

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 Lawrence.....Pastor
Alfred J. Ricard II.....Deacon
Laurie Barbier.....Director of Religious
Education
Wanda Ashley.....PSR/Confirmation
Jennifer Adams..PSR Coordinator 1-6
Donna CarvilleOCIA

Parish Office Staff

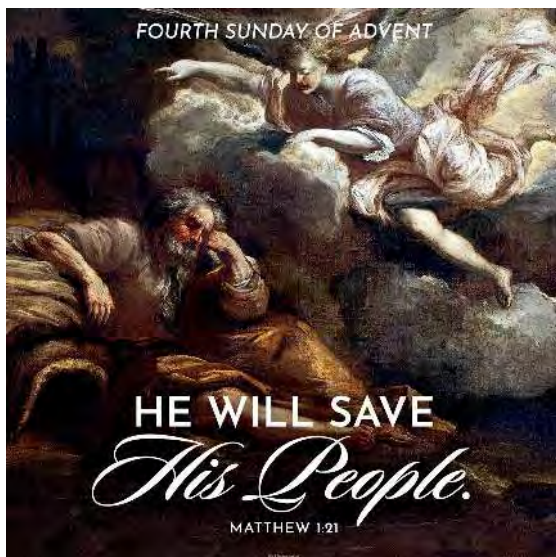
Medric Smith, Jr....Business Manager
Marsha DupontSecretary
Susan LandrySecretary
Lily Skidmore.....Secretary
Gary Perrault.....Maintenance

Masses

Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm
Sunday...7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am
Tuesday..... 6:00 pm
Followed by Benediction & Novena
Wednesday 7:00 am
Thursday 7:00 am
Friday..... 7:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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



Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21, 2025

Emmanuel

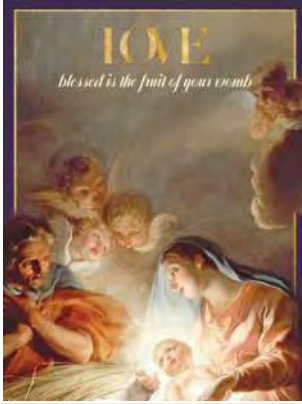
On this last Sunday before Christmas, we see that Jesus' birth is the fulfillment of the promise of Emmanuel, meaning "God is with us." (Mt 1:23) The gospel refers to the first reading from Isaiah. There we see the king of Judah, Ahaz, is under attack by the kings of Aram and Israel. He wants to ask the Assyrians for help, instead of relying on God. He is afraid to admit his lack of faith. So the weakness of Ahaz gives us the wonderful prophecy of the birth of Jesus.

In the gospel, Joseph also does not understand how Mary was pregnant. But unlike Ahaz, Joseph did have faith in God and the message of the angel. He took Mary as his wife and helped her through her pregnancy and afterwards in raising Jesus.

So now we have to choose who we rely on: Do I act like Ahaz, relying on the worldly powers, or like Joseph who trusted the Lord? If

I look at my actions and priorities, I might be more like Ahaz than I want to admit.

How much time do I spend watching television (especially now that it's in HD) compared to time in prayer? How much time do I spend reading the scriptures compared to the newspaper or magazines? If I really believe that "God is with us," which is what Christmas is all about, how much of God can people see in my actions? Maybe if we kept in mind that promise that God IS with us, in the Baptism we received and the sacraments of the Church, and the love of our spouse or parents—we could see how close God really is and let others see in our actions, that Jesus is Emmanuel. Tom Schmidt



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve — Wednesday, December 24
4pm — Children's Liturgy

6pm Mass

12am Mass at Midnight

Christmas Day — Thursday, December 25

9am Mass

Holy Mary Mother of God Masses

Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday, December 31, 2025 — 4pm Vigil

Thursday, January 1, 2026 — 9am Mass

Nativity Scene in Church

Our beautiful crèche with life-size Fontanini figures is available for viewing for anyone who would like an opportunity to make a prayerful visit to our Lord and Savior. The church will be open and lights will be on daily (7am-3:30pm) through Sunday, January 18, 2026.

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.

Knights of Columbus Fireworks Sale

The Knights of Columbus will be selling fireworks at the K.C. Home, 58715 Price Street in Plaquemine.

Fireworks schedule:

Monday, December 22 & Tuesday, December 23

Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Thursday, December 26 - Wednesday, December 31

New Year's Eve 11am until fireworks run out.

Weekdays: 5 to 8:30pm

Weekends: 2 to 8:30pm

Please support the Knights of Columbus in all the good works they do for our church and community.

Ritualsong

Fourth Sunday of Advent #1099

Entrance: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vs 7&1 #492

Preparation: **Instrumental**

Communion: Come, Lord Jesus — Bulletin

Sending Forth: Lift Up Your Heads #511

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Father Martin, Deacon Ricard and the St. John Church Staff!

Our church office will be closed Wednesday, December 24, 2025 until Monday, January 5, 2026.

Father Martin will celebrate Holy Mass at **9am Saturday, December 27** on the feast of our patron, St. John the Evangelist. Please join us on this special feast day at St. John Church.



Eucharistic Adoration

Come and Adore. Jesus is waiting for YOU.

"The most powerful thing we can do on this earth with our time is to spend it in Eucharistic Adoration. Nothing can do more to change the world, to bring about peace, to convert hearts, to make reparation for the many evils committed. Spending time in prayer may seem, on the outside, to be a passive thing; however, it is anything but! Our world is in desperate need of hope, of renewal, of a 'turning back' to the things of God. By visiting Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, we take up the best weapon for the battles of our age and contribute to the healing of our culture. Cultivating a Eucharistic life of adoration also bears tremendous fruit in our own hearts and lives. We cannot spend time in the rays of His Eucharistic Presence without receiving His grace, His love, His mercy, His peace. As we gaze upon Him face to face, we are transformed little by little into a closer reflection of His divine image."

—AN EXCERPT FROM Manual for Eucharistic Adoration, Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, p. 37-38

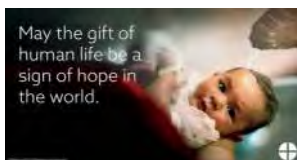
The Adoration Chapel is open from 4am-11pm.

To schedule an hour as a committed adorer or a substitute, please contact Susan at 225.687.2402, susanblandry@sj.brcoxmail.com.

Order of Alhambra



The Order of Alhambra celebrated their Quarterly Communion Saturday, December 6 at St. John the Evangelist. Members attending were, bottom l to r, Jacob Wilbert, John Sasser, Chuck Brown, Father Martin Lawrence, Sammy Carville, Charles Gulotta, Antione Landry and Danny Cedotal. Top l to r, Michael Panepinto, Rod Bickham, Tommy LeBlanc, Bill Greenfield, Ed Reeves, Tommy Bickham and Jimmy Ramirez.



Baptisms & Baptism Seminars

Baptism Seminars — 7pm

Church Office Conference Room

Monday, January 12, 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. Confirm with Lily Skidmore at the church office as dates are subject to change.

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.

Called By Name

Chosen for Consecrated Life

“Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God.”

Consider following Christ more closely as a priest or in consecrated life. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 225.336.8778 or via email: ablount@diobr.org





The Advent Wreath Candle for the 4th Sunday of Advent burns in loving memory of:

Mary & Chuchie Flatau, Anthony & Carmella Orcino, Orcino & Flatau Families

S. J. "Blue" Guercio, Marian R. Guercio, Marian T. Guercio & Louis M. Zeringue

**Kathy Dupont Fulton,
David T. Dupont & Pat Dupont**

**Larry Skidmore,
Alice & Alex Nolan & Joann Nolan**

Scripture Readings

Week of December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rm 1:1-7;
Mt 1:18-24

Monday 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8d;
Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5b, 8-10, 14;
Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5,
27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Thursday The Nativity of the Lord — Vigil Mass:
Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29;
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or
1:18-25 Mass during the Night: Is 9:1-6;
Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:11-14
Mass at Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6,
11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Mass during the Day: Is 52:7-10;
Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or
1:1-5, 9-14

Friday Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6,
8ab, 16bc-17; Mt 10:17-22

Saturday Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 Jn 1:14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12;
Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Sunday Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5;
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15,
19-23

In Loving Memory...

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

Percy & Maude Blanchard

**Donated by:
Bobby Blanchard**

A Grateful Acknowledgement

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas gratefully acknowledges everyone who bought sweets at their recent bake sale to make the event a huge success.

St. John Altar Society

Essential Support System of the Church

Thank you for supporting the Altar Society in their mission to take care of the church by buying cookbooks, mugs and Christmas tree ornaments. These items make wonderful Christmas gifts and are available in the church office.

Altar Society Team 4 will be cleaning the church **Tuesday, December 23** at 8am. Volunteers are welcome!



Stewardship of Finance

Weekend of November 29/30-December 3

140 Identified Envelope Givers:	\$ 4,926.00
53 Identified Online Givers:	3,704.00
Loose Collection:	<u>1,680.00</u>
Total Collection:	\$ 10,310.00
Repairs and Maintenance:	\$ 440.00
Other Collections:	\$ 497.00

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.

St. John School News



2025 Distinguished Graduate

St. John School is very pleased to announce 2025's Distinguished Graduate, Mr. Mervin "Butch" Gourgues, Jr. who exhibits the character, values, faith, and service that are an integral part of the mission of St. John School. A member of the Class of 1960, Mr. Butch went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree from LSU. He is a veteran of the United States Air Force and was employed as a Purchasing Manager for Nadler, Inc. and then as a Judicial Administrator for the City of Plaquemine. Throughout his life, he has been an avid supporter of St. John School, serving as Fathers Club President and volunteering his time in various ways. He is currently serving on the VFW Honor Guard for all area military funerals.

We congratulate Mr. Mervin "Butch" Gourgues on this well-deserved honor!

2025-2026 Interim Principal

The Eagle Family introduces Dr. Greg Brandao, their new Interim Principal for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year

Dr. Brandao will serve as Interim Principal starting December 1, 2025, through May 2026. He brings more than 44 years of experience in education, with the majority of his career dedicated to Catholic school leadership and administration.

Dr. Brandao has successfully served as a transitional principal at three different schools, guiding each campus through periods of leadership change with steady leadership and grace. A proud graduate of Catholic High School in Baton Rouge, he is also a fellow alumnus of Father Greg Daigle — making this appointment feel even more like coming home.

We look forward to his leadership and the positive impact he'll have on our school community as we move forward together.

#SJEagles #EaglePride #WeAreStJohn



Alumni Association

Graduate, awesome! Not a graduate - that's ok too! Join the St John Alumni Association; the organization that supports the whole St. John community.

For more information, email torcino@stjohnschool.org or stop by our Facebook page, St. John Alumni Association (Plaquemine), for level options and pricing. Payments can be made via Venmo [@stjohnalumniassociation](https://www.venmo.com/stjohnalumniassociation).

BINGO

Bingo is held three nights each week at 7pm at the St. John Fathers' Club Bingo Hall, 24837 Hwy 1, South in Plaquemine.

The following is the Bingo schedule:

Sunday — Knights of Columbus Bingo

Tuesday — Fathers' Club Bingo

Thursday — Fathers' Club Bingo

Come out and play Bingo and support St. John School and the Knights of Columbus.

Community Coffee "Cash for Schools" Program

Please continue saving UPC labels from all Community Coffee products. St. John is able to raise thousands of dollars for classroom supplies through the Community Coffee "Cash for Schools" fundraiser.

You may bring your labels to the church office or put them in an envelope and drop it in the collection basket at any weekend Mass. We will see that the school receives them.

Thank you for supporting St. John School!

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 27-4pm 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; Trista Parro; Aborted Babies; M/M A. J. Rodriguez, M/M Vives Vicknair, Sr., M/M Alger Rodrigue, Scott Marino; Faye & Paul Troxclair, Carolyn Bordelon; Jimmy, Sarah & Jackie Migliacio, P. W. Albert, Jr.; Emma & George Grass, Josephine & Fred Hamilton; Lois & Baco Romero, Lonnie Michel; Deceased Tour Guides of Nottoway Plantation; Sue Landry Dugas; M/M Joseph Matassa, Jr., M/M Edwin Reeves, Sr.; The Currier Families

Sunday, December 28-7:30am Mass

St. John Parishioners

Sunday, December 28-9am 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; Kristina Mellema; Henry "Tutie" Berthelot; Paul & Emily Bourgeois, V. J. & Carolyn Vicknair; William Middleton, Middleton & Clouatre Families; Benny & Annie Vaughn, Jessel & Eula Ourso; John "Sonny" Bunch; Ida Gaudet Family, Ruel Seneca, Sr., Leah Diamond, Linda Rafflee

Sunday, December 28-11am Mass

Cindy Dickerson; Mary Belle D'Albor, Paul D'Albor, Sr., Dorothy Canova, Paul D'Albor, Jr., Lee Canova; Nolan "Country" Ruiz; Leon Graffeo, Angelle & Connie Lynn LeBlanc; Isaac Vaughn, Jr., Brent Vaughn, Margaret Landry, Sidney Hedges, Jr.

Tuesday, December 30-6pm Mass

Bret Thompson

Wednesday, December 31-4pm Mass

Murray & Dixie Suffrin, Pim Clebert; Nolan J. Bueche III, Ethel & Nolan Bueche, Jr.; Allen, Flo & Paco Ourso; Josie & Tony Palermo; Sadie Thibodeaux; Sue Landry Dugas; M/M Joseph Matasa, Sr., M/M Joseph Matassa, Jr.; Robert & May Berta Olano, Paul Joffrion, Sr.

Thursday, January 1-9am Mass

Alvin J. "Pecan" Daigle, Eddie & Virginia Clebert, Ulger & Nilda Daigle, Jep Daigle, Stuart Goudeau; Royce Leonard; Jaynell Lopez, Albert Lopez, Jr., Johnson & Lopez Families; Gladys "Butsy" Palermo, Peter A. Palermo, Patrick Burleigh, Douglas Brewer; Rodney & Betty LaBauve, Paul & Emily Bourgeois, George & Carol Allain, Barbara Allain Bajon, George Allain, Jr.; Mary Louise Hidalgo

Friday, January 2-7am Mass

Ed Bahry



Sanctuary Candle

December 21, 2025

St. John the Evangelist

Sylvia Rivet

St. Clement of Rom

John "Sonny" Bunch

Coffee & Donuts

December 28, 2025

Lou Anna Canella &

Lionel Schexnaildre (7:30 Mass)

Roger & Rosalind Sadden (9am Mass)



Angels for Angels

Providing for School Children in Need

The Angels for Angels program has been able to help children in our local schools with much needed items. Teachers contact the Angels for Angels with a specific need for a specific child in their classroom. Items needed are underwear, socks, and elastic waist athletic shorts (black, maroon and khaki) sizes 4T-8 and small hygiene articles such as feminine products, toothbrushes, combs, etc. Teachers also need play dough, coloring books, arts and crafts supplies and kid games. Please place your purchased items in the baskets near the doors of the church.

For more information, call Dr. Katie Berthelot at 225.776.2809 or the church office at 225.687.2402.

Children's Church

December 2025 - January 2026

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

Sunday	Mass	Teacher
December 21	11am	Alexis Schlatre
January 11	9am	Carrie Leonard
January 18	11am	Taylor Campbell
January 25	9am	Tracy Cox

Children were brought to Jesus that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked them, but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." After he placed his hands on them, he went away. —Matthew 19:13-15



Kids Corner

4th Sunday of Advent

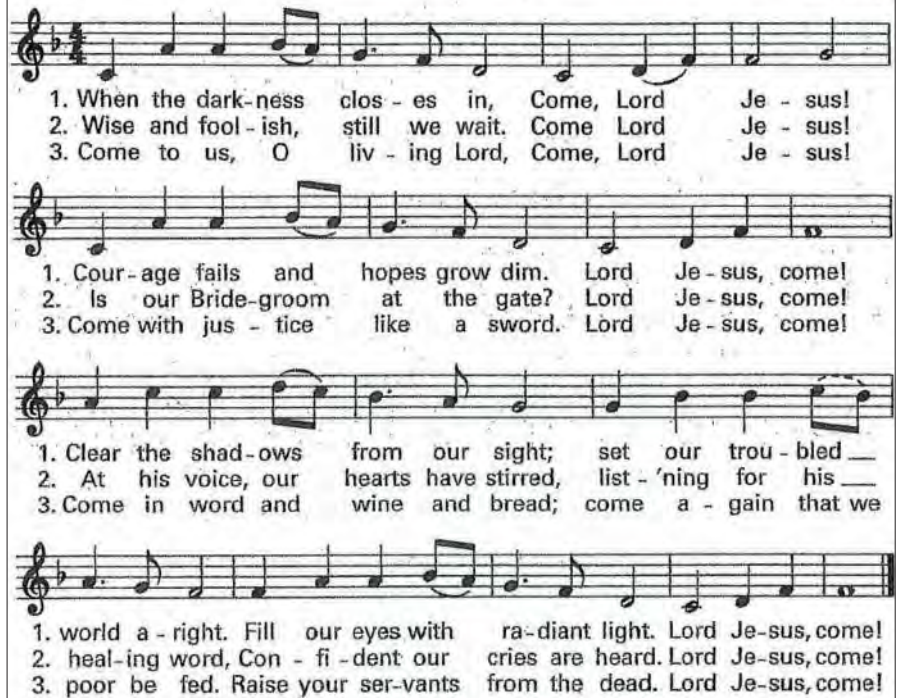
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S P I R I T Z H W H
A F U L F I L L A Q
S D U P M U S U W M
D A S B I N L O B H
D N G I R D A W N X
R G D R Z L Q M V L
E E U T W I F E E I
A L M H R N I H M P
M R B P C H I L D D

Birth Child Spirit Angel Dream
Wife Son Name Fulfill Emmanuel

COME, LORD JESUS

Acc #134

M.D. Ridge



1. When the dark-ness clos-es in, Come, Lord Je-sus!
2. Wise and fool-ish, still we wait. Come Lord Je-sus!
3. Come to us, O liv-ing Lord, Come, Lord Je-sus!

1. Cour-age fails and hopes grow dim. Lord Je-sus, come!
2. Is our Bride-groom at the gate? Lord Je-sus, come!
3. Come with jus-tice like a sword. Lord Je-sus, come!

1. Clear the shad-ows from our sight; set our trou-bled —
2. At his voice, our hearts have stirred, list-'ning for his —
3. Come in word and wine and bread; come a-gain that we

1. world a-right. Fill our eyes with ra-diant light. Lord Je-sus, come!
2. heal-ing word, Con-fi-dent our cries are heard. Lord Je-sus, come!
3. poor be fed. Raise your ser-vants from the dead. Lord Je-sus, come!



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Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will
For further information,
please call the parish office.

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