

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
Wanda Ashley, Director of Religious Education, Religious Education Coordinator Grades 7-11 & Youth Ministry
Cindy Rodrigue, Religious Education Coordinator Grades 1-6
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

Susan Landry, Secretary

Lily Skidmore, Secretary

Gary Perrault, Maintenance

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm

Sunday 7:30 am

9:00 am

11:00 am

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

First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018

Strengthen Your Hearts



How good is good enough? Do you have to be perfect to get to heaven? In the second reading this Sunday, Paul seems to think so when he tells us to be "blameless in holiness" (1 Thess 3:13.) Now Paul never considered himself as perfect. But even with his weakness, Paul always did the best he could. So what should we strive for? Maybe we can take a hint from his phrase "strengthen your hearts."

Think of athletes who try to do their best. A great ball player takes batting practice every day to improve his average. Good athletes are always looking for ways to improve themselves. They keep in shape so they can be stronger, faster, smarter. That same attitude is what Paul means by "strengthen your hearts." And Advent is a good time to start.

As we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Lord, we can get ourselves in spiritual shape. Spiritual reading

can give us a stronger prayer life. But if our spiritual reading just makes us feel good, we may be wasting our time. Hopefully, it will lead us to try praying more often and more seriously. Likewise, we can read about volunteering to feed the poor, but making the commitment and doing it is what strengthens the heart. Then as the Gospel says, we may have "the strength. . .to stand before the Son of Man." (Lk 21:36)

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Thank you for Supporting the Work of the Bishop's Annual Appeal

Established by Bishop Stanley Joseph Ott more than thirty years ago, and expanded by Bishop Alfred Hughes and Bishop Robert Muench, the Bishop's Annual Appeal continues extensive outreach and significant ministry under the spiritual leadership of our newly-appointed spiritual shepherd Bishop Michael G. Duca. Through decades of blessing, the generous contributions of Catholic parishioners like you remain the heart of each effort. Thank you for giving to support the work of the BA, as we Follow the Shepherd's Lead.

Perhaps you've already mailed your contribution this year. If so, please accept our thanks for your compassionate gift. If you have yet to contribute to this year's appeal, please do so as part of a special commitment service here at St. John the Evangelist Parish this weekend.

At Mass, we will celebrate another opportunity to follow the example of Christ Jesus, who came to seek and to save the lost. *"What man among you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the one until he finds it"* (Luke 15:4)?

With so many in our community who are lost and hurting, each of them in need of God's love, your contributions are certain to honor the Lord Jesus and direct others to Him. Join your fellow parishioners and rejoice in the work of essential ministries like those you support through your giving. For additional information concerning the impact of your generosity, please visit www.baabr.org and read about the great work you sustain.

Baptisms & Baptism Seminars

Baptism Seminars - 7pm
Third Floor Parish Office
Monday, December 3, 2018
Monday, January 7, 2019
Monday, February 4, 2019



Baptisms - Following 4pm Mass
Saturday, December 15, 2018
Saturday, January 26, 2019
Saturday, February 23, 2019

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



The Pope's Prayer Intention for December Evangelization: In the Service of the Transmission of Faith

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

The beautiful floral arrangement on the altar was given by Jonathan Womack & Emily Lorenzo who were married at St. John this weekend. The flowers were given in loving memory of their grandparents, Joseph E. Lorenzo, Sr., Joseph S. O'Donnell, Bryan Womack, Betty & Donald Delk, and Florine & Mutt Slaid.



The St. John School Family invites you share the Eucharist with them Wednesday, December 5 at 8am in St. Clement Church.

Widows & Widowers Support Group

The Widows and Widowers Support Group will meet Wednesday, December 5 from 6pm-7pm in the St. John Parish Hall.

All are welcome!

Knights of Columbus Calendars

The Knights of Columbus Charity Calendar Sales Drive is in progress.



Over \$15,000.00 in cash prizes!! Buy a calendar for \$20.00 and participate in 365 drawings REGARDLESS OF HOW OFTEN YOU WIN!! 2019 drawings begin the first week of February. Calendars can be purchased by contacting Ruel Seneca at 225.385.0930.

Please support the KCs and all the good works they do for our church and community.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

These words of Jesus are an excellent invitation to prayer before the Blessed Sacrament:
"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Mt. 11:28)

Available hours for scheduled visitation to the Blessed Sacrament in the Adoration Chapel are:

- Tuesday: 4pm-5pm
- Sunday: 3pm-4pm

To volunteer as a scheduled adorer or substitute, call JoAnn Daigle at 225.687.4621 or 225.776.4865.

Little Burgundy Books

The Altar Society is making the Little Burgundy Books available for Christmas. These Little Books feature each of the Gospel writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

These four books will be sold as a set for \$5. These Little Books are not seasonal nor are they dated which means you can read them whenever you want. Buy yourself a set, as well as for gifts.

The sale will be before and after all Masses on December 1 & 2. Just in time for Christmas!



The Advent Wreath Candle for the 1st Sunday of Advent burns in loving memory of:
Roland "Dougie" Rivet

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Fr. Greg will be hearing confessions from 6pm-7pm on Wednesday, December 5 and Wednesday, December 19.

St. John Parish Open House

On Saturday, December 8, 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 8pm.



Catholic Daughter Christmas Banquet

The Annual Catholic Daughter Christmas Banquet will be held Monday, December 3 at 7pm in the St. John Parish Hall. Members are reminded to bring toiletries for the Sisters of Charity and donations for the ARC Christmas party.

Guest speaker will be Bishop Emeritus Robert Muench.

GEMS Christmas Potluck Luncheon (Anyone 50 and older)

Date: Wednesday, December 5

Time: 11am-1pm

Place: St. John Parish Hall

Meats, soft drinks and bread will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert and don't forget canned goods for Our Brother's Keeper Food Bank.

Christmas Cards for Inmates

The Catholic Community at Louisiana State Penitentiary and the Chaplain's Department are again inviting our parish to participate in the Christmas card program. Anyone interested in donating new religious Christmas cards should drop them off at the St. John Church office by Friday, December 7.

We can accept Birthday and Get Well cards also. Religious cards are preferred. Deacon Alfred Ricard will be taking the cards to the prison.



Advent Giving Tree

We will be sharing the joy of Jesus' birth with children of our area with our Advent Giving Tree. In addition to the 300 names submitted from the area schools, if you are aware of any needy families and children, please call the church office (225.687.2402) so they may be included in this season's ministry.

If anyone has taken a candy cane from the Giving Tree, please return your gifts by Sunday, December 9.

Nativity Scene in Church

We will be decorating the church and setting up the Nativity Scene for Christmas on Monday, December 10 and Tuesday, December 11 at 8am.



Volunteers are welcome! Call Bruce Capone at 225.687.6625 or 225.776.2169 if you can help.

Lights will be on in church for viewing the Nativity Scene beginning Saturday, December 22, 2018 through Epiphany Sunday, January 6, 2019 from 8am-3:30pm.

Holiday Visits to Homebound

We will be visiting the homebound, the sick and elderly parishioners during the holidays beginning Monday, December 17.

Students will be baking goodies Friday, Saturday & Sunday, December 14, 15 & 16. If any student is interested in bringing joy to the homebound by helping bake (and earning service hours), please call Donna Purpera at 225.716.0450.

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



Cool Winter Nights, Hot Jazz!

Tuesday & Wednesday, December 11 & 12
7:30pm — The Shaw Center of the Arts Manship Theatre
100 Lafayette Street, Baton Rouge

Cool Winter Nights and Hot Jazz will feature Fr. Greg Daigle, backed by a big band made up of some of the finest jazz musicians from Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

For more information and tickets, contact 225.344.0334, www.manshiptheatre.org/events.

Epiphany Concert



Once again, Fr. Greg Daigle will crown the Christmas season with songs of faith and other music as well on Epiphany Sunday, January 6 from 4pm-5:30pm at St. John Church.

These tickets (\$25) make wonderful Christmas gifts and are available for purchase through St. John School (225.687.3056) and the St. John church office (225.687.2402).

Make plans now to celebrate Christmas with your loved ones and help St. John School at the same time.

Friends of St. Paul Church, Inc. presents their annual holiday fundraiser, "A Christmas Musicale" on Sunday, December 9 at 3pm. Performed by South Louisiana Virtuosi string quartet in historic St. Paul Church, Bayou Goula. Tickets (\$25) are available at Hop 'N Shop Deli, 24210 Railroad Avenue, Plaquemine or Viallon's Drug Store, 32555 Bowie Street, White Castle.

Question? Please call 225.964.8908.

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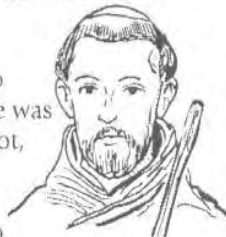
December 2018

St. John the Evangelist
Rev. Gregory J. Daigle

One Minute Meditations

St. Dominic of Silos

St. Dominic was a Benedictine monk, born around 1000 AD in La Rioja, Spain. Recognized for his leadership abilities, he was made abbot, but was exiled for refusing to sell monastery lands to the local ruler. He was welcomed by King Ferdinand I of Castile and appointed abbot of St. Sebastian's monastery at Silos. Joan of Aza prayed for a child and saw a vision of St. Dominic. Her son, whom she named Dominic, founded the Dominican Order.



Anticipate Advent

A rich Advent makes a joyous Christmas. Use the four weeks before Christmas to prepare for Christ's coming. Offer extra prayers, perform penance, and receive the sacrament of Reconciliation.

"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32).



Celebrate Christmas with child-like wonder

There is no greater miracle than the gift of love Christmas represents. We didn't earn it and we can't deserve it. Yet, we get so harried with the holiday rush that we miss the wonder of it. Ever notice how children never do? This year, slow down and celebrate Christmas like a child.

Tie gifts with heartstrings. Instead of boosting credit card balances or draining your checking account, keep what you give simple, meaningful, and from the heart. For example, give a coupon for babysitting to friends with children. Prepare a meal for someone who needs a break from cooking.

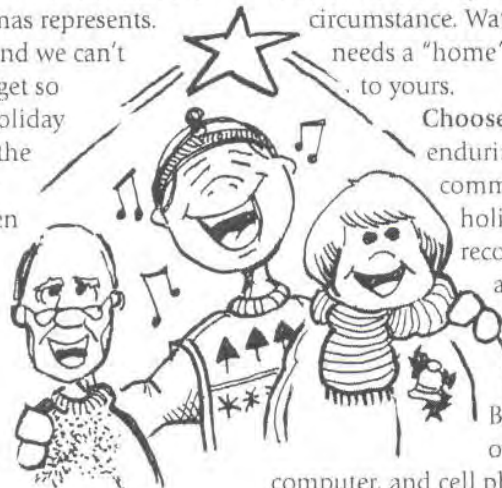
Offer your hearth. The holidays can be lonely for people separated from

their loved ones by distance, death, or circumstance. Watch for anyone who needs a "home" and invite them to yours.

Choose peace. Instead of enduring the Christmas commercials and bad holiday specials, record the good shows and watch while you relax. Or rent your favorite spiritual movies. Better still, turn off the television, computer, and cell phone, and enjoy the silence.

Greet the Babe with joy. Seek reconciliation in Confession so you can receive the Eucharist at Christmas.

Sing like an angel. Check your local listings for Christmas concerts, Messiah sing-a-longs, or other spiritual songfests. Host a caroling party in your home and sing loud with Christmas joy.

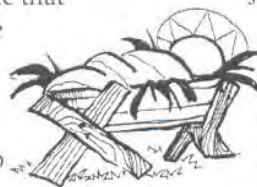


Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics celebrate Christ's birth?

Every Christmas, we celebrate that Jesus, the Son of God, became man—while retaining his divinity—and died for our sins and rose again. We believe this because God, who is Truth, revealed it.

"For to us a child is born, to us a



son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace'" (Isaiah 9:6). God came to

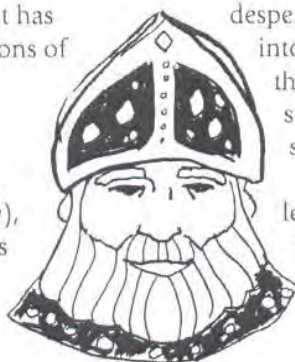
Earth and lived among us.

Honor the spirit of St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas is one icon of the holiday season that has meaning in both the secular and spiritual celebrations of Christmas.

We know that St. Nicholas was born at the end of the third century in Asia Minor. His parents died when he was young and left him well off. His uncle, the archbishop of Myra (southeast of Turkey), ordained him and upon his uncle's death, Nicholas served as bishop until his own death. Throughout he suffered imprisonment and persecution.

One legend involving St. Nicholas concerns a



desperate man on the verge of selling his daughters into slavery to pay his debts. Nicholas secretly threw a bag of gold into an open window (some say down the chimney) in the man's house to stop him.

Our present-day Santa Claus stems from the legends of St. Nicholas, but in the Church he is a saint, a confessor of the faith, and a holy bishop. We can learn from his generosity to the poor, and imitate his acts of kindness to others.

from Scripture

Luke 2:41-52, Living in the world

In this reading, the Holy Family went to Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve years old. This was an important time in Jesus' life. Back then, a Hebrew boy became a man around that age, and was recognized in a ceremony called a Bar Mitzvah. On this occasion, Jesus decided to stay behind, causing anxiety to his parents.

This was the first time Jesus spoke in the Gospels and the first time he referred to his identity as God's Son. He spoke of his unique mission of saving the world. He knew his duties to his heavenly Father but

he understood the time to fulfill them would come later. Meanwhile, he returned obediently with his earthly parents to Nazareth and fulfilled his duties to them.



Jesus respected his family, yet he continued to pursue his place in God's plan. The lesson is that we can grow in holiness in wherever God has placed us. Christians can be found in neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces. In all these places, we have to find ways to live a holy life in the world.

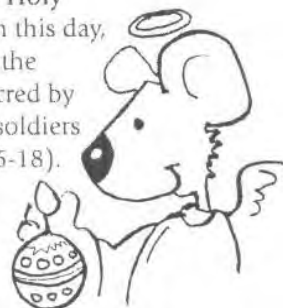
Feasts & Celebrations

Dec. 4 – St. John Damascene (749). A Doctor of the Church and the last of the Greek Fathers, St. John was born in Syria when it was under Muslim rule and was counselor to the caliph. He is known for his writings in favor of the use of sacred images for devotion. These writings brought him into serious conflict with the heretical Christian emperor. He later became a monk under the direction of St. Sabas.

Dec. 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531). The Blessed Mother appeared as a Native American maiden to St.

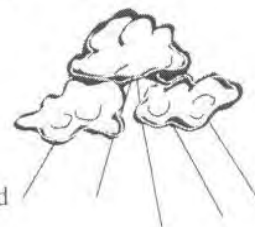
Juan Diego, also Native American. She asked that the bishop of Mexico build a chapel for her, and had him carry roses to the bishop as a sign. When the roses were emptied from his tilma (cape), it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

Dec. 28-The Holy Innocents. On this day, we remember the infants massacred by King Herod's soldiers (Matthew 2:16-18). We also pray for the safety of unborn children.



Q & A What is meant by "fear of the Lord?"

"Fear of the Lord" is more about awe—recognizing God's power and might – than about fear of the merciful creator who loves us most. Fear of the Lord is also known as "reverence," and is one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit listed in Isaiah: *"The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him; a spirit of wisdom and of understanding...counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord"* (Isaiah 11:2). These gifts, when used, make us open to God's love.



Fear of the Lord helps us have a healthy respect for God's majesty. We fear offending God for the same reason we fear offending someone we love. If we really love someone, we wouldn't do anything (on purpose) to hurt them or damage the friendship. This is what happens when we sin. *"The [Christian] no longer stands before God as a slave, in servile fear, or as a mercenary looking for wages, but as a son"* (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1828).

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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MASS INTENTIONS — December 8-14, 2018

Saturday, December 8-4pm 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; Millard & Carol Bourgeois; Trista Parro; Michael Laurent, M/M Owen Miller, Sr.; Jep Daigle, Eddie & Virginia Clebert, Ulger & Nilda Daigle, Clebert & Daigle Families; Jannus & Gladys Robertson, Ernestine Robertson, Lester E. Hebert, Jr.; Joseph Graves, W. A. Graves Family, Jack Jackson, Thomas Morales Family; J. Hubert Millet, Milda Millet, Louis Family, Harold Marionneaux; Leigh Woolie, Patrick Doyle, David & Emily Doyle; Helen Raber; Douglas Breaux, Salvador F. Spano; Mack, Laura, Michael & Lawrence Lazzaro, Kolby Lorio, James “Butch” & Sadie Tullier; LeBlanc & Cavalier Families; Marvin & Doris Allen, Mary & Manual Diamond; M/M Anthony Orcino, Sr. & Family, Caliste Landry, Jr. & Kimberly; Joe Messina, M/M Lindon Rivet & Family, Irene Gulotto; DeNoux, Dugas, Durand & Panepinto Families; Malcolm Perera; Sisse Reinhardt, The Souls in Purgatory in Honor of St. Joseph; Raymond & Gertrude Thibodeaux, Adrain Banta & Michelle Elliot

Sunday, December 9-7:30am Mass - St. John Parishioners



Sunday, December 9-9am 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; Frank & Gladys Hidalgo; Barbara & Harold Himel, Sr., Frances Himel; Benny & Annie Vaughn; Carlisle Marix

Sunday, December 9-11am Mass

Cindy Dickerson; Marshall & Virginia Peavy, Cleo & Ella Dupont; Robert & Leana Brady, Cleveland & Lucy Boudreaux, Robert “Robbie” Brady

Tuesday, December 11-6pm Mass

Fred L. & Beverly G. Allain, J.E. & Angela H. Dupont

Wednesday, December 12-7am Mass

Brendon, Ronald & Dudley Landry & Family, Sam Coletti Family

Thursday, December 13-7am Mass

Donald Aucoin, Aucoin & Wunstel Families

Friday, December 14-7am Mass

John H. Businelle

Stewardship



November 17 & 18, 2018

Identified.....	\$8,929.00
Number — 249	
Unidentified.....	\$1,066.00
Other Collections.....	\$1,245.00
Number — 87	

Weekly Ministries

Children’s Liturgy — December 9, 2018

Diana Seneca (9am Mass)

Karen Passantino & Arlette Rodrigue (11am Mass)



Coffee & Donuts — December 9, 2018

Gordon & Marianne Gregoire (7:30am Mass)

Tommy & Diana LeBlanc (9am Mass)

Altar Society

Altar Society Team 1 will be cleaning the church on Wednesday, December 5 at 8am.



**Sanctuary Candle
December 9, 2018**

**St. John the Evangelist Church
Harold & Helen Raber
St. Clement of Rome Church
Pim & NuNu Clebert**



Weekday Worship & Scripture—Dec 3-Dec 9, 2018

Monday, Dec 3: 7am Liturgy of the Word

Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday, Dec 4: 5:30pm Confessions/Mass/Anointing/Novena

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday, Dec 5: 7am Mass

Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday, Dec 6: 7am

Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday, Dec 7: 7am Mass

Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday:

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

Sunday:

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

**Our Hymn Selections this weekend:
(Subject to change)**

**Entrance: Save Us, O Lord
Music Issue 667**

**Preparation: There is a Longing
Music Issue 401**

**Communion: Bread That Was Sown
Music Issue 329**

Sending Forth: **Instrumental Organ Selection**





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