

DECEMBER 6, 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

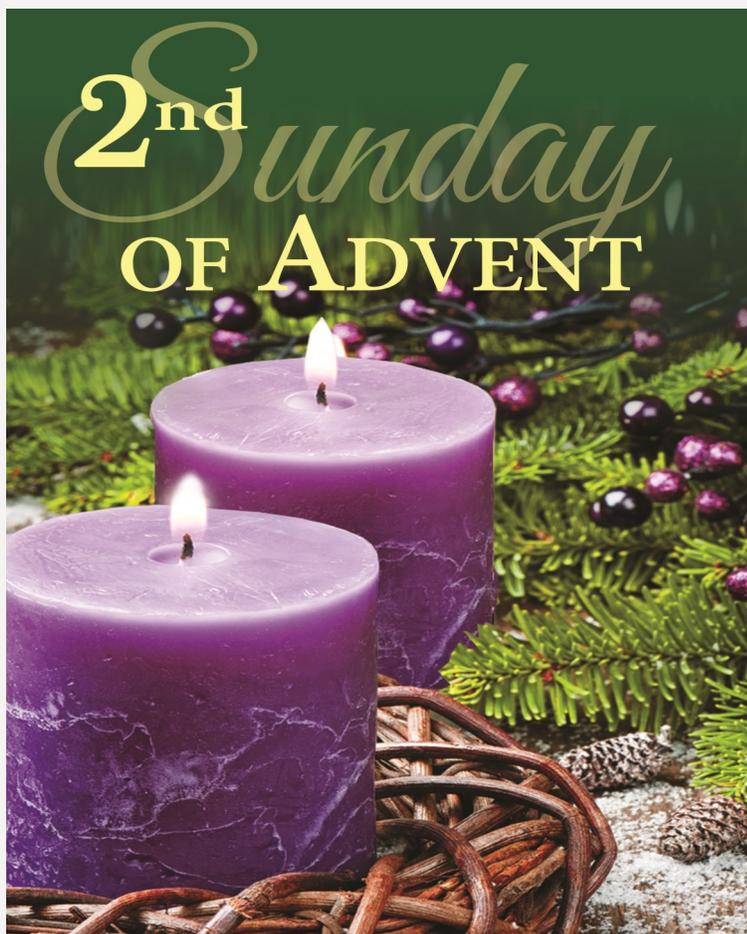
Saturdays from 4:30 PM-5:00 PM and by appointment.

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 12/5-12/13

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

Monday, 12/7 – Saint Ambrose

- 9:00 a.m. For the health of John Hogan & Brian Morrissey by Judy Rudd
- 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 12/8 – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 9:00 a.m. Marfisa Pino by Susan Harrington & Rosemary Lindsey

Wednesday, 12/9 – Saint Juan Diego

- 9:00 a.m. Tony Altobell by his wife Jane & Family

Thursday, 12/10 – Advent Weekday

- 9:00 a.m. Desmond Rowley by Joan & Stephen Monroe

Friday, 12/11 – Saint Damasus I

No Mass

Sat./Sun., 12/12-12/13 – Third Sunday of Advent

- 5:30 p.m. For our parishioners
- 9:00 a.m. Len Nichols by Nick, Judy, Denise, Sherry & Ken Monte
- 11:00 a.m. James McMahan by Linda Meskun



Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." - Mk 1:2b-3

Readings for the week of December 6, 2020

- 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
- Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/ Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/ Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
- Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
- Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



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!



Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Five hundred years before the birth of Christ, Isaiah prophesied these words of comfort and hope to the Israelites captive in Babylon. What would bring comfort and hope to you in this season of Advent?

Second Reading:

Today we hear how Peter challenged those in his day who denied that Christ would return. Peter argued that our human timeline is not God's timeline. How do you reason with people today who deny the fundamentals of our faith?

Gospel:

Mark opens his Gospel by presenting the words and activities of John the Baptist in the context of fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy heard in our first reading. Why do you think connecting Isaiah to John the Baptist was important to Mark and his community?

Live the Liturgy – Inspiration for the Week

Prepare the way of the Lord! The message of John the Baptist becomes the calling of every baptized disciple of Jesus Christ. Each one of us is asked to prepare the way of the Lord. Given the humble means of our lives, how can we do this? It certainly does not require that we stand on street corners announcing God's future coming! We can more readily take up the task of our lifework by clearing our lives of unnecessary, distracting clutter. By creating solid and deep spiritual lives, we can heighten our awareness of God's presence and help people point to and discover God's presence around them. By conducting ourselves in holiness and devotion, we can speak volumes to those we meet. Not by preaching actual words, but by living lives that communicate the comfort God wants His people to know. As the world sometimes frantically unfolds around us, we can be people of patience who show others that it's okay to wait for God's gift to come. Conducting our lives in this manner, we will know the peace that comes from doing what we have been asked to do.



Capital Campaign

During the season of Thanksgiving, we often take time to reflect on our many blessings. With the *Christ Our Hope* campaign, we are especially grateful for those who have given their time and talents to help along the way.

Many volunteers, office administrators, priests and deacons across the Diocese have shared their leadership, broad shoulders, and love for their parish to help create the campaign foundation.

We are building for the future of the Catholic Church in Vermont and want everybody to share in that excitement and vision. So we again thank those who were willing to serve others by sharing that message.

Parish total: \$15,350	Percentage of goal: 9%	Campaign total: \$3,090,228
---------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------------

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.

Parish total: \$22,930	Percentage of goal: 75%	Appeal total: \$2,004,077
---------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------------



Novena Prayer for an End to the Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary, full of grace, Patroness of this nation and Mother of the Church, in this time of illness and worldwide need we seek your intercession for the human family before your Son's throne of grace and mercy. We ask for strength in adversity, health in weakness, and comfort in sorrow.

Help us, O Blessed Mother, to be filled with confidence and trust in the tender compassion of our God.

Let us not be afraid, like our own Saint Marianne Cope, who entrusted her life and ministry among the outcasts of society into the care of our Divine Physician.

Continue to watch over all who are sick as well as those who care for them and give wisdom to all who are seeking a cure.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.



**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
Holy Day Mass Schedule**

St. John the Baptist

Monday, December 7 – 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 8 – 9:00 a.m.

Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales

Tuesday, December 8 – 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.



FORMED gives you access to the best Catholic content on any device, including your computer, smartphone, and tablet with internet access. Go to FORMED.org and use parish code JHGX4D to discover entertaining movies, programs, talks, audio dramas, and e-books - just a click away!

Features for December:

December 6 – Second Sunday of Advent

Christmas in Rome

Advent of the Heart

Nicholas: The Boy Who Became Santa

December 7 – Saint Ambrose

Restless Heart: The Confessions of Augustine

The Restless Flame

December 8 – The Immaculate Conception

The Bible and Virgin Mary: Full of Grace

Mary of Nazareth

Mary: The Church at the Source

December 9 – Saint Juan Diego

Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message

Juan Diego: Messenger of Guadalupe

Share in the Care

The Retirement Fund for Religious collection will be taken up next weekend **December 12 – 13**. This collection provides assistance for the care of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Please offer what you can to the care of women and men who have made enormous contributions to our Church.

Sunday Summary

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 Consolation is on its way as the Lord fills in the valleys and levels the hills.

Psalms 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 When salvation comes, justice and peace shall kiss.

2 Peter 3:8-14 The new heavens and new earth require us to become a new people.

Mark 1:1-8 The baptism of repentance prepares us for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.