

# SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

## Pastoral Team

Fr. Martin E. Lawrence.....Pastor  
 Alfred J. Ricard II.....Deacon  
 Laurie Barbier.....Director of Religious  
 Education  
 Jennifer Adams..PSR Coordinator 1-6  
 Donna Carville.....OCIA

## Parish Office Staff

Marsha Dupont.....Secretary  
 Susan Landry.....Secretary  
 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  
 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 Friday.....6:30 am  
 Saturday .....3:00-3:30 pm

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2026

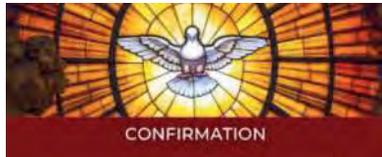
### Greater Than You Expect

Sometimes a prophet says more than he intended. Ezekiel in the first reading is talking about restoring Israel after the Babylonian exile. The Jews saw the Exile as punishment for their sins. God demonstrates forgiveness by bringing them back to Israel; God also shows them divine power and glory so that they return to the Lord for their protection.

Jesus came to show us God in a new way and to fulfill the promises of all previous prophecies. Notice how the first reading repeats two phrases: “open your graves” and “know that I am the Lord.” Jesus demonstrates that God’s promise is much greater than anything Ezekiel expected.

When Jesus went to the tomb of Lazarus, he knew that he was going to raise Lazarus from death to help his disciples believe. So why was he “perturbed and deeply troubled”? It could be that he was disappointed that his friends did not seem to believe that he could do this. Like Ezekiel, the people of Jesus’ time did not expect him literally to raise the dead. But God used the prophet’s message to prepare for Jesus’ message that not only would he rise from the dead, but we will also. And like the friends and relatives of Lazarus, we too may question how it could be possible. Fortunately, Jesus helps with that, too.

Look at the second reading to the Romans. Because we have God’s Spirit living in us, we who are sinners can be raised to new life by that Spirit. When our sins are forgiven, we begin to live a new life by loving the people we hurt by our sins, forgiving people who have hurt us, being more concerned for the poor than for our own comfort. We are freed from worrying about the future, all because we have experienced the new life of God’s Spirit and, as Ezekiel says, know that God is the Lord. Tom Schmidt



## Sacrament of Confirmation

**Sunday, March 22, 2026**

**7pm Holy Mass**

We will welcome Bishop Michael Duca to a special Mass Sunday, March 22 at 7pm as he seals the confirmands with the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Everyone is invited a reception following Mass in the parish hall to honor the newly confirmed young people .

## Ritualsong

**Fifth Sunday of Lent #1128**

Entrance: Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days #564

Preparation: \*\*Instrumental\*\*

Communion: Hear Us, Almighty Lord #560

Sending Forth: Parce Domine/Spare Us, Gracious Lord #567



## Eucharistic Adoration

**Come and Adore. He is waiting for YOU.**

"Let every knee bend before Thee, O greatness of my God, so supremely humbled in the Sacred Host. May every heart love Thee, every spirit adore Thee and every will be subject to Thee!" —St. Margaret Mary

The Adoration Chapel is open from 4am-11pm. To schedule an hour as a committed adorer or a substitute, please contact Susan at 225.687.2402, [susanblandry@sj.brcoxmail.com](mailto:susanblandry@sj.brcoxmail.com).

## Lenten Penance Service and Confessions

**Thursday, March 26, 2026 — 7pm**

Father Martin with 5 other priests from our deanery will be hearing confessions following a 7pm penance service on Thursday, March 26. Father will also be hearing confessions before Masses at 5:30pm on Tuesdays and Fridays during Lent and during the Easter Triduum during Holy Week.

## Lenten Weekday Schedule

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday - 7am Mass

Tuesday - 6pm Mass

6:30pm - Divine Mercy Chaplet & Benediction

Friday - Noon Stations of the Cross

5:30pm - Confessions

6pm Mass & Stations of the Cross

(No 7am Mass during Lent)

## Scripture Readings

**Week of March 22, 2026**

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rm 8:8-11;  
Jn 11:1-45 or Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Monday Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or  
13:41c-62; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord  
Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10;  
Lk 1:26-38

Thursday Gen 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59

Friday Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42

Saturday Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10-12d, 13;  
Jn 11:45-56

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-18,  
19-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11;  
Mt 26:14—27:66 or Mt 27:11-54

## Students Needed for Holy Thursday

We are looking for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students who have made their First Communion and would like to participate in the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper Thursday, April 2 at 7pm. Young girls will process with young boys. Practice will be held at 5:30pm on Holy Thursday. First Communion attire is suggested; Sunday attire is acceptable.

If your child would like to participate, please contact Marsha at [marshaadupont@sj.brcoxmail.com](mailto:marshaadupont@sj.brcoxmail.com) or 225.687.2402.



## Altar Server Training & Pizza Party

Father Martin is holding an altar server training on **Saturday, April 18** from 9 to 11am in the parish hall. Anyone who has received their First Communion and is interested in this ministry is invited to attend, get training, and get scheduled to start serving at Holy Mass. Pizza will be served after the training.

**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:

**Angela Mary Cavalier**

**Donated by:  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas J. Thompson**

**In Loving Memory...**

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

**St. John Class of 1964**

**Donated by:  
Virgie Smart**

**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:

**Celeste "Pucky" Laurent**

**Donated by:  
Plaquemine Council 970 Knights of**

**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:

**Zeke Breaux  
Eileen Dausat  
Peter Miglacio  
Gil Banta  
Peter Vitale**

**Donated by:  
Eugene & Denny Bujol**

**St. John School News**

**Krawfish Krawl**

**Friday, March 27**

\$20 for approximately 3 lbs. of crawfish with corn and potatoes.

Pick up in the circle drive from 5-7pm.

To purchase tickets please contact St. John School at 225.687.3056.

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**St. John Fest**

**Saturday, April 25**

Join our Eagle family for the school's biggest fundraising night of the year! The St. John Fest will be held on Saturday, April 25 at the Carl F. Grant Civic Center. Enjoy food, drinks, live and silent auctions, and more while raising money for our school! The theme of this years auction is "St. John Fiesta!" Anyone interested in donating items is asked to contact Kim Bueche, Auction Chair at [kimberlybueche4@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlybueche4@gmail.com) or 225.776.4980.

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**Community Coffee "Cash for Schools"**

**Fundraiser**

Please continue saving UPC labels from all Community Coffee products. St. John is able to raise thousands of dollars for classroom supplies through the Community Coffee "Cash for Schools" fundraiser. (Coke Rewards bottle tops and Box Tops for Education are no longer accepted.)

You may bring your labels to the church office or put them in an envelope and drop it in the collection basket at any weekend Mass. We will see that the school receives them.



**Baptisms & Baptism Seminars**

**Baptism Seminars — 7pm**

**Church Office Conference Room**

**\*\*Monday, April 13, 2026**

Monday, May 4, 2026

Monday, June 1, 2026

**Baptisms — Following 4pm Mass**

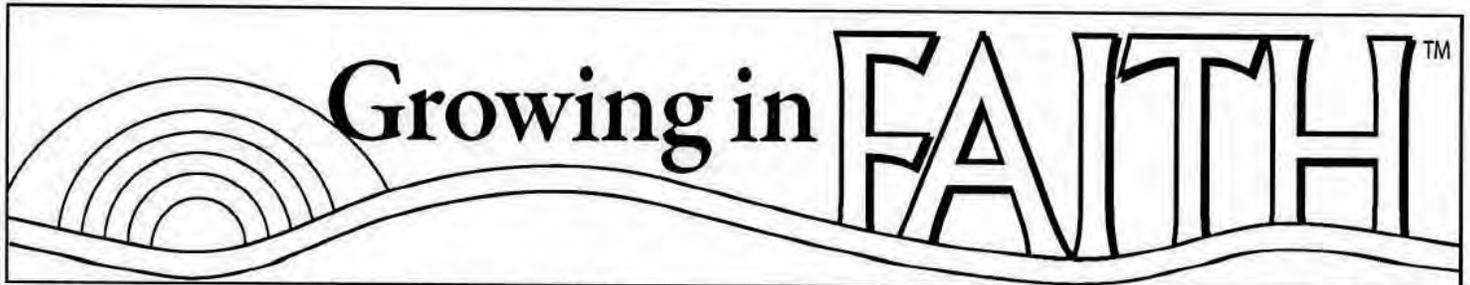
Saturday, April 18, 2026

Saturday, May 23, 2026

Saturday, June 27, 2026

During the early stages of pregnancy, please register online at [www.stjohnchurchplaq.org](http://www.stjohnchurchplaq.org) under the FORMATION tab or call the church office at 225.687.2402. Confirm with Lily Skidmore at the church office as dates are subject to change.

**\*\*Note Change**



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

March 2026

St. John the Evangelist  
Rev. Martin E. Lawrence

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

Born in Mayorga, Spain, in 1538, St. Turibius studied law at the University of Salamanca. Known for his prudence and integrity as a judge, St. Turibius was nominated by King Philip II to be archbishop of Peru. After witnessing the need of the faithful in Lima, St. Turibius agreed and was ordained. He spent his office reforming the Peruvian diocese of corruption, founded schools, seminaries, and hospitals, and worked to protect the rights of the natives.

### Lent is about love

Lent can feel discouraging. After all, we give up things we like and focus on suffering. Yet, in Holy Week, for which Lent is the preparation, we see God's response to us in our sins. He meets us in our mess. He returns our rejection with freely offered love, our selfishness with radical self-gift, and our suffering with unfathomable mercy. We give up things for Lent because Love gave Himself up for us.

"[Our Lord] is thinking about you and not only about you but about every hair of your head: this is an article of faith and you must not have the slightest doubt about it... you have no cause to doubt that he is looking upon you with love..." — St. Francis de Sales, *Selected Letters*

## Create space for grace

Lent is not just a season of temporary sacrifice, but a call to lasting conversion. Consider choosing disciplines that reshape daily habits and create space for grace. Here are five meaningful ways to begin redirecting your path:

**Practice trust.** *"Which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life?"* (Matthew 6:27). Concern is human, but persistent worry bears little fruit. When anxiety rises, turn it into prayer, "Jesus, I trust You, I place this moment and its outcome in Your hands." Trust grows through repetition.

**Refocus your heart.** Lasting fulfillment does not come from appearance or possessions, but from knowing God and resting in His love. Keep a daily record of blessings received. Review it often.

**Create quiet.** St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "God is the friend of silence." Silence begins by turning off what

competes for attention. Place screens in another room. Silence notifications. Turn to God in the silence.

**Give rather than acquire.** Learn to distinguish between wants and needs. Limiting spending to what is truly necessary challenges the habit of

*"Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God? Make for it two wings: fasting and almsgiving."*

St. Augustine

seeking comfort or status in possessions. When we forgo nonessential purchases and redirect those resources to others, we cultivate detachment, strengthen generosity, and put our security in God.

**Choose mercy.** Resentment binds the heart; forgiveness frees it. On the Cross, Christ chose mercy. This Lent, choose the same path toward healing and peace.

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics practice prayer, penance, and almsgiving during Lent?

Prayer, penance, and almsgiving are grounded in the prophets' call to genuine conversion. Joel urges the people to return to God with their whole hearts, not merely with outward gestures. Isaiah makes clear that the fast God desires feeds the hungry and shelters the poor, linking worship with justice. Jesus deepens this teaching in

Matthew 6. He assumes His followers will pray, fast, and give alms, but warns against practicing them for recognition.

When done in secret, these disciplines purify motives, reshape desire, and free us from attachment to possessions and approval. Properly embraced, they train the heart to seek lasting treasure in God rather than passing reward.

### The right time is now

When is the right time to proclaim the Gospel, live the faith with greater intention, and renew our commitment to God's plan? During a January Angelus address, Pope Leo said, "God is at work at all times; every moment is 'God's time'." The call to discipleship is not reserved for a future time when life feels more settled. It is meant for us today.

**God works in uncertain moments.** The Gospels show that Jesus did not wait for favorable conditions. Matthew records that His public ministry began after John the Baptist's arrest, a moment marked by instability and threat. Rather than withdraw, Jesus proclaimed, "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*" (Matthew 4:17). What seemed like a setback became the starting point of His mission. If we postpone

necessary change until circumstances improve, we may never act. Every moment, even a difficult one, can become the moment of conversion because God is always at work.

**God draws close.** Jesus also chose an unexpected location. He began not in Jerusalem, the religious center, but in Galilee, a region known for cultural and religious diversity. His mission made clear that God's grace is not confined to a single place or people. As Pope Leo explained, the Gospel reveals a God who draws near to all. No environment is beyond His presence. In our own lives, this means that God's invitation unfolds in ordinary settings. He calls us to deeper friendship, lasting conversion, and faithful witness wherever we are.

### from **S**cripture

### Matthew 26:14-27:66, God turns suffering into glory

In this passage, we read Matthew's account of the Passion, which begins with Judas agreeing to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver and continues through the preparations for the Last Supper. At that meal, Jesus institutes the Eucharist, giving His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity to His disciples. The contrast is striking. While Judas pursues his own self-interest, Jesus gives Himself in total self-offering.

In Gethsemane, the contrast deepens. As Jesus endures profound anguish, He asks His closest companions to remain with Him in prayer. They fall asleep. Soon after, Judas arrives with an armed

crowd and identifies Jesus with a kiss. Jesus is then bound, falsely accused, mocked, and beaten. By the next day, He is scourged, condemned, crucified, and laid in the tomb.

Through these events, Matthew highlights Jesus' trust in the Father and His commitment to the Father's will. The Passion is not a sign of divine abandonment. It reveals the depth of God's mercy. In Christ's willing sacrifice, suffering becomes the means of redemption, grace is poured out, and death itself is conquered. Holy Week shows that God can transform even the darkest hour into the path to glory.

### **Q** Does repeated failure & change how God loves me? **A**

It can be discouraging to struggle with the same sins repeatedly. The pattern may feel discouraging. Yet discouragement should never become despair. The central truth of the Christian life is that when repentance is sincere and there is a real desire to improve, God always receives us. As Pope Francis said, "He does not tire in forgiving. We are the ones who tire in asking for forgiveness." His mercy does not diminish with repetition.

At times, God may permit ongoing struggles to deepen our humility. Repeated weakness can protect us from spiritual pride, which blinds us to our faults and keeps us from seeking grace. Humility, however, recognizes imperfection without losing trust. A humble person is not shocked by failure but returns to God with greater dependence.

If you feel anxious about Confession, whether for a new sin or a familiar one, remember the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son. He waits, watches, and runs to meet his child. This is how God receives us. In every sincere confession, we encounter not frustration, but mercy renewed.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**March 1 – St. David of Wales (c. 601).** St. David is the patron saint of Wales. He was born into Welsh nobility, but instead chose to become a priest. He was later consecrated a bishop. He is best known for founding an ascetic monastery, and ridding the area of the Pelagian heresy, which states that we must earn our salvation. He was known for his inspiring preaching, penitential life, and kindness to the poor.

**March 4 – St. Casimir of Poland (1483).** Born to King Casimir IV of Poland, St. Casimir became known for his piety and integrity at a young age. When

the prince was older and his father sent him to conquer Hungary, Casimir assessed the odds against winning the war and turned back out of concern for his troops. He resolved never to be involved in war again. He died of illness when he was twenty-five.

**March 19 – St. Joseph, Husband of Mary (1st Century).** Jesus' earthly father and husband to the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph is a model of fatherhood and a protector of families.

**March 29 – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (1st Century).** On Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when He was greeted by crowds waving palms and cheering. This Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week.

### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.  
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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)

**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, March 28-4pm 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; V. J. & Carolyn Vicknair, Emily & Paul Bourgeois; Ambrose Tullier; Ernest, Josephine & Brenda Lapeze, Lapeze & Ragusa Families; Mary & Chuchu Flatau; Orcino & Flatau Families; M/M John Caffarel, Sr., M/M G. E. Marix; Laura Lynn Grass, Faye & Paul Troxclair, Carolyn Bordelon; M/M Tony Falcon, Anthony “Boyce” Falcon, Brandi Quatrevingt, Faye & Harry Martinez; M/M Ray Murry, Mark Murry, Lil Earl Quatrevingt, M/M Earl Quatrevingt, Tommy & Jay Quatrevingt, M/M C. J. Saurage, Brian & Randy Quatrevingt, M/M Ronald Lee Gary, M/M Gerald Morales, M/M Frank Tempanaro, M/M Alvin Altazan, Butch Altazan, M/M Clyde Favron, Shirley Favron; Allen “Dottie” Rivere, Julius & Neva Bolotte; Isaac J. Vaughn, Jr., Brent Isaac Vaughn, Nilda Vaughn, Isaac Vaughn, Sr.; Peter Migliacio

**Sunday, March 29-7:30am Mass**

St. John Parishioners

**Sunday, March 29-9am 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; Gerald “Pops” Boudreaux, Maydell Smothers, Tom Smothers; Rosa, Curtis, Brian & Denise Breaux; Ethel P. Businelle; Bertha & Dempsey Carline; Denise Miranda; Benny & Annie Vaughn, Jessel & Eula Mae Ourso; Ruel Seneca, Sr., Ida Gaudet Family, Leah Diamond, Linda Rafflee

**Sunday, March 29-11am Mass**

Cindy Dickerson; M/M Charles A. Griffon & Family; Rachael & Dom Engolio; Leon Graffeo, Nell & Pascal Graffeo, Jimmy Barbee

**Tuesday, March 31-6pm Mass**

Roland “Doug” Rivet, Hebert & Rivet Families

**Wednesday, April 1-7am Mass**

George & Carol Allain, Barbara Allain Bajon, George A. “Gi Gi” Allain, Rodney & Betty LaBauve, Paul & Emily Bourgeois

**Thursday, April 2-7am Mass**

Brennan Eugene Bujol, Pim, NuNu & Johnny Clebert, Louise, Edmund & Bro Bujol, Billy Wright; Anthony “Cap” Scorsone; Mary & Chuchie Flatau, Orcino & Flatau Families; Henry J. & JoAnn R. Daigle, Alfred & Volena Roth & Family, Alfred Roth, Jr., Dupuy & Bourgoyne Families

**Friday, April 3-6pm Mass**

Dwight Marix, Mary Jo Primeaux, Allen & Alberta Buquoi



**Sanctuary Candle**

**March 22, 2026**

St. John the Evangelist

**Laura Lynn Grass**

St. Clement of Rome

**Emily Loubiere**

**St. John Altar Society**

**Essential Support System of the Church**

Altar Society Team 4 will be cleaning the church Wednesday, March 25 at 8am. Volunteers are welcome!

**Called By Name**

**Chosen for Consecrated Life**

“The Father will honor whoever serves me.” Are you called to serve Christ alone as a priest or through consecrated life? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 225.336.8778 or via email: [ablount@diobr.org](mailto:ablount@diobr.org).



**Easter Flower Donations**

The beautiful flowers and decorations at Easter enhance our Easter worship. Please list the names of your loved ones on the envelopes provided in your March packet of envelopes or on a plain envelope. Memorial donations will be published in the bulletin.



**Coffee & Donuts**

**March 29, 2026**

**Derryl Comeaux, Bobbie Cavalier & Janis Rockforte**

(7:30 Mass)

**Steve & Faith Maddox** (9am Mass)

**Children’s Church - March 2026**

| <u>Sunday</u> | <u>Mass</u> | <u>Teacher</u>  |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
| March 22      | 9am         | Tracy Cox       |
| March 29      | 11am        | Alexis Schlatre |



Kids Corner

5th Sunday of Lent

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

Village Brother III Remained  
 Walks Awaken Sleep Tomb Lives Wept

Jesse's motto: "Love God, Save Souls, Slay Error!"

**JESSE ROMERO**  
 GUEST SPEAKER  
 MARCH 27, 2026



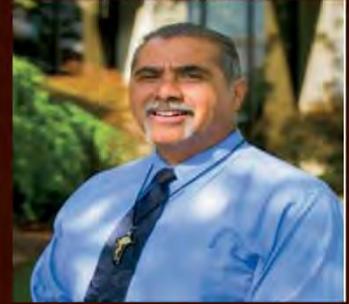
**St. John the Evangelist**  
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 Plaquemine, Louisiana

**Schedule**  
 5:30 PM - Confessions  
 6:00 PM - Mass  
 6:45 PM - Stations of the Cross  
 7:30 PM - Jesse Romero:  
 Spiritual Warfare

**Cost**  
 Free Will Offering



**JESSE ROMERO**  
 GUEST SPEAKER



JESSE ROMERO IS A FULL-TIME CATHOLIC LAY EVANGELIST, AUTHOR, AND RETIRED LOS ANGELES DEPUTY SHERIFF. HE IS KNOWN FOR HIS "DYNAMIC, UPBEAT CHRIST-CENTERED POWER PREACHING" AND HAS BEEN A PROMINENT BILINGUAL FIGURE IN CATHOLIC MEDIA FOR OVER 20 YEARS. HIS APOSTOLATE, "ON FIRE EVANGELIZATION," FOCUSES ON CATECHIZING AND DEFENDING THE CATHOLIC FAITH. HE CURRENTLY HOSTS "THE JESSE ROMERO SHOW" ON YOUTUBE AND OTHER PLATFORMS TO SPEAK THE TRUTH WITH CHARITY AND CLARITY.

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