



Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church

12319 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20904

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Lent: Third Sunday

Rooted in Tradition ~ Led by the Spirit

Today's Readings: Exodus 17:3-7

Psalms 95

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

John 4:5-42



There is something profoundly true about the spiritual life: prayer requires vulnerability. The woman at the well in John's Gospel today illustrates this perfectly. It can feel risky to let ourselves be seen—to bring forward the parts we usually keep tucked away in the shadows. But God is already inclined toward us, already attentive, already welcoming. There's a quiet freedom in that truth:

- We don't have to hide our fear, doubt, anger, or weariness.
- We don't have to perform holiness.
- We don't have to get it "right" for God to

respond with love. God's grace meets us exactly where we are, not where we think we ought to be.

The Second Collection next weekend, March 14/15, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, will be for Catholic Relief Services.

Schedule of Masses next weekend - March 14/15 the 4th Sunday of Lent

Saturday 5:00 p.m. - Fr. Manny Vasconcelos, OPM

Sunday 7:30 a.m. - Fr. Johnson John, CMI

9:00 a.m. - Fr. Andrew Wakefield

11:30 a.m. - Msgr. Mike Mellone

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

2026 Prayer Intentions for the Holy Father

March - For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

Parish Directory

Please call the Parish Office to contact our Staff.

Parish Office - 301-622-1122

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Wakefield

pastor@sjbssparish.org

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dre@sjbssparish.org

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301-622-1122

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youth@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 (March 9 - March 15)

Monday 7:00 - Georgette & Emmanuel Mbala (B. Mbala)
8:30 - Special Intention for Geotina School in Nigeria -L- (G. & O. Unaegbu)

Tuesday 7:00 - Private Intention -L- (P. Onwumelo)
8:30 - Brian & Juanito Licud (B. Licud)

Wednesday 7:00 - Brian Gallagher (M. & M. Kerley)
8:30 - Family Well-Being -L- (G. & O. Unaegbu)

Thursday 7:00 - Ruth Hornickle (D. Meza)
8:30 - Eric Cygnarowicz (T. & E. Cygnarowicz)

Friday 7:00 - Isaac Ayala -L- (Mom)
8:30 - In Appreciation to Our Lady of Fatima -L- (Marie)

Saturday 9:00 - Pat Garner (T. & K. Marconi)
5:00 - Martin Young (K & R. Cross)

Sunday 7:30 - Parishioners
9:00 - LTC Lud Beckman (K. Asdorian)
11:30 - Angelo Mirabella (Wolcott 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.



March Second Collections

3/8 - Haiti Sister Parish
3/15 - Catholic Relief Services
3/22 - SJB Building/Maintenance
3/29 - Easter Flowers

Bulletin Deadline

March 22 Bulletin & Website deadline

Thursday, March 12, at 9:00 a.m.

Send Bulletin announcements to
sjbbulletin@sjbssparish.org

Send Website announcements to
mkerley@sjbssparish.org



Dear Friends,

As I write this bulletin, the world is engulfed in violence and uncertainty, particularly in the Middle East as the conflict with Iran is leading to death and suffering throughout the region. We pray for the protection of all those who are in harm's way, and we fervently pray for peace, a just peace, that is not merely the absence of conflict but is the respect and flourishing of all peoples based on dialogue and reconciliation. Whatever the merits of the armed conflict may be, innocent people suffer in times of such conflict, and as violence begets more violence, we join our prayers with those of our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV, who last Sunday implored the parties involved "to assume the moral responsibility of halting the spiral of violence before it becomes an irreparable abyss." May the Holy Spirit guide those in positions of authority to work always for true peace.

As we approach the middle of Lent, we turn to the Gospel of John this 3rd Sunday, and we will remain with John through the 4th and 5th Sundays because of his gospel's deep mystagogical focus - "mystagogy" the Greek term meaning "to lead through the mysteries." This focus takes us deeper into the mysteries of our faith, namely the sacramental mysteries of Christian Initiation, comprised of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. We continue to pray for our catechumens and candidates, those men and women discerning God's call to join the Catholic Church through their upcoming reception of the sacraments at Easter. Our readings this weekend remind us that the gift of faith we have been given is, precisely that, a gift! God's grace - the gratuitous gift of His life - is what invites us to faith, and as St. Paul says to the Romans in our 2nd Reading, "But God proved his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." Christ did not die for us because we were 'good' or 'righteous,' but rather because of love!

It is God's love, His grace, that leads to faith, and Jesus's conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well shows just that. Her first encounter with grace is Jesus's request for something to drink, although she doesn't understand: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Her second is Jesus's offer of living

water, the heavenly gift of eternal life, although she cannot yet comprehend what He means: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Her third is the confession that Jesus draws out of her through His own knowledge: "Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?" It is this confession that pierces her heart and draws her to Christ, and through her, so many others: "Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, 'He told me everything I have done.' This is what Christ does - He reaches out and touches our hearts; He draws us to faith; He forgives us of our sins; He fills us with the living water that is salvation! The Samaritan woman's journey mirrors our own: from curiosity, to desire, to confession. Something about Christ intrigues her, and it is that flicker of grace that touches our heart's desire for God, which leads us to confess Him with our lives. But it is all His initiative, His grace, that leads us to Him and the life of discipleship.

This Lent, allow God's grace to lift you from the burdens you carry in receiving His mercy in the Sacrament of Confession. This Monday evening, March 9, we will offer Confessions in the Church beginning at 7:00 p.m., and a special opportunity for Confession will again be on Saturday morning, March 21. One of the most unique and beautiful aspects of our faith, Christ established the Sacrament of Confession so that we sinners can obtain forgiveness of our sins and be reconciled to God and His Church. Whether it has been a long or short time since your last Confession, during these weeks humbly acknowledge our need for mercy, our need for grace!

And please keep our 21 eighth graders in your prayers as they will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next Saturday, March 14, with Bishop Juan Esposito, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington. May the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit - Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord - strengthen our *confirmandi* as witnesses to Christ!

Wishing you continued Lenten blessings!

In Christ,
Fr. Andrew

Remember in Prayer those who have died

Maria Davila, wife of Carlos Davila.

Pax Christi Presentation Today!

Sunday, March 8, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m., Kazista Center. Sponsored by Pax Christi-St. John the Baptist "Advent in Palestine: Come and See! Journeying with Justice." Please see page four for more information.



Youth Ministry Meeting - Today!

TODAY, March 8, all Youth are especially invited to the Pax Christi meeting from 10:00-11:15 a.m. in the Kazista Center. This is after the 9 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.



A peak into School

Although Black History Month has ended, its impact will remain with our students well beyond February. Throughout the month, our school community celebrated the achievements and contributions of African Americans through a variety of engaging activities.



Each classroom highlighted a historically black college or university, sharing facts and learning about the rich history and legacy of these institutions. During morning announcements, students participated in a daily "Guess Who?" activity featuring notable figures such as Barack Obama, Garrett Morgan, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, and more.

Across grade levels, students engaged in meaningful learning experiences. Kindergarten students learned about Garrett Morgan in social studies. Third grade read about Henry "Box" Brown, while fourth grade explored the life of Maurice Stokes in the library. Students in grades 5-7 watched the film Hidden Figures in math, connecting the story to perseverance and problem-solving. Sixth and seventh graders also completed a Math Challenge focused on space concepts such as orbital mechanics, trajectory, and escape velocity. The eighth-grade book club discussed the life and work of Bryan Stevenson.

The month concluded with students dressing in red, green, yellow, and black to show unity and pride. We are grateful for the opportunity to honor history while inspiring our students to carry these lessons forward.

SJB School 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@sjbsilverpring.org for Art Judging and for Science Judging please email Kevin Daly at kevin.daly@sjbsilverpring.org. Thank you for helping our school.

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.



Pax Christi Presentation - Today!

Sunday, March 8, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m., Kazista Center. Sponsored by Pax Christi-St. John the Baptist

"Advent in Palestine: Come and See! Journeying with Justice"



Talk description

This past Advent, seventeen peacemakers led by Catholic Workers across the country returned from Palestine-Israel hosted by Sabeel, which is the grassroots, ecumenical Palestinian liberation theology movement rooted in the universal ethic of nonviolence. Meeting with civil society peacemakers across faiths, institutions, and identities in Palestine-Israel, the goals of the trip were to 1) be with and encourage the people who are under attack, 2) collaborate with Sabeel on ways that the unjust, complex realities of life in Palestine-Israel might be improved, and 3) expose human rights violations and prioritize human connection.

The delegation was part of a wave of desperately needed international presence, answering the open invitation from Palestinian Christians, who are the direct descendants of the first Christians and the Living Stones of our faith, to come and see, and go and tell. They are seeking solidarity and a physical presence from faith communities in the United States amidst the U.S.-funded ongoing genocide in Gaza that is spreading to the Occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Speaker bio

Jessica Sun is a 2nd generation economic-settler-immigrant and Chinese U.S. American zillennial from northern Virginia. A Catholic convert after 10 years of identifying with varying philosophies as an agnostic, she finds a dear sense of belonging in spaces of zealous, Gospel-led advocacy and action for just peace and nonviolence. Christians for a Free Palestine, Pax Christi USA, and the PCUSA Young Adult Caucus are her organizing homes. A graduate of the Virginia Tech College of Engineering, she had worked as a software engineer by day, local progressive volunteer by life. She is now in the application process to the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods.

SJB Food Drive - Knights of Columbus

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



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

Baptismal Preparation Class

The next Baptismal Preparation Class will be Tuesday, April 7, 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.



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.



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.

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.

The Season of Lent

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. Prayer booklets will be available for use during Stations.



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.

Opportunities for Confession during Lent

Additional times for Confession during Lent will be tomorrow, 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. 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.

Knights of Columbus Lenten Meal

Knights of Columbus Sponsored Lenten Dinner (Fish Fry). Following the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent, 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.



Week 4. March 13: Shrimp Scampi over rice, salad, soup (Clam Chowder) with artisan bread.

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, 703-203-4319.

Daylight Saving Time has Begun

Beginning this morning at 2:00 a.m. clocks were turned back one hour. Hope everyone made it to their preferred Mass time.



Angel Friends Update

New Baby. In November, we let you know that we were supporting a new mom, Jeni. Her son Thiago was born on January 3rd, is now over 10 lbs., and doing well. Jeni is so grateful for the support SJB has provided.



New Mom. We've just started supporting our fifth mom, Talia, who is due in May. While we've addressed most of her critical needs, she has asked for baby towels, wash cloths, socks and bottles.

New Needs. All of our families are in need of baby wipes. Please continue to keep them in your prayers: Rebecca and baby girl Zariyah (5-months old); Bezenjie and 3-month-old twins Darian (boy) and Darien (girl); and Janelle and 3-month-old twin boys (Jayce and Jett).

If you have items to donate (especially wipes, clothes, bottles, and diapers), or you are interested in learning more about Angel Friends, please contact Jeff and Crystal Vinson (crispyfry@gmail.com and jeffvins@gmail.com).



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>

Saint Frances of Rome's Story - March 9

Frances' life combines aspects of secular and religious life. A devoted and loving wife, she longed for a lifestyle of prayer and service, so she organized a group of women to minister to the needs of Rome's poor. Born of wealthy parents, Saint Frances of Rome found herself attracted to the religious life during her youth. But her parents objected and a young nobleman was selected to be her husband. As she became acquainted with her new relatives, Frances soon discovered that the wife of her husband's brother also wished to live a life of service and prayer. So the two, Frances and Vannozza, set out together – with their husbands' blessings – to help the poor.



Frances fell ill for a time, but this apparently only deepened her commitment to the suffering people she met. The years passed, and Frances gave birth to two sons and a daughter. With the new responsibilities of family life, the young mother turned her attention more to the needs of her own household.

The family flourished under Frances' care, but within a few years a great plague began to sweep across Italy. It struck Rome with devastating cruelty and left Frances' second son dead. In an effort to help alleviate some of the suffering, Frances used all her money and sold her possessions to buy whatever the sick might possibly need. When all the resources had been exhausted, Frances and Vannozza went door to door begging. Later, Frances' daughter died, and the saint opened a section of her house as a hospital.

Saint Frances of Rome became more and more convinced that this way of life was so necessary for the world, and it was not long before she requested and was given permission to found a society of women bound by no vows. They simply offered themselves to God and to the service of the poor. Once the society was established, Frances chose not to live at the community residence, but rather at home with her husband. She did this for seven years, until her husband passed away, and then came to live the remainder of her life with the society – serving the poorest of the poor.

Saint Frances of Rome is the Patron Saint of: Motorists and Widows.

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

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

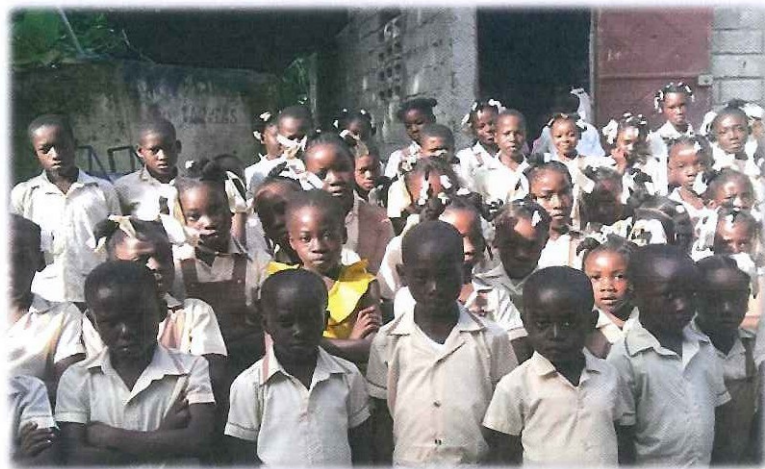


**As we enter the Lenten season,
we remember those in need.
We continue to support our brothers
and sisters in Haiti in love and
solidarity.**



Our Sister Parish, St. Pierre in Baradères, has become a refuge for families fleeing the chaos in other parts of the country. By helping our Sister Parish, we are helping these families from many regions of Haiti. The current Pastor of our Sister Parish, Fr. Jhonson Charlotin, is actually a graduate of our Sister Parish High School, Collège St. Jean Baptiste (CSJB)! So our contributions have returned to us a hundredfold! Graduates from CSJB have said that their pre-college education increased their compassion for others, instilled a love of reading, and taught them the value of labor. Help us continue this valuable work.

A special collection for our Sister Parish will be taken up on March 7 and 8, (The 3rd Sunday of Lent). Envelopes will be available on the entrance tables of the Church for all of Lent. You may put your contribution in the collection basket or turn it in at the Parish Office.



Your donations provide

- Salaries for the teachers
- Hot lunches for the students



Ways to give

- In the collection basket, March 7 and 8. Use the Sister Parish envelopes and write "Sister Parish" in the memo line of your check.
- There will be Sister Parish donation envelopes on the entrance tables of the Church for the Lenten Season.
- Drop off your donation in the Parish Office or mail to the parish (indicate "Sister Parish" on the check).
- Online <https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/sjbss> Choose "Haiti General Fund" for your offering.
- Scan QR Code above for donation, click Weekly Offertory and scroll to Haiti General Fund or Haiti School Fund.

Lent is the perfect time to give blood!

Please register for the SJB second annual Blood Drive. The Lions club will be there to offer free vision and hearing screening as well! Sunday, March 22, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Please sign-up at this link: <https://calendly.com/luminishealthdrives/sjtb-march>.



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:

