

St. John the Evangelist

Father Ryan McCoy
Pastor

Deacon David Allen
Pastoral Associate

Deacon Rick Conason
Pastoral Associate

Linda Hebert
Lay Pastoral Associate

Mara Russo
Family Life Coordinator

Joshua Faul
Facilities Coordinator

Elizabeth Martin
St. Vincent de Paul

James Smith
Knights of Columbus

Worship Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM

Sunday Masses:
8:00 AM, 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM

Spanish Mass: 2:00 PM

Weekday Masses:
Mon, Wed, Thu and Fri: 7:00 AM
Tuesday: 6:00 PM

Holy Days:
Vigil Mass: 6:00 PM
Holy Day: 7:00 AM and 12:00 PM

Confession:
Before and after each Mass
and by appointment

XLT Adoration:
Tuesday: 7:00 - 8:00 PM
Confession is available

First Friday Adoration:
7:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Mass, Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament and Benediction

First Saturday Devotion:
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Confession, Mass, Exposition
of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary,
Meditation and Benediction

2414 Seventeenth Street, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

Telephone: 228-864-2272 Fax: 228-864-2273

Email: stjohnthee@stjohnsgulfport.org

Website: stjohnsgulfport.org

FOURTH Sunday of Advent

"Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to
take Mary your wife
into your home."

Matthew 1:20

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December 22, 2019

Pray
For Peace



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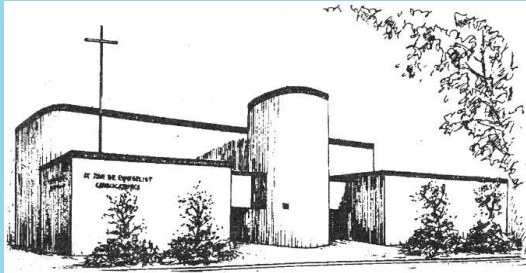
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Welcome to St. John the Evangelist!

Whether you're just visiting for a brief time, looking for a new parish home, returning to the practice of your Catholic faith or interested in finding out more about the Catholic Church, we are happy you're here! To learn more about St. John, please visit stjohnsgulfport.org.



If you are new to the parish, please complete a registration form on the back table or go to our website and click on the "New Parishioner" tab.

Upcoming Events

Novena to St. John the Evangelist Dec. 19 - Dec. 27

The feast day of our Patron is on December 27, so we will be saying a novena in his honor starting December 19. A booklet of novena prayers can be found on the tables in the back of the Church. On December 27, we will celebrate the feast day with a breakfast reception following our 7:00 AM Mass.



Christmas Eve Vigil (Children's Mass) - 4:00 PM

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass - 12:00 AM

Christmas Day Mass - 10:30 AM



Solemnity of Mary Vigil Mass (Dec. 31) - 6:00 PM

XLT Adoration - 7:00 PM

Solemnity of Mary Holy Day Masses (Jan. 1)

7:00 AM / 12:00 PM



Feast of the Holy Innocents Saturday - December 28

On the Feast of the Holy Innocents, Fr. Ryan will celebrate Mass at 10:30 AM. The intention of the Mass will be for all children that have been aborted.



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Louis Ford & His New Orleans Flairs

Saturday, January 11, 2020
7:00 PM

Comprised of distinguished members of New Orleans' music community, Louis Ford & His New Orleans Flairs are dedicated to keeping the Crescent City's traditional jazz sound not only alive but thriving. Ford, an accomplished clarinetist, and saxophonist, yields from five generations of great New Orleans musicians tracing back to the Storyville days. He has traveled all over the world educating younger generations, sharing New Orleans culture and his love of traditional jazz and the history of the music pioneers who created it. The band members have a long history playing with the great jazz musicians and with the Preservation Hall Jazz Band.

Season tickets:

\$50 individuals • \$100 families (one household)

Per-concert tickets:

\$15 adults, \$10 students for all concerts

General Information:

Concerts are in the Sanctuary Building of First United Methodist Church (across from Gulfport City Hall) at 15th Street and 24th Avenue. The building is wheelchair accessible via elevator on the 15th Street side at the alley. Concerts are open seating. Tickets are sold at the door for each concert. Any tickets may be purchased on our website, www.artsunderthedome.org, by mail, or from the church office (corner of 15th St. and 23rd Ave.) on Monday to Thursday from 8 to 4. For information, call 228-863-0047 or 228-342-3252, or e-mail artsunderthedome@gmail.com.

Your prayers are asked for the following individuals who are facing illness or other life challenges.

Isabel Allen	Tyler Johnson	Skip Ryland
Kris Allen	Etolie Jenkins	Vickie Smith
David Belew	Bernard Papania	Erma Wilson
Mary Ann Bishop	Linda Papania	John Windham
Hope Broadus	Steve Papania	
Frances Carrubba	Toney Phillips	
Garry Cooper	James Platt	
Ed Croal	Colette Marissa	
Cindy Dickinson	Quigley	
Alan Goad	Alexander Rich	
Dan Goad	Tracie Ryan	
Cindy Fore	Peggy Ryland	

To add or remove a name from the prayer list, please contact the Parish Office. Names will appear on the prayer list for six weeks, but are renewable.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday:	5:00 PM	+ Lorraine Goad
Sunday:	8:00 AM	People of the Parish
	10:30 AM	Charlie & Dane Hewes (Special Intention)
	5:00 PM	+ Walter Lolley
Monday:	7:00 AM	+ Sarah Corné
Tuesday:	4:00 PM	+ Elie Hebert
	Midnight	+ Parker Hewes
Wednesday:	10:30 AM	+ Tom Hewes
Thursday:	7:00 AM	+ Tom Hewes
Friday:	7:00 AM	+ Mackie Fayard

Last Week's Collections

1st Collection: \$ 7479

2nd Collection: \$ 757 for Christmas Flowers

Children's Collection: \$ 47

Thank you for your generosity!

This week's second collection is for Maintenance Fund. Next week's second collection is for Tuition Assistance.

Second Collection Envelopes

Second collection envelopes for designated national and diocesan appeals will be available on the tables in the back of the church two weeks prior to the collection. Please pick one up and remember to print your name and envelope number on the back of the collection envelope.



The **2020 Offering Envelopes** are now available for pickup. They are located on the table near the Memorial Room in the back of the Church and they are listed alphabetically by family name. If you don't see a box with your name on it **or** if you see a box for a family who you know has left the parish, please inform Linda Hebert in the Parish Office.

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Catholic Education

St. James Elementary

603 West Avenue, Gulfport, MS 39507

Principal: Jennifer Broadus

Tel #: 228-896-6631

St. Vincent De Paul Elementary

4321 Espy Avenue, Long Beach MS 39560

Principal: Carol Church

Tel #: 228-222-6000

St. Patrick High School

18300 St. Patrick Road, Biloxi, MS 39532

Principal: Dr. Matt Buckley

Tel #: 228-702-0500

Parish Ministry Meetings

Knights of Columbus: 1st & 3rd Wednesday - 7:00 PM

K C Ladies Auxiliary: 3rd Tuesday - 6:30 PM

Young At Heart: 4th Thursday - 12 Noon

Prayer Group: Every Thursday - 5:15 PM

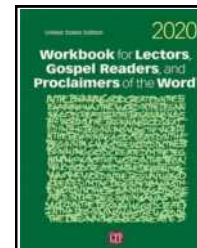
For information, call the Parish Office.

Legion of Mary: Every Thursday - 10:00 AM

For information, call Annette Seymour 228-326-0851.



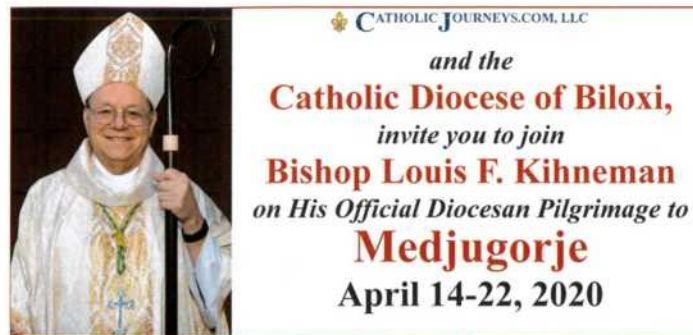
Our youth group meets on Sunday from 3:30 - 4:45 PM in the Youth Room. For more information, please contact Bridgett Bermond at 228-209-9281.



Attention Lectors

The 2020 *Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers and Proclaimers of the Word* is now available and may be picked up in the Sacristy.

Upcoming Events Continued



CATHOLIC JOURNEYS.COM, LLC
and the
Catholic Diocese of Biloxi,
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**Thank you to the
Knights of Columbus!
Bishop Gunn Council #1583**

At all Masses this weekend, they
are giving away 2 Christmas
turkeys. Next weekend, they will
give away 2 hams at each Mass.
All adults will receive a ticket
and you must be present when Father draws at the
end of Mass.



We extend a warm welcome to
Bishop Louis Kihneman III, who
is making his pastoral visit to our
parish this weekend. Bishop
Kihneman will celebrate the 5:00
PM Vigil Mass and the 2:00 PM
Spanish Mass.



Choose Life PRAY PRAY PRAY

The "Choose Life Billboard Initiative" seeks to place
billboards on the roadways in the Dioceses of Biloxi
and Jackson. There are billboards in Harrison,
Jackson, Hancock, Forrest and Lauderdale counties,
with soon-to-be billboards in Rankin County. Also,
the outreach has extended to Louisiana and South
Carolina; because travelers, who have seen the
billboards on Interstate 10 in South Mississippi, have
contacted the St. James Billboard Initiative
Committee for information to fund/post their own
billboards. Funds have been raised through second
collections and from private donors. If you would
like to support the initiative, checks may be
addressed to St. James Catholic Church, 366 Cowan
Road, Gulfport, MS 39507. Write "Choose Life
Billboards" on the memo line; note our parish on the
mailing envelope; and provide a return mailing
address, so they can thank you. May the Immaculata
guide and protect her children. For more
information, contact Penny Sullivan at
228-864-9061.



The daughters and granddaughter
of Phyllis Mosely have donated
the Marian flowers in memory of
her 92nd birthday.

Happy birthday wishes are extended to:

Cameron McGuire on Dec 22; Juliana Massengill on
Dec 23; Cleo Dossett & George Healy on Dec 24;
Lindy Callahan on Dec 25; Diana McNeil & Marie
Pique on Dec 26; Payton Dedeaux on Dec 27; and
Mario DiRaimo, Tony King & Emma Morgan on
Dec 28.



**Congratulations
to Our Parishioners
Celebrating a Wedding Anniversary**



Dudley & Trish McAllister – 61 years on Dec 27

*May God bless them with many more
happy years together!*



St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
**St. John Catholic Church Drawdown
&**

Thank you for donating to this year's Amen Auction and Annual Drawdown

It was a sold-out event raising more than \$35,000.00 ... our best year yet!

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for your assistance with our recent Drawdown & Amen Auction fundraising event. Your efforts resulted in profits of over thirty-five thousand dollars for St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. As you know, this downtown parish has deep roots in Gulfport and we count on our family, friends and parishioners. These funds will be used to maintain the church and its properties.

Successful fundraising activities take time, talent and donors like yourself. The success of the Amen Auction and Drawdown is clear evidence of your participation. We sold everything you donated!

It was truly a great night and we can't thank you enough for all of your help. AMEN!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14;
Lk 1:57-66
Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;
Lk 1:67-79
Wednesday: **Vigil:** Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29;
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14;
Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12;
Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6;
Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab,
16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12;
Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8;
Mt 2:13-18
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5;
Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

A Liturgical Reminder

During the Christmas Masses on December
24 and 25, the faithful genuflect during the
words "... and by the Holy Spirit was
incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became

2020 Calendars



The 2020 Extension Society calendars have arrived
and are on the table nearest the Cry Room.

John 1:1-5, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him: and without him was made nothing that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.” (<http://www.drbo.org/chapter/50001.htm>)

I am grateful for the long-standing tradition of erecting the St. John the Evangelist Highway 49 Nativity Scene by the Papania Family. Gazing upon the Highway 49 Nativity Scene, a banner displays *John 1:14*, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.” The Word is Jesus Christ. My 2019 Christmas prayer is that those who are in the darkness of sin may find the light - find the Light in the innocence of the Christ Child in the nativity scene. The innocence of the Christ Child is truly understood by reconciling our sins with Jesus. Without reconciliation, the darkness of our sins causes us to see a helpless, innocent Child powerless against the darkness. With reconciliation, the light of forgiveness causes us to bend our knee to the Christ Child, Our Eternal King!



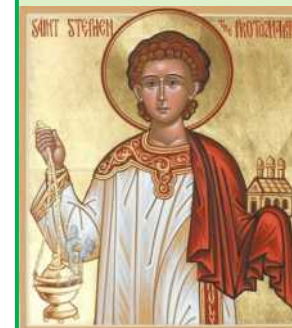
❧ Christmas ❧

A young mother, her eyes shining with fatigue, who is arranging her hair; a father who finds himself alone with his pretty wife and baby, straightening the stable to make himself useful in some way; shepherds who bring cheese and perhaps also some curdled milk; sheep who look at their shepherds while bleating; a donkey who is eyeing his manger changed into a cradle; an adorable swaddled baby whom one calls Savior, Christ and Lord: This is the manifestation of the goodness and the tenderness of God. This is the most fantastic birth in the history of humanity, the one which changed the face of the world! This is how far God humbled and compromised himself with us! This is Emmanuel!

—From *God's Word Is Our Joy*, Vol. 1 by Lucien Deiss, CSSp, copyright © 1998, World Library Publications. p. 73

Saint Stephen (first century)

Feast Day: December 26



“A man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit” (Acts 6:5): thus Luke introduces Stephen, first of seven deacons chosen by the community for its ministry of charity, first to lay down his life in witness to Christ. As the church’s first martyr, Stephen’s life and death mirror the preaching and passion of Jesus, “the faithful witness” (Greek, martyr) (Revelation 1:5). Like Jesus, Stephen works “great signs and wonders among the people” (Acts 6:8). Like Jesus, when falsely accused, Stephen’s face radiates angelic serenity (Acts 6:15), though his tongue, like Jesus’, is a two-edged sword. As the dying Jesus forgave his executioners, even making excuses for them, then commended his spirit into his Father’s hands (Luke 23:34, 46), so Stephen intercedes for his murderers and begs Jesus to receive his spirit (Acts 7:60, 59). How fruitful both passions! The penitent thief inherits Paradise; Saul, who consented to Stephen’s killing, is transformed into the fearless preacher Paul. Thus Stephen challenges us to bear witness not in words only, but by Christ-like forgiveness toward all.

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PILGRIM VIRGIN

Home Visitation Program

Throughout the Church’s history, many popes and saints have recommended that we pray the Rosary. St. Louis de Monfort said, “When the Holy Rosary is said well, it gives Jesus and Mary more glory and is more meritorious than any other prayer.”

Battles have been won because people pray the Rosary. There have been hearts converted and impossible intentions answered.

St. John the Evangelist’s Legion of Mary Presidium has purchased a statue of Our Lady of Grace. We would like different families of our parish community to take her into their homes for a week and pray the Rosary with her daily.

We invite anyone who would like to have Our Lady in their home to call or text Kathy Pitre at 228-229-8750 or Annette Seymour at 228-326-0851 for more information and/or to set up a home visit.

Loving greetings for a peaceful and blessed Christmas to all of you. Know that you will be remembered very fondly as we celebrate this lovely festive season. May 2020 hold many blessings for you and your families. Love you!
-Sr. Mary

The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, December 24; Wednesday, December 25; and Thursday, December 26, in observance of Christmas. The office will also be closed on Wednesday, January 1, and Thursday, January 2, in celebration of the New Year.

