

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

2414 Seventeenth Street, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

Telephone (228) 864-2272 Fax (228) 864-2273

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Website: stjohngulfport.org

Father Ryan McCoy, Pastor

Deacon David Allen,
Pastoral Associate

Deacon Rick Conason,
Pastoral Associate

Sr. Mary Kealy, PBVM,
Pastoral Associate

Teri Patton, Parish Secretary

Worship Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 8:00am
Sunday Masses: 8:00 & 10:30 am
and 5:00pm
Spanish Mass: 2:00pm
Weekday Masses: 7:00am
Holy Days: Vigil Mass 6pm,
7:00am and 12:00pm
Confession: Before and after each
Mass and by appointment

Catholic Education

St. James Elementary
603 West Av. Gulfport, MS 39507
Principal: Jennifer Broadus
For admission information call:
TN: 228 896-6631

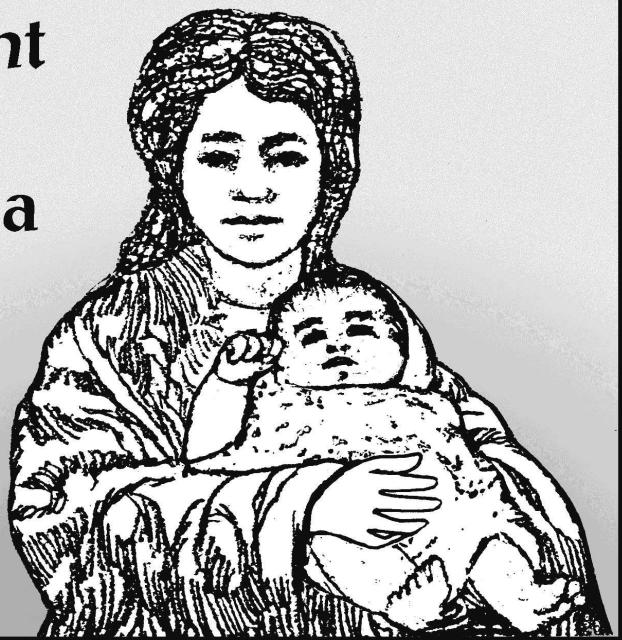
**St. Vincent De Paul
Elementary**
4321 Espy Av, Long Beach MS
39560
Principal: Carol Church
For admission information call:
228 222-6000

St. Patrick High School
18300 St. Patrick Rd., Biloxi, MS
39532
Principal: Matt Buckley
For admission information call:
228 702-0500

CCD
Sunday: 9:00am-10:15am

RCIA
Monday at 6:30pm

God sent
his Son,
born of a
woman



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The Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God January 1, 2017

A STRANGE BLESSING

When I was growing up there was a custom that my dad's family observed on New Year's Day. Each of the three children in his family would kneel before my grandfather and ask for his blessing for the year. I remember as a little child watching my big strong father kneel before his own father and bow his head. My grandfather, of French-Canadian descent, would say a prayer in French and touch the head of each of his children in a gesture of blessing. This all seemed so strange and wonderful to me. The only catch was that the last of three to ask for the blessing had to suck on a dirty wet rag as a kind of punishment for being the last to ask for the blessing. As I now reflect back on this strange custom, it dawns on me that this little punishment was a signal that this blessing was not to be taken lightly.

SO MUCH LOVE

Today, like my dad, my aunt, and my uncle, we come before God to ask for blessings upon this new year. We do this not only for ourselves, but for our families and for a world in dire need of blessing. We, like the shepherds, make haste to visit the Lord, made present in our churches through the celebration of word and sacrament. Saint Paul reminds us today that when the Spirit of the Lord Jesus was sent into our hearts we became God's children. This is a great way to begin this new year, revelling in the fact that we are the adopted children of a loving God. We also have a loving mother in the Blessed Virgin Mary, who, as she did with the events surrounding her Son's birth, reflects on our own lives in her heart. Let us drink of the comfort and blessing that are God's free gifts as this new year unfolds.

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Mary, the Holy Mother of God

January 1, 2017

Mary kept all these things,
reflecting on them in her heart.

—Luke 2:19

- C.C.D. (Grades K-12) Sundays, 9:00-10:15 A.M.
Knights of Columbus 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 P.M.
K C Ladies Auxiliary 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 P.M.
R.C.I.A. Mondays, 6:30 P.M.
St. Vincent de Paul 2nd Wednesday, 9:00 A.M.
Young At Heart 4th Thursday, 12 Noon

THE BLESSING WE RECEIVE

The blessing we experience in Christ Jesus is proclaimed in Numbers as the special blessing for the people of Israel. They and we are to be blessed by the invocation of God's loving kindness, the shining glory of God's face turned toward us in love, not away from us in anger. We are blessed by God's own peace!

Our wish and our hope are fulfilled in this blessing, which is made visible in the coming of Jesus. In Jesus, the image of the invisible God, God's face is shown to us and God's presence is made known to us in faithful and loving kindness.

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Welcome to

St. John the Evangelist Parish!

If you are new to the parish and have not yet registered, please fill out one of the registration forms on the back table or go to our website, stjohnulfport.org and click on the "New Parishioner" tab.



Happy birthday wishes to: Mary Jane Allen celebrates Dec. 31; Vivian Rice, Harold Jenner & Retia Webber celebrate Jan. 2; Lea Johnson celebrates Jan. 3; William Swanson, Michael Ward & Louise Wheat celebrate Jan. 4; John Carroll, Jan Farrell & Rhonda Mires celebrate Jan. 6. **May God Bless them with many more Happy Birthdays!**



Congratulations to Stan and Vickie Tiner and to Tom and Celeste Hewes on the anniversary of their weddings! Tom & Celeste celebrate their 62nd anniversary on Jan. 2. Stan & Vickie celebrate their 50th anniversary on Dec. 31. May God bless them with many more happy years together!



We extend our deepest sympathy to Melanie Dreher and Family in the loss of her father-n-law Dr. William Dreher. May God reward William with Eternal Rest, Light and Peace and may He comfort his family in their sorrow.



January 1 is the World Day of Peace!

The theme for Pope Francis' annual World Day of Peace message for 2017 is "Non-Violence: A Style of Politics for Peace." In his message, Pope Francis urges us to practice active non-violence and work to prevent conflict by addressing its causes, building relationships, and facilitating healing and restoration.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Pray. Use the Prayer for Peace in our Communities below with your family, school, faith community, or in other settings.

Learn. Read the U.S Catholic bishops' "The Harvest of Justice is Sown in Peace" especially the section on "Nonviolence: New Importance" How can Gospel non-violence challenge each of us personally, and as a nation?

Act. Join tens of thousands of others to advocate for policies that build peace at home and around the world.

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

O Lord our god, in your mercy and kindness, no thought of ours is left unnoticed, no desire or concern ignored.

You have proven that blessings abound when we fall on our knees in prayer, and so we turn in our hour of need.

Surrounded by violence and cries for justice, we hear your voice telling us what is required... "Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God." (Mi 6:8)

Fill us with your mercy so that we, in turn, may be merciful to others. Strip away pride, suspicion, and racism so that we may seek peace and justice in our communities.

Strengthen our hearts so that they beat only to the rhythm of your holy will. Flood our path with your light as we walk humbly toward a future filled with encounter and unity.

Be with us, O Lord, in our efforts, for only by prompting of your grace can we progress toward virtue.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Happy New Year!

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New Year Greetings! As we begin a new year we would like to thank all who have supported our parish and all who helped in any way during the past year. Our parish is a very loving, caring and faith-filled community, and we are truly grateful for all you do for your Church and parish. We wish you and yours God's blessings in the New Year!

We wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

First Friday Adoration, January 6. Adoration, 8:00am until 5:00pm, ending with Benediction. The sign up sheet is on the center table. We would like to see at least 2 people per hour. Please sign up to spend an hour with Jesus.

First Saturday Devotion, January 7. The schedule is 8:30am Confession; 9:00am Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Meditation and Benediction.

If you or anyone in your family is ill at home or in the hospital and would like us to visit you-please call the parish office at 864-2272.



Ten New Year's Resolutions for Catholics

It's January again—time to make those New Year's Resolutions! Why not make a few resolutions to become a better Catholic in 2017? You certainly don't have to tackle all ten, but choose two or three goals to improve your spiritual life this year.

A Catholic smartphone?

Surprisingly, you'll find plenty of smartphone apps to help you become a better Catholic. Simply type "Catholic" in your phone's app store search index, and you'll find a long list of apps including prayers, Catholic radio stations, Confession guides, Bibles, etc. Instead of texting or checking email during idle time, make use of those apps to learn more about your faith.

Find a patron saint

If you don't have a patron saint, it's time to find one! Saints are our heroes in faith and are powerful intercessors for us in heaven. You might want to learn more about the saint you were named after, your Confirmation saint, the patron saint of your profession or hobby or any saint who interests you.

Attend daily Mass

Most parishes offer daily mass during the week in the morning, evening or during lunch. Since the group attending is usually small and there is often no singing, most daily masses will only take about 30 minutes of your day. In return, you'll receive extra graces and blessings for the small sacrifice.

Go to Confession every month

Yes, it's difficult to face your sins and say them out loud, but frequent reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation gives you the grace to fight those sins and perhaps finally defeat them. If your parish's allotted time for the sacrament conflicts with your schedule, call the parish office to make an appointment.

Read the Bible

If you don't own a Catholic Bible, invest in one and keep it out where you will see it every day. Attend a Bible study if your parish offers one or ask your priest to start one if it's not available. You'll also find helpful guides online or in a Catholic bookstore.

Get involved with your parish

Volunteering as a lector, Eucharistic Minister, choir member or usher requires a very small time commitment but will pay off by helping you to feel like an important part of your parish. For other ideas, call your parish office and ask for volunteer opportunities that will fit your schedule.

Pray the Rosary

The Rosary has been hailed by saints and popes alike as a powerful weapon to defeat evil and a beautiful way to meditate on the gospels. There are many powerful blessings and promises granted to those devoted to the Rosary.

Check out Catholic radio

Catholic radio stations are popping up all over America and you need not live near one to listen in. Most stations broadcast online or offer smartphone apps. Try a few different stations and programs to find one that interests you.

Read about your faith

If all you do is go to mass every Sunday, you're missing out on many wonderful resources for your faith. This year, resolve to read at least five books on Catholic topics. Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance.

Spend some time in front of the blessed Sacrament

Many parishes offer Eucharistic Adoration, but you can stop by a Catholic church any time the doors are open and spend a little quality time with Christ. Even just 10-15 minutes on a regular basis will deeply improve your spiritual life.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Augie Alfonso	Jordan Hoang.	Margaret Northrup
Gil Bailey	Annie Hosli	Sophia Nuchereno
Katherine E. Bailey	Loyce & Nick Hire	Gus Pique, Jr.
David Bell Jr.	Roy Jones	Jay & Sheila Poolson
Mary Ann Bishop	Margaret Jowers	Gary Reeves
Melissa Bowles	Mary Kealy	Roland Riel
Carol Campbell	Florence Keppner	Gaynelle Saucier
Nunzio Caranna	Norbert Keppner	Wayne Saucier
Nanette Carpenter	Les Knighton	Ken Saxon
Buddy Cospelich	Gary Lacy	Aimee Seichshnaydre
Kendall Dedeaux	Tommy LeTard	Austin Seymour
James Doles	Joann Liner	Harry Smith
Gerald Ellis	Carol Loftin	Jason Sneed
JonViolet Flickinger	Patty Loftin	Charlie Underwood
Mary Kay Gaspard	S J Marengo	Felecia Vann
Dan & Lorraine Goad	Jace Mathews	Liza Alfonso Wall
Gee Gee Grandis	Tanya McClellan	James Williams
Oren Haddock	Celeste McInnis	Mandy Woods
Ardeth Hessell	Cherie Mennis	Ginger Worth
Celeste Hewes	Msgr Mercier	Doan The Xinh
Alibe Hinton	Helen Nilges	

Prayer is the door through which all God's Graces comes to us -St. Theresa of Avila



We really appreciate those who donate toward the flowers for our church. If you would like to have flowers placed in church, please contact the parish office at 228 864-2272.

The annual Mass for Deceased Irish Priests will take place on January 10 at 6pm at Sacred Heart Church, 3702 Quinn Drive, Pascagoula. Father Enda McKenna, of San Antonio, Texas, will be the homilist. A reception will follow in the parish activities center. All clergy, religious and laity are invited to attend the Mass.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

“Octave” comes from the Latin word for “eight,” and since eight is one step beyond seven, the number of days in a week, it has long been seen as a symbol of perfection, completion, and new beginnings. Early Christians called Sunday the “eighth day,” since it was the day after the Sabbath and a day of resurrected life, the Lord’s Day. By the seventh century, people regarded the eight days after Easter Sunday as one great day, an octave, one glorious feast when people were forbidden to fast or kneel. In the seventh century, Pentecost acquired an Octave, too. Christmas didn’t claim the honor of a continuous feast, but it did get an Octave Day. January 1 is the oldest Marian feast, the Octave of Christmas. It was originally a feast of the motherhood of Mary, although for centuries until 1969 it was called the Feast of the Circumcision. Our reformed calendar follows the earlier tradition of celebrating Mary as Mother of God. —James Field,

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace! (Numbers 6:22-27).

Psalm — May God bless us in his mercy (Psalm 67).

Second Reading — God sent the Spirit of the Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” So you are no longer a slave but an heir, through God (Galatians 4:4-7).

Gospel — The shepherds glorified and praised God for all they had heard and seen (Luke 2:16-21).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
Tuesday:	1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
Wednesday:	1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42
Thursday:	1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 4:14-22a
Friday:	1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:14-21; Sal 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 2:1-11
Sunday:	Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	Mary, the Holy Mother of God; The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord; World Day of Prayer for Peace; New Year's Day
Monday:	Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
Tuesday:	The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Wednesday:	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Thursday:	St. John Neumann
Friday:	St. André Bessette; First Friday
Saturday:	St. Raymond of Peñafort; First Saturday; Julian Calendar Christmas

Collections

Identifiable: \$4827 **Unidentifiable:** \$1169 **ACH:** \$20

2nd Collection-St. Vincent De Paul : \$937

Children's Collection: \$78

Thank you for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday:	+Anthony Davis
Sunday:	8:00am: +Vincent & Helen Dauro 1030am: Special Intention of the Stava Family 6:00pm: People of the Parish
Monday:	+Matthew & Thelma Serpa
Tuesday:	+David McIntosh
Wednesday:	+Mackie Fayard
Thursday	+Edward Panter
Friday	+Cecil & Margaret Dubuisson

Saint Stanislaus Admissions Testing

Admission testing for prospective students who will be in 7th & 8th grade next year has been scheduled for Saturday, January 7th, 2017. Registration will be from 7:30 AM until 8:15 AM and students must be registered by 8:15 AM in order to test. The test is used to give us an overview of incoming students' academic abilities.

In order to register for the admission test, please return the completed Admissions Application before January 7th. Please also remember to bring a check or cash in the amount of \$125, which will cover the \$100 Application Fee and the \$25 Admission Test Fee.

If your son will not be able to take the admission test, but you would still like to apply for admission to Saint Stanislaus for the 2017-18 school year, please return the application and \$100 application fee to Saint Stanislaus. You will be contacted to schedule your son's admissions interview which takes place on January 26th.

For more information, please call Richard Gleber, Co-Admissions Director, at 228 467-9057, ext 249 or email richard@ststan.com.

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Calendar of Events

- | | |
|-----|--|
| Jan | 1 New Years Day, Masses 8am & 10:30am & 5pm |
| | 6 First Friday Adoration |
| | 7 First Saturday Devotion |
| | 26 Young at Heart, Noon in Presentation Hall |
| Feb | 17 Ordination of Msgr. Louis Kihneman,
the Fourth Bishop of Biloxi,
2:30pm at Nativity BVM Cathedral |

XLT Adoration

Every Tuesday, at 7pm. Come enjoy some one-on-one time with Jesus for an hour He wants to hear your troubles, your needs, your joys, your prayers...come and ADORE Him! If you've never been, let this be your invitation. Adoration with live worship music. Confessions will be available. Everyone is welcome!!

Prayer Groups

We have a prayer group that meets every Thursday afternoon from 5:15-6:15pm. Everyone is invited to join us. For more information call the Parish office, 864-2272.

Weekly prayer group Thursday's at 10:00am. Call Annette Seymour 326-0851.

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