Dear Padre,

It seems like the Church always asks for money. Why should I donate?

The Church is a global organization representing institutions with growing needs—parishes, schools, charities, and mission societies, for example. If it seems like they "always ask for money," it's because there is a constant need to maintain these services. Indeed, the Vatican donates substantial funds to many charities.

Financial support has always been part of Christian community life. Jesus instructed his apostles to rely on the generosity and hospitality of those to whom they preached (see Luke 10:7). Early Christians gave contributions to the apostles to be distributed among widows and orphans. In fact, the early Church's charitable activities were so extensive, it led to the formation of the diaconate, with deacons focusing on charitable work while the apostles preached (see Acts 6:1–6).

WIRESTOCK CREATORS / SHUTTERSTOCK

Some observe that the Church owns splendid churches and artwork. "Why doesn't the Church sell these assets to fund their operations?" they ask. Indeed, as worshipers leave inner-city parishes for the suburbs, dioceses have tried to sell decommissioned churches. They have discovered that few people can or want to buy a church. As for art treasures, they are part of the Church's patrimony from previous generations that continues to inspire Catholics today and into the future.

Ultimately, we give in charity, recognizing that it's Christ to whom we give when we give to the needy. Almsgiving is part of Christian life because of what it does for the recipient and for what giving does for the giver (see Acts 20:35).

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Charity is not a barren service nor a simple offering to be made in order to ease our conscience. What we must never forget is that charity has its origin and its essence in God himself; charity is God our Father's embrace of every person, particularly of the least and the suffering.

ADDRESS TO CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS, MAY 27, 2019

Calendar

Monday
SEPTEMBER 5
Weekday
1 Cor 5:1–8
Lk 6:6–11

Tuesday
SEPTEMBER 6
Weekday
1 Cor 6:1–11
Lk 6:12–19

Wednesday
SEPTEMBER 7
Weekday
1 Cor 7:25–31
Lk 6:20–26

Thursday
SEPTEMBER 8
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Mi 5:1–4a
or Rom 8:28–30
Mt 1:1–16, 18–23
or 1:18–23

Friday
SEPTEMBER 9
St. Peter Claver, Priest
1 Cor 9:16–19, 22b–27
Lk 6:39–42

Saturday
SEPTEMBER 10
Weekday
1 Cor 10:14–22
Lk 6:43–49

Sunday
SEPTEMBER 11
Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ex 32:7–11, 13–14
1 Tm 1:12–17
Lk 15:1–32
or 15:1–10

DAYbreaks
Leading Catholic voices inspire the faithful with daily reflections & prayers for Advent and Lent.
Including: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Dr. Mary Katharine Deeley, Sr. Dianne Bergant, Fr. Paul Turner, and more at Liguori.org.

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Liguori PUBLICATIONS
A Redemptorist Ministry

Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 4, 2022
Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
Wis 9:13–18b
Phlm 9–10, 12–17
Lk 14:25–33

So if you [Philemon] regard me as a partner, welcome [Onesimus] as you would me.
PHILEMON 1:17

FIZKES / SHUTTERSTOCK

No Longer a Slave

Paul urges Philemon to treat a runaway slave, Onesimus, as a brother in Christ, not a slave. He didn't ask Philemon to free the man. Nor did he encourage him to work for the eradication of slavery. Why not? The letter doesn't tell us. Yet if we look deeply at this issue, we might discover that Paul was asking for something much more profound than a change in law.

The United States outlawed slavery more than 150 years ago. But that change did nothing to erase the political, economic, and social biases of many citizens. Some people still consider African Americans and other people of color as inferior, untrustworthy and dangerous. Laws cannot change thinking or prejudices.

Had Philemon simply freed Onesimus, would the slave's situation have been improved? In the ancient world, slaves were often branded, thus alerting everyone to their servile position in society. Might this have prevented him from living a full life as a free man? Even if the law had changed, would ancient Rome have provided for former slaves any better than contemporary America has?

Paul pressed Philemon to go deeper into his heart, to change his perception of Onesimus' status in his household. Paul is probably not talking about a blood bond, but the bond that joins Christians to each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. If we really treat each other in this way, discriminatory customs will crumble and there will no longer be any kind of slavery.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ***How do you regard people of different races? As sisters and brothers, or as dangerous?***
- ***How are nonwhites disadvantaged in your community? What might you do about this?***

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+Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church

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Phone: 318-256-5680
FAX: 318-256-9177

Office Hours: 8AM—4PM (M-F)
Website: www.stjohnmany.org
Email: office@stjohnmany.org

Parish Staff

Pastor:	Rev. Francis Kamau, FMH
Parish Secretary:	Sheila Royal
Office Assistant:	Shirley Rivers
DRE:	Jean Rains
Groundskeeper:	Michael Beasley
Housekeeper:	Pam Little

Prayer List: **Evelyn Bouillion, Mickey Cedars, Louise Moore, Ira Joe Key, Larry Thompson, Waylon Malmay, Todd Matthew, Mike Welch, Karen Daniels, Bessie Mowad, Vivian Halleck, Vicki Martin, Norma Bergeron, Roy & Pam Beasley, Trisha Adams, Justin Lincecum, Betty P Skinner, Clauriste Byles, Sr., Marty Starks, Miles Ezernack, Erin Meshell, Jeff Lee, Ersula Craft, Joyce Mitchell, Billie Cass, Sharon & George Boswell, David Bruce, Pam Sepulvado, Jimmy Frazier, Brandon Clinkscales, Shirley Funderburk, Jiles Bowling, Myles Ezernack, Kathy Adcock, James Bayer, Buddy Gillis, Shelli Malmay, Jason Seavello, Jack D Owen, Jack Arroyo, Roy Procell, Jim & Shirley Wyatt, Barbara Remedes, Tina Wyatt, Stella Britner, Theresa Taylor, Tina Leone, Michael Freeman, Dan, Kerry Sumner, Jerry Mitchell, Jr., Joyce LeJeune, Earl Rains, Jackie Craig, Chris Anderson, Norman Booker III, Gary Mitchell, Phillip Sonnier, Chandler Ebarb, Kelly Walton, Tinleigh Eaves, Bernice Hauser, Don & Alice Speaks, Kali Moore (and unborn twins Shane & Joel), Linda Leone, Lisa Keesee, Brother Joe Thibeaux, Rodney Abington, O'Shea Marquis, Cecil & Diane Roberts, Odis Faust, Barbara Ross, Thomas Nguyen, Robert Austin, Rhyleigh Garner, Robert O'Quinn, Howard Rivers & Ethel Paddie**

Prayer List Note: *The names on the prayer list will go through a cycle. As the names are moved to the top, they will be removed as new names are added. Please contact the office to add or remove a name.*

This Week in our Parish

Weekend Masses at St John:
Sat, 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
Sun,11:00 AM
Weekend Mass at St Terence
Sun, 8:00 AM
Weekday Masses at St. John:
Tues, 5:00 PM
Wed—Fri., 8:00 AM

Saturday	September 3rd
3:15 PM	Reconciliation at St John
3:30 PM	Recitation of Rosary at St John
Sunday	September 4th
7:15 AM	Reconciliation at St Terence
7:30 AM	Recitation of Rosary at St Terence
10:30 AM	Recitation of Rosary at St John
1:00 PM	Spanish Mass
Thursday	September 8th
6:00 PM	Bible Study

Anointing of the Sick /Ministry to the Sick
Please call the church office if someone is in a hospital, nursing home, shut-in, and would like to be visited or receive the sacraments.

Sacrament of Baptism
Call the office in advance to register for seminar.

Funerals
Arrangements may be made by calling the office

Parish calendar online:
http://www.stjohnmany.org/calendar

Sacrament of Matrimony
Couples are required to call the church office at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date

The Sanctuary Candle

Week of September 4th—10th, 2022

St. John + Susie Thibodeaux
St. Terence + Cathy Rankin

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle burns night and day near the tabernacle to honor the presence of Christ. You may arrange to have the Sanctuary Candle at St. John's or Saint Terence burn in memory of a loved one for a week of your choice by contacting the church office. The candle will be booked on a first-come, first-serve basis.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	**September 3rd**
4:00PM	1. + Dan & Brenda DeVaney
	2. + Lynde, Aidan& Grace Foust
	3. + Margaret Adams
	4. + Tony Jaber
	5. + Blanche Neal
Sunday	**September 4th**
8:00AM	1. The Parish Family
	2. + Christy Wriborg
	3. + Adams Collins
	4. + Ivy & Ina O'Quinn
	5. + Donald Ray Whittle
11:00AM	1. + William Sepulvado, Jr.
	2. + Floyd & June Lopez
	3. + Larry Rivers
	4. + Judith Baker
	5. + Marvin & Marie Adams
Tuesday	**September 6th**
5:00PM	1. + Margaret Adams
Wednesday	**Septmeber 7th**
8:00AM	1. + Tony Jaber
Thursday	**September 8th**
8:00AM	1. + Benny Rivers
Friday	**September 9th**
8:00AM	1. + Mary Ann Peck

Parish Support
(Thank you for your generosity!)
August 27th-28th 2022

St John	$	3442.00
St Terence	$	1207.00

Pastoral Council

Clauriste Byles, Angelique Mitchell, , Thomas Andries, Jean Rains, Maggie Bautista, Leonilda Gonzalez, Shirley Rivers, Linda Collins & Tina Nichols

Finance Council

Jan Collins, Ron Busby, Andy Tarver, Matthew Couvillion, Mike McCormic & Brandy Soileau

Thank You

We appreciate everyone who participated in our online auction this past week. We are also grateful to our volunteers, helpers and all who have been working so diligently and who have been so supportive of our biggest fundraiser of the year—our 2022 Fishing Tournament Fundraiser. Please stop by the tables after Mass this weekend and purchase one of the raffle, split the pot, or barbecue chicken dinner tickets.

T-Shirts Available Now

Fishing Tournament Fundraiser t-shirts are on sale now! The cost is $20 per shirt. We have a limited number of sizes on hand. Purchase your shirts after weekend Masses or stop by the church office. Matching caps with the St. John Church logo will be available for sale beginning on Wednesday at a cost of $20 each.

Society of St Vincent de Paul

Today, we hear Jesus say to us, "…when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." Our Society of St. Vincent de Paul follow the call of Jesus to serve those in need. Your kind gifts make that service possible. Thank you for your continued prayers and generosity.

Saint Terence Bake Sale

The St Terence Altar Society will be having a Bake Sale this weekend after Mass. Thank you for your support. There will be no after-Mass breakfast this Sunday.

Second Collection, Sept. 10-11

Next weekend, there will be a second collection for the Catholic University of America. The collection helps educate our future Catholic leaders. Help ensure that a Catholic education remains affordable to students. Thank you for you support.

Office Schedule

The St John Church office resumes the regular schedule for September. We are open 8AM-4PM Monday-Friday. We will be closed for the Labor Day holiday this Monday, September 5th.

Annual Diocesan Appeal

Thank you to the **23** St John the Baptist and the **7** St Terence families who have made a gift or pledge to the 2022 Annual Diocesan Stewardship Appeal. Our goal is to improve the number of families participating. No matter the size of the donation, our goal is to have every family donate. If you have not yet made a pledge, Diocesan Appeal material is located in the back of the church. Thank you for your participation.

Barbecue Chicken Dinners

St John the Baptist and St Terence Church are selling tickets for barbecue chicken lunches for **Friday, September 16th**. Price of the lunches will be $10.00 per plate and will include 1/2 barbecue chicken, baked beans, potato salad, dessert and bread. Buy your tickets today! We appreciate our great cooks Randy Murphy, John Wayne McCormic and our Knights of Columbus! Proceeds will help with church repairs and operational expenses. Purchase your ticket after all weekend Masses or come by the church office.

Just One Hour Can Change Our World!

"In a world where there is so much noise, so much bewilderment, there is a need for silent adoration of Jesus concealed in the Host. Be assiduous in the prayer of adoration and teach it to the faithful. It is a source of comfort and light, particularly to those who are suffering." Pope Benedict XVI

Adoration at St. John's is scheduled to begin **September 14th**. The sign-up sheet is in the back of the Church. Please consider committing to giving an hour each week to Our Lord in Adoration. (We are hoping to get at least two for each of the time slots.) If you prefer to be an alternate, please sign and give your phone number and hours available. If you have any questions, please call or text Mary Beth Tarver at 318-332-9901 or the Church Office at 318-256-5680.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) formerly Rite of Christian of Adults (RCIA)

Have you been worshiping with us, but never officially taken the step to become Catholic? Have you been away from the Church, and have now returned, but want to know more? Have you been a Catholic all your life, but never celebrated all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist)? Have you joined us from a different background and would like to find out more about the Catholic Church?

If you (or someone you know) answers YES to any of these questions, you are invited to find out more through the process called the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). It is a journey that begins with your questions. There is no obligation to join us as you discover more about the Catholic faith. The decision is yours to discern if this is to be your spiritual home. Please contact Yvonne Busby, our RCIA Coordinator (318-256-2645) or the church office (318-256-5680).

Date	Lectors	Altar Servers
Saturday, September 10th, 4PM (St John)	Yvonne Busby	Juan Plascencia Emelyn Plascencia
Sunday, September 11th, 8AM (St Terence)	Jan Collins	
Sunday, September 11th 11AM (St John)	Amy Ebarb	Marion Koss Nolan Johnson Jacob Ryan