

St. John the Evangelist Church

57805 Main Street — Plaquemine, Louisiana 70764-2531
Phone: (225) 687-2402 — 687-3337 — Fax: 687-1587
24 Hour Prayer Line: (225) 687-1554



Pastoral Team:

Rev. Gregory J. Daigle, Pastor
Alfred J. Ricard, II, Deacon
Andrea Young, Coordinator of Religious Education
Donna Carville, R. C. I. A.
Website: www.stjohnchurchplaq.org
Email: stjohnchurchplaq@sj.brcoxmail.com
[facebook.com/pages/St John the Evangelist Catholic Church](https://facebook.com/pages/St%20John%20the%20Evangelist%20Catholic%20Church)

Parish Office Staff:

Medric Smith, Jr., Business Manager
Marsha Dupont, Secretary
Johnette Gourgues, Secretary
Susan Landry, Secretary
Gary Perrault, Maintenance

Weekend Masses:

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Saturday Vigil | 4:00 pm |
| Sunday | 7:30 am |
| | 9:00 am |
| | 11:00 am |

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|---|---------|
| Monday (Liturgy of the Word) | 7:00 am |
| Wed., Thurs., Fri. (Mass) | 7:00 am |
| First Tuesday of the Month | 6:00 pm |
| (Mass, Novena, Benediction and Anointing of the Sick) | |
| All other Tuesdays - Confessions | 5:30 pm |
| (Mass and Novena) | 6:00 pm |

Baptism: Please contact the Parish Office

Marriage: Please contact the pastor a minimum of six months before the wedding

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

| | |
|----------|---------|
| Saturday | 3:00 pm |
|----------|---------|

December 11, 2016 — Third Sunday of Advent

Today is Gaudete Sunday, which means "rejoice." For three weeks now we have been preparing for Christmas and, one hopes, enjoying some peace to pray and anticipate the coming of the Lord, not just as a baby two thousand years ago, but also in the end-times, the parousia, when the Lord will come again in glory. This is the Sunday when the rejoicing begins. Advent, unlike Lent, is not a penitential time, but a time of waiting and anticipation for the fulfillment of God's promises. "[We] will see the glory of the LORD, / the splendor of our God" (Isaiah 35:2). So, "Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord . . . Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand" (James 5:7, 8).

THE ONE WHO IS TO COME John the Baptist, wanting to confirm that Jesus is the Christ, sends his disciples to inquire about him. Jesus responds, echoing the words of the prophet Isaiah, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them" (Matthew 11:4-5). By this reply, Jesus knows that John will recognize that he is the Messiah, the one who is to come, and rejoice.

MORE THAN A PROPHET Jesus then turns to the crowds, and teaches them, and us, about John the Baptist. John must have been quite a sight, and quite a forceful preacher. He drew great crowds, including Pharisees and Sadducees, who came out to see and hear him, and many were baptized. John has spent years baptizing with a baptism of repentance in preparation for the One who is to come. Jesus in turn pays tribute to his kinsman, and at the same time reveals his own mission as the Anointed, the One who will come to bring salvation to all who believe. He praises John, and reveals that John is the prophet who has come to proclaim the coming of the Reign of God in Christ. Jesus says, "This is the one about whom it is written, / Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; / he will prepare your way before you" (Matthew 11:10). So, as James tells us in the second reading, we must not complain about one another so that we will not be judged in those final days. We can rejoice in the coming of the Reign of God. We must be patient. We celebrate Christmas not only as the secular holiday with Santa and the reindeer, the Christmas tree, the gifts, the parties, and all the glitz, but as the Incarnation and the joyful coming of the Lord our God.

Today's Readings: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

December 11, 2016

Dear Family:

The prophet Isaiah is bursting with good news for the nations. As the spokesperson of God, Isaiah announces that a promise of renewal is taking place. First, the earth will be transformed; the parched land will bloom with new life. Even more amazing, those broken in their bodies will be transformed as well; the deaf will hear, the lame will leap, the blind will see and the mute will speak. The power of God brings rejoicing. The psalmist sings praise for the Lord who does what Isaiah had prophesied. The generous love of God knows no bounds; the most vulnerable, the widows and orphans, are raised up. Even the stranger is not over looked.

In our Second Reading, James instructs the early Christians on waiting - one of the themes of Advent. But are we patient in our waiting? Our holiday season can be filled with busyness and social excitement to such a degree that we all feel rushed and harried. To wait with patience is to take time to grasp more deeply the reason for our waiting, the coming of the Lord into our lives. Patient waiting prepares our hearts to be ready and our thoughts to be focused on the mystery of the one who will come to dwell in our midst.

The Gospel moves to the end of John the Baptist's life and to his inquiry about whether Jesus is the expected one, the one he foretold. Jesus' response is twofold. He frames his answer by describing what he has done, echoing the prophetic words of Isaiah in the First Reading. Then he asks the disciples a question and responds himself by describing the important role of John as prophet and messenger. As John's role comes to an end, the role of the one he announced is unfolding. John offers us a model of waiting, and also of being committed to our own ministry of announcing Jesus to a waiting world.

Some questions for reflection:

How are Isaiah and John similar in their roles?

Are you a patient person with matters in your spiritual life?

How can you put the material and the spiritual in proper perspective during Advent?

Thanks so much to all who helped with our Christmas Open House. For all, it proved to be a work of love and pride in our church fellowship and our faith in Jesus Christ as we prepare to celebrate His birth. You are all very generous and talented. You are also very appreciated by me. It was good to visit with so many of you at our gathering and I continue to pray for us all to enjoy a great and Holy Christmas Season.

On Monday December 12th, many generous and gifted parishioners will gather to begin decorating our beautiful church helping all of us to prepare for Christmas. We welcome any who can assist. It is work, but also fun and fellowship - and of course----food! Let us be grateful for these gifted, generous folks who add so much to our celebrations in this Holy Season.

Wednesday will be a busy day as well. We welcome our Senior Citizens for a meal in our Church Hall, and special surprise entertainment awaits them. Also on Wednesday, the priests and deacons of our deanery will gather at the rectory for a meal and fellowship before we make haste into the great liturgical celebrations for Christmas.

Please join us as well on Thursday the 15th at 6:00 p.m. in the church for our St. John School Christmas Concert. This concert is free and open to all. A love offering may be given if you feel so inclined, but is not required. Come and enjoy! The sound of young voices calling us to the joy of Christmas is sure to offer solace for all struggling to find peace at this time.

Finally, I urge us all to hear and listen to the message of St. James calling us to wait with patience. (I write this to myself first and try to keep it as a focal point in my prayer as days become more busy). We must ask ourselves, are we giving of ourselves because we love and are grateful? Or, are we doing all we do for some other reason? I have recently heard some folks giving voice to things that are not really of God. We must be reminded that Jesus in the incarnation is a free gift to us - our salvation from God. So, the language of ultimatums (e.g. it has to be done this way, my way, on my schedule) may not really be a language expressing our faith in God's great gift given to us in Jesus Christ. St. James tasks us. Let us pray about that and work on it together.

**Peace,
Fr. Greg**

A few folks have asked for a copy of the five principles of forgiveness about which I recently preached. Here's a printing of them for your reflection:

FIVE THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT FORGIVENESS:

- 1. THE FIRST PERSON WHO BENEFITS FROM ME FORGIVING SOMEONE ELSE — IS ME? [WHY? BECAUSE IN FORGIVING ANOTHER I NO LONGER ALLOW THAT PERSON/EVENT TO HAVE POWER OVER ME.]**
- 2. BEING A FORGIVER DOES NOT MAKE US FOOLS. [RIGHT IS RIGHT, WRONG IS WRONG. SOMETIMES, WHEN FOLKS HAVE A PATTERN OF HURTING US, WE STILL FORGIVE BUT KEEP A “HOLY DISTANCE.” WE ARE STILL KIND/CIVIL.]**
- 3. FORGIVING ANOTHER IS AN ACT OF OUR WILL. [WE WILL OFTEN HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE CHOSEN TO FORGIVE AND COMMIT OURSELVES TO THAT TRUTH WITHOUT HAVING THE “FEELING” OF HAVING FORGIVENESS. THE “FEELING” MAY TAKE A LONG TIME OR MAY NEVER COME, BUT I CAN ALWAYS COMMIT TO GOD AND TO MYSELF THAT I CHOOSE TO FORGIVE.]**
- 4. WE DO NOT HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE PERSON/INSTITUTION/SYSTEM TO ASK FOR FORGIVENESS BEFORE WE OFFER FORGIVENESS. [FRANKLY, A PERSON OR INSTITUTION/SYSTEM MAY NEVER ASK FOR FORGIVENESS. THERE ARE SOME FOLKS WHO THINK THEY HAVE NEVER DONE ANYTHING WRONG TO US.]**
- 5. FORGIVENESS FOR US IS A JOURNEY. [JUST LIKE OUR BAPTISM IS A JOURNEY IN FAITH AS WE CONTINUALLY DEEPEN OUR LOVE OF GOD, THE SACRAMENTS, THE SCRIPTURES AND OUR GOOD WORKS — SO GOES OUR PATH IN FORGIVENESS. WE ARE HUMAN AND WE STRIVE TO FORGIVE COMPLETELY AS GOD HAS FORGIVEN US. HOWEVER, I LIKE TO SAY THAT “GOD HAS HOLY AMNESIA.” SOMETIMES, IT TAKES A WHILE FOR US ON THE JOURNEY BEFORE WE CAN FORGIVE LIKE JESUS. NONETHELESS, HE IS THE PERFECT IMAGE OF FORGIVENESS AS HE SUFFERED ON THE CROSS AND CRIED OUT TO HIS FATHER, “FORGIVE THEM FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.”]**

Rev. Gregory J. Daigle

St. John Parish Open House



This Saturday, December 10, 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 4:00 pm Mass from 5:00 pm-8:00 pm.

The Light is on for YOU!

Father Greg will be hearing confessions after 6:00 pm Mass on Tuesday, December 13 & Tuesday, December 20 from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm.



Epiphany Concert for St. John School



Father Greg Daigle will perform his annual Epiphany Concert on Sunday, January 8, 2017, at 4:00 pm at St. John the Evangelist Church.

The concert will feature songs of the Christmas season. Father Greg will be accompanied by the Bill Grimes Orchestra once again.

Tickets are \$25 each and are on sale at the St. John Church office and the St. John School office. All proceeds benefit music programs at St. John School. Tickets to this unique event make great Christmas gifts!

We welcome the Ladies of Peter Claver to 11:00 am Mass Sunday, December 11 as they celebrate their Quarterly Communion with us.



Baptism Seminars & Baptisms



Baptism Seminars

Monday, January 2, 2017
Monday, February 6, 2017
Monday, March 6, 2017

Baptisms

Saturday, December 17, 2016
Saturday, January 28, 2017
Saturday, February 25, 2017

The Baptism Seminars are held in the Parish Hall at 7:00 pm. Baptisms are usually held after 4:00 pm Mass on the last weekend of the month.

Dates are subject to change. Please call the church office at 225.687.2402 during the early stages of pregnancy to confirm the date of the seminar.

The Holy Spirit Prayer Group will meet Sunday, December 11 from 4:00 pm-6:00 pm in church.



Everyone is welcome.



Christmas Eve Masses:

4 pm (Children's Liturgy)
6 pm

11:15 Choir Concert — **Midnight**

Christmas Day Mass:

9:00 am

A Grateful Acknowledgement

The Knights of Columbus calendar sale event was very successful and the KCs would like to thank all those who purchased calendars. The proceeds will allow the KCs to continue to provide support to our Church, our school, and the community.



If anyone is interested in purchasing a calendar, call 225.385.0930 as there are a few more available.



PERPETUAL ADORATION

The words of Jesus, "*Could you not spend one hour with me?*" are an excellent invitation to prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Listed below are open hours in the Adoration Chapel:

- Tuesday: 3:00 am-4:00 am
- Every other Tuesday: 5:00 am-6:00 am
- Wednesday: 11:00 pm-12 Midnight
- Wednesday: 12 Midnight-1:00 am
- Thursday: 5:00 am-6:00 am
- Friday: 12 Midnight-1:00 am
- Friday: 1:00 am-2:00 am
- Friday: 2:00 am-3:00 am
- Saturday: 12 Midnight-1:00 am
- Saturday: 2:00 am-3:00 am
- Saturday: 3:00 pm-4:00 pm
- Saturday: 5:00 am-6:00 am
- Saturday: 5:00 pm-6:00 pm
- Saturday: 7:00 pm-8:00 pm

To volunteer, call Mickey Rivet at 225.687.6549 or JoAnn Daigle at 225.687.4621 or 225.776.4865.

Please note...



If you are a newcomer to St. John the Evangelist Church Parish, have recently married, or no longer live with your parents, please remember to fill out a Census Form to register here.

Anyone who does not receive Church Contribution Envelopes is not registered. Some assume that if they live in this church's jurisdiction that they are automatically registered. This information must come from you by filling out a census form.

You may register by emailing marshaadupont@sj.brcoxmail.com, accessing census registration under FORMS at www.stjohnchurchplaq.org, or by calling the St. John Church Office at 225.687.2402.

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

The Advent Wreath Candles for the 3rd Sunday of Advent burn in loving memory of:



“Pim” & “NuNu” Clebert

**Douglas Breaux & Salvador Spano
Landry, Coletti & Ferachi Families**

ADVENT GIVING TREE



The Advent Giving Tree deadline to bring in gifts is Sunday, December 11.

Sorting and distribution of gifts will take place Sunday, December 18 in the Parish Hall. This will be a good opportunity for students to earn service hours.

Nativity Scene in Church

We will begin decorating the church and setting up the Nativity Scene for Christmas on Monday, December 12 at 8:00 am.

Volunteers are needed! Please meet us in church if you can help.



The Nativity Scene will be available for viewing from Saturday, December 17, 2016 through Monday, January 16, 2017.

Holiday Visits to Homebound



We will be visiting the homebound, the sick and elderly parishioners during the holidays beginning Wednesday, December 14.

Students will be baking goodies Saturday & Sunday, December 10 & 11, to bring to the parishioners. If any student is interested in bringing joy to the homebound, please call Donna Purpera at 225.776.4410.

If anyone would like to help in any way, please call JoAnn Landry at 225.776.0782.

GEMS Christmas Social

GEMS (Anyone 50 and older)

Date: Wednesday, December 14

Time: 11:00 am

Place: St. John Parish Hall



Join in the fun on December 14 in the St. John Hall with your friends. Please bring a side dish or dessert and don't forget can goods for Our Brother's Keeper.



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 January.

Caroling at Area Nursing Homes

Join us in bringing Christmas joy to the residents of the local nursing homes. We will be Christmas caroling Thursday, December 15 at 1:00 pm at Legacy (formerly Plaquemine Caring), 59215 River West Drive, followed by Plaquemine Manor.



Contact Pat Ray at 225.659.7223 for more information.

St. John School Celebrates Christmas



St. John School's annual Christmas concert will be held at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church on Thursday, December 15 at 6:00 pm.

The concert will include performances from St. John's first through fifth grade students, as well as the middle school music class and the high school theater class.

Admission is free. Donations are welcome.

THANK YOU to Mrs. Hergruder, Mrs. Vaughn and their St. John 2nd grade students for donating hundreds of Christmas cards to the prisoners of Louisiana State Penitentiary.



The St. John family would like to invite you to celebrate the Eucharist with them at their Christmas Mass on Wednesday, December 21 at 8:00 am in St. Clement Church.

Help Clean the Church for Christmas



The St. John Altar Society needs help in giving the church a general cleaning for the Christmas season. We will be meeting in church on Monday, December 19 at 8:00 am.

Our Brothers Keeper Food Bank

As Christmas approaches, the number of people in need of assistance increases. Please help us continue to feed those in need within our community during this season of hope.



Especially needed are such items as peanut butter, jelly, cereal, macaroni and cheese, tuna, soup and fruit juices. Please place your contributions in the baskets near the Baptistry in Church.



Our Hymn Selections this weekend are:

Entrance: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
Today's Missal 52

Preparation: Christ, Circle Round Us
Today's Missal 37

Communion: O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Today's Missal 20

Sending Forth: Organ Solo

MASS INTENTIONS — December 17-23, 2016

Saturday, December 17-4:00 p.m. Mass

Msgr. Leonard Robin, Msgr. George Barbier, Fr. Eugene Engels, Fr. Jerome Dugas, Sister Catherine Laboure`, Sister Mary Rita McSorley, Sister Cecile Poitras; Tina Rinaudo; Catherine & Andrew Roucher; Raleigh Ohlmeyer, Jr.; Adam Hidalgo, Oliver Songy, Jr.; Ione & Calvin Robbins, Calvin Robbins, Jr.; Earl & Mary Devillier; DeNoux, Dugas, Durand & Panepinto Families; Dace K. & Earline Hahn, Kim & Luke Baggett; CDA Court St. John #1214 Deceased Members; Bobbie F. Cloutre; Lena & Peter Corrent; Jaynell Lopez; Leo Gill; Aline, Mit & Dub Comeaux, Aubrey J. Quebedeaux; A Special Intention; In Thanksgiving; "Ronnee" Roussel; Frank Clement, Sr. & Family

Sunday, December 18-7:30 a.m. Mass

St. John Parishioners



Sunday, December 18-9:00 a.m. Mass

Msgr. Leonard Robin, Msgr. George Barbier, Fr. Eugene Engels, Fr. Jerome Dugas, Sister Catherine Laboure`, Sister Mary Rita McSorley, Sister Cecile Poitras; Tina Rinaudo; Tom Joffrion; "Buttie" Distefano, Maria Toups, Emile Toups, Dr. Anthony Leggio; Marie Rivet; Charles & Hazel Repp, Repp Family, Landry Family; Daisy P. & Dan King, Lena P. Brooks; M/M Ernest Hernandez, Margaret Hernandez, Gary Hernandez, Rhodes "R. J." Bourgoyne, M/M Clay Hernandez, M/M Frank Hernandez; Linda Seneca Rafflee, Norman Morales, Cathy Dupont; Josie Vicknair; Brandon Schouest; Souls in Purgatory

Sunday, December 18-11:00 a.m. Mass

M/M Joseph Nicolosi; Cindy Dickerson; Ed Edwards; Ida Ortis

NOTICE: There will be neither Children's Liturgy nor Coffee and Donuts on Sunday, December 18 due to the sorting of Giving Tree gifts in the Parish Hall.

Tuesday, December 20-6:00 p.m. Mass

Brenda Comeaux

Wednesday, December 21-7:00 a.m. Mass

Fred & Beverly Allain

Thursday, December 22-7:00 a.m. Mass

Daisy Palermo King

Friday, December 23-7:00 a.m. Mass

William Middleton, Ann & Allen Cloutre, William Lewis

Sanctuary Candle December 18, 2016

St. John the Evangelist Church
Scott Jude Marino

St. Clement of Rome Church
"Pim" & "NuNu" Clebert



Weekday Worship & Scripture—Week of Dec. 12, 2016

Monday, December 12: 7 am Liturgy of the Word

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

Tuesday, December 13: 5:30 Confession/Mass/Novena

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday, December 14: 7 am Mass

Is 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday, December 15: 7 am Mass

Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Lk 7:24-30

Friday, December 16: 7 am Mass

Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Jn 5:33-36

Saturday, December 17:

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Sunday, December 18:

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24


STEWARDSHIP

December 3 & 4, 2016

Stewardship\$11,366.00
Building Fund.....\$ 3,870.00
Candles.....\$ 570.00

The second collection of December 10 & 11 will be for the Elderly Catholic Sisters, Brothers, and Religious Order Priests. Please be generous to those who have given so much.



 As John was called by God to be a messenger of his Son, so Jesus still calls men and women today to be the messengers of His Good News. If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, contact Fr. Andrew Merrick at 225.336.8778 or amerrick@diobr.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



An Eight-Part Bible Study featuring Dr. Edward Sri

Following Christ takes more than simply believing in Him or doing what He asks of us. Jesus wants you to be more than just a believer—He wants you to be His disciple and friend. *Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John* is a guide to a personal encounter with Christ.

January 5, 2017—February 12, 2017

1:30 pm-3:00 pm or 6:30 pm-8:00 pm

St. John Parish Hall

\$15.00 for Study Book

Call the Church office (225.687.2402) to register.

For more information, call Donna Carville at
225.776.3205.



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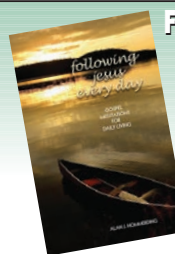
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Memory*

Eula and Jessel Ourso

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