



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

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

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

Sunday, May 3, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter

This week's readings: Acts of the Apostles 2:14a, 36-44 | Psalm 23 | 1 Peter 2:20b-25 | John 10:1-10



In today's Gospel, Jesus calls himself the gate through whom his sheep "come in and go out and find pasture." Church doors symbolize the place where one enters into Christ's flock and from where one is sent on mission. The front doors of our church have an interesting history.

The original doors were wood, but Msgr. E. Carl Lyon, our founding pastor, for many years had an attraction to cast iron doors. He considered them unique and attractive, and the appearance they give a building quite distinctive. A friend found single glass doors in cast iron frames in a building being dismantled at 20th and K Streets, NW in Washington. The doors were about to be thrown onto a junk pile. After several hurried phone calls it was learned that the lawyer representing the company dismantling the building was a brother of one of the Bishops. The doors were available at no cost, but the doors would have to be picked up promptly. Men from our founding families took over and the rest, as they say, is history.

Next week's readings - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7 | Psalm 33 | 1 Peter 2:4-9 | John 14:1-12

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



V. A Universal Communion

Laudato si' was written in 2015 – before the pandemic that has enveloped our world today. Pope Francis' words, however, take on new meaning these days. In this section he makes the following statements:

"... as part of the universe, called into being by one Father, all of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect."

"... we should be concerned lest other living beings be treated irresponsibly. But we should be particularly indignant at the enormous inequalities in our midst, whereby we continue to tolerate some considering themselves more worthy than others."

"Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth."

Next week: VI. The Common Destination of Goods

Live-Streaming Mass Coming Soon

Fr. Cezary will soon be live streaming Mass via Facebook. Please watch for instructions in this bulletin and in a Flock Note.



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

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.

An Act of Spiritual Communion by St. Alphonsus Liguori

*My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.
I love you above all things,
and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already there,
and unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen.*



Mass Intentions (May 4 - May 9)

- Monday - Jean-Charlot Charles (M. Charles)
- Victims of Coronavirus
- Tuesday - Ryan Warnock -L- (T. & B. Wohleber)
- Omar Khiel (M. Khiel)
- Wednesday - Sunrise Assisted Living Residents
-L- (Parishioners)
- Peter Huan Nguyen (Parishioners)
- Thursday - Margaret MacLeod -L- (Joan MacLeod)
- Families of Coronavirus Victims
- Friday - Victoria Parkins (SJB Parishioners)
- Hospitalized Parishioners
- Saturday - Paul Rothberg (N. & J. Peters)

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 Rodríguez 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.sjbathletics.org
- Parochial School brian.blomquist@sjbsilverspring.org
- Bulletin sjbbulletin@sjbssparish.org
- Parish Website www.sjbssparish.org
- School Website www.sjbsilverspring.org

Bulletin Deadline

May 17 Bulletin & Website deadline
Friday, May 8, at 9:00 a.m.

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

Update on the Status of the Parish Office

Please check our website, www.sjbssparsh.org, for information, the bulletin, and to sign up to receive Flock Notes. Our accountant, Karen Kuzemka, is in the Parish Office from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The rest of the Office and School is closed. Please contact staff via emails listed on page two. To reach Father David or Father Cezary, please call 301-622-3935.

Thank you for your continued support of our Parish. You may have received a letter from the Archdiocese of Washington regarding a new way to support your Parish during this time. We have been informed that any monies designated for St. John's and sent to the Archdiocese as a result of the Archbishop's letter will be forwarded to our Parish. Mail is coming to the Rectory. If you need to stop by to leave any papers, you may come by the Kazista Center at any time. Envelopes will go through the front door of the Kazista Center and they will be retrieved. Please keep safe.

How to Keep Informed of SJB Parish News

Flock Notes: Visit our SJB website, www.sjbssparish.org, and on the first page, enter an email address to receive Flock Notes through email.

Bulletin: Visit our website bulletin page at <https://www.sjbssparish.org/bulletins> to access the latest SJB bulletin. To have a link to the latest SJB bulletin sent directly to your email from our bulletin printer (FATA), visit <https://www.fataonline.com/bulletins/StJohntheBaptistSilverSpring> and enter your email address. (May need to copy the link into your webpage browser.)

Previous Bulletins: Previous bulletins can be viewed by visiting <https://www.sjbssparish.org/bulletins> and selecting a bulletin date.

SJB Parish 'Drive Out Hunger' Food Drive

The SJB Parish Food Drive started Saturday, April 25, and will continue on the first and third Saturday morning of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Please drive to the table in front of the Lyon Center and as you stay safe in your car, just pop your trunk or tailgate and your donation will be unloaded. Dry goods are preferred. If you'd like to offer your financial support in addition to, or instead of food items, then please make your donation at <https://www.paypal.me/KofCCouncil11106Food>. All financial donations are used to purchase food items. Food donations will be distributed to the Manna Food Bank and the St. Camillus Food Bank. The next food donation drop-off dates are May 2 & May 16. Thank you for your generosity and please help spread the word on this vital outreach. This Food Drive is being organized by the SJB Men's Group and SJB Knights of Columbus. If you have a question or need more information, please email Rob Farrell at ROB@sjbknight.com

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.

Support the SJB Community Fund

I pray that all are well and staying safe. Many people have asked how they can help others while in quarantine. As you may know, the SJB Knights of Columbus and SJB Men's Group have organized a food drive at SJB. This gives those who can venture out an opportunity to donate non-perishable food to help those in need. During this time, requests for assistance are still coming in. Since we can't frequent our favorite shopping outlets, salons, and dine-in restaurants, consider making a donation of the money you would have spent on gas or non-essential but enjoyable treats to the Community Fund. Even though utility companies are not disconnecting services and most landlords are not evicting tenants, the bills continue to grow. Once this stay-at-home directive is lifted people will have to pay those bills. Also, the agencies our Community

Fund support are still assisting people.

A woman came to the Rectory last week seeking assistance with her rent. She was a home health care aide who lost her job during the pandemic. In speaking with her, she shared with me the anxiety she has over paying her rent.

I told her I was not sure what we could do, but I would call her once I knew what would be available. She was so happy to know someone was listening and that some help may be available. She is one of many in our community who are wrestling with the new reality. Any and every donation goes directly to those most in need. Thank you for your ongoing generosity. Stay well, safe, and blessed!

From Cynthia Norris



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.

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.



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.

Mystical Word

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

There is nothing separating us from God. The life of the resurrection is a life of no separation from God, of living in, with, as God here and now. In truth, there are no obstacles to enjoying divine oneness. But the hard reality is we let everything become an obstacle to God. Just as Jesus gave up his own divine self, we are to do the same, namely, perform a total self-surrender (even of the holy self). This is precisely what we'd rather not do, for ours is the age of "I do what I want when I want with whomever I want." Personal choice, directing my own life, is at odds with surrender. In fact, we may not meditate because we fear being dissolved in God, drowning in the abyss of God, or being annihilated in the divine nothingness. Oddly enough, that is precisely what will happen! But it is our greatest bliss. In God, death yields resurrection.

To help with this, to help awaken to the life of resurrection, some of the best advice I've come across is from a contemplative teacher named David Frenette who offers this counsel: "let everything be, just as it is, in God." He writes, "perfect prayer is not to know that you are praying: not to know that you are praying means that you let go of thinking about how to pray. You let go of self-reflecting about what you are doing. You do not rely on a thought, concept, image of God. You are not trapped in relating dualistically to God only as an other. The prayer that is perfect, in which there is no realization of self or self-reflection about anything, even that you are praying, begins when there is nothing— no word, thought, symbol— in your prayer...in union, God is no thing— not an object of the mind, a thought, or a dualistic experience. In union you realize how God abides in you as the ground from which all things, all objects, all thoughts, and all experiences come. In union there is nothing to hold onto, nothing to claim as your own, nothing that the intellect, memory, or will can affix to, especially the dualistic experience of God as something outside you."

The all that is nothing is the effulgent ground of being from which all things are birthed. As such, there is no separation from God, ever. Deepening our life in God, many attachments fall away, "so too does the



subject- object way of relating, knowing, and being...the self-subject and thought-object dualistic ways of relating are replaced in your conscious experience by the Trinitarian life of God, which is not a dualistic experience and does not even manifest interiorly as a dualistic structure of consciousness...God is a mystery that cannot be contained in dualistic experience or thought. God is sacred nothingness...you lose the awareness of God as a thing, an object of your mind."

This dualistic mind is the central obstacle. Frenette continues, "The greatest hindrance to realizing your union with God is the thought that you are separate from God. Saying this is important, for speaking about the sacred nothingness of pure contemplation may engender an attitude in which you try to get rid of thoughts or go beyond some state of mind. Actually, nothing is an obstacle to God's love in pure contemplation. At this level of prayer, concern about things and thoughts and what to do merely re-stimulates the dualistic structures of consciousness. So the best disposition for pure contemplation is to let everything be— all thoughts, all reflections, all effort, all lack of effort, all suffering, all bliss, everything. Let everything be, just as it is, in God." This is one of the best ways to practice the Gospel in everyday life. One scripture it rests on is Acts 17:28: "In him we live and move and have our being." Frenette reflects on this line: "This is not just saying that God is within you as the ground of being beyond passing thoughts. This intuition is not just implying that God is in ordinary life. It says that all of human experience and life, inner and outer, is in God...God is not in any one place. God is not any one thing."

Frenette clearly names why we hinder the life of resurrection: "It seems the reason we avoid this soul-hunger far too long in our lives is because unconsciously we know where it is going to lead: to our dissolution...meditation teaches us how to embrace the presence and action of God amid the regrets, worries, chaos, and messiness— and equally with the joys, achievements, and triumphs...in the contemplative silence...one discovers that there is nothing between God and oneself, and that to embrace this 'nothingness' is everything."

If you ever have any comments regarding Mystical Word, you are most welcome to contact L. J. Milone.