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

Email: stjohnchurchplaq@coxbusiness.net

facebook.com/pages/St John the Evangelist Catholic Church

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 7:30 am Sunday

9:00 am

11:00 am Tuesday 6:00 pm Wed., Ťhurs., 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



Sunday in Ordinary Time "If you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them."

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 23, 2023

Whoever has ears ought to hear. (Matthew 13:43)

Does Jesus' explanation of today's parable make you uncomfortable? Especially his image of God sending his angels to toss the "children of the evil one" into a "fiery furnace" (Matthew 13:38, 42)? If a loving human father would never treat his children that way, how could God, our heavenly Father, do such a thing?

If you find this story troubling, it might help to know you're in good company. Even the ancient Fathers of the Church were divided on how to interpret it. In the third century, Origen of Alexandria taught that these "children of the evil one" were not individual people (Matthew 13:38). Rather, they were the "evil opinions" that the devil sows in our souls (Commentary on Matthew, 10.2). He said that God wants to burn these sinful thoughts and attitudes out of all people so that they can enter eternal life.

On the other hand, St. John Chrysostom, writing about a hundred years later, said that the "children of the evil one" were indeed sinners. These, Chrysostom said, would be "given over to punishment," and a "severe" punishment at that. Meanwhile, the

righteous would "depart into the kingdom of heaven" (On Matthew, Homily 47).

You may favor Origen's view or Chrysostom's, but both men make one thing clear: sin is serious. It burdens us. It darkens our minds and poisons our hearts. It keeps us from loving each other and receiving God's love. But they both also taught that Jesus offers us the only way to escape its grasp: his cross and resurrection.

Jesus ended his parable with a warning: "Whoever has ears ought to hear" (Matthew 13:43). Let's do just that. Let's take his words to heart. Let's believe that his grace is powerful enough to save us from sin. Let's trust that he can make us "shine like the sun" (13:43).

"Jesus, give me ears to hear you as you call me out of sin and into your kingdom."

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July 23, 2023

Dear Family:

The parables are concise narratives with concrete images to help people understand abstract points. The three parables in Matthew describe the kingdom of God as both spiritual and physical.

Ancient prophecies foretold a time when God would govern the world in person. Some expected God to govern a literal kingdom, while others thought the "kingdom" would be some kind of intellectual or spiritual transformation. Jesus' parables suggest that both understandings are true.

The parable of yeast is the clearest example of a spiritual kingdom. In the minds of ancient peoples, yeast was a mysterious substance that transformed a paste of flour and water into bread. Just so, the kingdom of God was an unseen power that transforms people and communities.

The parable of the mustard seed has similar themes. Mustard vines grow at such a rate that one ancient author warned against planting it. Ancient peoples wondered at the power of a tiny seed to produce something of such vigor. Similarly, Jesus teaches, the kingdom of God may seem small, but it draws on divine power and will flourish anywhere it takes root.

The parable of the wheat and weeds speaks in concrete terms. Jesus offers the observation that not everyone is a child of the kingdom. Jesus warns, however, against using the exclusionary tactics of human communities to separate the two groups. It is almost impossible to tell the two plants apart. The "weeds" will do no damage, so there is no need to tear them out. It is better, he cautions, that they should grow together. Only God can sort out the weeds from the wheat, since only God knows the human heart. Following centuries of Israelite tradition, Jesu recognizes mercy to be the basis of God's kingdom.

Some questions for reflection:
What does the first reading express as the traits of God?
How has God shown you mercy?
To whom have you shown mercy?

Many thanks to all the parents, Alumni, and St. John School supporters who spent Saturdays at our school getting ready for the beginning of the school year. Your support with generous gifts of your skills and your time are truly appreciated.

Thanks to our Knights of Columbus Council for their hosting of our recent Blood Drive. Thanks as well to the many donors who helped our local Blood Bank.

Peace,

Fr. Greg

ST. JOHN SCHOOL NEWS

Math Teacher Wanted

St. John School is looking for a high school math teacher for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year.

If you or anyone you know is interested in finding out more about this exciting opportunity, please contact Cherie Schlatre at cschlatre@stjohnschool.education.

St. John Alumni Softball/Kickball Tournament

The St. John Alumni Softball/Kickball Tournament will be held August 4 & 5, 2023 at Belleview Park in Plaquemine. Concession stand workers, cooks and umpires are needed for the tournament's success. For information regarding playing or volunteering, please call Mary Gaye David at 225.776.1694 or Bart Schlatre at 225.385.5712.

St. John Alumni Golf Tournament Winners







The St. John Alumni Golf Classic was held June 26 at the Island Golf Course. Congratulations to the winning teams! 1st Place (top): Team Caleb Kleinpeter - Senator 2nd Place (middle): Team Edward Jones - Chris Reeves 3rd Place (bottom): Team Barker Brothers Plumbing

RITUALSONG

(Readings and Songs this Weekend)

Readings: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time #1239 Entrance: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty #714

Preparation: **Instrumental**
Communion: Seek Ye First #800
Sending Forth: Sing a New Song #718

REGISTER

PSR (Parish School of Religion) Register NOW

Online registration is open NOW for Confirmation and 1st Eucharist. Access forms via our church website, www.stjohnchurchplaq under the Formation tab. Schedules are also posted under Formation.

The deadline to register is Sunday, August 20, 2023.

Baptisms and Baptism Seminars

Baptism Seminars — 7pm Church Office Third Floor Monday, August 7, 2023 Monday, September 4, 2023 Monday, October 2, 2023



Baptisms — Following 4pm Mass Saturday, July 22, 2023 Saturday, August 26, 2023 Saturday, September 23, 2023 Saturday, October 28, 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.

Daily Scripture Readings — July 23-29, 2023

Sunday, July 23:

Wis 12-13, 16-19; Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43 or Mt 13:24-30

Monday, July 24:

Ex 14:5-18; Ex 15:1b-6; Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday, July 25:

2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1b-6; Mt 20:20-28

Wednesday, July 26:

Ex 16:1-5, 9-15; Ps 78:18-19, 23-28; Mt 13:1-9

Thursday, July 27:

Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b; Dan 3:52-56; Mt 13:10-17

Friday, July 28:

Ex 20:1-17; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 13:18-23

Saturday, July 29:

Ex 24:3-8; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Jn 11:19-27 or

Lk 10:38-42

A Prayer to Avert Storms and Hurricanes

Father, all the elements of nature obey your command. Calm the storms and hurricanes that threaten us and turn our fear of your power into praise of your goodness.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Mass Intentions — July 29-August 4, 2023

Saturday, July 29-4pm 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; Donald Aucoin, Aucoin & Wunstel Families; Rosemary Cox; Murray & Dixie Suffrin; Mayon, Callahan & Clement Families; Leona Hoffman; Kolby Lorio; Ione Robbins, Calvin Robbins, Calvin Robbins, Jr.; Charles & Marion Clement; Sadie, Kearney Sr. & Kearney Jr. Thibodeaux, The Suggs Family; John Hawley Landry, Kathleen Landry

Sunday, July 30-7:30 am Mass

St. John Parishioners

Sunday, July 30-9am 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; Kristina Mellema; Rosa, Curtis, Brian & Denise Breaux; Denise Miranda; Benny & Annie Vaughn, Jessel & Eula Ourso; Virginia Simon

Sunday, July 30-11am Mass

Cindy Dickerson; Brenda Fremin; George "Brother" Michel, Alvin J. Daigle, Sr. Family, Alvin J. "Peta" Daigle, Jr., Edith E. Guillot; Isaac Jr. & Brent Vaughn, Nilda & Isaac Vaughn; Frank, Josie, Anthony & Victor Canella

Attar T Coclety

Tuesday, Aug 1- 6pm Mass

Father Jimmy Jeanfreau

Wednesday, Aug 2-7am Mass

Michael Melsheimer, Sr.

Thursday, August 3-7am Mass

Mayon, Callahan & Clement Families

Friday, August 4-7am Mass

Kenneth "Klu" Brown





Sanctuary Candle July 23, 2023

St. John the Evangelist Trista C. Parro

St. Clement of Rome **Prince Savage**

Altar Society

The St. John Altar Society cleans the church, assists the sacristans and provides assistance as needed for parish receptions. The monthly meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the office conference room.

Annual dues of \$20 are due in August. Dues are the main source of income for the Altar Society to serve both St. John's and St. Clement's needs. Just drop an envelope marked "St. John Altar Society" in the church collection. Please make checks out to St. John Altar Society.

Altar Society Team 4 will be cleaning the church Wednesday, July 26 at 8am. Volunteers are welcome.



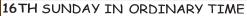
Coffee & Donuts July 30, 2023

Gary & Dolores Pruitt (7:30am Mass) Lee Ann Howard & Amy Bradford (9am Mass)



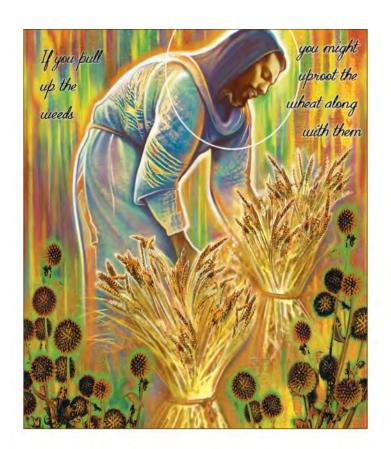
Pray If God is calling you to full service in the Vications Church, do not be afraid. Jesus promised He would be with us always.

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









EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

"In our self-centered culture and classic American emphasis on work, we often feel we have to accomplish something during our times of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. We rate our experience by how 'good' our prayer was, how heartfelt our devotion was, or how focused we could remain. Yet prayer and contemplation are fundamentally God's work, in which we are invited to participate. We need only to give Him the opening, and He will do the rest. By coming to adoration, we are handing Him the keys to our hearts, allowing the rays of His love and grace to bathe our souls in the light of His Presence, as the rays of the sun bathe our bodies in light. If we can take the time to pull away from the busyness and distractions of life and just sit at His feet, He will lead us."

-Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, p. 33 An excerpt from Manual for Eucharistic Adoration

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.



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Richard Gutknecht

Belleview

58830 Belleview Rd.

687-1060



Dr. Charles L. Carville, Jr. Dr. Katie C. Berthelot

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MICHAEL M. QUINN, MD Fax (225) 687-6686



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For further information, please call the parish office.



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