

# 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

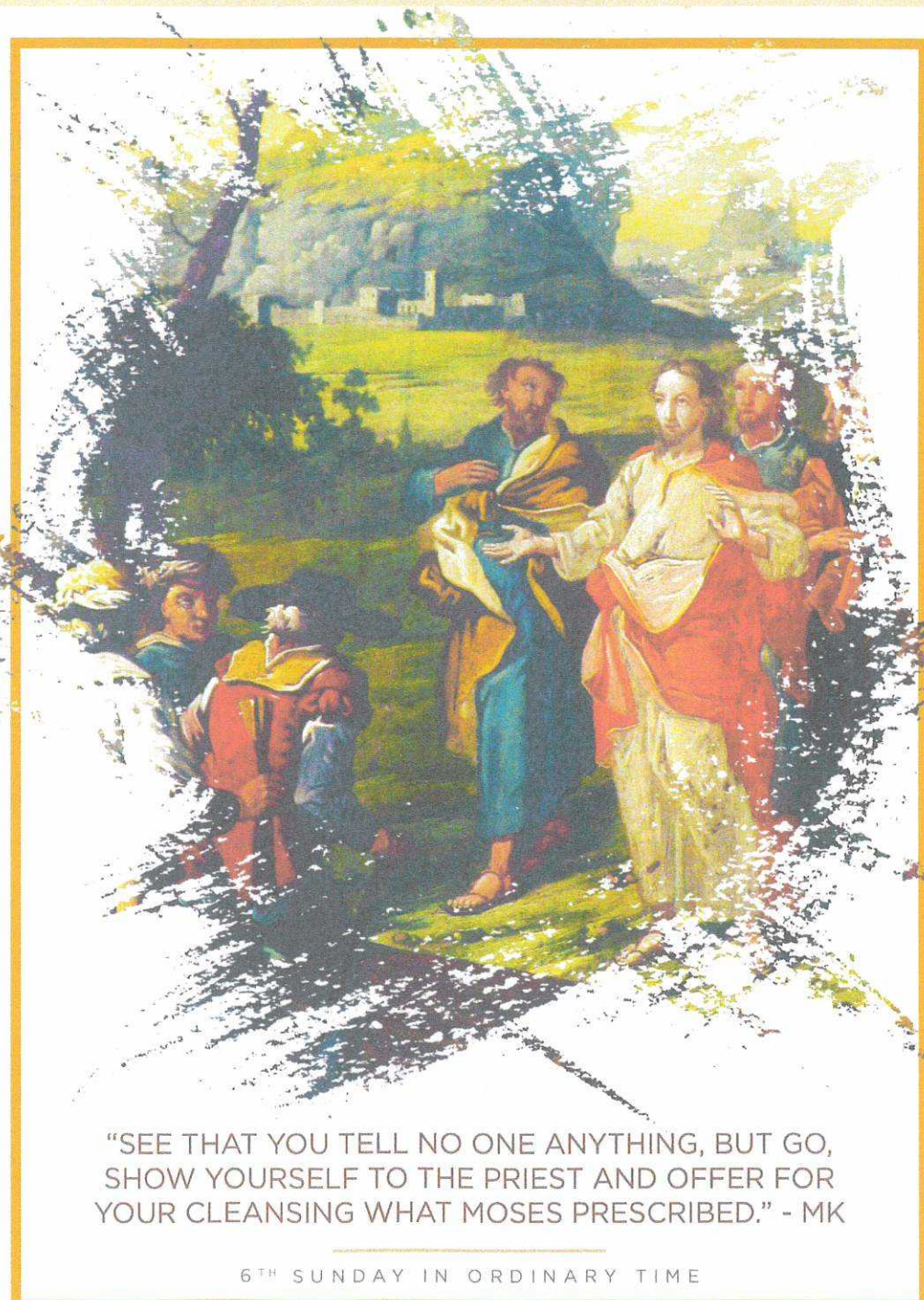
9:00 AM: Healing Mass

2414 Seventeenth Street, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

Telephone: 228-864-2272

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

## February 11, 2024



"SEE THAT YOU TELL NO ONE ANYTHING, BUT GO, SHOW YOURSELF TO THE PRIEST AND OFFER FOR YOUR CLEANSING WHAT MOSES PRESCRIBED." - MK

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

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For Peace

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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](http://stjohngulfport.org).

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



### Parish Office Hours

Parish office will be closed Tuesday Feb 13 for Mardi Gras

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

### Young at Heart

We invite our senior parishioners to join us for our monthly luncheon starting February 15th at 12pm. A main dish will be provided and you are welcome to bring a side dish or desert. There will be bingo and fellowship in Presentation Hall. Call the office for more information. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us also!!



### Memorial Service for Rhonda Mires

The 10:30am Mass on February 11th will be a Memorial service for Rhonda Mires.



May Rhonda rest in peace.

### Happy Birthday blessings this week are extended to:

Ruth Ames, Feb 17  
Scott Poole, Feb 18  
Sophie Frommeyer, Feb 19  
Robert Clay, Ted Cotman, Feb 20  
Harry Kaidan, 21  
Ronald Cuevas, 22

May God grant them many blessings in the coming year!



### Congratulations to Our Parishioners



Don & Sandra Schiffner 9 yrs, Feb 15

May God bless them with many more happy years together!

† We pray for all the sick, especially: †

Peggy Ryland	Tom Graves	Deanna Ladner
Suzanne King	Billy Ruble	
Joann Hoda	Alyssa Henderson	Parishioners of
Naomi Patton	Al Allen	St. John the
Harriett Bowles	Olivia Hood	Evangelist
Dean Bowles	Thomas Woodcock	
Carl Ncaise	Bryan Cuevas	
Alma Dedeaux	Debbie Duckworth	
Julia Langford	Nadine Nichols	
Joe McCormick	Cathy Crane Vick	
Chris Papania	Adrian Jacobs	

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday	4:00 PM	† Sue Papania
Sunday	8:00 AM	† Kris Allen
		† Aarol Thibodeaux
		† Margaret Hobkins
		(Special Intention: Marriage)
	10:30 AM	† Rhonda Mires
	5:00 PM	† Anthony Verin Davis
Monday:	7:00 AM	† (Communion Service)
Tuesday:	7:00 AM	† Mackie & Carolyn Fayard
Wednesday:	7:00 AM	† Mike Pickins, Sr.
	12:00 Noon	† Emily Webber
	7:00 PM	† Poor Souls in Purgatory
Thursday:	7:00 AM	† Emily Rorex
	12:00 Noon	† Anthony Verin Davis
Friday:	7:00 AM	† Michelle Strahan
	12:00 Noon	† Genevieve Verin & Anthony Grandis

### Last Year's Blessed Palms

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) \$2725.00 (cash): \$168.00

Loose: (checks) \$2595.00 (cash): \$1060.00

ACH Direct Debit: \$1710.00 Egiving: \$3388.83

Spanish Collection: \$786.00

Total: \$12,432.83

2nd Collection: Church Renovation: \$2072.00

Thank you for your generosity!

For an annual contribution statement, please contact the parish office at 228-864-2270.



### FISH FRY

The Knights of Columbus will host a **Lenten Fish Fry** on Fridays from 5-7pm starting Feb 16th until March 22nd in Presentation Hall.

**Price: \$10.00**

Includes: **Catfish** and *homemade* potato salad, baked beans, hush puppies, and desert.

### PARISH LIFE

### Early Spring Cleaning at St John's Office



### Calendar of Activities for February & March

ACTIVITY	DATE	LOCATION
Ash Wednesday Masses	Feb 14th 7am Feb 14th 12:00 noon Feb 14th 7pm (Spanish)	Church
Week Day Lenten Masses	7am & 1200 noon	Church
Stations of the Cross	Fridays 6:00pm (English) 6:30pm (Spanish)	Church
KC Fish Fry	Fridays 5-7pm	Presentation Hall
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	Presentation Hall
Young at Heart	Thursday Feb 15, 12:00 noon	Presentation Hall



## 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

**Sunday February 12**  
Sirach 15:15-20  
Ps 119:1-2,4-5,17-18,  
33-34(1b)  
1 Corinthians 2:6-10  
Matthew 5:17-37

**Monday February 13**  
Genesis 4:1-15, 25  
Ps 50:1,8,16bc-17,20-21  
Mark 8:11-13

**Tuesday February 14**  
**Sts. Cyril and Methodius**  
Genesis 6:5-8;7:1-5,10  
Ps 29:1-2,3ac-4,3b,9c-10  
Mark 8:14-21

**Wednesday February 15**  
Genesis 8:6-13,20-22  
Ps 116:12-15,18-19  
Mark 8:22-26

**Thursday February 16**  
Genesis 9:1-13  
Ps 102:16-21,29,22-23  
Mark 8:27-33

**Friday February 17**  
Genesis 11:1-9  
Ps 33:10-15  
Mark 8:34 - 9:1

**Saturday February 18**  
Hebrews 11:1-7  
Ps 145:2-5,10-11  
Mark 9:2-13

The Jewish religious authorities of Jesus' day were often literalists in their interpretation of the Law of God. Jesus, however, gave a deeper meaning to the Law. He placed his focus on the *goal* of the Law: Love.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus explains that we fail to fulfill the Law when our so-called obedience isn't motivated by love.

Jesus completely fulfilled the true meaning of the Law. In doing so, he took upon himself our disobedience and died for us in the most generous gift of love.

As his followers, we also are to be generous with love. Obeying all the commandments – truly obeying them – requires loving God with our whole heart, all the time, and loving others as ourselves.

Jesus explains how to transform literal interpretations of God's laws into the Law of Love. In each example, he shows that we are to choose the most loving approach to every problem, no matter how difficult.

His first topic is anger: Sinful anger is judgmental and we are judged by this sin. Jesus provides the remedy: Go and do whatever is necessary to be reconciled. This, he points out, is even

more important than worshiping God. How genuine can our worship be if anger has replaced love in our hearts, since God is love?

Another example is lust, which is a counterfeit of love because it treats others as objects. And divorce from a valid marriage is a failure to love as Christ loves, who taught that love makes sacrifices and endures hardships. Remarriage, he says, furthers the sin because it's unloving to the spouse of the original union.

Jesus extends this teaching to every area of life. Breaking an oath is unloving. Lying and never intending to keep the commitment is unloving. In fact, the entire Sermon on the Mount,



of which this Gospel reading is a part, explains how to love.

### Reflect & Discuss:

† Were you ever treated unlovingly because of another person's legalism? How did that experience hide the true nature of Jesus?

† What habits do you have that are unloving toward yourself? How do they affect others?

† Recall a time when someone treated you unfairly but you responded with an act of love. How difficult was it to give that love? What were the results?

† Name common ways that Christians fail to obey God. What did Jesus do to make up for those failures? For example, how do you suppose Jesus treats unborn babies who've been aborted or miscarried?

## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE February 11, 2024

### 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Recently I had a skin rash, and it was awful. (Please don't tell anyone.) I am embarrassed to admit that I didn't handle it well. Complaining, whining, begging for sympathy, and crying were my responses to the merciless itching and burning. In the aftermath, a silver lining emerged. I feel a new heartfelt sympathy for all those vexed with chronic skin problems. If you've ever had a seemingly unending skin problem, you know how that sympathy flows up from deep inside.

This gut-level compassion is something like what the Gospel describes in Jesus when the sore-covered leper says, **"If you will it, you can make me clean."** At this, just before the healing, Jesus was **"moved with compassion."** The Greek word used here is strong and earthy, closer to "his bowels and guts trembled with the deepest emotions of sadness, pity, and love." In Jesus, God heals our infirmities not from a divine distance but by learning what it *feels like* to be us. He acquires first-hand experience of what it costs us to be afflicted and still be faithful to God. He sympathizes with the burning, itching, and blistering of human existence in the deepest, first-hand way. To discover that is to touch Jesus' heart.

What in your life, right now, is breaking out like diseased skin? What is getting worse the more you try to soothe it? Perhaps only you feel it. Or maybe it's exposed to all. A bad habit, broken relationship, loneliness, fear of failure, self-hatred? Name it, and then find a way to bring it confidently to Jesus who will *feel what we are feeling*, and thereby heal us.

— Father John Muir

### Article 1

THE PROFESSION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

#### CHAPTER 1

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

#### II. The Living God

##### "I Am who I Am"

In revealing his mysterious name, YHWH ("I AM HE WHO IS," "I AM WHO AM" or "I AM WHO I AM"), God says who he is and by what name he is to be called. This divine name is mysterious just as God is mystery. It is at once a name revealed and something like the refusal of a name, and hence it better expresses God as what he is-- infinitely above everything that we can understand or say: he is the "hidden God," his name is ineffable, and he is the God who makes himself close to men. #206

CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH (SECOND EDITION)

## Saint Vs. Blessed

### Question:

What is the difference between a "Saint" and a "Blessed"?

### Answer:

The process of proclaiming someone as a saint in the Catholic Church has evolved over the course of many centuries. In the beginning, those honored as saints were almost exclusively biblical figures or martyrs. However, after the legalization of Christianity in the fourth century, new holy women and men came to be honored as saints, and this was often done by popular acclaim or by the local bishop or abbot.

It was Pope Gregory IX (who was pope from 1227 to 1241) who officially proclaimed that only the pope had the authority to add someone to the official list (the "canon") of saints. This is the meaning of the word "canonization."

Today, the saint-making process includes several steps, including detailed studies of the person's life and a recognition that they died as a martyr or lived a life of "heroic virtue." Once someone is recognized as a martyr or if a miracle is attributed to their intercession, they will be beatified and honored as "Blessed." This means that they can be celebrated by Catholics in a particular country or region or by the members of certain religious community. If another miracle occurs and is approved, then the "Blessed" is canonized and honored with the title "Saint," meaning that they are now officially recognized as a universal model of holiness and an intercessor. *LPI*

## Seder Meal

Please come and join us on **Thursday, March 14 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)**