

DECEMBER 10, 2023

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

9:00 am - First Saturday of every month

Sunday

10:00 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

First Saturday of the month from 9:30 - 10:30 am 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 12/9-12/17 at
**St. John the Baptist and
Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales**

Sat./Sun., 12/9-12/10 - Advent Weekday/Second Sunday of Advent

5:30 pm- Darlene Galipeau by Charlene and Gary Martin
Ron Higgins by Mary Pat Racicot
10:00 am- Joe Talbot by his wife Bea and family
John Hogan (3rd Anniv) by the Lindsey Family

Mon., 12/11 – Advent Weekday (Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church)

9:00 am - Jonathan Winner by Carol & Dean Winner

Tues., 12/12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe

9:00 am - For Our Parishioners

Wed. 12/13 - Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr (Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church)

9:00 am-Albina Boulet Guilmette by Doris & Ron Alderman
Fran O'Neill by Family

Thurs. 12/14 – Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

9:00 am - Tony Altobell (25th) by his wife Jane and family

Fri. 12/15– Advent Weekday (Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church)

9:00 am - George Maroney by Mary Jepson
Gerry Dachille by Family

Sat./Sun., 12/16-12/17 - Advent Weekday/Third Sunday of Advent

5:30 pm- John Galvin & Michael McGuire by Joanie James
Mert Snow by Bob and Debby Carey
10:00 am- Jim Stewart (15th) by his wife Sharon & family
James McMahon by Linda Meskun



Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." — Lk 1:41b-42

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

Sunday Summary

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 God speaks to us of comfort, expiation of sin, and good news.

Psalms 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 When salvation comes, kindness and truth will meet at last.

2 Peter 3:8-14 God does not delay, but is patient for the sake of our salvation.

Mark 1:1-8 John the Baptist comes as the voice crying out in the desert.

✠ From the Pastor's Desk ✠

Patience is a virtue that I continue to work on. It is easy for me to become impatient when I shop for groceries, run errands, and whenever I am driving a car. I try to consciously remind myself when I become impatient that I am not in a hurry and that there is no need to add stress to my day. Some days this conscious effort helps – other days, not so much.

Advent is a season to practice patience. As a child, I kept waiting to light another candle on the Advent wreath so that we could finally celebrate Christmas. As an adult with faith, I wait for Jesus' second coming and the beginning of eternal life in heaven. Christmas is a known date – it is circled on our calendars. Jesus' return is on an unknown date – it could be today, tomorrow, a thousand years from now. How long do we need to wait?

I am encouraged by Saint Peter's words in his Second Letter in our readings this weekend. He explains to the early church that Jesus' "delay" in coming is actually God being "patient" with us. God does not want us to be caught off guard, Peter tells us, but he wants us to be ready with repentance.

As we practice patience this Advent, let us also practice repentance. We have an opportunity on Sunday, December 10th, beginning at 1:00 pm at SHSF to pray as a community and celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. Daily we have the opportunity to consciously repent from sin and wait on our Lord.

God bless,
Fr. Kevin

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading: The prophet Isaiah offers comfort and hope to the Israelites who were captive in Babylon in proclaiming that the glory of the Lord is returning to Israel. Do you have family or friends who could use words of encouragement from you?

Second Reading: Peter speaks of being at peace while we wait for the promise of new heavens and a new earth when Christ returns. What gives you peace of mind these days?

Gospel: Fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah, John the Baptist proclaimed the arrival of Jesus, "one mightier than I...(who) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." Where do you sense the Holy Spirit present in your life? ©LPi

Readings for the Week of December 10, 2023

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thurs.: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



Class schedule for Pre k - 5th grade at SHSF Parish Center
Sundays 9:00 -10:30 am: December 10 and 17

Mondays 4:30 - 6 pm at SHSF Parish Center (CGS Level II only): December 11 and 18

Confirmation class schedule at St. John's 4:30 - 6 :00 pm.
Sponsors and parents are encouraged to attend
December 17

You may register on-line: <https://sacredheartsaintfrancis.org/registration-forms>. Please reach out to Kathy Murphy (1kathy.murphy@gmail.com) or Mary Drew (marydrew1@gmail.com) with any questions or call 802-442-3141.



This fall in the True Vine Atrium (Level II) we focused our attention once more on the History of the Kingdom of God, and the principal moments in this Sacred History. As Sofia Cavalletti (a founder of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd) explains, "A plan has always existed in the mind of God, the aim of which is to bring humankind to the full enjoyment of God. Redemption is at the center of history; at the same time it is rooted in the history that precedes it and is also the seed of the history yet to come. There are particular moments in which God bursts into the history of humankind with a particular force." In the photo, level II children Ava, Dolores and Kieran show the timeline they've created to highlight the three special moments: Creation, Redemption and the future Parousia.

~ Martha Hojnowski

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

OCTOBER 2023 MONTHLY OFFERTORY

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Offertory / Mail Collections | \$ 16,048.52 |
| Online Offertory | \$ 1,445.00 |
| Total: | \$ 17,493.52 |

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Needed Each Month | \$ 14,200.00 |
| Monthly Ahead | \$+ 3,293.52 |

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Fiscal Year to Date | \$ 57,216.29 |
| Fiscal YTD Ahead | \$ +1,770.01 |

Fiscal Year is July-June

Please remember St. John the Baptist in your will and estate planning



Sunday, 12/10 at 1:00 pm - Reconciliation Service at SHSF
Tuesday, 12/12 from 3-4 pm - Food Shelf Open
Wednesday, 12/13 from 10-11:30 am - Choir rehearsal
Wednesday, 12/13 from 4-5 pm - Eucharistic Adoration
Thurs., 12/14 at 6 pm - Sodality Meeting/Cookie exchange
Sat., 12/16 at 1:00 pm - A Ukulele Christmas Concert



Christmas Mass Schedule

St. John the Baptist - Sunday, Dec. 24 at 4:00 pm and Monday, Dec. 25 at 10 am

SHSF - Sunday, Dec. 24 at 4 pm and midnight and Monday, Dec. 25 at 8 am

A UKULELE CHRISTMAS A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

On **Saturday, December 16, starting at 1:00 pm**, the Ukulele String Ensemble will hold a benefit performance for The Food Shelf and HIS Pantry at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in North Bennington. Please join with us and sing along to many of your favorite Christmas carols and songs. Cookies and hot chocolate served after the performance. Food and monetary donations accepted for The Food Shelf and HIS pantry at the door. The Food Shelf and HIS Pantry distribute food to over 350 persons weekly. For information, please contact the Parish Office at 802-447-7504.

Reconciliation Service

There will be a prayer service followed by confessions on Sunday, Dec 10th at 1:00 pm at SHSF.



The next SODALITY MEETING is Thursday, Dec. 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm.
We will be having our cookie exchange.



Thank you for bringing your young children to Mass! We invite you to borrow our parish Mass Bags to help your young disciple be more engaged during our Eucharistic Celebration. Mass Bags are available at the front entrance of the church.

Feel free to take one during Mass – and after you're done with them, put them back in the basket. If you mistakenly brought one home, simply return it the following Sunday. Many thanks!

Children's Christmas Pageant 2023

Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales & St. John's Churches

We hope you can join us for the fun Christmas tradition! The Christmas Pageant is open to everyone ages 6 and up. There will be speaker roles for our older participants.

NOTE NEW PERFORMANCE DATE: SUNDAY, December 17th at 4:00 PM

Rehearsal Dates:

Sundays, December 10 & 17 10:30AM -11:30 AM

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