

## 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@coxbusiness.net](mailto:stjohnchurchplaq@coxbusiness.net)  
[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

### Masses:

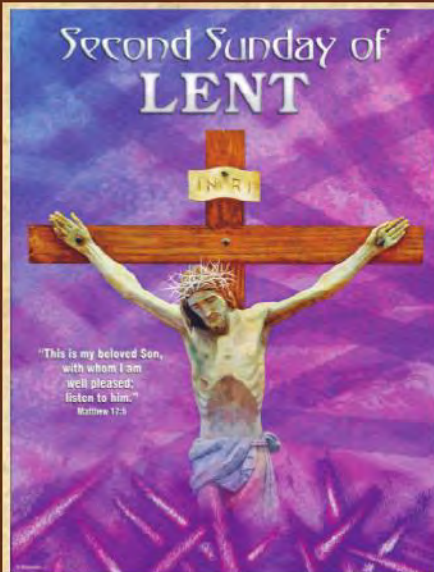
Saturday Vigil	4:00 pm
Sunday	7:30 am
	9:00 am
	11:00 am
Tuesday	6:00 pm
Wed., Thurs., Fri.	7:00 am

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 Lent

March 5, 2023

I will bless you. (Genesis 12:2)

We often forget that, before the Lord called him, Abram was a pagan. That means that, like everyone else around him, he worshipped false gods whose stories were steeped in the selfishness, violence, and pettiness of the world.

So imagine Abram's surprise when he encountered the one true God! He was unlike any other "gods" Abram had already worshipped. There was a selfless quality about the way the Lord spoke to him. He didn't ask Abram to perform elaborate sacrifices; he didn't command him to go into battle on his behalf; he didn't even threaten to kill him if he didn't obey him. Instead, the Lord was totally invested in Abram, not himself. He promised to "bless" Abram even before Abram had done a single thing for him (Genesis 12:2). All God wanted was for Abram to leave home, that place of violence and selfishness, and travel to a new land where he and his descendants could begin a new, grace-filled life.

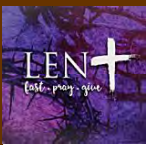
Just as he did for Abram, God wants to bless you—simply because he loves you. He's not concerned with how much you sacrifice to him. He isn't calculating your reward based on the number of good deeds you perform for him. He doesn't "need" anything from you at all. He just wants to help you leave whatever "places" of sin, violence, and selfishness are in your heart so that you can receive his blessings. All he wants is for you to experience life in the promised land, the kingdom of his beloved Son.

In a world that is so often based on the give-and-get transactions of business contracts and self-serving relationships, God's calling can be hard to believe. It can seem too good to be true. But it is true! Your heavenly Father loves you for who you are. He simply wants to bless you. Will you embrace his call and enter his promised land?

*"Lord, give me the faith of Abram. Help me to follow you into freedom."*

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## Lent

### Lenten Weekday Schedule:

**Tuesday - 6pm Mass & Chaplet of Divine Mercy Novena**

**Wednesday & Thursday - 7am Mass**

**Friday - 12 Noon Stations of the Cross**

**6pm Mass & Stations of the Cross**

**(No 7am Mass during Lent)**

### **The Light is On for You!** **Lenten Confession**



St. John, along with other churches in our Diocese, will open for confession at night during Lent. Father Greg will be hearing confessions Wednesday, March 8 and Wednesday, March 29 from 6-7pm.



### **Pope Francis' Prayer Intention** **March 2023**

#### For Victims of Abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

### **Daily Scripture Readings** **March 5-11, 2023**

#### **Sunday, March 5:**

Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

#### **Monday, March 6:**

Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38

#### **Tuesday, March 7:**

Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12

#### **Wednesday, March 8:**

Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28

#### **Thursday, March 9:**

Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31

#### **Friday, March 10:**

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21;

Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

#### **Saturday, March 11:**

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

### **Baptisms and Baptism Seminars**

#### Baptism Seminars — 7pm

**Church Office Third Floor**

**Monday, March 6, 2023**

**Monday, April 3, 2023**

**Monday, May 1, 2023**



#### Baptisms — Following 4pm Mass

**Saturday, April 22, 2023**

**Saturday, May 20, 2023**

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

### **Mandatory First Eucharist Parent Meeting** **Wednesday, March 8 ~ 6pm** **St. John Parish Hall**

## RITUALSONG

### **(Readings and Songs this Weekend)**

**Readings: Second Sunday of Lent #1119**

**Entrance: Forty Days and Forty Nights #565**

**Communion: Jerusalem, My Destiny #568**

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

*O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand. —Psalm 95:6-7*

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.

## St. Joseph Altar Preparations

Preparations for the St. Joseph Altar is in progress at the K. C. Home. Anyone interested in helping is welcome to join us at 9am Monday through Saturday.



If you would like to bake a cake or cookies to donate to the altar, please call Betty Aucoin at 225.687.2111 or Louise Dugas at 225.659.2371. The St. Joseph candles may be purchased for \$4.25. If you would like to place an order for bread, please call by Friday, March 10.

We will honor St. Joseph at 4pm Mass Saturday, March 18. Father Greg will bless the altar with viewing available to the public immediately following Mass at the K. C. Home, 58715 Price Street. The St. Joseph Altar will be held at the K. C. Home, Sunday, March 19. Saints will be served at 11am and the public is invited to partake from noon until 1:30pm.

Monetary donations are welcomed. Contact Betty Aucoin at 225.776.1685 for more information.



## Easter Flower Donations

The beautiful flowers and decorations at Easter enhance our Easter worship.

Envelopes for Easter decorations have been placed in your March packet of envelopes. Please list the names of your loved ones on the envelopes. Memorial donations will be published in the bulletin.

## Contribution Tax Statements

Anyone needing a 2022 contribution statement for tax purposes should call Susan at the St. John Church Office at 225.687.2402. Statements will be printed upon request. Please remember St. John Church and St. John School in your Last Will and Testament.

## St. Jude Pilgrimage

A pilgrimage to St. Jude in New Orleans is planned for Monday, April 24, 2023. It's a beautiful day of getting together, relaxing with friends and our Lord in prayer. There are a few seats available on the bus. The cost of the trip is \$39.00. For more information and if you would like to join us, please call Cecilia Blanchard (985.513.2252). Thank you.

### K. C. Catholic Youth Leadership Award



The recipients of the 2023 Knights of Columbus 970 Catholic Youth Leadership Award (CYLA) are St. John School Seniors,

**Chloe Markins and Clay LeBlanc.**

Chloe is the daughter of Hutch and Christie Markins and Clay is the son of Tommy and Renée LeBlanc.

Plaquemine K. C. Council 970 has awarded over \$81,000 in CYLA college scholarships since first participating in this program in 1996.

Pictured above (l to r) are Chloe, Father Greg Daigle and Clay.

**Congratulations to Chloe, Clay and their families!**

### St. John School Distinguished Graduate Honored



Mr. Gordon Gregoire, second from left, was named St. John School's Distinguished Graduate for the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Gordon received his award during the annual Catholic Schools Banquet at the Renaissance Hotel in Baton Rouge February 1, 2023 from Dr. Pattie Davis, left, superintendent of Catholic Schools. Fr. Tom Ranzino, V. G. and Cherie Schlatre, right, principal of St. John School were also in attendance to honor him.

Mr. Gordon has been involved in our church, school and community throughout his life with his active participation and leadership in various organizations.

**Congratulations, Mr. Gordon!!**

### A Vocation View

As Peter, James and John had a "mountaintop experience" with Jesus, so too do those who are faithful to Jesus, experiencing His marvelous presence as they follow in His footsteps as a priest, brother, or sister.

If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, call or email Rev. Joshua Johnson at 225.336.8778, [jjohnson@diobr.org](mailto:jjohnson@diobr.org).



### Women's Lenten Reflection

**What? Women's Lenten Silent Retreat, "Laying a Foundation"**

**When? Saturday, March 25  
10:30am-2:30pm**

**Where? St. John Parish Hall**

**Led by The Holy Spirit and Gwen Hayes**

**A light lunch will be provided. Please call the church office at 225.687.2402 to register.**



### RETRouvaille — A Lifeline for Married Couples

In marriage, communication is more than just talking. At some point, did you stop sharing about the things that were important to you? Did your spouse?

Improving a marriage takes time and a conscious effort to learn about your spouse. Growing closer in a marriage does not happen automatically. Retrouvaille is a marriage program dedicated to helping couples grow closer and develop a stronger bond. You give your heart and soul to everything you do, between your work and your family. Are you giving your heart and soul to your marriage? Sometimes the distance between a husband and a wife can seem so wide that it cannot be repaired. Retrouvaille is a marriage program designed to bring couples closer together.

For more information about the upcoming local Retrouvaille Weekend program for couples, (March 10-12) contact Randall and Robin Bellard @ 225.271.4092 or visit our website: [HelpOurMarriage.org](http://HelpOurMarriage.org).



# Growing in FAITH™

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March 2023

St. John the Evangelist

Rev. Gregory J. Daigle

## One Minute Meditations

### Fasting to detach

*"Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their 'shame.'"*

*Their minds are occupied with earthly things"*

(Philippians 3:19). We tend to eat and drink so freely that we forget God, who gives us that which we eat and drink. Fasting, especially during Lent, helps us to detach from the things of this world and remember Him. Catholics are required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and to abstain from meat on Fridays.

### Believe in God

Believing in God means more than just saying He exists. Believers serve God, give time to Him, and put Him first. Spend more time in prayer this Lent, shed some possessions, perform works of charity and you will act on your baptismal promises.

*"Yet even now," says the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments!"*  
(Joel 2:12).



## Preparing hearts for Easter joy

Lent is the Church's gift to us to help prepare our hearts for Easter by purifying our hearts, opening up to love, and putting love into action.

**Purifying our hearts:** Every heart yearns for love, yet only God's love can truly satisfy that yearning. The goal of Lenten penance is to purify ourselves of whatever blocks us from God's love or closes our heart to others. This can include excessive social media, materialism, gossip, or sinful habits like lust or deceit. From what does your heart need to detach so there's room for God and others?

**Opening up to love:** Mother Teresa

wrote, "Have you seen...how [Jesus] looks at you with love?... Have you heard the

loving words He speaks to you?" Strive to know God's heart. Seek Him, not just His gifts. Only by receiving God's love first, beginning with prayer, can we share it with others.

### Put love in action:

*"Even as I have loved you...you also love one another"* (John 13:34). God

commands us to love as we've been loved – because we are loved. Find small, doable ways to serve during Lent. Commit to a Work of Mercy (corporal or spiritual). Practice patience. Give the gift of listening. True joy at Easter comes from loving Christ and imitating Him. Strive to do this throughout Lent and beyond.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics cover statues during Lent?

Many churches cover statues and crucifixes in red or purple cloth for the final weeks in Lent, traditionally known as "Passiontide." The veils are visual cues that we're entering into a solemn time and remind us that sin separates us from God.



This helps to build anticipation for Easter when the statues are unveiled and we are restored to Him. Lastly, the veils symbolize that heavenly glories are hidden in this life, but will be revealed when we enter eternity.



## Cultivating a "holy hospitality"

Jesus asked us to make others feel welcome, seen and loved while they're with us. "Holy hospitality" is vital to building community around Christ. Try these tips:

**Sit and listen:** When Jesus visited with his dear friends, Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, He observed that Martha was so distracted and focused on her own concerns that she merely served Jesus instead of connecting with Him personally (Luke 10:41-42). Prepare for guests like Martha did, but enjoy them like Mary – with complete attention.



**Fill your conversations with faith:** A "holy hospitality" is a faith-informed one. The Samaritan woman's life changed when she encountered Christ (John 4:14-15) because He told her the Good News of salvation. Ensure your conversations are uplifting and reflect your hope and optimism for eternity.

**Open your circle:** Jesus ate with tax collectors and public sinners – those considered unpleasant.

"Holy hospitality" means your social circle is open to the socially awkward, the frustrating coworker, the elderly neighbor who lives alone, because Christ is in all we serve (Matthew 25:40).

### from Scripture

#### John 11:1-45, Generous trust, generous faith

In this Gospel passage, a beloved friend of Jesus' was fatally ill and his sisters sent urgent word to Jesus to come immediately. Jesus delayed, and Lazarus died, but this would not be His ultimate fate. Jesus had something else in mind for Lazarus and his family.

When He finally arrived, Martha didn't demand Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead, although she acknowledged His power to do so. Even though her brother's body had been in the tomb for days and the decay had begun in earnest, her trust in Jesus was complete. She knew that God's love

is more powerful than death and left the outcome in His hands.

God never leaves us in our troubles but uses them to draw us closer to Him.

Martha's generous trust in God's will rested on her close friendship with Christ. Whatever He thought would be best

was best. God's timing is not ours, yet everything He does – even when He does it – is for our good. Martha's trust in Jesus was rewarded in the most magnificent way. Ours will be, too.



### Q & A How can I overcome the temptations in my life?

Jesus knows that the battle for holiness is challenging in a fallen world, so He gave St. Faustina Kowalska twenty-five strategies to help (*Divine Mercy in My Soul*, #1760). Here is a sample:

*"Do not bargain with any temptation; lock yourself immediately in My Heart."*

Don't assume you are strong enough for a "little" temptation. Run immediately to the refuge of Jesus' sacred heart for protection.

*"Bear with yourself with great patience."* Saints aren't made overnight. See yourself as God does – beloved. Be patient and keep trying.

*"Do not neglect interior mortifications."* Withhold a biting remark, give up a luxury for the day, cut down on screen time. Sacrifices for love are powerful.

*"Shun murmurs like a plague."* Gossip is never in God's service. False accusations and rumors that hurt reputations are Satan's favorite tools. Don't indulge.

*"Always fight with the deep conviction that I am with you."* Our courage comes from being rooted in God (John 15:5). Recall God's loving presence throughout the day: "Jesus, I trust in you!"



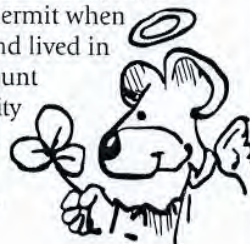
### Feasts & Celebrations

**March 9 – St. Frances of Rome (1440).** Although she preferred a life of service, St. Frances' wealthy parents required that she marry. With her sister-in-law, Vannoza, St. Frances formed a group of women dedicated to serving the poor, all while caring for her family.

**March 22 – St. Deogratias of Carthage (456):** As Bishop of Carthage, St. Deogratias is best known for aiding slaves captured by the Vandal king, Geiseric. He ransomed hundreds of captives and sheltered them in two large cathedrals.

**March 25 – The Annunciation of the Lord (1st century).** The angel Gabriel visited the Blessed Virgin Mary with the extraordinary news of her role as the mother of God. Even at her young age, she had confidence in God's grace and trusted in His wisdom.

**March 30 – St. John Climacus (606):** Born in 525 near Syria, St. John became a hermit when he was sixteen and lived in the region of Mount Sinai. A community of monks formed around him and elected him abbot.



### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.  
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## Mass Intentions — March 11-17, 2023

### Saturday, March 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; Liz Adams; John & Therese Ruiz, Raymond Ruiz, Theresa R. Morales; M/M John Caffarel, M/M G. E. Marix; J. W. & Sue Bryant, Mrs. E. J. Clifton; Joseph Graves, W. A. Graves Family, Michael Rarick, Thomas Morales Family; Catherine & Andrew Roucher, Wilfred & Philomena Benoit; Jimmy, Sarah & Jackie Migliacio, P. W. Albert, Jr.; Janice Brown; M/M Tony Falcon, Anthony Falcon, Camille Tempanaro, M/M Ray Murry, M/M Earl Quatrevingt, M/M C. J. Saurage, M/M Ronald Lee Gary, Tommy, Brian, Jay & Randy Quatrevingt, M/M Frank Tempanaro, Brandi Quatrevingt; Sharkey Altazin; Nick Mancuso Family, Roger Adams, Tarek Smart; Evelyn Varnell; The Lazzaro Family, Kolby Lorio, Butch & Sadie Tullier; The Currier Family

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

St. John Parishioners

### Sunday, March 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; Tommy Griffon; Rosemary Cox; Mary Ann Gregoire; Jeffery Martinez; J. C. & Hetta Hebert, Gilmore & Cleora Couvillion; Gary Ourso, Sr., Gary Ourso, Jr., Gerrit Ourso; Lawrence & Winnie Miller, Edward Miller; Paul & Myrtle Richard; Bill Touns, Jr.; Denise Miranda; Flo, Allen & Paco Ourso; Benny & Annie Vaughn, Jessel & Eula Ourso; Virginia Simon; Tom Stuart

### Sunday, March 12-11am Mass

Cindy Dickerson; Simoneaux & Fourroux Families; Kathy Kocke, Oliver & Edward Kocke, Jr.; Marshall & Virginia Peavy, Cleo & Ella Dupont; Brenda Fremin; Harry Marionneaux, Charles, Doris & Paul Barbier; Isaac Jr. & Brent Vaughn, Ezora & Sidney Hedges; Father Jerome Keating; Victor J. Canella

### Tuesday, March 14-6pm Mass

M/M Alvin Dugas, Jerry, Donald & Betty Dugas

### Wednesday, March 15-7am Mass

Buté Richard

### Thursday, March 16-7am Mass

Rosemary Cox

### Friday, March 17-6pm Mass

Buté Richard



### **Sanctuary Candle**

**March 5, 2023**

**St. John the Evangelist**  
**Catherine & Andrew Roucher**

**St. Clement of Rome**  
**Walter Mazone**

### **Coffee & Donuts**

**March 12, 2023**

**Pete & Bonnie Blanchard (7:30am Mass)**

**Kevin & Kelly Gourgues (9am Mass)**



### **Altar Society**

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

### **Daylight Savings Time**

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 12. Clocks will "spring forward" one hour at 2am March 12. Don't forget to move clocks ahead before retiring Saturday night, March 11.

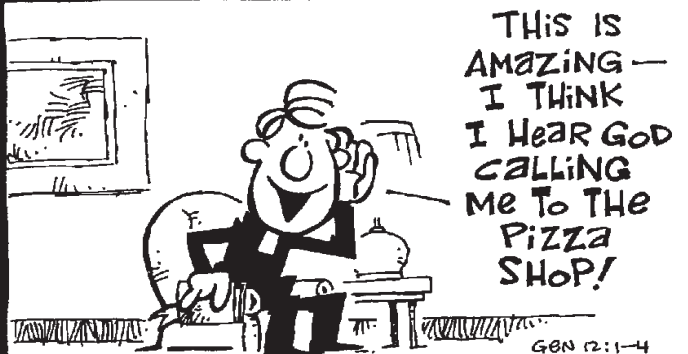


### **2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**

A CHRISTIAN  
ALWAYS HAS  
TO BE READY  
TO MOVE  
WHEN GOD  
CALLS HIM...



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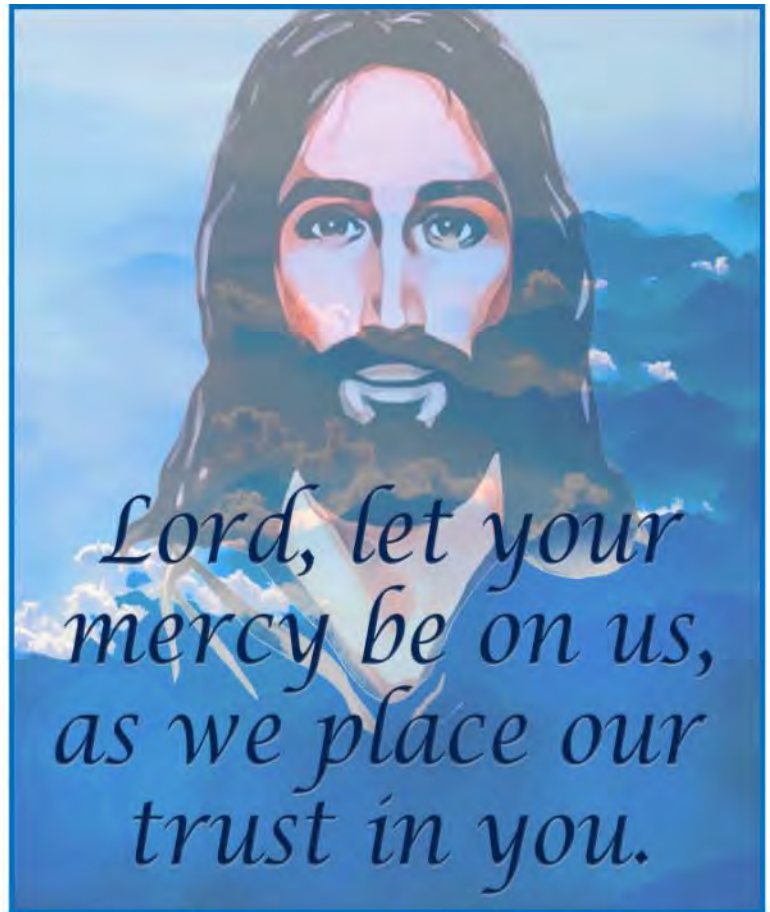


GEN 12:1-4

### Angels for Angels

The Angels for Angels program has been able to help children in our local schools with much needed items such as socks, shorts and underwear (size 3T-6T). Volunteers are needed to relieve the burden some teachers face who use their own monies to purchase these items. If you are willing to impact a child's life in our community, please call Dr. Katie Berthelot at 225.776.2809 or the church office at 225.687.2402.

Angels for Angels,  
Thank y'all so much  
for all the donations made  
to our class! The kids  
were so thankful for the  
items they recieved.  
The pants, socks, underwear,  
& beanies have been so  
useful for our class when  
the children do not have  
a change of clothing!  
Y'all are making a  
difference!  
Thanks so much,  
Mrs. Lynet & Ms. Kinky



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**PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATES**  
**KATHRYN C. ELKINS, MD** **MICHAEL M. QUINN, MD**  
59325 Riverwest Dr., Suite D Plaquemine, LA 70764  
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**Allstate Insurance Company**  
58920 Bellevue Drive, Plaquemine, LA 70764  
Phone 225-687-8236/Fax 225-687-8237  
[danieldurand@allstate.com](mailto:danieldurand@allstate.com) [www.allstateagencies.com/a058962](http://www.allstateagencies.com/a058962)



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Addis, LA 70710

**225.749.7309**

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**225.687.6388**

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