



# Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church

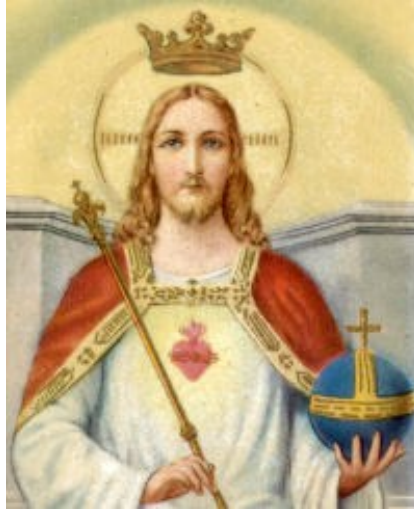
12319 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20904

Sunday, November 23, 2025

Solemnity of Christ the King

Rooted in Tradition ~ Led by the Spirit

Today's Readings: 2 Samuel 5:1-3 Psalm 122 Colossians 1:12-20 Luke 23:35-43



It doesn't get any better than this: "King of the Universe!" Wow. Not Jesus the nice guy, or good teacher, or just a friend, but king from the very genesis of the cosmos. This is awe inspiring. We are challenged to stretch our understanding and appreciation of God, not limit Him to our narrowed earthly viewpoint. Lord of lords, King of kings; that's what we celebrate today on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe!

And our 2nd Reading echoes this: "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the Church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent."

Let us join the angels in hailing our King: "Hosanna in the highest!"

## Schedule of Masses next weekend - November 29/30

### 1st Sunday of Advent

Saturday 5:00 p.m. - Msgr. Mike Mellone  
Sunday 7:30 a.m. - Fr. Andrew Wakefield  
9:00 a.m. - Fr. Andrew Wakefield  
11:30 a.m. - Msgr. Mike Mellone

### 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](http://www.sjbssparish.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/sjbcc](https://facebook.com/sjbcc)

## 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](mailto:pastor@sjbssparish.org)

Bulletin Editor: Martha Kerley

[sjbbulletin@sjbssparish.org](mailto:sjbbulletin@sjbssparish.org)

Child Protection Coordinator: Martha Kerley

[mkerley@sjbssparish.org](mailto:mkerley@sjbssparish.org)

Facilities Manager: Peter Vassiliou

[peter.vassiliou@sjbsilverspring.org](mailto:peter.vassiliou@sjbsilverspring.org)

Music Director: Tracy McDonnell

[music@sjbssparish.org](mailto:music@sjbssparish.org)

Parish Secretary: Mary Frances Vassiliou

[secretary@sjbssparish.org](mailto:secretary@sjbssparish.org)

Religious Education/Faith Formation: Eddie Argauer

[dre@sjbssparish.org](mailto:dre@sjbssparish.org)

Sacristan: Glenda Chauncey

301-622-1122

Youth Ministry: Robert Gilmore

[youthministry@sjbssparish.org](mailto:youthministry@sjbssparish.org)

### Parochial School

Principal: Brian Blomquist

[brian.blomquist@sjbsilverspring.org](mailto:brian.blomquist@sjbsilverspring.org)

School Phone: 301-622-3076

School Website: [www.sjbsilverspring.org](http://www.sjbsilverspring.org)

### Websites

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church:

[www.sjbssparish.org](http://www.sjbssparish.org)

SJB Athletic Ministry:

[www.sjbathletics.org](http://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 24 - November 30)

Monday 7:00 - Faithful Departed  
8:30 - John & Jack Randolph (M. Schiavone)

Tuesday 7:00 - Faithful Departed  
8:30 - Joseph Gibson III Thanksgiving -L-  
(J. Essiet)

Wednesday 7:00 - Bill Lowell (R. Fellereth-Lowell)  
8:30 - Faithful Departed

Thursday 9:00 - Mass of Thanksgiving

Friday 9:00 - Robert & Adelaide Curren (D. & J. Aquino)

Saturday 9:00 - Maj. Gen. John R. Hawkins III (Family)  
5:00 - Parishioners

Sunday 7:30 - Peacharpon Akeveeboonne -L- (Peach)  
9:00 - Francis & Joyce Hafner (Hafner Family)  
11:30 - John d'Epagnier (Family)

### 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\*\*

December 7 Bulletin & Website deadline  
Wednesday, November 28, at 9:00 a.m.

Send Bulletin announcements to  
[sjbbulletin@sjbssparish.org](mailto:sjbbulletin@sjbssparish.org)  
Send Website announcements to  
[kbrown@sjbssparish.org](mailto:kbrown@sjbssparish.org)



Dear Friends,

“This is the King of the Jews,” the inscription placed above the Crucified Christ reads, as Luke’s Gospel narrates. Pilate had written this inscription to provoke the Jews, while the soldiers who read it mocked Jesus, as did one of the criminals hanging next to Him. We, though, like the other criminal in Luke’s scene understand that this King is “Christ the King” who has the power to heal and redeem, and like him we cry out, “Jesus, remember me when I come into your kingdom.” Wherever we are in life, Jesus remembers us - He knows us, He understands us, He sees us, He loves us. And from His death on the cross, He makes possible for us eternal life! As the psalmist prays, may we “go rejoicing into the house of the Lord,” may we rejoice that Christ the King has come to set us free.

We near the end of Ordinary Time this weekend with our celebration of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, commonly known as Christ the King, and next Sunday we enter into the Advent Season. This week, we invite you to join us for our *Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 27*. In the busyness of life, we slow down this week to take stock and recognize the Lord’s gifts - family, friends, a community of faith, the sublime gift of divine love. I pray that you may know what a blessing you are to our parish community this Thanksgiving!

Finally, we are fortunate at St. John’s to be able to care for those in need through the Knights of Columbus twice-monthly food drives, our upcoming Winter Warmth Drive (the weekend of December 13-14), our support of area non-profits through our Community Fund, and a host of other projects, not least of which is our wonderful Sister Parish Project and our recent support of the Little Sisters of

the Poor. All of these help expand our sense of solidarity and unity with our local community and the Church universal. These ministries, among so many at St. John’s, are vital to our work of building Christ’s Kingdom.

And as we look outwards to share our blessings, we also want to look inwards: we want to ensure that we are able to support one another during what is such a difficult time for so many. We are a community of many people affected by the recent federal shutdown, furloughs and layoffs, cuts to various assistance programs, immigration concerns, and we recognize that many of our parishioners face great economic uncertainty at this time. To that end, we want to ensure that St. John’s is able to support not only our local community but also our own parish family. And so, *if you are an Active Parishioner at St. John’s and in need of food assistance during this holiday season, please reach out directly to me so we can discuss how St. John’s may be able to support you*. Likewise, if you would like to assist your fellow parishioners in need, we invite you to make a financial contribution that will go for food assistance for your fellow parishioners. We have placed “Parishioners Helping Parishioners with Holiday Food Assistance” envelopes at the doors of the Church, or you can write “Parishioner Holiday Food Help” on your check’s memo line and place in the collection along with your Offertory contribution.

As we give thanks to God this week, may we see our blessings as gifts to share with one another, to draw each other into Christ the King’s Kingdom! Blessed Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones!

In Christ,  
Fr. Andrew

### Thanksgiving Mass Schedule & Office Closure

On Thanksgiving Day, November 27, join us for our Thanksgiving Mass at 9:00 a.m. (There will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Thanksgiving Day.) 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.

### Sodality Thank You...

The Sodality of the Visitation would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of our bake sale on November 16. The proceeds will be used for various charitable projects. God Bless You All.



### Faith Direct Transition

The transition from Faith Direct to ParishSoft Giving continues. If you need assistance with your account’s transition to ParishSoft Giving or experience any issues, please call ParishSoft directly at 1-866-507-8757.

### 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](mailto: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.



**Breakfast With Santa, Saturday, December 6. Please see page four for ticket information.**



## A Peek Into School: Holiday Cheer!

### November: Thanksgiving Service Project

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, each SJB class took part in a special service project to provide holiday meals for families in need.

Students donated non-perishable items – such as boxed potatoes, rolls, canned yams, and tableware – while teachers supplied the turkeys. On November 21, SJB families delivered the complete meals, along with handmade cards, to families selected by the St. Joseph Food Pantry.



Kindergarten and first-grade students also celebrated the holiday with their own Thanksgiving feast! They enjoyed many of the same foods donated for the service project – like cranberry sauce, applesauce, and cornbread – connecting their celebration to the spirit of giving and gratitude for friendship.

## 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.



## 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](http://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](mailto:morettia310@gmail.com) for more information about the SJB Bereavement Ministry or grief support resources.



## 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 ID and password.

<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](mailto:jeff.hafner@aol.com), 703-203-4319.

## Breakfast with Santa - December 6

Celebrate the Christmas season on Saturday, December 6, with food, fun, and festive cheer at Breakfast with Santa! Families are invited to begin the day by attending 9:00 a.m. Mass, just steps away from the gym, and then continue the celebration at one of two sessions:

- Session 1: 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
- Session 2: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The gym is transformed into a Christmas wonderland where you can enjoy a delicious breakfast, sweet treats, holiday magic, and photos with Santa himself! This cherished SJB tradition brings families together to share in the joy and spirit of Christmas.



Tickets can be purchased at <https://igfn.us/form/woodwa> or with this QR code.



Holidays are truly magical at SJB, and students look forward to these cherished traditions every year.

## 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](mailto:cryspyfry@gmail.com) and [jeffvins@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvins@gmail.com)).



## 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](mailto: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 Formation

Eddie Argauer, 301-622-1122, [dre@sjbssparish.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:dre@sjbssparish.org) or 301-622-1122.

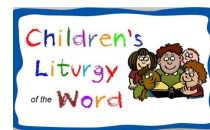


### Eucharistic Ministers Needed

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 meets at 10:15 a.m. in the Kazista Center's Conference Room.



For more info, please contact Rai Howell at [Marian.Howell@sjbsilverspring.org](mailto:Marian.Howell@sjbsilverspring.org). The Walking with Purpose will not meet Saturday, November 29, but will return Saturday, December 6 for the last meeting.

## Looking Ahead – Mark your Calendar

November 27 - Thanksgiving Day

November 30 – 1st Sunday of Advent

December 6 – Breakfast with Santa

December 6/7 - C4 Toy Drive

December 8 – Immaculate Conception Holy Day

Masses at 7 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 12 Noon, 7 p.m.

### Advent Reconciliation Services:

December 9 – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

December 13 – 10 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

December 22 – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

December 11 – SJB Band Concerts, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

December 13/14 - Blanket Sunday

December 18 - SJB Christmas Program, 7 p.m.

December 24 – Christmas Eve Masses 4 p.m. & 9 p.m.

December 25 – Christmas Day Masses 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.



## Knights of Columbus News

### 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!



### 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.



### 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.



## KofC October Rosary Program

The Knights of Columbus rosary program encourages devotion to Mary and emphasizes the importance of prayer in community and as a family. In celebration of the Month of the Holy Rosary, the Knights of Columbus were honored to visit our SJB 4th grade and 4th grade Sunday school classes. Each student received a blessed rosary and a brief reminder of the power of prayer through Our Lady. The Knights are proud to continue to support our parish youth and for encouraging devotion to the Rosary within our SJB community.



### SJB Knights of Columbus Christmas Dinner Party

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting the SJB KofC Christmas Party Dinner on Tuesday, **December 16 at 6:00 p.m. at the Argyle Country Club, 14600 Argyle Club Rd. Silver Spring, MD 20906.**



An awesome buffet menu has been specially created for our parishioners that includes Caesar Salad, Sliced Tomato & fresh Mozzarella, Frenched Chicken Marsala, Tequila Brazed Boneless Short Ribs, side dishes including green beans with toasted almonds and roasted red bliss potatoes, and desserts including New York Cheesecake and Tiramisu all for just \$70 per guest including all gratuities.

This event is open to all parishioners and their guests.

Checks in the amount of \$70 per person may be issued to Knights of Columbus Council 11106 with "Christmas Dinner" in the memo section. You may hand your check to any of the Knights of Columbus ushers, or bring them to a Knights Sunday Breakfast, or drop them off at the Parish Office.

Email the Knights of Columbus Recorder, Hank Keegan at [hankeegs@yahoo.com](mailto:hankeegs@yahoo.com) to confirm your reservation and to receive any updates or use the SignUpGenius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A49AAAE2CA4F8C25-60194489-sjbfkofc> or QR Code. Please RSVP by Tuesday, December 9.





## “St. John the Baptist Eco-Ministry

*Whenever food is thrown out it is as if it were stolen from the table of the poor, from the hungry! I ask everyone to reflect on the problem of the loss and waste of food, to identify ways and approaches which, by seriously dealing with this problem, convey solidarity and sharing with the underprivileged.”*

Pope Francis, General Audience, June 2013

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to celebrate the bountifulness of the earth with friends and families, and to do so with a spirit of deep gratitude. As we celebrate, it is important to act in an ecologically responsible way. The University of Minnesota’s Sustainability program estimates that over 350 million pounds of food are wasted from Thanksgiving dinner alone. Leftovers pile up, and much of the uneaten food is discarded after the holiday. This contributes to greenhouse gas emissions as discarded food decomposes in landfills. Additionally, the resources used to produce wasted food – water, energy, land, and labor – are squandered. This waste also highlights issues of food insecurity; while millions of people lack sufficient nutrition, vast amounts of food are discarded annually, underscoring our culture of overconsumption that overlooks both resource value and societal needs.

### *Returning to a Sustainable Thanksgiving*

Moral and ethical considerations surrounding food consumption include practicing moderation, being mindful of food origins and the labor that produced it, minimizing waste by using leftovers, and reducing environmental impact through plant-based options and sustainable choices. Here are a few ideas to make this Thanksgiving holiday more sustainable.

**Plan for Less:** Instead of preparing more food than can reasonably be eaten, focus on portion control and using leftovers creatively.

**Embrace Plant-Based Options:** Incorporate more plant-based dishes into the menu, such as seasonal vegetables, grains, and plant-based proteins, to lower the environmental impact of your meal while still keeping it festive and delicious.

**Minimize Packaging:** Choose fresh, locally sourced ingredients rather than processed foods. Shopping at farmers’ markets or bulk stores helps reduce packaging waste that often accompanies large holiday meals. In-season, local foods always taste better too.

**Opt for Reusable Dinnerware:** Avoid single-use plastics by using reusable dinnerware and cutlery that can be washed and reused each year.

**Volunteer or Give Back:** Spend part of Thanksgiving or the day after giving back to your community. Volunteering at a local shelter, food bank, or charity can help refocus the holiday on compassion and support for others. Donate to Indigenous organizations nearest to you.

### See also:

The Catholic Climate Covenant: <https://godsplanet.us/sectors/families-individuals/>

GreenCitizen: <https://greencitizen.com/blog/reduce-thanksgiving-food-waste/>

*For information about St. John the Baptist’s Eco-Ministry contact Bill Dinges (301) 388-2472*

## C4 Toy Drive 2025

### C-4 2025 Toy Closet Instructions for SJB

Toy Drop - All Masses the weekend of December 6 & 7

- Suggested amount to spend: \$15-\$20/toy
- Cash donations are very welcome. Please send checks to "C4" PO Box 4192, Silver Spring, MD 20914
- See website "How Can I Help" to send funds electronically, <https://c4clothescloset.com/how-can-i-help%3F>

All TOYS must be NEW and unwrapped (except for books and stuffed animals)

### Toy Ideas for boys and girls ages 0-12

Pre-teen (always runs out!)

Jewelry, small purses, watches, nail painting kits, perfume and bath sets, PJ's, Cologne (AXE or Old Spice)

Disney Toys  
Baby Dolls  
Monster High and Brat dolls  
Ninga Turtle Toys  
Cocomelon Dolls  
Footballs  
T Ball Sets  
Superhero dolls and toys  
Dress-up kits (shoes, jewelry)  
Trucks (electronic and regular)  
Remote control cars  
Electronic toys and games (handheld)  
Mini skateboards  
Legos  
Bowling sets (plastic)

For more information, please call: Alyssa Sherman Ranko, Work 301-599-2108 ext 313 or Cell 703-851-5993.



## \*\*\*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](http://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](http://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](mailto:marydugan12@yahoo.com).

### Montgomery Catholics

Montgomery Catholics Christmas Party at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in the Commons, December 12, 7-9 p.m. Join for hot cocoa, trivia, white elephant gift exchange, and cookies. St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, 917 Montrose Road, Rockville MD.

### 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/>.

**PAIN CONTROL**  
Acupuncture, Acu Massage, Herbs  
11120 New Hampshire Ave. #409  
Call Dr. Lee **301-592-1234**  
www.acupuncture-drs.com

**HOFFMASTER'S AUTO CARE**  
  
11937 Tech Road  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904  
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