

# SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

CATHOLIC CHURCH • NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT



## MISSION STATEMENT

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church is a community of baptized people who have, as their common goals: to love, model, teach, serve, and celebrate Christ in our lives. Committed to the Eucharist, our Bread of Life, and guided by the Holy Spirit, we are dedicated to service to God's people and center our faith-life around liturgical celebrations, the Gospel, and prayer. Based on the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, we reach out to all people lovingly, acknowledging their uniqueness and dignity, and treat all with respect, tolerance, and acceptance, having the love of Jesus as our core.

## EUCCHARISTIC LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil  
5:30 PM

Sunday  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Monday through Thursday  
9:00 AM

Holy Day Mass  
(refer to schedule on inside cover)

Eucharistic Adoration  
Wednesdays 4:00 PM-5:00 PM

*Gluten-free hosts are available upon request. Visitors or parishioners need to notify the Pastor or Deacon prior to the particular Mass they are attending.*

## RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 4:30 PM-5:00 PM and by appointment.

## VISITORS

Welcome. Thank you for joining us for our Eucharistic Celebration. Please know that we have a long tradition of kneeling after every Mass to say a brief prayer for vocations.

## NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome new parishioners to St. John's and ask that they register at the parish office. Parishioners with new addresses or who are moving should also contact the parish office.



## 23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"—that is, "Be opened!" - Mk 7:32-34

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1996, 1970 CCC.

GLPI



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The Congregation of Holy Cross Priests and Brothers have offered continuous service for over 60 years to the Diocese of Burlington and the Bennington area.

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

EMAIL: [saintjohnchurch1@gmail.com](mailto:saintjohnchurch1@gmail.com)  
PHONE: 802.447.7504 | FAX: 802.442.6620



## Mass Intentions

And Liturgical Celebrations for 9/4-9/12

### Sat./Sun., 9/4-9/5 – Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:30 p.m. For our parishioners

9:00 a.m. Theresa DeMasi by Linda Meskun

11:00 a.m. Janet Paturzo (birthday remembrance)  
by her daughter Lisa

### Monday, 9/6 – Weekday

9:00 a.m. Henrietta Billow by her adoring family

### Tuesday, 9/7 – Weekday

9:00 a.m. Special Intention

### Wednesday, 9/8 – The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

No Mass

### Thursday, 9/9 – Saint Peter Claver

No Mass

### Friday, 9/10 – Weekday

No Mass

### Sat./Sun., 9/11-9/12 – Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:30 p.m. Joseph & Anna Cross by their daughters

9:00 a.m. Jane & Clifton Dietrick by the Belnap Family

11:00 a.m. For our parishioners

#### Please Note

The priests of the diocese will be  
at a meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, therefore  
the 9:00 Mass will not be celebrated on those days.

*Please remember all our priests in your prayers.*



Then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to  
him, “*Ephphatha!*”—that is, “Be opened!”

And immediately the man’s ears were opened, his  
speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.

- Mk 7:34-35

#### Readings for the week of September 5, 2021

Sunday: Is 35:4-7a/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 [1b]/Jas 2:1  
-5/Mk 7:31-37

Monday: Col 1:24—2:3/Ps 62:6-7, 9 [8]/Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday: Col 2:6-15/Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11 [9]/Lk  
6:12-19

Wednesday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c  
[Is 61:10]/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

Thursday: Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 [6]/Lk  
6:27-38

Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8,  
11 [cf. 5]/Lk 6:39-42

Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7  
[2]/Lk 6:43-49

Next Sunday: Is 50:5-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [9]/Jas  
2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35

## Gospel Reflection

### Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the time we are born into this world until we die, our human radar picks up signals about how to respond to life. What we picked up on when we were very young carries an even greater power. The messages we receive and process tell us what we are “supposed” to do with our feelings, how to understand and cope with disappointment, anxiety, failure, death, illness, and what to expect out of life. As life unfolds for us, these radar messages kick in and resonate in us at very deep levels. Sometimes what we have learned is helpful and sometimes it is not. The stories we have been told, especially when we are young, about how life is best lived and how to negotiate its pain carry a heavy weight.

Life can be challenging and frightening. Sometimes, it really hurts to be a human being. It also can be quite unpredictable and, at times, unfair. We face our vulnerability and brokenness of all kinds: physical, emotional, and spiritual. It doesn’t take much for life to quickly fall apart. What we knew to be familiar and true is gone and something we relied upon, physically, emotionally, or spiritually, can be taken away. It is hard to confront our limitations and sit with our incompleteness. Often, life hurts us so much that we find ourselves sitting in a pool of sadness, not sure what we are supposed to do. It is particularly hard when the signals we have inherited tell us that we need to be successful in what we do, and we have to avoid life’s unfairness. We can feel like a failure, wondering what precisely we did to deserve this fate, or ruminate about what we did not do correctly. But it’s really not about us. We are part of a bigger picture and a much more fascinating story!

If we cease doing battle with life’s incompleteness and see ourselves, as God does, on a journey toward wholeness and completeness we can better accept our disappointments and stand firm. The prophets told us, and Jesus reassured us: Be strong! Fear not! Sometimes we have to update our stories and replace them with newer, more accurate ones. When we make God’s story our own and tune our radar into His voice, what we hear is all about restoration, healing, and rejuvenation! This is true even when we think we have hit rock bottom and can go no further. There is always hope. Remember the words of Julian of Norwich: God made us, God loves us, and God keeps us. Now, listen to God when He says, “be opened!” Be healed and allow your stories to change.

#### Sunday Summary

**Isaiah 35:4-7a** God restores all that has been lost and makes the barren situation fertile.

**Psalms 146:7, 8-9, 9-10** God is on the side of the hungry and oppressed, and champions the just and the needy.

**James 2:1-5** Worldly folk favor the rich over the poor, but God gives the Kingdom to the lowly.

**Mark 7:31-37** Jesus restores both hearing and speech, which astonishes the crowds.



Heavenly Father, Creator of All,  
 You have created the  
 human person as good.  
 You have placed us in the  
 world as one human family,  
 as sisters and brothers.  
 We pray today for all victims  
 of violence across the world,  
 for the healing of their mind and body,  
 for their mourning family members,  
 for the repose of their souls.  
 Jesus, You have told us to  
 love our enemies,  
 and to pray for those  
 who persecute us.  
 Give us the strength and  
 courage to forgive.  
 Remove all lingering desire for revenge.  
 Holy Spirit, reveal to us  
 the mercy of God.  
 Give us the gift of Your peace  
 that surpasses all understanding.  
 Amen.



### St. John's Sodality

The Ladies' Sodality will resume their monthly meetings in Father DeMasi Hall beginning Thursday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m. All women of the parish are invited to join.

### Eucharistic Ministers Needed

We are in need of Eucharistic Ministers for the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Training will be provided. Scheduling is done at your convenience. If you are able to assist with this Ministry, please contact Diane Granger at 518-366-8642 or email at dianeg1229@gmail.com.

### Eucharistic Adoration Wednesdays from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

“Through Mary the cause of our joy you discover that no where on earth are you more welcomed, no where on earth are you more loved, than by Jesus, living and truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament... He is really there in Person waiting just for you.” –*Saint Teresa of Calcutta*

*“As we walk the road of our spiritual journey,  
 let us not miss the opportunity to offer a smile and a word  
 of kindness to every person we encounter,  
 for we are welcoming the presence of Christ among us.”*



### Registration for Faith Formation, First Communion, and Confirmation

Registration is now open for fall enrollment for Faith Formation, First Communion, and Confirmation. Sacred Heart St. Francis and St. John the Baptist church programs are now merged at all levels.

**For grades 1 - 5 and children 3 - 6 years old**, classes will meet Sundays after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart St. Francis from 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. beginning Sunday, September 26.

**Confirmation is for grades 6 through 8**, and will meet twice a month on Sundays from 4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. beginning Sunday, August 29.

Registration is online at <https://sacredheartsaintfrancis.org/registration-forms> for both parishes. You may register your family on one form. We ask that a registration fee of \$10 per student or \$25 per family be submitted. Payment can be made in one of the following ways:

- Online by clicking the donate button and choosing “Class Registration Fees”
- In person on the first day of class
- Mail to: Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales, Faith Formation Registration, 238 Main Street, Bennington, VT 05201

Please contact Kathy Murphy or Mary Drew at 442-3141 with any questions.



We are very excited to open a Level II Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Atrium this fall, and we could use some help! Our needs include:

- A small low table for a prayer table
- Bookshelves: units of three or four shelves at least 10” deep
- School desks or small tables at which one or two children could work
- Woodworkers who are willing to help create materials for us
- We have a wish list of items to purchase if you would be interested in sponsoring one
- And especially your prayers! Any help with these needs would be greatly appreciated!

Classes will meet after the Sunday 9:30 a.m. Masses beginning September 26. If you know of anyone interested in Faith Formation, or could help us with our wish list, please contact Kathy Murphy at 442-3141.

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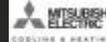
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