



St. John the Baptist

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

12319 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20904

Sunday and Daily Masses have been suspended until further notice.

Baptism

Parishioners are asked to call the Parish Office for the times of the monthly liturgical celebrations and to arrange for classes.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Please call the Parish Office to arrange a confession.

Marriage

Parishioners requesting a marriage date must have been registered in the parish for six months.

Phone Numbers

Parish Office & Rectory:
301-622-1122
Fax: 301-625-9266
School: 301-622-3076

sjbssparish.org
[@SJBCatholic](https://www.facebook.com/sjbcc)

Sunday, April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter

This week's readings: Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47 Psalm 118 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31



In today's Gospel, Jesus twice says that he brings peace. The repetition is deliberate. The resurrection of Jesus gives us, his followers, peace. We may be subject to buffeting winds of turmoil, drama, challenges (and certainly the unreal days of a raging pandemic), but the peace of Christ, the promise of life eternal, is assured.

God is faithful. The resurrection of Jesus and his lasting presence among his disciples are all the proof we need. Once we experience him for ourselves, there is no longer room for doubt.

Next week's readings - Easter: 3rd Sunday

Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:17-21 Luke 24:13-35

Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter Laudato Si' (On Care for Our Common Home)

Chapter Two – *The Gospel of Creation*

VII. A Variety of Opinions, continued



Last week's reflection noted that Pope Francis wrote of the unique place humans occupy in this world of ours.

Our capacity to reason, to develop arguments, to be inventive, to interpret reality and to create art, along with other not yet discovered capacities, are signs of a uniqueness which transcends the spheres of physics and biology.

The next paragraph begins:

Yet, it would also be mistaken to view other living beings as mere objects subjected to arbitrary human domination. When nature is viewed solely as a source of profit and gain, this has serious consequences for society. This vision of "might is right" has engendered immense inequality, injustice and acts of violence against the majority of humanity, since resources end up in the hands of the first comer or the most powerful: the winner takes all. Completely at odds with this model are the ideals of harmony, justice, fraternity and peace as proposed by Jesus.

In the concluding sentence of this section, the Pope writes that human beings, endowed with intelligence and love ... are called to lead all creatures back to their Creator.

Visit www.adw.org/coronavirus for the latest updates from Archbishop Gregory and the Archdiocese of Washington.

Share the Cross 2020

Due to the CoVid19 Pandemic, we will not have a collection as previously scheduled. Donations for items that were listed in the bulletin and on the crosses can be mailed to 12319 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20904 or other arrangements can be made when the Maryland Stay-at-Home Order is lifted and the Parish Office reopens.

Jubilarian Mass Registration Open!

The annual ADW Jubilarian Celebration of marriage, honors couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years. This year the Mass will be held on Sunday, June 28, at 2 p.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with his Excellency, Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, as the celebrant. To register, please contact the Pastoral Center Office of Family Life at 301-853-3800, no later than Friday, May 15.

What Should I do if I Can't go to Mass?

Catholics are encouraged to make a 'spiritual communion'. St. John Paul II writes that "it is good to cultivate in our hearts a constant desire for the sacrament of the Eucharist. This was the origin of the practice of 'spiritual communion', which has happily been established in the Church for centuries and recommended by saints who were masters of the spiritual life. Saint Teresa of Jesus wrote: 'When you do not receive communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you.'" (Ecclesia Eucharistia, no. 34) Catholics in the archdiocese are also encouraged to watch our local TV Sunday Mass. The Mass airs every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on WDCW-50 and through free online streaming at adw.org/tvmass.

What is a Dispensation from Mass?

A dispensation from the diocesan Bishop releases Catholics from fulfilling their Sunday obligation (Mass). Since public Masses are cancelled in the Archdiocese of Washington until further notice, this means that if you live in the Archdiocese of Washington, the right thing to do is to stay home for your safety and the safety of others. Though there is a sadness for not being able to participate at Mass, one should not feel guilty for not going to Mass. You have a free conscience to stay home. Catholics are encouraged to offer up their sickness or pastoral care for the sake of those who are seriously ill and for those who have died.

Mass Intentions (April 19 - April 24)

- Monday - Sylvester J. & Philomena Aquino (D. & J. Aquino)
- Dave Gentry (G. Usher)
- Tuesday - Medical Staffing
- Clarice Norris Barnes (C. Norris)
- Wednesday - Alexander Gomes (T. Gomes)
- John Tseronis (M. F. Vassiliou)
- Thursday - Rev. Louis A. Tou (Parishioners)
- 1st Responders
- Friday - SJB Parishioners
- Elizabeth Sinju -L- (M. Black)
- Saturday - Victoire Pierre-Louis (M. Charles)

The Mass intentions for the week will be prayed by both priests.

Parish Clergy

Rev. Y. David Brault	Pastor
Rev. Cezary Kozubek	Associate Pastor
Rev. Glen Willis	Weekend Associate
Rev. Austin Charles Ochu	Weekend Associate
Rev. Eliot Nitz	Weekend Associate
Rev. Nicolás Rodriguez	Weekend Associate
Deacon James Gorman	Permanent Deacon
Deacon Ed McCormack	Permanent Deacon

Parish Directory

Father Brault	pastor@sjbssparish.org
Father Kozubek	assocpastor@sjbssparish.org
Parish Office	secretary@sjbssparish.org
Finance Office	kkuzemka@sjbssparish.org
Faith Formation	adultdre@sjbssparish.org
Youth Ministry	youth@sjbssparish.org
Liturgy & Music	sdecamp@sjbssparish.org
Social Concerns	socialconcerns@sjbssparish.org
Athletic Ministry	www.sjbatletics.org
Parochial School	brian.blomquist@sjbsilverspring.org
Bulletin	sjbbulletin@sjbssparish.org
Parish Website	www.sjbssparish.org
School Website	www.sjbsilverspring.org

Early Bulletin Deadline

May 3 Bulletin & Website deadline
Wednesday, April 24, at 9:00 a.m

Send Bulletin announcements to
sjbbulletin@sjbssparish.org
Send Website announcements to
kbrown@sjbssparish.org

Remember in Prayer those who have died:

Jean Fullenkamp, wife of Dan Fullenkamp;
Melody Kokoszka, wife of Lawrence Kokoszka; and
Jean Smugeresky, mother of Steve Smugeresky.

St. John the Baptist Closed

As we comply with the Stay-at-Home directive of the Maryland governor, the Church, Chapel and Parish Office are closed until further notice

Archbishop Gregory has issued a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass during this time to all parishioners of the Archdiocese of Washington.

ADW Information Resources

As Catholics, caring for our spiritual and sacramental lives is paramount. Therefore, the Archdiocese is providing the following pastoral guidance and resources for your use:

The Archdiocesan website has a page with informational resources on coronavirus: <https://adw.org/coronavirus/>.

The Archdiocesan website has resources on how to receive spiritual communion: <https://adw.org/coronavirus-dispensation-and-prayers/>.

Take time to read and reflect upon the readings from Sunday Mass. You can find the readings at usccb.org and a Sunday Gospel reflection on our [YouTube channel](#).

Our archdiocesan Sunday TV Mass is available online: <https://adw.org/parishes-masses/sunday-tv-mass/>.

Here is a prayer by Pope Francis to Mary during the coronavirus pandemic: <https://adw.org/text-of-popes-prayer-to-mary-during-coronavirus-pandemic/>.

Pastoral care to the sick will continue incorporating protocols recommended by health professionals.

The Archdiocese will continue to make additional spiritual and informational resources available and provide regular updates on their website, www.adw.org/coronavirus. Please know of Archbishop Gregory's prayers and love for you.

Weekly Stewardship Report

Our Weekly Stewardship Report will be suspended until our Masses resume.

While we are temporarily not celebrating Mass, your weekly donations to help keep our bills paid are appreciated. Please mail them to St. John the Baptist, 12319 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20904.

From our Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,



I write to wish you and your families a prayerful Happy Easter. While we have had an eventful Lenten season, we have been able to continue our personal and familial relationship with the good Lord. The parish continues through the bulletin, flock notes, our website to primarily support the spiritual underpinning of our daily lives. There are and continue to be a number of challenges in this new reality. Many have been affected directly in their work, schooling and family lives by this Virus. Some of our parishioners have even lost a member of their family to this Virus. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Our parish along with the rest of the Archdiocese has had to place some of our employees on furlough and reduce the hours of our staffs. The chief reason was the mandate from the Governor of our State and the Mayor of the District requiring non-essential personnel to follow the STAY-AT-HOME order. In addition, it was influenced by the desire on our part to make certain that the benefit package of our employees remains intact despite the reduced income of our parish. The old adage is as true today as it was first enunciated – “You cannot give what you do not have.” The Archdiocese has initiated this process and is doing all it can to enable us to receive benefit from the Small Business Loans recently enacted by Congress. We have applied and are awaiting a response. Our outreach to the Poor continues, thus your support of the Community Fund sustains this dimension of our parish identity in the community at large. Thank you for your devotion to the least among us.

Day to day, Father Cezary and I pray our daily Mass for the intentions requested and Sunday Mass is prayed for the Parishioners. Confessions continue to be available to all who ring the door bell at the rectory or call on the emergency line. The sacrament is celebrated at the statue of the Blessed Mother between the church and the rectory. All are welcomed. During this Easter season, I would invite you to read the Acts of the Apostles and reflect, discuss and pray on the journey of the early followers of Jesus. It was their response, to the Lord's Love lived and handed on to us, that sustained them in the midst of many trials in their day and that will enable us to persevere in the trials of our time.

Keep safe for yourself and your neighbor. May the good Lord who has risen continue to pour out His Grace and Mercy on us. Amen.

Father David

Social Concerns

Cynthia Norris, 301-622-1122, social.concerns@sjbssparish.org

Feeding those in need

Many people have asked how can they help others during this critical time. Here are a few resources for parishioners wishing to provide food or financial donations to organizations with food pantries. *(If you wish to donate items, please call the organization to confirm they are open.)*



Catholic Charities Choice Food Pantry

12247 Georgia Avenue / Silver Spring, MD 20902, 301-942-1790

Our pantry is a Choice Food Pantry where clients come in to choose and shop (they do not pay). Our pantry is open 3 days a week. We serve anyone in Montgomery County. **For now, we no longer need any canned vegetables, canned beans, canned soup or any soup packets (incl. Ramen and Cup-o-Noodles).

Chrisma Closet's Feeding Program

Chrisma Charities, P. O BOX 2654, Washington, DC. 20013, 202-427-2816 (Local and Mobile Food Pantry)

Chrisma Closet's Feeding Program was established to ease budgetary constraints for families with limited means. They partner with Feeding America and other local nonprofit organizations to provide nutritional food items to vulnerable youth and families in need. Families that participate in the Feeding Program receive groceries to supplement their food budgets and are taught the importance of taking care of their bodies. They assist in developing healthy eating habits and the prevention of early onset of medical issues due to poor diets in an effort to promote wellness and wholeness. Children who are at risk of chronic hunger receive necessary nutrients that support student achievement in the classroom. They also provide supplemental, nutritious food every month to families that qualify under The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) guidelines.

Manna Foods Silver Spring

12301 Old Columbia Pike, Suite 200, Silver Spring, MD 20904, 301-424-1130

Manna is now accepting donations of hand sanitizer. Manna is temporarily waiving income requirements to provide food to any Montgomery County resident impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

MidCounty United Ministries

P.O. Box 1924, Silver Spring, MD 20915, 301-929-8675 (Local and Mobile Food Pantry)

MUM's choice food pantry helps thousands of clients with a selection of nonperishable items such as pasta, cereal, canned meats, vegetables and fruit. The pantry carries the name of Captain Joseph A. Mattingly Jr., a longtime Montgomery police officer who championed community service in the mid-county area before his death in 2003. Food Pantry hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

MUM's Mobile pantry serves the community at the following locations each month:

First Sunday:

Aspen Hill Christian Church
13501 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20906
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Second Sunday:

Millian Methodist Church
13016 Parkland Drive
Rockville, MD 20853
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Fourth Sunday:

Pepper Tree Farms Apartment
14120 Weeping Willow Dr.
Silver Spring, MD 20906
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

See page five for more places to donate.

Food Wish List

- Chef Boyardee/Spaghetti-Os/Ravioli/etc.
- Canned Chili/Sloppy Joe/Hash
- Mac & Cheese
- Rice-A-Roni/other boxed or packaged, flavored rice
- Hamburger Helper/Pasta Roni/Pasta Sides
- Snacks (i.e., crackers, cookies, granola bars, other bars, fruit snacks, popcorn, pudding cups, etc.)
- Cake Mix/Brownie Mix/Cookie Mix/Muffin Mix
- Dry pasta/noodles (not lasagna)
- Cereal/Oatmeal/pancake mix
- Canned Tomatoes (whole/diced/sauce/paste/puree/etc.)
- Canned tuna/salmon/chicken/sardines/sausages
- Canned Fruit
- Jelly
- Dry beans (not canned)



Feeding those in need - continued

Shepherd's Table

8106 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301-585-6463

Serving Brunch 10:30- 11:30 a.m., and Dinner 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome!!

St. Camillus Food Pantry

1600 St. Camillus Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20905, 301-434-8400

Friday: 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.; Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Veterans' Program Update

Asked by a social worker what he would choose if he could have just one thing, the homeless young man answered, "A key." Surprised by the reply, the social worker asked him why. His reply, "If I had a key in my pocket, that would mean I have a home."

For several years, our parish has played a role in getting previously homeless veterans established in permanent housing. In coordination with Housing Counseling Services, the referring agency, and the veterans' case managers who work with the vets to secure housing and a support system, we provide "Welcome Home Kits" that consist of the following:

- Bedding for all sizes of beds – 8/10-piece comforter sets, an dset of sheets, mattress pads
- Bath towels – 2 each of each size (bath, hand and face cloth)
- Kitchen ware – service for 4 sets of dishes, flatware, glassware, pots and pans, 30 piece sets of plastic food storage, and other necessities for preparing meals
- Cleaning supplies – household, kitchen, bathroom, laundry, and paper products
- Personal care needs – body wash, shampoo, lotion, shaving items, items for dental care and care of their hair, as well as needed paper products
- First aid kits



On occasion, but with increasing frequency, we have provided some furnishings, especially beds and mattresses, assistance with utilities and rental bills as well as food in the form of gift cards to local grocery stores. As you can appreciate, this is a time intensive project that involves acquiring, and assembling the more than 100 items that are included. While others have helped from time to time, Judy Hennig, a former M.A.S.H. nurse and highly active SJB volunteer, manages, inventories, and assembles the kits. I can tell when Judy has been in "our" office because of the order and labeling of all the donations.

Many veterans would be in apartments or rooms with nothing if this resource did not exist. When some of the veterans pick up their supplies, they are shocked at what they receive, the quality and quantity of the items. Many tells us that their faith is reaffirmed by the thoughtfulness and generosity of our parishioners.

July to December 2019, we provided the Welcome Home Kits to twenty-four (24) veterans...men, women and sometimes their young children. In January and February 2020 we helped twelve veterans and families with these kits. In addition to parishioner donations of some supplies, monetary donations to the Community Fund has provided more than \$7,500 to support this program.

Thank you, Judy, for your tireless work on behalf of our veterans. Thank you, SJB parishioners, for your generous donations and commitment to helping those who put their lives on the line for our freedom.

Saint George's Story – Feast Day April 23

Saint George is the object of a vast amount of imagination. There is every reason to believe that he was a real martyr who suffered at Lydda in Palestine, probably before the time of Constantine. The Church adheres to his memory, but not to the legends surrounding his life. That he was willing to pay the supreme price to follow Christ is what the Church believes. And it is enough.

The story of George's slaying the dragon, rescuing the king's daughter, and converting Libya is a 12th-century Italian fable. George was a favorite patron saint of crusaders, as well as of Eastern soldiers in earlier times. He is a patron saint of England, Portugal, Germany, Aragon, Catalonia, Genoa, and Venice. Source: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-george/>



Mystical Word

written by L.J. Milone, Director of Faith Formation, ljmilone@sjbssparish.org

In a refreshing and exciting book titled *Grammars of Resurrection*, theologian Brian Robinette writes, "Christianity begins with a disappearance. To be sure, the New Testament witnesses to an 'appearance.' Jesus 'appears' ... to his disciples. He makes himself known. Or, as one formulation puts it, God raised him from the dead and 'let him be seen' by his earliest followers (Acts 10:40), who immediately preceding this encounter, found themselves in various postures of despair: mourning, panic, guilt, bewilderment, etc. But the appearances of Jesus also imply a dis-appearance, namely the withdrawal of a body. In Mark, the women approach the tomb of the crucified Jesus only to be startled. Expecting to see and anoint a body, what they witnessed instead was a shocking absence. The tomb was empty. Forthwith they were informed by a herald: 'He is risen; he is not here.' They were then given instructions to go to Galilee to tell the disciples what they saw, which was literally no-thing."

The mystery of God exceeds all human knowing, all finite experience. We cannot imagine God, as God really is, because God is infinite, gratuitously transcendent. When God acts, God does so mysteriously. There is no greater act, especially in its mystery, than the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth whom we confess to be the Christ. The Gospel of Mark sums up the essential proclamation of the Risen Jesus, which is put on the lips of a being of light whom a pair of women encounter in Jesus' empty tomb: "He has been raised; he is not here."

The resurrection is a mystery because God is mystery, incomprehensible to and yet infinitely knowable by the human spirit. It is an eschatological happening. This means that the act of raising Jesus from death is God's definitive saving act, and one that shows us, like a preview to a movie, what we look like when we are ultimately fulfilled and completed by God. It is a mystery we can unfold in four ways. According to Robinette, the eschatologically transcendent event of God raising Jesus from the dead is unforeseeable, unbearable, unnamed, and unconstitutable.

The resurrection is unforeseeable. This was not something even prophets or the Torah, the Hebrew Scriptures as a whole, ever expected. The disciples of

Jesus equally never could have foreseen something like the resurrection. Robinette writes, "The gospels consistently present Jesus' appearances as events that catch their recipients off guard, in various modes of misunderstanding, surprise, and sometimes fear." Despite our familiarity with resurrection language, we should not forget how new and surprising it was in Jesus' time.

The resurrection is unbearable; the event of Jesus being raised from death bedazzles our capacity to comprehend. Both the empty tomb and the various appearances of Jesus overwhelm the disciples' minds and experience with the gratuitous splendor of the divine presence.

The resurrection is unnamable. To be clear, the event of God raising Jesus from the dead is not just one historical event among others. It is THE defining event, and one that while it happened in our history still transcends all time because it is a fully divine event. As such, no single word or story can capture the raising of Jesus from death. The Bible has numerous different accounts of events surrounding the Resurrection, and they do not always agree. Some scholars have seen this as proof that the Resurrection didn't really happen. But, "the tensions, ambiguities, and plurality of the resurrection narratives result from a brimming excess," which is the divine reality that exceeds our minds. So, like God, since the Resurrection cannot be captured by our minds, it can be named in many ways.

The Resurrection is unconstitutable. The self cannot possess it. "Resurrection belief cannot simply be apprehended. It is given. It manifests itself. It presents itself as a possibility through apostolic witness. It invites. It summons. Responding to it will entail some kind of self-dispossession, a leaving behind." Through the resurrection, God summons us to live in the body of believers, the church, and to lives of proclamation, compassion, and contemplation. We are to bear witness to the Risen Jesus, the preview of creation fulfilled according to God's designs, by how we live. We can use this time, as we endure the present pandemic crisis, to become more and more transparent to the excessive divine light of the Resurrection by drinking in the divine silence of the empty tomb through deep prayer.

