SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

CATHOLIC CHURCH

57805 Main Street • Plaquemine, Louisiana 70764
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
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Wanda Ashley	DSD Coordinator	

Wanda AshleyPSR Cod	numator
Donna Carville	OCIA

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Marsha Dupont	Secretary
Susan Landry	Secretary
Lily Skidmore	Secretary
Gary Perrault	Maintenance

Masses

Saturday Vigil4:00	pm
Sunday7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00	am
Tuesday6:00	pm
Wednesday7:00	am
Thursday7:00	am
Friday7:00	am
Wednesday7:00 Thursday7:00	am am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday	5:30-5:45 pr	n
Saturday	3:00-3:30 pi	n



Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 25, 2025

A Humble God

The second reading from Revelations gives us a picture of the new Jerusalem as a sign of the power and majesty of God. Yet the other two readings seem to describe a humble God who wishes "not to place on you any burden beyond . . . necessity" (Acts 15:28), and Jesus in the Gospel tells his disciples that "the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name . . . will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you" (John 14:26). This gentleness reminds me of an icon by the Russian monk Andrei Rublev that depicts the Trinity as three angels bowing in deference to each other. This humility may be what moved Jesus to say that "the Father is greater than I" (John 14:28). It is certainly a unique way of understanding God.

I used to think of free will as God's way of testing our worthiness for the kingdom of heaven. But it is more likely part of that same humility, God not being forced on us. While we are given ways to know God, especially through the scriptures and the witness of those who went before us in faith, God leaves us free to believe or not, to love God or not.

So does this mean God leaves us on our own to get through life? No, he gives us the Holy Spirit to teach and remind us of all that Jesus said. That "reminding" is an important way the Spirit helps us today. You may have spent years in religion classes or the RCIA process. When you need an answer to life's questions, the Spirit may remind you of something you heard from a teacher or read in the scriptures. As you pray over that question, the Spirit may help you understand how the scripture applies to you. So the more you read the Bible, the more likely that the Spirit will have something of which to remind you.

Pastor's Letter

May 25, 2025

Dear Family:

Acts 15 records the first official gathering of the young Church: the Jerusalem council. They debate whether Gentiles should be circumcised when they convert to Christianity. Must Gentiles become Jews to worship Jesus? One obvious answer to this question is "yes!" Jesus and his first disciples were Jews. Surely following the Jewish meastiah meant keeping the Torah as all faithful Jews did. But because there was "dissension and debate" among the various Church leaders, they convened a gathering to hear all sides.

The reading omits verses 3-21 when Barnabas, Paul, and the apostle James argued that both Gentiles and Jews will be saved through God's grace. They agreed to an interesting compromise: Gentiles should observe certain aspects of the kosher laws (which made it easier for Jews and Gentiles to break bread together) and refrain from sexual immorality.

The apostle James quoted from the Old Testament to support his case that the Gentiles will one day call upon the name of the God of Israel. He could have quoted from Psalm 67, which repeatedly prays that all the nations on earth will one day praise Israel's God.

The reading from Revelation reminds us that God's promises to Israel remain at the heart of the Gospel, Since Jerusalem and the twelve tribes of Israel (representing the fullness of Israel) are woven into the new creation along with the twelve apostles (representing the fullness of the Church). Jesus' promises to his disciples in John 14 have been fulfilled: God and the Lamb have indeed come and made their dwelling with God's people. Just as he promised, Jesus returns to be with his followers forever.

Some questions for reflection:

How did the Jerusalem council in Acts 15:28 make their decision about the requirements for Gentiles? Why did Church elders ask Gentile converts to observe certain aspects of Torah - and why those elements? In Revelation 21, what is absent from the heavenly city and why?

Peace,

Fr. Greq

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ST. JOHN CLASS OF 2025

Last week and this week has been exciting for our St. John Interparochial High School as we celebrated our annual Baccalaureate Mass, and our 2025 Commencement. Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2025. We are proud of your achievements and your leadership over this year. Great thanks to your families for their partnership with our St. John School in Christian formation and education.

THANKS TO OUR CATECHISTS AND ST. JOHN TEACHERS

As we close our school year, I take this opportunity to offer my personal thanks to all of our catechists who have given time, effort and faith to our young people and adults in Christian Formation. Thank you for sharing your faith and helping build up faith in our Church.

Thank you Laurie, Wanda, Jennifer, Donna and many others who assisted with their gifts in our Parish School of Religion this past year.

Thanks as well to all of our St. John Interparochial School Teachers. Your love, dedication and professionalism blesses our community. May you have a Blessed Summer and return to us in the Fall with a renewed spirit.

Thanks as well to our Assistant Principal, Mrs. Lisa Morel. Mrs. Morel works tirelessly to assure our St. John School continues to thrive, Through her leadership of instruction and faith formation, she is a great example of the teacher's vocation. Thank you Lisa for all you do for our St. John Church and School.

I offer one other special thanks. Thank you to Mrs. Brittany Dupont who has served as teacher for many years and most recently as Assistant Principal. Mrs. Dupont will be moving on to another chapter in her life. Brittany, we pray for continued success in your new endeavors.



Eucharistic Adoration

Come and Adore. Jesus is Waiting for YOU.

The Adoration Chapel is open from 4am-10pm. To schedule an hour as a committed adorer or a substitute, contact Susan at susanblandry@sj.brcoxmail.com, 225.687.2402.

In Loving Memory...

A grateful acknowledgement is made to the following persons who donated memorial gifts to St. John the Evangelist Church 100 Year Capital Campaign in loving memory of:

Beulah Hebert Ferachi

Donated by:
Shirley Rivet
Mark & Janet Abernethy
Joe & Janet Bryant
Jackie Dugas
Laurie & Mark Suarez



Vacation Bible School

St. John the Evangelist Church will be hosting VBS Monday, June 2 through Friday, June 6 at St. John School. Questions? Contact Jennifer Adams at

moma2christa@gmail.com, 225.687.2402.

Ritualsong

Sixth Sunday of Easter #1179

Entrance: Christ is Made the Sure Foundation #852

Preparation: **Instrumental**

Communion: Eye Has Not Seen #819

Sending Forth: Sing with All the Saints in Glory #609



Our office will be closed Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day.

"Let us not forget."

May Devotion

Each year in May, the Church encourages us to seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our St. John community honors this by offering the opportunity to pray the Rosary outdoors at the homes of parishioners. Join us at 7pm at the following homes:

Sunday, May 25: Rod & Robin Bickham

60205 Grand St.

Monday, May 26: Joey & Maureen Daigle

24510 Hebert St.

Tuesday, May 27: Robert & Missy Samson

4615 Shelter Ct., Port Allen

Wednesday, May 28: Troy & Frances Tempanaro

62765 Belleview Rd.

Thursday, May 29: Joe & Janet Bryant

57920 Court St.

Friday, May 30: Prentiss & Sarah Passantino

58415 Village Ct.

Saturday, May 31: Donna Badeaux

577820 Schnebelen St.

Bring a lawn chair and a friend.

Did you know there is another way to give financially to the church and school?

Donating Your IRA Distribution to a Nonprofit

If you are 70½ or older and are required to withdraw from your traditional or Roth IRA account(s) annually, rather than putting the withdrawal into your checking or savings account or spending it, you can direct that withdrawal (all or part of it) to a nonprofit or charity of your choice such as St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church or St. John Interparochial School without incurring taxation on that amount. It is a "win-win" opportunity for both you and the charity of your choice.

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church will be 100 years old in 2027 and needs major structural repair and renovation to sustain it for us and generations to come after us. This opportunity may be a way for you as a parishioner to be a part of its history.

St. John Interparochial School is 169 years old, providing a Christian education to many students and currently has an enrollment of 453 students in preK3 to 12th grade. Graduates are among many successful businessmen and women who continued their education to higher levels, some entrepreneurs that created their own businesses and also have solidly Christian families.

Please consult with your financial adviser for what may be the best option(s) for you. Whatever you decide, we are very grateful for what you do for St. John Church and School through your time, talent and treasure.

Thanks,

Father Greg



Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

May 2025

St. John the Evangelist Rev. Gregory J. Daigle

One Minute Meditations

St. Augustine of Canterbury

St. Augustine was an Italian Benedictine monk who, with forty other monks, was sent to re-evangelize England. The Celtic population had already accepted Christ, but the incoming Anglo-Saxons hadn't, St. Augustine and his companions arrived at Ebbsfleet in 597, and were, thankfully, welcomed by King Ethelbert of Kent, who gave them permission to preach the Gospel. He also later converted. St. Augustine and his companions successfully converted southern England. He is called the "Apostle of England."

Happy Pentecost!

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on the Blessed Mother and the Apostles in the Upper Room, in a display of divine glory. The Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church, just as He inspired the first Apostles to go preach to the ends of the earth. How might He be guiding you? (We celebrate Pentecost on June 8, this year.)

"Be the one"

"Be with Jesus. ... I always write that sentence, 'I looked for one to comfort Me, but I found no one.'
Then I write, 'Be the one.' So now you be that one. Try to be the one to share with Him, to comfort Him, to console Him. So let us ask Our Lady to help us understand."

Mother Teresa

"Be not afraid"

What God wants most for each of us is to be happy with Him in Heaven. He uses the world to shape us and give us qualities that will help us get there untainted by sin. "Indeed, like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand ..." (Jeremiah 18:6). Sometimes that means allowing us to undergo trials that cleanse and strengthen us.

Don't judge a gift by its ugly wrapping paper. Some virtues can only be acquired through hardship. Avoiding discomfort will cause you to miss out on experiences God wants you to have. While they may be uncomfortable, God would remove them at once if they weren't good for your soul.

"Pray, hope and don't worry."
This famous advice from St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) is both comforting and practical. Many of tomorrow's troubles exist only in our minds. Live your trust in God by refusing to think about what might

happen and instead deal with what is happening right now. Refuse to worry. "Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span?" (Matthew 6:27).

"Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

Accept aid. When overwhelmed, we may overlook the help God is already providing, mistakenly believing we must face challenges alone. This mindset can lead to pride — the temptation to act without God.

Instead, stay open to help from others, seek guidance in Scripture and Church teachings, and remain rooted in prayer and the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Once your storm passes, you'll be prepared to support others through theirs.

Why Do Catholics Do That

Why do Catholics have different images of the Blessed Mother?

In the well-known Marian apparitions approved by the Church — Guadalupe, Lourdes, Fatima, and Kibeho — the Blessed Virgin Mary's appearance seems to adapt to the local culture of those to whom she appears, while her central message remains consistent: a call to prayer, repentance and renewed devotion to the Faith.

For example, the miraculous image

of Our Lady of Guadalupe features symbolic elements that the Aztec people would have understood, communicating the Gospel message in a way that resonated within their cultural context. This adaptation of Mary's appearance underscores her closeness to the communities she visits, reflecting the profound truth of her spiritual motherhood of all Christians.

Growing in Faith™

May 2025 Page 2

The Ascension brings us closer to Jesus

The Ascension might have felt like a moment of separation to Jesus' disciples, but in reality, it brought them closer to Him in a deeper spiritual connection. Through His Ascension, Jesus became spiritually present everywhere, continually interceding on our behalf. He is always thinking of us, presenting our needs to the Father. When we pray, we are never alone—Jesus Himself is praying with us and for us.

Prayer "power-up." Prayer doesn't have to feel good to be good prayer. It can be a real struggle to pray throughout the day, to stay focused on God, and not get distracted. That's when we can lean on Jesus' perfect prayer to the Father. We

can join our prayers to His, and know they are pleasing to God.

Offer it up. Whether it involves suffering, fulfilling a necessary duty, or performing an act of charity, when we unite these actions with Jesus' self-offering on the Cross, they gain profound spiritual significance and immeasurable value for souls — especially our own.

Mass intentions. During Holy Communion or right after Mass, take a moment to present your concerns, and your desires to God, dedicating them to the service and glory of His love. Remember, God is never outdone in generosity!

from Scripture

John 14:23-29, "I am with you always."

This Gospel reading comes from Jesus' farewell discourse at the Last Supper. As He prepared to face His Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension, Jesus sought to strengthen His disciples, a close-knit group who had followed Him for three years. In this poignant moment, He reassured them of His continued presence, even after His departure. Before ascending to Heaven, Jesus promised, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).

Jesus' message was clear: although His followers would no longer see Him physically, He would remain invisibly but powerfully present. If they kept His word, both He and the Father would dwell within them through grace. Furthermore, He promised to send the Holy Spirit as a guide and comforter, granting them the gift of His peace and the assurance of His return.

It is natural to feel that being faithful would be easier if we could see and hear Jesus directly. Yet, He remains present in His Church—in her worship, prayer, sacraments, and acts of charity.

Above all, lesus is profoundly present in the Eucharist, where His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity are truly present (*CCC*, #1374). We do not need to look back in time; we encounter Jesus at every Mass.

Q&A

How can I make a consecration to Mary?

The Marian Consecration, or *Total*Consecration to Mary, is a devotion dating back to the 1700s, introduced by St.

Louis de Montfort. It involves entrusting one's life to Jesus through the Blessed Mother. This practice has been highly praised by many saints and popes, including Pope St. John Paul II.

Marian consecration does not involve worshiping Mary or treating her as divine. Instead, it acknowledges that Mary, as Christ's mother, always leads us to her Son. Mary serves as a bridge, guiding us closer to Jesus by the safest and most direct route.

On the Cross, Jesus gave His mother to humanity, saying, "Behold your mother" (John 19:26-27). St. John Paul II saw this as an invitation to deeper intimacy with Christ by drawing closer to the one closest to Him on earth.

Many who practice the consecration experience a deeper, more transformative prayer life, drawing closer to both Mary and Jesus. (Note: Catholic websites like EWTN and the National Shrine of St. Louis de Montfort provide free downloadable versions and instructions.)

Feasts & 🖊 💿

May 3 – Sts. Philip and James (First Century). St. Philip was born in Bethsaida and followed John the Baptist before he followed Christ. After the Ascension, St. Philip preached in Asia Minor, where he was martyred. St. James, the son of Alphaeus, was also one of the twelve Apostles.

May 12 – Sais Nereus and Achilleus (d.c.100). Little is known about the early lives of Saints Nereus and Achilleus. They were Roman soldiers of the Praetorian Guard but converted to Christianity. They resigned the army, refusing to serve the Emperer. They

were exiled from Rome to the island of Terracina and were beheaded.

May 29 – Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (1st Century). Today marks the completion of Jesus' mission of salvation and his triumphant entry into Heaven. Note: In many dioceses, observance of Ascension has been moved to the following Sunday.

May 29 – Pope St. Paul VI (1978). Born in 1897, near Brescia, Italy, Giovanni Battista Montini spent most of his priesthood working for the Vatican. He was elected pope in 1963 and concluded the Second Vatican Council, went on many apostolic missions, and wrote several significant encyclicals. He died in 1978.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 31-4pm 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; Charles Champagne, Jr.; Donald Aucoin, Aucoin & Wunstel Families; "Dottie" Rivere, Julius & Neva Bolotte; Theresa D. Businelle; Stag Gomez, Catherine Gomez, Bryce Gomez, Les Gomez, Claiborne LeBlanc; Father Josef Edlinger

Sunday, June 1-7:30am Mass - St. John Parishioners

Sunday, June 1-9am 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; Fred Hebert, George & Gloria Ramirez, James & Agnes LeBlanc; Mary Ann Gregoire; Paul & Emily Bourgeois, V. J. & Carolyn Vicknair; Scott Jude Marino, A. J. & Nera Rodriguez, Anthony & Mary Marino, Kids of St. Jude; Rosemary Cox; Denise Miranda; Les Gomez, Gomez & Loubiere Families; Benny & Annie Vaughn, Jessel & Eula Ourso; Brian Zito; Ida Gaudet Family, Ruel Seneca, Sr., Leah Diamond, Linda Rafflee; Gloria Cavalier, Donald & Mary Cavalier, Mark Cavalier

Sunday, June 1-11am Mass

Cindy Dickerson; Junuis A. Beadle; Theresa B. Beadle; Evelyn T. Percle, Elaine M. Voisin; Isaac Vaughn, Jr., Brent Vaughn, Isaac Vaughn, Sr., Nilda Vaughn; Lynda Roetker Dawkins; Mr. & Mrs. Verner Comeaux, Janice C. & Bobby Tullier

Tuesday, June 3-6pm Mass

Lorraine "Catty" Hebert, Mary Kay Marchand Hudson; Joshua "Josh" Landry, Harry & Vivian Banta, Gloria & Joe Landry

Wednesday, June 4-7am Mass

Dudley & Marie Ragusa LeBlanc

Thursday, June 5-7am Mass

Ed Bahry

Friday, June 6-7am Mass

Kathy Dupont Fulton, Pat Dupont



Sanctuary Candle

May 25, 2025

St. John the Evangelist

Brennan Bujol, Derley Barbier, Bujol & Clebert Families

St. Clement of Rome

Alfred & Mercedese Carville



Baptisms & Baptism Seminars

Baptism Seminars — 7pm Church Office Conference Room Monday, June 2, 2025 Monday, July 7, 2025

Baptisms — Following 4pm Mass

Saturday, May 31, 2025 Saturday, June 28, 2025 Saturday, July 26, 2025

Dates are subject to change. Please register online or call the church office during the early stages of pregnancy to confirm the dates of the seminar. Contact Lily Skidmore at 225.687.2402.

Scripture Readings

Week of May 25, 2025

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Ps 67:2-3, 5-6,8; Rev 21:10-14, 22-23;

Jn 14:23-29

Monday Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b;

Jn 15:26—16:4a

Tuesday Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8;

Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; Ps 148:1-2,

11-14; Jn 16:12-15

Thursday Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23; Lk 24:46-53

Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-7;

Jn 16:20-23

Saturday Visitation of the Blessed Virgin

Zeph 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; Lk 1:39-56

Sunday — Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28;

10:19-23; Lk 24:46-53

Altar Society

Friday

Essential Support System of the Church

Altar Society Team 4 will be cleaning the church Wednesday, May 28 at 8am. Volunteers are welcome.

Coffee & Donuts

June 1, 2025

George & Patricia Ramirez

7:30 am Mass

Blane & Deryl Ourso

9am Mass



2025 Hurricane Safety Mass

Join Bishop Michael Duca for a Noon Mass Friday, May 30 to pray for a quiet hurricane season at St. Joseph Cathedral, 401 Main St., Baton Rouge.

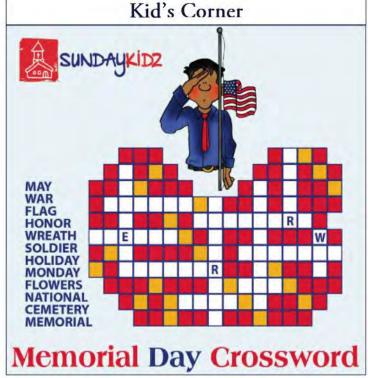


Important Acadian Festival Notice

Any 2025-2026 Senior girl attending Plaquemine High School, Iberville West Math, Science and Arts Academy or St. John High School or lives in Plaquemine and attends a

school outside of Iberville Parish is eligible to apply online at <u>acadianfestival.org</u> to be considered for the 2025 Acadian Festival Princess Court. <u>Application period will be June 1 - June 30, 2025</u>. You will receive confirmation when your application has been successfully submitted. There will be no calling of members in the application process. The Acadian Festival Committee and/or the Knights of Columbus are not responsible for contacting girls to apply.

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