



# 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](http://sjbssparish.org)

[FaceBook.com/sjbcc](https://www.facebook.com/sjbcc)

[@SJB\\_Catholic](https://www.instagram.com/SJB_Catholic)

### Sunday, April 26, 2020

### Third Sunday of Easter

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



Today's Gospel focuses on sharing, being close together, eating and praying – group activities we've been avoiding to stay healthy. This experience of the disciples of knowing Jesus in the breaking of the bread takes on new importance in our journeys of faith.

After Easter, Jesus was present among his followers as he was prior to his death and resurrection, but in a new way. The same way we are nourished both spiritually and physically in the Eucharist, when we take bread, bless it, break it, and share it. As we participate in the Eucharist, we call to mind Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection. We don't merely gaze at the Eucharist, we consume it – for it is real food. In this way, we live, share in, and become the Paschal Mystery.

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Next week's readings - Easter: 4th Sunday

Acts of the Apostles 2:14a, 36-44 Psalm 23 1 Peter 21:20b-25 John 10:1-10

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

#### Chapter Two – *The Gospel of Creation*



#### IV. The Message of Each Creature in the Harmony of Creation

This section focuses on the wonders of our world. Pope Francis includes quotes from Saint Thomas Aquinas, and the Bishops of Canada and Japan that call us to see nature as a reflection of God's love and goodness. It is not surprising that he includes the magnificent expression of these sentiments in the hymn of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures,  
especially Sir Brother Sun,  
who is the day through whom You give us light.  
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour,  
and bears a likeness of you, Most High.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,  
in the heavens you formed them bright, precious and fair.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Wind  
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather  
through whom you give sustenance to your creatures.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Water,  
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Fire,  
through whom you light the night,  
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Next week: V. A Universal Communion

Visit [www.adw.org/coronavirus](http://www.adw.org/coronavirus) for the latest updates from Archbishop Gregory and the Archdiocese of Washington.

### 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 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.

### 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](http://adw.org/tvmass).

### Scam Emails – Do Not Respond

Many different scam emails using various email addresses have been sent to SJB parishioners in Fr. David's name asking for help or money. Please do not respond to these emails. Fr. David communicates with our parishioners through the bulletin or mailings and does not send emails to parishioners. If you receive an email from Fr. David requesting money or assistance, please do not respond and delete the email immediately.

### Mass Intentions (April 27 - May 2)

- Monday - Donald Harper (Family)  
- Doctors & Nurses
- Tuesday - SJB Teachers & Students (Parishioners)  
- Medical Support Workers
- Wednesday - Bob Schmit (Family)  
- Those producing Medical Supplies
- Thursday - Rev. Louis A. Tou (Parishioners)  
- Cadia Nursing Home Residents -L-  
(SJB Parishioners)
- Friday - All Souls in Purgatory (Ceron Family)  
- Mary Garner (T. & K. Marconi)
- Saturday - Bob Wohleber III -L- (T. & B. Wohleber)

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](mailto:pastor@sjbssparish.org)
- Father Kozubek [assocpastor@sjbssparish.org](mailto:assocpastor@sjbssparish.org)
- Parish Office [secretary@sjbssparish.org](mailto:secretary@sjbssparish.org)
- Finance Office [kkuzemka@sjbssparish.org](mailto:kkuzemka@sjbssparish.org)
- Faith Formation [adultdre@sjbssparish.org](mailto:adultdre@sjbssparish.org)
- Youth Ministry [youth@sjbssparish.org](mailto:youth@sjbssparish.org)
- Liturgy & Music [sdecamp@sjbssparish.org](mailto:sdecamp@sjbssparish.org)
- Social Concerns [socialconcerns@sjbssparish.org](mailto:socialconcerns@sjbssparish.org)
- Athletic Ministry [www.sjbathletics.org](http://www.sjbathletics.org)
- Parochial School [brian.blomquist@sjbsilverspring.org](mailto:brian.blomquist@sjbsilverspring.org)
- Bulletin [sjbbulletin@sjbssparish.org](mailto:sjbbulletin@sjbssparish.org)
- Parish Website [www.sjbssparish.org](http://www.sjbssparish.org)
- School Website [www.sjbsilverspring.org](http://www.sjbsilverspring.org)

### \*\*Early Bulletin Deadline\*\*

May 10 Bulletin & Website deadline  
Friday, May 1, at 9:00 a.m.

- Send Bulletin announcements to  
[sjbbulletin@sjbssparish.org](mailto:sjbbulletin@sjbssparish.org)
- Send Website announcements to  
[kbrown@sjbssparish.org](mailto:kbrown@sjbssparish.org)

## 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.

## 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.

## 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](http://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](http://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,



As we begin our second week of Easter, Father Cezary and I continue to pray for all our parishioners daily at Mass and, like many of you, keep informed about the virus through the various media. Ever mindful of our patron saint, St. John the Baptist, we continue to prepare the way of the Lord prayerfully and with hope. The virus has affected our parish in a number of ways: our inability to gather as a community for our Eucharistic celebrations; loss of the physical interaction of various groups of our parish; and interruption of the day to day flow of life at the Parish Office, School and Church. Yet, the Lord is ever present in the tabernacle reminding us of His Love and His Mercy.

Since the stay-at-home directive, work has continued on the upgrade to our fire alarm system in the Gym and the Church. New strobe lights, pull stations and sensors are being installed. This was necessitated because of demands from the County. The workmen were and are deemed essential workers because of the safety issue. The property continues to be maintained. A number of individuals have visited and prayed at the shrines of St. John the Baptist, St. Francis and the Blessed Mother on both sides of our Church. Some people have called on the emergency line to schedule Confession with one of the parish priests near the Marian shrines. We are available for the Sacrament of Penance, just call the Rectory at 301-622-3935 or ring the Rectory doorbell.

I know that Father Cezary has communicated with the Confirmation Class. The sacrament was to have been administered by Bishop Dorsonville in April. It will have to be rescheduled. I know that L.J. and I spoke earlier this week about the First Eucharist group Mass which also has been postponed. There are many questions concerning both of these sacraments. I do not know, yet, what the new guidelines will be regarding congregating in groups. There is still so much to consider.

For the time being, I urge you to continue to stay informed by our Governor, take advantage of all the resources available for the welfare of your family, share the stories of older members of the family with the younger generations, pray and share the story of the Lord Jesus especially in the Acts of the Apostles. Notice how the early Christians gathered at home and did the same. They drew strength from their hope in the Lord. So will we.

*Father David*

April 20, 2020

## Social Concerns

Cynthia Norris, 301-622-1122, [social.concerns@sjbssparish.org](mailto: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.



**Letter from Fr. Chandeleur Belanston, Haiti**

Dear St. John the Baptist,  
I hope you are well. On our side we are still well, thanks to God. Churches and schools are closed. But we keep on hoping the best, while we are so careful. In my room at the rectory (in Miragoine), I record presentations and meditations on the readings of the day for some parishes and radio stations to share with the faithful in this time of crisis. I celebrate Mass every day with less than 10 people, following the restrictions.

I use direct call and social media (in spite of an Edge/2G connection) to work with some students who are able to study by e-working. Life cannot die. The "Victimae Paschali," the Easter sequence answer to our questions in this time of crisis states: "Death and life confronted each other in a prodigious battle; the Prince of life who died, appeared vanquished, now lives and reigns."

The readings of the Second Sunday of Easter show us how our God is merciful and how important our faith in

him remains. To his disciples, Jesus said "Peace be with you." These words, in this time of fear and anguish resound in the bottom of our hearts and bring us peace, happiness and hope.

Happy Divine Mercy Sunday my friends! Please share my love and my solicitude to all your family and friends. We are together, and together we are strong.

- 1) Keep calm!
- 2) Do it right! By following the health instructions, by taking care of yourselves.
- 3) Rely on our Heavenly Father and God of mercy!

Peace be with you!  
Sincerely yours,

Fr. Chandeleur Bélanston  
Graduate of College St. Jean Baptiste,  
Baradères, Haiti



**Our Lady of Bethesda Virtual Retreats**

Escape from that noise and encounter Jesus Christ in a profound and personal way. The Spiritual Exercises are an opportunity for a transformative experience with Christ. Plus, those who attend get the opportunity to schedule a personal ZOOM meeting for Spiritual Direction during the weekend

**Spiritual Exercises for All States in Life**

Spiritual Director Fr. Thomas Vendetti, LC on May 1-3  
Gain an understanding of Ignatian Discernment and how God is guiding your life during this Spiritual Exercises Retreat. Virtual Retreat Weekend includes:

- Meditations and Conferences presented by experienced Retreat Directors
- Appropriate content for Men and Women, and Couples
- Live-streaming of Masses
- Personal Spiritual Direction available via Zoom
- Modified schedule that allows for plenty of personal prayertime
- Schedules are based on Eastern Standard Time.

Registration is required, and your free-will donation will assist us in getting through this unusual period.

To register visit:

<https://ourladyofbethesda.org/programs/retreats/what-are-spiritual-exercises/virtual-spiritual-exercises>.

**SJB Men's Group –**

**Your Saturday Morning Place To Be**

Attention men over 18 years old.

Scripture is packed with action, drama, and incredible power. Join us Saturday mornings and connect with the Word and your brothers in Christ. Deacon Ed McCormack facilitates as we unpack scripture in an atmosphere of fellowship and community. Discover for yourself the meaning of 'Iron Sharpens Iron.' Get your scriptural questions answered and share your faith journey. The ZOOM room opens at 7:15 a.m. and we get under way at 7:30 a.m.



Guys say it's the most fruitful one hour they experience all day. To join us with video and audio just go to:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/873867511>.

Meeting ID: 873 867 511

For audio only by phone, dial: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 873 867 511.

For more information, please contact Dave Michaels at [invitedtolife@gmail.com](mailto:invitedtolife@gmail.com).

# Mystical Word

written by L.J. Milone, Director of Faith Formation, [ljmilone@sjbssparish.org](mailto:ljmilone@sjbssparish.org)

Have you ever noticed how we do not have a description of the actual event of the Resurrection? Nowhere in the New Testament is there an account of the moment Jesus rose from the dead. In *Grammars of Resurrection*, theologian Brian Robinette writes, "Remarkably, at the most dramatic moment in their narrative accounts, the gospels remain perfectly silent. No omniscient voice, no objective portrayal, no imaginary dramatization: God raising Jesus from the dead is never actually described. This is a most telling silence. The beginning of resurrection faith comes by way of encounter, as a surprising disclosure in the midst of an unintelligible and unspeakable vacuum. The crucified-and-risen One 'appears' (ophthe). By his own free initiative Jesus manifests himself to the grieving women at the grave, to a misunderstanding Peter, to a skeptical Thomas, to the bewildered travelers to Emmaus, to a violently zealous Saul. Grief is met with alarming joy, panic with disarming peace. Incredulity is replaced with personal assurance, confusion with insight, sin with forgiveness: in a word, absence with a new presence. And yet, this new presence only deepens the absence. For as often as the risen One is recognized as the selfsame Jesus of Nazareth he is misidentified. The women at the empty tomb are said by Mark to be alarmed at what they see — or what they do not see. 'Terror and amazement' seize them. In Luke's Emmaus story, just as the disciples 'see' the risen One in the breaking of the bread with the stranger, the stranger is recognized only to suddenly disappear from their sight. John's account includes Mary Magdalene's confusion with the gardener, of all things. And upon his final commission to the disciples in Matthew, the risen Christ promises to be with them until the end of the age and forthwith parts from them, "ascending" into heaven from their view."

Even more, the empty tomb confesses the divine nothingness, that is, the absolute transcendence of God who performs an absolutely transcendent act: God transfused and transfigured in an ultimate way the body of Jesus of Nazareth. The resurrection exceeds our experience, our knowing, and our being.



In today's Gospel reading, as soon as the two disciples walking to Emmaus recognize their mysterious companion as Jesus risen from the dead, "he vanished from their sight." The Risen Jesus disappears. Robinette writes, "this 'appearance' through 'dis-appearance' served as an invitation: an invitation to a new way of perceiving, to a new way of relating; an invitation to accede to a new dispensation, one that can only come from the loss of a graspable body." In other words, the mystery of the Resurrection calls for unknowing and conversion.

Robinette makes further, excellent points about what it takes to receive the mystery of the resurrection: "The resurrection is a 'trans-historical' reality. It occurs within our common history and produces a history of effects, yet it is more-than-historical...The resurrection cannot therefore fit within our a priori horizons of intelligibility, or what we assume in advance to constitute 'history,' but will instead call us to and lead us through a process of conversion to reveal what 'history' really is, what it can be, what it will be. The attitude called for here is one of hospitality: of becoming radically receptive to the Other qua Other. Such hospitality is demanding, and in at least two ways. First, the hospitality required to receive the Gift of resurrection calls us to undergo a process of purgation, to progressively 'let go' of the intellectual and affective obstacles that prevent us from responding to God's gratuitous and loving word of resurrection with a 'yes.' Some of these obstacles we have set up for ourselves through habits of thought. We say that such a thing is historically impossible. Bodies don't rise from the dead. People don't walk out of tombs. Something like this cannot possibly be believed...Second, hospitality to the resurrection is demanding insofar as it calls us to a way of life that may very well be remarkably different from the one we are currently living. It will call us to engage in practices of justice and reconciliation that may put us at odds with much of the world's conception of power."

To be hospitable to the mystery of the Resurrection, that is, to receive the mystery into our hearts is to let go of how we see the world and how we understand the world. It is to let God purify us of any and all reasons to dismiss the mystery. It is to let God change our very perspective through faith.