

# SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH



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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

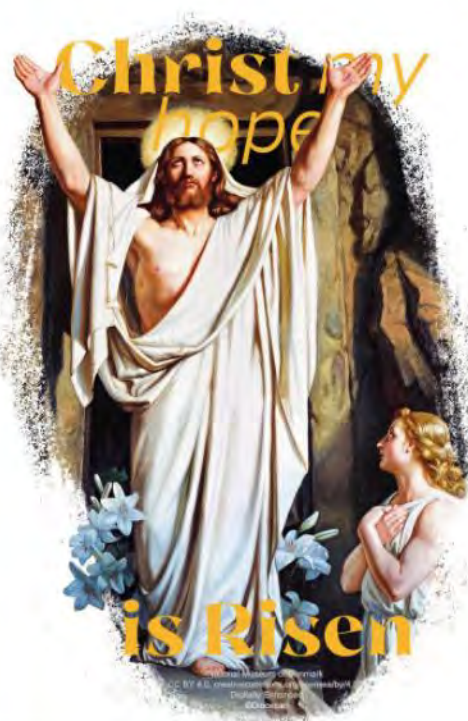
Medric Smith, Jr....Business Manager  
 Marsha Dupont ..... Secretary  
 Susan Landry ..... Secretary  
 Lily Skidmore ..... Secretary  
 Gary Perrault ..... Maintenance

## 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



## Easter Sunday March 31, 2024

### A Good Day to Die

Do you remember your own baptism? I wish I could. I envy the adults I have seen baptized at the Easter Vigil. Hopefully, they experience what St. Paul says in the epistle we hear at the Vigil. For Paul, Baptism is a sign of dying and rising to new life. Does that mean we will rise from the dead, too?

Yes, but that is not his main point. If all we think about is our physical death, and hope we go to heaven afterwards, we're missing the point. The new life starts with our baptism, not just our physical death. The water is both cleansing and a sign of dying (symbolic drowning) that help us see we are free from sin. We are dead to sin when we begin to live in Christ. The fictional Klingons have a saying "today is a good day to die" to express courage in battle. But real Christians might say that Easter is a good day to die to sin and live in Christ.

How do we experience this dying to sin? First, we identify the sinful areas of our life. Do I watch movies, or video games that encourage promiscuity, revenge, or selfishness? What sins do I confess repeatedly and what can I do to avoid them? As for living in Christ: Can I spend less time entertaining myself and more time in prayer? Instead of complaining about what is wrong with the world, can I find ways to make it better? These are a few of the ways we begin our new life in Christ.

Tom Schmidt



## Pastor's Letter

March 31, 2024

Dear Family:

Acts 10 (our first reading) emphasizes our roles as witnesses to share the Good News of Jesus' resurrection, but there are times when we struggle to understand the meaning of the empty tomb.

Not only is the word tomb repeated seven times in today's Gospel reading, but the gloomy mood is already set with Mary Magdalene going to the tomb "while it was still dark". Jn 20:1

Mary Magdalene sees the open tomb and concludes that some people have removed Jesus' body, so she runs to inform Peter and the "other disciple whom Jesus loved" (Jn 20:1-2), who may represent Gentile or John's Christian community, or everyone who is loved by Jesus. When Peter and the beloved disciple take turns to enter the empty tomb, they only see linen wrappings and a face cloth, which is neatly "rolled up in a separate place" (Jn 20:7). This signals that the empty tomb is not a result of theft or robbery.

Upon entering the tomb, the beloved disciple "saw and believed" (Jn: 20:8), but we are not told exactly what he believed. Things become even more baffling when we next read that "they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead" (Jn 20:9). The change to a plural third-person pronoun logically includes both Peter and the beloved disciple, although we read nothing about Peter's reaction of belief. We also don't know if Mary even went into the empty tomb.

Three disciples came to the empty tomb after Jesus' resurrection. They did not see any angels or receive any messages. One saw an open tomb and jumped to a wrong conclusion. Two saw the strips of cloth inside the tomb and left without understanding, even though one is said to have believed.

Some questions for reflection:

Why does John's Gospel give us the details about a footrace to the empty tomb?

Why does our Gospel reading end at John 20:9 rather than continuing with the passage where the resurrected Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene and calls her by name?

In the time and space between an empty tomb and the appearance of the resurrected Jesus, what do you see or need to understand?

Peace,

Fr. Greg

## HAPPY EASTER

THE LORD IS RISEN. HE IS RISEN INDEED. This is the greeting of the early Christians as they remembered and celebrated the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. To make this proclamation of Jesus being our Risen Savior is a great grace we are honored to repeat each year. It can remind us that all of our sacrifices, prayers and offerings during Lent give us a new resurrection as we celebrate Jesus as the Risen One.

Many thanks to all of you who made our Lenten journey with Jesus such an experience of unity in purpose. So many gifts have been shared that now bring us Easter Joy. Thank you for all our liturgical ministers who helped lead us in prayer through Lenten Masses, devotions, and adoration. Thank all of you who assisted in witnessing to Christ through the Blood Drive, our St. Joseph Altar, receptions after funerals (Loaves and Fishes Ministry), our St. John Choir and Cantors, our office staff for their administrative gifts, and for our Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters, Altar Society, and Gary Perrault and our decorating angels.

Welcome to our new church members who became one with us at the Lord's Table for the first time at our Easter Vigil. Thanks to Donna Carville and her devoted team of catechists and to the sponsors who made the journey with our new Catholics.

Thanks to Mrs. Wanda and our Parish School of Religion catechists who helped us celebrate the Sacraments of Penance and First Eucharist with our young people.

Thanks also to Mrs. Schlatre, Mrs. Morel and Mrs. Dupont and all the teachers and staff of St. John School and the student body who provided the whole community an opportunity to walk with Jesus in a special way during Stations of the Cross on Fridays and through the Walk with Jesus during Holy Week.

St. John Church and School are wonderfully Blessed by your many gifts shared.

Thanks. Fr. Greg Daigle



**Easter Masses**

**Holy Saturday, March 30**

7:30pm Easter Vigil

**Easter Sunday, March 31**

7:30am, 9am, 11am Masses

Happy Easter from Fr. Greg, Deacon Ricard and the Staff of St. John the Evangelist Church.

Our Office will be closed Easter Monday, April 1.

**Welcome!!**



Congratulations to the RCIA candidates who joined hundreds of other candidates to receive Bishop Michael Duca's blessing recently at the Rite of Election at the St. Joseph Cathedral.

In attendance, l to r, were Donna Carville (RCIA team coordinator), Destiny Sanchez (catechumen), Lauren Conley (catechumen), Bishop Duca, Valaree Honore (catechumen), Gwen Hayes (RCIA team member), Laurie Barbier (RCIA team member and sponsor), and Sue Gilchrist (catechumen). Not pictured is catechumen Elysabeth Ratajczyk.

We will welcome the 5 new members into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 30. Everyone is invited to a reception in their honor immediately following 7:30pm Mass in the parish hall. Special thanks to the Catholic Daughters for hosting the reception.

**Ritualsong**

**Readings & Songs this Weekend**

Easter Vigil #1152

Preparation: \*\*Instrumental\*\*

Communion: O Sons and Daughters #612

Sending Forth: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today #614

Easter Sunday #1165

Entrance: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today #614

Preparation: \*\*Instrumental\*\*

Communion: This Is the Feast of Victory #618

Sending Forth: Sing with All the Saints in Glory #609



**Eucharistic Adoration**

**Come and Adore! He is Waiting for You!**

Be subject therefore to God, but resist the devil and he will flee from you ... Be sorrowful and mourn and weep ... Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you...

—James 4:6-10

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.

**Note: The Adoration Chapel will be closed from Holy Thursday, March 28 at 6pm until Easter Sunday at 6pm.**

**Outdoor Mass & Family Day**

**Sunday, April 7, 2024**

Plans have begun for our Annual Outdoor Mass and Family Day. The 11am Mass followed by a full day of activities are scheduled for Sunday, April 7, 2024 at the Mark A. "Tony" Gulotta Bayou Plaquemine Waterfront Park.

The Catholic Daughters will be assisting in the "sweets room" and ask for donations for dessert, preferably single serve treats.

Many volunteers are needed and we hope you can help. Please call Susan at the church office, 225.687.2402, or email

[susanblandry@sj.brcoxmail.com](mailto:susanblandry@sj.brcoxmail.com).



**Let's Celebrate**

Join us in celebration of the Risen Lord on Easter Sunday, following 7:30am and 9am Masses for coffee, donuts and other sweet treats at the piazza.

There will be no Coffee and Donuts Sunday, April 7. Please join us at 11am at the Mark A. "Tony" Gulotta Waterfront Park for Mass and our Parish Family Day Celebration.

## Historical Tidbit About Catholicism in Iberville Parish and St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

Who was Fr. Harnais whose gravestone is in the middle aisle of the church?

Fr. Mathurin G. Harnais served as pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church from 1878-1905. He was well known as eminently a just man, outspoken in all his relations with his fellowmen in public as well as in private life. He was not always appreciated during his lifetime, but at his funeral, held on February 11 in a real downpour of rain, was the greatest triumph mortal man could give him. All Plaquemine, whether Jew, Protestant or Catholic, mourned his passing for all that he had done for them in faith.

When Fr. Harnais arrived in Plaquemine at night by riverboat on January 29, 1878, there were no sidewalks or streetlights to guide him to the church. The wharf keeper, Trasimond Rivet, accompanied him by lantern to the structurally failing church, a hut for the rectory, no school and a disgruntled congregation that were poor from the aftermath of the Civil War and burdened with paying the diocese back for the church. A determined man, he planned on reinforcing the church walls that summer but a yellow fever epidemic broke out. By 1879, he was able to get the support of the congregation for repairs, raising the interior with reinforced walls from 24 to 40 feet, building the sacristy and installing the clock in the church tower.

He used his own money to purchase the land and build the first true rectory. It was built large enough to house teachers that would teach in the Catholic school. In 1882 St. John Free School for boys opened as well as St. Augustine Colored School. Tuition was free and paid by fairs and fund raisers. The rectory was remodeled to house the school temporarily while a two-storied school was built and completed in 1887. His school students never ceased talking about the famous wooden shoes the good priest used to wear and the not very gentle application of these same shoes to their anatomy!

Improvements to the church continued with stained glass windows, chandeliers and four of the statues still in the church today. In 1885 a large bell, named Joannes Maria, was christened and hung in the church tower. A second bell, Anna, was installed in 1888. New Stations of the Cross were installed in 1889. In 1890 pews were installed, and the tower remodeled. Auctioning of the pews conducted by Joseph A. Grace raised the needed funds for over 60 years. In 1896 the Altar Society, oldest organization of the church, donated the "gong" thought to be the sanctus bell used today.

Mass attendance swelled due to the zeal of Fr. Harnais and the debt was paid off by 1904. Under his administration, the Knights of Columbus, Council #970, was created in 1905, only the third in Louisiana. Dr. W. L. Grace was elected its first Grand Knight.

In 1890 Archbishop of New Orleans Francis Janssens made Fr. Harnais an "immovable pastor" of St. John the Evangelist and an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral in 1896.

As we celebrate our church's history, we invite you to join the 100 Years Campaign. Your support is crucial for the restoration of our church building and our parish hall. Whether it's a donation, a pledge, or a prayer for success, we encourage you to be part of this new chapter for St. John the Evangelist. Together, let's ensure our church continues to thrive for generations to come.

Learn more and get involved at:

<https://stjohnchurchplaq.org/100-years-campaign/details-on-restoration-process>

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## From the desk of the Business Manager/Bookkeeper

Thank you to all of you who have contributed to the "100 Years Capital Campaign" program. Your support is greatly appreciated! Many of you are including your donations in one check along with your other monthly donations (stewardship, maintenance and repairs, etc.).

Please remember that your donation to the Capital Campaign should be made by separate check and not included with any other donation. This helps me to keep financial records of the parish "neat and tidy".

Again, thank you for your support!

Medric



Fr. Mathurin G. Harnais

## Called By Name

### Chosen for Consecrated Life

"The Lord is truly risen!" Are you being called to proclaim the truth of the Lord's resurrection as a priest, religious sister or brother? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 225.336.8778, [jjohnson@diobr.org](mailto:jjohnson@diobr.org).

## St. John School Krawfish Krawl

### Boiled Crawfish Dinners

3# crawfish, corn and potatoes for \$20

Drop off payments at the St. John School Office to purchase tickets. Pick up at St. John Elementary circle drive Friday, April 12 from 5-7pm.

**In Loving Memory...**

A grateful acknowledgement is made to the following persons who donated a memorial gift to St. John the Evangelist "100 Year Capital Campaign" in loving memory of:

**Rachael "Sally" Orphine Engolio**

**Donated by:**  
**Vic & Dorothy Blanchard**  
**Mary Lee Ourso**  
**Katie B. Spano**  
**Josephine Zito**



**Baptisms & Baptism Seminars**  
**Baptism Seminars — 7pm**  
**3rd Floor Conference Room**  
Monday, April 8, 2024  
Monday, May 6, 2024  
Monday, June 3, 2024

**Baptisms — Following 4pm Mass**  
Saturday, April 27, 2024  
Saturday, May 18, 2024  
Saturday, June 22, 2024

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.

**Parish Activities April 2024**

**Monday, April 1** ..... OFFICE CLOSED

**Tuesday, April 2**

Divine Mercy Chaplet ..... Church  
Following 6pm Mass

**Sunday, April 7**

Outdoor Mass & Family Day ..... Waterfront Park  
11am

**Monday, April 8**

Catholic Daughter Meeting ..... Parish Hall  
2pm

Baptism Seminar ..... Conference Room  
7pm

**Wednesday, April 10**

Alhambra Quarterly Meeting ..... Parish Hall  
6pm

**Sunday, April 14**

Adult Confirmation Class ..... Conference Room  
10am-11am

PSR Parent/Student Meeting ..... Parish Hall  
12:15-1:15pm

Ladies of Peter Claver Meeting ..... Parish Hall  
2-4pm

Holy Spirit Prayer Group ..... Church  
4-6pm

**Sunday, April 21**

Adult Confirmation Class ..... Conference Room  
10am-11am

**Wednesday, April 24**

Altar Society Cleaning Church/Meeting & Appreciation  
Luncheon ..... Parish Hall  
8am/10:30am

**Saturday, April 27**

Baptisms ..... Following 4pm Mass

**Saturday, April 27 & Sunday, April 28**

St. John Student Art Show ..... Parish Hall  
Following All Masses

**Sunday, April 28**

Adult Confirmation Class ..... Conference Room  
10am-11am

**Adult Confirmation**

If you are 18 years of age or over and have not been confirmed in the Catholic Church, please call the church office at 225.687.2402, to attend 5 classes on Confirmation beginning Sunday, April 14 (10-11am) through Sunday, May 12, 2024.

Confirmation will be on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024 at St. Joseph Cathedral by Bishop Michael Duca. You may call the St. John Church Office for more information.

**Become a Prayer Warrior**

St. John the Evangelist has an automated prayer line (225.687.1554) for those requesting prayer; whether they are facing surgery, are ill or would like to pray for another.

We have a team who pray for all prayer line intentions. If you would like to join our team of Prayer Warriors, call the church office at 225.687.2402.

**Fill a Prescription for the Needy**

The St. Vincent de Paul community Pharmacy is a beacon of hope that our Church provides to those in need of life-sustaining medical prescriptions.

We invite our parishioners to use the bottles provided or remove the label from any empty prescription bottle at home and bring it to church with a monetary gift inside. This bottle can be placed in the containers located at the rear and west side doors of the church.

Thank you for your support of this important community endeavor.

**St. John Altar Society**

**Essential Support System of the Church**

Altar Society Team 1 will be cleaning the church Wednesday, April 3. Volunteers are welcome.

**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, April 6-4pm 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; Ronald, Brendon & Dudley Landry, Agnes & Sam Coletti & Family; Brennan Bujol, Pim & Nu Nu Clebert, Louise & Edmund Bujol, Derley Barbier; John E., Cecile D. & Maurice E. Brown, Joan B. Heath, Brown & Duhon Families; Judith A. Blanchard; J. W. & Sue Bryant; M/M A. J. Rodriguez, M/M Alger Rodriguez, M/M Vives Vicknair, Scott Marino; Callahan, Clement & Mayon Families; Ronnie Palermo, Brown Family, Palermo Family; M/M L. J. Raymond, M/M Joseph E. Bujol; Jimmy, Sarah & Jackie Migliacio, P. W. Albert, Jr.; Alfred, Mercedes, Lester & Mary Carville, Reid & Gerry Rainey, Edmund & Louise Bujol; Sidney "Benny", Rose & Sid Quatrevingt, Quatrevingt Family; Cavalier & LeBlanc Families; Neila Simoneaux; Caroline & Charlotte Carville; M/M A. J. Laurent, Jr.; M/M Houston LaBauve, Sr., Claudia LaBauve, Cecilia Laurent; M/M Tony Falcon, Anthony Falcon, Brandy Quatrevingt, M/M Frank Tempanaro, Camille Tempanaro, Paula Morales, M/M Ray Murry, M/M Earl Quatrevingt, M/M C. J. Saurage, M/M Ronald Lee Gary, Tommy, Jay, Brian & Randy Quatrevingt; Carol Brandt, Raymond & Amanda Ducote; M/M Victor Crescionne, Crescionne Family, Michelle Family, Sister Joycelin Staempfli; Nolan Bueche III; Lorraine Achee Fourroux; M/M J. E. Dupont, Pat Dupont, Kathy D. Fulton, M/M Wilton Watts, Francis LeFleur; Caliste "Joe" Landry, Gloria Orcino Landry, Josh Landry, Kimberly Landry, Anthony Orcino, Sr., Carmella Orcino, Elden Flatau, Mary Orcino Flatau

**Sunday, April 7-7:30am Mass**

St. John Parishioners

**Sunday, April 7-9am 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; Fred Hebert, George & Gloria Ramirez, Jimmy & Agnes LeBlanc; Rosemary Cox; Mary Ann Gregoire; Anthony "Pet" Cilano; Robert Jude Grace; Benny & Annie Vaughn, Jessel & Eula Ourso; Shane Smith; Denise Miranda; Inez Carlin; Ida Gaudet Family, Ruel Seneca, Sr., Leah Diamond, Linda Seneca Raffle; Donald Olano; Berthelot, Guillot, Cavet and Schlatre Families

**Sunday, April 7-11am Mass**

Cindy Dickerson; O. J., Buster & Pearl Hidalgo Songy & Families; Isaac Vaughn., Jr., Brent Vaughn, Isaac Vaughn, Sr., Nilda Vaughn; Geraldine Kelly; Cameron Edward Whatley

**Tuesday, April 9-6pm Mass**

Mary, Manuel, Delores & the Diamond Family

**Wednesday, April 10-7am Mass**

Dudley Nicolosi, Beryl Fourroux, Schexnaildre & Nicolosi Families

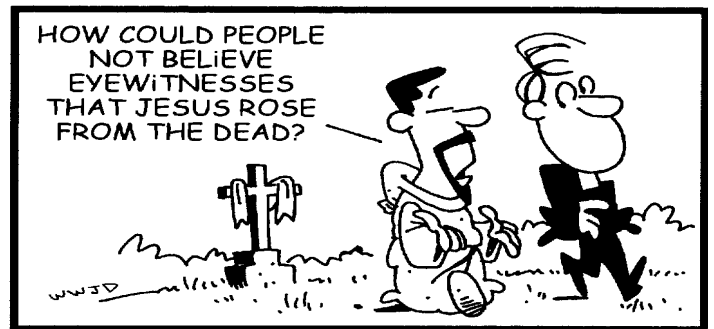
**Thursday, April 11-7am Mass**

Ed Bahry

**Friday, April 12-7am Mass**

Donald Persick, Sr.

**EASTER**



**Sanctuary Candle**

**March 31, 2024**

St. John the Evangelist  
**Hollye Comeaux**

St. Clement of Rome  
**Alex & Alice Nolan, JoAnn Nolan & Larry Skidmore**



March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

### Scripture Readings

#### Week of March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday - The Resurrection of the Lord  
 Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23;  
 Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or  
 Mk16:1-7

Monday Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11;  
 Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22;  
 Jn 20:11-18

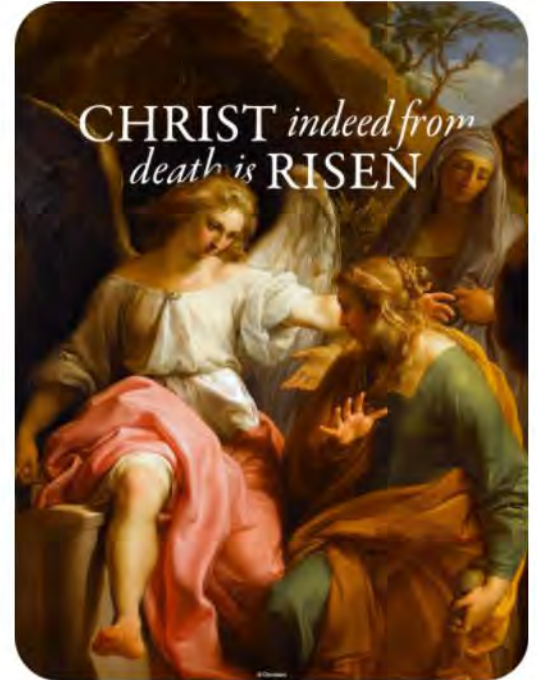
Wednesday Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Lk 24:13-35

Thursday Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2, 5-9; Lk 24:35-48

Friday Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a; Jn 21:1-14

Saturday Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1, 14-15, 16ab-21;  
 Mk 16:9-15

Sunday of Divine Mercy  
 Acts 4:32-35; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24;  
 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31



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