

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24, 2023

Great Expectations

Christmas can be disappointing. We remember the Christmases from our childhood, all the joy, the excitement, and the fun we had. When we grow up, we have to shop for gifts, write and mail the cards, put up the decorations, and do all the preparations that seem to stress us out. We may be sad that the day did not meet our expectations. Now that most of that is done, we can reflect on how the first Christmas upset all expectations.

I'm sure Joseph never expected to have a child so soon. And those Jews who looked forward to the coming of a Messiah never expected him to come as a baby. Yet God had his reasons for coming in this way. Jesus was born in a stable because no one had room for him. The first to see him were the shepherds, the migrant workers of the time. The political leaders (Herod and friends) wanted to kill him.

Jesus was born in this way to show that he came not for the important and wealthy, but for the poor and outcast. So today he continues to come to us in the homeless, the undocumented immigrant, the sick, those in prison, the unborn infant, that we might find him where we least expect. Can we learn to see him in the unexpected, in our trials and difficulties, our own weaknesses? When we do, we will celebrate what Christmas is truly about.

Tom Schmidt



**SHE WILL BEAR A SON AND
YOU ARE TO NAME HIM JESUS**

MATTHEW 1:21



Pastor's Letter

Dear Family:

From Deacon Ricard, our parish and school staff and myself, Merry Christmas. Our scriptures for Christmas offer us the beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ's coming to our world.

Unlike Luke's Gospel, Matthew's birth story of Jesus focuses on Joseph rather than on Mary. Joseph is introduced by Matthew as a "righteous" man because of how he responds to the angel's message. Hearing about Mary's immaculate conception and the role of Jesus in God's salvation plan, Joseph does what the angel tells him without hesitation. In Matthew's Gospel, the "righteous" are those who do the will of God.

As the text shows, Joseph's righteousness also relates to what he would do and would not do with his pregnant bestow before he heard from the angel. Joseph could have taken action to punish Mary according to the law, yet he simply plans to "divorce her quietly". According to the parable of the sheep and the goats, we will be judged by what we do or don't do for "these least" ones. The will of God that we must carry out in Matthew is to care for those who are weak and defenseless: the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned. Joseph's decision to protect a vulnerable woman is a sign that he is righteous "sheep." Jesus is Emmanuel, meaning "God is with us", but God's faithful presence (as we see today in the passages from the psalm and from Isaiah) often, in Matthew's view, takes place through human followers of God.

Joseph's plan not to disgrace or punish Mary is reason for him to be called "righteous." When he hears and receives new information from the angel, Joseph is again able to change his decision from divorcing Mary to marrying her. God's plan of salvation always requires human partners who are merciful as well as flexible upon reception of new information.

Some questions for reflection:

Who are the "least" ones in our society, and what does the Church do or not do for them?

What is one example in which you have changed your mind about something or someone with the help of new information?

How does our society generally define "righteousness"?

I pray you all have a Blessed Christmas and that our fellowship in Church is spread widely throughout family, city and countryside. Let us all rejoice in once again hearing the message of the angels and hosts of heaven on this day: "Glory to God in the Highest and on earth, peace to people of goodwill...for today is born a Savior - Christ the Lord."

Offer a prayer to our Patron, St. John on the 27th. It is his feast day. Also, please note that New Year's Day falls on a Monday and the obligation for Mass is removed. We will celebrate our regular schedule of Masses next Saturday and Sunday. There will be no Mass on January 1st.

Peace,
Fr. Greg

Ritualsong

Readings & Songs this Weekend

Readings: Fourth Sunday of Advent #1100
Entrance: Savior of the Nations, Come #498
Responsorial Psalm: My Soul in Stillness Waits #499

Preparation: *Instrumental*

Communion: Come, Lord Jesus (Bulletin)

Sending Forth: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #492

Readings & Songs at Christmas

Readings: Christmas Vigil Mass #1102

During the Night #1103

Mass During the Day #1105

Entrance: O Come, All Ye Faithful #521

Preparation: Angels We Have Heard on High #524

Communion: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #520

Sending Forth: Joy to the World #518



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24

4pm Children's Mass

6pm Mass & Midnight Mass

Christmas Day — Monday, December 25

9am Mass

Epiphany Concert

St. John the Evangelist Church

Sunday, January 7, 2024

4pm-5:15pm

Tickets (\$25) are available for purchase for our Annual Epiphany Concert through St. John School (225.687.3056) and the St. John Church Office (225.687.2402).

Join us for songs from Broadway, big band and sacred music performed by Father Greg Daigle accompanied by Bill Grimes and the St. John Epiphany orchestra benefitting St. John School.

The St. John Church Office will be closed from Christmas Day, Monday, December 25, 2023 until Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!

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 the lights will be on daily from 7am-3:30pm until Sunday, January 14, 2024.



The Advent Wreath Candle for the 4th Sunday of Advent burns in loving memory of:

**Brennan Eugene Bujol,
Pim & NuNu Clebert,
Louise & Edmund Bujol**

**Tina Ferachi Loyacano,
Agnes & Sam Coletti,
Vincent M. Ferachi & Family**

**Wayne & Colby Gomez,
Pitre & Gomez Family**

Devin & Douglas Durand



Eucharistic Adoration

Come and Adore! He is Waiting for You!

Jesus said to the crowds:
"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.

Knights of Columbus Fireworks Sale

The Knights of Columbus will be selling fireworks at the K.C. Home, 58715 Price Street in Plaquemine.

Fireworks schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, December 26-29 — 5-8:30pm

Saturday, December 30 — 2-8:30pm

New Year's Eve, Sunday, December 31 — Noon until fireworks run out.

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

Baptisms & Baptism Seminars

Baptism Seminars

Monday, January 15, 2024

Monday, February 5, 2024

Monday, March 4, 2024

Baptisms

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.

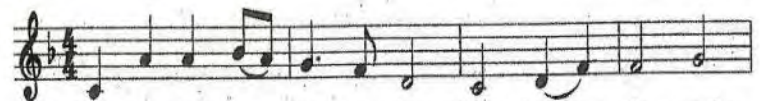
JOY

42

COME, LORD JESUS

M.D. Ridge

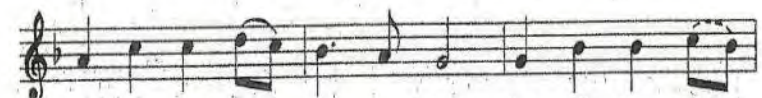
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1. When the dark-ness clos-es in, Come, Lord Je-sus!
2. Wise and fool-ish, still we wait, Come Lord Je-sus!
3. Come to us, O liv-ing Lord, Come, Lord Je-sus!



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!



Sanctuary Candle

December 24, 2023

St. John the Evangelist

Marie Marionneaux

St. Clement of Rome

Johnny Zito, Sr. & Johnny Zito, Jr.

Coffee & Donuts

December 31, 2023

Guy & Sabrina Ruggiero

(7:30am Mass)

Tom & Germaine Bradley (9am Mass)



Altar Society

Essential Support System of the Church

Altar Society Team 4 will be cleaning the church Wednesday, December 27 at 8am. Volunteers are welcome.

Scripture Readings

Week of December 24

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27;
Lk 1:26-38

Monday The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Vigil
Mass: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29;
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or
Mt 1:18-25

Mass During the night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13;
Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Mass at Dawn: Is 62: 11-12; Ps 97: 1, 6, 11-12;
Ti 3: 4-7; Lk 2: 15-20

Mass during the Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6;
Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or
Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4,
6, 8ab, 16bc-17; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday Feast of Saint John, Apostle and
Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12;
Jn 20:1a & 2-8

Thursday 1 Jn 1:5-----2:2; Ps 124:2-3-5,
7B-8; Mt 2:13-18

Friday 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6;
Lk 2:22-35

Saturday 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10;
Lk 2:36-40

Sunday Feast of the Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Ps 128:1-5
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40 or
Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Ps 105:1-6, 8-9;
Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 22-40
or 2:22, 39-40

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 30-4pm 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; Bret Thompson; Ignace & Vivian Tullier; Charles & Marion Clement: Gerald "Lil Jerry" Mire

Sunday, December 31-7:30am Mass

St. John Parishioners

Sunday, December 31-9am 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; Jaynell Lopez, Albert Lopez, Jr., Johnson & Lopez Families; Buté Richard; Rosemary Cox; Denise Miranda; Flo, Allen, & Paco Ourso; Benny & Annie Vaughn, Jessel & Eula Ourso; Maggie Dunn; Nolan "Tattoo" Bueche, Nolan Bueche III; Evelyn Varnell; Devin & Douglas Durand; Dr. Vincent Leggio, The Tony Leggio Families; M/M Dudley LeBlanc; Gladys "Butsy" Palermo, Peter A. Palermo, Patrick Burleigh, Douglas Brewer

Sunday, December 31-11am Mass

Cindy Dickerson; Murray & Dixie Suffrin; Brenda Fremin; Isaac Jr. & Brent Vaughn, Nilda & Isaac Vaughn; David Borden Tidmore, The Currier Families; Maggie Dunn; Ann Bryant Wilbert Arbour; Mary Font, Leslie Font, Jr., Ross Campesi, Sr., Marion Campesi; James & Marie Miranda, Denise & Glenda Miranda; Bert & Ruth Clement, Joe & Nean Maggio, Joe Maggio, Jr., Monica McDaniel

Monday, January 1- NO MASS

Tuesday, January 2-6pm Mass

Alex & Alice Nolan, JoAnn Nolan

Wednesday, January 3-7am Mass

M/M J. B. Richard

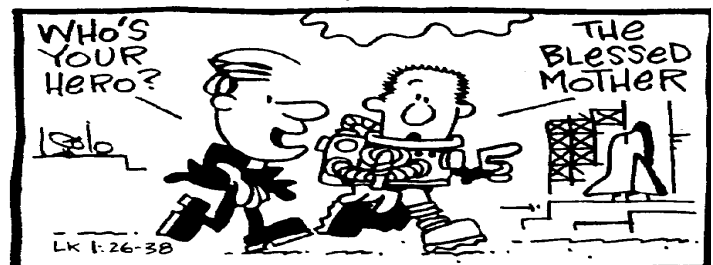
Thursday, January 4-7am Mass

Walter Mazone

Friday, January 5-7am Mass

Barbara A. Himel

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT



December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

100 Year Capital Campaign

History in the Making

The current St. John Church is the third church at this location after the church parish was established in 1850. The first church was built in 1850 and burned down in 1858. The second church was completed in 1861 but the congregation was unable to pay the builder in full. The builder sued the church for payment and was awarded the church building and land by the court. The Diocese of New Orleans bought the church back from the builder and the congregation paid the diocese back over many years. When the Plaquemine Locks system was built, the pounding for the pilings severely damaged the structure of the church so much that it had to be replaced. The third church was completed in 1927 and still stands today as the "cathedral on the bayou." The mid 1920's were the years of the Great Depression yet our church forefathers built this church that we are now determined to repair for future generations. It is on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Plaquemine Historic District established October 30, 1989.

To contribute to the 100 YEAR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN, please make your payment to St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church 100 Year Capital Campaign. Contribution forms are available in church and in the church office to designate one-time or recurring contributions. Online donations are also possible at the church's website, www.stjohnchurchplaq.org.



First St. John Church built in 1850 (Top)
Second St. John Church built in 1861 (Bottom)



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