



SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
945 Main Road, P.O. Box 3328
Westport, Massachusetts 02790-0702

508-636-2251

EMAIL: stjb@sprintout.net

WEBSITE: stjohnthebaptistwestport.org

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 4:00PM

Sunday 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00AM

Sacrament of Baptism

1st Sunday of the Month, Please contact the Rectory to make arrangements.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays at 3:30 P.M. or by calling the Rectory for an appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage

Arrangements to be made at least six months in advance.

Holy Communion at Home

Notify us of any parishioner who is unable to attend Mass. Eucharistic Ministers are available to visit weekly.

OUR MISSION

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church is a family of believers in Christ. As sacramental people, filled with God's love, we strive to provide a welcoming community, supporting one another on our journey to salvation. We are committed to each other in a spirit of compassion and love while promoting hope, healing and evangelization in our midst.

Co-Pastors: Fr. Paul Bernier
Fr. Christopher Peschel

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Paula Brown

Music Director: Mr. Scott Simpkin



Saturday December 5, 2020
4:00 PM Joseph Travers
& Alice Travers Russell (Family)

Sunday December 6, 2020
8:00AM Joanne Branco (Husband)
For the People of the Parish
10:00AM Antone Vieira (Family)
John Cronin (Pimentel)
Francis & Corinne Crape (Daughter)
Ann Marie Russell
(Russell & Belliveau Family)

Monday December 7, 2020
~ *St. Ambrose*
8:00 AM Joey Aquilia (Family)

Tuesday December 8, 2020
~ *Immaculate Conception*
8:00 AM Teri Gumkowski
(Ralph & Nancy Smith)
7:00 PM For the People of the Parish

No Mass on Wednesday

Thursday December 10, 2020
8:00 AM Romeo Roy

Saturday December 12, 2020
4:00 PM Mary Agnus & Thomas Henry
(Colleen Polselli)

Sunday December 13, 2020
8:00AM Ryan Pavao (Family)
10:00AM Bob Condon (Claire Sullivan)
Arlene Monarch;
Birthday Remembrance (Family)

**We have opened up the 2021 Mass Book.
Please contact the rectory to book your
Masses.**

**We also have the Sanctuary Candles and the
Candle at the Foot of Mary available.**

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE

Burns this week

For the People of the Parish



Due to Holiday printing deadlines,
11/29 Collections will be posted next week.

Thank you to all who donated to the Annual
Collections for a total of \$19,053.29!

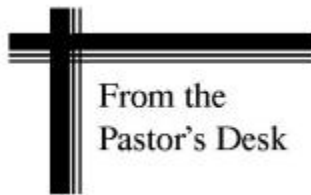
**May God Bless you for generosity, thank you
for your continued support!!**

*Kindly take a moment to pray for the
intentions, the welfare, the healing and
salvation of...*

**Betty Zuber,
Michael Marchand, Shawny Smith, Linda,
Richard, Ken, Thomas Marques, Ray Richard,
Rachel S., Yanni Spanos, Sydney Neronha, Judith
Fralic, Mary Alice Fast, Bob Da Silva, Bob Condon,
Mike Coleman, Holly Rodrigues, Pat Beland,
Bruce Reynolds, Janet Mohr, Deborah Silvia,
Devyn Arruda, Brenna, Margaret Kelley, Marie
Drago, John Massa, Susan Tremblay, Stacey,
Katherine Buschman, Kerri Martel,
Carlos Silveira, Miguel DeSouza, Floris,
Claire Sennett, Kevin Kelly, John, Edward Polgar,
Joseph F. Heitzler, Jennifer Lavoie,
Jim O'Hearn, Patrick Masterson,
Dennis Martel, Kathy,
Jeff Noetzel, Muriel & Henry Navarette,
Anne Sennett Bahm, Maureen Stewart,
Paul Desmarais, Randy Carvalho, and
Our Service Men and Women**

THE CANDLE at the

***Statue of The Sacred Heart
is perpetually burning in memory of
Sarah Valentine***



Humanity's story, as we well know, begins in Eden, where we enjoyed perfect relationship with God, with ourselves, with one another, with creation. But a snake and an apple later, and most everything had been lost. This rather inauspicious origin story of the human race ends with the dramatic final lines of Genesis, chapter 3:

“So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden... And after God drove them out, God placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden, cherubim and a flaming sword swinging back and forth, to guard the way back to the Tree of Life.”

It is that penultimate phrase – “to guard the way back” – that makes me wince. It is such a terrible, definitive separation – God not only casts Adam and Eve out from their home, but the way back is definitively closed.

So, what is our human condition, based on such a story? It is one of “separation,” “homelessness,” “alienation.” A life of “wandering” and “seeking,” Of longing for what we once had, of longing for our home – yearning for the right relationship with God, with ourselves, with one another, with Creation . . . a recovery of what we lost, a return to home.

Welcome to Advent – the season of our longing. We are a people who longs to be whole, and home, and at one again, and because we are none of these things yet, we must have a time... to groan in longing.

If the Church has been accused from time to time of repressing our deepest desires, she certainly must be acquitted in regards to Advent. For, look, at the core of our existence is separation, alienation, homelessness – AND, importantly, the longing to overcome these things.

Surely this last piece – the longing – must be present, or God would not have had the need for that cherubim with the flaming, swinging sword, preventing us from sneaking back in. Surely God knew, since He had made us in his own image and likeness, that we would spend our lives – sometimes tenaciously and heroically, sometimes lukewarmly and dejectedly – trying to get back.

This is all a way of saying what St. Augustine captured in just a few words:

“Our hearts are restless, O Lord, until they rest in you.”

It seems critical that we have this season of Advent, a season for an open recognition of our deepest longings. For if we do not recognize them from time to time – and see what it really is that we are hoping for – we run the risk of trying to fill our agitations with all kinds of things that will not do the job.

The season of Advent is a time to acknowledge, both that these longings exist, but also that these incomplete parts of our lives are precisely the places where God has promised to act, and to open up a way home. Happy Advent! Come, Lord Jesus!

Westport Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

2:00 PM - St. John the Baptist (Early Mass Time Dispensation from Bishop for 2020)

4:00 PM - St. John the Baptist

5:00 PM - Our Lady of Grace (Hall)

5:30 PM - St. George

10:00 PM - St. John the Baptist

12:00 (Midnight) - Our Lady of Grace (Church)

Christmas Day

8:30 AM - St. George

9:30 AM - St. John the Baptist

10:00 AM - Our Lady of Grace (Church)

10:30 AM - St. George

Advent
Season of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy!

**THE CANDLE at the
FOOT OF MARY**

Is burning this week in memory of

Toots Holden



**OUR PARISH GIVING TREE
TRADITION**



Please get an ornament as you leave Mass from the
Hospitality Minister.

As in the past we are donating items to
**Sacred Heart Nursing Home &
St. Vincent's Home**

**PLEASE TAPE THE ORNAMENT TO THE
GIFT, DO NOT WRAP**
as the gifts need to be sterilized when they get to the
facilities.

We are also collecting for
Cardinal Medeiros Residence
Please place Monetary Donations in the Collection
Basket, marked Cardinal Medeiros

Westport Friends Helping Friends – Please place
Lees Gift Cards or Monetary donations in collection
basket, marked, Westport Friends

THANK YOU your donations will brighten the lives
of many; even more this year.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

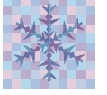
Envelopes for Christmas altar flower donations are
included with your budget envelopes. Please write the
name of the person to be remembered clearly and return
by **December 20th.**

If you are not attending Mass at this time, please
contact the rectory if you are interested in making a
donation.

The memorial list will be posted online and at the en-
trance of the church.



WINTER REMINDER



WEEKDAY MORNING MASS

**WILL BE CANCELLED IF SCHOOL IS
CANCELLED and/or
DELAYED IN WESTPORT, DUE TO
INCLEMENT WEATHER.**

***Schools will not be actually cancelling school, as
they will be remote on Snow Days; which means we
will not Have Mass on those days.**

Advent is a great time to celebrate the
Sacrament of Penance. This Sacrament is available on
Saturdays at 3:30 PM or by calling the rectory for an
appointment.

A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

Knights of Columbus

Adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis

O Mary, you always brighten our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at
the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain while remaining
steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother, you know what we need,
and we are confident you will provide for us
as at Cana in Galilee. Intercede for us with your Son
Jesus, the Divine Physician,
for those who have fallen ill, for those who are
vulnerable ,and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with
protecting the health and safety of others
and for those who are tending to the sick
and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who took upon himself our
sufferings and carried our sorrows,
so as to lead us, through the Cross,
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

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