



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

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

Sunday, May 10, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter

This week's readings: Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7 Psalm 33 1 Peter 2:4-9 John 14:1-12



Today's Gospel comes from the Last Supper where Thomas protests, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus responds that he is the way. The disciples didn't understand what he was talking about.

As the disciples look back at these words from the point of view of the resurrection and ascension of the Lord, they come into focus. The kingdom of God, it seems, is not so much a place as a relationship with the dynamic in-dwelling trinity of God. The question is not "where?" but "who?" and the answer is Jesus.

The opening words of today's Gospel are addressed to us as well as the disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God, have faith also in me." This was not an easy concept at that time. Jesus was crucified for, among other things, blasphemy. But early Christians believed in Jesus. They had faith in Jesus. Their example is there for all of us.

Next week's readings - Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8 Psalm 66 1 Peter 3:15-18 John 14:15-21

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

CHAPTER TWO – *The Gospel of Creation* VI. The Common Destination of Goods



Pope Francis begins this section by noting that the earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone. He quickly admits, however, that it's a complicated matter. He quotes Saint John Paul II:

The Church does indeed defend the legitimate right to private property, but she also teaches no less clearly that there is always a social mortgage on all private property, in order that goods may serve the general purpose that God gave them.

Consequently, it is not in accord with God's plan that this gift be used in such a way that its benefits favour (sic) only a few.

The Pope notes that the rich and the poor have equal dignity, and have the right to equal opportunities. Quoting the bishops of Paraguay, he writes that rural people must have access to means of technical education, credit, insurance, and markets. The bishops of New Zealand asked what the commandment, "Thou shall not kill," means when "twenty percent of the world's population consumes resources at a rate that robs the poor nations and future generation of what they need to survive." Much food for thought for those of us who are so blessed!

Next week: VII. The Gaze of Jesus

Update on the Status of the Parish Office

Please visit our website, www.sjbssparish.org, for information, the bulletin, and to sign up to receive Flocknotes. 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 below. 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. Envelopes will go through the front door of the Kazista Center and they will be retrieved. Please keep safe.

Visit www.adw.org/coronavirus for the latest updates from Archbishop Gregory and the Archdiocese of Washington. Archbishop Gregory has issued a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass during this time to all parishioners of the Archdiocese of Washington.

What is a Dispensation m?

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.

Mass Intentions (May 11 - May 16)

- Monday - Msgr. Lyon (SJB Parishioners)
- Elizabeth Hughes (G. DeGeorge)
- Tuesday - Fr. Neil Ward (SJB Parishioners)
- Mrs. Maria Isabel Pelaez (Parishioners)
- Wednesday - Bishop Curlin (SJB Parishioners)
- All Souls in Purgatory (Parishioner)
- Thursday - Dcn. John Cermak (SJB Parishioners)
- John Tseronis (Family)
- Friday - Melody Kokoszka (Parishioners)
- Jim Castellan (Kerley Family)
- Saturday - Paul Rothberg -L- (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 24 Bulletin & Website deadline
Friday, May 15, at 9:00 a.m.

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

From Our Pastor's Desk



Dear Parishioners,

I read the comics on May 4th and was humored yet deeply moved by the Family Circus cartoon. It depicted a little girl saying night prayers and asking God to let her grandmother know that she was saving a special hug for her. Over these weeks of Easter, I have spoken to parishioners who are grandparents. The sentiments expressed by the little girl are as strong in the hearts of all our grandparents. Let us pray that we will be able to return to the spontaneous hug and kiss of our families soon.

General news from the Parish Office is that we have been approved for the Payroll Payback Plan (PPP) which includes payroll expenses for the Church and School, plus major utilities. The monies have not yet been credited to our account. We await additional clarifications from the Archdiocese of Washington. The state of shut down in Maryland is still in force and we have been given the outline by our Governor concerning the three phases for reopening of the State. Keeping informed by access to the State communications is important for all of us. We continue to reach out to all our parishioners through the Web, Flocknote, Bulletin, YouTube, Zoom, Facebook and by telephone. Parishioners do make it to the parish grounds to pray, pause and renew themselves in the natural beauty of this special season at the various outdoor shrines on our property. We continue to be available for the Sacrament of Confession by meeting near both statues of Mary at the main entrance of the Church. Please call 301-622-3935 to arrange a Confession. I am very moved by the number of individuals who make it a part of their day to drive into our parish, stop before the main door of the Church and pray, gazing at the lighted Tabernacle, and then leave. This simple act of faith and devotion is truly inspiring.

A few weeks ago, I shared that this was a strange Lent and Easter. It continues to be. However, I hope that you have made some time to read from the Acts of the Apostles how we began to respond individually to the truth that the Lord Jesus is risen! Reflecting on the words of St. Luke who wrote the Acts can help all of us be drawn closer to Jesus. His words spoken at Easter can remove all anxiety from us: "Peace be with you."

Father David

SJB Exposition/Mass Live Streamed

All are invited to join Fr. Cezary as he streams Mass every morning at 9 a.m. on our St. John the Baptist Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/sjbcc>.

The Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be live streamed on Fridays from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Reconciliation/Confession

As it has been printed in the bulletin over the past number of weeks, Confessions are available by both priests by calling the SJB emergency line, 301-622-3935.

Fr. Cezary is available for Confession by calling 301-622-1122 and leaving a message on his voicemail at extension 142.

Social Concerns

Cynthia Norris, 301-622-1122, social_concerns@sjbssparish.org

Community Fund update

Due to the COVID19 pandemic restrictions, donations towards the Community Fund have been reduced by 75%. We have had to modify our grants to some agencies and suspending (*) others.

Agency Grants suspended:

Centro Tepeyac
Colesville Clothes Closet
Colesville Meals on Wheels
EMEAN
Gabriel Network
MUSST
Catholic Charities Medical Clinic

Agency Grants continued:

MUM
St. Camillus
Shepherd's Table
Chrisma Charities
TASSC

You can support agencies by sending your financial donations to St. John the Baptist at 12319 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20904; via Faith Direct through our website, www.sjbssparish.org; or by sending them directly to the agencies.

Please see our website, www.sjbssparish.org, for ways to help feed those in need.

How to Keep Informed of SJB Parish News

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

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

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.

Thank you to all who have sent their weekly donations to the Parish Office. It is greatly appreciated.

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, 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 will be Saturday, 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

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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

Saint Damien de Veuster of Moloka'i's Story - Feast Day May 10

When Joseph de Veuster was born in Tremelo, Belgium, in 1840, few people in Europe had any firsthand knowledge of leprosy, Hansen's disease. By the time he died at the age of 49, people all over the world knew about this disease because of him. They knew that human compassion could soften the ravages of this disease.

Forced to quit school at age 13 to work on the family farm, Joseph entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary six years later, taking the name of a fourth-century physician and martyr. When his brother Pamphile, a priest in the same congregation, fell ill and was unable to go to the Hawaiian Islands as assigned, Damien quickly volunteered in his place. In May 1864, two months after arriving in his new mission, Damien was ordained a priest in Honolulu and assigned to the island of Hawaii.

In 1873, he went to the Hawaiian government's leper colony on the island of Moloka'i, set up seven years earlier. Part of a team of four chaplains taking that assignment for three months each year, Damien soon volunteered to remain permanently, caring for the people's physical, medical, and spiritual needs. In time, he became their most effective advocate to obtain promised government support.

Soon the settlement had new houses and a new church, school and orphanage. Morale improved considerably. A few years later, he succeeded in getting the Franciscan Sisters of Syracuse, led by Mother Marianne Cope, to help staff this colony in Kalaupapa.

Damien contracted Hansen's disease and died of its complications. As requested, he was buried in Kalaupapa, but in 1936 the Belgian government succeeded in having his body moved to Belgium. Part of Damien's body was returned to his beloved Hawaiian brothers and sisters after his beatification in 1995.

When Hawaii became a state in 1959, it selected Damien as one of its two representatives in the Statuary Hall at the US Capitol. Damien was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 11, 2009.

Source: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-damien-de-veuster-of-moloka-i/>



Mystical Word

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

To experience the Resurrection is to enjoy nothing but God. Do we, though? Do we experience the Resurrection, knowing nothing but God? A story can help: He came to Meister Eckhart in friar's robes. He spoke Christian language. "For years I have been seeking God in Christ. I have sought the divine presence everywhere: mountain tops, the immensity of the desert, the silence of the monastery, and the slums of the poor." "Have you found him?" Meister Eckhart asked. "No. I have not. Have you?" What could Meister Eckhart say? The evening sun was sending shafts of golden light into the room. Sparrows were twittering on a nearby tree. In the distance, one could hear the thrum of the market. Brother cook's evening meal of vegetable stew wafted its aroma into the open. Children played in the town square as church bells rung from a nearby tower. The friary cat, Brother Barnabus, purred and jumped onto the Meister's lap...and yet this friar could sit there and say he had not found God.

There is nothing but God! God is all around us, but this seeker could not see it. God is everywhere in everything. We cannot escape God. The psalmist sings in Psalm 139: "Where can I go from your spirit? From your presence, where can I flee?" St. Paul recognized God as the one "in whom we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). There is nothing but God. The scriptures testify to this great and glorious truth, but, like the seeker in the above story, we don't see "nothing but God." If we imagine being dropped into a desert with only sand for miles and miles around, we have some idea what it would be like to see nothing but God. How could we miss a reality so obvious and omnipresent that it is more present and obvious than sand in a desert?

A book came out recently titled *Emotional Inflammation* by Lise Van Susteren and Stacey Colino. Lise is a psychiatrist with a practice on Georgetown. They believe most everyone suffers from emotional inflammation: "Am I spending a substantial part of my time feeling unusually stressed out and on edge or anxious about the future? Do I feel like I'm being bombarded with bad or alarming news or other people's mercurial moods? Am I experiencing emotional



whiplash as my feelings swing from sadness to fear to anger or hopelessness in the span of minutes or hours when I hear about the latest natural disaster, human rights crisis, or political debacle? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you're hardly alone." They say that our day-to-day experience "may be marked by a sense of agitation, foreboding, spiraling negative thoughts, sleep disturbances...worry, disturbing and intrusive thoughts, hyperreactivity, hypervigilance, grief, and nightmares." And, they wrote this before the outbreak of Covid-19! If we suffer from any of these symptoms they offer a diagnosis, namely that this is "how it feels to live in today's world."

Meister Eckhart would wholeheartedly agree with the diagnosis of Van Susteren and Colino. He calls this condition of emotional inflammation, "multiplicity." Van Susteren and Colino, while acknowledging personal psychiatric issues, emphasize how the frantic pace of life drains us of life, joy, and attention. For Eckhart, this lack of a conscious anchor comes from the multiple things pressing in on us for our attention. This not only causes us misery and "emotional inflammation," but also obscures God. Eckhart preaches, "Whoever really and truly has God, he has him everywhere, in the street and in company with everyone, just as much as in church or in solitary places or in his cell. But if a man really has God, and has only God, then no one can hinder him. Why? Because he has only God, and his intention is towards God alone, and all things become for him nothing but God...And so, just as no multiplicity can disturb God, nothing can disturb or fragment this man." Whether through multiplicity or emotional inflammation, we can become scattered, losing ourselves in distractions. We lose our center of life, who is God.

The remedy is to center on God alone. We must set our hearts on God alone and forget self. Without concern for ourselves, we consent to dissolving in the merciful nothingness of God. We let self-consciousness fall away in order to be occupied solely with God. We love, bless, praise, and contemplate the incomprehensible mystery of God always and everywhere. To enjoy nothing but God, to experience the Risen life of Christ, we have to die.

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