

SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

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 and 11:00 am

Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 am

Holy Day Mass
(refer to schedule on inside cover)

Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesdays 4:00 - 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 - 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. Kevin Rousseau, 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.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday and Friday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
EMAIL: saintjohnchurch1@gmail.com
PHONE: 802.447.7504 | **FAX:** 802.442.6620

3 - 5 HOUGHTON STREET, P.O. BOX 219, NORTH BENNINGTON, VT 05257-0219 • WWW.SJTBCC-VT.ORG



Mass Intentions

And Liturgical Celebrations for 9/3-9/11

Sat./Sun., 9/3-9/4 – Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church; Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:30 pm - Maureen Higgins by the family

9:00 am - Zoey Bollhardt for healing by Linda Meskun and Rosemary Lindsey

11:00 am - Janet Paturzo (bday remembrance) by her daughter, Lisa

Monday, 9/5 – Weekday/ Labor Day - No Mass

Tuesday, 9/6 – Weekday

9:00 am - Lorna Cole by Peggy and Joe Crossman

Wednesday, 9/7 – Weekday - No Mass

Thursday, 9/8 – The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
No Mass

Friday, 9/9 – Saint Peter Claver, Priest - No Mass

Sat./Sun., 9/10-9/11 – Weekday; Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Patriot Day, Grandparents Day

5:30 pm - Joseph and Anna Cross by their daughters

9:00 am - Zoey Bollhardt for healing by Linda Meskun

11:00 am - Bernard McCarthy (bday remembrance) and Barney and Marion McCarthy's wedding anniversary remembrance by the McCarthy family

From The Pastor's Desk

Happy Labor Day Weekend!

Growing up at Saint Joseph Parish in Erie, Michigan, Labor Day Weekends were also the weekends we celebrated our annual parish festival. As a parish, we hosted dinners, booths, prayer opportunities, games, and entertainment for our neighbors as we ourselves gathered for fellowship. It was an annual highlight for us even though it also marked an end to summer and the beginning of school.

I do not know the history of choosing to celebrate our parish festival on labor day, but since our patron Joseph is the patron of those who work, it seemed appropriate to celebrate the gift of labor each year. In the beginning of creation, God gave humanity the gift of labor. In the first story of creation God blessed humanity and said to them: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the seas, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth" (Genesis 1: 28). In the second story of creation, God settled Adam in the garden "to cultivate and care for it" (Genesis 2: 15). Only after sin, the fall of Adam and Eve was pain connected with our labor (Genesis 3: 17-19).

Though we now toil in labor, God has given us the ability to be stewards of His creation and to gather in communion and fellowship with one another. On this Labor Day weekend, let us thank God for His gifts to us, let us pray that we might be better stewards, and let us gather and celebrate in community.

God bless,
Fr. Kevin



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading: Our Jewish sage teaches us that the mystery of God can only be understood through wisdom provided by the "Holy Spirit." When do you pray for the gift of wisdom?

Second Reading: Paul urges his partner Philemon to see Onesimus no longer as a slave but as a "brother" now that Onesimus is a believer in Christ. When has your faith provoked an examination of conscience?

Gospel: Jesus teaches the crowds that true discipleship demands one to "renounce all (your) possessions." In other words, one's ultimate concern should be solely the possession of the gift of salvation. Why do you think this is not self-evident to many? ©LPi

“Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion?
... In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.” — Lk 14:28, 33

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

Sunday Summary

Wisdom 9:13-18b The spirit of wisdom is unfathomable by mortal means.

Psalms 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17 The fact of our mortality makes the gaining of wisdom all the more urgent.

Philemon 9-10, 12-17 Paul sends Onesimus back to Philemon, now free in Christ.

Luke 14:25-33 Jesus urges the crowds to understand the terms of discipleship before they commit.

Readings for the week of September 4, 2022

Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8/Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12/Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday: 1 Cor 6:1-11/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31/Ps 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17/Lk 6:20-26

Thursday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12/Lk 6:39-42

Saturday: 1 Cor 10:14-22/Ps 116:12-13, 17-18/Lk 6:43-49

Next Sunday: Ex 32:7-11, 13-14/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19/1 Tm 1:12-17/Lk 15:1-32 or 15:1-10

Faith Formation News

You can register by visiting:
<https://sacredheartsaintfrancis.org/registration-forms>

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Fall classes will be offered for
Level I: Pre-K and Kindergarten children (Ages 3 - 6)
Level II: Grades 1st thru 3rd

Faith Formation (Grades Pre-K thru 5)

Classes for both St. Johns and Sacred Heart St. Francis Parishes
will be held at Sacred Heart St. Francis Church beginning
Sunday, September 25
10:30 a.m. to noon

First communion families: Mark your calendars for a family informational meeting on **Tuesday, October 4th from 6-7 pm at the SHSF Parish Center. Pizza will be provided.**

Confirmation:

Thank you all that were able to come to our parent meeting on August 28th. If you were not able to attend and would like the information please let me know. Our next class will be held on **Sept 11th at 4:30 - 6:00pm at St John the Baptist Church in North Bennington.** We are looking forward to a great year!!

Mary Drew: maryedrew1@gmail.com
Kathy Murphy: 1kathy.murphy@gmail.com
or call the Parish Center: (802) 442-3141

PLEASE NOTE

Most priests of the Diocese will be at a meeting September 7th through 9th, so there will not be a daily mass at either SHSF or St. John's on those days.

Please remember all our priests in your prayers.



A very special THANK YOU
to **Judy Perreault** for
refurbishing our Gospel Music
Folders from the River Bound
Gospel Group!!!



Looking for experienced pressure canner and water bath canner person or persons to volunteer to teach a class on how to preserve food by pressure canner method and water bath method. Stipend may be available for teaching. Kitchen will be supplied along with pressure canner and water bath canner if needed. Please respond to Wanda Bennett or Terry Saunders-Boucher with your interest. Email: wanda@gbicsbennington.org or terry061957@gmail.com

Men or Women wanting to learn the old-fashioned art of how to can vegetables, fruits, jams, jellies, meat, soups, etc are encouraged to contact us. Working in collaboration with the GBICS agency on Depot St.

This Week

Monday 9/5 - Labor Day - Parish Office will be closed
Wednesday 9/7 from 4-5 pm - Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday-Friday, 9/7-9/9 - no daily mass either parish
Friday 9/9 - Food Shelf is open from 11:00-12:00

GOSPEL REFLECTION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

September 4, 2022

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

What virtue is the cornerstone of discipleship? Love. Jesus preached about it, lived it, and summarized his greatest commandment featuring it. Love is in our DNA. To follow Jesus, then, is to follow the path of love. While this may appear to be an attractive and easy option, it most assuredly is not. Authentic love always comes with sacrifice. It is the complete giving of oneself to another. The sacrificial character of love always requires that we leave something aside and pursue something else. This is at the heart of self-denial. Love asks us to make choices that are often difficult.

There is a reason Jesus asks that the love of God come first. "Charity is the right attitude of mind which prefers nothing to the knowledge of God. If a man possesses any strong attachment to the things of this earth, he cannot possess true charity (St. Maximus the Confessor)." "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." A devoted disciple must be single-minded in her quest for God. She cannot allow anyone or anything to have more power over her soul than God. When any earthly attachments become more important than Love, we can get ourselves into trouble.

The Gospel calls us to walk boldly into the darkness, confusion, and emptiness of the world clothed in the mantle of love. We are asked to walk with others on their journey, offering a supportive, healing, challenging, and faithful presence. Ours is not to judge. To walk this sacrificial journey means that I must put myself aside and focus on the needs of others. "A sacrifice to be real must cost, must hurt and must empty ourselves (St. Teresa of Calcutta)." Love helps us walk straight and focus to see things more clearly and help others to do so as well. Many folks struggle to find joy and meaning in life. People may simply need someone with the freedom to sit with them in their pain, so they don't feel so alone. Through acts of kindness, gestures of acceptance, and words of compassion, burdens can be lightened. Believe in God's love and seek it above all other things! ©LPi



RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Do you know someone who is interested in joining the Catholic Church or has questions about our Catholic Faith? Someone who:

- Has never been baptized?
- Has been baptized, but is not a practicing Catholic?
- Has been baptized, but never been confirmed?

If you know of someone like this, please ask them if they would be interested in becoming a full member of our Catholic Church. For more information contact either Scott Murphy at 802-245-4990, or you may call the parish office at 442-3141. The RCIA program will begin in October.