

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

**508-636-2251**

**EMAIL: [stjb@sprintout.net](mailto:stjb@sprintout.net)**

**WEBSITE: [stjohnthebaptistwestport.org](http://stjohnthebaptistwestport.org)**

**Mass Schedule**

Saturday Vigil 4:00PM  
Sunday 8:00 and 10:00AM

**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.

**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 January 2, 2021**  
**4:00 PM** For the People of the Parish

**Sunday January 3, 2021**  
**8:00AM** Joanne Branco (Husband)  
**10:00AM** Teri Gumkowski  
 (Bev & Roger Robidoux)

**Monday January 4, 2021**  
 ~*St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*  
**8:00 AM** Joseph Switzer  
 (Shirley O'Connor)  
 Ursula Russo; 6mos Remembrance  
 (Family)

**Tuesday January 5, 2021**  
 ~*St. John Neumann*  
**8:00 AM** John J. Buckley (Family)

**Thursday January 7, 2021**  
**8:00 AM** Frank Sherman, Sr.

**Saturday January 9, 2021**  
**4:00 PM** Rhea & Normand Proulx  
 (Sister; Joan Marques)

**Sunday January 10, 2021**  
**8:00AM** Shirley Lynch (Family)  
 Rosa Silva (Sons)  
**10:00AM** Edmund & Mary Pavao  
 (Daughter)



December 20.....\$1,005.00

Due to the printing deadline and Holiday counting schedule, the 12/27 Collection will be printed next weekend.

**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...*

**Jim Cawley, 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, 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**

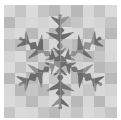
**An Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment 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.

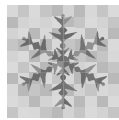
Amen

***THE CANDLE  
 at the***

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



**WINTER REMINDER  
WEEKDAY MORNING MASS  
WILL BE CANCELLED IF  
SCHOOL IS  
CANCELLED and/or DELAYED IN WEST-  
PORT 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.**

**Please call the answering service and/or check the Facebook Page for cancellation notice, also.**

**WINDOWS AND DOORS of the Church are to remain open during Mass, please dress accordingly.**

**Please DO NOT shut the windows during Mass.**

**Please leave your kneelers down after Mass, this help the sanitizers identify where parishioners were sitting.**

**FROM THE PASTORS DESK**

This Sunday we celebrate the Epiphany, the 12th day of Christmas! This date (traditionally Jan. 6th, but now moved to the closest Sunday to Jan 6th) commemorates the visit of the Magi, the three kings, to Jesus. I want to share with you all some excerpts of one of the most beautiful reflections I've ever heard for this event.

Why did the Magi set off from afar to go to Bethlehem? The answer has to do with the mystery of the "star" which they saw "in the East" and which they recognized as the star of the "King of the Jews", that is to say, the sign of the birth of the Messiah (Mt 2: 2). So their journey was inspired by a powerful hope, strengthened and guided by the star, which led them towards the King of the Jews, towards the kingship of God himself. This is the meaning behind our journey: to serve the kingship of God in the world.

The Magi set out because of a deep desire which prompted them to leave everything and begin a journey. It was as though they had always been waiting for that star. It was as if the journey had always been a part of their destiny, and was finally about to begin. Dear friends, this is the mystery of God's call, the mystery of vocation. It is part of the life of every Christian, but it is particularly evident in those whom Christ asks to leave everything in order to follow him more closely.

We experience the beauty of our calls from God in moments of grace which could be defined as "falling in love". The soul is filled with amazement, which makes us ask in prayer: "Lord, why me?". But love knows no "why"; it is a free gift to which one responds with the gift of self.

The better you know Jesus the more his mystery attracts you. The more you discover him, the more you are moved to seek him. This is a movement of the Spirit which lasts throughout life, and which makes the spiritual journey a time of immense promise, a true "springtime".

When the Magi came to Bethlehem, "going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him" (Mt 2: 11). Here at last was the long-awaited moment: their encounter with Jesus.

"Going into the house": this house in some sense represents the Church. In order to find the Saviour, one has to enter the house, which is the Church.

"They fell down and worshiped him... and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh" (Mt 2: 11-12). Here is the culmination of the whole journey: encounter becomes adoration; it blossoms into an act of faith and love which acknowledges in Jesus, born of Mary, the Son of God made man.

How can we fail to see prefigured in this gesture of the Magi the faith of Simon Peter and of the other Apostles, the faith of Paul and of all the saints who have graced the 2,000 years of the Church's history? The secret of holiness is friendship with Christ and faithful obedience to his will. St Ambrose said: "Christ is everything for us"; and St Benedict warned against putting anything before the love of Christ. May Christ be everything for you.

On their homeward journey, the Magi surely had to deal with dangers, weariness, disorientation, doubts. The star was no longer there to guide them! The light was now within them. Their task was to guard and nourish it in the constant memory of Christ, of his Holy Face, of his ineffable Love.

Here is the secret of your mission! It is kept in the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who watches over each one of you with a mother's love. Have recourse to Mary, often and with confidence.

Blessed Epiphany and Happy New Year!

-Fr Chris

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