

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH



57805 Main Street • Plaquemine, Louisiana 70764
 Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
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Pastoral Team

Fr. Martin E. Lawrence.....Pastor
 Alfred J. Ricard II.....Deacon
 Laurie Barbier.....Director of Religious
 Education
 Jennifer Adams...PSR Coordinator 1-6
 Donna Carville.....OCIA

Parish Office Staff

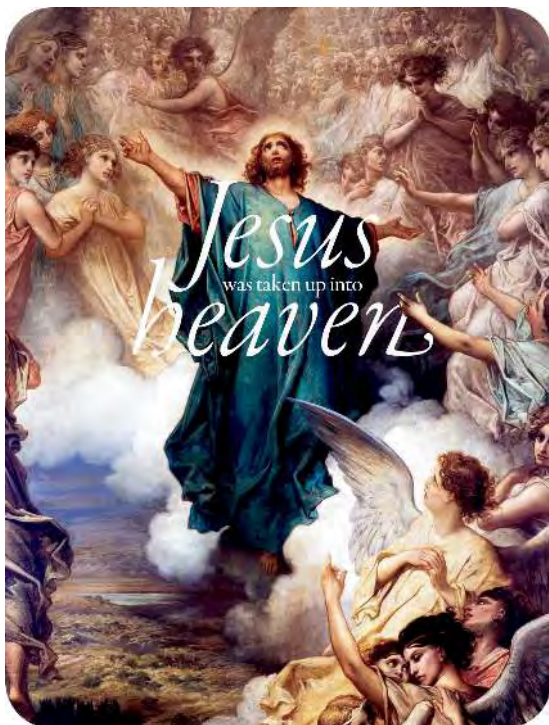
Marsha Dupont.....Secretary
 Susan Landry.....Secretary
 Lily Skidmore.....Secretary
 Gary Perrault.....Maintenance

Masses

Saturday Vigil.....4:00 pm
 Sunday.....7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am
 Tuesday.....6:00 pm
 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



The Ascension of the Lord

May 17, 2026

Look, Up in the Sky!

Around holidays, people tend to look fondly back on past celebrations and romanticize old relationships. For some, remembering the past is the best part of their holiday. That is the image we get from the first reading as the apostles look up to heaven after the Ascension.

We too sometimes look at the great feasts of Christmas and Easter in that way. We may dwell on the beauty of the decorations, on the innocence of the baby Jesus, on the horror of his passion and death, or on the wonder of his resurrection. Then when the holy day is over, we go back to our normal routine. Perhaps we need an angel to chide us for “looking at the sky.”

The angels were trying to tell the apostles two things. One was that Jesus would return as he left—in glory. This was not a time to say goodbye, but a time of hope; the Lord who had changed their lives so radically would change the world next.

The second thing the angels were telling them was to begin following Jesus’ command to spread the Good News to all nations.

Because of what the apostles accomplished, we are now Jesus’ witnesses to the world. We too have the hope of seeing Jesus come in glory, even as we see him now with the eyes of faith. Tom Schmidt

100 Year Capital Campaign Update

Phase 2: Pews, Flooring, Doors, Interior Cleaning

Schedule of Progression

June 15-June 21:	Remove pews, anchor mid point, and stage in church (Mid-South Church)
June 22-July10:	Asbestos abatement (Insultech)
June 29-July 17:	Door work (Flateau & Himmel's)
July 13-July 24:	Remove pine flooring and anchor sub-floor (Carpentry Plus More)
July 13-August 7:	Refurbish pews (Mid-South Church)
July 20-July 31:	Install new flooring (Carpentry Plus More)
July 27-August 7:	Reinstall pews (Mid-South church)
July 27-August 9 :	Interior cleaning (Cinderella)
August 10:	Church reopens/Phase 2 complete



NOTE:

During this time we will be having weekend Masses at St Clement; weekday Holy Mass will be celebrated in the St. John Parish Hall.



May Yard Rosary

During the month of May, the Yard Rosary will be prayed at the homes of parishioners at 7pm.

****Sunday, May 17:** Troy & Frances
Tempanaro
62765 Belleview Rd.

Monday, May 18: Brent & Cherie Barbier
Island Clubhouse Bistro
23550 Myrtle Grove Rd.

Tuesday, May 19: Lionel Schexnaildre &
Lou Anna Canella
26102 Tenant Rd.

Wednesday, May 20: St. John the Baptist Catholic
Daughters
St. John the Baptist Church
402 S. Kirkland St., Brusly

Thursday, May 21: George & Patricia Ramirez
57741 Cardinal St.

Friday, May 22: Chuck & Connie Brown
59245 Island Dr.

Saturday, May 23: Ronald & Cindy Rodrigue
63370 Bayou Rd.

Sunday, May 24: Jimmy & Sheryl Ramirez
59930 Jumonville St.

**Note Change

Please join us. Bring your lawn chair and your friends!

Ritualsong **The Ascension of the Lord #1180**

Welcome!

We welcome the Catholic Daughters to 4pm Mass, Saturday, May 16 as they celebrate their Quarterly Communion with us.

Eucharistic Adoration Appreciation Dinner

The Adorer's Appreciation Dinner has been rescheduled for **Tuesday, June 2** in order not to conflict with the May Yard Rosary. The dinner will be held at the K. C. Hall immediately following 6pm Mass for all adorers, spouses and substitutes. A sign-in sheet is provided in the Adoration Chapel for those planning to attend.

For questions or to schedule an hour in the Adoration Chapel, contact Susan Landry at 225.687.2402 or susanblandry@sj.brcocmail.com.

Holy Spirit Prayer Group

The Holy Spirit Prayer Group will meet Sunday, May 17 from 4-6pm in church. The purpose of the prayer group is to offer praise to God, and intercessory prayers for individuals, our community and the needs of the world. The Holy Spirit Prayer Group welcomes folks of different denominations and those who may not be connected to a church community at this time.

For information, call the church office (225.687.2402).

St. John the Evangelist Outdoor Mass and Family Day — April 19, 2026





Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

May 2026

St. John the Evangelist
Rev. Martin E. Lawrence

One Minute Meditations

St. Rita of Cascia

Born in 1381 near Spoleto, Italy, St. Rita was known for her holiness and charity from a young age. She wanted to be a nun but was forced into marrying when she was twelve. Unfortunately, her husband was cruel and violent. After eighteen years, she was widowed. Following the deaths of her sons, she finally entered the convent, where she became known for her piety, kindness, and humility. She is the patron saint of impossible causes.

"Come, Holy Spirit!"

On the Feast of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles and ignited their mission to baptize and preach. For this reason, Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church. This same Spirit, who empowered twelve frightened men to travel, preach, baptize, and labor for the Kingdom of God, also comes to our aid in our struggle for holiness, even in our prayer (Romans 8:26). This month, keep with you this short yet powerful prayer: "Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love!"

"Jesus answered him, 'If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him'" (John 14:23).

Who is my neighbor?

This question matters. In the Two Greatest Commandments, Jesus calls us to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. But that raises a real, practical question: who is our neighbor? Our Lady offers a clear answer. Through her example, we begin to see that our neighbors include:

Family: Mary's first thought after the Annunciation was for her cousin Elizabeth. Despite the immense honor Mary had just received, she went in haste to serve Elizabeth. That sets the pattern. The first neighbors we're called to love are the ones closest to us: those in our own home and family.

Friends: Tradition holds that Mary and Jesus were close to the couple at the wedding in Cana. When the wine ran out, Mary didn't draw attention to herself. She noticed the need and acted, gently guiding things toward a solution. Loving our friends often looks the same—paying attention, stepping in quietly, and serving without needing

recognition.

Those who suffer: At the Cross, Jesus entrusted His mother to St. John. In that moment of deep loss, Mary and John were given to each other, able

"If you want to change the world, go home and love your family."

St. Teresa of Calcutta

to share a bond shaped by suffering. When someone in your life is hurting, that person is your neighbor. Who is carrying something heavy right now? How can you stand with them?

Each person we meet: As Queen of Heaven and Mother of the Church, Mary cares for all of us, especially through her prayers. To love God is to love those He loves—which means everyone. Sometimes the most meaningful act of love we can offer is also the simplest: to pray for them, asking that they come to know her Son more deeply.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics call Mary our Mother?

Mary's role in salvation history is to lead people to her Son. As the Church teaches, "The Virgin Mary... is the mother of the members of Christ" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 963). Her motherhood extends to all who belong to Him. At the Cross, in the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "Behold

your mother" (John 19:27), entrusting Mary not only to St. John but to every disciple. From that moment, her care became personal. Because of her unique closeness to Jesus, she intercedes for us, always guiding us toward Him and helping us follow His will more faithfully.

St. Joseph - the quiet strength behind May

Though May is traditionally dedicated to Mary, it fittingly begins with the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. The Church invites us to honor St. Joseph and entrust our lives to his care, just as Jesus did during His hidden life on earth.

He protects. St. Joseph safeguarded Mary when her pregnancy placed her at risk (Matthew 1:19) and led the Holy Family to safety in their flight from Herod (Matthew 2:14-15). We can place ourselves under that same protection—formally through consecration or simply through daily prayer—entrusting our families, homes, and

responsibilities to his care.

He provides. As a carpenter, St. Joseph faithfully provided for Jesus and Mary. Christians have long trusted in his continued help. St. Teresa of Ávila famously wrote that she never asked anything of him without receiving help. We can confidently bring him our needs, work, and concerns.

The saints became holy by being open to God's grace. In St. Joseph, we're given a quiet but steady guide—one who helps us, step by step, follow God more faithfully on the path to heaven.

from **S**cripture

John 3:16-18, Jesus' sacrifice reveals God's love

"For God so loved the world..." When doubt sets in—when God seems distant or silent—the Church directs our attention to the Cross. In the Crucifix, we don't see a contradiction of God's love, but its clearest expression. Christ does not stand apart from human suffering; He enters into it. What looks like defeat becomes the place where divine mercy is most fully revealed—a love that holds nothing back.

"He sent His only begotten Son." Faced with suffering and evil, we naturally look for solutions we can measure and manage—strategies, systems, progress. God's response is not a method but a

gift: He gives Himself. Evil, which is a distortion or absence of the good, cannot ultimately be overcome by partial fixes. It yields only to perfect goodness, just as darkness gives way to light.

"That all who believe in Him might not perish but have eternal life." This life is not the destination but the path. Its trials, uncertainties, and even its sufferings are not meaningless when lived with Christ. If we remain close to Him—whether in darkness, in turmoil, or at the foot of the Cross—we are not off course. We are being led, step by step, toward the life that does not end.

Q How can the Church & **A** be holy if her members aren't?

First, Jesus was aware of the failures within religious life. In the Gospel of Matthew, He strongly rebuked the Pharisees—the religious leaders of His time—for not practicing what they taught (Matthew 23:3). Among His own disciples, there were moments of division, betrayal, and abandonment (John 6:66). Yet the redemption He offers is not reserved for the perfect, but for all who place their faith in Him.

Second, the Church's holiness does not depend on the virtue of each individual member, but on the holiness of her Founder, Jesus Christ. A church building remains sacred even when its physical condition is imperfect because it is dedicated to God. In the same way, the Church, as the Mystical Body of Christ, remains holy even as her members continue to struggle and grow.

Third, history shows that God raises up saints precisely in times of difficulty. St. Athanasius, St. Catherine of Siena, and St. Thomas More each responded to periods of division and crisis with prayer, sacrifice, witness, and fidelity to the truth. Their example reminds us that holiness is always possible—and that we are called to live it, even now.

Feasts & Celebrations

May 14 - The Ascension of the Lord. This solemnity marks the completion of Jesus' mission of salvation and His triumphant entry into Heaven.

Note: In many dioceses, observance of Ascension has been moved to the following Sunday.

May 14 - St. Matthias (1st century). When the Apostles met to choose Judas' successor, Peter said that the new Apostle must have followed Jesus from His Baptism to His Ascension and witnessed His Resurrection. St. Matthias was chosen by lots to fill Judas' place.

May 18 - Pope St. John I (526). Born in Tuscany, Italy, John was elected pope in 523 while still a deacon. During his

pontificate, he battled the Arian heresy, and worked to improve diplomatic relations with the East. He was the first pope to visit Constantinople, during which he restored peace with the Eastern Church yet raised political suspicions. Arrested by King Theodoric, St. John I died in prison.

May 25 - Mary, Mother of the Church (2018). On the Cross, Jesus gave us His mother to be our mother (John 19:27). Now in Heaven, she prays and cares for us as our spiritual mother until we are safely home with God. We can look to her motherly care with confidence since she always leads us to her Son by the shortest, safest, and fastest route. This memorial highlights one central truth: Mary is not only the Mother of Jesus, but the Mother of all who belong to Him—the Church.

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, May 23-4pm 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; V. J. & Carolyn Vicknair, Emily & Paul Bourgeois; Bill Toups; Vincent A. Forte, Jane T., Vennie & Vincent Pizzolato; Donald Aucoin, Aucoin & Wunstel Families; Alfred & Mercedes Carville, Louise & Edmund Bujol; M/M Tony Falcon, Anthony “Boyce” Falcon, Brandi Quatrevingt, M/M Ray Murry, Mark Murry, Lil Earl Quatrevingt, M/M Earl Quatrevingt, Tommy & Jay Quatrevingt, M/M C. J. Saurage, Brian & Randy Quatrevingt, M/M Ronald Lee Gary, M/M Gerald Morales, M/M Frank Tempanaro, M/M “Junior” Sanchez, Camile Tempanaro, M/M Alvin Altazan, Butch Altazan, M/M Clyde Favron, Shirley Favron; Isaac J. Vaughn, Jr., Brent Isaac Vaughn, Sidney Hedges, Sr., Ezora Hedges; John N. Gum, Jr.

Sunday, May 24-7:30am Mass

St. John Parishioners

Sunday, May 24-9am 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; Gerald “Pops” Boudreaux, Maydell Smothers, Tom Smothers; Denise Miranda; Benny & Annie Vaughn, Jessel & Eula Mae Ourso; Bart Tullier, Ruth, O’Neil & Robby Acosta; Rose Marie Canella LeBlanc, Jamie Cedotal Landry; St. John Class of 1966; Ruel Seneca, Sr., Ida Gaudet Family, Leah Diamond, Linda Raffle

Sunday, May 24-11am Mass

Cindy Dickerson; J. H. Millet, Milda Millet, M/M Tony Louis, M/M Harold Marionneaux; Donald Persick, Sr. & Jr.; Mary Schouest; Edward “Braco” Altazan

Tuesday, May 26-6pm Mass

Mark Allain, Beverly & Fred Allain; Angela & J. E. Dupont

Wednesday, May 27-7am Mass

The Mazone & Skidmore Families

Thursday, May 28-7am Mass

Alice, Alex & Joann Nolan

Friday, May 29-7am Mass

Emily Loubiere

Plaquemine Lions Club Benefit

The Lions Club will be selling spaghetti dinner tickets (**\$12**) **Sunday, May 17** outside the doors of the church before and after all Masses. You may pick up spaghetti dinners Sunday, May 24 at the Lions Club, 60255 Bayou Jacob Road from 10am until 12:30pm to benefit the visually impaired.

Baptisms & Baptism Seminars

Baptism Seminars — 7pm

Church Office Conference Room

Monday, June 1, 2026

Monday, July 6, 2026

Monday, August 3, 2026

Baptisms — Following 4pm Mass

Saturday, May 23, 2026

Saturday, June 27, 2026

Saturday, July 25, 2026

Saturday, August 22, 2026

During the early stages of pregnancy, please register online at www.stjohnchurchplaq.org under the FORMATION tab or call the church office at 225.687.2402. Confirm with Lily Skidmore at the church office as dates are subject to change.



Sanctuary Candle

May 17, 2026

St. John the Evangelist

Ragusa, Mancuso, Collins, Morales, Nola & Bezet Families

St. Clement of Rome

Kotchie Tullier

Coffee & Donuts

May 24, 2026

Lou Anna Canella & Lionel Schexnaldre (7:30 Mass)

Steve & Faith Maddox (9am Mass)



May Children’s Church

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

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Mass</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
May 17	9am	Tracy Cox
May 23	11am	Alexis Schlatre
May 31	9am	Carrie Leonard

St. John Altar Society

Essential Support System of the Church

Altar Society Team 3 will be cleaning the church Wednesday, May 20 at 8am. Volunteers are welcome!



Scripture Readings

Week of May 10, 2026

Feast of the Ascension

- Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9;
Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20
- Monday Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3b, 4-5acd,
6-7b; Jn 16:29-33
- Tuesday Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21;
Jn 17:1-11a
- Wednesday Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36b;
Jn 17:11b-19
- Thursday Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5,
7-11; Jn 17:20-26
- Friday Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12,
19-20b; Jn 21:15-19
- Saturday Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4-5, 7;
Jn 21:20-25
- Sunday Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34;
1Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

Kids Corner

Ascension of the Lord

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

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