

St. John the Evangelist Church

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Pastoral Team:

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Wanda Ashley, Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry
Donna Carville, R. C. I. A.
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[facebook.com/pages/St John the Evangelist Catholic Church](https://www.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 am

Baptism: Please contact the Parish Office.

Marriage: Please contact the pastor a minimum of six months before the wedding.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

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



Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 14, 2022

Tomorrow is the Solemnity of the Assumption. Mary stands with the “great cloud of witnesses” described in Hebrews: those who kept their eyes firmly fixed on Jesus. We may not be thinking of Mary when we hear Jesus’ harsh words in today’s Gospel, but when she said “yes” to Gabriel, it carried the risk of the rejection and division that Jesus describes. As the early Christians surely knew, to hold Jesus as the sole leader and perfecter of faith meant that you would likely find yourself divided from those in your household who held other beliefs. This occurrence is not unknown in our own time and place, and many of us surely know a household divided on the issue of religion, even if the divisions are occurring solely through indifference. A life of faith lived to the full will likely eventually call on us to separate ourselves somehow, keeping our gaze firmly on Jesus, so we will also one day join the great cloud of witnesses.

FIRE IN THE MUD Prophets have been described as being on fire with God’s message. Today, that fire in Jeremiah has to keep burning in the bottom of a muddy cistern. The rulers of his own people (including Judah’s king, Zedekiah) have placed him there for speaking an unpopular, if truthful, message to them. His own leave him there, mired in the mud, to starve and die. It takes a foreigner, an outsider, to convince Judah’s king that Jeremiah ought to be rescued, his life spared to continue as God’s prophet. As so often happens in the lives of the prophets, the help and saving power of God are shown through unexpected people in unexpected ways. We can often find ourselves mired in mud of one sort or another. Do we truly have the fire of God’s message in us, so that we can look for our rescue from places we might not expect?

SPIRIT FIRE IN THE SUMMER A generation or two ago, these Summer Sundays in Ordinary Time would have been known as Sundays “of Pentecost.” That naming convention helped recall that the Spirit’s Pentecost fire was carrying us through all the Sundays until the end of the liturgical year. Though we may no longer use that name for these Sundays, the underlying reality is the same. The fire that Jesus speaks about today is the blaze of the Spirit. The fire he spoke about when he told his followers they were light for the world was the flame of the Spirit lighting the lamp of discipleship. It takes courageous disciples to allow the blazing fire of which Jesus speaks into their lives, to allow its light, warmth, and even cleansing to work in them and through them. Though we may not want to think about the heat of the Spirit’s fire on a summer Sunday, that Spirit is always with us, burning within.

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August 14, 2022

Dear Family:

Our reading from Jeremiah reminds us that this prophet suffered greatly. The people of Judah did not welcome the words that God commanded Jeremiah to proclaim. The action of the officials who lowered Jeremiah into the cistern was a direct result of their hatred of Jeremiah and his message. During this time, Jeremiah had told the authorities that they should surrender to the Babylonians. This was an unpopular message for a people who would have seen surrender as an act of treason. Yet, another court official, a foreigner, Ebed-melech, whose name means "servant of the king," convinces the king that Jeremiah should be saved.

Our psalm refrain today, "Lord, come to my aid," is an appropriate plea from the mouth of one in Jeremiah's situation. The psalm itself has been classified as a combination of a prayer of thanksgiving and a lament. Since a psalm of thanksgiving tells the story of a past difficulty, we can clearly hear the story of either the psalmist or Jeremiah in this text.

Our brief Gospel passage for today is a difficult one. Jesus' statement that he has come to bring fire upon the earth might best be understood as some type of purification that needs to take place. And the baptism that Jesus proclaims refers to the death that he will soon face. Most of us are likely to prefer the image of a gentle, tender, and caring Jesus to the one presented to us today. The reality, however, is that to be a follower of Jesus means that we must make many difficult choices, choices that will not always be popular with friends and family.

Some questions for reflection:

- Read the responsorial psalm from the perspective of Jeremiah. Make this a psalm of your deliverance. When have you waited for the Lord? How has God helped you when you felt stuck?
- Today's Gospel reading from Luke sounds harsh. When has the practice of your faith caused tension between you and someone you love?
- What similarities do you see between today's reading from Jeremiah and the passage from the Gospel of Luke?

St. John School and our neighboring Government Schools began a new school year beginning last Wednesday. We are blessed with a larger student body at St. John as we begin the year with 451 Students. As we celebrate our first School Mass on the 17th, we will be praying for our school year, support staff, students, parents and guardians, teachers and administrators both for our St. John School and our parishioners attending Government Schools. We are looking forward to a year complete with educational and spiritual growth.

As we begin this school year, work is being completed on the floor in St. Clement Chapel. We are planning to use chairs in the chapel for the time being until the pews are ready to be installed sometime in early January of 2023. God willing, it might even happen sooner.

You may have noticed that with the permission of the Diocese of Baton Rouge we have begun the building of our Maintenance/Storage Building behind the church sanctuary. Of course, the rain has slowed our progress. Nonetheless, we look forward to its completion and the ability to use it as soon as possible.

We have recently received some generous donations to the Church and School for these necessary projects. I am constantly thankful for your great generosity. We are currently short of the amount needed to finish both projects. We will more than likely need to take a loan with the diocese for a little over \$100,000. I know there is a lot of uncertainty regarding each family and their finances at this time. Are there still some folks out there who can spare some funds to assist the church in these two projects? Please prayerfully consider this request. Thank you all for your continued support of our Church and School. May God continue to bless you all for your generosity of spirit.

Peace,

Fr. Greg



Following Jesus sometimes means being rejected by others. Speak an encouraging word this week to someone you know who is trying to follow Jesus. Say a prayer for those who are discerning a call to Priesthood or Religious life.

If God is calling you, contact Fr. Josh Johnson at 225.336.8778, jjohnson@diobr.org, or visit www.diobr.org/vocations.

Parkinson's Disease Art Exhibition

Many of our parishioners and their families are affected by Parkinson's Disease. Of course, one of our own organists, Jan Grimes, is a person with Parkinson's. Jan is an ambassador for the Parkinson's association named The Davis-Phinney Foundation. Recently, two poems she composed relating to her diagnosis and condition have been chosen for this year's Parkinson's Art exhibition that will be taking place this month in both Liverpool and London, UK. Should you be interested in buying the book, we will try to make them available to you. Congratulations to Jan.



**Feast of the Assumption
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Monday, August 15, 2022**

The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been dispensed. If you would like to attend Mass, Bishop Duca is scheduled to celebrate 9am Mass, Monday, August 15 at the Madonna

Chapel in Bayou Goula. There will also be a 6pm Mass at Our Lady of Prompt Succor in White Castle.

Note: Our office will be closed Monday, August 15 in observance of The Feast of the Assumption.

CATHOLIC

**THINKING ABOUT IT?
OR KNOW OF SOMEONE
THINKING ABOUT IT?**

RCIA—Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is a faith journey open to all unbaptized or baptized adults who wish to explore the possibility of becoming Catholic.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Catholic faith and even exploring the possibility of becoming Catholic, please join us this fall for a wonderful faith journey. Classes are held every Sunday following 9am Mass from 9:40am until 10:50am in the church office conference room. The dates for RCIA are Sunday, September 11, 2022, then every Sunday until December 4, 2022.

RCIA resumes after Advent on Sunday, January 8, 2023 following 9am Mass from 9:40am until 10:50am, then every Sunday at 9am Mass until Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 8, 2023. For more information, call Donna Carville at 225.687.2402.

Holy Spirit Prayer Group



The Holy Spirit Prayer Group will meet Sunday, August 14 from 4-6pm in church. We will pray the Rosary at 4pm followed by the meeting. For more information, contact the church office at 225.687.2402.



Altar Society

Altar Society Team 3 will be cleaning the church Wednesday, August 17 at 8am.

An envelope marked Altar Society has been included in the August packet of contribution envelopes. If you would like to join the Altar Society or renew your membership, kindly place your yearly dues of \$20 in the Altar Society envelope provided or in a regular envelope. You may drop it in the collection at any weekend Mass or mail it to 57805 Plaquemine Street.

From the Desk of the Business Manager:

When paying your 2022 Altar Society dues, please remember to write a separate check made payable to the "Altar Society", or you may pay with cash. Please do not include the dues in your monthly stewardship offering. The financial business of the Altar Society is not a part of the overall Parish of St. John and is handled completely by their treasurer. Thank you. Medric

RITUALSONG

(Readings and Songs this Weekend)

Readings: Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time #1253

Entrance: Christ, Be Our Light #692

Preparation: **Instrumental**

Communion: Seek Ye First #800

Sending Forth: Cantic of the Turning #728

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

These words of Jesus are an excellent invitation to prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

"And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." (Luke 11:9-10)

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.



PSR Begins Soon! Register Now!!

Registration for Parish School of Religion (PSR) 2022-2023 continues. Visit our website, www.stjohnchurchplaq.org to find registration forms under the FORMATION tab to register online.

For more information, contact the St. John Director of Religious Education, Wanda Ashley at 225.687.2402.

**Daily Scripture Readings
August 15-21, 2022**

Monday, August 15:

Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14; 1 Cor 15:54b-57; Lk 11:27-28; Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10-12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56

Tuesday, August 16:

Ez 28:1-10; Dt 32:26-28, 30, 35cd-36b; Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday, August 17:

Ez 34:1-11; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 20:1-16

Thursday, August 18:

Ez 36:23-28; Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; Mt 22:1-14

Friday, August 19:

Ez 37:1-14; Ps 107:2-9; Mt 22:34-40

Saturday, August 20:

Ez 43:1-7b; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Mt 23:1-12

Sunday, August 21:

Is 66:18-21; Ps 117:1, 2; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30

Mentoring Program for Formerly Incarcerated

A series of diocesan listening sessions to introduce a mentoring program for formerly incarcerated men and women will be conducted around the diocese. A session will be held at St. John the Baptist in Brusly Thursday, August 18 from 7-9pm. Anyone who feels they may be called to serve as a mentor may want to attend. Interested parties need only attend one session.

Please feel free to call Deacon Tim Messenger at 419.957.9848 if you have questions.

Mass Intentions — August 20-26, 2022

Saturday, August 20-4pm 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; Trista Parro, Sue Wakeling, Larry Dupont; Aubrey Quebedeaux, Blanche, Robert & Raymond Quebedeaux; Brennan Eugene Bujol, Pim & Nu Nu Clebert, Louise & Edmund Bujol, Billy Wright; Hazel & Joseph C. LeBlanc, Gary LeBlanc; Ernest & Josephine Lapeze, Lapeze Family, Ragusa Family; Ramirez Family, Kirsch Kember Anderson; Ronald, Brendon & Dudley Landry Families, Agnes & Sam Coletti Families; George Gullotto, Maggie & Joe Gullotto; M/M Joseph Matassa, Jr., M/M Edwin M. Reeves, Sr., Achee Family, Carrington Family, Dale R. Miller, Ione L. Gaudet; Winnie & Harry Gallagher, Ethel & Harry Blanchard; Ione & Calvin Robbins, Calvin Robbins, Jr.; Emily & Adam Vercher, Harry Vercher, J. C. & Connie Vercher; Lonnie Michel, Baco Romero; Jimmy Gerace; Bret Thompson; Gayle Badeaux; Edmond Gomez, Jr.; The Currier Family, Betty Keith & Family

Sunday, August 21-7:30am Mass — St. John Parishioners



Sunday, August 21-9am 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; Kristina Mellema; Bryan Hebert; Marie Ragusa LeBlanc, Terry Landry, Sr., Terry Landry, Jr.; Kynlee Bueche; Lorraine “Catty” Hebert, Mary Kay Marchand Hudson, Hebert & Clement Families; Bill Toups, Jr.; Roth & Mars Families; Rosa, Curtis, Brian & Denise Breaux; Benny & Annie Vaughn, Jessel & Eula Mae Ourso; Virginia Simon; V. J. Vicknair, Emily & Paul Bourgeois; Angelo Mancuso; T. N., Ray & Stephen Patin; Denise Miranda; Flo Ourso

Sunday, August 21-11am Mass

Cindy Dickerson; Arnold Fourroux; John & Ann Ruiz, Michael Gourgues, Shirley G. Zito; Brenda Fremin; Sam “Buttie” & Lucille Leggio Distefano; Elmo & Otella T. Loubiere; Joseph & Lillian Crescionne, Peter & Rosalie Crescionne, Dr. Joseph & Tina Alesi; Isaac Jr. & Brent Vaughn, Sidney Hedges, Jr., Margaret Landry; George “Brother” Michel, Kerry E. Daigle, M/M Anatole Michel; Christopher Stassi

Tuesday, August 23-6pm Mass

Patrick Gaudet, M/M Clerfat Templet, Manuel, Mary & Delores Diamond; John W. Wilbert, Jr.; Special Intentions; Lonnie Michel, Baco Romero

Wednesday, August 24-7am Mass

Larry Roark

Thursday, August 25-7am Mass

Joan Nolan

Friday, August 26-7am Mass

Joshua “Josh” Landry, Harry & Vivian Banta, Caliste “Joe” Landry

Sanctuary Candle — August 14, 2022

St. John the Evangelist
John & Cecile Brown, Joan & Maurice

St. Clement of Rome
Kye Boudreaux & Darrel Boudreaux



Baptism Seminars and Baptisms

Baptism Seminars — 7pm
Church Office Third Floor

Monday, September 5, 2022
Monday, October 3, 2022
Monday, November 7, 2022
Monday, December 5, 2022

Baptisms — Following 4pm Mass

Saturday, August 27, 2022
Saturday, September 24, 2022
Saturday, October 22, 2022
Saturday, November 26, 2022
Saturday, December 10, 2022

Dates are subject to change. Please call Lily Skidmore at the church office (225.687.2402) during the early stages of pregnancy to confirm the dates of the seminar.

Coffee & Donuts — August 14, 2022

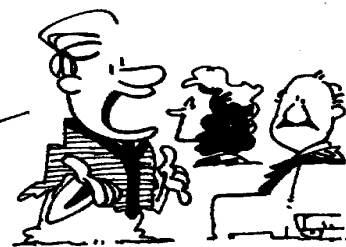
Ed & Anne Reeves (7:30am Mass)

Blane & Deryl Ourso (9am Mass)



20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WHO CAN
TELL US WHY
THE PROPHET
JEREMIAH
WAS PUT IN
A DEEP
HOLE IN
THE GROUND?



JER 38:4-6, 8-10

HE
ANNOUNCED
A SECOND
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