

DECEMBER 24, 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 12/23-12/31 at  
**St. John the Baptist and  
Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales**

### Sat./Sun., 12/23-12/24 - Late Advent Weekday/Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:30 pm- Danny Marinelli by a friend  
Louise & Frank Rohm and Jeanne & Hugo Endres  
by Fran and Jack Endres

10:00 am-Eileen Flynn by St. John's Catechists-Luisa,  
Nichole, Heather, Lori, Joanne and Jennifer  
Bernie Galipeau by Charlene and Gary Martin

### Sun./Mon., 12/24/12/25 - The Nativity of the Lord

4:00 pm - Vigil Mass - For Our Parishioners  
10:00 am - For Our Parishioners

### Tues., 12/26 - Saint Stephen, the First Martyr

9:00 am - Mert Snow by the Lindsey Family

### Wed. 12/27 - Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist (Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church)

9:00 am- Jonathan Winner by Carol and Dean Winner  
Frank Babcock, Jr. by Patty & Family  
Frank Babcock, Jr. by Mary

### Thurs. 12/28 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

9:00 am - Jack Sullivan by Ron and Tonya Lindsey

### Fri. 12/29- Fifth Day Within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

(Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church)

9:00 am - Our Parish Family

### Sat./Sun., 12/30-12/31 -Sixth Day Within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord/The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

5:30 pm-Barbara Conrad (2nd Annv) by the McCarthy family  
Elaine Letourneau by the School of SHSF  
10:00 am-Tom and Louise Powers by Joanie James  
Ron and Maureen Higgins by Sandra Forrest Edgerton

## ✠ From the Pastor's Desk ✠

Advent is quite short this year – as short as it possibly can be. Hours after we light the 4<sup>th</sup> candle on the Advent wreath on Sunday, we will set up our creches, gather to sing carols, and begin the holy season of Christmas. On behalf of Fr. Hugh and the pastoral team, I want to wish you a Blessed Christmas. The Gospel of John proclaims: “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son so that those who believe in Him might not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). I pray that each one of us can better understand and feel God’s love for us this Christmas.

One of the remarkable aspects of God’s love is that He did not wait until we were “worthy” to send us Jesus – rather He sent us Jesus to help us on our journey to eternal life with God. Jesus cured illnesses, cast our demons, raised the dead to life, and forgave our sins. The Church continues to heal, sanctify, and forgive in Jesus’ name.

An obstacle in many people’s faith journey is the feeling of guilt or unworthiness. It can bring us despair and can make us believe that we are not loved by God. This is a reason why some people do not pray or worship in a faith community – they do not feel worthy enough so they do not begin or resume their faith journey.

My prayer this Christmas is for all those who feel like they are outside of God’s graces - for those who do not feel welcome in a faith community – and for those who doubt God’s love for them – please reach out and let us walk this journey with you. God loves you fully and wants eternal life with you.

God bless,  
Fr. Kevin



Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father.” — Lk 1:30-32

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

### Sunday Summary

**2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16** God establishes the house of David to endure forever.

**Psalms 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29** God’s goodness is for all generations.

**Romans 16:25-27** What was hidden in the past is revealed now by God’s command.

**Luke 1:26-38** Mary accepts the word of God into her life and into history.

## INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God’s plans are not always what we imagined. Sometimes they make us hesitate. Be like Mary. Say “Yes, Lord” — and God will show you that His imagination is better than yours. ©LPi

### Readings for the Week of December 24, 2023

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: *Vigil*: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 *Day*: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/ Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40





**Class schedule for Pre K- 5th grade at SHSF Parish Center**  
**Sundays 9:00 -10:30 am:** January 7, 21, 28  
 February 4, 11, 25

**Mondays 4:30 - 6 pm at SHSF Parish Center (CGS Level II only):** January 8, 22, 29 and February 5, 12, 26

**Confirmation class schedule at St. John's 4:30 - 6 :00 pm.**  
**Sponsors and parents are encouraged to attend**  
 January 7, 21 , February 10-11 **Souper Bowl Sunday Collection**  
**after Mass Both Churches, Feb. 25**

You may register on-line: <https://sacredheartsaintfrancis.org/registration-forms>. Please reach out to Kathy Murphy ([1kathy.murphy@gmail.com](mailto:1kathy.murphy@gmail.com)) or Mary Drew ([maryedrew1@gmail.com](mailto:maryedrew1@gmail.com)) with any questions or call 802-442-3141.



### Recycle your old, broken rosaries!

Mary Spina will gladly accept them in any condition and will clean, polish, repair or remake them to be sent to the missions. Leave the rosaries in the sacristy at St John's or at the office at Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales. The overseas recipients of these rosaries will pray for you!!" Thank you!

### A Christmas Prayer

Almighty God and Father of light, a child is born for us, and a son is given to us. Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven in the silent watches of the night, and now your Church is filled with wonder at the nearness of her God. Open our hearts to receive His life and increase our vision with the rising of dawn, that our lives may be filled with His glory and His peace forever and ever. Amen.

## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

### NOVEMBER 2023 MONTHLY OFFERTORY

Offertory / Mail Collections .....	\$ 13,457.75
Online Offertory .....	\$ 1,955.00
Total: .....	\$ 15,412.75

Needed Each Month .....	\$ 14,200.00
Monthly Ahead .....	\$+ 1,212.75

Fiscal Year to Date .....	\$ 72,629.04
Fiscal YTD Ahead .....	\$ +2,982.76

*Fiscal Year is July-June*

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



**Mon 12/25 through Monday 1/1 Parish Offices will be closed - Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**  
**Wednesday, 12/27 from 10-11:30 am - Choir rehearsal**  
**Wednesday, 12/27 from 4-5 pm - Eucharistic Adoration**



### Christmas Mass Schedule

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

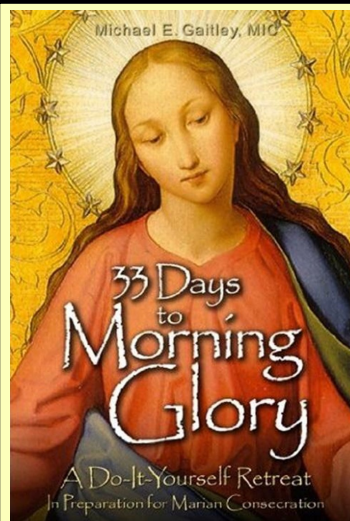
**SHSF - Sunday, Dec. 24 at 4 pm and midnight (prelude at 11:30 pm), and Monday, Dec. 25 at 8 am**

### THANK YOU FROM THE FOOD SHELF

We would like to thank our parishioners, friends and local businesses for the generous food and monetary donations, support and prayers that keep this ministry thriving.

With this support, we were able to serve 42 households (61 adults and 26 children) in need of food this past year.

Joyce, Marcy, Dennis and Preston



### Join us this January

on a 33-day retreat to consecrate ourselves to Jesus through Mary. This will be a self-guided retreat with an opportunity to meet for weekly sessions. We will be following the book "33 Days to Morning Glory" by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC.

How does Mary help us grow closer to Jesus? Jesus gave us the gift of His mother as our Mother as she stood at the foot of the Cross. Mary's job is to help us grow in holiness.

**WHEN:** Consecration is Sunday, February 11, 2024, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

Come to one or all sessions or prepare on your own. Daily readings begin January 9.

### Fellowship opportunities:

Thursdays after 9:00 am Mass at St. John the Baptist  
 Dates: January 4, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8 OR

Thursdays at 6:30 pm at Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales  
 Dates: January 4, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8

Some books will be available. Retreat videos can also be viewed through Formed.org: <https://watch.formed.org/33-days-to-morning-glory-1>

If you are interested, please call the SHSF parish office 802-442-3141 and leave your name, phone number, and e-mail address or contact Kathy Murphy at [1kathy.murphy@gmail.com](mailto:1kathy.murphy@gmail.com) or Jen McGean at [jennifermcgean@gmail.com](mailto:jennifermcgean@gmail.com)