

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

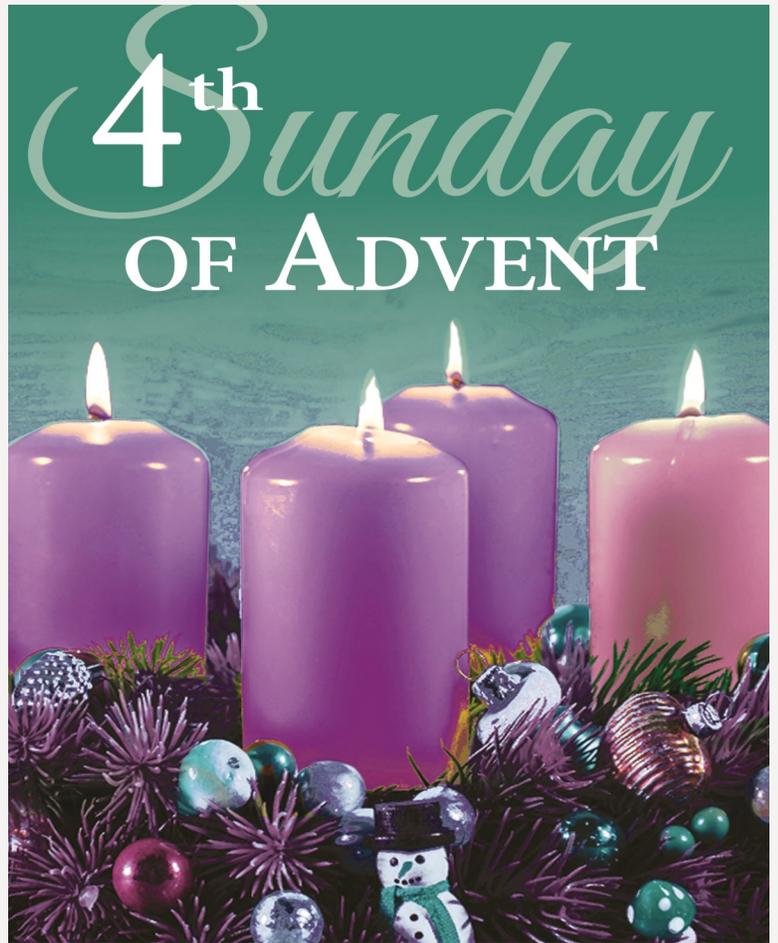
Saturdays from 4:30 PM-5:00 PM and by appointment.

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 12/19-12/27

Sat./Sun., 12/19-12/20 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:30 p.m. Father Vincent Coppola, C.S.C. by Nick, Judy, Denise, Sherry & Ken Monte

9:00 a.m. Jack & Dolores Lowre by Joan Lowre LaVigne

11:00 a.m. Michael Borden by the Family

Monday, 12/21 – Saint Peter Canisius

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

Tuesday, 12/22 – Late Advent Weekday

9:00 a.m. Thomas & Mary Fox

Wednesday, 12/23 – Saint John of Kanty

9:00 a.m. Joe DeMasi by Theresa DeMasi

Thursday, 12/24 – Vigil of Christmas

4:00 p.m.

Friday, 12/25 – Christmas: The Nativity of the Lord

10:00 a.m. Earl & Laura Kinney by Patty & Dick Dailey and grandchildren

Sat./Sun., 12/26-12/27 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

5:30 p.m.

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m. Jack Thayer by the Lindsey Family



Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father.” - Lk 1:30-32

Readings for the week of December 20, 2020

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Thursday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Friday: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

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Christmas Mass Reservations

St. John the Baptist and Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales are asking you to please sign up early to reserve a space at their Christmas Masses. **Reservations must be made no later than Tuesday, December 22 at 2:00 p.m.**

Reservations can be made through Flocknote, on our website, our Facebook page or by calling the parish offices.

The Mass schedule is as follows:

St. John the Baptist

4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve

10:00 a.m. on Christmas Day

Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales

4:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m. and Midnight on Christmas Eve

9:00 a.m. on Christmas Day

While we love to see families gather at this time of year, **please remember to adhere to the travel restrictions set forth by the State of Vermont.** If you have members traveling to Vermont who are not able to meet these protocols, please, to ensure the safety of all, do not have them attend Mass. We thank you for your cooperation.

(Please note that all is subject to change during these unusual times of COVID. We will follow the guidance of the Diocese of Burlington.)



Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading: Today’s reading from Second Samuel narrates the context in which God establishes his covenantal promise to King David around the year 1000 B.C. In the birth of Jesus, God fulfills his covenant with David. What does this teach us about the idea of “salvation history?”

Second Reading: Paul concludes his letter to the Romans with a hymn of praise to God for the long-awaited revelation that all are saved and justified through faith in Christ. In what ways are you praising God during this season of Advent?

Gospel: Today’s Gospel reading records the angel Gabriel’s announcement to Mary of the upcoming birth of Christ. Mary’s acceptance of God’s will for her life (“May it be done to me according to your word.”) models for all of us unconditional faith. How can we encourage others to embrace such faith?

Sunday Summary

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 David proposes to build a house for God, and God returns the favor.

Psalms 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 God’s covenant is forever, and so is our song of praise.

Romans 16:25-27 The rules have not changed, but the greater truths are now revealed.

Luke 1:26-38 The promise made to David is now fulfilled in the coming of the eternal king.

Gospel Reflection
Fourth Sunday of Advent

In Blaise Pascal’s work, *Pensees*, he says: “What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself.”

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one’s soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there’s a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary’s call to be the Mother of God. “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come.

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Kids’ Corner - Sharing the Gospel



Think of the people you trust. These are people you can count on, no matter what happens. Both Mary and Elizabeth were amazed to learn that they were pregnant. God had surprised each of them with a special miracle - a baby. God trusted them both to take care of their babies. Mary and Elizabeth trusted God to help them. You can trust God, too.

Prayer: God, help me to trust you like Mary and Elizabeth did.

Something to Draw: Draw a picture of the people you trust.

Mission for the Week: Name three reasons you can always trust God.

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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!



Daily Rosary Apostolate

The Diocese continues to offer a daily rosary online. Individuals from around the diocese have been joining Valerie Parzyck from the office in leading each day. Interested? Here are the details, from Valerie:

“I would love it if you would schedule a time with me to record a Rosary. What does that look like exactly? It’s very simple! You email me with convenient times for you and once it is scheduled I will send you a link to Zoom for the appointed time. You may choose to show your face or, if you’d prefer, I can show slides for each mystery while we pray. If this is something you would like to participate in, please contact me. You can email me with a time that works for you and we can schedule it. Please email me at vparzyck@vermontcatholic.org.”



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Features for December:

December 21 – Saint Peter Canisius

Young People’s Book of Saints

December 25 – Christmas: The Nativity of the Lord

Kristoph and the First Christmas Tree

The Story of the Nativity

New Address

Nancy Wright, our former choir director, has moved back to the nearby area and would like to continue staying connected! Her new address is:

Nancy Wright
365 Watervliet Shaker Road Apt 211
Watervliet, NY 12189