

# 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

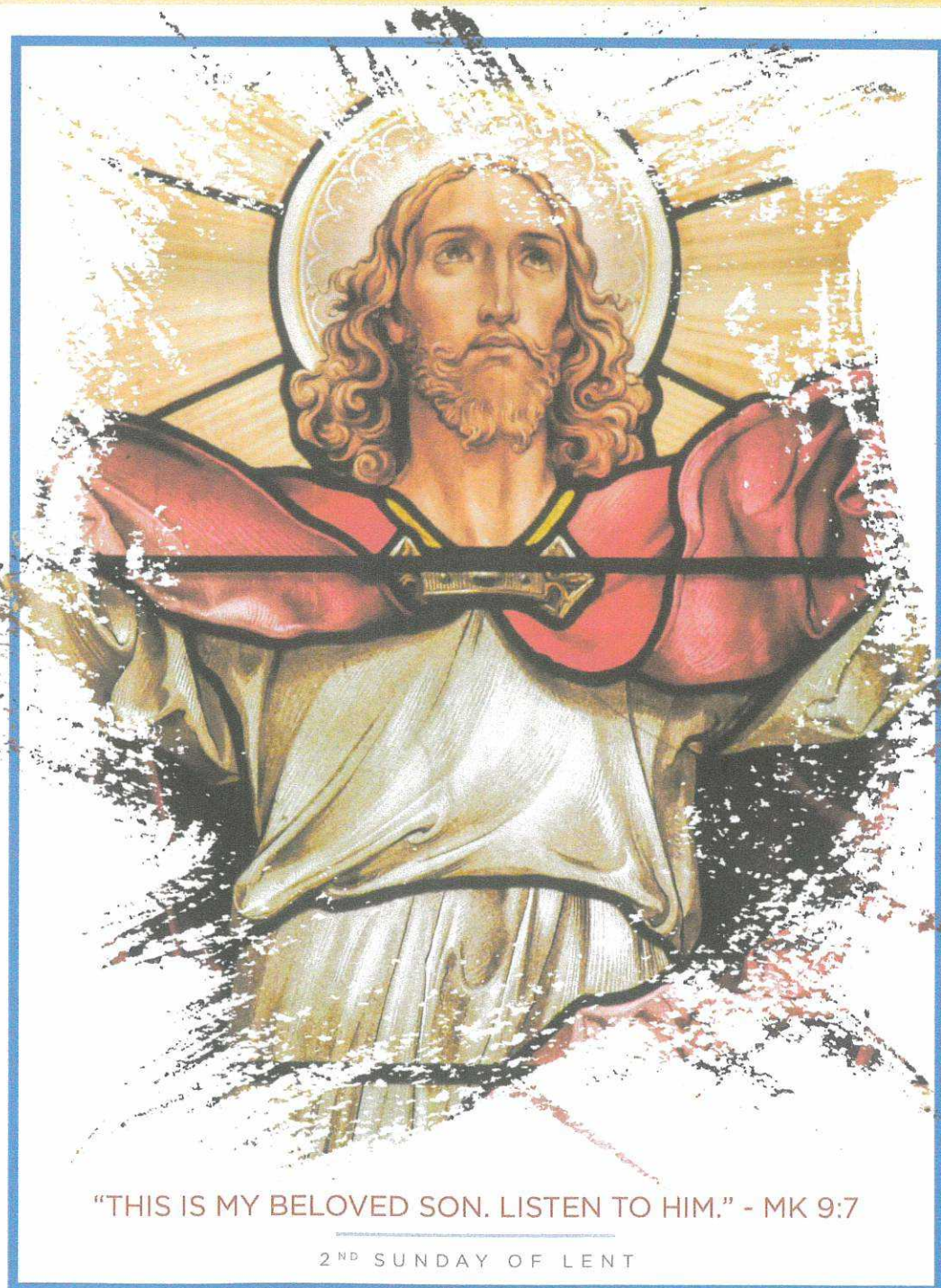
9:00 AM: Healing Mass

2414 Seventeenth Street, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

Telephone: 228-864-2272

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

**February 25, 2024**



"THIS IS MY BELOVED SON. LISTEN TO HIM." - MK 9:7

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

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





## 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

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

# MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP

## PARISH TEAM GUIDE

In today's Scripture, we hear of Abraham's unwavering commitment and devotion to the Lord. One way to witness to Christ is to offer a gift to the 2024 Catholic Sharing Appeal. Your gift can do so much to help in the lives of others and bring the Gospel of Christ to souls in our diocese.

Last year our parish was so generous as 30% of us shared in this commitment. We thank you all and ask this year that all of us reach out to others in the Catholic Sharing Appeal.



Use the envelopes that are provided or you can donate online at:  
[biloxidiocese.org/donate](http://biloxidiocese.org/donate)

## First Friday Adoration

First Friday is March 1st 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!

### FIRST SATURDAY HEALING MASS

9:00 am March 2nd

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

Suzanne King, John Vincent Dauro, Feb 24  
Debbie Beach, Feb 25  
Ashley Comstock, Felecia Galle, Joe Salloum, Feb 26  
Jared Brennan, Zack Larkin, Jeffrey Mattina, March 1  
Jane McDaniel, Genna Ward, March 1  
Don Enroth, Vicki Smith, March 2  
Teri Patton, March 3

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

† We pray for all the sick, especially: †

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

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

|            |            |                                     |
|------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Saturday   | 4:00 PM    | † Sue Papania                       |
| Sunday     | 8:00 AM    | People of the Parish                |
|            | 10:30 AM   | † Curt Arleth                       |
|            |            | † Aarol Thibodeaux                  |
|            |            | † Vincent & Helen Dauro             |
|            | 5:00 PM    | † Anthony Verin Davis               |
| Monday:    | 7:00 AM    | † Cecil & Margaret Dubuisson        |
|            | 12:00 PM   | † Kris Allen                        |
| Tuesday:   | 7:00 AM    | † Mack Webb                         |
|            | 12:00 PM   | † Edith Searls                      |
| Wednesday: | 7:00 AM    | † Carl & Jenny Lizana               |
|            | 12:00 Noon | † Carolyn & Mackie Fayard           |
| Thursday:  | 7:00 AM    | † Ed Martin                         |
|            | 12:00 Noon | † Genevieve & Anthony Verin Grandis |
| Friday:    | 7:00 AM    | † Juteo Dulo & Aurelia Soriano      |
|            | 12:00 Noon | † Kay Holley                        |

### Last Week's Collection:

Identified: (checks) \$1,995 (cash): \$195

Loose: (checks) \$2345.57 (cash): \$845

ACH Direct Debit: \$1230.00 Egiving: \$858.63

Spanish Collection: \$847.00

Ash Wednesday: \$2,688.00

2nd Collection: Eastern Churches \$485.00

Total: \$ 8316.20

2nd Collection: Black & Indian Churches: \$959.00

*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 **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



Congratulations to new cursillista, Ruth Ames of Cursillo 294!

**Living her Fourth Day!**

**DeColores!!**

## Calendar of Activities for February & March

| ACTIVITY               | DATE   | LOCATION           |
|------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Week Day Lenten Masses | 7am & 1200 noon                              | Church             |
| Stations of the Cross  | Fridays 6:00pm (English)<br>7:00pm (Spanish) | Church             |
| KC Fish Fry            | Fridays 5-7pm                                | Presentation Hall  |
| Deo Gloria             | March 5th—6PM                                | 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                        | Presentation Hall  |
|                        |  |                    |
|                        |  |                    |
|                        |  |                    |
|                        |  |                    |
|                        |  |                    |



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

**Sunday, February 25**  
Gn 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18  
Ps 116:10,15-19  
Rom 8:31b-34  
Mk 9:2-10

**Monday, February 26**  
Dn 9:4b-10  
Ps 79:8,9,11,13  
Lk 6:36-38

**Tuesday, February 27**  
Is 1:10,16-20  
Ps 50:8-9,16b-17,21,23  
Mt 23:1-12

**Wednesday, February 28**  
Jer 18:18-20  
Ps 31:5-6,14-16  
Mt 20:17-28

**Thursday, February 29**  
Jer 17:5-10  
Ps 1:1-4,6  
Lk 16:19-31

**Friday, March 1**  
Gn 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a  
Ps 105:16-21  
Mt 21:33-43,45-46

**Saturday, March 2**  
Mt 7:14-15,18-20  
Ps 103:1-4,9-12  
Lk 15:1-3,11-32

Think of a "mountaintop experience" you've had. What generated it? Did it change your life forever or was it just a momentary high?

In Biblical symbolism, a mountain represents getting close to God. Did your mountaintop experience bring you closer to God?

It was at the top of Mount Tabor where Jesus revealed the glory of his Godliness to his closest friends. Called a "high mountain" in scripture, Mount Tabor is, in reality, not huge. What was huge is the event that took place there – and why.

The three disciples who witnessed Christ's transfiguration greatly benefited from seeing his glory revealed, because someday they would be commissioned to take over his earthly ministry.

The Father told them, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." As we listen to Jesus, it is we who are now transfigured.

Lent is meant to be a mountaintop experience for each of us. If we follow Jesus up the mountain, his light will consume any darkness within us. The more we listen to his teachings and apply them to our daily lives and ministries, the more we become like him. And the more we become like Jesus, the more our lives are transfigured by his light, and the more our lives then transfigure the world around us.

As the first reading tells us, Abraham did not withhold his



son from the Lord; God the Father did not withhold his Son from us.

Likewise, we must not withhold the Son from the people we encounter. Whether it's by an evangelizing word or a helping hand, or a compassionate and

attentive ear, or the generous giving of mercy and forgiveness or money or time, we are Christ's hands and feet and voice in the world today. We are his earthly body. We are the answers to people's prayers.

We have been empowered through our baptisms to shine with the glory of Christ's love. We have all been commissioned to continue his earthly ministry. May the experience of Lent take us to new heights of union with Christ and his mission!

### Reflect & Discuss:

† Identify one area of your life that you would like Jesus to transfigure. What do you need to do to repent of it? How do you need to change (with God's help) so that others see more of Jesus?

† Share the story of a time when you let Jesus change you. How difficult was it to be transfigured? Why did you want to make the change? How did it impact others?

### Why Hold Hands?

#### Question:

Why do we hold hands during the Our Father?

#### Answer:

The practice of members of the assembly holding hands while praying the Lord's Prayer during the Mass is a custom that developed organically in the 1970s and 1980s. While some commentators acknowledge that the practice varies from place to place, it is a fairly universal reality in parishes across the United States. For some, this action symbolizes the communion of Christians praying together as one family of believers honoring the Father of All. Critics of the practice sometimes express concern that holding hands can be a distraction from the more significant unity that is experienced when we process to the altar to receive sacramental communion.

And so, we're left to ask, what is the answer?

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (the document that offers specific instructions for the celebration of the Mass) is silent on the practice, saying only that "all the faithful say the prayer" with the priest. The website of the US Bishops simply observes that "No position is prescribed in the Roman Missal for an assembly gesture during the Lord's Prayer." And so, we're left to discern within ourselves and within our parish and religious communities what is an authentic gesture of praise during this important point of the Mass. For some, this means continuing to hold hands, while for others, this may mean adopting another posture of prayer.

©LPi

#### 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"

Faced with God's fascinating and mysterious presence, man discovers his own insignificance. Before the burning bush, Moses takes off his sandals and veils his face in the presence of God's holiness. Before the glory of the thrice-holy God, Isaiah cries out: "Woe is me! I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips." Before the divine signs wrought by Jesus, Peter exclaims: "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." But because God is holy, he can forgive the man who realizes that he is a sinner before him: "I will not execute my fierce anger...for I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst." The apostle John says likewise: "We shall...reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything." 208

CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH (SECOND EDITION)

### GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

As a college student, my prized possession was an after-market car stereo. It was my pride and joy: glorious audio, eye-catching display screen, and multi-disc CD changer. It drained my hard-earned dollars, but it was totally worth it. It drenched me in music everywhere I drove. On Ash Wednesday of my senior year of college, Father Tom, the Jesuit priest at my university said, "Pray for God to tell you what he wants you to sacrifice for Lent." I did. In my heart, the answer came: "Give up listening to your car stereo for forty days." I winced. Not possible, I thought. Can't do it. I made other plans. The next morning, I was stunned to find that my car had been broken into, and my fancy stereo ripped out and stolen.

God's command to sacrifice what we love is no joke. This week in Genesis 22, God says: "**Abraham!**" "**Here I am,**" he replied. Then God said, "**Take your son, your only son, whom you love — Isaac — and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.**" Believe me, I know. We like to be in control. It chafes us that *God sets the terms* of what we must sacrifice, and how. But this is no impersonal, tyrannical process. Remember that God uses their names, Abraham and Isaac. God knows each one of us and the precious gifts He commands us to offer. Finally, our sacrifices are for our own good. Do we trust this enough to do what Father Tom asked me to do?

**Lenten challenge:** This week, I dare you to ask God: "What do you want me to give up?" He may ask for that which you love most. It will be something precious to you: time, money, a relationship, a dream, an opportunity. What matters is we trust Him and act sacrificially in line with His command. Whatever we sacrifice will of course come back to us as surely as the Risen Jesus — but that doesn't make it easy.

— Father John Muir

### 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)