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 Wanda Ashley, Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry Donna Carville, R. C. I. A. Website: <u>www.stjohnchurchplaq.org</u> Email: stjohnchurchplaq@coxbusiness.net facebook.com/pages/St John the Evangelist Catholic Church

Parish Office Staff: Medric Smith, Jr., Business Manager Marsha Dupont, Secretary Susan Landry, Secretary Lily Skidmore, Secretary Gary Perrault, Maintenance

Masses:	
Saturday Vigil	4:00 pm
Sunday	7:30 am
	9:00 am
	11:00 am
Tuesday	6:00 pm
Wed., Thurs., Fri.	7:00 âm

Baptism: Please contact the Parish Office.

<u>Marriage</u>: Please contact the pastor a minimum of six months before the wedding.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Tuesday

Saturday

5:30-5:45 pm 3:00-3:30 pm

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

The ax lies at the root of the trees. (Matthew 3:10)

John the Baptist was enjoying great success in convincing people to respond to his call to repentance. People from all around Israel, and from every walk of life, were coming out to be washed clean of their sins and to recommit themselves to the law of the Lord. But things didn't go so smoothly when some Pharisees and Sadducees showed up. "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance," John challenged them (Matthew 3:8). Don't come just for a washing. Actually change your life.

For John, repentance without change was like cutting off one branch of a tree when plenty of other branches are still bearing bad fruit. You need to take an "ax" to the entire root system that feeds all the branches (Matthew 3:10). You need to ask the Lord to cut away the foundational attitudes and root sins that keep feeding all the other sins.

What are these roots? They differ with each person. Maybe they include long-standing resentments, positions of pride and self-sufficiency and prejudice, selfish desires, or a lack of compassion. Whatever they are, we have to trust that as we ask the Lord to cut away these roots, we'll find freedom and a greater ability to change.

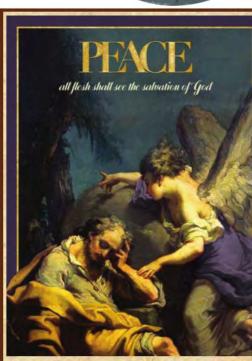
God wants to give us a new way of thinking and acting. He wants to replace our foolishness with his wisdom. He wants to give us insights into

his love and all that he can do in our hearts. And he wants to give us strength to obey his commands. But we have to come to him and confess our need.

At Mass today, you will be invited to cry out, "Lord, have mercy." But you will also ask Jesus, "Only say the word, and my soul shall be healed." Jesus loves to forgive your sins, but he longs to heal your soul—your "roots"—even more. So welcome him in. Ask his Spirit to keep making you into a new creation.

"Come, Lord, teach me to bear fruit in keeping with my repentance."

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BRINGING CHRISTMAS JOY

Parish Open House On Saturday, December 3, spend the afternoon with us at the St. John Rectory for our Parish Open House.

Everyone is invited to join Fr. Greg for an afternoon of refreshments and fellowship directly following 4pm Mass from 5pm until 7pm.

Advent Giving Tree



Giving Tree gifts are now due. Please place free your gifts around one of the Christmas trees in church with the candy cane holding the child's name attached to the gift. Sorting will take place Sunday, December 11 in the Parish Hall with distribution on Monday, December 12.

St. Joseph Altar Christmas Potluck Luncheon Friday, December 9 — 11am-2pm St. John Parish Hall Bring a dish and an ornament. Contact Betty Aucoin at 225.776.1685. , ********

GEMS (50 years and older) Christmas Potluck Luncheon

Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 Time: 11am-1pm Place: St. John Parish Hall

Meats, soft drinks and bread will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert. *****

Calling All Volunteers!!

Volunteers are needed to assemble the crèche on Friday, December 9 and to help decorate the church Monday, December 12. If you can help, please call Bruce Capone at 225.776.2169 or Donna Carville at 225.776.3205. ******

Holiday Visits to Homebound

We will be visiting the homebound, the sick The Giving beginning Friday, December 16.

Students will be baking goodies Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 10, 11 and 12. If any student is interested in bringing joy to the homebound by helping bake, please call Donna Purpera at 225.716.0450. (Service hours will be given).

If anyone would like to help in any way, please call JoAnn Landry at 225.776.0782.

Catholic Daughters Christmas Potluck Dinner Sunday, December 18 — 4:30pm St. John Parish Hall

Bring your favorite dish. We will be collecting toiletry items for the Battered Women's Shelter in Baton Rouge and monetary donations for the ARC Christmas party. ******

Christmas Flower Envelopes

The envelope for Christmas flowers has been placed in the December packet of envelopes. The names of loved ones remembered with Christmas flowers will be published in future bulletins.

RITUALSONG (Readings and Songs this Weekend)

Readings: Second Sunday of Advent #1093 Entrance: People. Look East #501 Preparation: **Instrumental** Communion: One Bread, One Body #1027 Sending Forth: Soon and Very Soon #954

Masses for the Feast of the Immaculate **Conception on Thursday, December 8 will** be at 7am and 6pm.

Our office will be closed Thursday, December 8 in observance of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. *******



Church Dedication for December: The Immaculate Conception

The Blessed Mother was called "full of Grace" by the angel Gabriel because she was first conceived without sin. As the church prepares for the coming of Christ on Christmas day, meditating on the mystery of Mary's immaculate conception can remind us of the saving work Jesus came to do through His incarnation.

Advent Reconciliation

Father Greg will be hearing confessions from 6-7pm Wednesday, December 7 & Wednesday, December 21.



The Advent Wreath Candles for the 2nd Sunday of Advent burn in loving memory of:

Roland "Dougie" Rivet

Andrew & Josephine Canova & Family

SAVE THE DATE!!

Epiphany Concert Epiphany Sunday ~ January 8, 2023 ~ 4pm St. John Church

Women's Silent Advent Retreat

When: Saturday, December 10, 2022 10:30am-3pm

Where: St. John the Evangelist Church Parish Hall Lead by: The Holy Spirit & Gwen Hayes

A light lunch will be provided. Register today by calling 225.687.2402.

A Vocation View



John the Baptist was called to prepare the way of the Lord. Is God calling you to be a priest, brother, or sister to do the same? If you think God is calling you, call or email Rev. Joshua Johnson at 225.336.8778, jjohnson@diobr.org.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

These words of Jesus are an excellent invitation to prayer before the Blessed Sacrament: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." (Mt 11:28-30)

The Adoration Chapel is open from 4am-10pm. To volunteer for a scheduled hour or as a substitute, contact JoAnn Daigle at 225.687.4621 or 225.776.4865.

Daily Scripture Reading December 4-10, 2022

Sunday, December 4: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12 Monday, December 5: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26 Tuesday, December 6: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3,10-13; Mt 18:12-14 Wednesday, December 7: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30 Thursday, December 8: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38 Friday, December 9: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19 Saturday, December 10: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Our Brothers Keeper Thrift Store

Our Brothers Keeper Thrift Store, 58311 Plaquemine Street, sells gently used clothing and other household items provided by donations from us. Proceeds after paying rent and utilities are used to support community needs such as the school uniform distribution, St. John Church maintenance, and repairs to St. Clement Church.

Please continue to bring your donated items to them during store hours 8am-1pm, Monday through Friday.



Retirement Fund for Religious

Lighten the load. An abbot writes, "Your gift helps ease our worldly burdens and allows us to continue living out our mission of seeking God and serving the church." Donations to next week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection help hundreds of US religious communities to provide for their aging members. Please give generously.

For more information go to <u>https://retiredreligiuos.org</u>.

Online Giving

Join the parishioners who are using ONLINE GIVING for automated giving to St. John. It is secure and convenient. There is no cost to you, and the program provides a great benefit to our parish.

To sign up for ONLINE GIVING, visit <u>www.stjohnchurchplaq.org</u>.

NEED SACRAMENTS?

If you are in need of Marriage preparation, Baptism, 1st Reconciliation, 1st Communion, Confirmation, Communion to the Sick and Homebound or Anointing of the Sick, contact the Church Office at 225.687.2402 or go to <u>www.stjohnchurchplaq.com</u> for more information.

Marriage

Couples contemplating marriage should contact the Church 6 months prior to the wedding. Plans should not be made before contacting the Church office. Anyone previously married must have an annulment freeing them to marry in the Catholic Church. This includes members of other denominations seeking to marry Catholics in the Catholic Church.

For more information or to schedule a wedding, please ask for Susan Landry.

Baptisms and Baptism Seminars

<u>Baptism Seminars</u> Monday, December 5, 2022 Monday, January 9, 2023 Monday, February 6, 2023

<u>Baptism</u> Saturday, January 21, 2023 Saturday, February 18, 2023

The Baptism Seminars are held on the third floor of the church office at 7pm. The Baptisms are usually held on the fourth Saturday of the month following 4pm Mass.

Dates are subject to change. Please contact Lily Skidmore during the early stages of pregnancy to confirm the dates of the seminar.

1st Reconciliation, 1st Eucharist & Confirmation

For 1st Reconciliation, 1st Eucharist and Confirmation, please contact Wanda Ashley, Director of Religious Education to fill out the required forms and attend the required classes.

Community Lay Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Community Lay Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist bring Communion weekly to those who are unable to attend Mass. They may be ill, confined to their homes or care facilities. Families of the sick are encouraged to notify Marsha Dupont to request a Eucharistic Minister.

Anointing of the Sick

Every First Tuesday following 6pm Mass, our parish celebrates the SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK for those who are seriously ill, experiencing depression, battling cancer treatments, disabled in any way, the elderly and those who are to undergo surgery in the near future. Father Greg will administer the Anointing of the Sick, <u>Tuesday, December 6, 2022</u>.

Four to six months is recommended between anointing unless otherwise urgent.



Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2022

St. John the Evangelist Rev. Gregory J. Daigle

One Minute Meditations

Begin in His presence

Jesus came among us to be with us. When you first wake up in the

morning, but before you get out of bed, place yourself in His presence. Take a few minutes to focus on a sacred picture or an image that will help you to "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

Holiday advice

The holiday season is an exciting time but it can also be a time when money

worries, family worries, and every kind of worry intrudes. Instead, try to follow this advice from St. Paul, *"Finally,* brethren,



whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things," (Philippians 4:8).

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). **Encounter Christ this Christmas**

God came to us in the most vulnerable human form possible so that He could draw us to

Himself for all eternity. This Christmas, answer His call and come close to Him:

In song. Listen to and ponder the words of your favorite Christmas hymns. Imagine the reality of heavens filled with angels and faraway kings answering the call to pay Him homage.

In service. The newborn Jesus is the physical sign of God's love

for us. When we give of our time and resources in His service, we become an instrument of that love. Share His love in your parish, in your neighborhood, in your community. In mercy. Experience God's mercy in Confession and His loving presence in the Eucharist.

Then, like Him, offer mercy to anyone who may have hurt you. "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:12).

In prayer. Jesus came to live among us so He could be intimate with us. He wants to connect on a deep level - more than rushed prayers or perfunctory devotions. During Advent, find quiet time to give Him your full attention and

speak toHim heart to heart. In watchfulness. Live this Advent with a new awareness of the presence of God. Be awake to who He is and how precious you are to Him.

Why Do Catholics Do That

God gave us body and soul, so it makes sense actions that combine prayer and movement help us to most fully participate. During Mass, each posture means something. We stand to show respect when the priest (representing Christ) enters and

Why do Catholics stand, sit, and kneel at Mass?

leaves, when the Gospel is read, and when we proclaim the Creed. We sit to focus on the homily, and kneel during the Consecration, showing adoration and humility. We genuflect to the tabernacle and altar to demonstrate s- ultimate respect.

Growing in Faith™

Spread the "Good news of great joy"

After the shepherds visited Jesus, they told others who didn't yet know about Him. Pope St. John Paul II urged us to do the same: "If we truly encounter Christ again and again, we cannot keep him to ourselves." As disciples, we are required to make disciples.

Practice urgency. Those who do not have a personal relationship with Christ suffer the misery of our fallen world. Worse, they cannot enter eternal life. Our Catholic Faith holds the key to

from cripture

Our faith hinges on knowing Christ who He is and what His coming has meant for us. This Scripture reading, the Prologue of John's Gospel, gives us the answer. Jesus is the divine Word who always existed, the Second Person of the Trinity, and the source of life. Grace and truth come to us through Christ. To know Jesus is to know God.

At the Annunciation, Jesus took on our human nature. He became like us in all things except sin. Yet even though He was God and perfect Man, He still suffered. He got tired, hungry, and thirsty. He worked,



December 9 - St. Juan Diego (1548). St. Juan Diego was visited by the Blessed Mother at Tepeyac Hill in Mexico. She asked that a chapel be built and sent him with roses as a sign. When St. Juan emptied the roses before the bishop, his cloak retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

December 16 - St. Adelaide of Burgundy (999). A Burgundian princess, St. Adelaide escaped from a murderous plot for the throne. She married King Otto I, the Holy Roman Emperor. As Queen of Germany, she was

John 1:1-18, Who is Jesus Christ?

wept, slept, and prayed. He suffered temptation in the desert, and was abandoned, rejected, and

wounded by those He loved. God understands 115

Jesus Christ made a bold claim. He said that He is truly God and truly man, and that our salvation comes through Him. Will we choose Him as

our Messiah? Will we live our lives as children of God? If our answer is "yes," then Jesus is the one to whom we turn for enlightenment and grace.

known for charitable works, including founding and restoring monasteries.

December 20 - St. Dominic of Silos (1073). St. Dominic was a Benedictine monk, born around 1000 AD in Navarre, Spain. Recognized for his leadership abilities, he was appointed abbot of St. Sebastian's monastery at Silos.

December 28 - Feast of the Holy Innocents (1st century). On this day, we remember the infants massacred by King Herod's soldiers (Matthew 2:16-18). We also pray for the safety of unborn children.

peace in this world and salvation in the next. Sharing our knowledge and love for Him is urgent. Spend time in the Word. The world desperately needs to know the Truth contained in the Word. Those who spend time with Scripture grow deeper in their relationship with God and can share that knowledge. Actively listen. It is through listening that we earn the right to be heard. Active listening helps us discern where our companion is in the faith journey.

Then we learn how best to share the gospel message.



What does Our Lady of Guadalupe teach us about Christmas?

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12) occurs during Advent. Almost 500 years after Our Lady appeared to St. Juan Diego, we can still learn from her miraculous image on his



tilma (cloak). God is the source of life. Viewed upside down, the flowers on Our Lady's dress take

the shape of hearts with arteries coming out, representing life which originates from God. He sustains us with His grace, especially through the Sacraments.

God draws near. A four-petalled flower on Mary's dress symbolizes the Aztecs' highest deity, perceived as distant and unmoved by their concerns. The flower's placement over Mary's womb shows that the Almighty God draws close in love and humility, even becoming one of us.

Humility and joy. Aztec gods were painted looking up and ahead, yet Our Lady's head is bowed in humility and prayer. She is from Heaven, but is not God. She is a messenger of His love, modeling a humble, joyful response to Him and ready to bring His love to others.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living. Success Publishing & Media, LLC Publishers of Growing in Faith18 and Partners in Faith18 (540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax http://www.growinginfaith.com (Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

Mass Intentions — December 10-16, 2022

Saturday, December 10-4pm Mass

Msgr. Leonard Robin, Msgr. George Barbier, Fr. Eugene Engels, Fr. Jerome Dugas, Sister Catherine Labouré, Sister Mary Rita McSorley, Sister Cecile Poitras; Tina Rinaudo; Joseph Graves, W. A. Graves Family, Michael Rarick, Thomas Morales Family; Lee & Betty Mooney, Robert Mooney, Sylvia Gascon; Aubrey Quebedeaux, Aline, Mit & Dub Comeaux; M/M Edmond Gomez, Sr., Edmond Gomez, Jr., Kathleen Garrene, Chris Gomez; Douglas Breaux & Family, Salvador F. Spano & Family; Winnie & Harry Gallagher, Ethel & Harry Blanchard; Lonnie Michel, Baco Romero; Denise Miranda; Flo Ourso; Liz Adams; Le Huu Canh

Sunday, December 11-7:30am Mass

St. John Parishioners

Sunday, December 11-9am Mass

Msgr. Leonard Robin, Msgr. George Barbier, Fr. Eugene Engels, Fr. Jerome Dugas, Sister Catherine Labouré, Sister Mary Rita McSorley, Sister Cecile Poitras; Tina Rinaudo; Charlotte May & Caroline Elizabeth Carville, Stephen LeBlanc; Mary Ann Gregoire; Benny & Annie Vaughn, Jessel & Eula Mae Ourso; Virginia Simon; V. J. Vicknair, Emily & Paul Bourgeois; Robert & May Berta Olano, Paul E. Joffrion, Sr., Keith Edenfield; Denise Miranda; Edmond Gomez, Jr.

Sunday, December 11-11am Mass

Cindy Dickerson; Marshall & Virginia Peavy, Cleo & Ella Dupont; Brenda Fremin; Sam "Buttie" & Lucille Distefano; Mary Francis; Isaac Jr. & Brent Vaughn, Nilda & Isaac Vaughn, Sr.; George "Brother" Michel, Alvin J. Daigle Family, Alvin J. "Peta" Daigle, Edith E. Michel; Christopher Stassi

Tuesday, December 13-6pm Mass

Van & Thelma Junot, Elvis & Mamie Rabalais; Frances & Tony Savariste; Ronald, Brendon & Dudley Landry & Families, Agnes & Sam Coletti & Families

Wednesday, December 14-7am Mass John H. Businelle

Thursday, December 15-7am Mass Ronnie Palermo

Friday, December 16-7am Mass Brenda Fremin





<u>St. John the Evangelist</u> Ernest & Josephine Lapeze Lapeze Family & Ragusa Family

<u>St. Clement of Rome</u> Gloria Arbour Dupont

Coffee & Donuts December 4, 2022



Ed and Anne Reeves (7:30am Mass)

Tom & Germaine Bradley (9am Mass)

Altar Society

Altar Society Team 1 will be cleaning the church Wednesday, December 7 at 8am. Volunteers are welcome.



Attar Society



