

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.

TASTE AND SEE
God's goodness.

Psalm 34



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 8/21-8/29

Sat./Sun., 8/21-8/22 – Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:30 p.m. Jo-Ann Cross Browe (8th anniversary)
by her sisters

9:00 a.m. Kevin & Patrick O'Neil by the Family

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

Monday, 8/23 – Saint Rose of Lima

No Mass

Tuesday, 8/24 – Saint Bartholomew

9:00 a.m. Theresa DeMasi by St. John's Sodality

Wednesday, 8/25 – Saint Louis; Saint Joseph Calasanz

No Mass

Thursday, 8/26 – Weekday

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

Friday, 8/27 – Saint Monica

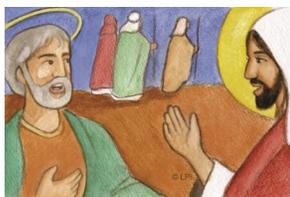
No Mass

Sat./Sun., 8/28-8/29 – Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:30 p.m. Darlene Galipeau by Charlene & Gary Martin

9:00 a.m. For our parishioners

11:00 a.m. Louise Gauthier by Lisa Paturzo



“The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life.

But there are some of you who do not believe.”

And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father.”

As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life

and no longer accompanied him.

- Jn 6:63c-64a, 65-66

Readings for the week of August 22, 2021

Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 [9a]/Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 [12]/Jn 1:45-51

Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab [1]/Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 90:3-5a, 12-13, 14 and 17 [14]/Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12 [12a]/Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [9]/Mt 25:14-30

Next Sunday: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 [1a]/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Gospel Reflection

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Far be it from us to forsake the Lord for the service of other gods.” We struggle with our gods. They appear in the forms of things like money, power, prestige, popularity, privilege, and self-fulfillment. We like these “gods” because they make us feel good and ask very little of us in return. When we worship them, we worship ourselves. How can you go wrong with that? We buy into the illusion that if something can give us a comfortable life, free of want and need, then it is worth setting other things aside to pursue it. In essence, we sell our souls. Our struggle with “who is God” and to whom do we belong is a real one and one that can easily find us empty and experiencing disillusionment.

The devil tempted Jesus in the desert and promised him more. We are promised “more.” But in pursuing the more and the satisfying we lose track of the cost, and the cost is great. We sacrifice our very life in pursuit of something disguised as life. We sacrifice truth for something that only “feels” true. While the true and real God certainly promises us many things, many things are also required. It is not about the warm and secure feelings and self-absorption the world wants to provide, but of giving back. There can be no lukewarm stance with regard to faith. If we are in, then faith in Jesus Christ asks us to do some difficult things: work in service of God’s kingdom (not our own), love our enemies, offer no resistance to injury, that we must die to ourselves in order to find ourselves, and trust that Jesus truly gives us his flesh and blood to eat and drink. These are hard things to accept and even harder to put into practice. It is no wonder that many, who may be attracted to Jesus at first, walk away in pursuit of the more self-satisfying gods.

But truth is truth. If we cannot accept it from the lips of Jesus Christ, then where else will we find it? To whom can we go? There is only one source of truth and life, Jesus Christ. Jesus has the words of eternal life and if we do not go to him, then where else will we find this gift? But we must be faithful and buy into the whole package deal that requires sacrifice and fidelity. When we do, we find ourselves, through the Body and Blood of Christ, connected to the Source of all life and then intimately bound with our brothers and sisters. We all have to decide whether we want to stay or go and if we can accept what Jesus has to say. It’s a choice we all have to make.

Sunday Summary

Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b The moment of decision arrives for the people of Israel on the verge of a new land.

Psalms 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21 Evildoers will be confronted, and the just delivered with no bones broken.

Ephesians 5:21-32 Marriage is lifted up as the symbol of Christ and his church.

John 6:60-69 The bread of life discourse wins no converts and loses many disciples.

“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.”

Meet Our New Principal Mrs. Tiffany McKenna



Tiffany McKenna was born and raised in the Bennington area. After graduating from MAU in 2006, she attended the University of Vermont for Elementary Education. She immediately proceeded to get her Masters degree in Educational Psychology, specializing in Gifted Education and Talent Development, from the University of Connecticut. She started her teaching career at the School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales and has finally returned to start her tenure in the principal position. She currently lives in North Bennington with her husband, Ryan, their three children, Riley, Rory and Raegan, and their dog Dexter.



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Pick of the Week for August 22:

Learn: *FORMED Now: The Feast of Saint Monica*

Throughout her life, St. Monica constantly prayed for the conversion of Augustine, her beloved son. Her tearful prayers helped build her son into the Doctor of Grace. In this video, join Dr. Gray and Dr. Sehorn as they discuss more about this great Saint.

Listen: *The Faith and Culture Podcast: The Confessions of St. Augustine*

In this episode of the Faith and Culture podcast, Joseph Pearce and Dr. John Sehorn discuss the most towering Church Father of the West, St. Augustine. Together, Pearce and Sehorn describe the purpose of Augustine's Confessions, the relatability of this Saint, and his impact on the world in his own time and culture. Finally, they discuss what we can learn from Augustine today.



Thank you to those who have given to the 2021 Bishop's Appeal. Your gift supports a variety of ministries and services impacting all of our parishes, including Catholic faith formation, education, vocations, emergency aid, and so much more. Please visit bishopsappealvt.org for more information or to make a gift.

To date, our parish has raised \$10,560 toward our goal of \$29,448.10. This is 36% of our parish goal.



Registration for Faith Formation, First Communion, and Confirmation

Registration is now open for fall enrollment for Faith Formation, First Communion, and Confirmation. Sacred Heart St. Francis and St. John the Baptist church programs are now merged at all levels.

For grades 1 - 5 and children 3 - 6 years old, classes will meet Sundays after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart St. Francis from 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. beginning Sunday, September 26.

Confirmation is for grades 6 through 8, and will meet twice a month on Sundays from 4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. beginning Sunday, August 29.

Registration is online at <https://sacredheartsaintfrancis.org/registration-forms> for both parishes. You may register your family on one form. We ask that a registration fee of \$10 per student or \$25 per family be submitted. Payment can be made in one of the following ways:

- Online by clicking the donate button and choosing "Class Registration Fees"
- In person on the first day of class
- Mail to: Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales, Faith Formation Registration, 238 Main Street, Bennington, VT 05201

Please contact Kathy Murphy or Mary Drew at 442-3141 with any questions.



We are very excited to open a Level II Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Atrium this fall, and we could use some help! Our needs include:

- A small low table for a prayer table
- Bookshelves: units of three or four shelves at least 10" deep
- School desks or small tables at which one or two children could work
- Woodworkers who are willing to help create materials for us
- We have a wish list of items to purchase if you would be interested in sponsoring one
- And especially your prayers! Any help with these needs would be greatly appreciated!

Classes will meet after the Sunday 9:30 a.m. Masses beginning September 26. If you know of anyone interested in Faith Formation, or could help us with our wish list, please contact Kathy Murphy at 442-3141.