



# Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church

12319 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20904

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Rooted in Tradition ~ Led by the Spirit

Today's Readings: Matthew 21:1-11 Isaiah 50:4-7 Psalm 22 Philippians 2:6-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66



"Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

In the suffocating darkness, Jesus gives voice to humanity's deepest cry that reverberates with us as he enters the loneliness we fear, praying Psalm 22 on our behalf. Abandoned yet faithful, Christ reveals that God is present even when He seems absent. On the cross, suffering becomes prayer, doubt becomes trust, and our darkest hours are gathered into the redeeming love that saves us and invites believers to remain with Him in hope during trials.

### \*\*\* Triduum \*\*\*

#### Holy Thursday, April 2

*Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:30 p.m.*

Fr. Andrew Wakefield, Principal Celebrant and Homilist  
Msgr. Mike Mellone, Fr. Johnson John

followed by **Procession of the Blessed Sacrament & Adoration** until 10:00 p.m.

#### Good Friday, April 3

*Stations of the Cross, 3:00 p.m., Msgr. Mike Mellone*

*The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord, 7:30 p.m.*

Msgr. Mike Mellone, Principal Celebrant and Homilist  
Fr. Andrew Wakefield, Fr. Johnson John

#### Holy Saturday, April 4

*The Easter Vigil, 8:00 p.m.*

Fr. Andrew Wakefield, Principal Celebrant and Homilist  
Msgr. Mike Mellone, Fr. Johnson John

#### Easter Sunday Masses, April 5

7:30 a.m. - Msgr. Mike Mellone, Principal Celebrant and Homilist

Fr. Andrew Wakefield, Fr. Johnson John

9:00 a.m. - Fr. Andrew Wakefield, Principal Celebrant and Homilist

Msgr. Mike Mellone, Fr. Johnson John

11:30 a.m. - Fr. Andrew Wakefield, Principal Celebrant and Homilist

Msgr. Mike Mellone, Fr. Johnson John



#### Daily Mass:

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

Saturday - 9:00 a.m.

#### Marriage:

Parishioners requesting a marriage date must have been registered in the parish for six months.

#### Baptism:

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

#### Phone Numbers:

Parish Office & Rectory:

301-622-1122

Fax: 301-625-9266

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

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

School: 301-622-3076

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

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

Bulletin Editor: Martha Kerley

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

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

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[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

No Community Sunday/Community Breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 5. On April 12 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 30 - April 5)

Monday 7:00 - Marty Alexa (J. & T. Flynn)

8:30 - Manuela Avalos (A. Hernandez)

Tuesday 7:00 - Msgr. Francis Kazista (Vassiliou Family)

8:30 - Souls in Purgatory (G. & O. Unaegbu)

Wednesday 7:00 - Donald Cook (Mary Frances)

8:30 - Linda LeDrew -L- (Family)

Thursday 7:30 p.m.- Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday 7:30 p.m.- Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

Saturday 8:00 p.m.- Easter Vigil - Parishioners

Sunday 7:30 - Minerva R. Elizalde (D. & M. Elizalde)

9:00 - Dimitri Vassiliou (M. F. Van Winter)

11:30 - Jean-Charlot Charles (M. Charles)

## 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

3/29 - Easter Flowers

### April Collection

4/3 - The Holy Land

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

April 12 Bulletin & Website deadline

Wednesday, April 1, 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,  
 We begin Holy Week with hearing Matthew's version of our Lord's Passion, His final suffering (from the Latin word *passio*), betrayal, trial, and crucifixion. Our first two readings for Palm Sunday frame what is evident in the Passion, that our Lord does not shrink away from the sufferings He endures, but rather, stands firm against all the hate that is hurled at Him. Some 600-700 years prior to the Passion, Isaiah prophesies the events to come, "I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting." And writing to the Philippians some 30 years after the crucifixion, Paul will write the great Christological hymn, Christ "[H]e humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." It is our Lord's total self-emptying that fills us with a sense of sheer awe at the depth of divine love that we contemplate this Holy Week.

We journey with the Lord triumphantly into Jerusalem, are at supper with Him as He gives us His body and blood in the Eucharist, walk with Him to Calvary, and behold His death on the cross, only to find the tomb empty!

Join us, these sacred days, as we summit the great mystery of our faith, that God takes upon the sin of the world on His cross in order to raise us all with Him into eternal life! And as we sit in reverence at what Christ does for us, may we lay at His feet all in our lives that need healing, hope, forgiveness, and renewal. Like the palms laid on the road as Jesus enters into Jerusalem, we honor our King as we invite Him into the depths of our hearts, and we unite our sufferings with His, for it is through His cross that we behold the glory of God!

Wishing you a blessed Holy Week!

In Christ,  
 Fr. Andrew

**Remember in Prayer those who have died**

Donald Cook, brother of Charlotte Cook.

**Stations of the Cross - Good Friday**

Friday, April 3, 3 p.m. in the Church

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. Prayer booklets will be available for use during Stations.



**Fasting & Abstinence - Good Friday**

On Good Friday, the faithful between the ages of 18 & 59 eat one main meal or two smaller meals with abstinence from meat.

**Holy Land Collection - Good Friday, April 3**

One way Catholics the world over can help support the work of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land is to contribute to the traditional pontifical Good Friday collection for the Holy Land. Taken up at the request of the pope, the funds support projects in the Holy Land, Cyprus, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Turkey, Iran and Iraq.

**Elizabeth House Casserole Ministry**

Casseroles to support the Elizabeth House Casserole Ministry can be dropped off in the parking lot at 10:15 a.m. after the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, April 12 (not Easter Sunday). The collected casseroles are delivered immediately to Elizabeth House, a meal kitchen in Laurel. A set of six recipes is available on the SJB website at [www.sjbssparish.org/casserole-project](http://www.sjbssparish.org/casserole-project). A particular recipe is assigned each month and all are fairly easy to assemble. If you have questions, please contact Kim Paniati at [paniati@verizon.net](mailto:paniati@verizon.net).



**SJB Food Drive - Knights of Columbus**

No SJB Food Drive on Saturday, April 4.

The next St. John the Baptist Knights of Columbus Food Drive will be Saturday, April 18, 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.



**Knights of Columbus Membership Drive**

Join us for the annual Membership Drive of the Knights of Columbus Council 11106 on the weekend of May 2 and May 3. The Knights of Columbus is a vibrant Catholic organization dedicated to family, charity, fraternity, and community service. We focus on engaging the entire family in our activities and programs. If you are a practicing Catholic man, 18 years or older, we invite you to consider becoming a member. Our Brother Knights will be available after Mass and during Community Breakfast/Sunday to answer any questions you may have. If you would like to join today, simply go to [KofC.org/joinus](http://KofC.org/joinus) or scan the QR code. Enter our council # 11106 for local information. To join us for free, please use the code BLESSEDMCGIVENEY.



**No Eucharistic Adoration during the day on Holy Thursday, April 3. Adoration will follow the Mass of the Lord's Supper until 10:00 p.m.**



## A Peek into the School: Prayer Garden ✨

As we continue through the Lenten season, students are growing deeper in their faith. Students in grades 1-8 have been gathering as a whole school on Fridays to pray the Stations of the Cross.



Additionally, schoolwide, students have begun creating an indoor prayer garden in front of the statue of Mary by the main office. This project encourages student reflection during Lent and integrates creativity with spiritual expression. Some creations include flowers with messages of gratitude to God, candles with written prayers, Stations of the Cross-shadow boxes, and a depiction of the Crucifix at sunrise.

Some students also wrote personal prayers directly on their creations, focusing on themes such as gratitude, forgiveness, peace, intentions for family and community, and Lenten sacrifices and spiritual growth.

There is also a rock garden outside the Lyon Center that teachers contributed to earlier in the school year. This space has provided another opportunity for students to slow down, reflect, and grow closer to Jesus during the Lenten season.

## Chosen Retreat for Young Women

Registration is open for the "Chosen" Young Women's Vocations Retreat, Saturday, May 9, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. Mary of the Mills Catholic Church, 114 St. Mary's Place, Laurel, MD. All girls grades 8-12 are welcome to join for talks on different types of vocations, food, games, Mass, adoration, crafts and more. Please contact [bsmith@stmaryofthemills.org](mailto:bsmith@stmaryofthemills.org) with questions



## SJB Walking with the Word

**Walking with the Word will not meet Saturday, April 4, but it will return on April 11.**

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.

## 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.

## Divine Mercy Sunday - April 12, 2026

You are invited to join fellow parishioners to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, April 12, at 1:00 p.m. in the Visitation Chapel for exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet and time for silent Adoration until 3 p.m. Confession will be available.



In a series of revelations to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, our Lord called for a special Feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Today we know the feast as Divine Mercy Sunday, named by St. John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000.

Jesus told St. Faustina: "I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My Mercy." (1109) "Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." (300) Excerpts from Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska.

## Haiti Sister Parish Collection during March

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. Donations will help pay salaries for the teachers and hot lunches for the students.



### Ways to give

- 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 for donation, click Weekly Offertory and scroll to Haiti General Fund or Haiti School Fund.



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



**Children's Liturgy of the Word**

**No Liturgy of the Word on Easter Sunday.** 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.



**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.

**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](http://BestLentEver.com) to receive a miracle each day.



**Angel Friends Update**

**New Baby.** In November, we let you know that we were supporting a new mom, Jeni. Her son Thiago, 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 ([cryspyfry@gmail.com](mailto:cryspyfry@gmail.com) and [jeffvins@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvins@gmail.com)).

**Signup to Receive Flocknotes**

Fr. Andrew sends his weekly message and the Sunday Bulletin via Flocknote. If you would like to receive Flocknotes, please register by visiting [www.flocknote.com/sjbcatholicchurch](http://www.flocknote.com/sjbcatholicchurch). Thank you.

**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>

**Lent ends Holy Thursday at Sundown.**

### Camp St. Charles Summer Camp

Camp St. Charles is a catholic, overnight summer camp and retreat center located in Southern Maryland. The beautiful water front location is an ideal setting for their summer camp program and weekend events. Camp St. Charles was established in 1952 as a boys' camp and now offers summer adventures to both boys and girls ages 6 to 13 years old. Their rustic cabins and wide range of activities provide the setting for personal growth, lasting memories and life long friendships. Their daily schedule includes scheduled and free time activities, so that campers may spend additional time at their favorite events.

Campers outdoors and engaged with each other. Campers enjoy swimming, canoeing, escape room, stand up paddleboarding, camping, speedboat rides, tubing, ceramics, a variety of team sports, archery, riflery, camp fires, environmental education, high and low ropes and more under the careful supervision of our caring counselors and staff. An Open House will be Sunday, April 12. Please visit <https://www.campstcharles.com/> for more information.

### 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. Monday, April 13, at 1:00 p.m. in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel, Basilica of the National Shrine, Michigan Avenue, Washington, DC. For more information, please call Monica at 301-949-5710

### Post Cana Spring Fling

A Day of Joy and Fellowship sponsored by the Washington Archdiocese Post Cana Group for widows and widower on Friday, May 8, 11:00 a.m. Holy Mass with 12:00 p.m. Lunch in the Parish Center at Our Lady of Grace in Leisure World, Silver Spring, MD. Cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for interested participants. To register, please make checks payable to “Post Cana” and mail to Herb Biegel, 13509 Maidstone Lane, Potomac, MD 20904 or drop off check at Our Lady of Grace Parish Office. Deadline for Reservations is Friday, May 1.

### Free Tax Preparation

Catholic Charities IRS certified tax preparers/reviewers are available 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.



### Sacred Heart School Gala

Friday, May 1, Silent Auction, Dinner, Cocktails & Dancing, Black & White Semi-Formal Attire, in the School Theater, 1625 Park Road NW, Washington DC. For tickets, please visit <https://sacredheartschooldc.com/>.

### Saint Peter Regalado’s Story – March 29

Saint Peter Regalado lived at a very busy time in history. The Great Western Schism (1378-1417) was settled at the Council of Constance (1414-1418). France and England were fighting the Hundred Years’ War, and in 1453, the Byzantine Empire was completely wiped out by the loss of Constantinople to the Turks. At Peter’s death, the age of printing had just begun in Germany, and Columbus’s arrival in the New World was less than 40 years away.

Saint Peter Regalado came from a wealthy and pious family in Valladolid, Spain. At the age of 13, he was allowed to enter the Conventual Franciscans. Shortly after his ordination, he was made superior of the friary in Aguilar. He became part of a group of friars who wanted to lead a life of greater poverty and penance. In 1442, he was appointed head of all the Spanish Franciscans in his reform group.

Peter led the friars by his example. A special love of the poor and the sick characterized Saint Peter Regalado. Miraculous stories are told about his charity to the poor. For example, the bread never seemed to run out as long as Peter had hungry people to feed. Throughout most of his life, Peter went hungry; he lived only on bread and water.

Immediately after his death on March 30, 1456, his grave became a place of pilgrimage. Peter was canonized in 1746.

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



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