

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

# 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

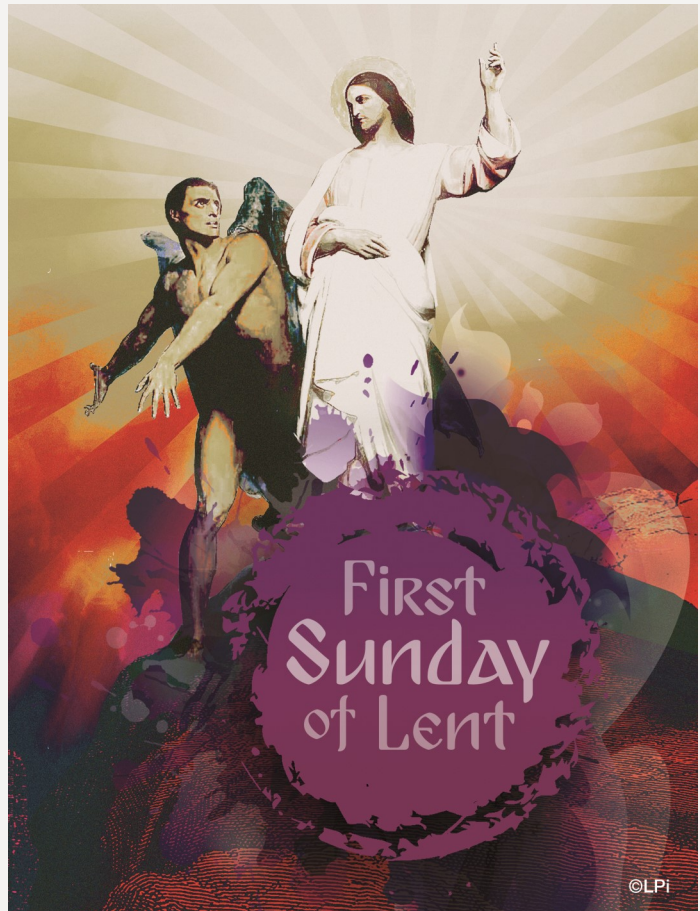
First Saturday of the month from 9:30 - 10:30 am and by appointment.

## 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 2/17-2/25 at  
**St. John the Baptist and  
Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales**

### Sat./Sun., 2/17-2/18 -Saturday after Ash Wednesday/First Sunday of Lent

5:30 pm- Special Intention

Frederick Solari (1st Anniv) by the family

10:00 am- Bruce Knapp by friends

Bernie Galipeau by Charlene and Gary Martin

Patti Mahar Ryan for healing by Joanie James

### Mon., 2/19 - Lenten Weekday

(Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church)

9:00 am - Howard Therrian by Dana & Paula

### Tues., 2/20 - Lenten Weekday

9:00 am- Mark Lindsey by Joyce Scarey

### Wed. 2/21 - Lenten Weekday

(Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church)

9:00 am - Our Parish Family

### Thurs. 2/22 - The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

9:00 am- John Scarey by a friend

### Fri. 2/23 - Lenten Weekday

(Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church)

9:00 am - Barbara Downing by the Family

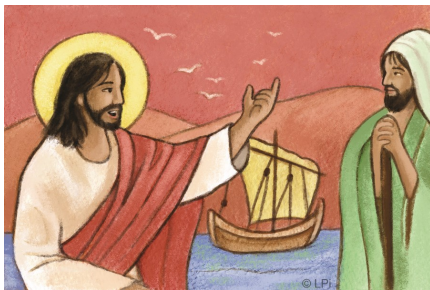
### Sat./Sun., 2/24-2/25 - Lenten Weekday/Second Sunday of Lent

5:30 pm- Fr. Michael Demasi and other deceased members  
of the K of C Council #307

Joan Solari (40th Anniv) by the family

10:00 am- Darlene Galipeau by Charlene and Gary Martin

Ron Higgins by Kevin and Gayle Kees



*After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee  
proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of  
fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent,  
and believe in the gospel." — Mk 1:14-15*

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

### Sunday Summary

**Genesis 9:8-15** God establishes the rainbow as a sign of the covenant with all living things.

**Psalms 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9** God guides and teaches those who are humble enough to accept instruction.

**1 Peter 3:18-22** God waited patiently for Noah to build the ark of his salvation.

**Mark 1:12-15** After the trial in the desert, Jesus proclaims repentance and the Kingdom coming.

## ✠ From the Pastor's Desk ✠

We have begun the Holy Season of Lent. Like Jesus who spent 40 days in the desert overcoming temptation, so we spend 40 days in this season to do the same. We were reminded on Ash Wednesday that the tools of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving help us to imitate Jesus' obedience to the Father's will.

Before Archbishop Coyne moved to his new assignment in the Archdiocese of Hartford, he had a meeting with pastors asking us to consider broadcasting Catholic content on the radio. There was a window of opportunity when the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) was accepting new applications for radio stations and we decided to apply. Though there was no guarantee our application would be accepted, I prayed that the process might help us discern God's will for us in this corner of the diocese. We founded "SHSF School Radio Outreach, Inc." and received non-profit status from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). On February 6<sup>th</sup> we were notified by the FCC that our application was accepted. We have been assigned FM 107.3 and we have three years to build our radio station. One of our next steps forward is to build a committee/board to help guide us. We will also need to fundraise to purchase an antenna, transmitter, and other necessary equipment. If God is calling you to use your time, talent, or treasure to help this new ministry, please let me know.

Another exciting opportunity that might match your interests is our upcoming middle school retreat in April. Our students will join other diocesan middle school students to witness the upcoming solar eclipse while spending a night together for prayer and community building. Transportation and lodging are expenses we will need to address in the months ahead.

Even if God is not calling you to support these new opportunities, can I ask that you please keep us in your prayers? I pray that God blesses each of us as we focus our attention on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving this Lent!

God bless,  
Fr. Kevin



Please notice our Cross of Compassion. Parishioners are invited to write their spiritual and material needs on the purple papers in the basket in front of the cross. Then place your petition papers on a nail on the cross. Throughout Lent we ask our parish family to pray for all of these special needs.

Lenten booklets, "**Returning to God**" have been distributed in the pews. Please take one home.

### Readings for the Week of February 18, 2024

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (see 10)/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10





**Class schedule for Pre K- 5th grade at SHSF Parish Center**  
**Sundays 9:00 -10:30 am:** February 11, 25, March 3, 10, 17, 24, April 7, 21, 28, May 5

**Mondays 4:30 - 6 pm at SHSF Parish Center (CGS Level II only):** February 12, 26, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 8, 22, 29, May 6

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

**Presence:** The Mystery of the Eucharist explores the truth and beauty of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist, from its origins in Sacred Scripture, to its profound role in the life of the Church and her members. It is the crescendo of the entire story of salvation. Join us this Lent to watch the series and experience the power of God's mercy in a new way.

**Time:** Thursdays after the 9:00 am Mass at St. John's Fr. Demasi Hall and 6:30 PM at Sacred Heart St. Francis Parish Center, or on your own!

**Dates:** February 29, March 7 and March 14, 2024

**Contact:** Kathy Murphy [1kathy.murphy@gmail.com](mailto:1kathy.murphy@gmail.com) or the Parish Offices. Come to one or all the sessions, or view the videos on your own at [Formed.org](https://formed.org). We have some workbooks that are available, first come first serve. Please let us know if you need a workbook. To find Presence and more great media, register for a free FORMED account at [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org)

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

### DECEMBER 2023 MONTHLY OFFERTORY

Offertory / Mail Collections .....	\$ 13,992.75
Online Offertory .....	\$ 1,420.00
Christmas .....	\$ 3,349.60
Total: .....	\$ 18,762.35

Needed Each Month .....	\$ 14,200.00
Monthly Ahead .....	+\$ 4,562.35

Fiscal Year to Date .....	\$ 91,391.39
Fiscal YTD Ahead .....	+\$ 7,545.11

*Fiscal Year is July-June*

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



**Monday, 2/19 - Parish Offices closed for President's Day**  
**Tuesday, 2/20 - Taize Service at SHSF 5:30 - 6:00 pm**  
**Wednesday, 2/21 from 10-11:30 - Choir practice**  
**Wednesday, 2/21 from 4-5 pm - Eucharistic Adoration**



**Thank you** to everyone who participated in our 33-day Consecration to Jesus through Mary Retreat through self-study, in-person fellowship, or prayer. Around 20 people participated in the group consecration prayer at Sacred Heart St. Francis Church after 8:00 Mass on February 11, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

Pictured are those who prayed the Consecration prayer at St. John the Baptist after the 10:00 Mass. Many other participants also arranged to do the consecration prayer on their own. We are so grateful for all who participated (about 50 people), and we are excited to receive and experience all the blessings and graces for ourselves, for our families, and especially for our parish community. Totus Tuus.

### Guidelines for Lent

The time of Lent is to be observed by Catholics as a special season of prayer, penance, and works of charity. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, in particular, are the most important penitential days of the liturgical year. They are days of both fast and abstinence. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.

The rule of **fasting** states that only one full meal a day can be taken. Two small meals, "sufficient to maintain strength", are allowed, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals breaks the fast, but drinking liquids does not. The rule of fasting obliges all Catholics from 18 to 59.

**Abstinence** refers to refraining from eating meat. The rule of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years or older.

The substantial observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation. Self-imposed fasting on the other weekdays of Lent is recommended. Abstinence on all Fridays of the year is also highly recommended. Parents and teachers should see to it that, even those who are not bound by the laws of fast and abstinence because of age, are brought up in an atmosphere that is conducive to a sense of penance.

Please help! St. John the Baptist is hosting the free Community dinner on **Sunday, March 3, 2024** at the Second Congregational Church. We need people to provide rolls, meatballs, sausage, sauce, fruit, veggies, salads and desserts. A sign up sheet is at the back of the church. Please take a look and sign up to provide food and/or help pack up food. Food items will need to be dropped off on **Sunday March 3rd** at St John the Baptist before the 10:00 am mass, or at the Second Congregational Church between 3:30 and 4:00 pm when we will begin to pack up the dinners. If you have any questions, please contact Sherry Monte at 802-375-1023 or [samteach19@hotmail.com](mailto:samteach19@hotmail.com) Thank You!

### Don't forget Steubenville East 2024

A weekend of fun and faith Friday, July 26 - Sunday, July 28,  
 Contact Mary Drew for more  
 information: [maryedrew1@gmail.com](mailto:maryedrew1@gmail.com)  
**Early deadline to save your spot is March 1**

### Come and Rest in the Lord

Rediscover Christ's redeeming love, mercy and compassion during the holy season of Lent through song and scripture in the tradition of Taize.

Tuesday evenings February 20 through March 19, 2024 from 5:30 to 6:00 pm at Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales.