

## St. John the Evangelist Church

57805 Main Street — Plaquemine, Louisiana 70764-2531  
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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](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



19<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

"O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"  
Matthew 14:31

### Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 13, 2023

Why did you doubt? (Matthew 14:31)

Isn't it interesting how doubts often pop into our heads unbidden and unwanted? Peter was actually walking on water, just like Jesus. But when he took his focus off the Lord and noticed the strong wind, doubt entered his mind: Can I really do this? That's when he started to sink (Matthew 14:30).

"Why did you doubt?" the Lord asks Peter after rescuing him (Matthew 14:31). That's a question we might ask ourselves at times. After all, we know how doubts can paralyze us, confuse us, or even lead us away from the Lord.

And yet we are all prone to doubt. When we are suffering, we might wonder whether God loves us. If we've committed a serious sin, we might question whether God will forgive us. When we get discouraged by the evil in the world, we might doubt that God is really in control.

Doubts are a natural human response to uncertainty, so we shouldn't berate ourselves for having them. Sometimes they don't even come from us; the evil one loves to plant doubts in our minds in order to shake up our faith. Whatever the case, they don't disqualify us from following Jesus. Just look at the apostle Thomas! Even a great saint like Thérèse of Lisieux struggled with doubts as she lay dying.

The key is to deal with our doubts not by focusing on them but by calling out to the Lord as Peter did: "Lord, save me!" (Matthew 14:30). And just as he did for Peter, Jesus will stretch out his hand to us. He will remind us of who he is: a loving, compassionate, merciful, and mighty God. He will help us recall all he has done for us. He will assure us that he will never leave us and that nothing will ever separate us from his love.

You don't have to try to battle your doubts on your own. Jesus has come to save you—even from your doubts!

*"Lord, help me to turn to you every time I start to question my faith."*

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August 13, 2023

Dear Family,

God does not always appear how and where we expect, and Christ often calls us to follow him in ways that we cannot fathom.

In the first reading, Elijah encounters God in an unusual site and manner. Although he is at the place where Moses met God centuries before, this was unfamiliar territory for Elijah, whose home was distant from Horeb. Elijah had previously encountered God in places of worship and sacrifice, like his own offering on Mount Carmel. God had now called him to a distant land to show him something new.

Elijah realizes God is present when he hears the "tiny whispering sound." No one knows what phenomenon these words describe. Some suggest it was intuition. Others propose that it was an unnatural stillness in the environment. The other phenomena mentioned - wind, earthquake, and flame - all manifested God's presence in older Israelite traditions. Indeed, at Mount Carmel, God had appeared in a fire that fell from the sky. But in this "tiny whispering sound," Elijah encountered God in an unfamiliar way and place.

In the Gospel passage, the wonder is not just that Jesus is somewhere he cannot possibly be and doing something he cannot possibly do. It is also that he calls Peter to join him. Matthew emphasizes this call in his version of this event. Peter can walk on water because he saw Jesus doing it first. Unlike Elijah, however, whose constant faith let God show him something new, Peter's fear subverted the evidence of his eyes.

To follow Christ without fear, we must seek him out in unfamiliar places, listening for his quiet but unmistakable Word. Once we find him, we need to follow him past any fears. Then we too will have the faith to walk on water, side by side with the Son of God.

Some thoughts for reflection:

Contrast Elijah's and Peter's responses to the Lord's call.

When have you found grace in unusual ways or places?

How has Christ called you to follow without fear?

A huge welcome to all returning from their summer recreation as we begin a new school year. We offer prayers and blessings for all teachers and students in our St. John School and in our Government Schools. May God bless us all with a wonderful year of learning.

I hope our eyes are opened to the many miracles that are happening around us. There is so much discord surrounding us and we can sometimes be caught up in worldly despair. As a Christian, we can counter the distress by using our spiritual eyesight to find the many miracles around us. For example, there are several folks who have received the Sacrament of Anointing over these summer months and have been granted what seems to be miraculous healings. Please remember that we celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick on the first Tuesday of the month at our evening Mass.

Many thanks to God and to all of your prayers that have helped our parishioner Greg Navarre who has been granted healing through an organ transplant. It has been a long road for Greg and his family. Thanks also to all those who helped with the fundraiser for Greg this weekend.

Peace,

Fr. Greg

#### **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

These words of Jesus are an excellent invitation to prayer before the Blessed Sacrament:

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." (Mt 11:28-30)

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.

#### **Baptisms and Baptism Seminars**



**Baptism Seminars — 7pm**  
**Church Office Third Floor**  
Monday, September 4, 2023  
Monday, October 2, 2023  
Monday, November 6, 2023

**Baptisms — Following 4pm Mass**  
Saturday, August 26, 2023  
Saturday, September 23, 2023  
Saturday, October 28, 2023  
Saturday, November 25, 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.





## Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Tuesday, August 15, 2023

On the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we will honor Our Heavenly Mother.

Masses are as follows:

7am Mass at St. John

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

6pm Mass at St. John

9am Mass at the Madonna Chapel in Bayou Goula

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Our office will be closed Tuesday, August 15 in observance of The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

## PSR (Parish School of Religion) and Sacramental Prep — Register NOW



Online registration is open for Confirmation and 1st Eucharist. Access forms via our church website, [www.stjohnchurchplaq](http://www.stjohnchurchplaq) under the Formation tab. Schedules are also posted under Formation.

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



## 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 until 10:45am in the church office conference room. The dates for RCIA are Sunday, September 10, 2023, then every Sunday until December 10.

RCIA resumes after Advent on Sunday, January 7, 2024 following 9am Mass until 10:45am, then every Sunday at 9am Mass until Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 30.

For information, call Donna Carville through the church office at 225.687.2402.

## Altar Society



The St. John Altar Society annual dues (\$20) are due in August. You may drop your dues in an envelope marked "St. John Altar Society" in the church collection basket. Please make checks out to St. John Altar Society.

Altar Society Team 3 will be cleaning the church Wednesday, August 16 at 8am. Volunteers are welcome.

## RITUALSONG

(Readings and Songs this Weekend)

Readings: Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time #1248

Entrance: Amazing Grace! #757

Preparation: \*\*Instrumental\*\*

Communion: Be Not Afraid #797

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

## Holy Spirit Prayer Group



The Holy Spirit Prayer Group will meet Sunday, August 13 from 4-6pm in church. All are welcome! For information, call the church office at 225.687.2402.

## Daily Scripture Readings — August 13-19, 2023

Sunday, August 13:

1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Ps 85:9-14; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33

Monday, August 14:

Dt 10:12-22; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mt 17:22-27

Tuesday, August 15: Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Vigil: 1 Chr 15: 3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; Ps 132: 6-7, 9-10, 13-14; 1 Cor 15:54b-57; Lk 11:27-28

Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10-12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56

Wednesday, August 16:

Dt 34:1-12; Ps 66:1-3a, 5, 8, 16-17; Mt 18:15-20

Thursday, August 17:

Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Ps 114:1-6; Mt 18:21 – 19:1

Friday, August 18:

Jos 24:1-13; Ps 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22, 24; Mt 19:3-12

Saturday, August 19:

Jos 24:14-29; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 11; Mt 19:13-15

## We are hosting a BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

to benefit Woman's New Life Clinic!



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Woman's New Life Clinic's mission is to promote the sanctity of life, the dignity of women, and the sacredness of sexuality through medical and mental health services. WNLC offers FREE professional counseling, pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, and abortion pill reversal to women in unplanned pregnancies. They also offer free professional post-abortive and pregnancy loss counseling. Since their founding, they've saved over 2,672 lives from abortion!

Please take a baby bottle after Mass on

Sat. August 12–Sun. August 13, 2023

and return it the following weekend with a donation to support this life-affirming ministry. Or, give online:

[womansnewlife.com/babybottle](http://womansnewlife.com/babybottle)

## Mass Intentions — August 19-25, 2023

### Saturday, August 19-4pm 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; Yves & Vera Ramirez, Jane, Jerry & Kirsch Kember; Ernest & Josephine Lapeze, Lapeze Family, Ragusa Family; Murray & Dixie Suffrin; Bret Thompson; Faye & Paul Troxclair; Kye Boudreaux; M/M William Anseman; Ignace & Vivian Banta; Maggie Dunn; Anthony F. Canella, Aaron & Delia LeRay, Nora Vitale; Achée Family, Carrington Family, Dale Miller, Ione L. Gaudet; The Currier Family; Anthony & Carmella Orcino, Caliste "Joe" & Gloria Landry, Kimberly & Josh Landry, M/M Eldon Flatau; Rose Marie LeBlanc, LeBlanc & Canella Families; Earl Crochet; Charles & Marion Clement; Linda Hebert; Sadie, Kearney Sr., & Kearney Jr. Thibodeaux, The Suggs Family; John Hawley Landry, Kathleen Landry; Conrad "Poopy" Joffrion

### Sunday, August 20-7:30am Mass - St. John Parishioners

#### Sunday, August 20-9am 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; Frances Santangelo LeBlanc, Rita & Mike Santangelo, Anatole Santangelo; Lezin & Clelie Himel, Anna Funguy; Maggie & Joe Gullotto, George Gullotto, Lisa Orcino, Sadie Mancuso; Gary Ourso, Sr., Gary Ourso, Jr., Gerrit Ourso; Lawrence & Winnie Miller, Edward Miller, Paul & Myrtle Richard; Denise Miranda; Flo, Allen & Paco Ourso; Benny & Annie Vaughn, Jessel & Eula Ourso; Virginia Simon; Maggie Dunn; Frank, Josie, Anthony & Victor Canella; Larry Skidmore

#### Sunday, August 20-11am Mass

Cindy Dickerson; Brenda Fremin; Alvin, Jerry & Donald Dugas; Harry Marionneaux, Charles, Doris & Paul Barbier; Isaac Jr. & Brent Vaughn, Sidney Hedges, Jr., Margaret Landry; James & Marie Miranda, Denise & Glenda Miranda; Victor J. Canella; David Borden Tidmore; Ann Bryant Wilbert Arbour

#### Tuesday, August 22-6pm Mass

Lorraine "Catty" Hebert, Mary Kay Marchand Hudson; Hebert & Clement Families; Patrick Gaudet, M/M Clerfet Templet

#### Wednesday, August 23-7am Mass

Randy Morales

#### Thursday, August 24-7am Mass

Bridget Smith Mann

#### Friday, August 25-7am Mass

Manuel, Mary, Dolores & Sarah Diamond



### Sanctuary Candle August 13, 2023

St. John the Evangelist  
Jaynell Lopez, Albert Lopez, Jr.,  
Johnson & Lopez Families

St. Clement of Rome  
Jaynell Lopez, Albert Lopez, Jr.,  
Johnson & Lopez Families

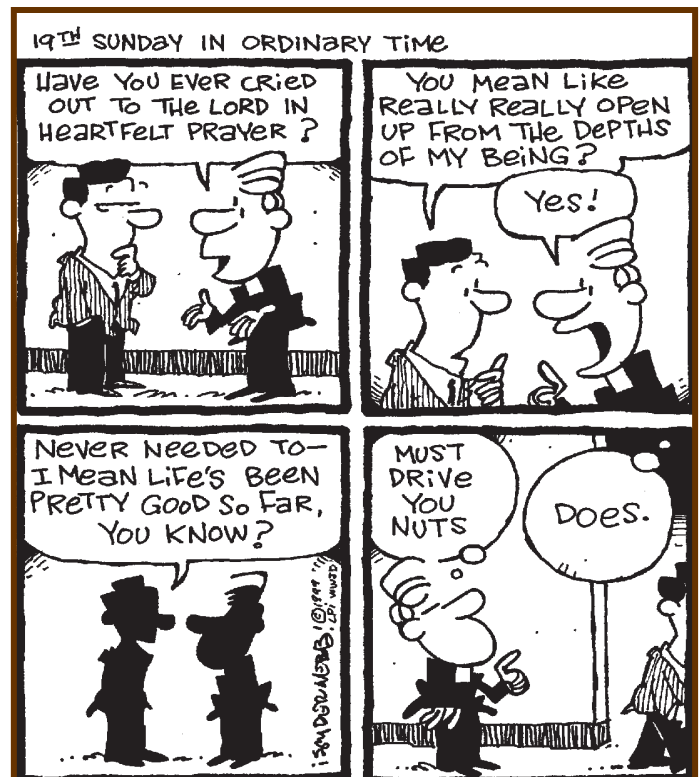
### Coffee & Donuts August 20, 2023

Lou Anna Canella & Lionel Schexnaildre  
(7:30am Mass)

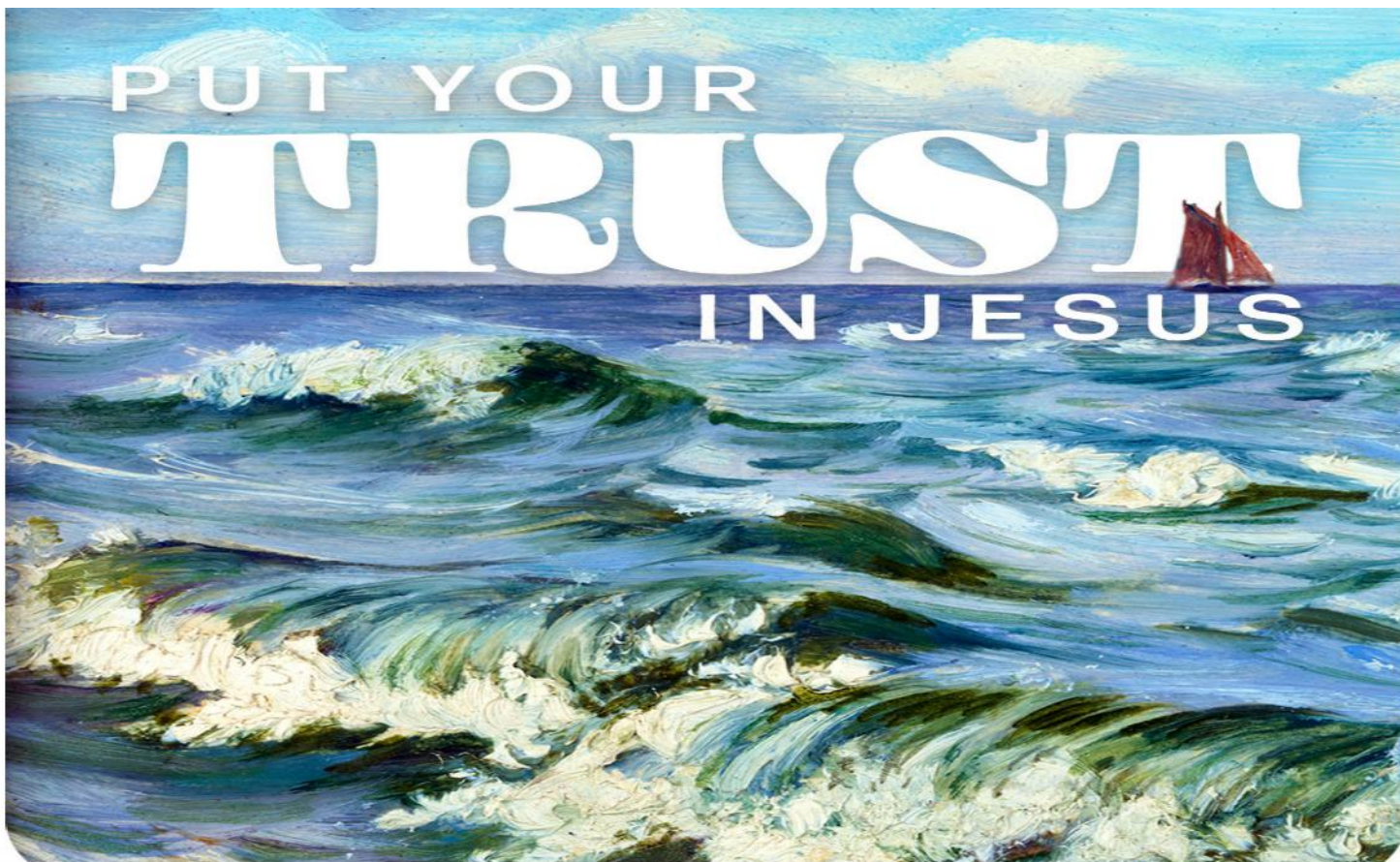
Tom & Germaine Bradley (9am Mass)



Peter received his special call when he acknowledged Jesus as Messiah. We who receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior also receive a special call, especially if we are called to the priesthood or religious life. 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).







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# Diocesan is proud to now be printing *St. John the Evangelist's Sunday Bulletin*



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