

# 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

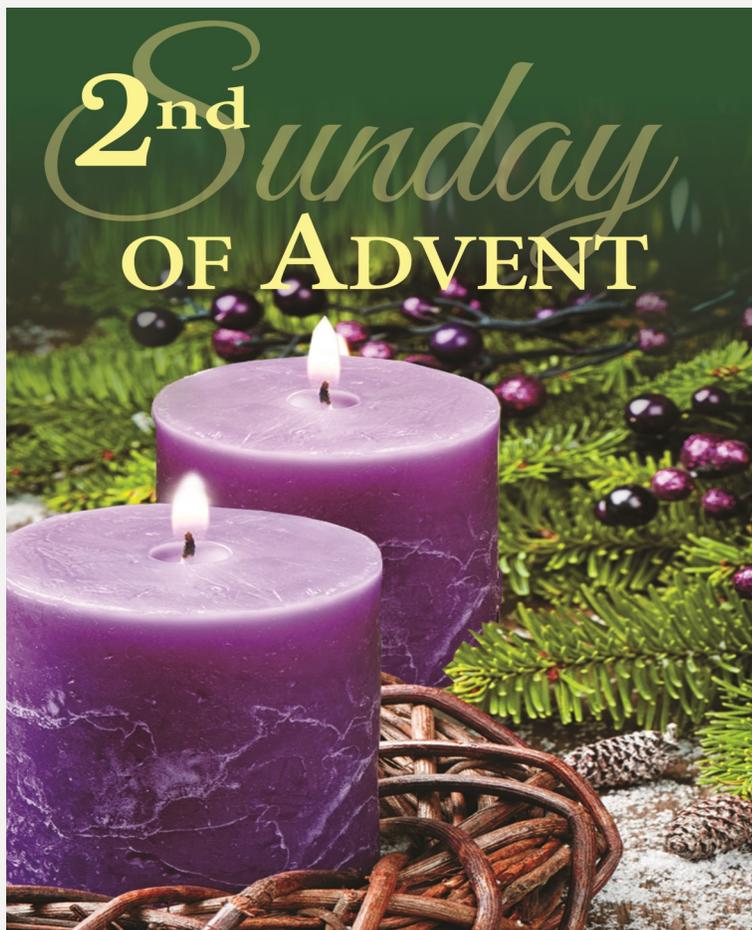
Saturdays from 4:30 PM–5:00 PM and by appointment.

## 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.



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday OF ADVENT



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.

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## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

EMAIL: [saintjohnchurch1@gmail.com](mailto:saintjohnchurch1@gmail.com)  
PHONE: 802.447.7504 | FAX: 802.442.6620



## Mass Intentions

And Liturgical Celebrations for 12/4-12/12

### 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

### Monday, 12/6 – Advent Weekday

- 9:00 a.m. Darlene Galipeau (Birthday Remembrance)  
by Charlene & Gary Martin

### Tuesday, 12/7 – Saint Ambrose

- 9:00 a.m. Michael Borden by the Family
- 5:30 p.m. Cynthia Lowery by the Belnap Family

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

- 9:00 a.m. Luz Alba Gonzalez by Alba DeLeon

### Thursday, 12/9 – Advent Weekday

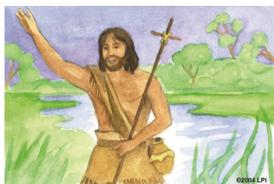
- 9:00 a.m. For the health of Oliver Carroll  
by Joan & Stephen Monroe

### Friday, 12/10 – Advent Weekday

*No Mass*

### Sat./Sun., 12/11-12/12 – Third Sunday of Advent

- 5:30 p.m. For our parishioners
- 9:00 a.m. Theresa DeMasi by Margy Boulet
- 11:00 a.m. James McMahan (8th Anniversary)  
by Linda Meskun



A voice of one crying out in the desert:  
“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths.” - Lk 3:4

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

### Readings for the week of December 5, 2021

- 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
- Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14  
[cf. Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12,  
13 [cf. Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14
- Wednesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/  
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- 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: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16,  
18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-1
- Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:  
4-7/Lk 3:10-18

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## Gospel Reflection Second Sunday of Advent

St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. “You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when his hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, he chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, his head is covered with dew, with drops, when his body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, he is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, he will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for his coming, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him.” When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort.

We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self-focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for his visit, we can hear God’s gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Sometimes our darkness is so dark that it may seem unsurmountable. Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God’s promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts’ doors open. Sometimes, the only light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present.

We have to trust that God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and that humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome. God is not done. When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God’s simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent season. God is knocking. Answer the door. You will see and understand life in ways you never thought possible before.

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### Sunday Summary

**Baruch 5:1-9** The way is made easy for the return of God’s people in glory, peace, and justice.

**Psalms 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6** We will be like dreamers, unable to conceive the great things God will do for us.

**Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11** May our love increase more and more until the day of Christ Jesus.

**Luke 3:1-6** John takes up the ancient prophecy of preparation for the coming of the Lord.



## Capital Campaign

As we wrap up the Christ Our Hope campaign this month, **80%** (instead of 60%) of new pledges and gifts made in December **will go directly back to parishes** to support our goals and 20% will be split evenly between faith formation and emergency aid. The primary goal of the campaign has always been building vibrant parishes and this additional 20% boost will help many of us reach at least one of our goals. Thank you to those who have given to the Christ Our Hope campaign. Please consider a gift if you have not yet done so. You may drop your pledge card in the basket or mail it back. If you prefer to give online, Monday **December 6**, the Vermont Catholic Community Foundation has allocated a \$25,000 matching grant to match the first online pledges received of \$1,000 or more with a \$1,000 grant made directly to the parish – no split. To make an online gift, please visit: <https://www.christourhopevt.org/donate>.

Parish total:	Percentage of goal:	Campaign total:
\$18,350	10%	\$4,685,332

## Bishop's Annual Appeal

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, Catholic schools, emergency aid, vocations, religious education, and so much more. For more information or to make a gift, please visit:

<https://www.vermontcatholic.org/donate/bishops-annual-appeal/>

Parish total:	Percentage of goal:	Appeal total:
\$21,863	74%	\$1,834,325



## Save the Date!

**Sacred Heart St. Francis and St. John the Baptist**

## Christmas Pageant

**December 19th**

**Calling all 1<sup>st</sup> 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

**Register for the program** by filling out a google form **online:**  
<https://forms.gle/s2JaHdbvE3wnL7xD9>

**or email** Jessica O'Connell if you are interested:  
[jessicaoconnell86@gmail.com](mailto:jessicaoconnell86@gmail.com)

Participants will be socially distanced.



## Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Holy Day Mass Schedule

### St. John the Baptist

Tuesday, December 7 – 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 8 – 9:00 a.m.

### Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales

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

## Advent Wreath Making

What a wonderful time everyone had making Advent Wreaths on Sunday, November 21st. A huge thank you goes to John Ulrich, Michelle Vandemark and Mary Drew for organizing the event. So many beautiful wreaths were made to begin this joyous season!



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.



### St. John's Sodality

will meet

**Thursday, December 9**

6:00 p.m.



We will be having a **"Cookie Exchange"** at this meeting!

Please bring a dozen cookies to exchange.

**All ladies of the parish are invited to attend!**

(Dues remain at only \$5 to join St. John's Sodality.)

## Parish Office Hours

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