

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH



57805 Main Street • Plaquemine, Louisiana 70764

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Pastoral Team

Rev. Gregory J. Daigle Pastor
Alfred J. Ricard II Deacon
Wanda Ashley ... Director of Religious
Education & Youth Ministry
Donna Carville R.C.I.A.

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....7:30am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am
Tuesday..... 6:00 pm
Wednesday 7:00 am
Thursday 7:00 am
Friday 7:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday.....5:30-5:45 pm
Saturday3:00-3:30 pm



Second Sunday of Advent December 10, 2023

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Saint Peter shows us a characteristic of God that we normally do not think about. He tells us that for God, "a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day" (2 Peter 3:8). Because early Christians sometimes complained that Jesus' second coming had been delayed, Peter is trying to tell us that what seems like a long time to us is nothing to God.

Like the early Christians, we may wonder how long it will take for God to answer our prayers. We may be praying for someone who is looking for a job, a sick relative, an end to abortion, or world peace. Some prayers require us to change, and we may not be ready.

What Peter means is that a thousand years is not too long for God if someone needs that long to repent. God is far more patient than we are. God has been "waiting" over two thousand years for us to preach the gospel to all nations. God has been waiting for millennia for people to give up war as a means for solving our problems. God has

been waiting since the beginning of the human race for us to learn how to love our neighbor.

We might not be as patient as God, but we can help. Saint Peter says that we are not just waiting for the Lord's return, we are hastening it. When we make a choice that is based on faith rather than selfishness, we make it a little easier for people to believe in God. Jesus is the light of the world; he asks us to let our light shine, so that people can see Jesus in us. May our light "prepare the way of the Lord" (Mark 1:3).

Tom Schmidt

Pastor's Letter

Dear Family:

Today's scriptures focus on preparation for a special arrival, though each reading characterizes this arrival differently. In Isaiah 40, we see a comforting hope for God's care and deliverance: God promises a "new exodus" for the exiles to leave the oppressive empire of Babylon.

In Psalm 85, the expected arrival of God's salvation is a threefold emphasis on "justice" (Psalm 85:10,11,13), which is also the character of "new heavens and a new earth" in 2 Peter. In contrast to Psalm 85, however, 2 Peter 3 depicts this "coming of the day of God" with an emphasis not only on transformation but also on destruction and judgment.

In Mark, John the Baptizer is identified as Isaiah's "voice of one crying out in the desert" by showing up as the harbinger of Jesus with baptism as a form of purification and preparation for God's people in Jerusalem and Judea. John's appearance also reminds one of Elijah the prophet. Since a prophet is tasked with calling God's people to repentance in light of God's judgment, we may also understand John's baptism as an expression of repentance.

Although Mark attributes verses two and three to Isaiah, the second verse is from Malachi 3:1. The need for a messenger appears in Malachi 2:17, which notes the acceptance of "evildoers" while asking, "Where is the just God?" Moreover, evil in Malachi 2:17 is portrayed not only as people dismissing God but as being justified in the name of God. In contrast, Justice is emphasized in Psalm 85 and 2 Peter 3.

Some questions for reflection:

In what ways has injustice been justified in the name of God and religion?

How may today's passages of God's advent as both comfort and judgment be linked with the saying that one should "comfort the afflicted but afflict the comfortable"?

Many thanks for all the decorating angels who decorated the Rectory for our Open House and the Advent/Christmas Season. Thanks as well for all who helped with the Open House last week the food and service made it a festive event. It was heart warming to see so many of you at this festive time of the year.

Christmas decorations for the Church will begin being placed this week. Many thanks to all those who give their time and effort to make our church such a welcoming place for celebration of the Savior's birth.

On a personal note, I will be leaving Saturday the 9th to visit my nephew and godchild, Harrison and his wife Samantha, in their new Sacramento, California home. I'll be back next weekend to rejoin you as we hasten to the celebration of the Lord's Nativity.

Peace,

Fr. Greg

Ritualsong

Readings & Songs this Weekend

Readings: Second Sunday of Advent #1094

Entrance: Come, Lord Jesus (Bulletin)

Responsorial Psalm: My Soul in Stillness Waits #499

Preparation: *Instrumental*

Communion: One Bread, One Body #1027

Sending Forth: Soon and Very Soon #954

Bringing Christmas Joy

Advent Giving Tree

Gifts are due Sunday, December 10. Sorting will take place Sunday, December 17 in the Parish Hall with distribution on Monday, December 18.

Calling All Volunteers!

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the church Monday, December 11. If you can help, meet us in church at 9am.

Catholic Daughters Pot Luck

Monday, December 11, 2023 — 5:30pm

St. John Parish Hall

Bring your favorite food item and toiletries to donate to the battered women's shelter.

GEMS (50 years and older)

Christmas Potluck Luncheon

Date: Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Time: 11am-1pm

Place: St. John Parish Hall

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

St. John School

Christmas Concert

St. John School "Sounds of Christmas" featuring 1st-5th grade students will be held at 6pm on Thursday, December 14th at St. John the Evangelist Church. Family and Friends are invited to join us!

Holiday Visits to Homebound

We will be visiting the homebound, the sick and elderly parishioners during the holidays beginning Friday, December 15.

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

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.

Epiphany Concert

Sunday, January 7, 2024 — 4pm

St. John the Evangelist Church

Songs for the Journey:

Sacred, Broadway & Big Band

Featuring Rev. Gregory J. Daigle & Bill Grimes
& The Epiphany Orchestra

Tickets (\$25) are available at the St. John Church Office.



Baptisms & Baptism Seminars

Baptism Seminars

Monday, January 15, 2024

Monday, February 5, 2024

Monday, March 4, 2024

Baptisms

Saturday, December 16, 2023

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Baptism Seminars are held in the third floor church office conference room at 7pm. The Baptisms are usually held on the fourth Saturday of the month following 4pm Mass. Dates are subject to change. Please call Lily at the church office (225.687.2402) during the early stages of pregnancy to confirm the dates of the seminar. There are no Baptisms during Lent.

Scripture Readings

Week of December 10

Sunday	Second Sunday of Advent Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8
Monday	Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday	Zec 2:14-17; Judith 13:18bc,19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday	Is 40:25-31; Ps 103: 1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday	Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13b; Mt 11:11-15
Friday	Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday	Third Sunday of Advent Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



The Advent Wreath Candle for the 2nd Sunday of Advent burns in loving memory of:

Fred Hebert

**Ragusa, Mancuso, Collins,
Morales, Nola & Bezet Families**

Holy Spirit Prayer Group

The Holy Spirit Prayer Group will meet Sunday, December 10 from 3-5pm in church.

For more information, contact the church office at 225.687.2402. All are welcome! Come join us!

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COME, LORD JESUS

Acc #134 M.D. Ridge

1. When the dark-ness clos-es in, Come, Lord Je-sus!
2. Wise and fool-ish, still we wait. Come Lord Je-sus!
3. Come to us, O liv-ing Lord, Come, Lord Je-sus!

1. Cour-age fails and hopes grow dim. Lord Je-sus, come!
2. Is our Bride-groom at the gate? Lord Je-sus, come!
3. Come with jus-tice like a sword. Lord Je-sus, come!

1. Clear the shad-ows from our sight; set our trou-bled—
2. At his voice, our hearts have stirred, list-'ning for his—
3. Come in word and wine and bread; come a-gain that we

1. world a-right. Fill our eyes with ra-diant light. Lord Je-sus, come!
2. heal-ing word, Con-fi-dent our cries are heard. Lord Je-sus, come!
3. poor be fed. Raise your ser-vants from the dead. Lord Je-sus, come!

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2023

St. John the Evangelist
Rev. Gregory J. Daigle

One Minute Meditations

St. Edmund Campion

Born to a Catholic family in 16th century England, St. Edmund left a brilliant academic career at Oxford to become a Jesuit missionary – a death sentence, since Catholics were being heavily persecuted under Queen Elizabeth I. He traveled around, secretly ministering the Sacraments to English Catholics, until he was betrayed by an informer and arrested. Despite efforts to persuade or threaten him, St. Edmund remained true to his faith. He was martyred with two companions at Tyburn.



Mary's "Yes"

When the angel appeared to Mary and told her what God was asking of her, she didn't have to agree. God gave all of us free will to allow us to make our own choices. Mary said "yes" to God out of love. Her reward (and ours, too) is eternity with her Son.

"And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him"
(Luke 2:40).



A "Christ-centered" Christmas is a joyful one

For Catholics, the weeks leading up to Christmas are a sacred time to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. For a joy-filled Christmas, try these ideas:

Encourage joyful anticipation. As disciples of Jesus, it is our role to help others to believe and hope in the power of God to change the world as He transforms hearts and minds. *"But as for me, I will look to the Lord, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me"* (Micah 7:7). Look for opportunities to share your confidence in His love.

Focus on prayer. Become an Advent prayer intercessor praying for every

soul to come home to God, especially at this time of peace. Ask that that He gives everyone the grace to live a new life reflecting glory on the Messiah.

Serve. Pope Francis said during Advent, "We are so busy with all the preparations, with gifts and things that pass, but let's ask ourselves what we should do for Jesus and for others! What should we do?" The pope said we should continuously ask God what we should do to contribute to the good of the Church and society. We can do "something concrete, even if it is small" to help others. He suggested visiting the lonely, the elderly, the sick or someone in need.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics celebrate the "Immaculate Conception?"

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed that Mary, by a special grace, was preserved from original and personal sin from her own conception in her mother's womb, in view of her role as the



Mother of God. This grace bore immeasurable fruit for all of us in Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross. On December 8 – a Holy Day of Obligation – we ask Mary to pray for us, so we, too, receive Jesus into our hearts with a faithful love like hers.

Have a peaceful, Merry Christmas!

Do you aim for an idyllic Christmas celebration complete with a warm fire, joyful music, and tinsel-covered tree? For many of us, Christmas comes at the end of weeks spent shopping, wrapping, and spending, and is wrought with family tensions, obligations, and exhaustion. Try these steps to keep your sanity and your Savior in your Christmas celebration:

Be realistic. It isn't the goal of the season to make everyone happy. If you don't overspend and over extend before Christmas, you'll be in a better frame of mind when it arrives.



Soothe the beast. Beautiful music can set a soothing tone for your celebration. Pick your favorite holy hymns to put yourself in the Christmas frame of mind.

Reach out. Want to make your own problems seem small? Take on someone else's. Do at least one good Christmas deed for someone needy.

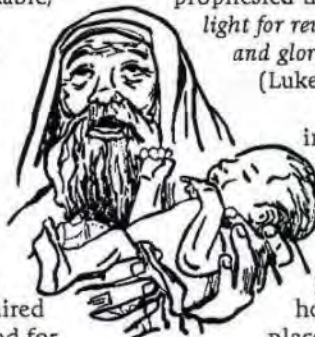
Seek the eternal. Jesus gives us peace, purpose, and perspective. Spend time with Jesus each day of Advent and Christmas to remind yourself of what is most important about Christmas.

from Scripture

Luke 2:22-40, Encountering God in the ordinary

To the uninformed observer, Jesus' birth was unremarkable, and His family was quite ordinary. In fact, when it was time to present Jesus in the temple, His parents couldn't afford the customary offering of a lamb, and instead made the offering of the poor – two pigeons. As faithful Jews, they did all that was required by their faith to thank God for the gift of their child.

Yet, when Joseph and Mary presented their new baby in the temple, Simeon immediately recognized Him as the Messiah.



Inspired by the Holy Spirit, he prophesied that Jesus would be *"a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel"* (Luke 2:32).

Simeon was not alone in recognizing the Lord in the temple. Anna was also filled with the Holy Spirit. Her faith in God's promises gave her hope. The hope God places in our hearts gives us a desire for the kingdom of Heaven. The Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Lord to those who want to know Him, receive Him, and to be happy with Him forever.

Q & A How can I make Christmas joy last?

The Church's real Christmas season starts on Christmas Day and lasts until the Baptism of Our Lord. By celebrating the whole season, you can make your Christmas joy last long after you've taken down the tree. Here are some highlights of the season:



Feast of the Holy Family, December 31. Gather for a meal with loved ones, or contact out-of-town friends or family.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, January 1. Dedicate a Rosary to the Blessed Mother, asking her to help you grow in love and trust.

Epiphany, January 7. The example of the Magi honoring Jesus has become a symbol of sharing Him with the world. This is our chance to think about the way we live so that we can better reveal Christ to our world.

The Baptism of Our Lord, January 8. Baptism is our entry into the Kingdom. Take time this day to renew your Baptismal vows and decide what you can change in your life to help you live as Christ did.

Feasts & Celebrations

December 3 – First Sunday in Advent. We anticipate Christ's birth and His coming on the last day. Catholics everywhere light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.

December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531). The Blessed Mother appeared as a Native American maiden to St. Juan Diego. She asked St. Juan to carry roses to the bishop as proof. When the roses were emptied from his *tilma*, it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

December 15 – St. Maria di Rosa (1855). Born into a wealthy family in Brescia, Italy, Paula was renowned for holiness, generosity, and concern for the sick. She founded the Handmaids of Charity in 1840. She took the name Sr. Maria Crucifixa di Rosa.

December 27 – St. John the Beloved (1st Century). As an apostle and friend of Jesus, St. John was known for his fiery temper. Scholars believe he is the "beloved disciple" who sat by Jesus at the Last Supper in John's Gospel.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 16-4pm 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; Aubry Quebedeaux, Aline, Mit & Dub Comeaux; Mayon, Callahan & Clement Families; John H. Businelle; Catherine & Andrew Roucher; Louis Roucher, Beatrice Repp; Tina Ferachi Loyacano, Agnes & Sam Colletti & Family, Vincent M. Ferachi & Family; Michael Laurent; Brenda Fremin; Frank, Josie, Anthony & Victor Canella; James Etier; Gerald "Lil Jerry" Mire; M/M Joseph Matassa, Jr., M/M Ed Reeves, Sr.; Allen Cavalier; J. P. "Jep" Daigle, Ulger & Nilda Daigle & Family, Eddie & Virginia Clebert; M/M Dave Gourgues & Mary Ann, Adam Vercher Family

Sunday, December 17-7:30am Mass

St. John Parishioners

Sunday, December 17-9am 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; Frances Santangelo LeBlanc, Rita & Mike Santangelo, Anatole Santangelo; Anthony "Tonto" Pizzolato; Alcee & Pauline Becnel, Evans & Virgie Dugas; Henry "Tutie" Berthelot, M/M Edmond Berthelot, Sr., M/M Earl Breaux, Sr., John D. Bourg; Douglas Bourgoyne, Artie Lyons, Lydia Mae Blanchard; Harold Sr., Barbara & Frances Himel; Bill Troups, Jr.; Denise Miranda; Benny & Annie Vaughn, Jessel & Eula Ourso; Missy Hopkins; Dr. Vincent Leggio, The Tony Leggio Families; M/M Dudley LeBlanc

Sunday, December 17-11am Mass

Cindy Dickerson; Michael Shepherd, Ruth "Se Se" Becnel; Sue Landry; Laura Lynn, Dorothy & Norman Jr. Grass; Brenda Fremin; Isaac Jr. & Brent Vaughn, Sidney Jr. Hedges, Margaret Landry; Lucille Leggio Distefano; Betty Keith; The Currier Family; Nolan Bueche III; Mary Font, Leslie Font, Jr., Ross Campesi, Sr., Marion Campesi

Tuesday, December 19-4pm Mass,

Murray & Dixie Suffrin, Brennan Bujol; Guy Hopkins

Wednesday, December 20-7am Mass

Llewelyn LeDoux

Thursday, December 21-7am Mass

Alice & Alex Nolan, Larry Skidmore, Margaret Bynam

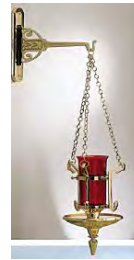
Friday, December 22-7am Mass

Brenda Comeaux

Retirement Fund for Religious

Help aging religious. Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer, service, and works of mercy. Most ministered for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift to today's Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities.

Please give generously. Visit <https://retiredreligious.org> for more information.



Sanctuary Candle

December 10, 2023

St. John the Evangelist

Nita Comeaux Foster,
Lloyd Comeaux, Jr.,
Firmin & Claudette Tullier

St. Clement of Rome

Maria Andre-Martin

Coffee & Donuts

December 17, 2023

Pete & Bonnie Blanchard
(7:30am Mass)

Roger & Rosalind Sadden (9am Mass)



Altar Society

Essential Support System of the Church

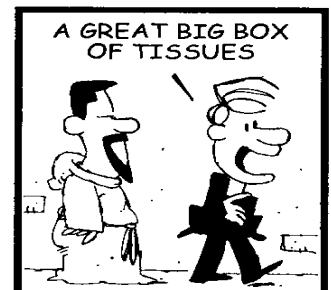
Altar Society Extra Team 2 will be cleaning the church for Christmas Wednesday, December 13 at 8am. Volunteers are welcome.

Workbooks for Lectors

Proclaiming the Word

The 2024 Workbooks for Lectors have been placed in the credenza in the Baptistry. Lectors, you may pick up your copy at your convenience.

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



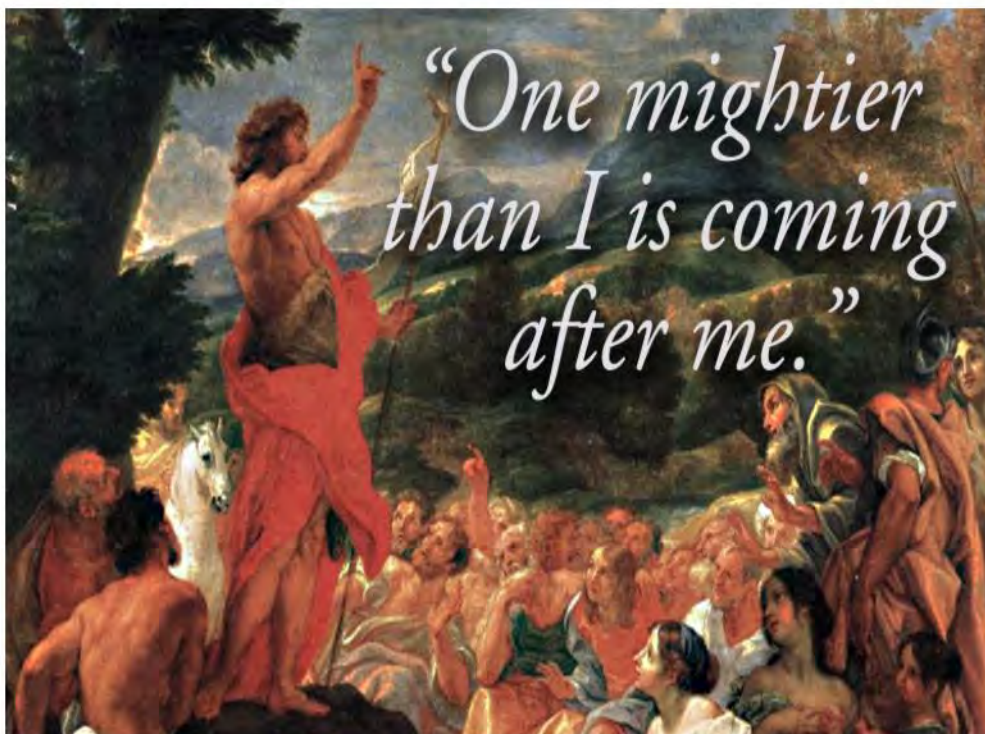
December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

Bishop's Annual Appeal

Inspired by the Eucharistic Revival taking place in our national and local Church, and the devotion to Blessed Sacrament running through our land, Bishop Duca has named the 2023-2024 Bishop's Annual Appeal theme: Taken. Blessed. Broken. Given. Just as Jesus Christ takes, blesses, breaks, and gives the Bread of Life to His Disciples, we too are called to bless others with the gifts He has given us.

As we begin this new giving season for the Bishop's Annual Appeal, prayerfully consider how the Lord is inviting you to be recognized in the taking, blessing, breaking, and giving of your resources in our local diocesan community. To learn more about the Bishop's Annual Appeal and the ministries it supports, visit diobr.org/baa.



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