

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH



57805 Main Street • Plaquemine, Louisiana 70764
 Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
 stjohchurchplaq.org • (225) 687-2402 • Fax (225) 687-1587
 stjohchurchplaq@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 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
 Saturday3:00-3:30 pm



The Epiphany of the Lord

January 4, 2026

The Star of Bethlehem

Almost every year at Christmastime, you can find a newspaper article or TV documentary about the star of Bethlehem. Astronomers give various theories about whether the magi saw a supernova, or a comet, or a conjunction of two or more planets. But for us, the star has a deeper meaning.

In Matthew's Gospel, light is used as a symbol of the good news of Jesus coming into the world. That's why verse 9 of the Gospel has the image of the star preceding the wise men and stopping over the house where Jesus was. By following the star, they become followers of Christ. So what do the magi show us about following Jesus? First, they take the initiative. They saw the star, figured out what it meant, and made their journey. As followers of Jesus, we can look for what needs to be done (in our family, parish, or community) and do it.

Second, they expressed their faith in Jesus by the gifts they brought: gold—a gift for a king, who is worthy to be followed; frankincense—Jesus is worthy to be worshiped as Son of God; and myrrh—Jesus becomes king by dying for

us all. We can express our faith in many ways. We can volunteer to help the poor, the elderly, or the disabled. We can teach our children how to pray and tell them about all that God has done for us.

Third, they were not afraid to take risks for Jesus. How often do we take risks for the Lord, by openly speaking about our faith, or giving God credit for the good that we do? Let the star of Bethlehem remind us that Jesus is the star of our lives. Tom Schmidt



Eucharistic Adoration

Come and Adore. Jesus is waiting for YOU.

Do not be afraid. —Luke 5:10

Let Jesus' words to Peter settle in your heart as well. Let them convince you that it's perfectly safe to come into the presence of God. On the contrary, it's the most rewarding, joyous, saving thing you could ever do—and you can do it every single day! —"The Word Among Us"

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.

Spring Bible Study

The Gospel of Luke

The Gospel of Luke takes you on a journey that begins with the foretelling of John the Baptist's birth and culminates in Jesus' ascension into heaven.

Spring Bible Study begins Thursday, January 8, 2026.

You may attend any one of the sessions offered.

Sessions include Mondays: 1-2:30pm or

Thursdays: 1:30-3pm or 6:15-7:45pm

Call the church office at 225.687.2402 to register for the 8-week study. The \$35 fee for the workbook may be paid at the first session.

Scripture Readings

Week of January 4, 2026

Sunday	The Epiphany of the Lord Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Mt 2:1-12
Monday	1 Jn 3:22—4:6; Ps 2:7b-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday	1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday	1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52
Thursday	1 Jn 4:19—5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a
Friday	1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
Saturday	1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30
Sunday	Is 42:1-4, 6-7, Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 Acts 10:34-38, Mt 3:13-17

Ritualsong

The Epiphany of the Lord #1110

Entrance: We Three Kings of Orient Are #547

Preparation: **Instrumental**

Communion: The First Nowell #554

Sending Forth: Go Tell It on the Mountain #530



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 until **Sunday, January 18, 2026.**

Baptisms & Baptism Seminars

Baptism Seminars

Monday, January 12, 2026

Monday, February 2, 2026

Monday, March 2, 2026

Baptisms

Saturday, January 24, 2026

NO BAPTISMS DURING LENT

The Baptism Seminars are held in the church office conference room at 7pm. Baptisms are usually held once a month following 4pm Mass.

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.

Called By Name

Chosen for Consecrated Life

"For out of you shall come forth a ruler who will shepherd My people." Is Christ calling you forth out of your comfort zone to serve Him in others as a sister, brother, or priest? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 225.336.8778 or via email: ablount@diobr.org



2025 St. John Church Decorating Volunteers

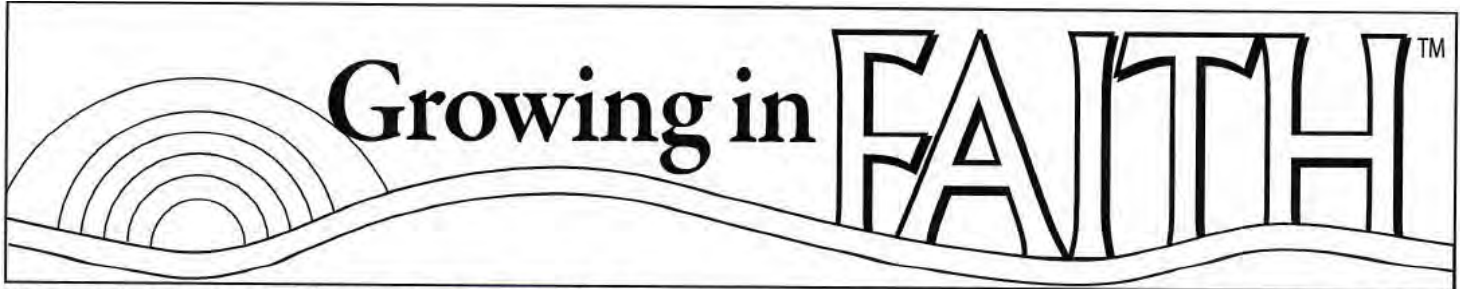


We are grateful for the 54 volunteers who helped this year in setting up the crèche and putting up the decorations in the church. All volunteers were not available for the picture, but are listed.

Betty Aucoin, Deanna Berry, Katie Berthelot, Gary Bertrand, Tommy Bickham, Boonie Boudreaux, Coot Breaux, Janet Bryant, Billy Bujol, Lo Ann Carline, Charlie Carville, Donna Carville, Christina Cedotal, Danny Cedotal, Derryl Comeaux, Kara Crochet, Charles Crochet, Joey Daigle, Kathy D'Albor, Andrew David, Jeremy David, Lorraine Hidalgo, Ann Joffrion, Eddie Kimble, Beverly Kolder, Kevin Kolder, Roy Kolder, Barry Lamothe, Jo Ann Landry, Thomas LeBlanc, Tommy LeBlanc, Nathaniel Lindsay, David LoBue, Audrey Martinez, John Miller, Alice Mire, Peedy Mire, Rita Jean Mooney, Kattie Nicolosi, LeBoeuf Ourso, Samantha O'Sullivan, Gary Perrault, Kayla Prudhomme, Neal Prudhomme, George Ramirez, Trish Ramirez, Ed Reeves, Peshu Richard, Ralph Rivet, Roger Sadden, Fred Sanchez, Bart Schlatre, David Temparano and Jacob Wilbert.



Helping trim Fr. Martin's Christmas tree and display his olive wood Nativity set from Israel are seated, l to r, with Fr. Martin, Trish Ramirez and Betty Aucoin. Standing are Donna Carville Deanna Berry, Tonya Orcino, Audrey Martinez and Derryl Comeaux.



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

January 2026

St. John the Evangelist

Rev. Martin Lawrence

One Minute Meditations

St. Genevieve of Paris

Born in 422, in Nanterre, France, St. Genevieve consecrated herself to God when she was fifteen. She became known for her charity and gift of prophecy. She predicted Paris would be spared from attack by the Huns and led the people in fasting and prayer. Paris was spared. When King Childeric and his son Clovis I conquered Paris, Genevieve convinced Childeric to release his captives. She became a trusted advisor to Clovis, who converted to Christianity.

The Jesus Prayer

January is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus, reminding the faithful of the power and reverence due to His Name: *"At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth"* (Phil 2:10). A fitting prayer for this month is the Jesus Prayer, long cherished in Eastern Catholic and Eastern Orthodox traditions: *"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner."* Simple yet profound, this prayer can be repeated throughout the day. Prayed attentively, it deepens love and reverence for Christ, invokes His saving grace, and helps cultivate a steady spirit of prayer, humility, and interior peace.

"The things that we love tell us what we are." St. Thomas Aquinas

Turning our hearts back to God

Converting our hearts back to God begins with an honest pause – not a dramatic moment, but a decision to look at our lives as they really are. What shapes our days? What gets our best energy, our first thoughts, our deepest trust? Whatever holds that place is, in practice, what we put first.

Putting God first starts with intention. We make room for Him by removing what crowds Him out. A few minutes of prayer before reaching for a phone. A short passage of Scripture read slowly instead of rushed. These small choices retrain the heart. They remind us to whom we belong.

Repentance is part of the return, but it is not about shame. It is about direction. To repent means to turn. We admit where we've drifted and choose a better path. God does not demand perfection before welcoming us back. He asks for honesty and willingness.

Trust follows close behind. Many of us profess trust in God but still rely

on our own control. Putting Him first means surrendering outcomes we cannot manage anyway. It means praying not only for help, but for guidance, even when the answer may change our plans.

Faith moves us to action. When we

"Do not let the past disturb you. Just leave everything in the Sacred Heart and begin again with joy." St. Teresa of Calcutta

align our choices with God's teachings, our hearts follow. Faith leads to action. Forgiving when necessary. Serving when it is inconvenient. Giving when it feels risky. These actions reshape our priorities.

Community matters. Worship, shared prayer, and accountability keep our hearts oriented toward God when we are tempted to drift.

Turning back to God is rarely instantaneous. It is daily, deliberate, and deeply personal. Each step taken toward Him strengthens the heart's true center.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics bless themselves with holy water?

Blessing ourselves with holy water when entering a Catholic church recalls the ritual washings of the Old Testament, through which the Jews purified themselves before approaching God in the Temple. St. John the Baptist built on this tradition by using water as a sign of repentance and conversion.

Today, this gesture reminds us of our Baptism and renews our commitment to live the Faith. As a sacramental, holy water disposes us to receive God's grace, strengthens us against temptation, and, with proper repentance, helps remit venial sins.

New Year, new habits build change that lasts

Starting and maintaining New Year's resolutions can be difficult for the same reason cultivating virtue is difficult: both require forming new habits. Perseverance rarely comes from sheer willpower alone. Practical strategies, supported by grace, make growth more sustainable.

Begin with achievable goals. Set yourself up for early success by practicing self-denial in small, manageable ways. Learning to say no in minor matters builds the discipline needed to resist greater temptations later.

Replace, rather than simply remove. It is often easier to abandon an unhealthy habit when it is substituted with a better one. Just as swapping potato chips for pretzels can make dietary

changes more attainable, uprooting vice is aided by cultivating the opposing virtue. Greed is weakened by generosity.

Seek accountability. A trusted friend, exercise partner, or prayer companion can provide encouragement and consistency for change. Knowing someone is watching makes it more difficult to give up when motivation fades.

Above all, rely on grace. God invites us to call upon Him, especially in moments of weakness, often marked by anger or anxiety, fatigue, hunger, or sadness. In those moments, turn to the Holy Spirit for strength and consolation, trusting the Lord's promise: *"The Lord will fight for you; you have only to keep still"* (Exodus 14:14).

from **S**cripture

Matthew 4:12-23, Discipleship is the greatest adventure

This Gospel passage recounts the call of the first disciples. They may not have known Jesus personally at first, but they knew about Him through John the Baptist (John 1:35-42). Hearing the invitation to know Jesus better and follow Him closely, the men dropped what they were doing "at once" and left everything behind.

Under Christ's leadership, the disciples went on to do amazing deeds. They worked miracles, brought the Gospel to distant lands, won countless souls for Heaven, and suffered many

hardships, even martyrdom. The secret of their success was their relationship with Christ as their God, Savior, Teacher, and Friend who promised to be with them always (Matthew 28:20).

All of us are called to be saints – friends of God. Jesus Christ invites each of us, in particular, to know and follow Him. While few of us are called to leave everything behind, we can still offer everything we have to God's service. We can still give our "Yes." Pursuing authentic holiness isn't boring but a great adventure!

Q & A Why is the feast of the Epiphany important?

The Feast of the Epiphany, celebrated this year on January 4, is important because it celebrates the public revelation of Jesus Christ as Savior of the whole world. The word epiphany means "manifestation" or "revealing."

Originally, the feast commemorated the visit of the Magi, wise men from the East, who followed the star to Bethlehem. In honoring the Magi, the Church proclaims that salvation is universal and that Gentiles are fully included in God's plan.

Traditionally, Epiphany also encompasses two other key moments of revelation: Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan and His first miracle at the wedding at Cana. At His Baptism, the Father's voice and the descent of the Holy Spirit reveal Jesus as God's Son. At Cana, Jesus manifests His divine power publicly for the first time. Together, these events reveal who Jesus truly is.

Epiphany calls us to respond as the Magi did: to seek Christ, to worship Him, and to offer Him our lives. It reminds us that faith is not meant to be hidden, but proclaimed.

Feasts & Celebrations

January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. When we celebrate this feast, we honor Mary, but also acknowledge Jesus as true God and true Man. Mary's title highlights God's humility, in that God chose to come to us through Mary, as a vulnerable newborn. This year, it is a holy day of obligation.

January 5 – St. John Neumann (1860). The first American bishop to be canonized was born in the present-day Czech Republic in 1811. St. John traveled to New York as a missionary before becoming bishop of Philadelphia. He built up the Catholic school system and established diocesan

schools. He also built more than 89 churches, several hospitals and orphanages.

January 11 – The Baptism of the Lord (1st Century). Jesus began His public ministry by getting baptized by St. John the Baptist. Jesus was to be baptized to "*fulfill all righteousness*" (Matthew 3:15). This was also when God reveals Jesus as His "*beloved Son*" (Matthew 3:17).

January 13 – St. Hilary of Poitiers (367). St. Hilary converted to Christianity as a young man and was elected bishop around 350. St. Hilary spent most of his office battling the Arian heresy, which denied the Divinity of Christ. He was exiled to Phrygia. He spent his four-year exile writing and teaching against Arianism until the emperor begged him to return home.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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Publishers of *Growing in Faith™* and *Partners in Faith™*
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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, January 10-4pm 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; Sue Landry Dugas; V. J. & Carolyn Vicknair, Emily & Paul Bourgeois; M/M John Caffarel, Sr., M/M G. E. Marix; Anthony & Frances Palermo, Jim Cashiola, Daisy P. King; Hilda S. Haydel; Carlo, Kurt, Andrew & Josephine Canova; Barbara Himel; Paul & Jenise Ortis, Earl & Mary Devillier; Ltc Craig T. Robinson, Tonto, Rodney & Marie Pizzolato Blanchard; Rose, Benny & Sid Quatrevingt, Gulotta & Quatrevingt Families; Pat Messina; Lindon "Noonie" Rivet; Allen "Dottie" Rivere, Julius & Neva Bolotte; Louise & Edmund Bujol

Sunday, January 11-7:30am Mass

St. John Parishioners

Sunday, January 11-9am 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; Van & Thelma Junot, Elvis & Mamie Rabalais; Donald F. Stockman; James Roucher, Rusty Roucher; Joe & Maggie Gullotto, A. J. & Lola Adams, Lawrence & Winnie Miller, Paul & Myrtle Richard, Edward Miller; Jason Guidry; Roselyn & Fred Sanchez; Denise Miranda; Benny & Annie Vaughn, Jessel & Eula Mae Ourso; Sue Dugas

Sunday, January 11-11am Mass

Cindy Dickerson, Harry Marionneaux, Paul, Doris & Charles Barbier; Michael Shepherd, Ruth "Se Se" Becnel, Pauline & Alcee Becnel, Jr.; Marshall & Virginia Peavy, Cleo & Ella Dupont; Rachael & Dom Engolio; Joseph & Lillian Crescionne, Peter & Rosalie Crescionne, Dr. Joseph & Tina Alesi; Patrick, J. P. & Anna Gaudet, Irvin "Pajo" Settoon III

Tuesday, January 13-6pm Mass

M/M Jules J. Noel, Jr., Dave & Eleanor Schnebelen, John Orcino, Sr.; Mike Beraud, Brooklyn Landry, Joyce Dupre; Thelma & Winley Alexander, Ruth & Bill Ostergren

Wednesday, January 14-7am Mass

J. H. Millet

Thursday, January 15-7am Mass

Ed Bahry

Friday, January 16-7am Mass

Dudley Nicolosi, Beryl Schexnaildre Fourroux, Schexnaildre & Nicolosi Families

St. John Altar Society

Essential Support System of the Church

Altar Society Team 1 will be cleaning the church Wednesday, January 7 at 8am. Volunteers are welcome!



Sanctuary Candle

January 4, 2026

St. John the Evangelist
**Mary & Chuchie Flatau
Orcino & Flatau Families**

St. Clement of Rome
Brenda Comeaux

Coffee & Donuts

January 11, 2026

June Pinsonat, Sandra Bizette, Mary Jo Caffarel
(7:30 Mass)



Ruel & Diana Seneca (9am Mass)

Children's Church — January 2026

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>
January 11	9am	Carrie Leonard
January 18	11am	Taylor Campbell
January 25	9am	Tracy Cox

Kids Corner

Epiphany of the Lord

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

Born King Star Priests Scribes
 Land Ruler Shepherd Child Treasure

*January Devotion:**The Holy Name of Jesus**Major Feast: Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus (January 3)*

We kick off the year by remembering the "...name that is above every name" (Philippians 2:9). The Holy Name of Jesus contains immense power and majesty. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "The name 'Jesus' contains all: God and man and the whole economy of creation and salvation. To pray 'Jesus' is to invoke him and to call him within us. His name is the only one that contains the presence it signifies. Jesus is the Risen One, and whoever invokes the name of Jesus is welcoming the Son of God who loved him and who gave himself up for him."

How to Celebrate: Pray the Jesus prayer, **Lord Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner,** or make reparations to the sins against the Holy Name of Jesus by praying the Divine Praises every day this month.

