



Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church

12319 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20904

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Ordinary Time: Fourth Sunday

Today's Readings: Zephania 2:3; 3:12-13 Psalm 146 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Matthew 5:1-12a



In today's second reading, Paul's words remind us that God's values overturn human assumptions about power and success, in essence flipping them upside down. By choosing what the world deems foolish or weak, God exposes the limits of pride and self-reliance. This passage from First Corinthians celebrates humility, calling us to recognize that our worth does not come from status, intelligence, or strength, but from God alone. It reassures those who feel overlooked that God delights in working through them, so that all worldly boasting fades and trust is placed fully in Him.

Schedule of Masses next weekend - February 7/8

The 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

Sunday 7:30 a.m. - Fr. Steve Petroff, CSP

9:00 a.m. - Fr. Johnson John, CMI

11:30 a.m. - Fr. Andrew Wakefield

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

2026 Prayer Intentions for the Holy Father

February - For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

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

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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 Sunday/Community Breakfast prepared by the Knights of Columbus. All are welcome.



Mass Intentions (February 2 - February 8)

Monday 7:00 - Brian Gorman (Parishioners)
8:30 - Sean Fitzmaurice (P. Fitzmaurice)
Tuesday 7:00 - Maj Gen. John R. Hawkins III (Family)
8:30 - James Wei -L- (M. & M. Kerley)
Wednesday 7:00 - Rev. Milton Jordan (Parishioners)
8:30 - Jon Callahan (Case Family)
Thursday 7:00 - Victor Cole (Fr. Andrew)
8:30 - Irma Bonilla -L- (Ana Hernandez)
Friday 7:00 - Souls in Purgatory (Ceron Family)
8:30 - Margaret Welch & Family -L- (L. Miller)
Saturday 9:00 - Julianna Forbin (M. Atabong)
5:00 - Stella Reyes (Jackson Family)
Sunday 7:30 - Parishioners
9:00 - John Landicho (Wolcott Family)
11:30 - Jeff Gómez Crespo (C. Maass)

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.



February Second Collections

2/8 - Annual Catholic Services Appeal,
2/22 - SJB Building Maintenance

Bulletin Deadline

February 15 Bulletin & Website deadline
Thursday, February 5 at 9:00 a.m

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



Dear Friends,

As I write this bulletin column, the snow and the sleet are falling. The weather is beautiful to look at from inside but dangerous, frigid, and disruptive outside. Despite the many differences and divisions of our society that pull us apart, we are all impacted by mother nature and so let's be sure we are taking care of each other and checking in on one another these days.

We hear the opening of Jesus's Sermon on the Mount this weekend with the magisterial Beatitudes, the 'blessings' that describe Christ Himself and therefore describe the Christian life. To be "blessed" is to be holy, set apart and sanctified, signifying that the one who is blessed participates in God's life. The "universal call to holiness" articulated by Vatican II (see *Lumen Gentium*, 39-42) means that every person, in whatever state and whatever vocation, is called to sanctification and to live in union with God. And so, the Beatitudes apply to everyone!

And perhaps now, more than ever it may seem, the call to be a peacemaker takes on a particular poignancy. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God," Jesus says. True peace isn't merely a sentiment, but it is a disposition of the heart and a way of life. In his message for the World Day of Peace on January 1st of this year, Pope Leo XIV said, "[w]hether we have the gift of faith or feel we lack it, let us open ourselves to peace! Let us welcome it and recognize it, rather than believing it to be impossible and beyond our reach. Peace is more than just a goal; it is a presence and a journey. Even when it is endangered within us and around us, like a small flame threatened by a storm, we must protect it, never forgetting the names and stories of those who have borne witness to it. Peace is a principle that guides and defines our choices."

The events of this brief year that have garnered so much attention - from Venezuela, to Greenland, to Ukraine, to Minneapolis, to name just a few - can shake us to the core and make us question whether peace - true peace - is ever possible. Yet, as disciples of Christ we *must* hold firm to working for peace and to being peacemakers, each of us, in whatever ways we can. We may feel small and insignificant in the face of the enormous trials of our times, but peace begins in the daily choice we make to lift one another up, forgive and seek mercy, reach out and care, and live our lives with the intention and fervor Christ calls. We stand up for and respect the dignity of every person, whether that person be unborn or undocumented, and we strive with our words, actions, and attitudes to never further the rancor and anger that is engulfing our society, but rather be sowers of understanding, empathy, and reconciliation. As we reflect upon Christ's Beatitudes this weekend, may we ask God's grace to be vessels of peace.

Finally, next weekend we will be discussing the important ministries of our local archdiocesan Church as we support this year's Catholic Services Appeal *Be the Light*. I ask you to join with me in prayerfully considering your ability to support this year's Appeal, which benefits not only our parish directly but the faithful throughout our local Church. For more information on this year's appeal, please visit <https://adw.org/ways-to-give/annual-appeal/>. We will have an opportunity to make our pledge to the Appeal during Mass, although you are welcome to do so online now. I made my pledge online last week and it took a whole 3 minutes to do so! Thank you for your support of this critically important way we can share the peace of Christ throughout the Archdiocese of Washington.

God bless you!

In Christ,
Fr. Andrew

Remember in Prayer those who have died

Brian Gorman, brother of Dcn. Jim Gorman.

2025 Year-End Tax Statement - New!

St. John the Baptist Year End Tax Statements have been mailed to all registered parishioners who made donations of \$250.00 or more in 2025. Statements include Faith Direct and ParishSoft Giving donations. If you donated less than \$250.00 in 2025 and would like a 2025 Tax Statement, please call the Parish Office, 301-622-1122. Thank you for your generosity.

Pax Christi Meeting

The next Pax Christi Meeting will be Sunday, February 8, at 10:00 a.m. in the Kazista Center Large Conference Room. All are welcome.



Youth Group - Today

We had a great kick off to 2026 with a faith sharing discussion on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. All agreed it was a great day to celebrate at St. John the Baptist! Our next meeting is today, Sunday, February 1, in the Kazista Center after the 11:30 a.m. Mass. We hope to see you there.



International Night Rescheduled

International Night has been rescheduled for Friday, April 24, in the Gym from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. It has been moved from its original date in February. International Night is one of the school's most popular events. Parish and school families celebrate their heritage and culture with food, dance, and dress. The Home and School Association will provide more information in the coming weeks. Tickets already purchased will be good for International Night.

Peek into School: Carboard Challenge

Students were excited to participate in the annual Cardboard Challenge! Middle school students worked hard to design and construct a variety of structures using cardboard, collaborating with partners or small groups to plan their designs. The Gym was transformed into a showcase of cardboard creativity.



Creations included Skee-Ball, a bowling lane, a mini basketball court, table tennis, a racetrack car challenge, a bakery, and even a vending machine - just to name a few. Lower grade students were excited to visit the Gym and explore the many amazing creations. By participating in the games, they earned rewards such as chips, baked goods, candy, toys, and more.

This annual, cardboard-filled day highlights our students' creativity, teamwork, and hard work, and we are proud of our middle schoolers.



Coats for Kids: October 1 to December 31

On December 6, 2025, the Knights of Columbus from St. John the Baptist delivered 96 coats (8 boxes of 12) to the C4 community in Colesville. We extend our gratitude to the SJB Knights of Columbus Council and all parishioners whose generous donations help keep local children warm this winter. The final accounting for 2025 Coats for Kids is as follows:

Coats for Kids - 2025

Parishioner Contributions \$2,139.00
 SJB KofC Council Budget \$250.00
 Availability \$2,564.00
 Less Amount spent on Coats \$(2,494.48)
 Shortfall (\$105.48)
 KofC Council Members Contributions \$175.00
 Final Position \$69.52

SJB Food Drive - Knights of Columbus

The next St. John the Baptist Knights of Columbus Food Drive will be Saturday, February 7, 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 for your generosity.



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=bxggbuapgpOIIntX5Nfu4Y8xTqZkEVnT.1>
 Meeting ID: 839 8893 2139, Passcode: WWTW For more information, please contact Jeff Hafner at jeff.hafner@aol.com, 703-203-4319.

ADW Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass

Saturday, February 14, 2026, 10:00 a.m., Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Hosted by the Office of Family Life with Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala as principal celebrant, this Mass celebrates the living vocation of all couples who provide a Catholic witness to the beauty of Sacramental Marriage. Please register with your Parish Office by February 6, 2026, to attend the Mass and/or request a certificate in honor of their anniversary year. All married couples and their families are welcome, regardless of how long they have been married. We will mail certificates to parish offices by the end of February.

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

Baptismal Preparation Class

The next Baptismal Preparation Class will be Tuesday, February 3, 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.



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.



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.



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.



2025 - 2026 Faith Formation

Please contact Eddie Argauer with any Faith Formation questions, dre@sjbssparish.org or 301-622-1122.

Best Lent Ever

Did you know...over 10,000 miracles of healing are attributed to one seemingly ordinary doorman? Did you know...there are over 100 saints whose bodies are incorruptible after death? Did you know...seven Jesuits survived the blast of Hiroshima even though they were right at ground zero? It's time to open our eyes to the miracles God is working all around us.

This Lent let God surprise you through thirty-three mind-blowing events by signing up for: BestLentEver.com to receive a miracle each day.



Around Town

Archdiocese of Washington Job Opportunity

The Archdiocese of Washington is hiring a Coordinator of Life Issues to support our parish communities in their mission to defend life from conception to natural death including, but not limited to, abortion, end of life issues and the death penalty. The candidate must be a practicing Catholic with excellent communication skills including public speaking on behalf of Catholic causes. Please forward your resume and letter of interest to: calla-russl@adw.org. For more information on this role as well as others, please see our career site: <https://adw.org/about-us/resou>.

ADW Post Cana Fellowship

The Washington Archdiocese Post Cana for Widows and Widowers will have fellowship at Our Lady of Grace in Leisure World after Holy Mass at 9:45 a.m. on Monday, February 2. There will be coffee, tea, and a light breakfast snack, sponsored by the Office of Family Life. New Members are welcome. For more information, please contact president, Mary Dugan, 301-873-3902 or marydugan@yahoo.com.

In Honor of Our Lady of Fatima

The World Apostolate of Fatima - Archdiocese of Washington Division "The Blue Army" Invites you to a special time of prayer including the Holy Rosary, Mass, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Precious Blood of Jesus Chaplet, and Brown Scapular Enrollment. Friday, February 13, 1:00 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel, Basilica of the National Shrine, Michigan Avenue, Washington, DC. For more information, please call 301-949-5710.

Free Tax Preparation

Catholic Charities IRS certified tax preparers/reviewers are excited once again to help individuals obtain the largest possible tax refunds! Available February 1 to April 15, Saturdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Catholic Charities Main Office, 924 G Street NW, Washington, DC. Several new and other important tax credits and deductions include:

1. The new deductions for tips and overtime pay
2. The new "Senior" tax deduction
3. Expanded child tax credits, and
4. Important earned income credits - both federal and state. DC has recently expanded its program in this area.

To schedule a tax appointment, please email FSN@cc-dc.org or use this QR code.



Saint Ansgar's Story - February 1

The "apostle of the north" (Scandinavia) had enough frustrations to become a saint – and he did. He became a Benedictine at Corbie, France, where he had been educated. Three years later, when the king of Denmark became a convert, Ansgar went to that country for three years of missionary work, without noticeable success. Sweden asked for Christian missionaries, and he went there, suffering capture by pirates and other hardships on the way.

Fewer than two years later, he was recalled, to become abbot of New Corbie (Corvey) and bishop of Hamburg. The pope made him legate for the Scandinavian missions. Funds for the northern apostolate stopped with Emperor Louis's death. After 13 years' work in Hamburg, Saint Ansgar saw it burned to the ground by invading Northmen; Sweden and Denmark returned to paganism.

He directed new apostolic activities in the North, traveling to Denmark and being instrumental in the conversion of another king. By the strange device of casting lots, the king of Sweden allowed the Christian missionaries to return.

Saint Ansgar's biographers remark that he was an extraordinary preacher, a humble and ascetical priest. He was devoted to the poor and the sick, imitating the Lord in washing their feet and waiting on them at table. He died peacefully at Bremen, Germany, without achieving his wish to be a martyr.

Sweden became pagan again after his death, and remained so until the coming of missionaries two centuries later. Saint Ansgar shares the celebration of his liturgical feast with Saint Blase on February 3.

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



Lent Begins - Ash Wednesday, February 18

The Look of the Season

- The atmosphere in a church has three distinct environments during this time of year:
 - * Lent (Ash Wednesday to sundown on Holy Thursday)
 - * Triduum - Three Days (sundown Holy Thursday to sundown Easter Sunday)
 - * Eastertime - Fifty Days (Easter to Pentecost)
- In Lent - the church looks different - no flowers or fancy liturgical symbols.
- The color purple (symbol of penance) predominates.

Fasting Guidelines

On the Fridays of Lent, we eat no meat. On Good Friday, the faithful between the ages of 18 & 59 eat one main meal, two smaller meals, and nothing in between.

Opportunities for Confession during Lent

Additional times for Confession during Lent will be Monday, March 9, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Mulholland Food Drive

Mark your Calendar for the Mulholland Food Collection the weekend of February 28/March 1. More details in future bulletins.

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. Stations of the Cross will be every Friday during Lent in the Church at 6:30 p.m. beginning February 20. Prayer booklets will be available for use during Stations.



Project Rachel Ministry

Have you experienced guilt, shame, regret or sadness after abortion? Do you feel that God can never forgive you? Women who have gone through an abortion are invited to an *Entering Canaan* Day of Prayer and Healing on Saturday, April 25.

In this retreat you will find the Sacraments, a witness talk, and a caring retreat team in a safe environment characterized by peace and trust, and free from judgment, to be able to heal the negative emotions that come after abortion. When you register, you will be given the confidential location. For more information, contact Project Rachel Ministry, sponsored by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington: 301-982-2008; email for **Women**: hope@adw.org; for **Men**: prmwashington@adw.org; or register using the QR code.

