SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

CATHOLIC CHURCH

57805 Main Street • Plaquemine, Louisiana 70764
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
stjohnchurchplaq.org • (225) 687-2402 • Fax (225) 687-1587
stjohnchurchplaq@coxbusiness.net • 24 Hour Prayer Line: (225) 687-1554



Pastoral Team

| Fr. Martin Lawre | ncePastor |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Alfred J. Ricard | IIDeacon |
| Laurie Barbier | Director of Religious |
| | Education |
| Wanda Ashley | PSR/Confirmation |

Wanda Ashley.......PSR/Confirmation
Jennifer Adams..PSR Coordinator 1-6
Donna CarvilleOCIA

Parish Office Staff

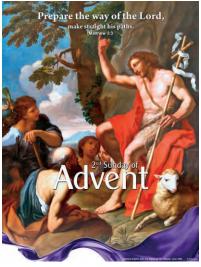
| Medric Smith, Jr | Business Manager |
|------------------|------------------|
| Marsha Dupont | Secretary |
| Susan Landry | Secretary |
| Lily Skidmore | Secretary |
| Gary Perrault | Maintenance |

Masses

| Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm |
|----------------------------------|
| Sunday7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am |
| Tuesday6:00 pm |
| Followed by Benediction & Novena |
| Wednesday7:00 am |
| Thursday7:00 am |
| Friday7:00 am |

Sacrament of Reconciliation

| Tuesday | .5:30-5:45 | pm |
|--------------|------------|----|
| First Friday | 6:30 | am |
| Saturday | .3:00-3:30 | pm |



Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

Gifts of the Spirit

Part of Isaiah's hopeful description of the Messiah contains the traditional seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, and looking forward to His coming in glory, let's take a look at those gifts and see how we can use them.

Wisdom is the gift of seeing God in his creation. It means that we value the things of this world only as they help us to know and love God more. The second gift, Understanding, follows from Wisdom: we understand what God expects of us in dealing with creation and other people. This gift helps us to know how to act in a world that seems to ignore God.

Counsel follows from Understanding as the gift of making correct judgments on how to act; for example, Understanding can lead us to love others. Counsel guides us to love them in appropriate ways.

Strength or fortitude, is the gift that enables us to do those things inspired by understanding and counsel, even if they are difficult. John the Baptist shows that gift in the gospel. It gave him the courage to die for his faith. Knowledge is similar to counsel in that we begin to see what God wants for us in this world. Knowledge leads us to deeper revelations of the truths of our faith. This can lead to the sixth gift (seventh in Isaiah's text: "delight in the Lord") of Piety, a willingness to worship and love God, a desire to be close to Him in prayer.

The final gift, Fear of the Lord, is the awe and wonder of recognizing how great God is, how much he loves us, and so how much we want to stay close to Him. The desire to be close to God leads back to Wisdom, where we see God in his creation. Tom Schmidt



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception A Holy Day of Obligation

Monday, December 8 — Schedule of Masses: 7am — St. John Church 8:30am — SJS Mass at St. Clement Church 6pm — St. John Church



Eucharistic Adoration

Come and Adore. Jesus is waiting for YOU.

"Let every knee bend before Thee, O greatness of my God, so supremely humbled in the Sacred Host. May every heart love Thee, every spirit adore Thee and every will be subject to Thee!" —St. Margaret Mary

The Adoration Chapel is open from 4am-11pm. To schedule an hour as a committed adorer or a substitute, please contact Susan at 225.687.2402, susanblandry@sj.brcoxmail.com.

Baptisms & Baptism Seminars

Baptism Seminars — 7pm Church Office Conference Room

Monday, January 5, 2026 Monday, February 2, 2026

Monday, March 2, 2026

Baptisms — Following 4pm Mass

Saturday, December 20, 2025 Saturday, January 24, 2026 NO BAPTISMS DURING LENT

During the early stages of pregnancy, please register online at www.stjohnchurchplaq.org under FORMATION or call the church office at 225.687.2402. Baptism preparation may be done at a seminar or online. For online information, email wandaashley681@gmail.com. Confirm with Lily Skidmore at the church office as dates are subject to change.

Ritualsong

Second Sunday of Advent #1093

Entrance: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #492 vs. 3, 4

Preparation: **Instrumental**

Communion: Comfort, Comfort, O My People #497

Sending Forth: People, Look East #501

Notice: The Advent Day of Recollection originally scheduled for Friday, December 12 will be rescheduled.

Advent Penance Service

Scripture Readings and Reconciliation

We will have a prayer service followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation Thursday, **December 18** beginning at 7pm until 8:30pm in church. Father Martin along with other priests of our deanery will be available to hear confessions.



We welcome the Order of Alhambra to 4pm Mass this weekend as they celebrate their Quarterly Communion with us.

In Loving Memory...

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

Mrs. Barbara Hill Coreil

Donated by: Mrs. Ann Brumfield & the Gerhardt Family



The Advent Wreath Candle for the 2nd Sunday of Advent burns in loving memory of:

Fred Hebert

Mr. & Mrs. Yves Ramirez, Jerry, Jane & Kirsch

Spreading Hope and Joy

St. Lucy Party

On **Saturday, December 13**, spend the afternoon with us in the St. John Parish Hall. Everyone is invited to join Fr. Martin for an afternoon of refreshments and fellowship directly following 4pm Mass from 5pm until 7pm.

Advent Giving Tree

Share the joy of Jesus' birth with the children. Please place the Advent Giving Tree gifts with name and candy cane attached to gifts under the Christmas tree by **Sunday, December 7**.

Sorting will take place Sunday, December 14 in the Parish Hall with distribution on Monday, December 15.

St. John School "Sounds of Christmas"

Who? St. John Senior Choir, interested middle school students & all 1st-5th grade students

What? St. John School's Christmas program When? Thursday, December 11 at 6pm Where? St. John the Evangelist Church.

Why? Bringing Christmas joy to family and friends

Christmas Cards for Inmates

The Catholic Community at Louisiana State Penitentiary and the Chaplain's Department are again inviting our parish to participate in the Christmas card program. Anyone interested in donating new religious Christmas cards should drop them off at the St. John Church office. Deacon Alfred Ricard will be taking the cards to the prison.

Christmas Flower Envelopes

The envelope for Christmas flowers has been placed in the December packet of envelopes. The names of loved ones remembered with Christmas flowers will be published in the bulletin.

Holiday Visits to Homebound

We will be visiting and bringing poinsettias to local nursing homes, the homebound, sick, and elderly parishioners on Thursday & Friday, December 18 & 19. If anyone would like to join us in bringing Christmas joy to the homebound, please call JoAnn Landry at 225.776.0782.

Retirement Fund for Religious — December 13/14

Donations to next week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection help hundreds of US religious communities to provide for their aging members.

For more information, visit retiredreligious.org, or contact Robin Cabral, at 508.685.8899,

robincabral@retiredreligious.org.

Please give generously.

Our office will be closed Monday, December 8 in observance of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Stewardship of Finance

Weekend of November 15/16-20151 Identified Envelope Givers:\$ 6,401.0036 Identified Online Givers:1,894.00Loose Collection:1,523.00Total Collection:\$ 9,818.00Repairs and Maintenance:\$ 180.00Other Collections:\$ 2,924.00

Weekend of November 22/23-26

| 144 Identified Envelope Givers: | \$ 7,682.00 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 36 Identified Online Givers: | 1,391.00 |
| Loose Collection: | 1,508.00 |
| Total Collection: | \$10,581.00 |
| Repairs and Maintenance: | \$ 165.00 |
| Other Collections: | \$ 1,636.00 |

Online Giving Website

How to Give Online

Online giving is a convenient option to continue to support our church and its mission. You can manage your giving or give a one-time gift right from your phone for stewardship, 100 Year Capital Campaign and more. Go to www.stjohnchurchplaq.org.

Free Catholic Devotionals

Laudate

Are you looking for an app which encompasses everything Catholic?

Visit the APP store to get Laudate, the most popular and most comprehensive **FREE** Catholic App. With Laudate, you can access the daily Mass readings, New American Bible, Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Rosary and mysteries, numerous prayers, and so much more.

Your Morning Offering

Your Morning Offering is a free daily devotional email featuring a saint quote, a meditation, scripture readings, a bible verse of the day, saint of the day, the Liturgy of the Hours, and more—all designed to be read in 5 to 10 minutes! Start receiving your email today by visiting www.morningoffering.com.

K. C. Raffle Calendars

The Knights of Columbus Council 970 has 2026 Raffle Calendars for sale to support their charity endeavors thorough the year. The calendars are \$20 each and offer 365 chances to win including the \$2000 drawing on Columbus Day! Contact Gary Bertrand (225.400.7764) or Bart Schlatre (225.385.5712) for more information.

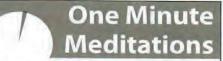


Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2025

St. John the Evangelist

Rev. Martin Lawrence



St. Lucy

St. Lucy was born into 4th century pagan Syracuse, Sicily, and is one of the most famous martyrs of the early Church. Her family arranged for her to marry a pagan, but since she had consecrated her virginity to Christ, St. Lucy refused him. Offended, he betrayed her to the authorities for her Faith. She was questioned and tortured, but all attempts to discourage her failed. She was finally executed. She is the patron saint against eye problems.

The three comings of Christ

This season of Advent, we celebrate the three comings of Christ: in glory at the end of time, in time when He was born in Bethlehem, and His coming in our own lives and hearts. Advent is a time of "busy stillness," of preparing and waiting, like Mary certainly did, for the arrival of the Savior. This Christmas, let's renew our "Yes" to God's request to dwell in our hearts and be "born" in the daily living of our lives.

"The King comes as a helpless infant, born of insignificant parents in a small town of a distant outpost of the Roman Empire. He will conquer through the finally irresistible power of love, the same power with which he made the universe." Most Reverend Robert E. Barron

Find peace before Christmas by slowing down

The busyness leading up to Christmas can be exhausting, but the Advent season holds a better path. It's a time to breathe, reset, and prepare our hearts for the coming of the King. Advent is a built-in gift, a chance to slow the pace and lift our eyes to what matters most.

Renew a sense of the holy: Advent is a chance to wake up the soul. When we lean into our Faith with intention, the season stops feeling rushed and starts feeling radiant. Light the Advent Wreath and let its glow steady your heart. Go to Confession and feel the weight lift as mercy takes over. Spend a few quiet minutes before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and let His presence ground you. Pray the Joyful Mysteries, the "Christmas mysteries" that still speak powerfully to our lives today.

Tune out the noise: Advent becomes richer when we clear space for God to speak. The world buzzes with distractions, but your soul needs room to breathe. Build small pockets of

silence into your day and let stillness sharpen your awareness of God's presence. Reach for a spiritual book instead of a scroll through your feed. Cut back on the constant stream of news that crowds the mind. When the noise quiets, the Holy Spirit has space

"Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

to guide, steady, and renew you.

Streamline and prioritize: Choose what draws you closer to Christ. When your heart is ordered toward what matters, even the cooking, decorating, singing, and gift-giving gain a deeper beauty. You may decide to attend fewer events, keep the décor simple, or choose more modest gifts. Far from taking away joy, this clears space for it. You move through the season with more peace, more purpose, and a heart in step with Jesus.

Why Do Catholics Do That

Why do Catholics believe Jesus is God?

Every Christmas, we remember that Jesus, the Son of God, took on our humanity without losing His divinity. It is a mystery, yet we hold it with confidence because God, who is Truth, has revealed it.

During His earthly life, Jesus spoke and acted with divine authority. He said, "The Father and I are one" (John 10:30). He forgave sins, clarified the Law, and worked miracles. His Resurrection stands as the clearest confirmation of His identity, showing that His claim to be God was real. As man, He could suffer and die. As God, He rose and conquered death.

Growing in Faith™

December 2025 Page 2

The most meaningful gifts of Christmas aren't wrapped

We know that the most valuable gifts are often the ones we cannot wrap. Alongside whatever you give your loved ones this year, do not let Christmas pass without offering these gifts as well:

Your time: Being present with the people we love is one of the simplest and strongest ways to show care. A short visit, an unhurried coffee, or an evening without phones can mean more than any item we put under a tree. When we give someone our attention, we affirm their worth.

Your forgiveness: Forgiveness does not excuse the hurt. It frees you from the weight of anger and resentment. It

also gives the other person room to grow and seek healing. Letting go is often the first step toward real peace. In many ways, forgiveness is a gift you give yourself.

Your gratitude: Giving thanks to God at Christmas is more than a warm sentiment. It is a heartfelt response to the depth of His love.

Look at the Crucifix, the Nativity, or the Eucharist and consider the humility behind such a gift. Our gratitude matters to God (see Luke 17:17–18). So after attending Mass on Christmas Day, take a moment to say, "Thank you." It is a small act that carries real meaning.

from Scripture

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23, Obedience is trust in action

By the time Mary gave birth to Jesus, Saint Joseph had already formed a habit of steady obedience to God. So when the angel spoke to him in a dream and instructed him to flee to Egypt, Joseph acted without delay. He trusted that God would care for him and for the family entrusted to him.

This trust is even more striking when we consider the circumstances of Jesus' birth. Mary and Joseph had traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem during the final stages of her pregnancy. Whether by foot or by donkey, the trip would have been long, uncomfortable, and

exhausting. When they finally arrived, they found no suitable place to stay and settled among animals. Soon after, they faced the threat against Jesus' life and fled to Egypt, living for years in a foreign land without the support of relatives or friends. Through every hardship, Joseph relied on God to protect his family.

The Holy Family was perfect in love, yet not spared from difficulty. Mary and Joseph met each challenge with faith and allowed God's Word to guide them. We can follow the same path.

Feasts & 🕊 💿 Celebrations

December 6 – St. Nicholas of Myra (4th century). St. Nicholas had a very generous heart and always gave to the poor. He is credited with saving three girls from being sold to pay their father's debt. St. Nicholas is also the patron saint of children.

December 8 – Immaculate
Conception of the Blessed Virgin
Mary. We commemorate that Mary was
conceived in St. Anne's womb without
original sin, preparing Mary to be the
Mother of God. Though given to Mary,
this special grace was for our sake. Pope
Pius IX declared this doctrine in 1854.
This year, it's considered a holy day of
obligation.

December 9 – St. Juan Diego (1548). St. Juan Diego was visited by Our Lady at Tepeyac Hill, Mexico. She requested a chapel be built and sent him with roses to the bishop as a sign. When St. Juan emptied the roses before the bishop, his cloak retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

December 29 – St. Thomas Becket (1170). Thomas enjoyed power and riches as a close friend of England's King Henry II, who appointed him chancellor of England. In 1162, King Henry had St. Thomas named Archbishop of Canterbury. St. Thomas refused to allow the King to regulate Church matters and was exiled. He fled to France for safety. Thomas returned to England and was martyred.

Q&A

Why is it said that Mass brings us closer to God than anything else?

At every Mass, Jesus is really and truly present in the Eucharist in His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1374). In this moment, the Sacrifice of Christ is made present to us in a mysterious but real way. His self-giving is the greatest act of love, and our participation at Mass is our strongest response, our way of saying, "I love you, too."

Worshipping together also strengthens our faith in the God who is everywhere yet unseen. Faith grows in community. It grows through the physical actions of the Mass as well. When we sit, stand, bow, and kneel, we express with our bodies what we believe in our hearts.

Finally, the Real Presence of Jesus on the altar draws us into a closeness to God that we cannot find anywhere else in this life. Nowhere do we meet Him more directly than when He feeds us with His very life. In the Eucharist, He is as present to us as He was to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem and to His apostles in the Upper Room.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 13-4pm Mass

Msgr. Leonard Robin, Msgr. George Barbier, Fr. Eugene Engels, Fr. Jerome Dugas, Fr. Greg Daigle, Sister Catherine Labouré, Sister Mary Rita McSorley, Sister Cecile Poitras; Tina Rinaudo; Joseph Graves, Sr., W. A. Graves Family, Michael & Kandy Rarick, Thomas Morales Family; Bill Toups, Jr.; Sylvia Rivet; Marvin, Nora, Ernest Sr. & Jr. & Allen Family; Anthony F. Canella, Aaron & Delia LeRay, Shannie Verret; Lois & Baco Romero, Lonnie Michel; Mary Sue Landry Dugas; Sue Blanchard; Joseph Matassa, Jr., M/M Edwin Reeves, Sr.

Sunday, December 14-7:30am Mass

St. John Parishioners

Sunday, December 14-9am Mass

Msgr. Leonard Robin, Msgr. George Barbier, Fr. Eugene Engels, Fr. Jerome Dugas, Fr. Greg Daigle, Sister Catherine Labouré, Sister Mary Rita McSorley, Sister Cecile Poitras; Tina Rinaudo; M/M Leslie Rivet, Sr.; Jason Guidry; Mr. John H. Businelle; Van & Thelma Junot, Elvis & Mamie Rabalais; Paul & Emily Bourgeois, V. J. & Carolyn Vicknair; Benny & Annie Vaughn, Jessel & Eula Ourso; Ida Gaudet Family, Ruel Seneca, Sr., Leah Diamond, Linda Rafflee; Sue Landry Dugas

Sunday, December 14-11am Mass

Cindy Dickerson; Michael Shepherd, Ruth "Se Se" Becnel, Ruth Keller; Nolan Bueche III; Marshall & Virginia Peavy, Cleo & Ella Dupont; Isaac Vaughn, Jr., Brent Vaughn, Margaret Landry, Sidney Hedges, Jr., Harry Marionneaux, Paul & Doris Barbier, Charles Barbier

Tuesday, December 16-6pm Mass

Mickey J. Brown

Wednesday, December 17-7am Mass

Urban & Jennie Andre

Thursday, December 18-7am Mass

Prudence R. Powell

Friday, December 19-7am Mass

Tommy Griffon

Called By Name

Chosen for Consecrated Life

"A voice is calling." Is Christ calling you to let Him manifest His love in you as a priest or consecrated religious? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 225.336.8778 or via email: jjohnson@diobr.org.



Sanctuary Candle

December 7, 2025

St. John the Evangelist

Andrew & Josephine Canova

Jerry & Cutsy Blanchard

St. Clement of Rome

Ernest & Josephine Lapeze,

Lapeze Family & Ragusa Family

St. John Altar Society

Essential Support System of the Church

Altar Society Team 2 will be cleaning the church Wednesday, December 10 at 8am. Volunteers are welcome!

Notice: There will be no Coffee & Donuts next Sunday, December 14 due to Giving Tree Sorting in the parish hall.

Children's Church

A safe and nurturing environment for children to participate in the Mass at an age-appropriate level

| <u>Mass</u> | <u>Teacher</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 11am | Taylor Campbell |
| 9am | Tracy Cox |
| 11am | Alexis Schlatre |
| | 11am 9am |





S Acorns Harvest E Fall

Leaves

Wind

Hay

Rake

Pumpkin

Apples

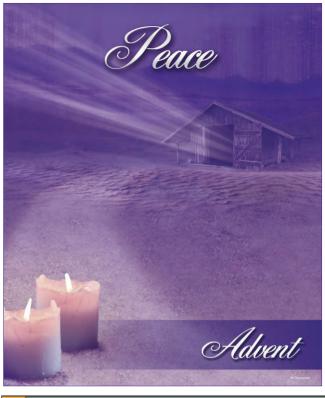
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Scripture Readings

Week of December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;

Rm 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

Monday Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of

the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gen 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;

Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13;

Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30 Thursday Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15 Zech 2:14-17 or Rev 11:19a; 12-1-6a, 10ab; Italiah 13:18ba 10:14 1:26 38 or 14:120 47

Judith 13:18bc, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47 Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19;

Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10;

Mt 11:2-11



Saturday



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