

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

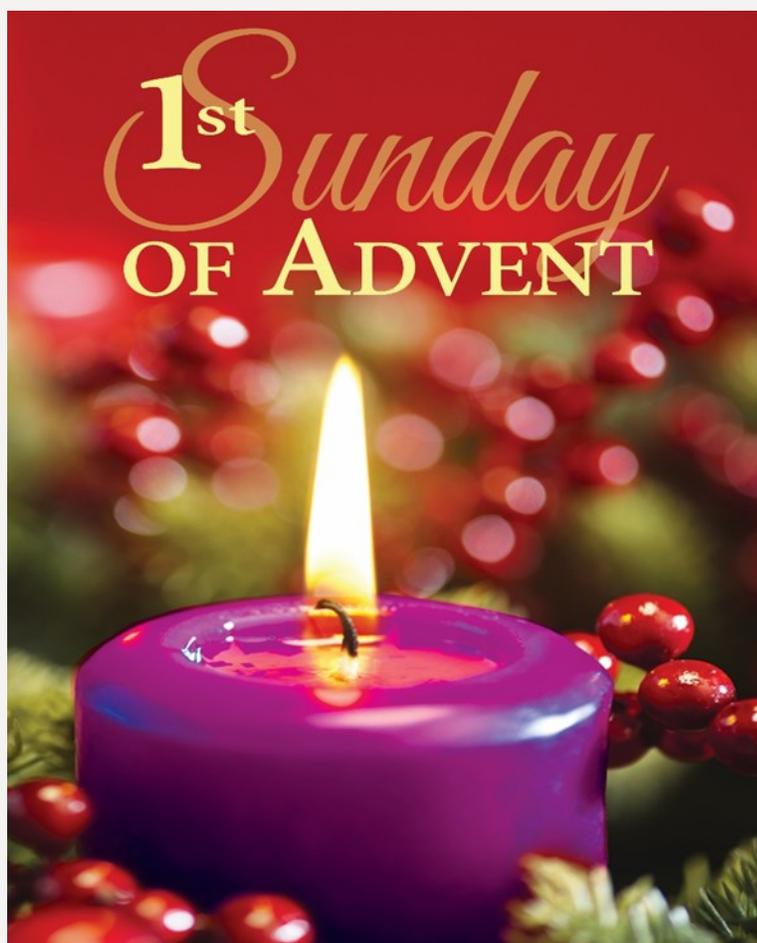
Saturdays from 4:30 PM-5:00 PM and by appointment.

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 11/28-12/6

Sat./Sun., 11/28-11/29 – First Sunday of Advent

- 5:30 p.m. For our parishioners
- 9:00 a.m. Janet Paturzo (18th anniversary)
by her daughter, Lisa
- 11:00 a.m. Helen S. White & Nora Shea
by Saile White Mahoney

Monday, 11/30 – Saint Andrew

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

Tuesday, 12/1 – Advent Weekday

- 9:00 a.m. Bruce LaVigne (3rd anniversary) by the Family

Wednesday, 12/2 – Advent Weekday

- 9:00 a.m. William “Billy” Rudd (11th anniversary)
by Judy Rudd & Family

Thursday, 12/3 – Saint Francis Xavier

- 9:00 a.m. Frank Paturzo (birthday remembrance)
by his daughter, Lisa

Friday, 12/4 – Saint John Damascene

No Mass

Sat./Sun., 12/5-12/6 – Second Sunday of Advent

- 5:30 p.m. Faye Hardy by the McGean Family
- 9:00 a.m. For our parishioners
- 11:00 a.m. Michael Borden by the Ron Lindsey Family



“Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.” - Mk 13:35-36

Readings for the week of November 29, 2020

- Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37
- Monday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22
- Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24
- Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37
- Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31
- Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
- Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

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Can you help this Advent season by reaching out to 5 to 10 people who you recognize might be feeling alone or isolated this Advent season? Give them a call or send them a note of encouragement.

This is a great time to reconnect with parishioners that you haven't seen lately in their regular “assigned” seats at church. Some may be spiritually hurting and need encouragement. Everyone needs to know they are important and that you and our faith community care about them. We are called to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Each one of us can make a difference, think of how many lives we can touch!



Gospel Reflection

First Sunday of Advent

You are at the eye doctor and it's time for the peripheral vision test. You know the one. It's where you put your head up to a contraption and have to click a switch every time you see a squiggly line. If you don't concentrate and maintain optimal focus, you will miss them and skew the outcome of the test. You can easily find yourself with a diagnosis that really isn't accurate! Concentration and focus are key to succeeding with this evaluation. They are also key to developing a healthy, vibrant spiritual life. If we do not bring our full consciousness to the task, concentrate with all our might, be watchful and vigilant, we are not going to see God's loving presence flashing before our eyes!

That's why we need Advent. Let's face it. We can easily get distracted, focus on nonessential and superficial things and lose touch with what really matters. Our attentions wander. We daydream and even become a bit overwhelmed and tired. All of the stresses and demands of life consume us and we find ourselves constantly trying to play catch up rather than relishing the moment of the now. “Now” moments are so fleeting. They flash before us like those squiggly lines on a screen. Present moments go as quickly as they come but it is important to discover them and rest in them as often as we can. Though gone in a flash, these now moments of encounter with God teach powerful lessons and offer a grounding in truth that can be found nowhere else.

It's the grace of Advent to become watchful and attentive because we are never sure when God will surprise us. God loves surprises and love thrives on them! God's now moments of surprises come as tender instants of intimate connection where I find profound peace, experience joy, and rest in love. These are Advent times reflective of the now moments when Christ first was born, when God surprises us during every time we care to watch and when the great surprise of Christ's second coming dawns upon us all. But, to discover the grandeur and experience the awe of these now times, we have to be ready. We have to want to be there. We have to believe. And, we have to have the desire to soak in as much as we can in the time we have before us.



2020 Advent Appeal

Isaiah 7:14: “Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.”

It's with great joy and excitement that we welcome Advent and the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior. Jesus is God's greatest gift to mankind. He is the perfect present received every Christmas. John 3:16 — “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” — serves as a reminder of God's love and the sacrifice made on our behalf.

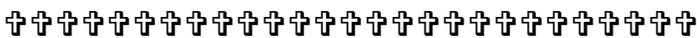
Along with celebrating God's wonderful gift, Advent is a time when we enjoy giving a little more. It is an opportunity to give a little more of our time, a little more of our love and a little more of the gifts we've received from God.

So we invite you, this Advent season, to join your brothers and sisters in Christ with a campaign commitment. Remember your gift will make a difference as we address our needs at St. John the Baptist. But don't forget it will also support the many needs of those most vulnerable among us, while enhancing our ability to educate others. Please return your completed pledge form or go online to christourhopevt.org/donate to make your gift.

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 \$22,930 toward our goal of \$30,998. This is 75% of our parish goal.



Advent Prayer

Dear God,

As an Advent candle is lit in joyous anticipation of your Son's nativity, remind us always of the reason for our joy. As the purple of the candles stand for both penance and atonement for our sin, give us the grace to do penance for our wrongs, and to love Christ, whose sacrifice atoned for the sins of the whole world. But just as the rose candle stands for joy in the midst of suffering and expectation, give us the joy of your Son, Jesus Christ, who came into a world that had so longed for its Savior, and made the angels themselves sing with joy at his birth. Amen.

Please join Vermont Catholic Charities in supporting the Annual Advent Appeal. The “Season of Giving” has no bounds for people in need. Whatever the season, it is a daily struggle for many Vermonters to maintain housing, stay warm or feed their families. With your help, we can make a difference in lives of those living on the edge. Help people like Molly and Jimmy keep the heat on. Molly and Jimmy have a 10-year-old daughter and were excited to welcome a new baby. Unexpectedly, Molly lost her job due to COVID-19 while Jimmy's hours were reduced. They were out of fuel. We helped with a fuel delivery and provided a food card to ensure the family had heat and food so they could focus on welcoming their new baby.

Every gift will make a difference in the life of a needy family. To donate, please mail a check to Vermont Catholic Charities, 55 Joy Drive, South Burlington, Vermont 05403 or give online at www.vermontcatholic.org/adventappeal.

Question of the Week Advent Wreath

Question: What's the story behind the Advent wreath?

Answer: Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreaths adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn't falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God's love.

Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who “shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, however, we light a rose color. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means “rejoice” in Latin. On the third Sunday of Advent, we're roughly halfway through the season. The Church chooses the midpoint to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation! Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ's coming at Christmas.

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“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.”