

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@stjohnsgulfport.org

December 10, 2023



"PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD." — MK 1:3

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS © 2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. © LPI

Pray
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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

Fiesta de la Virgen de Guadalupe

Martes, 12 de Diciembre de 2023
St. John's Catholic Church, 2414 17th St. Gulfport, MS

- 3:00 am - Mañanitas con Mariachis
4:30 am - Santa Eucaristía de la Aurora
5:30 am - Procesión con la Virgen



Se servirá café y pan desde las 3:00 am

Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe

Tuesday, December 12th, 2023
St. John's Catholic Church GULFPORT MS



- 3:00 am - Music, Prayer and song
4:30 am - Holy Eucharist
5:30 am - Candlelight Procession

Hot coffee & bread will be served from 3:00 am upon arrival

Happy Birthday blessings this week are extended to:

Shelton Peterson, Blair Vollmuth, Dec 9
Mario DiRaimo, Mimi Salloum, Dec 10
David McGuffie, Dec 15

May God grant them many blessings in the coming year!



✠ We pray for all the sick, especially: ✠

Peggy Ryland	Matt Hill	Tom Graves
Suzanne King	Harriett Bowles	Billy Ruble
John Cuevas	Dean Bowles	
David McGuffie	Carl Necaise	Parishioners of
Joann Hoda	Alma Dedeaux	St. John the
Monica Manuel	Julia Langford	Evangelist
Naomi Patton	Joe McCormick	
Melanie Reneé	Sandra Schiffner	
Amy Wheeler	Chris Papania	
Joyce McIntosh	Ed Martin	

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday	4:00 PM	✠ Skip Ryland
Sunday	8:00 AM	✠ PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
	10:30 AM	✠ Charlie Underwood
		✠ Curt Arleth
		✠ Gary Seymour
		✠ Tyler Phillips
		✠ Vincent & Helen Dauro
	5:00 PM	✠ Mary Duff
Monday:	7:00 AM	✠ Michelle Strahan
Tuesday:	7:00 AM	✠ Emily Webber
Wednesday:	7:00 AM	✠ Iris Cooper
Thursday:	7:00 AM	✠ Mackie & Carolyn Fayard
Friday:	7:00 AM	✠ Kris Allen

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Last Week's Collection:

Identified: (checks) \$1870 (cash): \$216

Loose: (checks): \$1710 (cash): \$695

ACH Direct Debit: \$2070 Egiving: \$2014.70

Spanish Collection: \$925

Total: \$9499.70

Second collection

Church Renovation \$7268

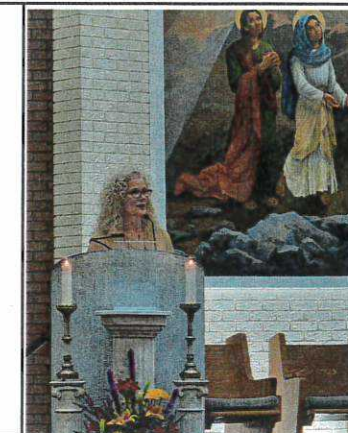
Thank you for your generosity!

Calendar of Activities for December

ACTIVITY	DATE	LOCATION
Our Lady of Guadalupe	December 12th 3:00AM	
Las Posadas	Dec 15 thru 23 7:00pm	Presentation Hall
	Novena	
Advent Penance Service	Dec 20 6pm	Church
Christmas	Christmas Eve Mass (24th) 4pm only Christmas Day Mass 11am only (bi-lingual)	Church
New Year's Day Mass	Jan 1—10:00am only	Church
	REGULAR EVENTS	
Knights of Columbus	1st & 3rd Wednesday	KC Hall
Legion of Mary	Every Thursday at 10:30 am	Church dining room
OCIA classes	Every Thursday at 6pm	
Grief & Loss Support Group	Tuesday January 2, 2024	Church dining room
Young at Heart	Thursday Jan 18, 12:00 noon	Presentation Hall

PARISH LIFE

Thank you to all of our lectors for your time and dedication to this ministry!!



2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 10
Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11
Ps 85:8-14
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8

Monday, December 11
Isaiah 35:1-10
Ps 85:9ab,10-14
Luke 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 12
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Zec 214-17 or
Rev 11:19a; 12:1-6a,10ab
Judith 13:18b-19
Luke 1:26-38 or 1:39-47

Wednesday, December 13
St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr
Isaiah 40:25-31
Ps 103:1-4,8,10
Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday, December 14
St. John of the Cross
Isaiah 41:13-20
Ps 145:1,9-13b
Matthew 11:11-15

Friday, December 15
Isaiah 48:17-19
Ps 1:1-4,6
Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday, December 16
Sirach 48:1-4,9-11
Ps 80:2ac,3b,15-16,18-19
Matthew 17:9a,10-13

Prepare for the Lord! — for whatever he wants to give us, do for us, and ask of us. He has a plan for our lives, a divine purpose that will bring us to our full potential.

We can only do this by uniting ourselves to Christ, joining him on the straight path, the holy path. How do we know when we are on the right path? By the fruits of the journey.

Isaiah says: A voice cries out in the desert! What is barren in your life, and dry, hot, or empty? Sins dry up our potential for fruitfulness.

Advent is a good preparation for Christmas — and meeting the Lord anew — if we use it to face our sins, reconcile with God, and follow Jesus back onto the holy path. If we neglect this opportunity, our lives will be barren of the strong faith we need during difficulties.

Prepare the way of the Lord! He has more love to give you, more healing, more joy! Make straight in the wasteland of your sins a highway for our God. Go to the Sacrament of

Reconciliation and create a wider road into your heart that's easy for Jesus to travel, a through-way upon which he can arrive in great speed and glory.

All humankind is as frail as grass, and all our glory is like the flower of the field that withers and wilts. Only the glory of



God stands forever.

What are your troubles and struggles? Here is where Jesus wants to minister to you, and here is where you are most vulnerable to sin.

What in your life is going well? What activities are you doing that seem

productive? Are any of them grassy glories that can wither away? A hundred years from now, will what you're doing today still have an impact — a beneficial impact?

God has given you talents and a calling, a special purpose that requires those talents. Yes, you! We are all called to have fruitful lives that make an eternal difference. Jesus wants to come straight to us to produce the fruits of his kingdom in our lives and in others.

Prepare for the Lord to make an eternal difference through you!

Reflect & Discuss:

- † What are you going to do to straighten a crooked path?
- † What are you spending time on that will wither up and wilt away?
- † How does thinking about eternity straighten the path that you're walking on today? What changes because of this perspective?

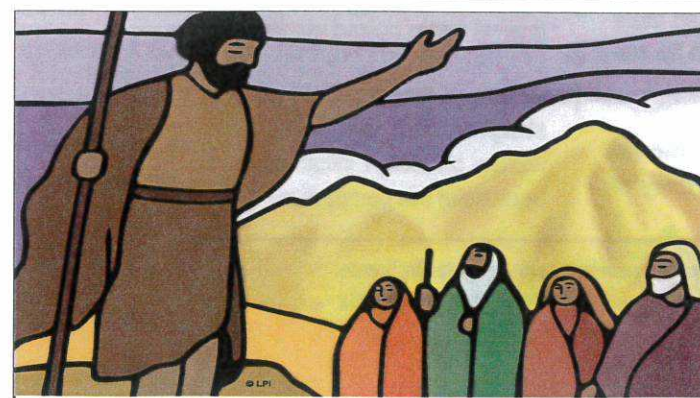
GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 10, 2023
2nd Sunday of Advent

We like to think we are totally free, but the bitter truth is we simply are not. Or better put, our freedom is limited on every side — by governments, corporate giants, physical and mental frailties, genetic shortcomings, and even the boundaries of time and space, and above all, the burden of our sins and pending deaths. In our day, we are perhaps particularly aware that we are not free to disconnect from the technocratic rulers of the air. If you doubt me, try not paying your internet bill and see what happens. We are not totally free.

It's nothing new, of course. In Jesus' day, everyone felt the crushing weight of the Roman Empire. You can say you're free all you want. But try not paying your taxes to Rome and see what happens.

Once we feel this burden in our own lives — however it comes — we are ready to hear the stunning announcement that commences Mark's gospel, "**The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**" It's not a simple perfunctory introduction, but a dramatic announcement of new freedom. The word "gospel" was a political, even military, term. It meant: a great victory has been won and a new king is in charge. This Jesus — not the Roman emperor — is God's son, and he has defeated all that crushes human freedom. It's time to follow him and be truly free. This week let's refuse to submit our freedom to false rulers — especially that of sin. And let's rejoice that Christ is coming to make us perfectly free from all our oppressors. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi



Can Catholics Gamble?

Question: The Bible says that Jesus condemned gambling, but I notice that so many parishes have them at festivals and other events. What's correct?

Answer:

Although Jesus speaks of our relationship with material wealth and the very human struggle with greed, the gospels do not include any specific instructions related to gambling. At the same time, the Church is very sensitive to the needs of those who might struggle with an addiction to gambling, and pastoral care should always be offered to those who struggle with this reality in their life.

While it is true that many parish or school communities include gambling or games of chance in festivals and fundraisers (e.g. bingo, roulette, ring tossing, dunking booths, etc.), there is nothing inherently wrong these sorts of events, given they are played fairly and within the limits of reason are not morally objectionable. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us: "Games of chance (card games, etc.) or wagers are not in themselves contrary to justice. They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for his needs and those of others" (no. 2413).

As in all things, moderation and a sense of healthy limits should be applied to gambling and games of chance. For those who find themselves living with addiction to gambling, help is available in various 12-step and addiction recovery programs. ©LPi

Section Two THE PROFESSION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH CHAPTER 1

I Believe in God the Father

Our profession of faith begins with *God*, for God is the First and the Last, the beginning and the end of everything. The Credo begins with God the *Father*, for the Father is the first divine person of the Most Holy Trinity; our Creed begins with the creation of heaven and earth, for creation is the beginning and the foundation of all God's works.