

## 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 and Youth Ministry  
Donna Carville, R. C. I. A.  
Website: [www.stjohnchurchplaq.org](http://www.stjohnchurchplaq.org)  
Email: [stjohnchurchplaq@sj.brcoxmail.com](mailto:stjohnchurchplaq@sj.brcoxmail.com)  
[facebook.com/StJohntheEvangelistCatholicChurch](https://facebook.com/StJohntheEvangelistCatholicChurch)

### Parish Office Staff:

Medric Smith, Jr., Business Manager  
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  
Wed., Thurs., Fri. 7:00 am

Baptism: Please contact the Parish Office.

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

### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Tuesday 5:30-5:45 pm  
Saturday 3:00-3:30 pm

## Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

Could Nachos Be Bad?



It seems the early Church had a different view of Advent than we do. After the resurrection, Christians looked for Jesus to return in glory. They expected this return to happen soon, so we see references in Paul's letters to the "coming of the Lord Jesus" (1 Thess 3:13) or to the "day of Christ Jesus." (Phil 1:6)

In the second reading this week, we hear what Paul recommends for the people of Philippi as they wait for the Lord to return. He prays that their love will grow and mature, so that they will be able to "discern what is of value." (Phil 1:10) This may sound vague, but is very good advice, even for us today.

As we grow to be better Christians, we learn to love what is important. As you grew up, you learned to like healthier foods. That doesn't mean that some foods are bad, (how could nachos be bad?) just that there are

better choices. So Paul encourages us to make better choices: friends we like, books we read, how we spend our free time, causes we donate to, and values we teach to our children. With less than three weeks of Advent remaining, let us ask the Lord to help us "discern what is of value" in our lives.

Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.



The Advent Wreath Candles for the 2nd  
Sunday of Advent burn in loving memory of:

**Roland "Dougie" Rivet**

**Andrew & Josephine Canova Family**

### Parish Open House

On Saturday, December 4, 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 7pm.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Advent Giving Tree



Giving Tree gifts are now due. Please place  
your gifts around the Christmas tree in the  
rear of church with the candy cane holding  
the child's name attached to the gift.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Catholic Daughter Members Christmas Banquet

The Annual Catholic Daughter Members Christmas Pot  
Luck Banquet will be held Monday, December 13 at  
6pm in the St. John Parish Hall.

\*\*\*\*\*

### GEMS (50 years and older) Christmas Potluck Luncheon

Date: Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Time: 11am-1pm

Place: St. John Parish Hall

Meats, soft drinks and bread will be provided. Please  
bring a side dish or dessert and enjoy the angelic voices  
of the St. John School children.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Holiday Visits to Homebound

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



Students will be baking goodies Friday,  
Saturday and Sunday, December 10, 11 and 12. If any  
student is interested in bringing joy to the homebound  
by helping bake, please call Donna Purpera at  
225.716.0450. (Service hours will be given).

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

\*\*\*\*\*



### Cool Winter Nights, Hot Jazz

Wednesday & Thursday, December 8 & 9  
Shaw Center of the Arts Manship Theatre  
100 Lafayette Street in Baton Rouge

Cool Winter Nights and Hot Jazz will feature Fr. Greg  
Daigle and others in a program of new arrangements  
and holiday favorites. For more information and tickets,  
contact 225.344.0334, [www.manshiptheatre.org/events](http://www.manshiptheatre.org/events).

\*\*\*\*\*

### Christmas Flower Envelopes

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 future bulletins.



### RITUALSONG

(Readings and Songs this Weekend)

Readings: Second Sunday of Advent #1095

Entrance: People, Look East #501

Responsorial Psalm: My Soul in Stillness Waits #499

Preparation: \*\*Instrumental\*\*

Communion: One Bread, One Body #1027

Sending Forth: Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and  
Burning #956

### Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Vigil Mass — Tuesday, December 7 — 6pm

Wednesday, December 8 — 7am Mass

St. John School Mass at St. Clement — 8:30am

\*\*\*\*\*

Our office will be closed Tuesday, December 7 at noon  
and Wednesday, December 8 in observance of the Feast  
of the Immaculate Conception.

\*\*\*\*\*

### December Devotion The Immaculate Conception

The Blessed Mother was called "full of Grace" by the  
angel Gabriel because she was first conceived without  
sin. As the Church prepares for the coming of Christ on  
Christmas day, meditating on the mystery of Mary's  
Immaculate Conception can remind us of the saving  
work Jesus came to do through His Incarnation.



### Baptism Seminars and Baptisms



#### Baptism Seminars

Monday, December 6, 2021

Monday, January 10, 2022

Monday, February 7, 2022

#### Baptisms

Saturday, December 18, 2021

Saturday, January 22, 2022

Saturday February 26, 2022

The Baptism Seminars are held on the third floor of the  
church office at 7pm. The Baptisms are usually held on  
the fourth Saturday of the month following 4pm Mass.

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

### Daily Scripture Readings — December 6-12, 2021

Monday, December 6:

Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab,10-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 7:

Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday, December 8:

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

Thursday, December 9:

Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13b; Mt 11:11-15

Friday, December 10:

Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, December 11:

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80: 2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a,  
10-13

Sunday, December 12:

Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18



### A Grateful Acknowledgement

A grateful acknowledgement is made to everyone who sold and/or purchased tickets for the 2021 \$10,000 Raffle sponsored by the St. John Fathers Club. This year's raffle was the most successful in 24 years!!

### ATTENTION LECTORS

The 2022 Workbooks for Lectors have been placed in the credenza in the Baptistry. You may pick up your copy at your convenience.



### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

These words of Jesus are an excellent invitation to prayer before the Blessed Sacrament:  
*Beloved Jesus, may I ever be conscious of the fact that I am in Your adorable presence—I am in the presence of You who by Your life, death and resurrection, paid the price of my sins and the sins of the world. May I always be open to receive this gift by a life of continual faith and love.*

“Reflections and Prayers for Visits with Our Eucharistic Lord” page 19

The Adoration Chapel is open from 4am-10pm. To volunteer for a scheduled hour or as a substitute, contact JoAnn Daigle at 225.687.4621 or 225.776.4865.



### Retirement Fund for Religious

The 2021 Retirement Fund Collection for Religious is scheduled for December 11 and 12. Started in 1988 by the United States Catholic Bishops, the fund gives assistance to religious communities of men and women for retirement needs, nursing care and medications. As you are able, you are invited to lend your generous support to this cause.

For more information go to <https://retiredreligious.org>.

\*\*\*\*\*



- **Safety.** In times when there are concerns about exposure to disease or spreading of a virus, Online Giving is a convenient option to continue to support your church and its mission.
- **Forget your envelope?** Use Online Giving to keep up on offertory. Go to our church website and click on the Online Giving link, it's quick and easy.
- **Make giving easier.** Visit your church website on your mobile device, click the Online Giving link, and begin giving.
- **Manage gifts.** Another easy way to manage your church giving is with Online Giving. You can manage your giving or give a one-time gift right from your phone.

Visit [www.stjohnchurchplaq.org](http://www.stjohnchurchplaq.org)

Your support during the year helps sustain our church.

### RCIA Rite of Acceptance



RCIA catechumen Brian Nosacka, daughter Mary Jane and wife Brennon are pictured following the Rite of Acceptance Sunday, November 21. Brennon is sharing this journey with Brian as his RCIA sponsor.



### A Grateful Acknowledgement

The Catholic Daughters are grateful to our parishioners for purchasing sweets and making their recent bake sale a huge success.

### Free Catholic Devotionals

**Laudate** — The most popular and comprehensive **FREE** Catholic app. With Laudate, you can access podcasts which include daily Mass readings, the Rosary and mysteries, the New American Bible, several Chaplets, Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Vatican documents, Code of Canon Law, numerous prayers and much, much more.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Morning Offering** is a free daily devotional email featuring a saint quote, a meditation, scripture readings, a bible verse of the day, saint of the day, the Liturgy of the Hours, and more—all designed to be read in 5 to 10 minutes! Visit [www.morningoffering.com](http://www.morningoffering.com) and start receiving your email today!

Starting your morning off with God is the key to strength and success in your day. Subscribe to this daily email and keep the Lord at the center of your life!



# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2021

St. John the Evangelist

Rev. Gregory J. Daigle

## One Minute Meditations

### The gift of Advent

The season of Advent began on November 28 and continues until Christmas Eve.

The Church offers us this time as a gift to slow down, quiet down, and reflect on God's love for us. Consider setting aside quiet time each day to be with Him.



### Celebrate birth

December is the month in which we celebrate the birth of the infant King. This has become a time to reaffirm our respect for life from conception to natural death. We pray that all babies are given the gift of life.

"Let not your heart be disturbed. Do not fear that sickness, nor any other sickness or anguish. Am I not here, who is your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything."

(Our Lady to St. Juan Diego, December 9, 1531)



## Make this Christmas your own

Each year at Christmas, we celebrate an amazing truth. God came to Earth, in person, to be with us and, hopefully, bring us to Heaven. Think of it – the Creator of the universe came to be with you and me and promised to remain with us. Try these ways to keep the wonder of Christmas alive the whole year round:

**Receive Him** with Mary's open heart. When the angel Gabriel delivered God's stunning message, Mary accepted God's will completely. She kept her heart open to His will throughout her life. We can imitate her by letting nothing come between us and God. Go to

Confession regularly. Pray daily. Attend Mass at least weekly. Receive Jesus in your heart.

**Adore Him like the Magi.** After receiving Communion, you are literally heart-to-heart with Jesus. Thank Him, praise Him, or just rest in Him. Give Him the gift of your full attention. Receive the graces of His love.

**Proclaim Him like the Angels.** Just as the heavenly host announced Christ's birth to the shepherds with gladness, so we are to proclaim Jesus to those around us. We do this when we join in worship at Mass each Sunday, and give Him credit for our blessings and gifts. His presence in our hearts becomes evident when we live with love and Christmas joy.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics believe Jesus really came?

That Jesus lived in first century Israel is well documented by both Christian sources and non-Christian sources. The Old Testament, which was known to Jews many years before Christ's birth, predicted the coming of the Messiah.



Jesus' life, death, and Resurrection fulfilled those prophecies. The Gospels name eyewitnesses as sources for the miracles Jesus worked. Another compelling argument for Jesus' reality, however, is the witness of the martyrs through the centuries, who remained faithful to Christ even to death.



## Develop an Advent frame of mind

The holiday season can seem more like a test of endurance than preparation for a celebration. In the midst of the seasonal stress, we are asked to reach into ourselves and bring out only what is kind, generous, and loving. It may help to remember that the real reason for the season is the celebration of unimaginable Love.

Try to see with a Father's eye. Our Heavenly Father delights in our creation and loves us for exactly who we are. During Advent, try to see yourself through His eyes. Not the flawed human visible to



humanity, but the spectacular product of God's divine love and the reflection of His glory.

Prepare your gift. Make your gift to Jesus an open heart, ready to receive the love He has for you. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16).

Anticipating an eternity of unimaginable love is absolutely the right Advent frame of mind.

### from Scripture

#### Luke 2:41-52, Finding in the Temple

The Feast of the Holy Family (December 26) includes the story of finding Jesus in the Temple, a story of love and obedience. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover, as was the custom for Jews of that time. They traveled in a large group for protection against bandits who infested the hill country. So it wasn't surprising that His parents didn't miss Jesus as they started the return trip. Upon discovering Him missing, they hurried back to Jerusalem.

On the third day of searching, they found Jesus in the Temple. He was

questioning the priests and amazing them with his understanding. However, Mary asked how He could have caused

His parents so much worry and Jesus replied, "Did you not know I must be in my Father's house?"

Though they were puzzled by His answer, Mary and Joseph took Jesus back to Nazareth. He

remained there in obedience to His parents until it was time for his public ministry. We learn from this story to obey not only God but also those in authority over us.



### Q & A Do we have to return to Mass in person?

When we love someone, we don't want to just call or send an email. We want to be together in person, growing in love and friendship. Then, too, when we love Jesus, we want to be with Him

in body, blood, soul and divinity in the Eucharist. "It is a substantial presence by which Christ...makes

himself wholly and entirely present" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1374).

The Eucharist is a gift we can only fully receive in person. It is spiritual food for the journey. In it we receive not just graces, but Jesus, Himself. Nowhere else on Earth and in no other way can we be so closely united to Him who loves us most.

It is possible – and required – to attend Mass in person unless there is a grave reason to stay away. Still, let nothing keep you from Jesus in the Eucharist. Go to Confession regularly and never miss Mass. Do whatever you can to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Remember, God is never outdone in generosity.



### Feasts & Celebrations

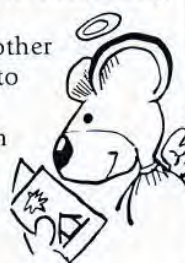
**December 2 – St. Bibiana (363).** Virgin and martyr, St. Bibiana was the daughter of a Roman official who converted to Christianity and was martyred for his faith. Bibiana was tortured and executed for her Christianity, as well.

**December 8 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** On this day we commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without Original Sin. In addition to attending Mass for this Holy Day of Obligation, praying a joyful Rosary is a wonderful way

to celebrate.

**December 12 – Gaudete Sunday.** This Sunday marks the halfway point of Advent. We light the rose candle in the Advent wreath for joy. During the last two weeks of Advent, the Church prepares to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas.

**December 29 – St. Thomas Becket (1170).** As Archbishop of Canterbury, King Henry II tried to pressure him and the other bishops into agreeing to unjust laws, but St. Thomas refused to sign his approval for them. He was eventually martyred for his faith.



### 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)

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## Mass Intentions — December 11-17, 2021

### Saturday, December 11-4pm 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; Joseph Graves, W. A. Graves Family, Jack Jackson, Thomas Morales Family; Douglas Breaux & Family, Salvatore F. Spano & Family; M/M Edmond Gomez, Kathleen Garrene, Chris Gomez; Connor J. Brown; Theresa R. Hebert; Kearney Thibodeaux, Sr., Kearney Thibodeaux, Jr., Sadie Thibodeaux, Bodie Suggs, Vernon Suggs, Joe Suggs, Kyle Ourso, Freddie Ourso; Ida Lee "Sis" Bourgeois; Dorothy "Nona" Hebert; George Gullotto

### Sunday, December 12-7:30am Mass

St. John Parishioners



### Sunday, December 12-9am 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; George & Carol Allain, Gi Gi Allain, Barbara Bajon; Benny & Annie Vaughn, Jessel & Eula Mae Ourso; Mary Ann Gregoire; Virginia Simon; Mary Ann Gourgues; Sharon Diamond Tyson

### Sunday, December 12-11am Mass

Cindy Dickerson; Brenda Fremin; Marshall & Virginia Peavy, Cleo & Ella Dupont; Isaac Vaughn, Jr., Brent Isaac Vaughn, Sidney Hedges, Jr., The Family of Sidney Hedges, Sr.; Harry Marionneaux, Paul, Doris & Charles Barbier; Betty Gongre; Ernest & Theresa Hernandez, Margaret Hernandez, Gary Hernandez; George "Brother" Michel; Henry "Deas" Simpson; Sam "Buttie" & Lucille Distefano; Christopher Stassi; Rodney Bourgeois

### Tuesday, December 14-6pm Mass

John H. Businelle; Case, Gum & Schuler Families; Van & Thelma Junot, Elvis & Mamie Rabalais; Lonnie Michel

### Wednesday, December 15-7am Mass

Dudley Nicolosi, Beryl Fourroux, Schexnaildre & Nicolosi Families

### Thursday, December 16-7am Mass

Ronnie Palermo

### Friday, December 17-7am Mass

Pat Dupont & Kathy Fulton



Are you seeking "knowledge and full insight to help you determine" your vocation in Christ as a priest? If God is calling you, call or email Father Joshua Johnson at 225.336.8778, [jjohnson@diobr.org](mailto:jjohnson@diobr.org), or visit [www.diobr.org/vocations](http://www.diobr.org/vocations).

### Monthly Food Distribution

Mt. Zion Inner City Church, 24400 Eleanor Drive (Behind D'Albor's Home Furnishings) distributes food on the first Monday of the month from 7-10am for seniors age 60 and over. A valid ID and proof of income is required.



### Sanctuary Candle December 5, 2021

St. John the Evangelist  
Ernest & Josephine Lapeze  
Lapeze Family & Ragusa Family

St. Clement of Rome  
Brenda Fremin  
Luke & Mary Fremin  
Charles & Rosa Drago  
Ellis & Enola Fremin

### St. John Altar Society



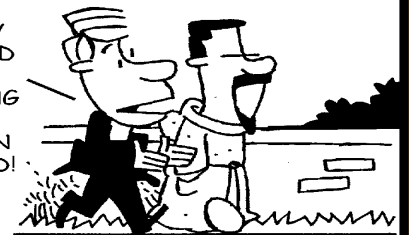
St. John Altar Society Team 2 will be cleaning the church Wednesday, December 8 at 8am. Volunteers are welcome.

\*\*\*\*\*

The altar society is selling their cookbooks, "Recipes - Old and New, Tried and True." This collection of recipes by parishioners and friends of St. John the Evangelist, former Immaculate Conception and St. Clement of Rome Catholic Churches make excellent Christmas and birthday gifts. Cookbooks may be purchased from the St. John Church Office for \$20.00.

### 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YOU KNOW, IT TOOK A LOT OF GUTS FOR A GUY TO SAY HE HEARD FROM GOD AND START PREACHING THE KIND OF MESSAGES JOHN THE BAPTIST DID!



HE ATE LOCUSTS AND WILD HONEY IN AN AGE BEFORE BREATH MINTS -- DO YOU THINK HE CARED WHAT ANYONE THOUGHT?

BY DEN ALBA!  
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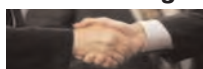
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