

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH



57805 Main Street • Plaquemine, Louisiana 70764

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Pastoral Team

Rev. Gregory J. Daigle Pastor
 Alfred J. Ricard II Deacon
 Wanda Ashley ... Director of Religious
 Education & Youth Ministry
 Donna Carville R.C.I.A.

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....7:30am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am
 Tuesday..... 6:00 pm
 Wednesday 7:00 am
 Thursday 7:00 am
 Friday 7:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 11, 2024

Paul the People Pleaser

Last week we heard St. Paul saying that he was all things to all people. This week, we hear that he tried to please everyone. To modern ears, that sounds more like a people-pleaser. But that wasn't what Paul meant. The key to Paul's way of life is the last line of the second reading: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." (1 Cor 11:1)

When Jesus spoke to Paul in his conversion, he asked why he was persecuting Jesus. Paul later began to understand that all Christians make up the body of Christ. As members of that body, we can show others what Jesus is like, by our example. That seems to be a two part process.

First, to show Christ, we have to know Christ. We can do that by reading the scriptures and praying with them. We can receive the sacraments regularly, especially Reconciliation, where we experience his forgiveness and love, and the Eucharist, where Jesus unites himself with us, so that we can become more like him.

The second part is acting like Jesus. Forgive people who hurt us, care for the sick, the dying, the poor. Don't be afraid to tell people what God has done for you; encourage others to be grateful for what God has done for them.

Paul obviously didn't please everyone, or he wouldn't have ended his life in prison. He was more interested in imitating Christ. If we can imitate Paul in that way, we can't go wrong. Tom Schmidt



February 11, 2024

Dear Family:

A Leper is considered unclean and forced to experience a kind of social death (Leviticus 13). When a leper comes to Jesus for help, his words, surprisingly, express an uncertainty not about Jesus' ability to heal, but about Jesus' desire to help him. Some ancient manuscripts have Jesus, therefore, being moved with "anger" rather than "pity" in Mark 1:41, because this leper's experience of religion and society has caused him to doubt Jesus' commitment to meet human needs and to enable human wholeness. To make a point about his good will, Jesus cures the leper specifically through touch, even though touching a leper may risk sharing a leper's uncleanness and marginalization.

Jesus then tells the cleansed leper to "say nothing to anyone," but to show himself to the priest and, as a testimony "to follow the law's prescription for a purification (Mark 1:43-44; see also Leviticus 14). By committing the leper to silence, Jesus is clearly seeking to contain testimony about his own identity. He would prefer that the testimony be about the coming of God's reign (Mark 1:15). Jesus is focused on making the work of God known rather than making himself known. Paul is not mistaken when he tells the Corinthians in today's reading that they will be emulating his imitation of Christ if they seek to glorify God and not their own advantage.

Surprisingly, the leper ignores Jesus' command to keep things silent. Because of this, Jesus' movement is restricted: he has to remain "in deserted places". Just as John baptized in the desert and Jesus was tested by the devil in the desert before beginning his public ministry (Mark 1:12-13), perhaps God's movement can only be forged at the margins.

Some questions for reflection:

In what ways might the Church have caused people to question God's commitment to human wholeness and flourishing?

How may we demonstrate our solidarity with those who have been marginalized?

Why are creativity and change often found at the margins or among the marginalized?

This weekend is World Marriage Weekend. We are blessed and honored to have the richness and blessing of so many couples celebrating marriage anniversaries of 25 years, 50 years and other years between and over. Your promises lived in the Sacrament of Marriage bring many graces to your families and our Church family as well. Congratulations to you all.

Peace,

Fr. Greg Daigle

Scripture Readings

Week of February 11, 2024

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lv 13:1-2; 44-46; Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11;
1 Cor 10:31—11:1; Mk 1:40-45

Monday Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76;
Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-15, 18-19;
Mk 8:14-21

Ash Wednesday JI 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6a, 12-14, 17;
2 Cor 5:20—6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25

Friday Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6a, 18-19;
Mt 9:14-15

Saturday Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32

First Sunday of Lent

Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9;
1 Pt 3:18-22, Mt 4:4b; Mk 1:12-15

Ritualsong

Readings & Songs this Weekend

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time #1210

Entrance: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty #714

Preparation: *Instrumental*

Communion: We Remember #784

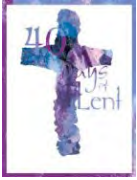
Sending Forth: Amazing Grace! #757



Eucharistic Adoration

Come and Adore! He is Waiting for You!

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.



Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, a day of fast and abstinence.

Ash Wednesday Schedule:

7am - Mass & Distribution of Ashes
12 Noon - Liturgy of the Word & Distribution of Ashes
6pm - Mass & Distribution of Ashes

Lenten Weekday Schedule:

Tuesday - 6pm Mass
6:30pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday & Thursday - 7am Mass
Friday - 12 Noon Stations of the Cross
6pm Mass & Stations of the Cross
(No 7am Mass during Lent)

Fasting & Abstinence

Fasting: On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, those who are 18, but not yet 59, are allowed only one full meal. Two small meals are allowed as needed, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

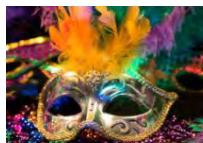
Abstinence from Meat: Those who are 14 years of age or older are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent. The Church no longer attempts to prescribe our Lenten practices in detail. The above regulations simply highlight Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and other Fridays in Lent.

Parish Wedding Anniversary Mass and Celebration

We welcome couples who are celebrating their special wedding anniversaries at St. John to 4pm Mass this weekend. Everyone is invited to a reception in their honor following Mass in the parish hall hosted by the St. John Altar Society.

Our office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, February 12 and 13.

Happy Mardi Gras!



Divine Mercy Novena

The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy Novena will continue every Tuesday during Lent after 6pm Mass leading up to the Feast of Divine Mercy on Sunday, April 7.

Fishes & Loaves Ministry

Assisting Grieving Families

The Fishes & Loaves Committee assist families who have lost a loved one and need the parish hall after a funeral by setting up, receiving the food, serving the food and cleaning up afterwards.

We are seeking additional volunteers. If you would like to assist with your comforting presence, please call Beverly Perle at 225.776.0458.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 17-4pm 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; John & Ann Ruiz, Mervin & Leona Gourgues; Vincent A. & Dr. Larry Ferachi, Ferachi & Hebert Families; Murray & Dixie Suffrin; Eva & Tony Doiron, Betty & Lee Mooney; Yves & Vera Ramirez, Jerry & Jane, Kirsch Kember; Alcee & Pauline Becnel, Evans & Virgie Dugas; Johnny Zito, Sr., Johnny Zito, Jr., Andrew & Josephine Canova, Carlo & Kurt Canova; Achee Family, Carrington Family, Hollye Annette Comeaux, Palermo Family; Catherine & Andrew Roucher; Callahan, Clement & Mayon Families; Anthony "Tonto" Pizzolato; Dom Engolio, M/M Joseph Engolio, Charles Engolio; Nolan Bueche III; M/M Frank Ragusa & Family, M/M Placito Mancuso & Family, M/M Mose Gibson & Family, J. D. & Ella Collins & Family; Bill Toups, Jr.; Ernest & Josephine Lapeze, Lapeze Family, Ragusa Family; Faye & Paul Troxclair, Carolyn Bordelon; Special Intentions A. S.; Jenise & Paul Ortis, Earl & Mary Devillier; Anthony F. Canella, Aaron & Delia LeRay, Nora Vitale

Sunday, February 18-7:30am Mass

St. John Parishioners

Sunday, February 18-9am 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; Hawley Landry, Florence & Marie Baist, Phil Pettus; Alvin Sr., Marion & Trisha Hebert, Nancy Rodriguez; Benny & Annie Vaughn, Jessel & Eula Ourso; Lawrence & Winnie Miller, Paul & Myrtle Richard, Edward Miller; The Calvaruso Family; Denise Miranda; Jason Guidry

Sunday, February 18-11am Mass

Cindy Dickerson; William H. Middleton, Middleton & Clouatre Families; Joseph & Lillian Crescionne, Peter & Rosalie Crescionne, Dr. Joseph & Tina Alesi; Father John McGlone, OSA; Isaac Vaughn, Jr., Brent Vaughn, Ezora Hedges, Sidney Hedges, Sr.

Tuesday, February 20-6pm Mass

M/M Jules J. Noel, Sr.; Dom Engolio, M/M Joseph Engolio, M/M Charles Engolio

Wednesday, February 21-7am Mass

A. J. Laurent, Jr.

Thursday, February 22-7am Mass

Ed Bahry

Friday, February 23-6pm Mass

Alex, Alice & JoAnn Nolan, Larry Skidmore

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February 2024

St. John the Evangelist

Rev. Gregory J. Daigle

One Minute Meditations

St. Josephine Bakhita

Born in Darfur, Sudan around 1869, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. Her captors gave her the name Bakhita, meaning "fortunate." After several years of serving under cruel masters, she was bought by Augusto Michieli. The Michielis sent Bakhita with their daughter to Italy, where Bakhita encountered Catholicism. Overjoyed, she was baptized and took the name Josephine. In 1893, instead of returning to Africa with the Michielis, she entered the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa.



The moment of truth

Conversion begins when we accept responsibility for our failures. Lent is an opportunity to stop and take a good look at our lives. Identify all the ways that sin keeps you from living the way Jesus taught us to live. Know that it may take courage to face your shortfalls.

"Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven." St. Rose of Lima



Deepen the connection to Christ during Lent

The key to a fruitful Lent is not to perform miserable penances. A good Lent hinges on encountering Christ in a personal way and letting Him change our hearts and minds. In fact, an effective way to deepen our encounter with Him is through the Eucharist. Consider these suggestions:

"Here I am, Lord. Love me!" Mother Teresa told her sisters to start their chapel time with this bold prayer, "Here I am, Lord. Love me!" No matter whether you are in His Presence for Mass, a holy hour, or a quick visit in front of the Blessed Sacrament, begin with, "Here I am, Lord. Love me!" It's a prayer of faith God delights to answer.

Live for the next Communion.

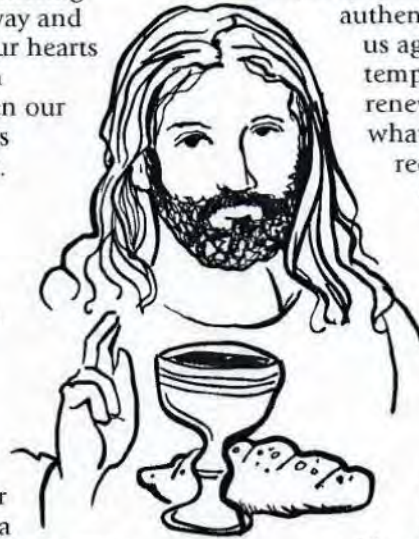
Every Communion deepens our union with God, strengthens our faith, helps us love more

authentically, and immunizes us against future temptations. Each week, renew your resolve to do whatever is needed to

receive Jesus well. For example, avoid activity or entertainment that tempts you away from God, and if you sin seriously, immediately go to Confession and start anew.

Invite others to the feast. Invite a friend, neighbor or colleague to Mass or Adoration

with you. Pray for priests to stay close to the Eucharist. Most importantly, pray that more people come to faithfully encounter Jesus in the tabernacle.

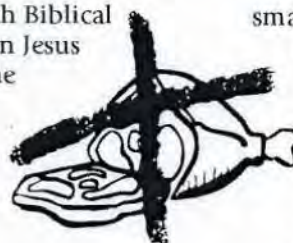


Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics have to fast on Ash Wednesday?

Fasting is a practice with Biblical roots, most notably, when Jesus fasted for forty days in the desert. Those in good health, aged 18-59, are required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. We're permitted one full meal and two

smaller meals that together don't equal the full meal. This includes abstaining from meat. Fasting expresses our recognition that we've sinned and desire to make amends. It purifies our hearts and frees them to love God and others well.



Pope Francis's three-point approach to Confession

Instead of dreading seeking the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (Confession), Pope Francis suggested we look at it as "the Sacrament of the tenderness of God, His way of embracing us." Follow the pope's three-point approach to the Sacrament:

What's my intention? Rather than an obligation, consider the Sacrament a fresh start. Firmly resolve, from this moment forward, to give up the activities or behaviors that separate you from God. The firm resolution to change is key to receiving absolution effectively.

Are there loose ends? Unconfessed sin creates



distance between us and God. Make sure you have not withheld mortal sins in prior Confessions, either intentionally or accidentally. If you become aware that you have, confess them and leave the confessional a new man or woman.

Have I completed the assigned penance?

The Sacrament is meant to change us.

Purposefully make amends and continue your resolutions to realign your life to the Gospel.

Seeking Reconciliation often and staying in a state of grace helps us become holier people of God.

from Scripture

Mark 9:2-10, Heavenly glory, not worldly power

In Jesus' time, Israel was occupied by the Romans. The Israelites already had a long history of being attacked and conquered by other nations. The Jews dreamed of the day when the Messiah would set them free and make them the victors.

God had set up Moses as liberator and lawgiver, and sent them Elijah, the first of the great prophets who foretold Christ's coming. So when Jesus was transfigured in glory with Moses and Elijah, the Apostles assumed that God was revealing Jesus as the Messiah.

Moses and Elijah spoke with Jesus about His death and Resurrection.

Jesus warned His disciples that He would suffer and die (Mark 8:31). While many Jews were expecting the Messiah to overthrow the Romans and make Himself king,

God revealed that the Messiah would save His people by His own death and Resurrection.

The Transfiguration was meant to strengthen the faith of the Apostles and prepare them for the Passion. The Transfiguration reminds us that however difficult this life may be there is unimaginable glory that awaits us in Heaven.



Q & A Why should we "offer it up"?

When tempted to complain about suffering, we may be encouraged to "offer it up" instead. This act of surrender carries incredible spiritual power.

A share in Christ's Cross. Because Jesus is God, His suffering and sacrifice have infinite value. When we unite even our

small sufferings to Jesus' suffering, it takes on an infinite value in helping Him to save souls.

Spiritual "strength training." When we offer

our sufferings to God, He is able to work on our hearts. Suffering for others helps us to become less selfish and more compassionate, less hard-hearted and more patient, less self-indulgent and more generous. Our hearts emerge more Christ-like, and better able to love.

Prudence is needed. Under most circumstances, encouragement to "offer it up" works as a spiritual discipline for inconveniences or mild suffering. Sometimes, however, remediation or professional help may be needed. God sees the sincerity of our love so we can still offer our suffering to Him and yet take constructive action to remediate whatever is causing the suffering. Be prudent.

Feasts & Celebrations

February 3 – St. Blaise (316). A bishop in fourth-century Turkey, St. Blaise was arrested for being a Christian. On his way to jail, he healed a young boy choking on a fish bone. Refusing to deny his faith, the bishop was martyred.

February 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes (1858). A heavenly lady appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a poor girl from a French village, and a spring with miraculous, healing waters emerged from a nearby cave. The lady revealed herself as the "Immaculate

Conception," the Blessed Virgin Mary.

February 14 – Ash Wednesday. The first day of Lent. Ashes of old palms are placed on the forehead as a sign of penance. It's also a day of abstinence from meat and fasting – one regular meal and two small meals that together don't equal a full meal.

February 22 – The Chair of St. Peter. Marking St. Peter's establishment of the Holy See, on this festival we thank God for His Church and pray for its holy preservation.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living
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Monthly Offerings/Contributions/Collections
Repairs and Maintenance and Other Expenses

October 2023

Stewardship	\$ 53,014.00	
Repairs and Maintenance	7,940.00	
Other Collections/Income	<u>20,395.00</u>	
		\$ 81,349.00

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 27,404.00	
Parish Share	13,861.00	
Property Insurance	11,017.00	
Repairs/Maintenance Expenses	10,212.00	
Other Expenses	7,538.00	
Contracted Services	7,387.00	
Utilities	<u>5,746.00</u>	
		<u>\$ 83,165.00</u>
		<u>\$ <1,816.00></u>

November 2023

Stewardship	\$ 60,844.00	
Repairs and Maintenance	8,659.00	
Other Collections/Income	<u>21,787.00</u>	
		\$ 91,290.00

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 26,405.00	
Other Expenses	14,266.00	
Parish Share	13,861.00	
Utilities	8,395.00	
Property Insurance	7,571.00	
Contracted Services	4,859.00	
Repairs/Maintenance Expenses	<u>2,787.00</u>	
		\$ 78,144.00
		<u>\$ 13,643.00</u>

December 2023

Stewardship	\$ 52,311.00	
Repairs and Maintenance	8,956.00	
Other Collections/Income	<u>21,467.00</u>	
		\$ 82,734.00

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 21,894.00	
Parish Share	13,861.00	
Property Insurance	7,571.00	
Repairs/Maintenance Expenses	975.00	
Other Expenses	26,873.00	
Contracted Services	6,997.00	
Utilities	<u>5,033.00</u>	
		\$ 83,204.00
		<u>\$ <470.00></u>



February 11, 2024

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Baptisms & Baptism Seminars

Baptism Seminars — 7pm

3rd Floor Office Conference Room

Monday, March 4, 2024

Monday, April 8, 2024

Monday, May 6, 2024

Baptisms — Following 4pm Mass

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Saturday, May 18, 2024

Please call Lily at the Church Office, 225.687.2402.



Sanctuary Candle

February 11, 2024

St. John the Evangelist

Brennen Eugene Bujol, Pim & Nu Nu Clebert, Louise & Edmund Bujol

St. Clement of Rome

Alex, Alice & JoAnn Nolan

Coffee & Donuts

February 18, 2024

Pete & Bonnie Blanchard

(7:30am Mass)

Patrick & Helen Pendley (9am Mass)



Christmas Flowers and Decorations 2023

Monetary Donation:

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Marino

Contribution Tax Statements

Anyone needing a 2023 contribution statement for tax purposes should call Susan at the St. John Church Office (225.687.2402). Statements will be printed upon request. Please remember St. John Church and St. John School in your Last Will and Testament.

Altar Society

Lenten Reflection Books (\$2) based on the Passion according to Luke are available in the church office & Adoration Chapel. Team 2 will be cleaning the church Wednesday, February 14.



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