

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Pastoral Team

Rev. Gregory J. Daigle.....Pastor
 Alfred J. Ricard II.....Deacon
 Laurie Barbier....Director of Religious
 Education
 Wanda Ashley.....PSR Coordinator
 Donna Carville.....RCIA

Parish Office Staff

Medric Smith, Jr. ... Business Manager
 Marsha Dupont.....Secretary
 Susan LandrySecretary
 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
 Wednesday..... 7:00 am
 Thursday..... 7:00 am
 Friday..... 7:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday5:30-5:45 pm
 Saturday3:00-3:30 pm



Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 2024

Could Nachos Be Bad?

It seems the early Church had a different view of Advent than we do. After the resurrection, Christians looked for Jesus to return in glory. They expected this return to happen soon, so we see references in Paul's letters to the "coming of the Lord Jesus" (1 Thess 3:13) or to the "day of Christ Jesus." (Phil 1:6)

In the second reading this week, we hear what Paul recommends for the people of Philippi as they wait for the Lord to return. He prays that their love will grow and mature, so that they will be able to "discern what is of value." (Phil 1:10) This may sound vague, but is very good advice, even for us today.

As we grow to be better Christians, we learn to love what is important. As you grew up, you learned to like

healthier foods. That doesn't mean that some foods are bad, (how could nachos be bad?) just that there are better choices. So Paul encourages us to make better choices: friends we like, books we read, how we spend our free time, causes we donate to, and values we teach to our children. With less than three weeks of Advent remaining, let us ask the Lord to help us "discern what is of value" in our lives.

Tom Schmidt

Rectory Open House

On Saturday, December 7, 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.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

A Holy Day of Obligation

Monday, December 9, 2024 Masses:

7am — St. John Church

8:30am — SJS Mass at St. Clement

Noon — St. John Church

Sharing Christmas Joy

Retirement Fund for Religious

Donations to this week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection help hundreds of US religious communities to provide for their aging members. For more information, visit retiredreligious.org, or contact Robin Cabral, at 508.685.8899, robincabral@retiredreligious.org. Please give generously in the first collection.

Advent Giving Tree

The Giving Tree gifts are due **Sunday, December 8**. Please attach the candy cane with the name of the child to your purchased gifts and place them around the Christmas trees in church. Sorting will take place Sunday, December 15 in the parish hall with distribution on Monday, December 16.

GEMS (50 years and older) Christmas Potluck Luncheon

Wednesday, December 11 — 11am-1pm — St. John Parish Hall

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

Decorating the Church for Christmas

All hands on deck!! Volunteers are needed **Friday, December 13** and **Monday, December 16** to assemble the crèche and decorate the church. Meet us at 7:30am in church.

Holiday Visits to Homebound

We will be visiting the homebound, the sick and elderly parishioners during the holidays. If anyone would like to join us in bringing poinsettias and Christmas joy to the homebound, **Thursday, December 19** and **Friday, December 20**, 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.

Children's Liturgy December Schedule

A Safe and Nurturing Environment for Children to Participate in the Mass at an Age-appropriate Level

December 8, 2024

9am Mass—Tracy Cox

December 15, 2024

11am Mass—Alexis Schlatre

December 22, 2024

9am Mass—Tracy Cox

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)



Baptisms & Baptism Seminars

Baptism Seminars

Monday, January 13, 2025

Monday, February 3, 2025

Baptisms

Saturday, December 21, 2024

Saturday, January 18, 2025

Saturday, February 15, 2025

The Baptism Seminars are held in the church office conference room at 7pm. Baptisms are held once a month following 4pm Mass.

Dates are subject to change. Contact Lily Skidmore at the church office, 225.687.2402, during the early stages of pregnancy to confirm the dates of the seminar.



Eucharistic Adoration

Come and Adore. Jesus is Waiting for YOU.

“By standing before the Eucharistic Christ, we become holy.” —Blessed Carlo Acutis

The Adoration Chapel is open from 4am-10pm.

Holy Spirit Prayer Group

The Holy Spirit Prayer Group will meet Sunday, December 8 from 3-5pm in church. Everyone is invited to join us.

Scripture Readings

Week of December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

Monday Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Judith 13:18b-19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Friday Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4,6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Third Sunday of Advent

Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

Called By Name

Chosen for Consecrated Life

“A voice is calling.” Is Christ calling you to let Him manifest His love in you as a priest or consecrated religious?

Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 225.336.8778 or via email: jjohnson@diobr.org.



Ritualsong

Second Sunday of Advent #1095

Entrance: Come, Lord Jesus — Bulletin

Preparation: **Instrumental**

Communion: One Bread, One Body #1027

Sending Forth: Soon and Very Soon #954



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

Brennan Bujol, Pim & NuNu Clebert, Louise & Edmund Bujol, Bujol & Clebert Family

Mary & Chuchie Flatau, Anthony & Carmella Orcino, Orcino & Flatau Families

St. John School

Sounds of Christmas

Featuring 1st-5th Grade Students

Thursday, December 12 ~ 6-7:30pm

St. John Church

Family and friends are invited to join us.

Women’s Silent Advent Retreat

Unwrap your Gifts

and Find

True Advent Peace



Lead By: the Holy Spirit & Gwen Hayes

When: Saturday, December 14, 2024

10:30 – 2:30pm

Light lunch provided

Where: St. John the Evangelist Church Parish Hall in Plaquemine

Register today by calling (225) 687-2402



Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2024

St. John the Evangelist

Rev. Gregory J. Daigle

One Minute Meditations

St. John of the Cross

Born in Castile, Spain, St. Juan de Yepes lived in poverty. St. John embraced poverty and suffering throughout his life. In 1563, he entered the Carmelite Order. He befriended St. Teresa of Ávila, who encouraged and supported him in his efforts at reform. He faced opposition and he was imprisoned in a tower. From this experience came the mystical poetry and inspired writings on the interior life that made him a Doctor of the Church.



Close to the Infant Jesus

"You are nowhere but close to the Infant Jesus, trembling with cold in the stable of Bethlehem...Therefore, I beg you to love the crib of the Child of Bethlehem...stay close to him and be sure that Jesus is in the midst of your hearts more than you could believe or imagine." St. Padre Pio

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory"
(John 1:14).



The best gifts come on Christmas

Christmas brings a joy that goes beyond presents—it's a season rich with the gifts God offers: love, hope, family, and the promise of Heaven. These gifts touch every heart, young and old, and hold profound meaning.

The gift of love. God chose to come into the world as a baby, sharing in our human experience. His love surpasses anything we could imagine. He invites us to embrace His love and let it transform us.

The gift of hope. Although we have moments of sin and can turn from God, the Child born on that first Christmas offers freedom from sin and the hope of a brighter future. This hope

renews us and promises a better path forward.

The gift of family. Family provides strength, comfort, and support. Baptism welcomes us into Christ's divine family, where we are bound by an unbreakable connection. *"See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God"* (1 John 3:1).

The gift of Heaven. The most awesome gift is Heaven itself. Without Jesus' miraculous birth, Heaven would be out of reach. He bridged the gap between Heaven and Earth, offering the promise of eternal joy. This Christmas, we can cherish the enduring gifts of love, hope, family, and Heaven that make the season truly meaningful.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics display nativity scenes?

The tradition of displaying nativity scenes began with St. Francis of Assisi, who was awed that God humbled Himself to be born in humility and poverty. To illustrate, he displayed a manger scene in a cave near the Franciscans' chapel —



complete with donkey and ox. He celebrated Christmas Mass and, according to an eyewitness, the wax figure of the Christ Child came alive. This pious tradition continues, reminding us that *"the*

Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

Two Advent practices for a joyful Christmas

Each Advent, God invites us to deepen our friendship with Him and draw closer to His love. The key to a joyful Christmas lies in responding to this invitation by dedicating daily time to God and helping those in need.

Do the one thing needful: Pope Francis encourages us to “waste time” with God through prayer, even for just 15–20 minutes. This could be offering daily prayers for a special intention, meditating on the Christmas Story a verse at a time, or simply being peacefully



present to Him, who is always present to us. Continue spending time with Him after the season ends.

Go in haste to love: Just as Mary went “with haste” (Luke 1:39) to serve her cousin Elizabeth, we, too, are called to act quickly in love. While no one can do everything, everyone can do something. When we serve others even in small ways, we receive a greater gift in return (Matthew 25:40).

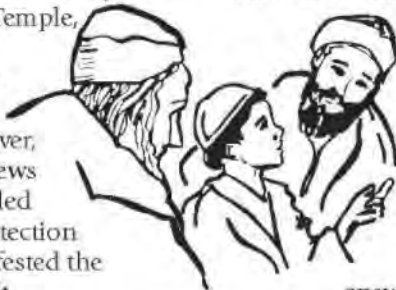
Embrace these practices for a deeper, more joyful Christmas open to God’s love.

from Scripture

Luke 2:41-52, Love and obedience

The Feast of the Holy Family (December 29) includes the story of finding Jesus in the Temple, a story of love and obedience. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover, as was the custom for Jews of that time. They traveled in a large group for protection against bandits who infested the hill country. So it wasn’t surprising that His parents didn’t miss Jesus as they started the return trip. Upon discovering Him missing, they hurried back to Jerusalem.

On the third day of searching, they found Jesus in the Temple. He was



questioning the priests and amazing them with His understanding.

However, Mary asked how He could have caused His parents so much worry and Jesus replied, “Did you not know I must be in my Father’s house?”

Though they were puzzled by His answer, Mary and Joseph took Jesus back to Nazareth. He remained there in obedience to His parents until it was time for His public ministry. We learn from this story to obey not only God but also those in valid authority over us.

Q & A How do I use an Advent Wreath?

The Advent Wreath is a circle of evergreen branches, symbolizing God’s eternal and unending love. It includes three purple (violet) candles and one pink (rose) candle. On the first Sunday of Advent, and each night that week, the first purple candle, known as the Prophet’s Candle, is lit



to symbolize hope. On the second Sunday and throughout that week, light both the first and second purple candles.

The second candle, called the Bethlehem Candle, represents faith. The pink candle, lit during the third week, symbolizes joy and marks Gaudete Sunday. During the fourth week of Advent, all three purple candles and the pink candle are lit. The fourth candle, known as the Angel’s Candle, represents peace.

Consider meditating on Scripture as you light the candles. Week 1 (hope) - Isaiah 9:2-7, week 2 (faith) - Micah 5:2-5a, week 3 (joy) - Luke 2:8-14, and week 4 (peace) - Luke 1:26-38.

Feasts & Celebrations

December 1 - 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 4 – St. John Damascene (749). A Doctor of the Church and the last of the Greek Fathers, St. John was born in Muslim-ruled Syria and was counselor to the caliph. He is known for his writings in favor of the use of sacred images for devotion.

December 9 – Immaculate

Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne’s womb without original sin, preparing Mary to be the Mother of God. Pope Pius IX declared this doctrine in 1854. This year, it’s still considered a holy day of obligation and Mass attendance is required.

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



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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 14-4pm 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; Michael Laurent, Jack Laurent; Henry "Tutie" Berthelot, Sr., M/M Earl Breaux, Sr., John D. Bourg; Joseph Graves, W. A. Graves Family, Michael Rarick, Thomas Morales Family; Rose Marie Canella LeBlanc, Jamie Cedotal Landry; John H. Businelle; Bill Toups, Jr.; Aubry Quebedeaux, Aline, Mit & Dub Comeaux

Sunday, December 15-7:30am Mass

St. John Parishioners

Sunday, December 15-9am 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; Dudley & Marie Ragusa LeBlanc, Terry Landry Sr. & Jr., Kynlee Bueche; Anthony "Pet" Cilano; Benny & Annie Vaughn, Jessel & Eula Ourso; Denise Miranda; Cathie Blanchard; Ida Gaudet Family, Ruel Seneca, Sr., Leah Diamond, Linda Seneca Raffle; Diane Grace; Paul, Doris & Charles Barbier, Harry Marionneaux

Sunday, December 15-11am Mass

Cindy Dickerson; Michael Shepherd, Ruth "Se Se" Becnel, Pauline & Alcee Becnel, Jr.; William H. Middleton, Middleton & Clouatre Families; Hawley Landry, Phil Pettus, Florence & Marie Baist; Lucille Leggio Distefano; Isaac Vaughn, Jr., Brent Vaughn, Isaac Vaughn, Sr., Nilda Vaughn; Cameron Edward Whatley; Newton Raffray, Jr.; Marie Kocke; Urban & Jennie Andre

Tuesday, December 17-6pm Mass

Alex, Alice & Joann Nolan, Larry Skidmore

Wednesday, December 18-7am Mass

Callahan, Clement & Mayon Families

Thursday, December 19-7am Mass

David Wendt, Jr. Family, Joseph Andre Family

Friday, December 20-7am Mass

Ed Bahry

Altar Society

Essential Support System of the Church

Thank you for supporting the Altar Society in their mission to take care of the church by buying cookbooks, mugs and Christmas tree ornaments. If you missed your opportunity to purchase these items last weekend, they are available in the church office.

Team 2 will be cleaning the church Wednesday, December 11 at 8am. Volunteers are welcome.



Sanctuary Candle

December 8, 2024

St. John the Evangelist
Barbara & A. J. Laurent, Jr.

St. Clement of Rome
Donald Persick, Jr. & Donald Persick, Sr.

A Grateful Acknowledgement

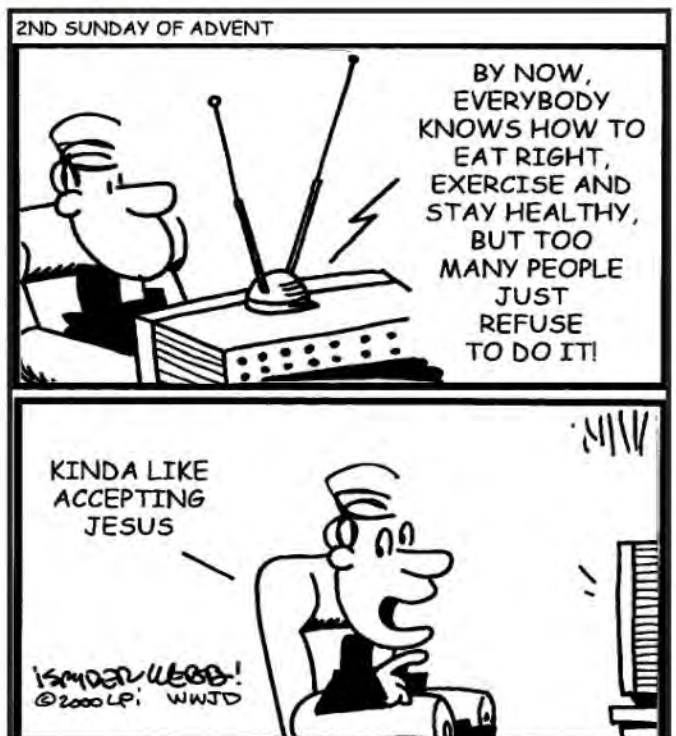
The Catholic Daughters of the Americas gratefully acknowledges everyone who bought sweets at their recent bake sale to make this event a huge success.

Wanted: Prayer Warriors

St. John the Evangelist has an automated prayer line (225.687.1554) for those requesting prayer; whether they are facing surgery, are ill or would like to pray for another. We have a team who pray for all prayer line intentions. If you would like to join our team of Prayer Warriors, call the church office at 225.687.2402.

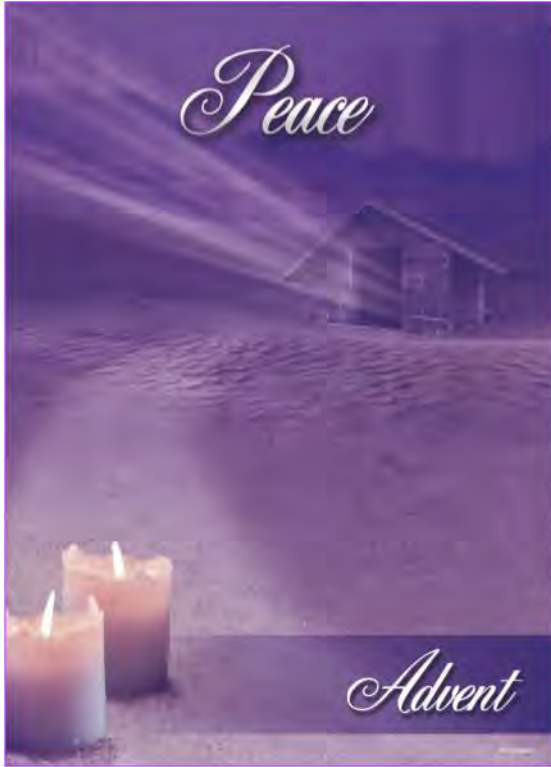
Coffee & Donuts

There will be no Coffee and Donuts Sunday, December 15 due to the sorting of Giving Tree gifts in the parish hall.



December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent



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!

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