

FEBRUARY 25, 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.



## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. - Mk 9:7-8

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

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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 2/24-3/2 at  
**St. John the Baptist and  
Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales**

### 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

### Mon., 2/26 - Lenten Weekday (Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church)

9:00 am - Helen Banks by Henry Simpatico

Kathleen, Dan, Michael & Thomas Murphy by Joan Murphy

### Tues., 2/27 - Lenten Weekday

9:00 am- Margaret Lillie by The Lindsey Family

### Wed. 2/28 - Lenten Weekday (Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church)

9:00 am - Kay Bowen Lawson by Judy, Kyle & Kennedy

### Thurs. 2/29 - Lenten Weekday

9:00 am- Heidi Harrington for health & healing by a friend

### Fri. 3/1 - Lenten Weekday (Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church)

9:00 am - Our Parish Family

### Sat./Sun., 3/2-3/3-Lenten Weekday/Third Sunday of Lent

9:00 am - For Our Parishioners

5:30 pm- Viola Myers by Lee and Susan Harrington

Jean-Marie Patnaude for healing by The Lindsey Family

10:00 am- Mert Snow by the McGean Family  
Dick Hall by the Lindsey Family



Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; then from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. — Mk 9:7-8

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### Sunday Summary

**Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18** God makes a covenant with Abraham, who demonstrates his obedience.

**Psalms 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19** The faith of those who are afflicted is rewarded with God's own faithfulness.

**Romans 8:31b-34** When it is God who acquits, no one can condemn.

**Mark 9:2-10** Jesus is revealed as surpassing the authority of law and prophecy.

## ✠ From the Pastor's Desk ✠

I mused at one of the daily Masses this past week that Lent can be a challenging season. Sometimes it feels like a chore to do what we're supposed to do for Lent. For example, I usually only ever eat two small meals a day, which means that most days I actually do what the Church asks for fasting (two small meals added together don't equal the big meal). But for some reason on Ash Wednesday, when the Church asked me to fast, I irrationally wanted to eat more – and I craved a large hamburger as well.

Also, in Lent we pray, we fast, and we give alms. But this shouldn't be unusual for us. We are supposed to do this throughout the year. But in Lent, we can find it hard to keep our promises – we find our Lenten promises hard to follow. Why is this?

I think one of the reasons we find Lent hard to follow is that we do not like being told what to do. We all find "obedience" hard for us. Even though we regularly pray, fast, and give, when the Church reminds us to focus on these basics, we balk – we don't like being told that's what we're supposed to do.

As a reminder, Lent is not meant to be an endurance test for us. It's not supposed to be a chance for us to complete a feat of supernatural power. It's meant to help us to open our hearts to God. When we do this, God can form our hearts to make them more like His Sacred Heart – to be truly focused on the needs of other people. Let us pray together that our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving might help open our hearts to be more like God's.

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.

Reminder to pick up your family's **CRS Rice Bowl** from the back table. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on our connectedness as one family in Christ and work together to ensure our sisters and brothers worldwide can thrive.

Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to learn more.

### Readings for the Week of February 25, 2024

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

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 & 23/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25





Beautiful hand-made olive wood religious articles made by Christian families in Bethlehem and Jerusalem will be on display on the **2nd and 3rd of March after mass**. Holy Land Bethlehem Artworks is an organization that provides assistance to over 100

suffering families each week. Handmade rosaries, statues, crosses and nativities will make wonderful presents for family and friends; or an opportunity to add a beautiful hand carved religious item for your home to be cherished through generations. The religious articles are made by the suffering Christian families in the Holy-Land, and are their means of spreading the word of Jesus, a goal that began two thousand years ago. Crafting the religious articles is the primary means for providing for the livelihood of Christian families in the Holy Land.



**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](http://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](http://signup.formed.org)

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

### JANUARY 2024 MONTHLY OFFERTORY

Offertory / Mail Collections .....	\$ 12,315.47
Online Offertory .....	\$ 1,265.00
Total: .....	\$ 13,580.47

Needed Each Month .....	\$ 14,200.00
Monthly Behind .....	\$ - 619.53

Fiscal Year to Date .....	\$104,971.86
Fiscal YTD Ahead .....	\$ + 6,925.58

*Fiscal Year is July-June*

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



**Sunday, 2/25 at 4:30 -6:00 pm** Confirmation class  
**Tuesday, 2/27 - Taize Service at SHSF 5:30 - 6:00 pm**  
**Wednesday, 2/28 from 10-11:30 - Choir practice**  
**Wednesday, 2/28 from 4-5 pm - Eucharistic Adoration**  
**Fri., 3/1 at 7:00 pm - First Friday Service at SHSF**  
**Sat., 3/2 at 9:00 am - First Saturday mass**



Thank you for your generosity for the Souper Bowl of Caring. We raised \$697 for St John the Baptist's Food Shelf and \$1,055.55 for His Pantry at Sacred Heart St. Francis. Your support of these ministries is greatly appreciated!

### First Friday Holy Hour at Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales and First Saturday Mass at St. Johns

Please plan to spend some time with Jesus at Adoration and plan to attend the next beautiful First Friday closing service on Friday, March 1st from 7:00 to 8:00 pm at SHSF.

On Saturday, March 2nd at 9:00 am at St. John's, join us for a First Saturday Mass with Adoration and Confession to follow.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Thursday mornings at 8:30 am at St. John's  
 Friday evenings from 5:30-6:00 at SHSF

### Calling all Families for Family Stations of the Cross

Friday, March 15th at 5:30 pm at SHSF

If interested, please contact Mary Drew at 802-442-3141 by March 8th



### BUNNY RAFFLE

Thank you to the Village Chocolate Shoppe for generously donating the 3 foot chocolate bunny to the Youth Group of our parishes again this year. We are so happy to be able to have this raffle to support our youth programs! Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 and will be available at

both parish offices and sold after the Masses the weekend of March 16 & 17, 2024. The Bunny Raffle will be drawn on March 25th in time for Easter.

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.