

St. John the Evangelist Church

57805 Main Street — Plaquemine, Louisiana 70764-2531
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24 Hour Prayer Line: (225) 687-1554



Pastoral Team:

Rev. Gregory J. Daigle, Pastor
Alfred J. Ricard II, Deacon
Wanda Ashley, Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry
Donna Carville, R. C. I. A.
Website: www.stjohnchurchplaq.org
Email: stjohnchurchplaq@sj.brcoxmail.com
[facebook.com/pages/St John the Evangelist Catholic Church](https://facebook.com/pages/St%20John%20the%20Evangelist%20Catholic%20Church)

Parish Office Staff:

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

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm
Sunday 7:30 am

9:00 am
11:00 am

Monday (Liturgy of the Word) 7:00 am

Wed., Thurs., Fri. (Mass) 7:00 am

First Tuesday of the Month 6:00 pm

(Mass, Novena, Benediction and Anointing of the Sick)

All other Tuesdays - Confessions 5:30 pm

(Mass and Novena) 6:00 pm

Baptism: Please contact the Parish Office

Marriage: Please contact the pastor a minimum of six months before the wedding

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 3:00 pm

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2019

Gift 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 us take a look at those gifts and see how we can use them.

Wisdom is the gift of seeing God in 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 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 displays that gift in the Gospel. Fortitude 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, piety (seventh in Isaiah's text--"delight in the Lord"), a willingness to worship and love God, a desire to be close to God in prayer.

The final gift, fear of the Lord, is the awe and wonder of recognizing how great God is, how much God loves us, and how much we want to stay close to God. And the desire to be close to God circles back to the wisdom with which we see God in creation.

Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.



Bringing Christmas Joy



On Saturday, December 7, spend the afternoon with us at the St. John Rectory for our Parish Open House.

Everyone is invited to join Fr. Greg for an afternoon of refreshments and fellowship directly following 4pm Mass from 5pm until 7pm.

Advent Giving Tree

Giving Tree gifts are now due. We will be sorting the gifts in the Parish Hall on Sunday, December 15 if anyone would like to help. This will be a great opportunity for students to receive service hours.



GEMS (50 years and older) Christmas Potluck Luncheon

Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Time: 11am-1pm

Place: St. John Parish Hall

Meats, soft drinks and bread will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert and don't forget canned goods for Our Brother's Keeper Food Bank.

Holiday Visits to Homebound

We will be visiting the homebound, the sick and elderly parishioners during the holidays beginning Sunday, December 15.

Students will be baking goodies Friday and Saturday, December 13 and 14. If any student is interested in bringing joy to the homebound by helping bake, please call Donna Purpera at 225.716.0450. (Service hours will be given).

If anyone would like to help in any way, please call JoAnn Landry at 2258.776.0782.

Nativity Scene in Church

Our beautiful crèche with life-size Fontanini figures will be 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 the lights will be on daily from 7am-3:30pm beginning Friday, December 20, 2019 until Sunday, January 12, 2020.



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

Mary & Chuchie Flatau,
Anthony & Camella Orcino,
Orcino & Flatau Families, Pim & NuNu Clebert
Alex & Alice Nolan and Joann Nolan Serf

Christmas Music



Epiphany Concert

Once again, Fr. Greg Daigle will crown the Christmas season with songs of faith and other music as well on Epiphany Sunday, January 5 from 4pm-5:30pm at St. John Church.

These tickets (\$25) make wonderful Christmas gifts and are available for purchase through St. John School (225.687.3056) and the St. John church office (225.687.2402).

Make plans now to celebrate Christmas with your loved ones and help St. John School at the same time.

Let's Go Caroling!

Join the Catholic Daughters in bringing Christmas joy by caroling at the area nursing homes. We will meet Wednesday, December 11 beginning at 1pm at Iberville Oaks.



For more information, call the church office at 225.687.2402. Everyone is invited! Please join us.



St. John School Free Christmas Concerts

Come and enjoy the angelic voices of our St. John students in the spirit of Christmas.

Student Concert ~ Thursday, December 12 ~ 6pm
St. John Church

PreK-K Concert ~ Monday, December 16 ~ 6pm
St. Clement Church

The 8th Annual Cool Winter Nights, Hot Jazz



Tuesday & Wednesday, December 17 & 18, 2019
7:30pm

Shaw Center of the Arts Manship Theatre
100 Lafayette Street in Baton Rouge

Cool Winter Nights and Hot Jazz will feature Fr. Greg Daigle and others in a program of new arrangements and holiday favorites.

For more information and tickets, contact 225.344.0334,
www.manshiptheatre.org/events.



Our Hymn Selections this weekend:
(Subject to change)

Entrance: Ready the Way
Today's Missal 45
Preparation: Christ, Circle Round Us
Today's Missal 37
Communion: Come, Lord Jesus
Today's Missal 42
Sending Forth: **Instrumental**



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

4pm Mass (Children's Liturgy)

6pm Mass

12am — Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25, 2019

9am Mass

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday, December 28

4pm — Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 29

7:30am, 9am, 11am Masses

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

9am Mass

In Loving Memory

The beautiful floral arrangement placed at the feet of Our Blessed Mother was given in loving memory of:

Leana & Bob Brady



Welcome

We welcome the Order of Alhambra to 4pm Mass Saturday, December 7 and we welcome the Ladies of Peter Claver to 11am Mass Sunday, December 8.



A Grateful Acknowledgement

We gratefully acknowledge Dupont Nursery for donating the fall flowers which beautify our grounds. A grateful acknowledgement is also made to the landscape committee for their hard work in planting and tending the flowers.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

These words of Jesus are an excellent invitation to prayer before the Blessed Sacrament:

“Jesus said to the crowds: ‘Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.’” (Mt. 11:28-30)

Available hours for scheduled visitation to the Blessed Sacrament in the Adoration Chapel are:

- Sunday: 4pm-5pm
- Thursday: 4pm-5pm
- Thursday: 10pm-11pm
- Saturday: 10am-11am

To volunteer as a scheduled adorer or substitute, please contact JoAnn Daigle at 225.687.4621 or 225.776.4865.

Women's Silent Advent Retreat

“The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us...”

John 1:14

Saturday, December 14, 2019—10:30am-3pm

St. John the Evangelist Church Parish Hall

Lead by: The Holy Spirit & Gwen Hayes

A light lunch will be provided. Please register by calling 225.687.2402.



Knights of Columbus Calendars

The Knights of Columbus Charity Calendar Sales Drive is in progress.

Over \$15,000.00 in cash prizes!! Buy a calendar for \$20.00 and participate in 365 drawings REGARDLESS OF HOW OFTEN YOU WIN!! 2020 drawings begin the first week of February. Calendars can be purchased by contacting Ruel Seneca at 225.385.0930.

Please support the KCs and all the good works they do for our church and community.

Daily Scripture Readings — December 9-15, 2019

Monday, December 9:

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday, December 10:

Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10-13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday, December 11:

Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, December 12:

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bc,19;

Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

Friday, December 13:

Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, December 14:

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19;

Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday, December 15:

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Baptisms & Baptism Seminars

Baptism Seminars — 7pm

Church Office Third Floor

Monday, January 6, 2020

Monday, February 3, 2020



Baptisms — Following 4pm Mass

Saturday, December 28, 2019

Saturday, January 25, 2020

Saturday, February 22, 2020

Dates are subject to change. Please call the church office at 225.687.2402 during the early stages of pregnancy to confirm the dates of the seminar.

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2019

St. John the Evangelist
Rev. Gregory J. Daigle

One Minute Meditations

St. Maria di Rosa

Born "Paula" in Brescia, Italy, Maria di Rosa

was the daughter of a mill owner and a countess. Coming from a wealthy family didn't spare her from difficulty. She lost her mother when young. At seventeen years old, she left school to work with her father at the mill. During the cholera epidemic of 1836, she cared for the sick. In 1840, she founded the Handmaids of Charity to care for the wounded during the wars.

Agent of change

True conversion is the work of the Holy Spirit. Salvation and faith are gifts from God – gifts that are not ours to give. Yet, believers are called to join with the Holy Spirit to bring others to God. When we have a strong and personal relationship with Jesus, we can be his agents of change.

"Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

(Isaiah 40:5).



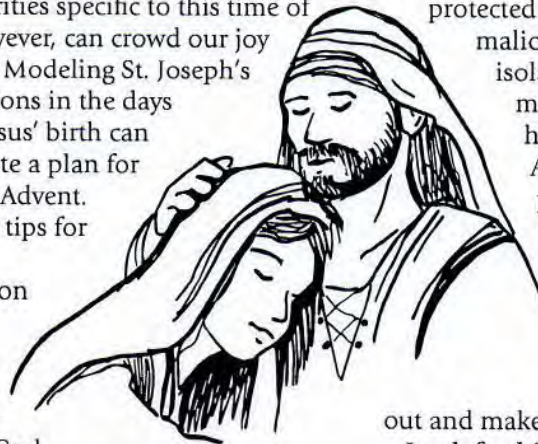
The joyful expectation of Advent

Jesus' birth at Christmas is real and amazing evidence of God's love. The priorities specific to this time of year, however, can crowd our joy and awe. Modeling St. Joseph's preparations in the days before Jesus' birth can help create a plan for our own Advent. Try these tips for joyful expectation of our Savior's birth.

Create silence. God found the quiet he needed in St. Joseph's life to speak and be heard over the noise of the carpenter's shop, the needs of neighbors, the demands of tax collectors. In the silence St. Joseph created just for him, God was able to work miracles.

Keep out the devil. When Joseph found out Mary was pregnant, he protected her from the evil of malicious gossip and isolation. He helped her to make a God-centered home filled with Love. Although the devil is powerful, he cannot go where he is not permitted. When we stay close to the Sacraments and live a God-centered life, we, too, keep the devil out and make room for Love.

Look for him. Can you imagine the joy with which St. Joseph expected Jesus' coming? We celebrate Jesus' arrival in Bethlehem with joy. We can joyfully welcome him into our lives now. And, with joy we can look forward to Christ's coming in glory on the Last Day.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics celebrate Christmas after December 26?

The Catholic Christmas is not just one day but an entire liturgical season. It begins with the vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 12th this year). During the celebration of Christmas,

we rejoice in the realization of God's plan for our salvation. God became man to save us. Thus, the Church makes sure we have enough time — almost a month — to fully celebrate such a joyful, hope-filled, destiny-altering event.



Open your heart to the Christmas promise

This time of year reminds us of our hope for a future of peace. But we cannot achieve this peace on our own. We must open our hearts to the promise of Christmas.

"One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again" (Isaiah 2:4). Violence flourishes if the world accepts it as inevitable. The world can change if the love of the Christmas Child takes root in our hearts. Peace flows from hearts that love.

"The poor will eat their fill; those who seek



the Lord will offer praise" (Psalm 22:27). Peace spreads more easily when all have enough. These days the poor are everywhere and people are struggling to hold onto hope. If we each make our holiday charitable efforts a year-round habit, perhaps the words of the psalmist will come true.

"The virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). This Christmas we can once again rekindle our own sense of innocence and hope.

from Scripture

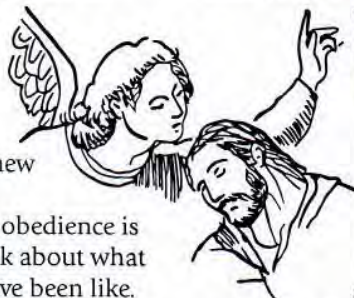
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23, Trust God like St. Joseph did

By the time Mary gave birth to Jesus, St. Joseph was used to following orders from God without question. So when the angel appeared to him in his sleep urging him to flee to Egypt, Joseph obeyed immediately. He trusted that God would take care of him and his new family.

Joseph's unquestioning obedience is remarkable when we think about what the birth of Jesus must have been like. Mary and Joseph had traveled in the last stages of her pregnancy from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Whether on foot or donkey, it was a dirty, exhausting journey.

Once there, there was nowhere to stay except with the animals. After a short time, they fled to Egypt to escape danger, and stayed there for some years without family or friends. Through it all, Joseph trusted God to protect his family.

Being perfect didn't shield the Holy Family from experiencing pain and difficulty much like we do. Yet Scripture tells us that Mary and Joseph found strength from their faith in God and were guided by his Word. We can do the same.



Q Why does the & Church year A begin in Advent?

The Church has a liturgical year with its own seasons that help us to mark events that are important to Catholics. However, the Church year doesn't start

on January 1, or even on December 25 — when we celebrate Christ's birthday. Instead, it begins on the first Sunday of Advent, the season before Christmas.



Advent is the perfect season for new beginnings. It's a season of preparation: the King of Kings is coming! There are three "arrivals" of Christ to prepare for and celebrate: as an infant at Bethlehem, at Mass in the Eucharist, and as the King of Glory at the end of time.

In order to properly greet such a Guest, the Church sets aside this time for us to purify our hearts and souls. Whether that means being with God in prayer, attending Confession, volunteering in the community or cleaning house, Advent is the time for it. The Church wants us to begin the year well by preparing to welcome the King who comes to "make all things new" (Revelation 21:5).

Feasts & Celebrations

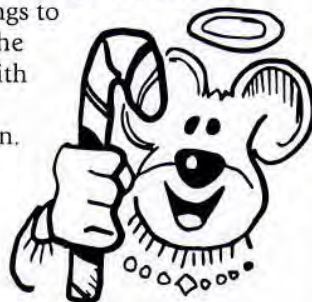
Dec. 1 – First Sunday in Advent. During this season, we anticipate Christ's coming. Catholics around the world light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.

Dec. 9 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception (1854). This feast day commemorates that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without Original Sin. Attending Mass is a wonderful way to celebrate.

Dec. 9 – St. Juan Diego (1548). St. Juan Diego was visited by the Blessed Mother at Tepeyac Hill in Mexico. She

asked that a chapel be built and sent him to the bishop with roses as a sign. When the roses were emptied from his cloak, it retained the image of Our Lady which can still be seen today.

Dec. 21 – St. Peter Canisius (1597). Born in Holland, he was ordained into the Society of Jesus and worked strenuously through his writings and teachings to safeguard the Catholic faith after the Reformation. His work, *The Catechism*, is still used today.



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)

MASS INTENTIONS — December 14-20, 2019

Saturday, December 14-4pm 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; Joseph Graves, W. A. Graves Family, Jack Jackson, Thomas Morales Family; John H. Businelle; Aubrey Quebedeaux, Wally, Dub & Aline Comeaux; Tony Mancuso; The Currier Family; Lina Migliacio; In Thanksgiving to St. Anthony: In Honor of the Infant Jesus

Sunday, December 15-7:30am Mass

St. John Parishioners



Sunday, December 15-9am 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; Linda Seneca Rafflee, Norman J. Morales, Cathy B. Dupont, Ruel J. Seneca, Sr.; Benny & Annie Vaughn, Harold, Sr., Barbara & Frances Himel; Kathleen Anastasio; Connor Brown; Virginia Simon

Sunday, December 15-11am Mass

Cindy Dickerson; Fette Hebert; Betty Guillot Landry; Betty Gongre; Isaac Vaughn, Jr., M/M Sydney Hedges, Sr.

Tuesday, December 17-6pm Mass

Father Pat Mascarella; Tracie Caston, Harry & Vivian Banta

Wednesday, December 18-7am Mass

Jim Morris

Thursday, December 19-7am Mass

Brenda Comeaux

Friday, December 20-7am Mass

Maria & Frank Ebert, Arthur & Ida Mae Ganaway

Stewardship



November 16 & 17, 2019

Identified.....\$ 7,529.00
Number — 233
Unidentified.....\$ 1,538.00
Other Collections.....\$ 811.00
Number — 54

November 23 & 24, 2019

Identified.....\$ 7,027.00
Number — 246
Unidentified.....\$ 1,472.00
Other Collections.....\$ 847.00
Number — 65

November 30 & December 1, 2019

Identified.....\$10,097.00
Number — 265
Unidentified.....\$ 1,185.00
Other Collections.....\$ 825.00
Number — 53

Note: The Retirement Fund for Religious will be taken in the regular collection at all Masses this weekend. Please be generous to those who have given so much.

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 future bulletins.



Sanctuary Candle December 15, 2019

St. John the Evangelist Church
Roy A. Hebert & David G. Hebert

St. Clement of Rome Church
Tina Ferachi Loyacano
Agnes & Sam Coletti

Month of the Immaculate Conception

The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Chosen before time to be the Mother of God Incarnate, Jesus Christ, God created Mary perfect and full of grace, preserving her from the stain of Original Sin. Mary Immaculate is the most beautiful fruit of the work of redemption accomplished by her Son, thereby making her the perfect model of holiness for all Christians.

Weekly Ministries

Altar Society

Altar Society Team 2 will be cleaning the Church Wednesday, December 11 at 8am.

Volunteers are welcome!



Children's Liturgy December 15, 2019

Tracy Cox (9am Mass)

Coffee and Donuts December 15, 2019

Gordon & Marianne Gregoire (7:30am Mass)

Roger & Rosalind Sadden (9am Mass)





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