## St. John the Evangelist Church

57805 Main Street — Plaquemine, Louisiana 70764-2531 Phone: (225) 687-2402 — 687-3337 — Fax: 687-1587

24 Hour Prayer Line: (225) 687-1554



**Pastoral Team:** 

Rev. Gregory J. Daigle, Pastor Alfred J. Ricard, II, Deacon

Andrea Young, Coordinator of Religious Education

Donna Carville, R. C. I. A.

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Email: stjohnchurchplaq@sj.brcoxmail.com

facebook.com/pages/St John the Evangelist Catholic Church

**Parish Office Staff:** 

Medric Smith, Jr., Business Manager

Marsha Dupont, Secretary Johnette Gourgues, Secretary Susan Landry, Secretary Gary Perrault, Maintenance

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm Sunday 7:30 am 9:00 am

11:00 am

Monday (Liturgy of the Word) 7:00 am Wed., Thurs., Fri. (Mass) 7:00 am First Tuesday of the Month 6:00 pm

(Mass, Novena, Benediction and Anointing of the Sick)

All other Tuesdays - Confessions 5:30 pm (Mass and Novena) 6:00 pm

**Baptism:** Please contact the Parish Office

Marriage: Please contact the pastor a minimum of

six months before the wedding Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 3:00 pm

**December 25, 2016** — The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Today's readings are as familiar to most of us as the carols we sing and the commercials that overwhelm this holiday season. Often Christmas finds us tired, struggling with preparations and expectations. What we really want to feel is joy and peace. The stress of preparation, of waiting, is reflected in both Isaiah and Paul's letter to Titus. Luke tells us of the exhaustion that Mary and Joseph felt: a young pregnant wife and her husband, forced to travel just as she is about to give birth, unable even to find a room to stay in. It must have been miserable. They must have been afraid. In the midst of this exhaustion, misery, and fear, a child is born, a Son is given. The world is then filled with light and hope, joy and peace. In that moment they, and we, know what all the waiting has been for.

WAITING IN THE DARK Isaiah writes powerfully of the darkness and the gloom, the burden and the sacrifices that the Jews have been living with for years and years. Their waiting, their misery is deep and prolonged. Yet they continue to wait. In Paul's letter to Titus, the Christian community is also waiting, not for the birth of the Savior, but for the return of that Savior. Paul reminds us of the "blessed hope" that sustains our wait. In Luke we hear the familiar story of Mary and Joseph, the pregnancy and birth, the baby, the Son. This is the one for whom all have been waiting. His coming, long awaited, much anticipated, is real. The only reaction we are told about is that of the shepherds, and they are afraid. But they are reassured with the same words spoken to Mary by the angel who announced that she would give birth to a son, "Do not be afraid."

FAMILIARITY BREEDS CONTEMPLATION But how could we not be afraid? A young mother giving birth in a stable. Shepherds seeing angels. We do not need to be afraid because these stories are so familiar. Most of us could tell them almost word for word from memory. They are like the stories our children insist we read to them night after night long after they know every word by heart. They are familiar not just because we hear them repeated every year at Christmas but because they are the stories of our daily preparations, our lifelong waiting, our fear, exhaustion, misery, and our hope and joy. Their very familiarity means we don't have to wonder what the outcome will be. We already know. We know that despite the mean circumstances into which Mary's Son was born, her Son transforms the darkness into light. Her Son brings rejoicing. Her Son brings peace. We know that, despite our exhaustion and our fear, peace awaits us, too.

Today's Readings: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

#### **Dear Family:**

#### **Merry Christmas!**

All of our preparations since the First Sunday of Advent bring us to this celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. With patience, prayer and vigilance we have waited for Christ to come to us anew in this Christmas Season. Our Christmas Eve and Day liturgical celebrations are only the beginning. During the week we will celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family and ask for God's grace and blessing to be upon our families helping us to live in concord as per the example of Joseph, Mary and Jesus. Next Sunday as we celebrate a new calendar year, we Catholics celebrate another highlight of the Christmas Season - The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. Then, on January 8, 2017, we crown the Christmas Season with the celebration of the Epiphany when we look to Christ revealed as a light of hope and salvation for all peoples and all time. Thus, we celebrate Christmas not just as a day, but as a season where scripture and sacrament deepens our journey into the mystery of our Lord's coming in history and as a human person.

Luke's account of the birth of Jesus is one of the most familiar texts of the New Testament. The details are so familiar. This humble scene has inspired centuries of art, from great masterpieces to the school pageant. Luke situates the birth of Jesus in the course of history and in the midst of the everyday public life of secular rulers and humble shepherds alike. But this is no ordinary birth event. The child is "of the house and family of David." He is the fulfillment of God's promise that has stirred the hearts of God's people for generations. The humble surroundings point to the nature of Jesus' mission, and the future of humankind is forever changed in this night.

Some questions for reflection:

What names for the Messiah in today's readings appeal to you?

What might prevent a person from entering into the full joy of the Nativity?

If you can, listen to Handel's Messiah; what does it convey to you about this holy time?

Many thanks to all who have helped us to celebrate this great season of Joy. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Deacon Alfred Ricard and our St. John the Evangelist Parish Staff. Merry Christmas to our St. John School Community as well. Heartfelt gratitude to the School Administration, our teachers, staff, students and parents/guardians for the joyful liturgies and celebrations that graced our school to prepare for Jesus' birthday celebration.

Gratitude and blessings as well to our Iberville Parish family. For our Parish President, our Superintendent of Schools, Teachers, Staff, our current Mayor and our Mayor-elect, our Sheriff and deputies, our Police Chief and officers, our District Attorney, Judges and all who work in and for justice, Firemen and women, and to all our public servants. Christmas Blessings to you all!

The generosity of you, St. John the Evangelist Parishioners, is a blessing for our parish and community. Your work to feed the poor; to teach the Savior's way, truth and life; to prayerfully study our scriptures; to minister to the homebound and infirmed; to minister to those in prison; to comfort those in mourning; to care for widows and orphans; to serve in liturgical ministry at the celebration of the Eucharist; and your giving of financial support that we might sustain our efforts to reach out with the love of Christ to all is both a sign of hope and of the presence of Christ Jesus pouring forth the gifts of the Spirit evident in each of us. We, through the sharing of our prayer, treasure, and service bring the face of Christ to our world. Thanks for all you do.

Thanks to our staff. To Johnette, Gary, Donna, Cindy, Andrea, Marsha, Susan, Deacon Alfred Ricard, and Sue Rills. Last, not least, thanks to Medric Smith, Jr. on whom we rely for so much. Thanks to his stewardship and care over our finances, we are vigilant and respectful of your kindness and generosity. Thanks as well for his direction and preparations for the great liturgies of the season and throughout the year. His leadership of the choir has helped us to give praise to our God. His collaboration with our cantors, our organists (Jan, Alyssa & on occasion - Bill), and other musicians especially during this high season blesses us all.

I am grateful for all our parish organizations and pray that their witnessing to their faith in each of their ministries deepens the awareness that each of us can work as the face and hands of Christ in a world needing His Light! You inspire me!

This is now my fourth Christmas with you and no one is more blessed than me, for God has given you to me as family and friends to seek out and proclaim Christ together. Thank you!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Please enjoy your time with your families and know of my prayers and gratitude for you all. Don't forget about our Epiphany Concert and join us in supporting our school by attending if you can.

Peace,

Fr. Greg



#### CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE

**Christmas Eve Masses:** 

4 pm (Children's Liturgy)

3006 (Midnes 6 pm

11:15 Choir Concert — Midnight

**Christmas Day Mass: 9:00 am** 

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Saturday, Dec. 31—4:00 pm Vigil Mass Sunday, Jan. 1—7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am Masses

#### **Epiphany Concert for St. John School**

Sunday, January 8, 2017 ~ 4:00 pm St. John the Evangelist Church



Songs of the Christmas Season &
Songs to Enjoy
Featuring Rev. Gregory J. Daigle
with Bill Grimes & the Epiphany Orchestra

Tickets (\$25) may be purchased from the St. John Church and St. John School offices. Make plans now to celebrate Christmas with your loved ones and help St. John School at the same time.

#### **Nativity Scene in Church**



Our beautiful crèche with life-size Fontanini figures will be available for viewing for anyone who would like an opportunity to make a prayerful visit to our Lord and Savior.

The church will be open and lights will be on from 8:30 am until 6:00 pm beginning Monday, December 26 through Sunday, January 1 and until 4:30 pm beginning Monday, January 2 through Sunday, January 15.

#### **Knights of Columbus Fireworks Sale**

The Knights of Columbus will be selling fireworks at the KC Home on Price Street.



The fireworks will be sold Monday, December 26 through Friday, December 30 from 6:00 pm until 8:30 pm, and Saturday, December 31 from 2:00 pm until 8:30 pm.

Please support the Knights of Columbus in all the good works they do for our church and community.

#### **GROWING IN FAITH**



Join us for an eight-part Bible Study beginning Thursday, January 5, 2017 in the Parish Hall.

The study, entitled *Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John*, will be held every Thursday. Sessions offered are from 1:30 pm-3:00 pm or 6:30 pm-8:00 pm.

The cost of the study guide is \$25. You may register by calling the church office at 225.687.2402.

Our Parish Office will be closed Monday, December 26, 2016 until Monday, January 2, 2017.

#### PERPETUAL ADORATION

These words of Jesus are an excellent invitation to prayer before the Blessed Sacrament: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

Listed below are open hours in the Adoration Chapel:

-Tuesday: 3:00 am-4:00 am

- Every other Tuesday: 5:00 am-6:00 am -Wednesday: 11:00 pm-12 Midnight

-Wednesday: 11:00 pm-12 Widnight -Wednesday: 12 Midnight-1:00 am

-Thursday: 5:00 am-6:00 am

-Friday: 12 Midnight-1:00 am

-Friday: 1:00 am-2:00 am -Friday: 2:00 am-3:00 am

-Saturday: 12 Midnight-1:00 am

-Saturday: 2:00 am-3:00 am

-Saturday: 3:00 pm-4:00 pm

-Saturday: 5:00 am-6:00 am

-Saturday: 5:00 pm-6:00 pm -Saturday: 7:00 pm-8:00 pm

To volunteer, call Mickey Rivet at 225.687.6549 or JoAnn Daigle at 225.687.4621 or 225.776.4865.

#### Weekday Worship & Scripture—Week of Dec. 26, 2016

Monday, December 26: 7 am Liturgy of the Word

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab,

16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday, December 27: 5:30 pm Confession/Mass/ Novena

Novena

1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Wednesday, December 28: 7 am Mass** 1 Jn 1:5 -- 2:2: Ps 124:2-5. 7b-8: Mt 2:13-18

**Thursday, December 29: 7 am Mass** 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:36-40

Friday, December 30: 7 am Mass

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Ps 128:1-5; Mt 2:13-

15, 19-23

Saturday, December 31:

1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Sunday, January 1:

Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

# STEWARDSHIP



#### December 17 & 18, 2016

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### MASS INTENTIONS — December 31, 2016-January 6, 2017

#### Saturday, December 31-4:00 p.m. Mass

Msgr. Leonard Robin, Msgr. George Barbier, Fr. Eugene Engels, Fr. Jerome Dugas, Sister Catherine Laboure`, Sister Mary Rita McSorley, Sister Cecile Poitras; Tina Rinaudo; Jep Daigle, Eddie & Virginia Clebert, Ulger & Nilda Daigle, Clebert & Daigle Families; "Pim" & "NuNu" Clebert; Gomez & Clebert Families; Louise & Edmund Bujol; Bro Bujol; Oneil Favron, Sr., Oneil Favron, Jr., Randy Favron, Sr., Patricia Savoie Hebert; M/M Elson Babin, Libby & Allison Clement; Leonard B. & Mary G. Savoie, James "Puddin" & Brenda L. Devillier; Loretta Faye Delaney, Verna Kay Clark, Wayne Neal Clark, James Dunsworth; M/M Dalfay Cavalier, Jean Claud Cavalier; M/M J. Carol LeBanc, Sr., Gary LeBlanc; Mac, Laura & Michael Lazzaro, Kolby Lorio; Dr. James E. Toups, Sr., Lydia Sue Toups; Bobbie F. Clouatre; Leo & Shirley Gill; Aline, Mit & Dub Comeaux, Aubrey J. Quebedeaux; Jimmy Gerace, Flor, Stella & Sonny Rills, Kye Boudreaux; Peter & Lena Corrent; Anthony F. Canella

#### Sunday, January 1-7:30 a.m. Mass

St. John Parishioners

#### Sunday, January 1-9:00 a.m. Mass

Msgr. Leonard Robin, Msgr. George Barbier, Fr. Eugene Engels, Fr. Jerome Dugas, Sister Catherine Laboure`, Sister Mary Rita McSorley, Sister Cecile Poitras; Tina Rinaudo; Jaynell Lopez; Gladys "Butsy" Palermo, Peter A. Palermo, Patrick Burleigh; Vincent A. Ferachi, Dr. Larry Ferachi; Leona H. Haydel, Linda H. Callahan, Calvin Wilbert, III, J. M. Cazes & C. W. Wilbert Families; Vernon J. "Nook" Dupuy, Jr.; Ronnie Palermo, Brown Family, Palermo Family; Glynn T. Hebert, A Special Intention; William E. Barker, III

#### Sunday, January 1-11:00 a.m.Mass

Cindy Dickerson; Leonard B. & Mary G. Savoie, James "Puddin" & Brenda L. Devillier; Loretta Faye Delaney, Verna Kay Clark, Wayne Neal Clark, Dunsworth Family; Ralph Rivet, Sr.

#### Tuesday, January 3-6:00 p.m. Mass

M/M Tony Falcon, M/M Earl Quatrevingt, M/M C. J. Saurage, Doris Murry; Ronald L. Gary; Camile Tempanaro; Randy, Brian & Brandi Quatrevingt; Mildred Case Thomas

### Wednesday, January 4-7:00 a.m. Mass

Jimmy Barbee

#### Thursday, January 5-7:00 a.m. Mass

Barbara B. Himel

#### Friday, January 6-7:00 a.m. Mass

Mary & Chuchie Flatau

### **Baptism Seminars & Baptisms**



Baptism Seminars — 7:00 pm

Monday, January 2, 2017 Monday, February 6, 2017

Monday, March 6, 2017

Baptisms — After 4:00 pm Mass

Saturday, January 28, 2017 Saturday, February 25, 2017

(No Baptisms during Lent)

Dates are subject to change. Please call the church office at 225.687.2402 during the early stages of pregnancy to confirm the date of the seminar.

#### Our Hymn Selections this weekend are:

Entrance: O Come All Ye Faithful - Today's Missal 65

Preparation: Angels We Have Heard on High

Today's Missal 63

**Communion:** Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Today's Missal 75

Silent Night - Today's Missal 70

Sending Forth: Joy to the World - Today's Missal 61

### **Bereavement Support Group**



The Bereavement Support Group will meet in the Parish Hall from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm every 1st Wednesday of the month.

The purpose of this ministry is to comfort those who have experienced the loss of someone important (recent or in the past). There will be prayer, fellowship, and the opportunity to share our struggles with grief in a safe place. Everyone is welcome.

#### Sanctuary Candle January 1, 2017



St. John the Evangelist Church
William Middleton, William Lewis
Nancy & Bill Middleton

St. Clement of Rome Church Johnny Zito & Johnny Zito, Jr.



Coffee & Donuts
January 1, 2017

June Pinsonat & Sandra Bizette (7:30 am Mass) Thomas & Rose Marie LeBlanc (9:00 am Mass)

Children's Liturgy
January 1, 2017



Angela Frasca (9:00 am Mass)
Beryl Burruss (11:00 am Mass)



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