

St. John the Evangelist Church

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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
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[facebook.com/pages/St John the Evangelist CatholicChurch](https://facebook.com/pages/St%20John%20the%20Evangelist%20CatholicChurch)

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



Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 4, 2022

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

September 4, 2022

Dear Family:

Happy Labor Day Weekend!

This Sunday's Gospel reading from Luke, like last Sunday's Gospel, draws our attention to discipleship. While last week's text took place at a table, the setting of today's passage is quite different. Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem, where he will be crucified. Crowds followed Jesus as he made his way to his death and his resurrection.

Jesus' words to the people seem shocking. Does Jesus really want us to hate our parents, our spouse, our siblings? Is this what it takes to be a disciple? Doesn't this contradict Jesus' teaching on love? Aren't disciples supposed to love one another, even those who hate us? Three times in this passage, we hear that unless a person does or does not do something that person "cannot be my disciple." In essence, Jesus states that we must hate our family, carry our cross, and renounce our possessions.

It is helpful to be aware of several literary aspects in this puzzling passage. First of all, some commentators are quick to point out that the saying about hating family member is a "Semitic hyperbole." In other words, it is an exaggerated statement intended to make a point emphatically (consider how even today, when upset, someone might say, "I could just kill him!" or "I could wring her neck!") Jesus is emphasizing that if one chooses to be his disciple, the road ahead will not be easy. There will be a price to pay, and that price is high. Second, the Greek word that is translated "hate" might best be understood as "prefers." Thus, the text could be understood as stating, "Whoever prefers family over me, cannot be my disciple." Again to be a disciple of Jesus means be ready to follow him without compromise.

Some questions for reflection:

- What does the Gospel tell you about the cost of discipleship? What have you given up to more closely follow Christ?
- How do you balance the command to love all people with what Jesus expresses in this Gospel?
- What question does this Gospel passage stir up in you? Write these questions down and pray over them.

A warm and gracious thank you to all who are giving their treasure of finance to our Church Community here at St. John. Thanks as well for those who have answered my recent plea for funds to help us with our building projects here at Church and School. May God continue to bless your generosity of spirit.

Many thanks to all involved with our St. John School that has helped us begin a new year with great spirit and much hope. Our first school Mass went well and it was good to once again have family members join us. It is especially great to have the entire student body together again after our two years of pandemic distancing.

Thanks to Mrs. Wanda, the team of catechists and all our students and parents as they began a new year of Religious Education at a special opening Mass last week.

This weekend begins our parish preparations to celebrate our Annual Acadian Festival. Congratulations to our Miss Evangeline 2022 and her Court of Princesses. Many thanks to the hard work and dedication of our Knights of Columbus for their year long work on the Acadian Festival. Let's look forward together to this great event!

Peace,

Fr. Greg

Baptism Seminars and Baptism



Baptism Seminars

Monday, September 5, 2022

Monday, October 3, 2022

Monday, November 7, 2022

Monday, December 5, 2022

Baptisms

Saturday, September 24, 2022 (During Mass)

Saturday, October 22, 2022

Saturday, November 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

Daily Scripture Readings — September 5-11, 2022

Monday, September 5:

1 Cor 5:1-8; Ps 5:5-7, 12; Lk 6:6-11, or, for Labor Day, any readings from the Mass "For the Blessings of Human Labor," nos. 907-911

Tuesday, September 6:

1 Cor 6:1-11; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday, September 7:

1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 45:11-12, 14-17; Lk 6:20-26

Thursday, September 8:

Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6abc; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 [18-23]

Friday, September 9:

1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27; Ps 84:3-6, 12; Lk 6:39-42

Saturday, September 10:

1 Cor 10:14-22; Ps 116:12-13, 17-18; Lk 6:43-49

Sunday, September 11:

Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19; 1 Tm 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32 [1-10]

CATHOLIC THINKING ABOUT IT? OR KNOW OF SOMEONE THINKING ABOUT IT?

RCIA—Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is a faith journey open to all unbaptized or baptized adults who wish to explore the possibility of becoming Catholic.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Catholic faith and even exploring the possibility of becoming Catholic, please join us this fall for a wonderful faith journey.

Classes are held every Sunday following 9am Mass from 9:40am until 10:50am in the church office conference room. The dates for RCIA are Sunday, September 11, 2022, then every Sunday until December 4, 2022.

RCIA resumes after Advent on Sunday, January 8, 2023 following 9am Mass from 9:40am until 10:50am, then every Sunday at 9am Mass until Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 8, 2023.

For more information, contact Donna Carville at 225.687.2402.



GROWING IN FAITH FALL BIBLE STUDIES

Church History Taught from a Solidly Catholic Perspective Beginning Monday, September 5, 2022 at 5pm

This is our story, our family. As Catholics, we are the inheritors of holy men and women who over two thousand years built a great civilization and spread the gospel throughout the world. The history of the Church is not just the recitation of popes and saints; it is a story of adventure, intrigue, rebellion, reform, and devotion. In this study you will learn about the important people, places, and events in two thousand years of Church history, presented in twelve easy-to-remember color-coded time periods. You will discover the true stories behind the Crusades, the Spanish Inquisition, and the Protestant Reformation. You will also learn about the massive persecution of Christians in the twentieth century. Throughout, you will be gaining an understanding of the workings of the Holy Spirit in our Church. The cost of this study is \$35.

The Gospel According to Mark Beginning Thursday, September 8, 2022

Mark, the shortest of the four gospels, offers an action-packed diary of the true Son of God, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, beginning with his baptism by John the Baptist that began his 3-year public ministry. Mark wrote this diary for Peter, the leader of the original twelve disciples and the first Pope of the Catholic Church, while he was in Rome evangelizing before his martyrdom.

The study of Mark's account of Jesus will start on Thursday, September 8, 1:30-3pm or 6:15-7:45pm. Please call the church office or Donna Carville at 225.776.3205 to sign up and get your study guide for \$10.

RITUALSONG (Readings and Songs this Weekend)

Readings: Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time #1262

Entrance: Lift High the Cross #981

Preparation: **Instrumental**

Communion: Eye Has Not Seen #819

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

The St. John Church Office will be closed
Monday, September 5 in observance of
Labor Day.



In Loving Memory...

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

Jeanette Cavet

Donated by:
The Durand Family

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

These words of Jesus are an excellent invitation to prayer before the Blessed Sacrament:
“And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” (Luke 11:9-10)

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.



Join the Adult Choir!

The Adult Choir will be returning from summer vacation on Sunday, September 11, 2022 @ the 9:00 a.m. Mass. If you have been giving thought to how you can best serve your parish, perhaps it may be the perfect opportunity for you to join our ranks in this all-important ministry of the church family.

People have told me many times, “Oh, I can’t sing!” Or “You don’t want ME in your choir!” My answer to those statements is always “Yes, you can!” and “Yes, we do!” There is a popular quote that is attributed to St. Augustine that you probably have heard many times: “He who sings prays twice.” Another saying that comes to mind is one by Henry Van Dyke: “Use what talents you possess: The woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best.”

So, I invite you to come and see what it is all about. For now, we will only be singing at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Rehearsals will begin at a later date. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have. We have a chair for YOU in the choir loft!

Medric

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

September 2022

St. John the Evangelist

Rev. Gregory J. Daigle

One Minute Meditations

The most important thing

When Jesus promised to be with us always, He wasn't just talking symbolically. He meant that He would stay with us – Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. In fact, when we go to Mass, we meet Jesus, Himself, “truly, really, and substantially contained” in Holy Communion (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1374). Don't miss a single Sunday Mass. He is there every time.



Our “Call”

When God calls, He asks that His children respond. Throughout history, when the Father called a chosen people, prophets, and kings to service, they responded. Jesus called His apostles and disciples. They responded. God calls each of us. Have you responded? Are you where He wants you to be?

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, on your own intelligence do not rely; In all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths”

(Proverbs 3:5-6).



Four tools for spreading the Good News

Before He ascended, Jesus told His disciples, “Go...make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). We are all called to preach the Gospel, sometimes by words, but always by the holiness of our lives. Jesus gave us four must-haves for this task:

Peace: The confidence that all things, even our greatest sufferings, will be for our good is peace. Living a Gospel-centered life brings peace and sets us apart in what we choose: music, recreation, dress. These choices are counter-cultural and testify to our faith. Be at peace: our security is in the Truth, not others' opinions of us.

Simplicity: We can't give what we

don't have. To give Christ to others, we must make room for Him in our own hearts. For example, buy only what's necessary and limit time on social

media. Frequent the Sacraments and Mass. Pray daily.

Charity: Jesus uses us to communicate His love to others. In addition to acts of mercy for the poor, charity requires treating others with dignity, respect, patience, and kindness – even when it's challenging.

Joy: We experience joy when we receive God's love. This means keeping our hearts open to accepting the Good News, not giving into bitterness and resentment, reminding ourselves of the ways God has shown His love for us. Don't keep it to yourself. Tell others.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do some churches have altar rails?

Altar rails, or “Communion rails,” located between the sanctuary and the front pews, helped facilitate the Communion distribution when everyone received Communion on the tongue while kneeling. The rails encouraged the faithful to be reverent before the Face of God –

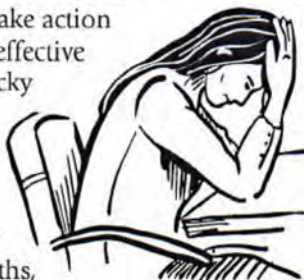


literally. Called, “the people's altar,” the rails were also where communicants offered their spiritual sacrifices to God directly as they received Him. We can do this without rails, but kneeling for Communion is a powerful reminder of Who we are receiving.

Managing sticky situations, gracefully

When we find ourselves in a difficult situation, it can be tough to know how to respond. We want to take action that comes from our faith perspective and is effective at the same time. Try these tips to manage sticky situations with grace:

Stay calm. We are more likely to make regrettable decisions when we're anxious, afraid, or angry. We make it worse by raising our voices, storming around, saying whatever comes into our heads. Instead take deep breaths, pray a calming prayer, invoke your guardian angel.



Staying calm is key.

Be realistic. Accept that you can't fix everything. Instead, focus on what you can do. Leaning on prior experience and advice from experts or trusted friends, pick the best course of action. Surrender the outcome to God.

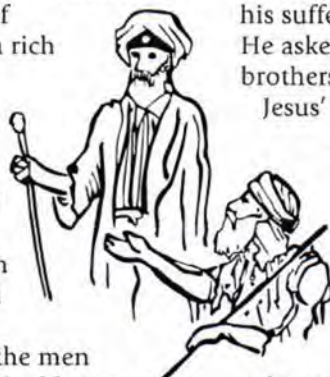
Learn. God often allows difficulties to bring about a greater good. Maybe the experience helped you grow in virtue, taught you a new skill, gave you a new perspective. It's okay to ask God, "why?" Keep what you learn for the future.

from Scripture

Luke 16:19-31, Riches okay, but not hard-heartedness

In this Gospel passage, Jesus directed a parable to those who turn a blind eye to the suffering of others. In His story, a rich man ignored a desperately hungry man, Lazarus, lying in misery at his gate. The rich man feasted daily and lived in luxury. The poor man hoped for scraps and dodged dogs.

After their deaths, the men experienced a reversal of fortunes. Lazarus rested with Abraham and the patriarchs – the closest thing to heaven prior to Jesus' Resurrection. The rich



man was in agony. He begged Abraham to send Lazarus to alleviate his suffering but Abraham refused. He asked Lazarus to warn his brothers but was denied again.

Jesus' parable isn't condemning wealth, but the hard-heartedness of the rich man. The rich man knew Lazarus by name but was insensitive to his plight. He wasn't evil, but he knew what God asked him to do and didn't do it.

When we live our faith, we transform our prayers into deeds of love as Jesus asked. The reward for doing what Jesus asked will be eternal joy.

Q & A Why do some parishes pray the St. Michael prayer after Mass?

The Leonine prayers were first promulgated by Pope Leo XIII in 1884, for recitation after Mass but not as part of Mass itself. They consisted of the Hail Mary (three times), Hail, Holy Queen,



O God our Refuge and strength, the Prayer to St. Michael, and the invocation to the Sacred Heart (three times) and were said

kneeling at the foot of the altar. Although abolished in 1964 they are still sometimes used after Masses in the extraordinary form.

Other popes have invoked St. Michael's protection. Pope St. Gregory the Great invoked St. Michael's protection during a plague. Pope St. John Paul II recommended saying the St. Michael prayer daily to protect the family. And Pope Francis, in the light of recent crises, recommended all Catholics recite the prayer. Some bishops have joined the call by recommending Catholics pray it after Mass.

St. Michael led the faithful angels in overthrowing Satan and his rebellious angels (Revelation 12:7). Scripture tells us he is tasked with protecting God's people against the devil.

Feasts & Celebrations

September 15 – Our Lady of Sorrows. In Luke 2:35, Simeon predicted Mary's sufferings as "a sword piercing" her soul. In her sorrow, Mary stood at the foot of the Cross, dignified and fearless while others ran away. Instead, she responded with faith and love.

September 17 – St. Hildegard of Bingen (1179). Born in 12th century Germany to noble parents, St. Hildegard had visions from when she was very young. She joined the Benedictines and eventually became an abbess. She wrote

on spirituality, music, medicine, and science. She is a Doctor of the Church.

September 26 – Sts. Cosmas and Damian (c.303). These saints were Arab brothers who studied medicine in Syria and lived their Christian faith by treating people without charge. They were martyred for their faith.

September 29 – Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Rafael, Archangels. Three archangels who were entrusted with important missions to mankind, such as St. Gabriel's visit to the Blessed Mother to tell her she had been chosen as the Mother of God.



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 — September 10-16, 2022

Saturday, September 10-4pm 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; M/M John Caffarel, G. E. Marix Family; Joseph Graves, W. A. Graves Family; Michael Rarick, Thomas Morales Family; Aubrey Quebedeaux, Dub, Aline & Mit Comeaux; "Se Se" Becnel, Keller & Percle Families; LeBlanc, Cavalier & Simoneaux Families; Ernest & Josephine Lapeze, Lapeze Family, Ragusa Family; Ramirez Family, Kirsch Kember Anderson; J. R. Boudreaux, Virgie Junot & Family; M/M Tony Falcon, Anthony Falcon, Brandi Quatrevingt, M/M Ray Murry, M/M C. J. Saurage, M/M Ronald Gary, M/M Earl Quatrevingt, Tommy, Jay, Randy & Brian Quatrevingt, M/M Frank Tempanaro, Camille Tempanaro; Patrick Gaudet, Iris & Audrey Callegan; M/M Edmond Gomez, Sr., Edmond Gomez, Jr., Kathleen Garrene, Chris Gomez; Winnie & Harry Gallagher, Ethel & Harry Blanchard; Matthew, Doris & Allen Family; Darrel & Kye Boudreaux; Karen Banta; Lonnie Michel, "Baco" Romero; Michael Shepherd; The Currier Family, Betty Keith & Family

Sunday, September 11-7:30am Mass — St. John Parishioners



Sunday, September 11-9am 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; Frances Santangelo LeBlanc, Rita & Mike Santangelo, Anatole Santangelo; Marie Ragusa LeBlanc, Terry Landry, Sr., Terry Landry, Jr.; Kynlee Bueche; M/M Jimmy Hebert, Bryan Hebert, James Hebert; Gladys "Butsy" Palermo, Peter A. Palermo, Patrick Burleigh, Doug Brewer; George & Carol Allain, "Gi Gi" Allain, Barbara Bajon; Edward Kocke, Jr., O. J., Buster & Pearl Hidalgo Songy & Families; Rose Marie LeBlanc, Thomas & Lillian LeBlanc, Cyril Gilchrist; Lawrence & Winnie Miller, Edward Miller, Paul & Myrtle Richard; Rosa, Curtis, Brian & Denise Breaux; Janice Brown; Benny & Annie Vaughn, Jessel & Eula Mae Ourso; Virginia Simon; V. J. Vicknair, M/M Vives Vicknair; Anthony & Margie Vitale, Lloyd & Lillian Bouchereau; Angelo Mancuso; Clarence "Pete" & Mary Berthelot; Flo Ourso; Earl Alvin Gibson

Sunday, September 11-11am Mass

Cindy Dickerson; John & Ann Ruiz, Joseph Ruiz, Lena P. Brooks; Sue & J. W. Bryant; Marshall & Virginia Peavy, Cleo & Ella Dupont; Brenda Fremin; Sam "Butte" & Lucille Leggio Distefano; Isaac Jr. & Brent Vaughn, Sidney Hedges, Jr., Margaret Landry; George "Brother" Michel, Alvin J. Daigle, Sr. Family, Alvin J "Peta" Daigle, Jr., Edith E. Guillot; Christopher Stassi; T. N., Ray & Stephen Patin; Denise Miranda; Rose Hernandez Boudreaux

Tuesday, September 13-6pm Mass

Van & Thelma Junot, Elvis & Mamie Rabalais; Case, Gum, & Schuler Families; Dr. Micah Day; John M. Dill; David E. Wendt, Jr., M/M W. E. Barker III, Joshua Barker; Denise Miranda

Wednesday, September 14-7am Mass

Dudley Nicolosi, Beryl Fourroux, Nicolosi & Schexnaildre Families

Thursday, September 15-7am Mass

A. J. Rodriguez

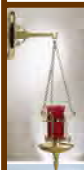
Friday, September 16-7am Mass

Roland "Dougie" Rivet



Vocations

Having a loose grasp on those things that rightly belong to God is required of every follower. The open hands you are left with will be filled to overflowing by God. Can you let go? If God is calling you, call or email Fr. Josh Johnson at 225.336.8778, jjohnson@diobr.org, or visit www.diobr.org/vocations.



Sanctuary Candle — September 4, 2022

St. John the Evangelist
Lorraine "Catty" Hebert &
Mary Kay Marchand Hudson

St. Clement of Rome
Fred & Beverly Allain, Angela & J. E. Dupont

Coffee & Donuts — September 4, 2022

June Pinsonat, Sandra Bizette &
Mary Jo Caffarel (7:30am Mass)
Steve & Faith Maddox (9am Mass)



Altar Society

Altar Society Team 1 will be cleaning the church Wednesday, September 7 at 8am. Volunteers are welcome!

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

IF YOU'RE GOING TO SKYDIVE, YOU HAVE TO MAKE SURE YOU CAN HANDLE IT BEFORE YOU JUMP.



THAT'S PRETTY MUCH WHAT THEY TOLD US IN SEMINARY.



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