

MARCH 29, 2020

# SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

CATHOLIC CHURCH • NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT



## MISSION STATEMENT

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church is a community of baptized people who have, as their common goals: to love, model, teach, serve, and celebrate Christ in our lives. Committed to the Eucharist, our Bread of Life, and guided by the Holy Spirit, we are dedicated to service to God's people and center our faith-life around liturgical celebrations, the Gospel, and prayer. Based on the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, we reach out to all people lovingly, acknowledging their uniqueness and dignity, and treat all with respect, tolerance, and acceptance, having the love of Jesus as our core.

## EUCCHARISTIC LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil  
5:30 PM

Sunday  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Monday through Thursday  
9:00 AM

Holy Day Mass  
(refer to schedule on inside cover)

Eucharistic Adoration  
Wednesdays 5:00 PM-6:00 PM

*Gluten-free hosts are available upon request. Visitors or parishioners need to notify the Pastor or Deacon prior to the particular Mass they are attending.*

## RECONCILIATION

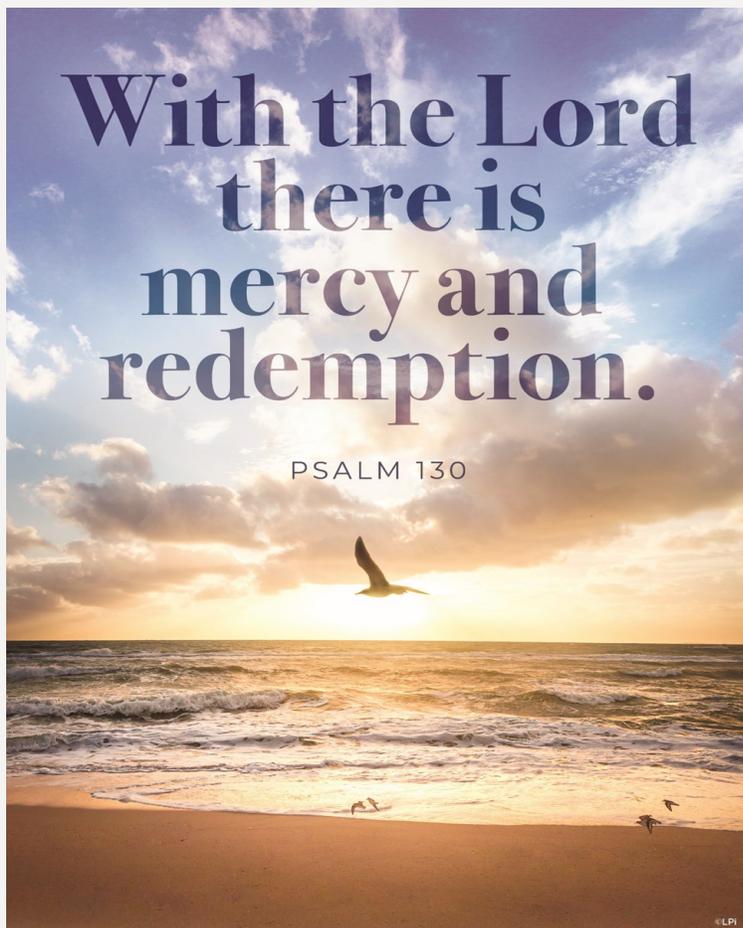
Saturdays from 4:30 PM-5:00 PM and by appointment.

## VISITORS

Welcome. Thank you for joining us for our Eucharistic Celebration. Please know that we have a long tradition of kneeling after every Mass to say a brief prayer for vocations.

## NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome new parishioners to St. John's and ask that they register at the parish office. Parishioners with new addresses or who are moving should also contact the parish office.



CONGREGATION OF  
**HOLY CROSS**  
EDUCATION • PARISH • MISSION

Rev. Robert Wiseman, C.S.C.—Pastor  
Rev. Hugh Cleary, C.S.C.—Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Mr. David M. O'Brien—Deacon

The Congregation of Holy Cross Priests and Brothers have offered continuous service for over 60 years to the Diocese of Burlington and the Bennington area.

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## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

EMAIL: [saintjohnchurch1@gmail.com](mailto:saintjohnchurch1@gmail.com)

PHONE: 802.447.7504 | FAX: 802.442.6620



## Keeping Sunday Sacred

Although public Masses have been suspended in our diocese, there are still many ways we can give ourselves and our families to the Lord on Sunday.

If you are living on your own, please remember that your prayers are joined with the mystical Body of Christ, on heaven and on earth — prayer is always an invitation to enter into community.

If you are home with family, please consider praying and doing these activities with one another. This is a unique opportunity to nourish the life of your domestic church (your family!).

## Prayers

✠ **Watch Sunday Mass** at home and make an act of spiritual communion (below). Masses will be livestreamed on the diocesan website, [www.vermontcatholic.org](http://www.vermontcatholic.org).

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most holy Eucharist. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.*

✠ **Pray the Rosary.** It is traditional to pray the Sorrowful Mysteries on Sundays in Lent.

✠ **Pray before bed.**

## Activities

✠ **Make a sacred space** in your home. Set aside a wall, corner, or room for family prayer. Get creative!

✠ **Reach out to those who are isolated.** Send a letter or make a phone call to the older people in your parish or community or those in nursing homes.

✠ **Light a candle** in your home to represent the light of Christ and your family's intentions.

✠ **Sit down for a Sunday meal.** Challenge everyone to put away those phones! You can discuss the Sunday Gospel together or simply share your experiences during this unique time.

✠ Make good use of those screens! **Watch some Catholic content** online — there are lots of excellent movies, study programs, and YouTube videos for all ages. Some suggestions:

- ◆ Ascension Presents (YouTube)
- ◆ Word on Fire (YouTube)
- ◆ Catholic Central (YouTube)
- ◆ FORMED.org



## A Prayer for Protection in Time of Pandemic

O Mary,  
you always brighten our path  
as a sign of salvation and of hope.  
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,  
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain  
while remaining steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother,  
you know what we need,  
and we are confident you will provide for us  
as at Cana in Galilee.

Intercede for us with your Son Jesus,  
the Divine Physician,  
for those who have fallen ill,  
for those who are vulnerable,  
and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with  
protecting the health and safety of others  
and for those who are tending to the sick  
and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform to the will of the Father  
and to do as we are told by Jesus,  
who took upon himself our  
sufferings and carried our sorrows,  
so as to lead us, through the Cross,  
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

*Under thy protection we seek refuge,  
O Holy Mother of God.  
In our needs, despise not our petitions,  
but deliver us always from all dangers,  
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.*

*Adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis*



The ancient fresco of Madonna del Soccorso (Our Lady of Help) in St. Peter's Basilica was restored with the support of the Knights of Columbus to mark the Year of Faith (2012-2013). Photo courtesy of Fabbrica di San Pietro/M. Falcioni.

**Reflections**  
**The Fifth Sunday of Lent**

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is an event that draws all of creation toward God. When we take part in the devotion of the Stations of the Cross, traditionally we say, "Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world." That means more than just the people of this world; it means all of creation.

As good stewards, we are called to attest to the glory of God in all he has created. Everywhere we look we can see evidence of his handiwork and have the opportunity to reflect on how he has created the world for our benefit. Seeing all of creation as redeemed because of the dying and rising of Christ helps us with this reflection. Truly, all things are made new.

With only two weeks left in Lent, we still have a chance to echo the words of this Sunday's psalm, "Create a clean heart in me, O God." Perhaps we are unable to see the glory of God in creation because of our own sin. We need to repent and return to God, and then we can see with new eyes. Make this Easter a time for real, meaningful celebration as all of creation sings to the Lord. ©LPi

**Sunday Summary**

**Ezekiel 37:12-14** The death that is exile will end as the people return to the land of promise.

**Psalms 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8** From the depths of despair, God will hear and answer those who call.

**Romans 8:8-11** Sin is also a depth from which God can restore us to life without limits.

**John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45** A friend of Jesus finds his life restored when Jesus rescues him from the dark.

**Readings for the week of March 29, 2020**

Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [4ab]/Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/Jn 11:45-56

Next Sunday: Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14—27:66 or 27:11-54

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Visit our church at: [www.flocknote.com/vermontcatholic](http://www.flocknote.com/vermontcatholic)  
OR Text vermontcatholic to 84576 from your phone.

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**Features for March & April:**

**March 29 – Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Kids: Brother Francis - Let's Learn about Lent**

**April 5 – Palm Sunday**

**Listen: Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week**

**April 9 – Holy Thursday**

**Watch: The Last Supper and the Cross**

**Listen: Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist**

**April 10 – Good Friday**

**Listen: Tears of God - Persevering in the Face of Great Sorrow or Catastrophe**

**Kids: Signs of Grace - You are Forgiven**

**April 11 – Holy Saturday**

**Listen: Drawing Strength from Our Lady of Sorrows**

**April 12 – Easter Sunday**

**Watch: The Shroud of Turin**

 **Opportunity to Dream:** Young people must be provided good nutrition to be able to pursue their dreams. Did you have the opportunity to dream? What can you do to give young people the opportunity to dream? Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) for more.

**A Note from the Diocese of Burlington...**

- First Reconciliations and First Communions will be postponed until the liturgical suspension is lifted. When it is, decisions about celebrating or rescheduling First Reconciliations and First Communions will be at the discretion of the pastor.
- Decisions about postponing Confirmations taking place between April 16 – May 15 will be made by April 3. Decisions about postponing Confirmations taking place after May 15 will be made by April 15. More information will follow.