

SEPTEMBER 27, 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

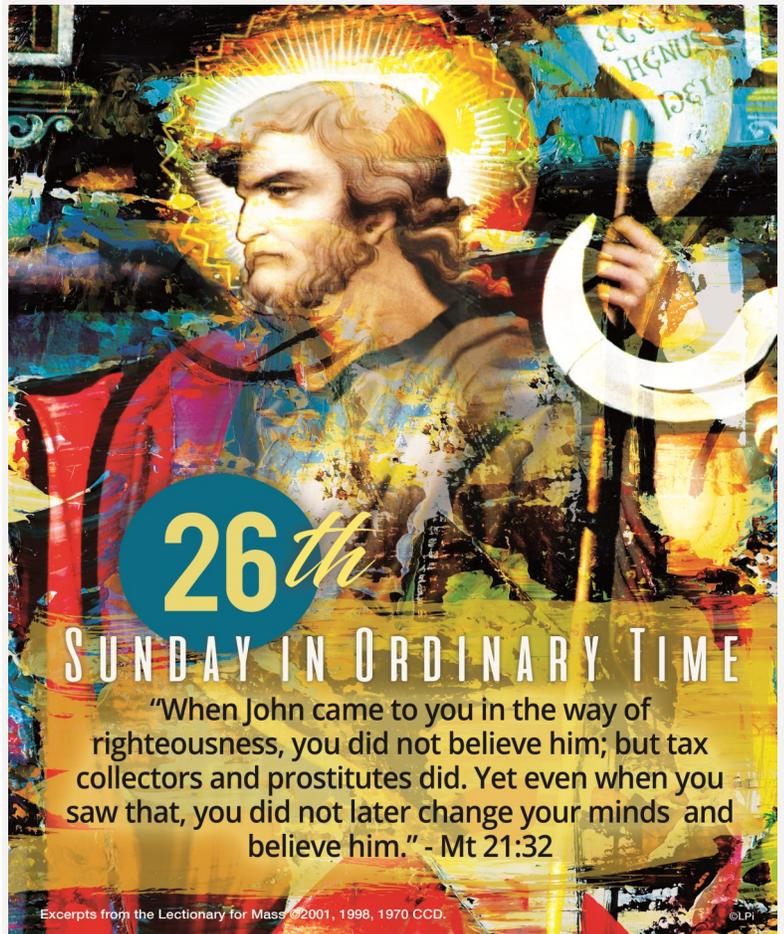
Saturdays from 4:30 PM-5:00 PM and by appointment.

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

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.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

EMAIL: saintjohnchurch1@gmail.com
PHONE: 802.447.7504 | FAX: 802.442.6620



Mass Intentions

And Liturgical Celebrations for 9/26-10/4

Sat./Sun., 9/26-9/27 – Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 5:30 p.m. For our parishioners
- 9:00 a.m. Joseph O'Brien (9th anniversary)
by David & Gail O'Brien
- 11:00 a.m. For our parishioners

Monday, 9/28 – Saint Wenceslaus;

Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions

- 9:00 a.m. For the intentions of Deacon David & Gail
O'Brien by Vicky & Julie

Tuesday, 9/29 – Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael

- 9:00 a.m. Special Intention

Wednesday, 9/30 – Saint Jerome

- 9:00 a.m. Anthony Puma by Roy Girasa

Thursday, 10/1 – Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus

- 9:00 a.m. The Monroe Family by Joan & Stephen Monroe

Friday, 10/2 – The Holy Guardian Angels

No Mass

Sat./Sun., 10/3-10/4 – Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 5:30 p.m. John Billow (4th anniversary) by the Family
- 9:00 a.m. For our parishioners
- 11:00 a.m. Mary Ellen Mattison by the Lindsey Family



"When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him."

- Mt 21:32

Readings for the week of September 27, 2020

- Sunday: Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [6a]/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32
- Monday: Jb 1:6-22/Ps 17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7 [6]/Lk 9:46-50
- Tuesday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5 [1]/Jn 1:47-51
- Wednesday: Jb 9:1-12, 14-16/Ps 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15 [3]/Lk 9:57-62
- Thursday: Jb 19:21-27/Ps 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14 [13]/Lk 10:1-12
- Friday: Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5/Ps 91:1-2, 3-4ab, 4c-6, 10-11 [11]/Mt 18:1-5, 10
- Saturday: Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17/Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130 [135]/Lk 10:17-24
- Next Sunday: Is 5:1-7/Ps 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20 [Is 5:7a]/Phil 4:6-9/Mt 21:33-43

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Gospel Reflection

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

What prompts you to make the decisions you make? When confronted with a decision, whether one that is more trivial and mundane or one that is more significant and profound, we rely on guidance. That guidance can be the result of impulse and passion or the fruit of the interior voice of conscience. Decisions made on impulse and passion can be misguided and erroneous. Decisions based on conscience, or the moral voice within, will reflect the depth and maturity of our soul work. A more contemplative soul will make more contemplative decisions. A less developed conscience will make decisions based on the individual's level of development.

Conversion and a change of heart are at the core of Jesus' message precisely because of this reality. We are works in progress. For the person on fire with the Holy Spirit and centered on God, life reflects an ever-deepening awareness and heightened sense of God's presence and a greater willingness to do God's will. What is happening internally is validated by what is witnessed externally. The hypocrite is the one who says yes when they really mean no. From the start, they had no desire to do the virtuous act but wanted to outwardly appear as if they did.

Where are you on the road of integrity? Honesty is all that is required. God is good with that. It is okay to struggle with our decisions and wrestle with ourselves. Consciences on the path to maturity and greater depth are not always going to know what action is immediately best. We may, at first, say no to what we know is right and, after prayerful reflection and thought, come around to doing it. Conversion happens when our no changes to yes, regardless of how sinful or out of sync we may be at the time. God is anxious to welcome us to Himself. But we cannot embrace Him unless we want to. Learning to orient our gift of free will to what is of divine origin, right, and best is a discipline we must always tweak and perfect.

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Sunday Summary

Ezekiel 18:25-28 Is a merciful God less fair than a scrupulously just one?

Psalms 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 Youth is full of errors in judgment. May God remember mercy and not our foolishness!

Philippians 2:1-11 or 2:1-5 The Crucifixion of Jesus is the ultimate injustice. Was it a mistake?

Matthew 21:28-32 Sinners get to heaven ahead of religious leaders. What is God thinking?

"As we walk the road of our spiritual journey, let us not miss the opportunity to offer a smile and a word of kindness to every person we encounter, for we are welcoming the presence of Christ among us."



2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal

Thank you to those who have given to the 2020 Bishop's Appeal. Your gift supports a variety of ministries and services impacting all of our 69 parishes, 12 Catholic schools, emergency aid to 2,000 individuals, vocations, religious education, and so much more. For more information or to make a gift, please visit bishopsappealvt.org.

To date, our parish has raised \$20,680 toward our goal of \$30,998. This is 67% of our parish goal.



If you have a Rice Bowl box at home from this past Lent, you may put it in the collection basket at the entrance of the church or return it to the parish office. Thank you!

CRS Rice Bowl supports hunger and poverty alleviation efforts both around the world through CRS (75% of gifts) and also here in the U.S. (25% for local diocesan efforts). This global/local connection is important as communities in the United States and around the world are both struggling with the economic impacts of COVID-19.



Live the Liturgy - Inspiration for the Week

When making decisions, we often struggle with what voice to follow. We acknowledge the presence of God, the existence of the Trinity, the priority of the Gospel, and the virtues and values they embody. Yet, even with all of that truth, knowledge, and tradition behind us, we think we know better. When confronted with a decision, we easily dismiss what we know we ought and need to do and entertain responses that stem from lesser desires and wants. We eventually may come around and realize that what God asks us to do is what we need to do, even if it wasn't our original intention. God accepts our return to Him with joy. What becomes dishonest is deceiving ourselves, God, and others by originally saying yes to what we know we need (and are asked to do) and willfully doing something else. That is blatant hypocrisy.

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Kids' Corner - Sharing the Gospel

Maybe you have heard that actions speak louder than words. It means that the things you do are more important than the things you say. Show kindness to others. Trust God. He wants what is best for you, so find out how to work for God. Then do what he asks.

Prayer: God, I want to show you that I love you.

Mission for the Week: Show kindness to a friend. Help someone pick up a mess they made, just because you love Jesus.

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From Loneliness to Solitude in Time of Pandemic



*"Loneliness is the poverty of self; solitude is the richness of self."
~ Mary Sarton*

Sacred Heart Saint Francis de Sales & Saint John the Baptist

invite you to a **ZOOM** Book Discussion Group on Henri Nouwen's classic

Reaching Out:

The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life

Sessions will take place from **10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon** on the following dates:

Monday, **September 28** – From Hostility to Hospitality

Monday, **October 5** – From Illusion to Prayer

Books are available at

The Bennington Bookshop for \$12.

For further information, contact Wilma Ann Johnson at johnsonwa7@msn.com or 802-681-7290.



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Features for October:

October 1 – *Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus*

Movie: *The Miracle of Saint Thérèse*

Book: *A Family of Saints*

October 4 – *Saint Francis of Assisi*

Movie: *Saint Francis: His Life and Miracles*

Book: *The Joyful Beggar*

Please Continue to Pray for Fr. Vincent

On Tuesday morning, September 22, we received...

"Many of you have asked for an update on Vince Coppola. We have word from his mother that he still very much needs our prayers, as currently Vince is not doing well. Apparently they are working on infections and other issues that are quite serious, and worrisome. Please continue your prayers for him, and also for his mother (Madelyn), who has been on a roller coaster these last several weeks that Vince has been ill."