

# 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

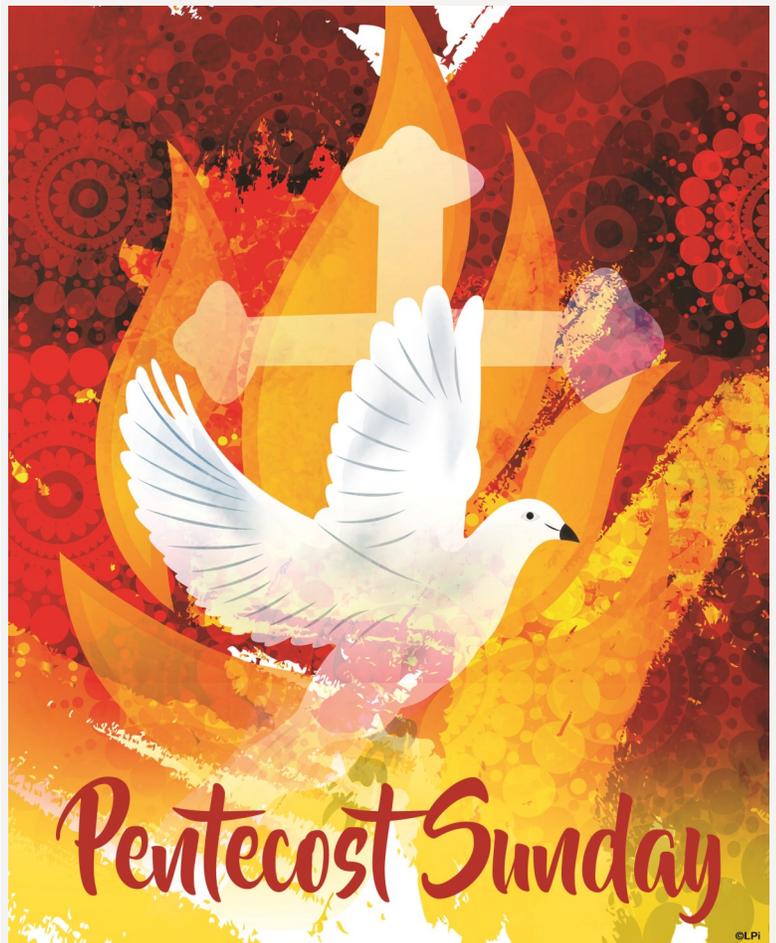
Saturdays from 4:30 PM-5:00 PM and by appointment.

## 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 Glorious Mysteries throughout Easter and Ordinary Time.

✠ **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.

✠ **Websites with Masses and prayer resources:**

[www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org)

<https://www.vermontcatholic.org/news/communication/tv-mass/>

<https://campusministry.nd.edu/>

<http://www.catholictv.org/>

<https://www.ewtn.com/>

CAT-TV Sundays at 12:00 noon



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

## 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.

**Gospel Reflection**  
**Pentecost Sunday**

You can feel so small standing by the seashore. The vastness of all that is before you expands much farther than your eye can see. What is happening on the other side? As tides continue to ebb and flow, what occurs as they come and go remains largely a mystery and the effects of their presence unknown in your sight. Yet, things are moving and changing as you gaze upon the water, as the thumbprint of their presence is left behind. The greater the wind and wave, the greater the effect. But even a gentle breeze leaves its humble mark upon the seashore on which you stand. The smallest pebble still makes a ripple in the great blue expanse of ocean waters. It doesn't need to be big.

You never know the full impact of your smallest gesture or simplest of words. A yes or no, agree or disagree, here or there, this or that can influence time and history in ways you may never know. The Holy Spirit is like that: fierce and torrential, and then almost still and silent, creating and recreating nonetheless. Coming as a gentle breeze or a gusty wind, God's Holy Spirit continues to move over, around, and into the waters of our lives. The Spirit brings fruit and unknown possibilities to what we humbly bring with us and that same Spirit eventually brings all to fulfillment in Christ.

The first disciples didn't have much. They possessed simple faith and a willingness to go into uncharted territory with a love of their friend-God, humble offerings, and a knowledge that they were not alone. This allowed them to do amazing things with very little. Do you believe that you are being led and that you have a purposeful life? We often do not realize our value because we do not think that the little we have is good enough. How wrong we are! A little flour mixed with water and embraced by a prayer of blessing transforms simple offerings into the magnificent Eucharistic presence of God. If the Holy Spirit can do such amazing things with these humble gifts of the earth, even more can happen with you. Don't underestimate the value of the smile you gave a stranger, the door held open for an elderly widow, the listening ear offered to one who was lonely, the tolerance given to the wounded soul who is angry, and the loving shoulder you offered as a cradle under the head of someone in pain. Modest gifts offered with love can be transformed by the Spirit into wondrous blessings you may never know. It's Pentecost. Trust. You are not alone.

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**Sunday Summary**

**Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11** It was a very windy day in Jerusalem. Indoors. Spirit arrives!  
**Psalms 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34** The Spirit of the Lord makes the whole world new again.  
**1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13** Lists of sorry worldly works contrast with lovely spiritual fruits.  
**John 20:19-23** The Risen Lord brings two gifts: peace and the authority to forgive sins.



**Vermont Interfaith Power and Light**

It is the **fifth anniversary** of Pope Francis' Ecological Encyclical and the **Global Catholic Climate Movement** has sponsored five webinars, from sites around the world, to celebrate **Laudato Si' Week 2020**. They are **now available** on **YouTube** under the titles:

- **Laudato Si' at 5: As Prophetic and Relevant As Ever**
- **Eco-Spirituality: Deepening our Communion with Creation**
- **Sustainability: Time for the Church to Lead by Example**
- **Advocacy: Raising our Voices for the Earth and the most Vulnerable**
- **Social Action: Integral Ecology and Community Building in Times of Global Pandemic**

They have been beautifully produced and are well-worth watching.

~Wilma Ann Johnson

Liaison for SHSF and SJB Parishes



Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." – John 20:21-23

**Readings for the week of May 31, 2020**

- Sunday:** Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 [cf. 30]/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23
- Monday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14/Ps 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7/Jn 19:25-34
- Tuesday:** 2 Pt 3:12-15a, 17-18/Ps 90:2, 3-4, 10, 14 and 16 [1]/Mk 12:13-17
- Wednesday:** 2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12/Ps 123:1b-2ab, 2cdef [1b]/Mk 12:18-27
- Thursday:** 2 Tm 2:8-15/Ps 4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [4]/Mk 12:28-34
- Friday:** 2 Tm 3:10-17/Ps 119:157, 160, 161, 165, 166, 168 [165a]/Mk 12:35-37
- Saturday:** 2 Tm 4:1-8/Ps 71:8-9, 14-15ab, 16-17, 22 [cf. 15ab]/Mk 12:38-44
- Next Sunday:** Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 [52b]/2 Cor 13:11-13/Jn 3:16-18

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