



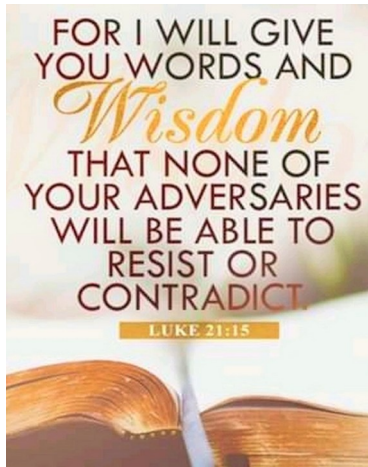
Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church

12319 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20904

Sunday, November 16, 2025

Ordinary Time: Thirty-third Sunday

Today's Readings: Malachi 3:19-20a Psalm 98 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12 Luke 21:5-19



In today's Gospel Jesus foretells the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in 70 AD. The temple was not just the center of the Jews' civilization: it was the place where God lived among them. Jesus told them that it was all going to fall apart! Is there any way in which our own "secure center" threatens to collapse?

As we approach the end of the liturgical year and prepare for Advent, we focus on the end of the world. For each of us, the end-time will be when we die and meet with Jesus. Let us pray for the grace to be ready for our own death-day, and that it will be a joyful meeting with the one friend who converted "the end times" into the eternal resurrection.

The Second Collection next weekend, November 22/23,
The Solemnity of Christ the King
will be for SJB Building Maintenance.

Schedule of Masses next weekend - November 22/23

The Solemnity of Christ the King

Saturday 5:00 p.m. - Fr. Andrew Wakefield

Sunday 7:30 a.m. - Fr. Andrew Wakefield.

9:00 a.m. - Msgr. Mike Mellone

11:30 a.m. - Fr. Johnson John

Dcn. Jim Gorman (preaching)

Daily Mass:

Monday-Friday - 7:00 & 8:30 a.m.

Saturday - 9:00 a.m.

Baptism: Parishioners are asked to call the Parish Office and speak with our Director of Faith Formation.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday: 4:00-4:45 p.m.

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

Rooted in Tradition ~ Led by the Spirit

2025 Prayer Intentions for the Holy Father

November - For the prevention of suicide

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

Parish Directory

Please call the Parish Office to contact our Staff.

Parish Office - 301-622-1122

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Wakefield

pastor@sjbssparish.org

Bulletin Editor: Martha Kerley

sjbbulletin@sjbssparish.org

Child Protection Coordinator: Martha Kerley

mkerley@sjbssparish.org

Facilities Manager: Peter Vassiliou

peter.vassiliou@sjbsilverspring.org

Music Director: Tracy McDonnell

music@sjbssparish.org

Parish Secretary: Mary Frances Vassiliou

secretary@sjbssparish.org

Religious Education/Faith Formation: Eddie Argauer

dre@sjbssparish.org

Sacristan: Glenda Chauncey

301-622-1122

Youth Ministry: Robert Gilmore

youthministry@sjbssparish.org

Parochial School

Principal: Brian Blomquist

brian.blomquist@sjbsilverspring.org

School Phone: 301-622-3076

School Website: www.sjbsilverspring.org

Websites

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church:

www.sjbssparish.org

SJB Athletic Ministry:

www.sjbathletics.org

Community Sunday/Community Breakfast

Join us in the Gym after the 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Masses for a Community Breakfast prepared by the Knights of Columbus. All are welcome.



Mass Intentions (November 17 - November 23)

Monday 7:00 - Faithful Departed
8:30 - Eleanor Pernia (D. & J. Aquino)

Tuesday 7:00 - Faithful Departed
8:30 - Ana Acevedo Colón (A. Valdes)

Wednesday 7:00 - Faithful Departed
8:30 - Loretta Miller (S. Skees-Niska)

Thursday 7:00 - Faithful Departed
8:30 - Dimitri Vassiliou (A. Hernandez)

Friday 7:00 - Souls in Purgatory (Ceron Family)
8:30 - Faithful Departed

Saturday 9:00 - Elizabeth Perkins (P. Perkins)
5:00 - Martin Young (M. & S. Rojcewicz)

Sunday 7:30 - Parishioners
9:00 - Vassiliou Family -L- (K. Krchma)
11:30 - Ken Wilson (R. Miller)

Parish Clergy

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Rev. Andrew Wakefield | Pastor |
| Rev. Johnson John, CMI | In Residence |
| Msgr. Michael Mellone | In Residence |
| Deacon James Gorman | Permanent Deacon |

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Chapel Hours

Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. when the Parish Office is Open

Adoration in the Chapel - Extended Hours

Adoration will take place every Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. when the Parish Office is open. Additional Adorers are welcome during this time. Signup sheets will be available outside the Chapel on Thursdays during Adoration.



November Collections

November 22/23 - Building/Maintenance

Early Bulletin Deadline

November 30 Bulletin & Website deadline
Wednesday, November 19, at 9:00 a.m.

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



Dear Friends,

Our Gospel this 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time directs our attention to the end of time, and it comes as we near the end of the liturgical year with the Solemnity of Christ the King next Sunday. Jesus says, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky." Perhaps in light of all the political and social upheaval of our times, we may think that Jesus's words have already come to fruition or they are coming to fruition now, and both are true! We live in the end times, and we have been since Christ's Ascension into Heaven, for as we profess in the Nicene Creed, we believe that "He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His Kingdom will have no end."

Of course, the imminence of Christ's return is in God's time, not ours, as the Catechism states in quoting the Acts of the Apostles, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority" (CCC 673). What is for us to know, though, is that the Lord has already redeemed us through His Death and Resurrection, and so we rejoice and live in accord with the hope of eternal life Jesus offers us. And this hope calls us to live in "fear" of the Lord, but not fear in the sense of trembling and trepidation, not in being afraid. Rather, biblical 'fear'

is about reverence and respect, appreciating the gift of God's love and mercy, which moves us to live our lives in a spirit of love and mercy for one another. "The glory of God is man fully alive," says the 2nd century bishop St. Irenaeus, and in these 'end times,' we live fully, loving to the end! This is our "work," both in the Church and in the world, which St. Paul speaks of in his second letter to the Thessalonians: Work to build the Kingdom of God; work to share the Good News of God's love; work to bring hope and light where there is despair and darkness; work to bring all people into the merciful embrace of the Father. In every age, this work has faced challenges, but it is the divine work of salvation made possible for us in our Lord's Paschal Mystery and which we share as missionary disciples, strengthened and nourished by the grace of the Holy Spirit!

I ask your prayers this week for our archbishop Cardinal McElroy, who, perhaps as you know, was recently diagnosed with well-differentiated liposarcoma, which he has just had surgically removed and is receiving treatment. While the prognosis for this non-aggressive cancer is very good, we pray for his quick recovery and healing. And we continue to keep in prayer all who are sick and all of our beloved deceased who we remember in our Parish Book of Remembrance this month.

In Christ,
Fr. Andrew

Sodality Bake Sale Today - November 16

SJB Sodality of the Visitation will have a Bake Sale after the 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. Masses today, Sunday, November 16. They will have their famous sausage bread, other fresh breads, and all kinds of treats, including sugar free and gluten free items. All proceeds will go to support their charitable works.

If you have any questions, please contact Prefect - Faten Theresa Haddad at 240-581-3460 (text). Come get the goodies. Thank you. God Bless You All.



Book of Remembrance

This year parishioners will be able to enter the names of those who have died in the Book of Remembrance online November 1 through November 27. The names from the website will be placed on the altar each week. Please visit our SJB website, www.sjbssparish.org, and click on Book of Remembrance. Please enter individually the names of the deceased to be remembered. If you do not have computer access, please call the Parish Office, 301-622-1122, with your names. Please contact Anna Moretti at morettia310@gmail.com for more information about the SJB Bereavement Ministry or grief support



Pax Christi Meeting - Today

Our next Pax Christi meeting will be in the Large Conference Room of the Kazista Center on Sunday, November 16, from 10 to 11:15 a.m. (We will end early as the room will be used at 11:30 a.m. for the Children's Liturgy.) You are invited to join us; we welcome new members and onetime visitors. The meetings follow a prayer-study-action format. Pax Christi - St. John the Baptist is part of Pax Christi USA, the national Catholic peace movement. Check out the website: www.paxchristiusa.org

Main item on the agenda: Renewing and expanding support for the Maryland Legislature's Back from the Brink (BftB) resolution, urging the federal government to take steps toward the abolition of nuclear weapons. We are encouraged by Pope Francis' message that nuclear weapons are immoral and must be abolished.

For more information, please contact Ronnie Fellerath-Lowell, vmfny@aol.com.

Thanksgiving Mass Schedule

On Thanksgiving Day, November 27, join us for our Thanksgiving Mass at 9:00 a.m. (There will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Thanksgiving.) On Friday, November 28, there be one Mass only at 9:00 a.m.. The Parish Office will be closed Thanksgiving Day and the Friday after Thanksgiving.



A peek into school: Celebrating Native American Heritage Month

Throughout November, each class is learning about a specific Native American tribe. Teachers are connecting these lessons across all subject areas, giving students a rich, interdisciplinary understanding of Native American history, culture, and traditions.



To showcase their learning, classes are creating informative posters that will be displayed throughout the building. In addition, the Cultural Mosaic Committee is hosting a Pop-Up Museum, where students can view projects and artifacts inspired by the tribes they've studied.

Grade-Level Focus

- Pre-K: Inuit
- Kindergarten: Chinook
- 1st Grade: Lakota (Sioux)
- 2nd Grade: Seminole
- 3rd Grade: Iroquois
- 4th Grade: Wampanoag
- 5th Grade: Powhatan
- 6th Grade: Nanticoke
- 7th Grade: Choctaw
- 8th Grade: Delaware
- Art: Navajo

Art Department Highlights

Middle school students have been especially busy in art class, creating projects inspired by traditional Native American crafts. These beautiful pieces are now featured in our Pop-Up Museum and throughout the school hallways, adding vibrant color and culture to our celebration.

Featured Art Projects:

- 5th Grade (Powhatan Tribe): Beadwork
- 6th Grade (Navajo Tribe): Weavings on burlap
- 7th Grade (Navajo Tribe): Yarn weavings
- 8th Grade (Navajo Tribe): Sand paintings

Would you like to learn English for free?

Learn English in a friendly, supportive environment and build your confidence! Classes are open to all levels of learners, which will include speaking, reading, and writing lessons. Now through December 20, 2025, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., at St. John the Baptist School Library, 12319 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20904 English Classes available for Spanish, French, Vietnamese, and Amharic. Please contact Liz Castillo 402-681-0286 to register.



Breakfast with Santa

Mark your calendar! Breakfast with Santa will return to St. John's on Saturday, December 6. Please watch the bulletin for more details.



For our Active Parishioners

If you are an Active Parishioner at St. John the Baptist and you are in need of food assistance during this Holiday Season – Thanksgiving through Christmas – please contact Fr. Andrew at the Parish Office, 301-622-1122, or by email at pastor@sjbssparish.org.



If you would like to assist your fellow parishioners in need this Holiday Season, there will be special "Parishioners Helping Parishioners with Holiday Food Assistance" envelopes at the doors of the church or write "Parishioner Holiday Food Help" on the memo line of your check and place in the Offertory Basket. Thank you for helping your fellow parishioners this holiday season.

SJB Walking with the Word

SJB Walking with the Word will meet Saturdays in the Lyon Center 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Please join our Zoom Meeting with this meeting location, meeting ID and password.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83988932139?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83988932139?pwd=bxgbuapgPOIntX5Nfu4Y8xTqZkEVnT.1)

[pwd=bxgbuapgPOIntX5Nfu4Y8xTqZkEVnT.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83988932139?pwd=bxgbuapgPOIntX5Nfu4Y8xTqZkEVnT.1)

Meeting ID: 839 8893 2139, Passcode: WWTW

For more information, please contact Jeff Hafner at jeff.hafner@aol.com, 703-203-4319.

SJB Food Drive - Knights of Columbus

The next St. John the Baptist Knights of Columbus Food Drive will be Saturday, December 6, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Drop off will be at the Lyon Center parking lot behind the church (canned or boxed dry foods only, please). *Please be careful to exclude any expired items from your donation.* Donations will be transported to the St. Camillus Food Pantry. Cash or check donations (payable to St. John the Baptist with "Food Drive" in the memo line) are also welcome! Thank you.



Coats for Kids: October 1 to December 31

Each year the SJB Knights of Columbus Council provides new winter coats to kids in need through donations to C-4, the Colesville Council of Community Congregations. Last year, for the first time, parishioners were invited to participate in this by making a tax-deductible contribution, and the outstanding generosity of parishioners enabled over 100 needy kids to have a new coat for Christmas! Please consider participating again this year. Checks payable to St. John the Baptist Church with "Coats for Kids" in the memo line may be mailed to the church, 12319 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring MD 20904; dropped off at the Parish Office; placed in the offertory basket at Mass; or dropped off at a Saturday Food Drive or Community Breakfast/Sunday. Please help the Knights of Columbus help kids in need!



Faith Formation

Eddie Argauer, 301-622-1122, dre@sjbssparish.org

Baptismal Preparation Class

The next Baptismal Preparation Class will be Tuesday, December 2, at 7 p.m. Classes will meet in the Large Conference Room of the Kazista Center. This class will highlight the significance of Baptism and prepare parents for this grace-filled sacrament. Please RSVP to the Director of Faith Formation, Eddie Argauer, at dre@sjbssparish.org or call the Parish Office at 301-622-1122.



2025 - 2026 Faith Formation

Faith Formation Classes (Sunday School classes) have begun. Please contact Eddie Argauer with any questions, dre@sjbssparish.org or 301-622-1122.



Altar Servers Needed

For students in grades 4 and up, please consider becoming an Altar Server to serve at Sunday Mass. Please contact Eddie Argauer, dre@sjbssparish.org or 301-622-1122.



Eucharistic Ministers Needed

Bring Jesus to others as a Eucharistic Minister at SJB. We are in need of more people to distribute Holy Communion, so do not be afraid! For more information, contact Eddie Argauer at dre@sjbssparish.org or call 301-622-1122.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

The Children's Liturgy of the Word will meet in the Kazista Center Large Conference Room and Chapel on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for children ages Kindergarten to Grade 4. Please contact Eddie Argauer, eargauer@sjbssparish.org, with any questions or if you would like to help.



Walking with Purpose (WWP)

The wildly popular Walking With Purpose program is a women's only Bible study that meets women right where they are, hands them a cup of coffee and transforms their hearts. Trust us. This may be your best YES ever. Discover how the Gospels are deeply relevant to your relationship with God and your everyday life while building great relationships at SJB! WWP will lead you to that safe place where you are unconditionally loved, baggage and all. This 6-week program began Saturday, October 18, at 10:15 a.m. in the Kazista Center's Conference Room. For more info, please contact Rai Howell at Marian.Howell@sjbsilverspring.org.



Angel Friends

Meeting the Moment: Growing Team Supports Another Mom

- We are grateful that four more Angel Friends, including a native Spanish speaker, have joined SJB's core team. This enabled us to extend support to another mom in the Silver Spring area, Jeni, who is expecting a boy in December. While we've been able to supply Jeni with most items, we'll likely need some winter baby clothes (0-3 or 3-6 months).
- Please continue to keep our other families in your prayers: Rebecca and baby girl Zariyah (3-months old); Bezenjie and 1-month-old twins Darian (boy) and Darien (girl); and Janelle and 1-month-old twin boys (Jayce and Jett).
- If you have items to donate (such as clothes, bottles and diapers), or you are interested in learning more about Angel Friends and the Gabriel Network -- perhaps consider joining the SJB team -- please contact Jeff and Crystal Vinson (cryspyfry@gmail.com and jeffvins@gmail.com).



Knights of Columbus Poster Contest

The SJB Knights of Columbus Council #11106 is sponsoring a poster contest with the theme "Keep Christ in Christmas." This contest is open to children ages 5-14 with eligibility determined by child's age as of November 1, 2025. Each contestant will submit a piece of original artwork that reflects the "Keep Christ in Christmas" theme, along with a "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest entry form. The poster should be approximately 12" x 14." All entries are due by Tuesday, December 9, and can be dropped off in the Parish Office Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Poster Entry Form will be available in the Parish Office. There will be 5 winners from our council, 1 from each of the following groups: Grade K, Grade 1-2, Grade 3-4, Grade 5-6, Grade 7-8. The winner from each age group will receive a \$25 gift card and there is no cost for this event. Please contact Joe Himpelmann, joseph.himpelmann@gmail.com, 240-380-7419, with any questions.



Scam Emails/Messages

Scam emails have been sent to SJB parishioners in Fr. Andrew's name. Please note that Fr. Andrew will not send an email or a text message requesting money or assistance. To verify the legitimacy of an email, please look at the sent email address. If the sent email address is from anything other than awakefield@sjbssparish.org, simply delete and do not respond. If you have any questions regarding the legitimacy of an email or text, please call the Parish Office, 301-622-1122.



Faith Direct eGiving is now ParishSoft

ParishSoft is now handling the Faith Direct eGiving. Please watch your emails for explanations from ParishSoft. ParishSoft is the software where your weekly contributions are entered and accumulated. Please call 1-866-507-8757 if you have any questions.



Around Town

Catholic Charities Offers Tax Prep

Catholic Charities organizes a group of volunteers each year to prepare tax returns for low-income taxpayers in the Washington area. The program runs every Saturday from February 1 to April 15 at Catholic Charities main office at 924 G Street, NW (just one block from Metro Center and the Gallery Place metro). The program has been going strong for more than a decade and last year, prepared more than 600 tax returns. New volunteers are needed for the 2026 tax season to help prepare returns, and for non-tax positions: greeters, interpreters, and schedulers.

All preparer volunteers must attend training on Saturdays in January and pass a brief online certification test before our February 1 start. We really appreciate your support. Please contact Teresa Villanueva with questions 301-942-1790 x8115, www.catholiccharitiesdc.org.

Advent Retreat Weekend - December 5-7, 2025

Advent is the perfect time for a silent retreat! Prepare for the coming of Christ with this special Advent edition of the Spiritual Exercises. Led by Fr. Robert Presutti, LC, this retreat will provide you with an opportunity to delve deep into your spiritual journey and connect with God in a more meaningful way during this holy season. The weekend is designed for both men and women seeking to deepen their faith and reconnect with their spiritual journey. Cost to attend this preached retreat: \$368 per person, private retreat option is available: \$276 per person. Find more details on our website www.ourladyofbethesda.org or call 301-365-0612. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20187. Don't miss this opportunity to invest in your spiritual renewal and prepare your soul for the Birth of Christ.

Post Cana Event

The Washington Archdiocese Post Cana for Widows and Widowers group is hosting their Christmas Party, Thursday, December 4, at Our Lady of Grace in Leisure World, Silver Spring, MD. For more information or to make a reservation, please contact Mary Dugan, marydugan12@yahoo.com.

Come and See - Taste Program

Looking for ways to grow closer to Jesus and learn more about our Faith? The TASTE Program (a Catholic Women's ministry) offers dynamic weekly speakers and small group discussion at St. Mary of the Mill in Laurel. Women from 60+ parishes have attended. For more information, please visit <https://www.tasteprogram.com/>.

The Story of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - November 21

Mary's presentation was celebrated in Jerusalem in the sixth century. A church was built there in honor of this mystery. The Eastern Church was more interested in the feast, but it does appear in the West in the 11th century. Although the feast at times disappeared from the calendar, in the 16th century it became a feast of the universal Church.

As with Mary's birth, we read of Mary's presentation in the temple only in apocryphal literature. In what is recognized as an unhistorical account, the Protoevangelium of James tells us that Anna and Joachim offered Mary to God in the Temple when she was 3 years old. This was to carry out a promise made to God when Anna was still childless.

Though it cannot be proven historically, Mary's presentation has an important theological purpose. It continues the impact of the feasts of the Immaculate Conception and of the birth of Mary. It emphasizes that the holiness conferred on Mary from the beginning of her life on earth continued through her early childhood and beyond. Source: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/presentation-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary/>



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