



# Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church

12319 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20904

Sunday, February 15, 2026

Ordinary Time: Sixth Sunday

Today's Readings: Sirach 15:15-20 Psalm 119 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 Matthew 5:17-37



Lent begins this Ash Wednesday: a day for ashes, repentance, prayer and fasting. To some, that sounds depressing, but fortunately we know how the story ends: with the glory of the resurrection.

Thought erroneously to be a holy day of obligation by many, Ash Wednesday matches Easter in Mass attendance (51% of U.S. Catholics attended) second only to Christmas (68%). There's something so powerful and stirring about this rich penitential Lenten season that draws so many to Mass. Let us continue

that same spiritual vigor and commitment throughout Lent so as to properly prepare ourselves for his coming glory at Easter.



#### Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule

7:00 a.m. - Fr. Johnson John, CMI  
8:30 a.m. - Fr. Andrew Wakefield (with our School)  
12:00 p.m. - Fr. Andrew Wakefield  
7:00 p.m. - Msgr. Mike Mellone

#### Schedule of Masses next weekend - February 21/22

##### The 1st Sunday of Lent

Saturday 5:00 p.m. - Msgr. Mike Mellone  
Sunday 7:30 a.m. - Fr. Johnson John, CMI  
9:00 a.m. - Fr. Steve Petroff, CSP  
11:30 a.m. - Fr. Andrew Wakefield  
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](http://www.sjbssparish.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/sjbcc](https://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](mailto:pastor@sjbssparish.org)

Bulletin Editor: Martha Kerley

[sjbulletin@sjbssparish.org](mailto:sjbulletin@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

[youth@sjbssparish.org](mailto:youth@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 Sunday/Community Breakfast prepared by the Knights of Columbus. All are welcome.



## Mass Intentions (February 16 - February 22)

Monday 9:00 - Santiago Meza (D. Meza)

Tuesday 7:00 - Jane Milne (Franny)

8:30 - Janet Brownfield (Shea Family)

Wednesday 7:00 - Dimitri Vassiliou (J. & P. Young)

8:30 - George Daniello (Family)

12:00 - Minerva R. Elizaldi (D. & M. Elizalde)

7:00 - In Thanksgiving for 37th Anniversary

-L- (M. & S. Chinnappan)

Thursday 7:00 - Leslie Johnson (Davis Family)

8:30 - Bill Jackson (Vassiliou Family)

Friday 7:00 - Herman & Marian Maganzini

(Lombard Family)

8:30 - Sue Aller (M. Kerley)

Saturday 9:00 - Jane Batwinis (M. Schiavonne)

5:00 - Christopher Oyobio (Family)

Sunday 7:30 - Parishioners

9:00 - Frances & Joyce Hafner (Family)

11:30 - Mary Largent Byrne (B. Chang)

## 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

2/22 - SJB Building Maintenance

## \*\*Bulletin Deadline\*\*

March 1 Bulletin & Website deadline

Thursday, February 19 at 9:00 a.m.

Send Bulletin announcements to

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

Send Website announcements to

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



Dear Friends,

“If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you; if you trust in God, you too shall live; he has set before you fire and water; to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand.” The Book of Sirach is a sort of meditation on the entire body of ancient Israel’s scriptures from the perspective of *wisdom*, that is, the practical knowledge of holy living, rooted in the ‘fear of the Lord.’ This ‘fear’ is not a dread of punishment, but it is the loving reverence of God. To follow the Lord is to follow the path of salvation, perfect union with God. Sirach emphasizes human free will, our ability to choose to follow God’s commandments, and thus live well, or to turn towards sin, the path that leads to destruction.

We begin the season of Lent this week with *Ash Wednesday this February 18*, the 40-day liturgical season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that focus us on spiritual renewal, repentance, and deepening our relationship with God. The 40 days recall Jesus’ 40 days of temptation in the desert, and they invite us to strip away everything in our lives that pulls us away from God and choose, with God’s grace, the path of life that leads to Him, the path that leads to salvation!

During Lent, both Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting for adults 18 to 59 and abstinence from meat for all from ages 14 onwards. In addition, every Friday of Lent is an obligatory day of abstinence. On Ash Wednesday, we receive ashes on our foreheads in the form of a cross, signaling a sign of our faith and a reminder of remorse for our sins. *Join us for one of our Ash Wednesday Masses at 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m. (with our school), 12:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.* Ashes will be distributed at the end of each Mass. Also, join us for our traditional devotion of the Stations of the Cross each Friday of Lent starting this week at 6:30 p.m. in the Church, followed by a Lenten supper in the Gym offered by our Knights of Columbus.

As we enter the Lenten season, please keep our Catechumens and Candidates in your prayers. These men and women have been learning about our faith throughout the year in either the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) or Order of Christian Initiation for Teens (OCIT), and they continue to discern God’s call to receive their sacraments of Christian Initiation and join us in full communion at Easter. *Please pray for our Catechumens Jason Cates, Amara Frene, Alex Goriachek, George Jarrell, Tommy Marin, Simone Weeden, and Nayla Williams. And pray for our Candidates Linda Anderson, Alexis Ford, Isabella Hernandez, Teresa Hernandez, Jacob Modjinou, and Thomas Williams. May they know of our prayers and support!*

Finally, if you have not yet done so, please prayerfully consider your ability to support this year’s *Be the Light* archdiocesan appeal. We give of our blessings in thanksgiving to God for His goodness, and we recognize that we are all brothers and sisters in this richly diverse local church of the Archdiocese of Washington. Your *Be the Light* support helps to feed the hungry, support families in crisis, care for the sick and imprisoned, share the faith with our young people, and support the formation of seminarians, among many other critical ministries. You may pledge a gift online at <https://adw.org/ways-to-give/annual-appeal/> or by using the paper envelopes available in the Church or the QR Code in the Appeal brochure. Every gift attributed to St. John the Baptist-Silver Spring (parish #220) helps toward our parish goal, so I invite you to join me in making a pledge to show your support for the beautiful work of our local church community. Together, we spread the Gospel; together we build His Kingdom! To those who have made your pledge, thank you for your support!

As we begin these sacred weeks of Lent, may our ‘fear of the Lord’ lead us to choose the path of love, the path of generosity, the path of faith, the path of salvation. St. John the Baptist, pray for us!

In Christ,  
Fr. Andrew

### Parish Office Closure

The Parish Office will be closed Monday, February 16, for the Presidents Day Holiday and will reopen Tuesday, February 17, at 9:00 a.m. There will be one Mass only on Monday, February 16, at 9:00 a.m.

### Youth Ministry - March 1 Meeting

Happy St. Valentine's Day! At our February meeting the Youth Group made St. Valentine's Day cards for seniors living in local assisted living facilities and nursing homes. As we prepare for Lent, the Youth Group has many opportunities to grow in faith together. Our next Youth Group meeting is Sunday, March 1, in the Kazista Center following the 11:30 a.m. Mass. We will focus on the Lenten discipline of almsgiving through acts of service. All Youth are especially invited to the Pax Christi meeting on Sunday, March 8, from 10:00-11:15 a.m. in the Kazista Center. This is after the 9:00 a.m. Mass and before the 11:30 a.m. Mass. Young Adult Pax Christi speaker Jessica Sun will share insights from her recent trip to Palestine. This looks to be a fascinating time of faith filled learning. Thanks to SJB Pax Christi for making this special opportunity for our youth.

### Sodality Thank You!

The SJB - Sodality of the Visitation would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of our bake sale on Sunday, February 8. The proceeds will be used for various charitable projects. Thank you again and God Bless You All.



## A Fun-Filled Week at School:

100th Day & Valentine's Day!

We had a fun-filled week celebrating both the 100th day of school and Valentine's Day!



On February 12, students and staff celebrated the 100th day of school with various activities such as counting, building, or grouping 100 objects. In social studies, many classes talked about events that happened 100 years ago and events that could happen 100 years from now. Other classes participated in a variety of activities. Kindergarten students even dressed up as 100-year-olds! We celebrated with our students all of their hard work over these past 100 days.

On February 13, students and staff celebrated a half day of school while also celebrating Valentine's Day. Students were able to come out of uniform and enjoy their day in the comfort of their pajamas. Classes had the chance to distribute Valentine's cards and enjoy class parties. Students in grades 2-7 also received a visit from Camp St. Charles, an overnight summer camp students can attend during the summer.

## Pax Christi Meeting - March 8

SAVE-THE-DATE: Sunday, March 8 at 10:00 a.m.

**Jessica Sun** will speak about her witness trip to Palestine this past Advent. Jessica, a member of Pax Christi USA's Young Adult Caucus, was one of 17 participants hosted by Sabeel, an ecumenical Palestinian liberation theology movement rooted in the universal ethic of nonviolence. The group aims to "promote a more accurate international awareness regarding the identity, presence and witness of Palestinian Christians as well as their contemporary concerns."

Pax Christi - St. John the Baptist invites you to join us in the Large Conference Room of the Kazista Center on Sunday, March 8, at 10 a.m. We welcome new members and onetime visitors. Pax Christi USA is the national Catholic peace movement, [www.paxchristiusa.org](http://www.paxchristiusa.org) For more information, please contact Ronnie Fellerath-Lowell, [vmfny@aol.com](mailto:vmfny@aol.com).

## Knights of Columbus Lenten Meal

Knights of Columbus Sponsored Lenten Dinner (Fish Fry) following the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent, beginning February 20 until March 27, a Fish Fry dinner will be available in the School Gym. The event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #11106 as a fundraiser to support its many parish volunteer programs. This year's menu offers more than just fried fish and French fries. Enjoy a rotating weekly selection that includes homemade soup, all for a single price of \$20.00 per person.



## Arts & Academics Judges Needed

Our SJB School is in need of judges for Art and Science on Tuesday, March 10. The Sixth Grade will have their Art demonstrations 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. For the Seventh Grade Science Projects, AM or PM judging is available. Please email Liz Castillo at [liz.castillo@sjsilverspring.org](mailto:liz.castillo@sjsilverspring.org) for Art Judging and for Science Judging please email Kevin Daly at [kevin.daly@sjsilverspring.org](mailto:kevin.daly@sjsilverspring.org). Thank you for helping our school.

## 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.

## SJB Food Drive - Knights of Columbus

The next St. John the Baptist Knights of Columbus Food Drive will be Saturday, February 21, 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=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.

## Mulholland Food Drive

Mark your Calendar for the Mulholland Food Collection the weekend of February 28/March 1. Please bring your donation of non-perishable food in paper bags to Mass the weekend of February 28/March 1 and please limit your donations to the following:

- Canned Tuna or chicken
- Cheerios or other low sugar cereal
- Canned vegetables (green beans, corn, peas)
- Canned soup (hearty varieties are best)
- Peanut butter and jelly (plastic only; no glass)
- Baked Beans, Mac & Cheese, Chef Boyardee
- Pasta and Pasta Sauce (plastic only; no glass)

## 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, March 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](mailto:dre@sjbssparish.org).



### 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.



### 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.

### 2025 - 2026 Faith Formation

Please contact Eddie Argauer with any Faith Formation questions, [dre@sjbssparish.org](mailto: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.



## Lent Begins - Ash Wednesday, February 18. Mass Schedule on page one.

### The Look of the Lenten 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.



On the 4th Sunday - *Laetare Sunday* - the color rose is added, as the church reminds us to "rejoice" that our season of penance and denial is half over. Easter is coming.

### Fasting Guidelines

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

### 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.



### 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.

### Alms Giving

Your weekly donations help St. John the Baptist provide our various programs and services, including Faith Formation Classes, facilities maintenance and employee salaries. As we begin a new year, we invite you to consider your parish community in your estate, retirement, and charitable giving. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions, 301-622-1122.

### St. John the Baptist Eco-Ministry



The Lenten Season is upon us. This is a time to discern more deeply how the Spirit is inviting us to continue the mission of love that Jesus has entrusted to us.

Lent is also a time to reflect on how the Spirit calls us to see the world more clearly and to reflect on God’s call to restore just relationships with our neighbor, ourselves, and with all of creation.

The kind of Greener Lent envisioned in Pope Francis’s *Laudato Si* invites us to examine our “lifestyles,” to practice temperance and sacrifice, and to focus these 40 days of fasting, prayer and almsgiving on the poor throughout the world who are being disproportionately affected by the climate crisis.

Below are two links to aid in this discernment.

**Lenten Daily Photo Reflections**, Sr. Caroljean Willie, Sr. of Charity of Cincinnati, Earth Justice Circle at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1XqF-xuTbi3GFdWnKNbMXuFWQK65GqDDX>

**Lenten Stations of the Cross** at: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Renew-The-Earth-Stations-2.2.2022.pdf>

***What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?” Pope Francis (LS, 160)***

THE EARTH IS THE LORDS.



Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home (MCCH) is again endorsing 6 environmental bills active in the current Maryland General Assembly. We believe these Priority Bills are in keeping with the *Laudato Si*’s central theme of “cry of the earth and cry of the poor.” (LS 49)

As in the past several years, our SJB Eco-ministry is *Laudato Si*’ seeking petition signatures from fellow parishioners in support of these Priority Bills. Information about them, along with opportunities to sign the petition, will be available after Masses on the weekend of February 21- 22.

The petition can also be signed electronically at: [bit.ly/MCCH-2026](http://bit.ly/MCCH-2026).

Laws at the state level are crucial in protecting “our common home” for future generations and for all life forms. Join us in making our Catholic voice heard regarding this important legislative process.

### \*\*\*Around Town\*\*\*

#### 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](mailto:FSN@cc-dc.org) or use this QR code.

#### Post Cana Lenten Reflection

The Washington Archdiocese Post Cana for Widows and Widowers is having a Lenten Reflection on Tuesday, March 10, at Our Lady of Grace in Leisure World, Silver Spring, MD, with their new moderator, Fr. Tom LaHood, who is the pastor at Holy Redeemer.

Cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Please send a check made out to Post Cana to Herb Biegel, 13509 Maidstone Lane, Potomac, MD, 20854. The deadline for reservations is Friday, March 6.

#### Our Lady of Bethesda Lenten Retreats

Retreats at our Lady for Bethesda will be offered for both Men and Women. 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 20817.

Retreats for Women: February 28-March 1 & March 7-8

Retreats for Men: February 20-22 and March 26-29



**SHINE**

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**📅 Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**🕒 1:30-3:00 PM**

**📍 12319 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring MD**

**🅑 Parking behind the church**

**\$10**

Cash or Venmo at the door  
All proceeds benefit SJB!

***All fitness levels welcome!***

***\* Open to the public – bring a friend!***

Must be 18+ | Bring water | Wear Sneakers

Doors open at 1:00 PM



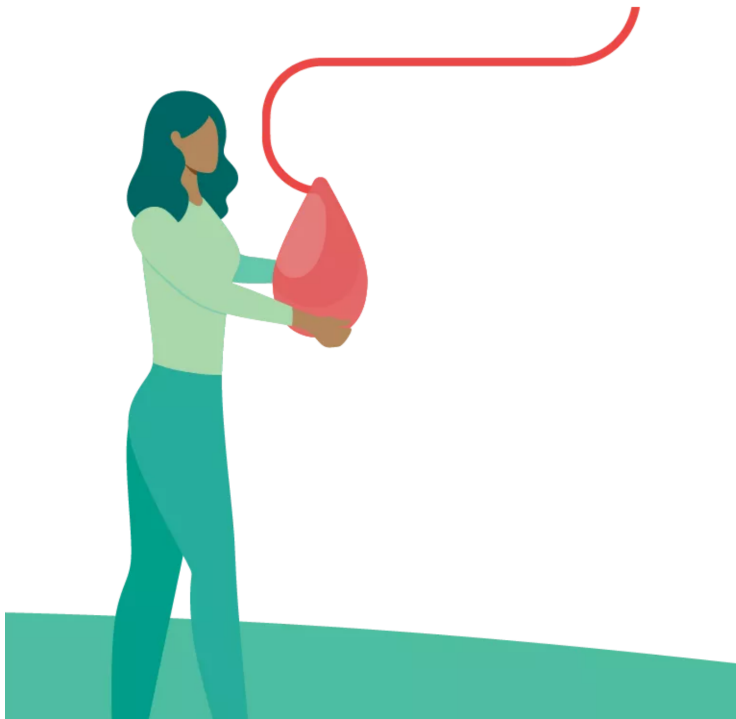
**Give Blood, Save Lives**

# **ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST BLOOD DRIVE**

March 22, 2026

8:30am-1:30pm

12319 New Hampshire Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20904



Register at: <https://calendly.com/luminishealthdrives/sjtb-march> or

**Register here:**



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