

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: Confession, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary

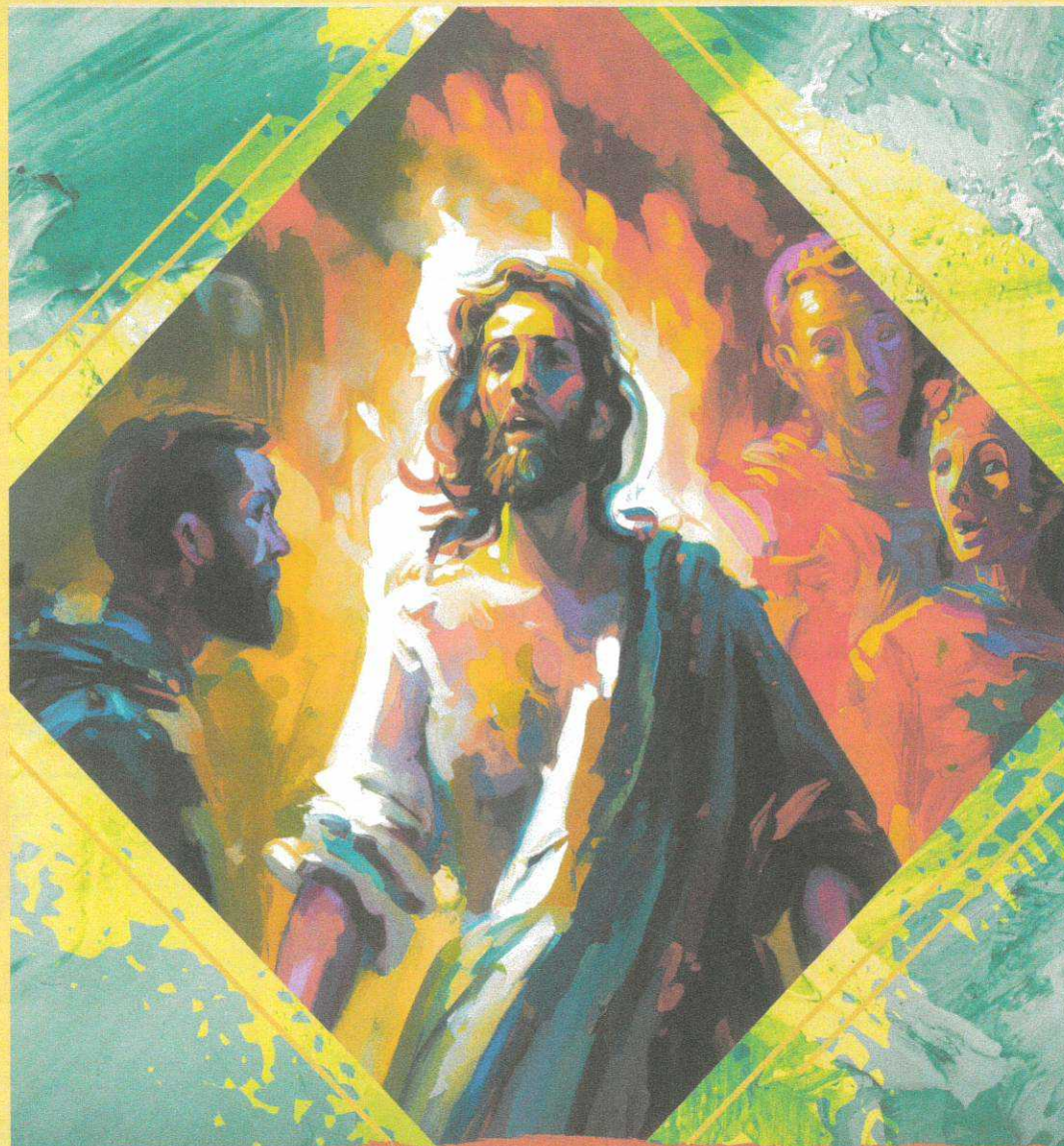
9:00 AM: Healing Mass

2414 Seventeenth Street, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

Telephone: 228-864-2272

Email: stjohnthee@stjohngulfport.org

November 5, 2023



31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The greatest among you must be your servant."
- Mt 23:11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

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St. John the Evangelist Church, Gulfport, MS

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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 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

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST EVENTS

Rescue project: Every Monday, 6 PM
Knights of Columbus: 1st & 3rd Wednesday - 6:30 PM
Grief & Loss Support Group Tuesday Jan 2, 2024 4 PM
Legion of Mary: Every Thursday - 10:30 AM
OCIA classes: Every Thursday 6pm
Nov23 Thanksgiving Day Mass 9:am (no 7am Mass)
Nov 24 No 7am Mass



PLEASE HELP OUR ST VINCENT DEPAUL

We encourage each family to bring at least one non-perishable item to Mass every week and place it in the *St Vincent Food Drop Box in the Memorial Room at the back of the church.*

When you are shopping and select your item for the poor, please remember to thank God for the ability to adequately provide for your own family; and pray for those less fortunate.

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

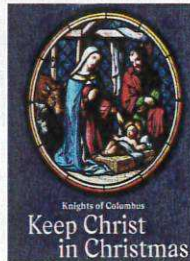
Fruit juice, peanut butter, jelly, cereal ,carrots, rice and spaghetti sauce.

DISCIPLESHIP Quad

GUIDEBOOK, PART 1
BY BOB RICE

Discipleship Quads are forming now. If you are not yet part of a quad, contact the parish office to become part of a team!

The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest this year for children 5 to 14 years of age. Please be watching for the entry forms (available soon) on the back table.



ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Thanksgiving Raffle



Grand Prize \$10,000.00

Ticket price: \$100

Total tickets to be sold: 500

Additional Prizes

(1) \$250.00

(4) \$150.00

Drawing will be held at 5 PM on November 18th at Presentation Hall.

(ONE TICKET ADMITS 2 FOR DINNER AND LIVE DRAWING)

You do not have to be present to win.

Tickets are available: see the ushers, Father, or get them from the office.

Happy Birthday blessings this week are extended to:

Dianne Martin, Aubrey Brennan, Nov5
Andy Barrett, Nov 6
Florence Keppner, Shana Patti, Nov 7
Shelby Cola, Hope Masterson, Nov 8
Korey Hudson, Nov 10

May God grant them many blessings in the coming year!

† We pray for all the sick, especially: †

Peggy Ryland	Abe Kassis	Alma Dedeaux
Suzanne King	Amy Wheeler	Julia Langford
John Cuevas	Catrin Bosch	Joe McCormick
David McGuffie	Justina Arnold	Thomas Mathews
Cathy Bond	Joyce McIntosh	
Joann Hoda	Matt Hill	Parishioners of
Monica Manuel	Harriett Bowles	St. John the
Naomi Patton	Dean Bowles	Evangelist
Melanie Reneé	Carl Necaie	

Congratulations to Our Parishioners

Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries
Wayne & Debbie Parker, 36 yrs Nov 6
Gene & Marcella Janus, 54yrs Nov 8

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

Outreach Committee

St. John has a newly formed Outreach Committee ministry to invite parishioners back to mass who have not been here for a while.

If you know of someone who might benefit from a call or visit, please contact Father Mike (850-288-0155) or call St. John's office (288-864-2272).

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday	4:00 PM	† All Souls
Sunday	8:00 AM	† All Souls
	10:30 AM	† All Souls
	5:00 PM	† All Souls
Monday:	7:00 AM	† All Souls
Tuesday:	7:00 AM	† All Souls
Wednesday:	7:00 AM	† All Souls
Thursday:	7:00 AM	† All Souls
Friday:	7:00 AM	† All Souls

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Last Week's Collection:

Identified: (checks) \$1520.00: \$ (cash): \$256.00

Loose: (checks): \$1605.00 (cash): \$910.00

ACH Direct Debit: \$110.00 Egiving: \$275.70

Spanish Collection: \$782.00

Total: \$5458.70

Thank you for your generosity!

2nd Collection:
Nov 18-19 Catholic Campaign for Human Development

PARISH LIFE



31st Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday November 5

Malachi 1:14b – 2:2b,8-10
Ps 131:1-3
1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9,13
Matthew 23:1-12

Monday November 6

Romans 11:29-36
Ps 69:30-31,33-34,36
Luke 14:12-14

Tuesday November 7

Romans 12:5-16b
Ps 131:1b-3
Luke 14:15-24

Wednesday November 8

Romans 13:8-10
Ps 112:1b-2,4-5,9
Luke 14:25-33

Thursday November 9 Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Ezra 47:1-2,8-9,12
Ps 46:2-3,5-6,8-9
1 Cor 3:9c-11,16-17
John 2:13-22

Friday November 10

St. Leo the Great, Pp, Dr
Romans 15:14-21
Ps 98:1-4
Luke 16:1-8

Saturday November 11

St. Martin of Tours, Bp
Romans 16:3-9,16,22-27
Ps 145:2-5,10-11
Luke 16:9-15

Christ's representative in Church leadership, he serves us in everything he does, whether it's presiding at Mass or making decisions.

No matter what someone's credentials are, no matter how much authority God has given to our priests and other leaders,

Today's Gospel reading contains a verse that, when taken literally, has been used by some Protestants to condemn Catholicism because we call our priests "Father." By that logic, when Jesus said, "Call no one on earth your father," he meant our dads, too, right? Did he never call St. Joseph by the title father? Perhaps when Jesus as a lad had a question about carpentry he said, "Hey dude who's married to Mom!" I don't think so.

To understand what Jesus means in this scripture, we need to read the whole passage: This singled-out verse is actually part of a teaching about equality. He is telling us that we must not consider anyone to be superior to ourselves – no one but God is superior to us.

Jesus says here: "The greatest among you must be your servant." At other times in other scriptures, Jesus says that if we want to be greatest, we have to be the servant of all, because we must not think of ourselves as superior to others. But in today's lesson he's telling us not to think of ourselves as inferior, either. He trying to cure our low self-esteem.

Do you know, for example, that as a child of God you are not inferior to the pope? This is why he's called the servant of the servants of God. As



and no matter how famous or well-liked anyone is, we are all equally loved by God. We're all equally important to God.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † Do you feel served by those who have higher status? Why or why not?
- † When you don't, how much of this is your own attitude of assuming that you're inferior? What will you do to shift your thinking and accept your own value according to God's perspective?
- † When someone's job or talents or position in the family or church seems greater than yours, how do you overcome your feelings of inferiority?
- † How does Jesus convey to you that you are inferior to no one?
- † Describe a time when you felt inferior but then became aware of your equal value. (This story will help others who are struggling to overcome their own feelings of inferiority.)

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

November 5, 2023

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Last Easter season a new convert to Catholicism at my parish asked me with a grave tone in her voice: "Why do we call priests 'father' if Jesus says, '**Call no man on earth your father, for you have one Father, who is in heaven**'?" Thinking myself clever, I asked, "Do you think it's okay to call someone your 'teacher' or 'mister' or 'dad'?" She said, "Yes, I do." I responded, "Well, Jesus seems to forbid that, too. So, it's obviously hyperbole that he's using." She thought for a moment and declared, "Then I will stop using those words, too!" And she walked away. Not the outcome I was seeking.

We shouldn't be too hasty in dismissing this complaint voiced by many non-Catholics. The expression "father" for ordained priests is not honorary for the individual man. The priest's fatherhood doesn't begin or end in him at all. Rather, the title "father" indicates that he is a sacramental sign of God's Fatherhood revealed in Jesus. I can tell you, as a very unworthy bearer of that title, we should give and receive that title with some trepidation (because of God's awesomeness) and with a little sense of humor (because of the lowliness of the men with the title).

The longer I'm a priest, the more I'm comfortable with people not using the title "father" and just calling me "John." After all, only God is Father in the truest sense. At the same time, Jesus has brought the Father close to us, very close. We honor this closeness in some men with the title "father." Who are the priests in your life whom Christ has sent to you? How wonderful that Christ has surrounded us with humble signs of his Father's love. It's good to celebrate that love with gratitude for the priests in our lives.

— Father John Muir

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Sin on the Soul

Question:

Why do some sacraments leave a character or mark on the soul? Don't all sacraments affect the soul?

Answer:

All sacraments mediate grace and connect us to Christ and to the Church. Some sustain us in our faith journey, while others help us heal from the effects of sin. Each one offers a share in God's life, giving us what we need to be faithful followers of Jesus. But some sacraments change us in ways that are irreversible. The three sacraments that leave a character are Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. We are literally different people because of the effect of the grace of those sacraments. We are changed at the core of our being in such a fundamental way that we can not go back to what we once were.

In Baptism, we are freed from original sin, initiated into the Body of Christ as adopted sons and daughters. In Confirmation, we are given the fullness of God's Spirit, sealed in his grace and gifted with what we need to live a Christian life. In Holy Orders, a priest is marked as an 'alter Christus,' another Christ, and is once and forever a priest who offers sacrifice, forgives sin, and acts in the person of Christ. In these three sacraments, we are conformed more closely to Christ, reflecting his love and truth.

LPi

SECTION TWO THE PROFESSION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH THE CREEDS

"These three parts are distinct although connected with one another. According to a comparison often used by the Fathers, we call them *articles*. Indeed, just as in our bodily members there are certain articulations which distinguish and separate them, so too in this profession of faith, the name *articles* has justly and rightly been given to the truths we must believe particularly and distinctly." In accordance with an ancient tradition, already attested to by St. Ambrose, it is also customary to reckon the articles of the Creed as *twelve*, thus symbolizing the fullness of the apostolic faith by the number of the apostles.

#191 CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH (SECOND EDITION)