

# 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 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



## Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy) April 12, 2026

### X-treme Christians

You may notice that Acts of the Apostles is the source of the first reading during the Easter season. This book describes how Christianity grew from a handful of disciples to a major religion. Today's reading about an ideal Christian community is meant to show ordinary believers how to be extraordinary, using three examples I call power, property, and prayer.

Power means the "signs and wonders" (Acts 2:43) performed by the disciples through the power of the Holy Spirit. This should be named last because it takes a lot of faith to heal the sick. If you had the same faith as the apostles, you just might be able to cure the sick. Or you might study to become a doctor and cure them with medical skills. As long as you acknowledge that God gave you the brains and the talent to become a doctor, you are doing God's work.

By property, I mean sharing what you have with those in need. Many disciples were moved to sell their goods and share them with the poor, and word of that must have spread. If you are not called to sell all your goods and become a monk or a nun, you can still tithe to your church or the poor, tutor disadvantaged kids, or help build or repair houses in poor areas. The point is that followers of Christ are not just individual do-gooders. They are a community of believers who care about each other and also care about the non-believers who need help of any kind.

So where did these first disciples get the faith to cure the sick and the love to help the needy? The answer is the third example—prayer. In the first reading we hear how "they devoted themselves . . . to the breaking of the bread" (Acts 2:42, 46)—their name for the Eucharist. They also went to the temple to pray, because at that time most disciples were Jewish Christians. As they heard the Hebrew scriptures, they saw how God's promises were fulfilled in Christ. All of these practices helped unite them to Christ and to each other. Tom Schmidt



## Eucharistic Adoration

### An Invitation to Prayer Before the Blessed Sacrament

“But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.” —Mt 6:6

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.brcocmail.com](mailto:susanblandry@sj.brcocmail.com).

## 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:

**Peter Migliacio**

Donated by:  
**Stacey Decuir**

## Outdoor Mass & Family Day

**Sunday, April 19, 2026**

Our Annual Outdoor Mass and Family Day will be held next Sunday, April 19 at the Mark A. “Tony” Gulotta Bayou Plaquemine Waterfront Park. The 11am Outdoor Holy Mass will be followed by a full day of activities. There will be face painting, balloons and a bounce house for the children. We will be serving jambalaya, hot dogs and fried fish. The Catholic Daughters will be assisting in the “sweets room” and ask for donations for dessert, preferably single serve treats.

Join us for a fun day of food, festivities and fellowship!

## Altar Server Training & Pizza Party

Father Martin is holding an altar server training on **Saturday, April 18** from 9 to 11am in the parish hall. Anyone who has received their First Communion and is interested in this ministry is invited to attend, get training, and get scheduled to start serving at Holy Mass. Pizza will be served after the training.

## Ritualsong

**Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy) #1167**

Entrance: Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones #989

Preparation: I Know That My Redeemer Lives! #611

Communion: O Sons and Daughters #612

Sending Forth: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You #707

## Adult Confirmation

If you are 18 years of age or over and have not been confirmed in the Catholic Church, please call the church office at 225.687.2402, to attend 5 classes on Confirmation beginning **Sunday, April 19** (9:45-10:45am) through Sunday, May 17. Confirmation will be on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 2026 at St. Joseph Cathedral by Bishop Michael Duca.

Register by visiting [www.stjohnchurchplaq.org](http://www.stjohnchurchplaq.org) and filling out the OCIA form found under the FORMATION tab. You may call the St. John Church Office for more information.

## Holy Spirit Prayer Group

The Holy Spirit Prayer Group will meet Sunday, April 12 from 4-6pm in church. The mission of the prayer group is to offer praise to God, and intercessory prayers for individuals, our community and the needs of the world. For more information, contact the church office at 225.687.2402. All are welcome! Come join us!



## Baptisms & Baptism Seminars

**Baptism Seminars — 7pm**

**Church Office Conference Room**

**\*\*Monday, April 13, 2026**

Monday, May 4, 2026

Monday, June 1, 2026

**Baptisms — Following 4pm Mass**

Saturday, April 18, 2026

Saturday, May 23, 2026

Saturday, June 27, 2026

During the early stages of pregnancy, please register online at [www.stjohnchurchplaq.org](http://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.

**\*\*Note Change**



## Easter Flower Donations 2026



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Mr. & Mrs. Jim Bradley  
(continued in future bulletins)

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

April 2026

**St. John the Evangelist**  
Rev. Martin E. Lawrence

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Anselm of Canterbury

Born in Aosta, Italy, he attended a Benedictine school as a youth. After traveling around France and Italy for his studies, St. Anselm entered the Benedictine Order. When the current Archbishop of Canterbury died, Anselm, who by then was a Benedictine abbot, was promoted as Canterbury's new Archbishop. St. Anselm navigated church reforms, theological study, and political tensions. He was exiled for resisting the king's interference in Church matters but was allowed to return in peace.

### Glorious wounds

Every Easter, we celebrate that Jesus definitively conquered sin, evil and death. God, not evil, has "the last laugh." Yet, He still has His wounds. The Resurrection transformed what were wounds of rejection into glorious trophies - proof of His love, power, and trustworthiness as our Savior. When we encounter difficulty, even great suffering, we can look to the glorious wounds of our Savior with hope. If we stay close to Him, we'll be victorious too.

"It comes down to this: If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, then Christianity is a fraud and a sham. If He did rise from the dead, then He is who He said He is, and our lives must change accordingly. There is no middle ground."

Bishop Robert Barron

## Don't Just Celebrate Easter. Step Into It.

At the heart of Christianity is not just an idea or a rule of life, but an encounter with the Risen Christ and the new life of grace He offers. Easter invites us to step into that life more deliberately. Here are four simple ways to begin:

**Encounter the Risen Christ.** Mary Magdalene stood before Jesus and didn't recognize Him until He spoke her name (John 20:16), and her grief became joy. That encounter is possible for us. Come to Mass with intention. Don't just attend—arrive expecting to meet Him. Listen closely, pray honestly, and remember that in the Eucharist, Christ is truly present.

*Practical step: Before Mass, pray, "Jesus, help me recognize You today."*

**Take an "Emmaus walk."** Two disciples left Jerusalem discouraged, and Jesus met them on the road. He helped them to see God's faithfulness in their lives. He can do the same for you. Take time this Easter season for a quiet walk with Him. Speak openly about what's

on your heart, and listen for His voice.

*Practical step: Ask, "Lord, where have You been at work in my life that I haven't seen?"*

**Choose mercy.** Jesus gave His Apostles the power to forgive sins (John 20:21-23), ensuring His mercy would always be available. We're called to receive it—

*"Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ." John Paul II*

and extend it. Forgive, hold back harsh words, and choose patience.

*Practical step: Identify one situation where you can offer a concrete act of mercy this week.*

**Be open to mission.** The Resurrection sends us out. God still calls ordinary people for His work. Your mission may be simple: show patience, reach out, or step up where needed.

*Practical step: Ask, "Where am I being nudged to act?" Then take one small step.*

Easter isn't just celebrated—it's lived, one step at a time.

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics believe in the Resurrection?

The Resurrection is not only a matter of faith; it has also been examined through historical and forensic inquiry. The New Testament accounts draw on early eyewitness testimony, preserved with notable consistency compared to other ancient sources. The Shroud of Turin has likewise been widely studied, with some researchers noting

features consistent with a first-century Roman crucifixion, while the image's formation remains unexplained. Finally, despite intense early persecution, Christianity spread rapidly, reflecting the deep conviction of its first followers. Together, these considerations suggest the Resurrection is rooted in both faith and historical reflection.

## After Lent, the work begins

Pope Leo XIV described Lent as a time to “place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives.” Yet the growth in holiness and renewal of faith that begins in Lent is meant to continue well beyond the season.

**Keep custody of the heart.** To guard the heart is to protect it from whatever disrupts our relationship with God. It means “allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit.” The habits formed during Lent can help sustain this: a daily Morning Offering, reading the Gospel, or setting aside time to visit the Blessed Sacrament. A healthy spiritual life depends on staying connected to the God who loves us most.

**Keep custody of the tongue.** This is a form of fasting that

lasts all year. Pope Leo urges us to “disarm our language,” avoiding harsh words and rash judgment. Refusing gossip and slander is an act of self-denial. Instead, we are called to measure our words and practice kindness and respect. This simple discipline can bring new life not only to our own hearts, but to those around us.

**Keep custody of your time.** What we give our time to shapes who we become. It’s easy to let our days fill with noise, distraction, and busyness that leave little room for God. Be intentional about how you spend your time. Protect moments for prayer, rest, and what truly matters—your family, your vocation, your relationship with the Lord. Even small choices, repeated daily, create space for grace to grow.

### from **S**cripture

#### John 10:1-10, The Good Shepherd seeks us

In this passage, Jesus uses the image of a shepherd to reveal who He is, how He cares for us, and how He invites us to respond. But why a shepherd?

In Jesus’ time, shepherding was a demanding and often dangerous way of life. A good shepherd knew each sheep personally and remained constantly with the flock. Many sheepfolds had no gates; at night, the shepherd would lie across the entrance, becoming the barrier that protected the sheep from danger. If a sheep was lost, injured, or attacked, the shepherd would go after it, tending to its wounds and, if

necessary, risking his own life.

The meaning is clear. Without the steady care, guidance, and protection of the shepherd, the sheep would not survive. In the same way, we depend on God. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows each of us by name. He does not abandon us. He seeks us out when we are lost, heals us when we are wounded, provides for our needs, and protects us—even to the point of laying down His life.

In response, He asks for our trust, so that He may lead us safely home.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**April 2 – Holy Thursday.** Today, we celebrate Jesus’ institution of the Holy Eucharist and the Priesthood to perpetuate it. Today, we celebrate He who remains really present to us in the Blessed Sacrament. Pray for priests.

**April 12 – Divine Mercy Sunday.** In 1931, Jesus appeared to St. Faustina and asked that the Sunday after Easter become the “Feast of Mercy.” Jesus promised special graces to those who honor Him as the King of Mercy and pray The Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

**April 17 – St. Stephen Harding (1134).** St. Stephen and two companions founded the Cistercian religious order in Cîteaux. As abbot, he guided the community through many hardships. St. Bernard of Clairvaux and

several companions joined him and revived the order. St. Stephen founded twelve more religious communities throughout France.

**April 20 – St. Agnes of Montepulciano (1317).** At a young age, she begged her parents to let her enter the Franciscans. When she was thirteen, the pope asked her to found a monastery at Proceno. Inspired by a vision, she founded a Dominican order at Montepulciano.

**April 30 – Pope St. Pius V (1572).** Born to a poor family in Italy, Antonio Ghislieri became a Dominican, taught theology, and became Pope Pius V. As Pope, he established seminaries and hospitals, and published the Roman Catechism, Roman Breviary, and the Missal. He promoted the praying of the Rosary for the victory of Christian forces at the Battle of Lepanto (1571). He is also known for efforts to implement the Council of Trent.

### **Q & A** Why Do Catholics eat bacon on St. Mark’s feast day?

The Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist (April 25) has become, for many Catholics, a fitting day to enjoy bacon. The Church has a long tradition of honoring saints through liturgical celebrations, local customs, and even particular foods—practices that help preserve our shared spiritual heritage and remember their heroic witness.

In 828, Venetian merchants transferred the relics of St. Mark from Alexandria, Egypt, to Venice, Italy. To pass safely through Muslim-controlled ports, they hid the relics beneath layers of pork, a meat considered unclean under Islamic law. According to tradition, port officials, repelled by the cargo, chose not to inspect it closely, allowing the relics to reach Venice safely, where they remain today. In remembrance of this event, some Catholics mark his feast day—or the anniversary of the relics’ arrival on January 31—by eating pork.

Honoring a saint’s relics is a tangible expression of reverence, much like placing flowers on the graves of fallen soldiers. It reflects respect for their lives, their witness, and their service to God. Ultimately, in honoring the saints, we honor the God who formed them.

#### 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, April 18-4pm 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; Arthur J. Schexnayder; Hahn, LeJeune & Hernandez Families; Kenneth “Klu” Brown; Donald Aucoin, Aucoin & Wunstel Families; Ky Landry, Dale Hedges, Guilde Landry; The Calvaruso Family; Rose Marie Canella LeBlanc, Jamie Cedotal Landry; Conrad Joffrion, Tubby & Gertrude Allain, Roy Landry, Jr. & Sr.; Bill Toups; Isaac J. Vaughn, Jr.; Brent Isaac Vaughn, Nilda Vaughn, Isaac Vaughn, Sr.; Ione & Calvin Robbins, Calvin Robbins, Jr.; Joseph Gullotto

**Sunday, April 19-7:30am Mass**

St. John Parishioners

**Sunday, April 19-9am 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; George Gullotto, Joseph Gullotto, Joe & Maggie Gullotto; Frances & George Calcagno; Gerald “Pops” Boudreaux, Maydell Smothers, Tom Smothers; Joey Anthony Collettie; Denise Miranda; Benny & Annie Vaughn, Jessel & Eula Mae Ourso; Ruel Seneca, Sr., Ida Gaudet Family, Leah Diamond, Linda Rafflee

**Sunday, April 19-11am Mass**

Cindy Dickerson; J. H. Millet; Maude & Percy Blanchard, Norbert & Chase Prejean; Joseph & Lillian Crescionne, Peter & Rosalie Crescionne, Dr. Joseph & Tina Alesi

**Tuesday, April 21-6pm Mass**

Norman Jr., Dorothy & Laura Lynn Grass; Patrick Gaudet, Dewey & Mable Callegan, Irvin “Pajo” Settoon III

**Wednesday, April 22-7am Mass**

Noonie Rivet: Pat Messina

**Thursday, April 23-7am Mass**

Hilda Mazone

**Friday, April 24-am Mass**

Mark Allain, Fred & Beverly Allain

**St. John Altar Society**

**Essential Support System of the Church**

Altar Society Team 3 will be cleaning the church Wednesday, April 15 at 8am. Volunteers are welcome!

**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:

**Claude P. Albarez  
Ruth K. “SeSe” Becnel  
Jaynel F. Nadler  
James H. “Jimmy” Dupont  
Emma Jo D. Williamson**

**Donated by:  
Mr. & Mrs. Herman E. Angeron, Jr.**

**Fill a Prescription for the Needy**

The St. Vincent de Paul community Pharmacy is a beacon of hope that our Church provides to those in need of life-sustaining medical prescriptions.

We invite our parishioners to use the bottles provided or remove the label from any empty prescription bottle at home and bring it to church with a monetary gift inside. This bottle can be placed in the containers located at the rear and west side doors of the church.

Thank you for your support of this important community endeavor.



**Sanctuary Candle**

**April 12, 2026**

St. John the Evangelist

**Albert Lopez, Jr., Jaynell Lopez,  
Johnson & Lopez Families**

St. Clement of Rome

**Mark Allain**

**Coffee & Donuts**

**April 19, 2026**

**Guy & Sabrina Ruggiero (7:30 Mass)**

**Roger & Rosalind Sadden (9am Mass)**



**Children’s Church — April**

**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>  |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
| April 12      | 11am        | Taylor Campbell |
| April 19      | 9am         | Tracy Cox       |
| April 26      | 11am        | Alexis Schlatre |



**Scripture Readings**

**Week of April 12, 2026**

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)  
 Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24;  
 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

Monday Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-9; Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21

Thursday Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20;  
 Jn 3:31-36

Friday Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14;  
 Jn 6:1-15

Saturday Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19;  
 Jn 6:16-21

Third Sunday of Easter  
 Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11;  
 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

**Kids Corner**  
**2nd Sunday of Easter**

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

Doors Peace Hands Side Breathe  
 Forgive Marks Seen Blessed Signs

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