

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH



57805 Main Street • Plaquemine, Louisiana 70764
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
stjohnchurchplaq.org • (225) 687-2402 • Fax (225) 687-1587
stjohnchurchplaq@coxbusiness.net • 24 Hour Prayer Line: (225) 687-1554

Pastoral Team

Rev. Martin Lawrence.....Pastor
Alfred J. Ricard II.....Deacon
Laurie Barbier.....Director of Religious
Education
Wanda Ashley.....PSR/Confirmation
Jennifer Adams..PSR Coordinator 1-6
Donna Carville.....OCIA

Parish Office Staff

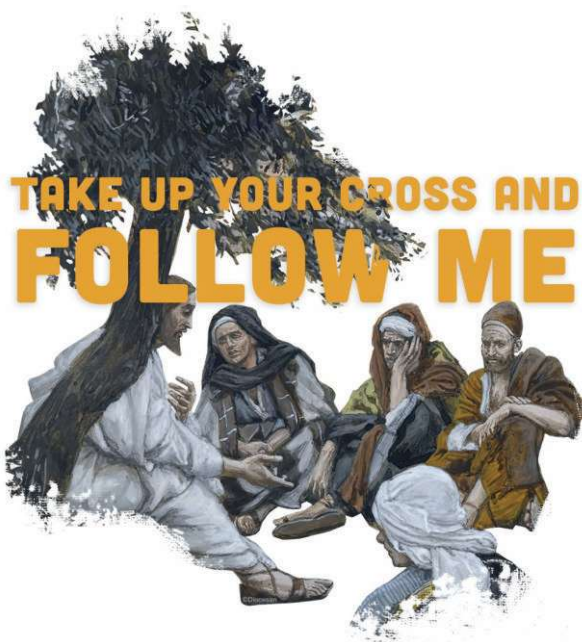
Medric Smith, Jr....Business Manager
Marsha Dupont.....Secretary
Susan LandrySecretary
Lily Skidmore.....Secretary
Gary Perrault.....Maintenance

Masses

Saturday Vigil.....4:00 pm
Sunday...7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am
Tuesday6:00 pm
Followed by Benediction & Novena
Wednesday.....7:00 am
Thursday.....7:00 am
Friday.....7:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday 5:30-5:45 pm
First Friday6:30 am
Saturday 3:00-3:30 pm



Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time September 7, 2025

Free to Love

St. Paul must have understood today's Gospel very well. Like Jesus, he knew what being a disciple would cost. It landed him in prison. Also like Jesus, he is not afraid to ask others to take that discipleship seriously. And he is not ashamed to ask a favor: Would Philemon accept his runaway slave, Onesimus, back into his home? Not just as a slave, but as a member of his family. In the Gospel, Jesus talks about the cost of discipleship. Paul takes that a step further—he reminds us to accept that cost freely. He could have ordered his friend to free the slave. Instead of giving an order, he called Philemon to respond to his request freely. Perhaps we can learn from that example.

Like Paul, when Jesus commands us to love one another, he leaves us free to accept that challenge. Remember, he always says, "Love one another, as I have loved you" (John 13:34). Jesus was never compelled to cure anyone or forgive their sins. Yet how often do we go to church because we were told we have to? Do

we volunteer for the picnic only because the pastor twists our arm?

We can live life just doing what we have to. Or when Jesus offers us a new motive—love for God because God loves us—we can choose to follow him freely. Let us ask the Spirit to fill us with the freedom to love.

Tom Schmidt



OCIA

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) is a faith journey open to all unbaptized or baptized Christians who wish to explore more about the Catholic faith and the possibility of becoming Catholic. Current Catholics who may be looking for a refresher about their faith may also attend the inquiry classes in the Fall of 2025.

OCIA inquiry classes about our Catholic faith will begin **Wednesday, September 10** from 6-7:30pm in the church office conference room, then twice a month on Wednesdays until December 10, 2025. After the Christmas season, OCIA catechumenate classes will resume until Easter Vigil Mass.

To register or for more information, please call Donna Carville at 225.687.2402 or email dbcaville@gmail.com.

In Loving Memory...

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

**Barbara Gerace
Huey V. Martinez**

**Donated by:
Mr. & Mrs. Harlan M. Bezet**

Ritualsong

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time #1262

Entrance: The Summons #886

Preparation: **Instrumental**

Communion: Eye Has Not Seen #819

Sending Forth: O God, Our Help in Ages Past #804



Eucharistic Adoration

An Invitation to Prayer Before the Blessed Sacrament

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

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord." (Mt 11:28)

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



Welcome Choir!

The St. John Choir returns from our summer break on Sunday, September 7 at 9am. This is the perfect time for you to join our choir ranks as we lead the parish in the praise of God through song. Our roster has diminished over the past few years and quite honestly, we NEED

you! Rehearsals will resume sometime in early October. But, for now, just come up to the loft and sing with us! If you need further information or if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me @ 225.776.0168. God bless you!

Medric

Medric Smith, Jr.
Director of Music

Blood Drive

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
57805 Main Street, Plaquemine, LA 70764

FREE T-SHIRT to ALL DONORS!

For additional information about donating, please call 225-765-8843

Sunday, September 7, 2025
8am-1pm

DONORS SHOULD:

Eat before donating.
Bring picture ID.
Bring reading glasses.
Be 17 or above. (18 with parent consent)

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE
Blood Donor Center

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Community Blood Drive

In Loving Memory...

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

Floyd Hebert

**Donated by:
Gordon Gregoire & Family**

In Loving Memory...

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

**Barbara Gerace
Marion Guercio
Mayola Babin**

**Donated by:
Kevin & Peggy Allain**



Baptisms & Baptism Seminars

Baptism Seminars — 7pm

Church Office Conference Room

Monday, September 8, 2025

Monday, October 6, 2025

Monday, November 3, 2025

Baptisms — Following 4pm Mass

Saturday, September 27, 2025

Saturday, October 25, 2025

Saturday, November 22, 2025

During the early stages of pregnancy, please register online at www.stjohnchurchplaq.org under FORMATION or call the church office at 225.687.2402. Baptism preparation may be done at a seminar or online. For online information, email wandaashley681@gmail.com. Confirm with Lily Skidmore at the church office as dates are subject to change.

Children's Liturgy

A safe and nurturing environment for children to participate in the Mass at an age-appropriate level

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Mass</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
September 7	9am	Tracy Cox
September 14	11am	Alexis Schlatre
September 21	9am	Carrie Leonard
September 28	11am	Alexis Schlatre

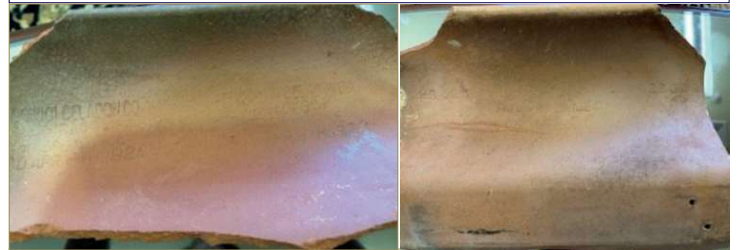
In Loving Memory...

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

Fr. Greg Daigle

**Donated by:
Mr. & Mrs. Van J. Junot, Jr.**

100 Year Capital Campaign Authentic Ceiling Tile Sale



Working toward our goal of financing a new HVAC system for our church, we will be selling authentic ceiling tiles from the 100 year old roof which were replaced by new tiles. The tiles will be sold (between \$10 and \$100) **Saturday and Sunday, September 6 and 7** before and after every Mass outside the doors of the church and in the parish hall. Payments by Venmo may be made in the parish hall.

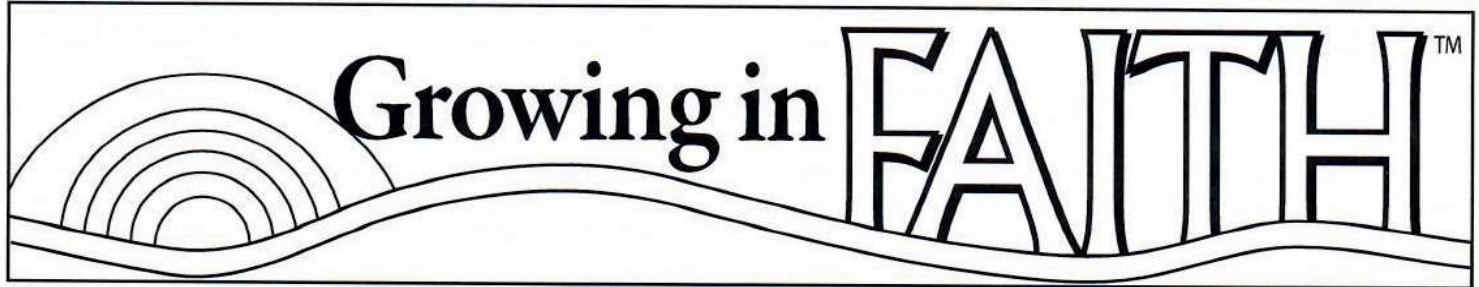
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY ROOF TILE

*Dated April 8, 1924,
this is one of the original church tiles
replaced in 2025. Let it be a reminder of
our faith and generosity as we strive to
continue worshipping and serving the
Lord our father in this holy place.*



St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church Parish

The third and present church building
was completed in October 1927
and will celebrate its
100th anniversary in October 2027.

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

September 2025

St. John the Evangelist

Rev. Martin Lawrence

One Minute Meditations

St. Lawrence Justinian

Born into a noble Venetian family, St. Lawrence Justinian desired sanctity from an early age. He entered the Order of the Augustinian Canons Regular of St. George, where he became known for his zeal, penitential lifestyle, and deep charity—especially toward the poor. He eventually became the general of the order. Recognized for his holiness, he was appointed Bishop, and later Patriarch, of Venice by the pope. He served faithfully until his death at the age of seventy-five.

Jesus turns sorrow into joy

Each September, the Church celebrates the Exaltation of the Holy Cross—not because we glorify suffering, but because the Cross reveals a Love that is total, faithful, and fearless. Christ embraced suffering, rejection, and death—and triumphed over them. His Cross is the ultimate sign that love is stronger than pain. When we bring our trials and sorrows to Jesus, He transforms them—through a kind of divine alchemy—into strength, healing, joy, and even glory. In Him, suffering is never the end of the story.

"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 is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

Holiness in everyday life

Pier Giorgio Frassati — to be canonized on September 7 — was known for blending intense spirituality with fun—he loved mountain climbing, practical jokes, and friendship. He taught that holiness can be simple, joyful, and practical, woven into daily life. In a 1923 address to young people, he summed up the Christian life: "Our religion is based on charity, which is nothing other than the most perfect Love." He proposed three ways to live that love: by example, through compassion, and by joyful invitation.

By example: Blessed Pier believed that our lives should reflect our faith without needing words. "We Catholics must strive to have our whole life guided by Christian moral law," he said. That includes building our schedules around the Eucharist, practicing reverence, treating others with dignity, and living generously. These everyday choices silently proclaim who we are—and whose we are.

With compassion: Blessed Pier encouraged personal, thoughtful acts of

love: visiting the lonely, offering a kind word, or putting others first. He reminded us that holiness begins with small, intentional acts of compassion.

By joyful invitation: Blessed Pier's faith was magnetic, marked by laughter,

"Jesus is with me. I have nothing to fear."

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

adventure, and prayer. He urged others to draw people to Christ with warmth and sincerity: "Persuade [those who are far from the Church] to follow the ways of God." A quiet chapel visit or simple prayer can be a powerful invitation to grace.

He urged Catholics to stay rooted in the Eucharist: "Approach the Eucharistic Table as often as possible... from which you will draw strength." His life reminds us that sainthood is not about perfection, but about choosing love—daily, faithfully, and joyfully.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics believe in angels?

In the Nicene Creed, professed at every Sunday Mass and solemnity, we affirm belief in "all things visible and invisible"—a direct reference to spiritual beings, including angels. Throughout Scripture, angels appear as messengers, protectors, and servants of God's will. Jesus' words in Matthew 18:10,

referencing angels who "behold the face of [His] Father"—form the basis for the Church's belief in guardian angels. These faithful spirits, who remained loyal to God, continue to watch over and guide us. Belief in angels is not optional but a vital part of Catholic teaching and tradition.

Hearing God's voice in the everyday

Discernment isn't limited to religious vocations—it's a way of seeking God's will in all areas of life. Whether you're considering a marriage, a job change, or a move to a new city, discernment helps you respond to God's loving plan with clarity and peace. Here are three tips to avoid common pitfalls:

Learn to recognize His voice: It's difficult to discern God's will if we don't know His character. A healthy relationship with God—nurtured through prayer and Scripture, especially the Gospels—helps us become familiar with His voice. The more time we spend with Him, the easier it becomes to distinguish His promptings from fear, pressure, or personal bias.

Take a practical step: Discernment requires action. You can't always think your way to clarity. Take the interview, visit the new city, introduce your intended to your family. These steps don't commit you for life—they give you real-world experience that sharpens your perspective and brings peace to your decision-making.

Narrow your focus: Too many options can paralyze progress. At some point, discernment involves commitment and trust. Begin by eliminating options that clearly don't fit. The path may shift as you go, but each step—taken prayerfully—leads you closer to the right destination. God's guidance is often gradual but unmistakable.

from Scripture

Luke 16:19-31, Doing the good we ought to do

In this Gospel passage, Jesus tells a parable aimed at those who are indifferent to the suffering around them. A rich man enjoys daily luxury while Lazarus, a poor and sick man, lies just outside his gate, starving and ignored. Though the rich man likely passed by Lazarus often—and even knew his name—he offered no help.

After death, their roles are reversed. Lazarus is carried to the side of Abraham, a place of comfort and honor. The rich man finds himself in torment and pleads for relief. He asks Abraham to send Lazarus with water,

and later to warn his brothers. Both requests are denied.

Jesus' parable does not condemn wealth but the failure to love. The rich man's sin was not what he did, but what he refused to do. He saw suffering and remained unmoved.

This passage challenges us to examine our own hearts. Do we see those in need and look away?

True Christian living means turning prayer into mercy, and faith into action. When we love as Christ commands, the reward is eternal joy.

Q & A Why do Catholics display crucifixes instead of crosses?

Jesus is risen in glory, having conquered sin and death. Yet we, though united to Him in Baptism, remain on our earthly journey, still vulnerable to temptation and suffering. The Crucifix stands as a powerful reminder of the cost of sin and the price of our redemption.

More than a symbol of pain, the Crucifix reveals the depth of God's mercy and love: "*God so loved the world that He gave His only Son*" (John 3:16). It reminds us that Jesus is "*a compassionate high priest*" (Hebrews 4:15) who knows human suffering firsthand—rejection, sorrow, and even death (cf. Psalm 22:14; 69:20).

In every Catholic church, the Crucifix also points to the reality of the Eucharist. The sacrifice of the Mass is not separate from Calvary—it is the same sacrifice, made present to us (*Catechism*, 1545). Christ offers Himself to the Father, and we receive the fruits of that offering: grace, healing, and strength.

The Crucifix is not just a symbol—it is the visual proclamation of love that saves, heals, and invites us into deeper communion with Christ.

Feasts & Celebrations

September 12 – The Holy Name of Mary. Mary has many titles. Begun in Spain in 1513, this feast celebrates her as the Blessed Virgin and is the counterpart to the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. Pope Innocent XI extended this feast to the entire Church after the King of Poland, with Mary's protection, defeated an advancing Muslim army in Vienna in 1683.

September 14 – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (c. 326). St. Helena (mother of Emperor Constantine) discovered what is believed to be the True Cross while on pilgrimage in Jerusalem. On that site, Constantine built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher.

September 16 – Saints Cornelius and Cyprian (c. 253). A renowned theologian and orator, he was ordained a priest and served as the bishop of Carthage. He helped Pope St. Cornelius defend the Church against the Novatian heretics. Pope Cornelius was exiled and died from harsh treatment in 253. Cyprian was arrested for refusing to worship idols. He was exiled and subsequently beheaded.

September 19 – St. Januarius (c. 305). Not much is known about this saint, except that he was the Bishop of Benevento, Italy, and that he was martyred with six companions under the Diocletian persecutions. For reasons unknown, a vial of his blood has miraculously liquified annually, several times a year, since at least 1389.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

Success Publishing & Media, LLC
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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)

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Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 13-4pm Mass

Msgr. Leonard Robin, Msgr. George Barbier, Fr. Eugene Engels, Fr. Jerome Dugas, Fr. Greg Daigle, Sister Catherine Labouré, Sister Mary Rita McSorley, Sister Cecile Poitras; Tina Rinaudo; Kristina Mellema; Charles Champagne, Jr.; John & Ann Ruiz, Joseph Ruiz, Lena P. Brooks; John Caffarel, Sr.; Brennan Eugene Bujol, Pim & Nu Nu Clebert, Johnny Clebert, Louise & Edmund Bujol; Dixie & Murray Suffrin; J. W. Bryant Family, Mrs. E. J. Clifton; Alcee & Pauline Becnel, Evans & Virgie Dugas; Mayon, Callahan & Clement Families; Anthony "Tonto" Pizzolato; Joseph Graves, Sr., W. A. Graves Family, Michael & Kandy Rarick, Thomas Morales Family; Henry "Tutie" Berthelot; Janice Brown; Sylvia Rivet, Shane Smith, Rivet Family; M/M Frank Ragusa & Family, M/M Placito Mancuso, M/M Mose Gibson & Family, J. D. & Ella Collins & Family; Faye & Paul Troxclair, Carolyn Bordelon; Stag Gomez, Catherine Gomez, Bryce Gomez, Les Gomez; Paul & Jenise Ortis, Earl & Mary Devillier; Matthew, Guy & Doris Allen Family; May & David Currier; Mary Ann Landry; Lois & Baco Romero, Lonnie Michel; Benny Joe Carrington; Brenda Lapeze; A Special Intention; M/M Kearney Thibodeaux & Family, The Suggs Family, Micah Matthew Theriot

Sunday, September 14-7:30am Mass

St. John Parishioners

Sunday, September 14-9am Mass

Msgr. Leonard Robin, Msgr. George Barbier, Fr. Eugene Engels, Fr. Jerome Dugas, Fr. Greg Daigle, Sister Catherine Labouré, Sister Mary Rita McSorley, Sister Cecile Poitras; Tina Rinaudo; Kristina Mellema; James Roucher; Frances Santangelo LeBlanc, Rita & Mike Santangelo, Anatole Santangelo; M/M Leslie Rivet, Sr.; Clarence "Pete" & Mary Berthelot; Rosa, Curtis, Brian & Denise Breaux; M/M A. J. Rodriguez, Mr. & Mrs. Vives Vicknair, Sr., M.M Alger Rodriguez, Scott J. Marino; Anthony & Margie Vitale, J. C. & Hetta Hebert; Van & Thelma Junot, Elvis & Mamie Rabalais; Paul & Emily Bourgeois, V. J. & Carolyn Vicknair; Joseph, Marian, Warren & Stafford Daigle, Lawrence & Winnie Miller, Paul & Myrtle Richard, Edward Miller; The Calvaruso Family, Benny & Annie Vaughn, Jessel & Eula Ourso; Allen, Flo & Paco Ourso; Ida Gaudet Family, Ruel Seneca, Sr., Leah Diamond, Linda Raffle

Sunday, September 14-11am Mass

Cindy Dickerson; O. J., Buster & Pearl Hidalgo Songy & Families; Joseph & Lillian Crescienne, Peter & Rosalie Crescienne, Dr. Joseph & Tina Alesi; Marshall & Virginia Peavy, Cleo & Ella Dupont; Isaac Vaughn, Jr., Brent Vaughn, Isaac Vaughn, Sr., Nilda Vaughn; Victor Joseph Canella; Berthelot, Schlatre, Cavet & Guillot Families; Randy Normand; Harry Marionneaux, Paul, Doris & Charles Barbier

(continued)

Mass Intentions (continued)

Tuesday, September 16-6pm Mass

Thelma & Alex Alexander; Mickey J. Brown

Wednesday, September 17-7am Mass

Dudley Nicolosi, Beryl Fourroux, Nicolosi & Schexnaildre Families

Thursday, September 18-7am Mass

Alfred & Mercedes Carville

Friday, September 19-7am Mass

Ed Bahry



Sanctuary Candle

September 7, 2025

St. John the Evangelist
Mr. John Caffarel, Sr.

St. Clement of Rome
Brenda Comeaux

Coffee & Donuts

September 14, 2025

Ed & Anne Reeves

(7:30am Mass)



Tom & Germaine Bradley

(9am Mass)

Kids Corner

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

G	H	L	U	F	Q	L	J	Z	H	T
A	C	R	O	S	S	Q	K	U	W	R
L	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	L	O
W	T	U	D	P	L	A	U	T	I	O
S	W	P	Y	C	U	I	R	P	Y	P
J	T	I	J	O	T	A	U	J	W	S
Z	O	X	L	S	X	R	P	C	R	D
J	W	S	M	T	S	U	A	H	Z	F
I	E	V	U	L	I	F	E	V	U	S
M	R	C	A	R	R	Y	S	K	E	B
S	S	A	M	E	N	K	I	N	G	L

Travel Life Disciple Carry Cross
Tower Cost King Troops Same

St. John Altar Society

Essential Support System of the Church

Team 2 will be cleaning the church Wednesday, September 10 at 8am. Volunteers are welcome.

Scripture Readings

Week of September 7, 2025

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 9:13-18b; Ps 90:3-6, 12-17;

Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33

Monday

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30;

Ps 13:6abc; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23

Tuesday

Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1b-2, 8-11; Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday

Col 3:1-11; Ps 145:2-3, 10-13b; Lk 6:20-26

Thursday

Col 3:12-17; Ps 150:1b-6; Lk 6:27-38

Friday

1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Lk 6:39-42

Saturday

1 Tm 1:15-17; Ps 113:1b-7; Lk 6:43-49

Sunday

Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1b-2, 34-38;

Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

The Diocesan Office of Life, Peace and Justice and the Theology Department of Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University (FranU) will host:

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S PASTORAL MINISTRY AND TEACHING ABOUT SAME SEX ATTRACTION

"With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:2-6)



Michaelangelo - The Creation of Adam



DR. JENNIFER MOREL, STD
Assistant Professor of Theology,
FranU, Baton Rouge

Registration is REQUIRED.

WEDNESDAY
9-17-25

FROM 6-8 P.M.

ST. GEORGE CATHOLIC
CHURCH - KLEINPETER
ACTIVITY CENTER

7808 St. George Dr.
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Find more information and register
<https://diobr.org/lc-event>
Registration is REQUIRED.

Contact us
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