

# 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

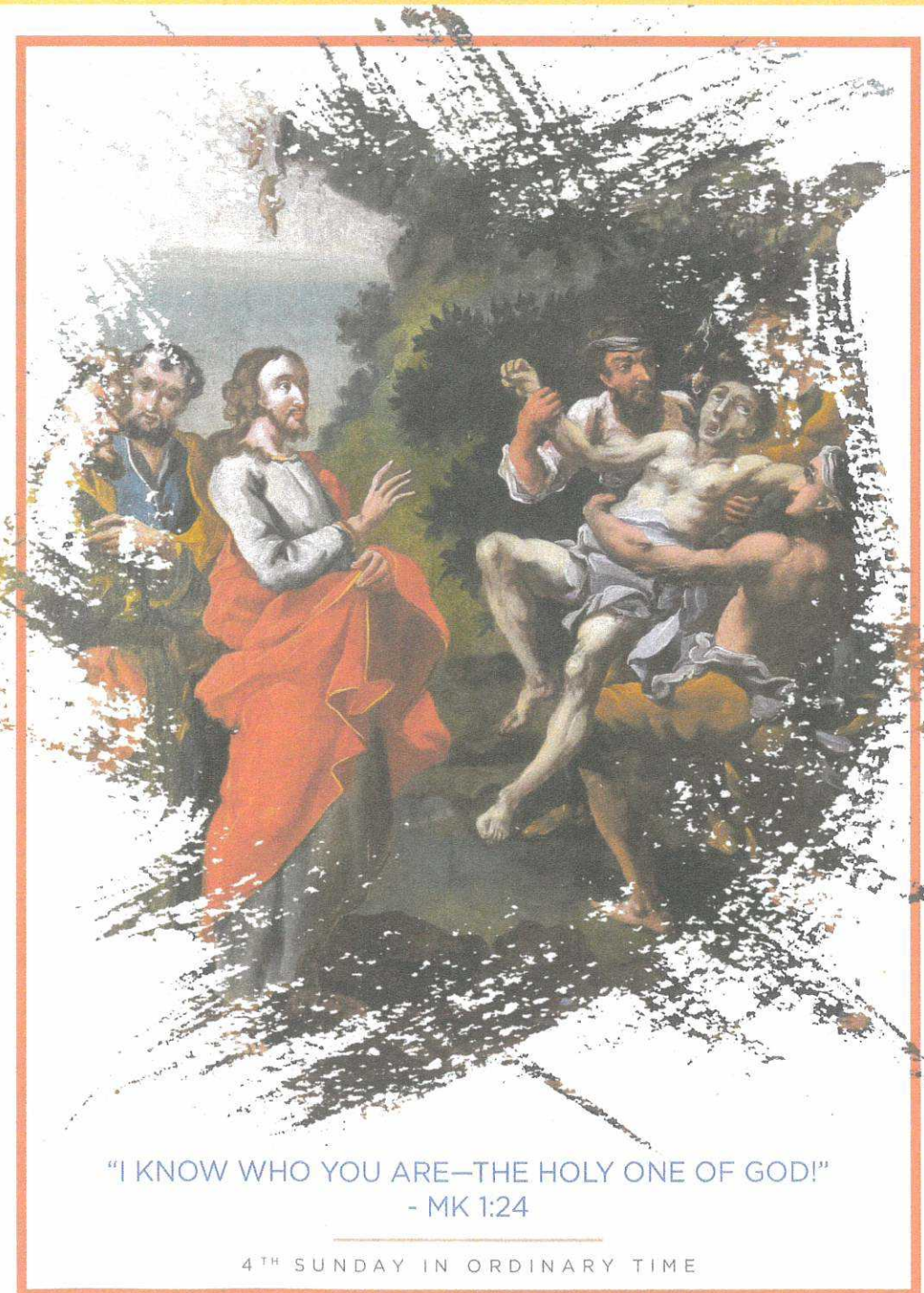
9:00 AM: Healing Mass

2414 Seventeenth Street, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

Telephone: 228-864-2272

Email: [stjohnthee@stjohngulfport.org](mailto:stjohnthee@stjohngulfport.org)

## January 28, 2024



"I KNOW WHO YOU ARE—THE HOLY ONE OF GOD!"

- MK 1:24

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

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For Peace

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St. John the Evangelist Church, Gulfport, MS

A 4C 05-4106





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 [\*\*stjohnngulfport.org\*\*](http://stjohnngulfport.org).

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

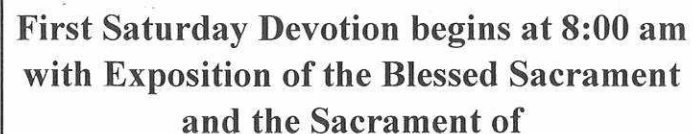


Office hours are Monday thru Friday: 9 am to 3 pm.  
Office phone number: 228-864-2272  
Father Mike: 850-288-0155

## First Friday Adoration

**First Friday is February 2nd from 7:30am until 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!**

## HEALING MASS FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION



## Reconciliation

**Healing Mass begins at 9:00 am**

## Calendar of Activities for January & February

ACTIVITY	DATE	LOCATION
First Friday Adoration	Feb 2nd from 7:30am to 5:00pm	Church
First Saturday Devotion	Feb 3rd 8am to 9am	Church
First Saturday Healing Mass	Feb 3rd 9am	
Ash Wednesday Masses	Feb 14th 7am Feb 14th 12:00 noon Feb 14th 7pm (Spanish)	Church
Week Day Lenten Masses	7am & 1200 noon	Church
	<b>REGULAR EVENTS</b>	
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	
Young at Heart	Thursday Feb 15, 12:00 noon	Presentation Hall
Grief & Loss Support Group	By request - contact 228-864-2272	Church dining room

*Happy Birthday blessings this week are extended to:*

Isabel Leatherman, Olivia Leatherman, Jan 28  
Gary Beach, George Burkhardt, Jan 29  
Ron Gross, Jan 30  
JoAnn O'Neal, Jan 31  
Carol Steele, Jan 31  
Howard McNeill, Feb 1  
John Necaise, Feb 2

*May God grant them many blessings in the coming year!*

## Congratulations to Our Parishioners

Gerald & Sandra Cooper, 49 yrs on Feb 1  
Guy & Cleo Dossett, 27yrs on Feb 1  
Tom & Kim Graves, 26 yrs on Feb 1

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

† *We pray for all the sick, especially:* †

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

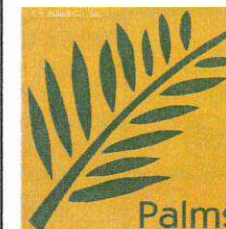
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	† Glen Carter
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	† People of the Parish
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	† Kris Allen
		† Aarol Thibodeaux
		† Vincent & Helen Dauro
		†
		†
	<b>5:00 PM</b>	† Janie Coffey
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>7:00 AM</b>	†(Communion Service)
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>7:00 AM</b>	† Mackie & Carolyn Fayard
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>7:00 AM</b>	† Suzanne Bowles
		(Happy birthday Joann O’Neal)
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>7:00 AM</b>	† Mackie & Carolyn Fayard
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>7:00 AM</b>	† Juteo Dulo & Aurelia Soriano
		(Happy Birthday John Necaie)

## Our Mother of Mercy Bingo

Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church will be having Bingo every Thursday beginning Feb 1st. Doors are open at 5:30 PM. Early bird at 6:30pm and Bingo to follow at 7:00pm. The address is: 216 Saucier Avenue, Pass Christian, Ms. 39571.



➤ Please bring your (*last year's*) blessed palms and place them in the basket at the back of the church.



### Last Week's Collection:

**Identified: (checks) \$2283.00 (cash): \$116.00**

**Loose: (checks) \$1850.00 (cash): \$888.00**

**ACH Direct Debit:\$1230.00 Egiving: \$1134.75**

**Spanish Collection: \$996.00**

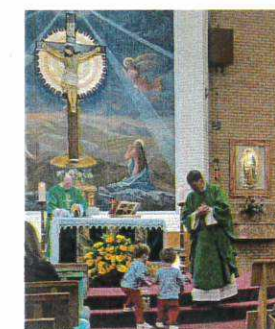
**Total: \$8497.75**

**Church Renovation: \$5690.00**

***Thank you for your generosity!***

**If you want an annual contribution statement, please contact the parish office at 228-864-2270.**

## PARISH LIFE





## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday, January 28

Dt 18:15-20  
Ps 95:1-2,6-9  
1 Cor 7:32-35  
Mk 1:21-28

Monday, January 29

2 Sm 15:13-14,30; 16:5-13  
Ps 3:2-7  
Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday, January 30

2 Sm 18:9-10,14b,  
24-25a,30 – 19:3  
Ps 86:1-6  
Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday, January 31

St. John Bosco, Priest  
2 Sm 24:2,9-17  
Ps 32:1-2,5-7  
Mk 6:1-6

Thursday, February 1

1 Kgs 2:1-4,10-12  
1 Chr 29:10-11b,11d-12d  
Mk 6:7-13

Friday, February 2

Presentation of the Lord  
Mal 3:1-4  
Ps 24:7-10  
Heb 2:14-18  
Lk 2:22-40

Saturday, February 3

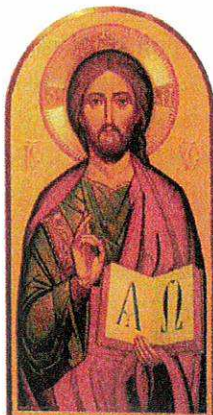
1 Kgs 3:4-13  
Ps 119:9-14  
Mk 6:30-34

This Sunday's Gospel reading illustrates the authority of Jesus. If we truly accept and understand his authority over our lives, we can rejoice in the Lord even when life hands us hardships.

Why? Because we know that Christ's authority is supreme, which means that everything we've placed under his authority will produce good fruits. Even bad situations will be transformed into blessings. Tragedies will be changed into triumphs. Sorrows will be transfigured into joy. Frustrations will lay the groundwork for new growth, new knowledge, and a greater ability to minister to others.

However, if we reject Christ's authority by acting as if we're the ones in charge, deciding for ourselves how to end a problem or how and when to escape from a hardship, our problems will only get worse. This is called "moral relativism." Pope Francis wrote in his Apostolic Exhortation on the Gospel of Joy (*Evangelii Gaudium*, paragraph 64) that this leads to a feeling of disorientation instead of joy.

The path to joy has been forged by the footsteps of Jesus. To benefit from his authority over evil and over human sufferings, we have to follow his example and obey his teachings. This means choosing to trust him, realizing that his ways are the best ways even when they're unpleasant ways. It means that we're willing to reach resurrection glory by going through the



cross with Jesus.

There are no successful shortcuts to the triumphant victory that awaits us. There is no easy way to overcome evil. If this were not true, Jesus wouldn't have needed to die on a cross.

The good news – the reason why we can rejoice

– is that the most loving, most powerful, most wise One in the universe is using his supreme authority on our behalf. The question is: Will we submit to it?

### Reflect & Discuss:

† In what ways are you still rejecting Christ's authority by trying to do things your own way? Which Church teachings have you been rejecting because you've decided to live by your own rules?

† Are you willing to ask the Holy Spirit to change your mind on these matters and teach you the value of Christ's ways?

† In what ways do Christians often reject Christ's authority in favor of defining their own rules? Why?

† What are the apparent risks to living completely under Christ's strict authority?

† How can we replace these risks with a sense of safety?

### Communion & Mortal Sin

**Question:** I have a friend who receives communion, but who I know for a fact is in a state of mortal sin. Should I tell our priest? Is it my responsibility to say something?

**Answer:** While we may always want to do what is best for our friends and family members, we have a responsibility to respect their privacy and their conscience. In its reflections on the Eighth Commandment ("You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor"), the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "Respect for the reputation of persons forbids every attitude and word likely to cause them unjust injury. [One] becomes guilty: -of rash judgment who, even tacitly, assumes as true, without sufficient foundation, the moral fault of a neighbor; -of detraction who, without objectively valid reason, discloses another's faults and failings to persons who do not know them; of calumny who, by remarks contrary to the truth, harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them" (no. 2477).

We will never truly know what is in a person's mind, heart, and soul; only God knows those things. We should, of course, take our concerns to God and entrust the person about whom we are concerned to God's grace and mercy. If we have concerns about the spiritual wellbeing of someone with whom we are close, we should go to the person themselves and talk about our fears and concerns. Unless it is a case of abuse or endangerment (which we have a moral and even legal responsibility to report to the appropriate authorities), we ultimately do not have the freedom to share another's persons faults or sins, however good we think our intentions might be.

©LPi

### Article 1

THE PROFESSION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH  
CHAPTER I

"I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY,  
CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH"

### II. The Living God

God called Moses from the midst of a bush that burns without being consumed: "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." God is the God of the fathers, the One who had called and guided the patriarchs in their wanderings. He is the faithful and compassionate God who remembers them and his promises; he comes to free their descendants from slavery. He is the God who, from beyond space and time, can do this and wills to do it, the God who will put his almighty power to work for this plan. #205

CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH (SECOND EDITION)

### GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

January 28, 2024 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

I love movies about exorcisms. Apparently, so do many others. The 2023 movie "Nefarious" features a possibly possessed inmate on death row. Critics were not impressed, but audiences scored it at 97% on the website Rotten Tomatoes. Most people have an appreciation for the demonic realm, even if cultural elites are generally embarrassed about it. As is standard in exorcism movies, the afflicted person (in this case, a man named Edward Brady) thinks and acts like *multiple* persons. He is someone besides himself. We know what that is like. We feel *fake* sometimes, not ourselves.

The same dynamic is on dramatic display this week in the Gospel. Jesus the Exorcist approaches a possessed man who utters, "**What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?**" Notice the plural, *us*. The basic effect of the demonic is division. The man's identity is fractured, divided, and thus many. Jesus powerfully expels the spirit by saying, "**Quiet! Come out of him!**" Jesus' word has the power to restore the man's singularity — *him* — and indeed it does.

All this helps us to dismiss childish images of demons sporting red goat tails. Equally, it overcomes the cultured aloofness that dreams demons are mere metaphors for evil. We see instead that fallen angels are conscious and intelligent beings who orient their agency toward division. They bring about schism where there should be unity, e.g., in persons, families, communities, politics, and so on. Thankfully, Jesus commands demons to flee from all these places to restore wholeness and peace. What if we made room for his word where we need it? — *Father John Muir* ©LPi

### Seder Meal

Please come and join us on **Wednesday, March 13 at 6:00 p.m. in Presentation Hall** as we celebrate together our Seder Meal/supper. We appreciate all of you who so faithfully come every year and participate as we tell the story of our faith that passes on important Biblical truths about Jesus, explains what happened on the last day of his life that culminated in the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. We ask that you bring a **covered dish** to help complete the meal. Please **RSVP** to Ann 864-2272, or sign the sheet in church, so we will know what you are bringing and how many will be attending.

Also, for this event more help is always needed and most appreciated if you can help us prepare the ceremonial part of the meal. We look forward to seeing you there!! (Mark your calendar)