she made the right choice: She was a born teacher, and the free school for girls she opened in 1685 was well received.

Soon the cardinal invited her to oversee the training of teachers and the administration of schools in his diocese of Montefiascone. As Rose’s reputation grew, she was called upon to organize schools in many parts of Italy, including Rome. Her disposition was right for the task as well, for Rose often met considerable opposition but was never deterred.

She died in Rome in 1728, where a number of miracles were attributed to her. She was beatified in 1952 and canonized in 2006. The sodality, or group of women she had invited to prayer, was ultimately given the rank of a religious congregation. Today, the so-called Venerini Sisters can be found in the United States and elsewhere, working among Italian immigrants.

Source: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-rose-venerini>



Mystical Word

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

There is a cool and serene image that St. John of the Cross uses to describe divine unity: a clean window letting in sunlight. John elaborates on this everyday illustration: "A ray of sunlight shining on a smudgy window is unable to illumine that window completely and transform it into its own light. It could do this if the window were cleaned and polished. The less the film and stain are wiped away, the less the window will be illumined; and the cleaner the window is, the brighter will be its illumination...If the window is totally clean and pure, the sunlight will so transform and illumine it that to all appearances the window will be identical with the ray of sunlight and shine just as the sun's ray...The soul on which the divine light of God's being is ever shining, or better, in which it is ever dwelling by nature, is like this window... A soul makes room for God by wiping away all the smudges and smears of creatures...for to love is to labor, to divest and deprive oneself for God of all that is not God. When this is done the soul will be illumined by and transformed in God. And God will so communicate his supernatural being to the soul that it will appear to be God himself." The soul is the window. It can be dirty or clean, clear. If it is dirty the light of God will not shine through it. If the soul is clear like a clean window, then God's ebullient brilliance bursts through.

Illumined in God, the soul becomes transparent. Attachments and inordinate desires smear the windows of our souls, blocking out the divine light. Though similar to the image of fire in that both light and fire emanate and dispel darkness, pure light pouring in through a clear window is a gentler, more peaceful image. The soul in divine union radiates the gentleness and peace of God. This is yet another aspect of being divinized.

There is an effortlessness and almost inevitability of the divine gift portrayed in the image of a window letting in light. God lavishes the divine self on all; of this, John is convinced. It is core to the Gospel. God lavishes the divine mystery on us through the cross. John assures

with a gentle confidence: let go and the light will transpierce you. The divine inpouring is not in question for John. Rather, our willingness to clean our windows, wiping away the smudges of our attachments and the grit of our chronic thinking, represents the major issue of the spiritual journey. But God is ever ready to give. That is

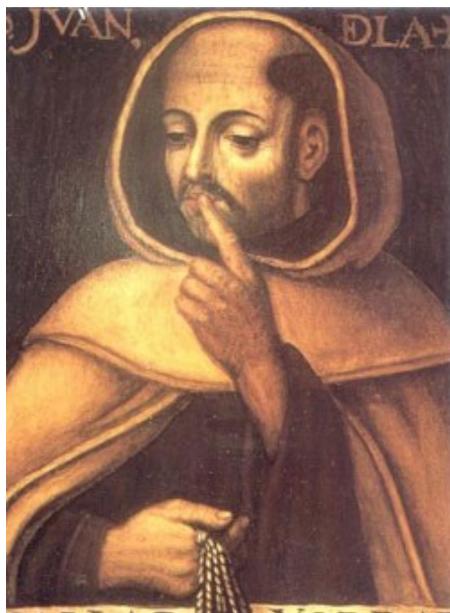
who God is. Our task is to pray.

Even though spirituality comes down to the one simple practice of prayer, the challenge of living for God is to pray as much as we can. Prayer is no longer a practice, much less a chore. The one in divine unity breathes the air of God's presence. Prayer is the unified soul inhaling and exhaling. Prayer becomes quite natural and every day. It is as easy and as constant as breathing.

Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen notes how divine union "generates in the soul a continual sense of the presence of God, by means of which He who possesses the soul is also possessed by it." This "sense of the continual presence of God" Fr

Gabriel finds well described in this line from *The Living Flame* commentary: "Oh, how happy is this soul, which ever experiences God resting and reposing within it!" Ceaseless prayer makes us endlessly happy.

Through ceaseless prayer the soul swims in a blissful sea of divinity, rejoicing in God in everything. For the soul, all creation and all its experience appear as they are in their deepest reality: divine. The whole reality of God floods the soul and "the soul experiences and knows the truth of St. Francis' prayer: My God and all things. Since God is all things to the soul and the good that is in all things...Inasmuch as the soul in this case is united with God, she feels that all things are God...It should not be thought that what the soul is said to feel here is comparable to seeing things by means of the light, or creatures by means of God; rather in this possession the soul feels that God is all things for her." God is the soul's all in all, the life of the Resurrection.



SJB School Article in The Washington Post on April 27

Fourth-graders at our Saint John the Baptist School participated in a pen pal project with residents of the Brooke Grove Retirement Village. The two groups have been writing each other since last fall. Please visit the link below for the article written by Haben Kelati in *The Kids Post* section of *The Washington Post*.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/pen-pal-project-helps-fourth-graders-and-seniors-connect-during-the-pandemic/2021/04/26/5a3519ae-a11a-11eb-a7ee-949c574a09ac_story.html



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COVID RENT RELIEF PROGRAM

Are you a Montgomery County resident who is behind on rent because of COVID-19? You may be eligible for up to \$12,000 in assistance.

ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS MAY RECEIVE UP TO \$12,000 FOR RENT ARREARS AND/OR A RENT CREDIT FOR FUTURE MONTHS.

HOUSEHOLDS THAT HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED HHS COVID RENT RELIEF ASSISTANCE ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL FUNDS.



YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE IF YOU:

- HAVE EXPERIENCED A COVID-19 RELATED LOSS OF INCOME
- OWE AT LEAST \$1000 OR MORE TO CURRENT LANDLORD
- HAVE A GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME AT OR BELOW 50% OF AREA MEDIAN INCOME FOR THE LAST 30 DAYS
- HAVE LIVED IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY SINCE AT LEAST AUGUST 2020.



DON'T WAIT, APPLY TODAY!
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SCAN ME



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COVID RENT RELIEF PROGRAM

Are your tenants behind on rent?

Help your tenants receive rent assistance grants of up to \$12,000 per household. Applications require landlord support.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- **START THE APPLICATION VIA THE LANDLORD PORTAL**
- **NOTIFY TENANTS THAT ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE**
- **VERIFY DATA PROVIDED BY TENANTS IN APPLICATIONS**
- **HELP TENANTS APPLY; OFFER INTERNET ACCESS**

TO RECEIVE FUNDING, LANDLORDS MUST AGREE TO:

- **FORGIVE LATE FEES, PENALTIES, INTEREST AND LEGAL FEES;**
- **CANCEL ANY CURRENT EVICTION ACTIONS AND NOT SUE TO EVICT WHILE RECEIVING PROGRAM FUNDS/ FOR 30 DAYS AFTER;**
- **OFFER A LEASE RENEWAL FOR A 90 DAY PERIOD IF THE LEASE HAS EXPIRED**



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