

St. John the Evangelist

Father Michael Somers, SVD

Pastor

Deacon David Allen

Pastoral Associate

Ann Wiborg

Pastoral Secretary

David Scaia

St. Vincent de Paul

David Ames

Knights of Columbus

Worship Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM

Sunday Masses:

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

Spanish Mass: 2:00 PM

Weekday Masses:

Monday—Friday 7 AM

Weekday Adoration:

Every Friday following Mass

7:30 AM-8:30 AM

Holy Days:

Vigil Mass: 6:00 PM

Holy Day: 7:00 AM and 12:00 PM

Confession:

30 minutes before Vigil Mass

And anytime by request

all the other Masses

First Friday Adoration

7 AM - 5 PM

Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction

First Saturday Devotion:

8:00 AM—9:30 AM

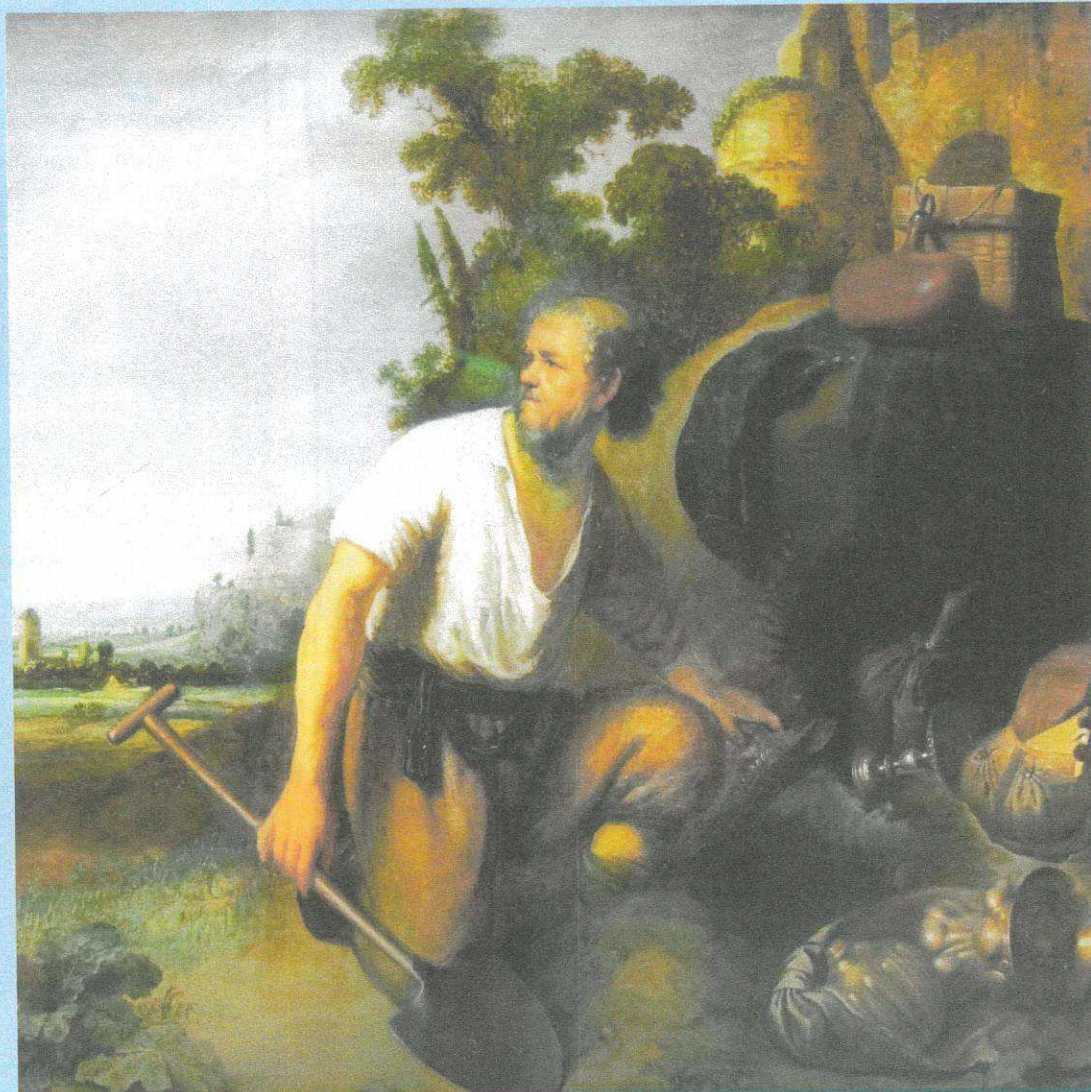
Confession, Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Meditation and Benediction

2414 Seventeenth Street, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

Telephone: 228-864-2272

Email: stjohnthee@stjohngulfport.org

July 30, 2023



17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." - Mt 13:44

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St. John the Evangelist Church, Gulfport, MS

A 4C 05-4106



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 stjohngulfport.org.

If you are new to the parish, please go to our website and click on the "New Parishioner" tab.



Parish Office Hours

Office hours are Monday thru Friday: 9 am to 3 pm.
Office phone number: 228-864-2272
Father Mike: 850-288-0155

Holy Day

August 15 is a Holy Day of Obligation
(The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary).
Mass Times are:
Monday Aug 14— 6 PM
Tuesday Aug 15— 7 AM and 1200 PM

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday:	4:00 PM	✠ Skip Ryland
Sunday	8:00 AM	✠ Kendall Dedeaux
		✠ Mary Ann Bishop
		✠ Curt Arleth
		(Special intention Catrin Bosch)
	10:30 AM	People of the Parish
		Anyone with birthdays, anniversaries
	5:00 PM	✠ Kris Allen
Monday:	7:00 AM	✠ Travis Collier
Tuesday:	7:00 AM	✠ Dickie Moran
Wednesday:	7:00 AM	✠ Mary Ann Bishop
Thursday:	7:00 AM	✠ Gary Cooper
Friday:	7:00 AM	✠ Mackie & Carolyn Fayard

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST EVENTS

Knights of Columbus: 1st & 3rd Wednesday - 6:30 PM
Grief & Loss Support Group Tuesday (Aug 1) 4 PM
K C Ladies Auxiliary: 3rd Tuesday (Aug 15 6:30 PM)
Legion of Mary: Every Thursday - 10:30 AM
OCIA classes: Thursday, Aug 10 6pm

Happy Birthday blessings this week are extended to:

Cindy Serpa, July 29
Amber Hanberry, Anna Schloegel, July 30
Thu Ha, George Kassis, Patti Morgan, August 1
Billy Campbell, August 2
Mason Gee, Helen Youngmans, August 4
Amanda Graves, August 4

Installation Mass

Bishop Kihneman will be installing Father Mike Somers August 27th at the 10:30 am Mass.
A welcome luncheon and reception in Presentation Hall will follow.

Congratulations

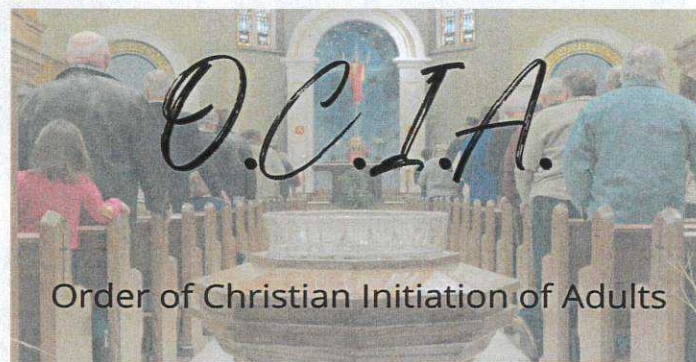
to Our Parishioners

Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries

Tim & Terri Goad 37 yrs on Aug 2

May God bless them with many more

happy years together!



Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

In Gulfport, the school year starts early and so does O.C.I.A.! Our first class of this year's Order of Christian Initiation of Adults begins just 1 week from this Thursday on August 10th. With that said, we have lots of **yellow** O.C.I.A. registration forms on the back table outside the Memorial room. Grab a couple on your way out and give them to people you know who may be interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. All forms can be turned in to Deacon David or Ann in the church office. Thanks in advance for promoting **INTENTIONAL** discipleship in our parish!

✠ Hear Us and Heal Us ✠

Your prayers are asked for the following individuals

Ed Martin	George Balhofs	Leza Hardy
Peggy Ryland	Ronnie Wade	Melanie Reneé
Werner Huber	Roberta Hill	Abe Kassis
Betty Martin	Paul Fair	Thomas Graves
Suzanne King	John Cuevas	Amy Wheeler
Buddy Cospelich	David McGuffie	Gene Wecorich
Suzanne Bowles	Wendel Johnson	Tammy Bates
Shirley Caston	Cathy Bond	
Ernie Brown	Meredith Kajdan	Parishioners of
Dean Bowles	Joann Hoda	St. John the
Beverly Crawford	Wade Shoemaker	Evangelist
Diane Riel	Monica Manuel	
Jordan Hoang	Naomi Patton	
Kim Hoang	Na Nguyen	



First Friday Adoration

First Friday is August 4th from 7:30am til 5:00pm. A sign up sheet is in the back of the church outside of the Memorial Room. *Please consider spending an hour with Jesus! He loves you so very much!*

Sign-up sheet is in the back of the church. Please consider spending an hour with Jesus.

First Saturday Devotion will be held from 8:00am—9:30am this Saturday August 5th. Confession, Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Meditation and Benediction.

New Wine Groups to Begin on August 2023

The Catholic Diocese of Biloxi will again offer a three (3) year program called "New Wine". The program provides education and formation for adults interested in being involved in lay ministry. For more information, please contact **Deacon David Allen on or August 11, 2023.**

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Last Week's Collection:

Identified: (checks): \$2180.00 (cash): \$205.00

Loose: (checks): \$1470.00 (cash): \$794.00

ACH Direct Debit: \$110.00 **Egiving:** \$989.00

Spanish Collection: \$940.00

Total: \$6688.00 Thank you for your generosity!

2nd Collections

August 5,6 — Church Renovation
August 12,13 — Extension Society
Sept 2, 3 — Church Renovation
Sept 16, 17 — Seafarers and Truckers

Ways to Contribute

Many parishioners like to give their church contribution at mass. Others like the convenience of sending it by mail, or dropping it off at the church office Monday through Friday (9am-3pm); or by utilizing automatic drafts (contact the Parish Office if you'd like to sign up); or by giving electronically at <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stjohngulfport>.

Your support is graciously appreciated!

17th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday July 30

1 Kings 3:5,7-12
Ps 119:57,72,76-77,
127-130(97a)
Romans 8:28-30
Matthew 13:44-52

Monday July 31

St. Ignatius of Loyola
Ex 32:15-24,30-34
Ps 106:19-23
Matthew 13:31-35

Tuesday Aug 1

St. Alphonsus Liguori
Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9,28
Ps 103:6-13
Matthew 13:36-43

Wednesday Aug 2

Ex 34:29-35
Ps 99:5-7,9
Matthew 13:44-46

Thursday Aug 3

Ex 40:16-21,34-38
Ps 84:3-6a,8a,11
Matthew 13:47-53

Friday Aug 4

St. John Vianney
Leviticus 23:1,4-11,
15-16,27,34b-37
Ps 81:3-6,10-11b
Matthew 13:54-58

Saturday Aug 5

Leviticus 25:1,8-17
Ps 67:2-3,5,7-8
Matthew 14:1-12

Jesus tells us that the kingdom of God is like a buried treasure, a pearl purchased at all cost, and a net from which the bad catch of fish will be tossed away and the good catch will be valued.

In other words, our Christian lives are a huge cache of valuables. If our treasure chest has any worthless trash, the garbage needs to be tossed away to

make room for more valuables. Some of our treasures have only temporary, earthly value, and ultimately they will be worthless unless they're used for the kingdom of God.

The reading from Romans tells us that all things work together for the good of those who love God. As we purge our lives of false pearls and dead fish, we become more like our Lord. We become more useful to the kingdom of God. Even the bad things that happen to us, under the creative hand of our all-powerful, mercifully loving God, get put to good use as polishing cloths that brighten our pearls and bring out from us a better shine.

the wisest king on earth spread throughout the known world and he accumulated great wealth.

This is meant to teach us that when we seek first the treasures of God's

kingdom, then we can safely use the treasures of the earth, because God's wisdom guides us in using them for the benefit of his kingdom. The more we love



Christ and follow his ways, the easier it is to identify what's really valuable, separate out the junk that does not belong to God, and use everything else for his purposes.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † What treasures are buried within you? What pearls of wisdom have you gained, and what did it cost you to learn these?
- † Write a list of your many good qualities. How do they prove that the Lord's presence is within you?
- † Choose one treasure, gift, or pearl that God has given to you – something that reveals the kingdom of God. How did you discover it or gain it?
- † What effect does this pearl have on others?

In the first reading, Solomon could have asked God for great wealth and he would have received it, but he asked for an understanding heart so that he'd have wisdom to rule the nation well. Even though he ruled imperfectly, his reputation as

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

July 30, 2023

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our culture seems more polarized and divided than ever. Into this wounded situation, our Catholic faith has a healing remedy to offer: the gift of wisdom. When the Lord offers to give King Solomon anything the monarch desires, he requests "an understanding heart" (1 Kings 3:9). In his polarized situation, the King doesn't ask for power to defeat his enemies. He asks for a wise and understanding heart to judge right from wrong. This wisdom is elevated and fulfilled in Jesus who teaches us to bring forth "both the new and the old" (Matthew 13:52).

In our fractured society, we Christians should stop pining for political power to crush our perceived enemies. That often just makes things worse. Rather, it's much more useful to beg for the grace of true wisdom which transcends both sides of the aisle. This places us in a fresh position from which we can help our culture see what is true and good all across the ideological spectrum. Sometimes we'll look like liberals (e.g., in our love for the poor and marginalized) and other times like conservatives (e.g., in our sexual ethics and views on religious freedom). Because this wisdom is free from ideological narrowness, it will help to heal these painful fractures. Lord Jesus, this week, pour into us your healing wisdom. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi

CHAPTER THREE

ARTICLE 2

WE BELIEVE

Faith is a personal act—the free response of the human person to the initiative of God who reveals himself. But faith is not an isolated act. No one can believe alone, just as no one can live alone. You have not given yourself faith as you have not given yourself life. The believer has received faith from others and should hand it on to others. Our love for Jesus and for our neighbor impels us to speak to others about our faith. Each believer is thus a link in the great chain of believers. I cannot believe without being carried by the faith of others, and by my faith I help support others in the faith.#166

CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH SECOND EDITION

Kissing the Altar at Mass

Question:

Why do priests kiss the altar at the start of Mass?

Answer:

Our churches and chapels are filled with symbols. We might think of the more common symbols (like the crucifix, statues, stained-glass windows, vestment color and altar cloths) as well as major symbols (such as the paschal candle and the baptismal font). But there are some things that we can take for granted in our sacred spaces, because unfortunately, they seem to just be part of the building, including three of the main symbols of our liturgy: the ambo (lectern), the chair for the priest celebrant, and the altar.

These three objects are placed in a specially designated area called the sanctuary. They are the places where the Word of God is proclaimed, where the priest prays and presides at the celebration, and where the bread and wine are offered by the priest during the Eucharistic Prayer. Although each of these objects is sacred because of the role they play in our worship, the altar holds a special place. In a document containing the rules and instructions for the Mass — the "General Instruction of the Roman Missal" — we read: "The altar on which the Sacrifice of the Cross is made present under sacramental signs is also the table of the Lord to which the People of God is called together to participate in the Mass, as well as the center of the thanksgiving that is accomplished throughout the Eucharist" (no. 296).

One of the ways that we recognize the importance of the altar is when the priest and deacon kiss the altar at the beginning of Mass. Kissing is an ancient act of devotion. Remember, we also kiss the cross on Good Friday, and the deacon or priest kisses the "Book of the Gospels" after the Gospel is proclaimed. This act of devotion reminds us that the altar is a symbol of Jesus, the "living stone" (see 1 Peter 2:4), the foundation stone of our faith. It is a symbol gesture, but it is a powerful reminder of the One on whom our faith is built and in whose name we gather as the "household of faith" (see Galatians 6:10).

To learn more, see the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" (no. 1382-1383).

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