

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 4:00 PM-5:00 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

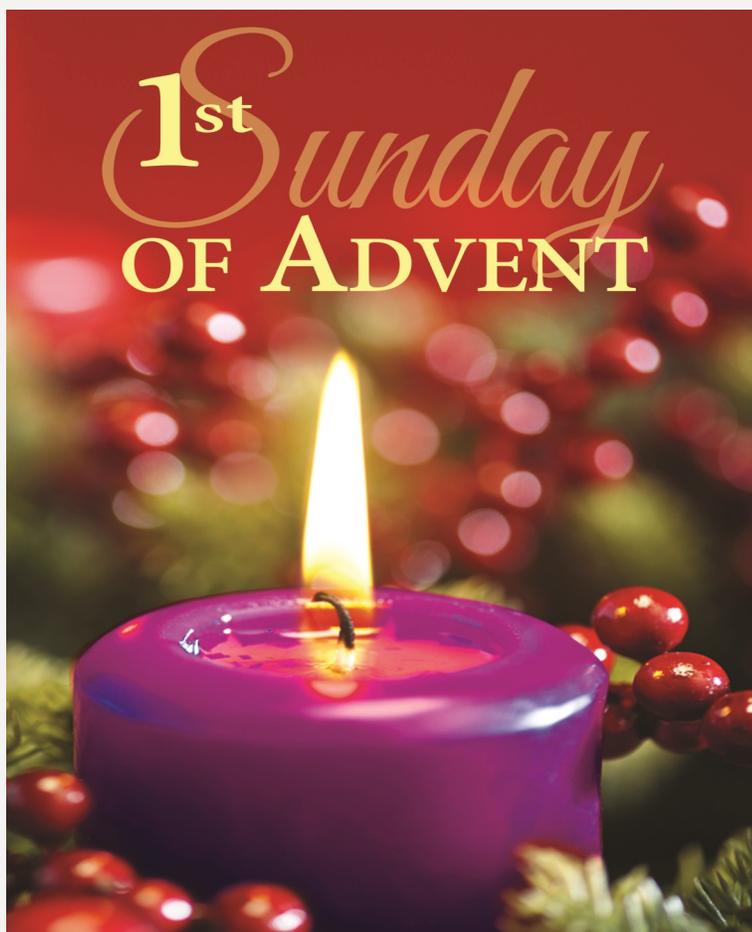
Saturdays from 4:30 PM–5:00 PM and by appointment.

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 11/27-12/5

Sat./Sun., 11/27-11/28 – First Sunday of Advent

- 5:30 p.m. For our parishioners
 9:00 a.m. Janet Paturzo (19th Anniversary)
 by her daughter Lisa
 11:00 a.m. Helen S. White & Nora Shea
 by Saile White Mahoney

Monday, 11/29 – Advent Weekday

- 9:00 a.m. John McShane by the Retired Shaftsbury
 School Faculty

Tuesday, 11/30 – Saint Andrew

- 9:00 a.m. Special Intention

Wednesday, 12/1 – Advent Weekday

- 9:00 a.m. Jack & Dolores Lowre by the Family

Thursday, 12/2 – Advent Weekday

- 9:00 a.m. William “Billy” Rudd (12th Anniversary)
 by Judy Rudd & Family

Friday, 12/3 – Saint Francis Xavier

No Mass

Sat./Sun., 12/4-12/5 – Second Sunday of Advent

- 5:30 p.m. Mark Lindsey (Birthday Remembrance)
 by the Family
 9:00 a.m. Joe Talbot by his wife Bea & Family
 11:00 a.m. Frank Paturzo (Birthday Remembrance)
 by his daughter Lisa



“Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.” - Lk 21:27-28

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

Readings for the week of November 28, 2021

- Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 [1b]/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
 Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/
 Mt 8:5-1
 Tuesday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/
 Mt 4:18-22
 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: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/
 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

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Gospel Reflection First Sunday of Advent

Staying awake can often be a challenge, especially when we are exhausted. Life’s demands have a way of zapping every last bit of energy out of us. When we are tired it affects us not only physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. All of our senses are dulled and diminished. We can overlook details, become disinterested, lethargic and apathetic, and detached. Getting sufficient physical rest only helps so much. We need to be rejuvenated, refreshed, and reenergized in other ways. If we are psychologically exhausted, we need to understand what is draining our emotions and taxing our relationships. If we are spiritually tired, we need to find the necessary “shot in the arm” to put us back in touch with God. Unfortunately, exhaustion is seldom limited to just one part of who we are. When we lack energy and zeal it is usually the case that everything suffers. We not only are affected physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. In short, when we run out of gas the engine stops.

And yet, our Lord’s directive is clear, “Be vigilant at all times.” Even Jesus knew what “the anxieties of daily life” can do to us. One day pours into another and time quickly flies by. Any one of us can take a moment and reflect on how many wonderful, creative opportunities we miss because there is always so much “stuff” to do and so little time to do it. Usually these are missed moments of love, and if we are missing love encounters we are also missing God. Sleepwalking through life, we check the boxes next to our list of “must and have to do” and justify it all by convincing ourselves that tomorrow is another day and there’ll be more time. It may surprise us, but tomorrow is here, and time is running out. While we may like to believe that we have an “eternity” of time to do all those things that require the focus, energy, and desire we do not currently have, we don’t. We’re on a limited ride and time is short.

Jesus is also clear on another point. “That day [will] catch you by surprise like a trap.” If we are going to be judged on love and so easily justify not having all that much time to do so, then it seems we must shift focus a bit. St. Teresa of Calcutta tells us, “We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another.” Getting to this place doesn’t “just happen.” It requires vigilance and discipline both with a knowledge of what is really of importance and what really needs to be the focus of our energy and time. Pray, starting now and not tomorrow, that we can stay alert, be strengthened in our faith, and prepared for whatever will come. Don’t miss another opportunity to love.

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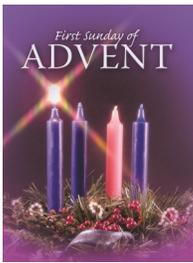
Sunday Summary

Jeremiah 33:14-16 The days are coming when the promises of God will be fulfilled.

Psalms 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 God’s friendship is available to those who wait on the divine presence.

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 Continue to conduct yourselves in anticipation of the coming of Jesus and his holy ones.

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36 Some will die of fright, and others will see redemption at hand when the Son of Man comes.



The Many Symbols of the Advent Wreath

First of all, and most important, is the symbolism of light. It should be pointed out that at Christmas this changes, the days begin to get longer and the nights shorter. The progressive lighting of candles symbolizes the coming of the spiritual light of Christ into the world. The wreath is circular and this is a symbol of the eternity of God, who, like a circle, has no beginning nor an end. The candles placed on the wreath remind us that in Jesus' birth at Bethlehem, He who was eternal, the Son of God, entered into our world of time and change.

Each candle on the wreath stands for a Sunday (and its following week) of the Advent season. Candles 1, 2 and 4 are purple. In the ancient world, purple dye was very expensive and could only be afforded by kings. The purple candles tell us that the one whose birth we are preparing to celebrate is our true King. The rose candle (3rd Sunday) tells us that Advent is half over and Christmas is getting nearer. Its lighter color is a symbolic anticipation of our joy when we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

First Candle ~ Color: Purple ~ Theme: Hope
First Sunday of Advent ~ Light one purple candle,
Read Isaiah 60:2-3

Lord God, we light this candle to thank you for your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world. We who have sat in darkness have seen a great light, the light of Jesus Christ, our salvation. We give you thanks and praise in Jesus' name, because he lives and reigns with you in your glory, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit, Amen.



Save the Date!

Sacred Heart St. Francis and St. John the Baptist

Christmas Pageant

December 19th

Calling all 1st graders and up!

All talents, abilities, and interests!

What we need: Singers, readers, actors, musicians, and stage hands

Performance Date: Sunday, December 19th

Rehearsal Dates: December 10th & 17th; 5:30 - 6:30 PM
December 18th; TBD

Keep an eye out for registration coming soon!

Contact Jessica O'Connell with any questions:
jessicaconnell86@gmail.com

Advent Appeal - 2021

Please join Vermont Catholic Charities in support of their 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 John and Lisa feed their children. John and Lisa have five school-aged children. They both have jobs, but due to a medical emergency, Lisa had to take extra time off from work. The family was getting by, but as Christmas approached Lisa and John worried about making ends meet. Vermont Catholic Charities provided the family with a food card. They commented, "Thank you for your kindness. We were losing hope, but this gift helped us have a joyful Christmas."



Whether your gift is \$10, \$100, \$1000 or more, your 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, VT 05403
or give online at: www.vermontcatholic.org/adventappeal



On **Sunday, December 12**, the annual deanery-wide Advent Penance Service will be held at 3:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church. Come join us for this beautiful service of the Word and song to prepare for Christmas – and experience Christ's Peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Thank You

"Thanks for the gift of \$9,238.58 to support Haiti's rebuilding efforts. The generosity of both parishes makes it possible for Holy Cross to care and support those most impacted by devastating disasters. Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters have served in Haiti since the 1940s."

~ Father Thomas Eckert, C.S.C.,
Director of Holy Cross Mission Center, Notre Dame, IN



St. John's Sodality
will meet
Thursday, December 9
6:00 p.m.



All women of the parish are invited to join!
(Dues remain at only \$5.)

Parish Office Hours

Reminder: Saint John's Parish Office is now open from 9am to 12pm (noon), Monday ~ Friday.