

The answer to the following question comes from the answer in "The Catholicism Answer Book." A book of the 300 most frequently asked questions by Rev. Father John Trigilio, Jr., PH.D., TH.D. and Rev. Father Kenneth Brighenti, PH.D. Authors of the best-selling book, "Catholicism for Dummies."

**Question 50 – Is hell a place?**

**Answer –** Where is hell? If you dig deep enough into the earth and permeate the mantle and magma to reach the iron core of the planet, you will not find the Devil and his minions. Hell does not have allocation in space, and there is no longitude or latitude. No GPS can find it and it has no ZIP code, area code, or URL.

Hell is very real, however. The Catholic Encyclopedia quotes Saint Chrysostom (347-407 AD), who reminds us, "We must not ask where hell is, but how we are to escape it." Jesus warned about the fires of hell (called Gehenna in Hebrew) at least fifteen times in the Gospels. Greek uses two words for hell, *hades* and *ge`enna*. Hebrew does the same thing, using *Sheol* and *Gehenna*, respectively. The first is a temporary place of the dead, and the second is a perpetual one. English, however, uses one word to describe both: hell. Our only way of differentiation, then, is to speak of the: hell of the dead" and the "hell of the damned."

After the sin of Adam and Eve, no human soul could go to heaven until the human race was redeemed by the Savior (Jesus Christ). Only the evil deserves the eternal punishment of hell, but if they could not go to heaven, and were not bad enough to go to hell, where did they go? What happened to Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Rachel, Ruth, Ester, Judith, and son on? Theologians used the term "hell of the dead to describe where these good and virtuous Old Testament heroes went and where they waited century upon century for the arrival of the Messiah.

The evil people, however, went to the "hell of the damned." God created only good angels, but one third of them went bad by their own free will. One of those angels, the most intelligent of them all, was Lucifer. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael (the archangels and no relations to any Ninja Turtles) were part of the two-thirds of the angels who chose to remain good. The bad angels, like Lucifer, Beelzebub, Asmodeus, and Leviathan, became "fallen" angels, and hell was created for them as their eternal residence, a very nasty place characterized by an eternity of suffering and pain and by the very absolute absence of any love whatsoever.

The "pains of hell" (poenae inferni) are two types. The pain of loss (poena damni) is the suffering of being separated forever from God, who is love. God is the perfect fulfillment of what the human soul needs and wants – essentially, truth and goodness – which are the objects of the human intellect and will, respectively. Our intellect seeks to know the truth, and our will seeks to possess the good; both are completely and perfectly satisfied only in God, who is Truth and the Supreme Good (summum bonum) Never having that which is the one and only reality that can make you happy for eternity is the pain of loss. The pain of sense (poena sensus) is the physical pain which accompanies the pain of loss. This is the "fire" and "wailing and grinding of teeth," the torture and pain experienced in hell – especially after the body is reunited with the soul after the resurrection.

Fire is used metaphorically in that souls cannot burn since they are immaterial, but resurrected bodies can feel the pain of intense heat and still remain immortal. That means that those in hell will be tormented forever, there will be no end to their punishment – which is one good reason to avoid hell at all costs. It's a good idea to obey the stop sign and the speed limit to avoid accident or death, but another incentive is the cop hiding somewhere ready to give you a speeding ticket. The fear of hell may not be the most sublime reason to avoid sin (hence, it is called imperfect contrition), but it will suffice. The best reason to avoid sin or to be repentant when we do sin is the pure love of God (called perfect contrition).

Heaven, on the other hand, is the exact opposite. Hell is lonely – not because no one is there, but because everyone there hates everyone else. Everyone in hell wants to be alone; everyone in heaven is happy that everyone else is there. Heaven is basically having the beatific vision defined in the Catechism #1028: "Because of his transcendence, God cannot be seen as he is, unless he himself opens up his mystery to man's immediate contemplation and gives him the capacity for it. The Church calls this contemplation of God his heavenly glory 'the beatific.'" In other words, the beatific vision is knowing God directly and immediately, seeing him face-to-face, and being in his presence at all times. The effects of this vision are eternal happiness and unending joy.



# St. John the Baptist Parish

P.O. Box 417/12450, Highway 188, Grand Bay  
 Telephone Number: 251-865-6902  
 Fax: 251-865-1412  
 Website: [stjohngrandbay.org](http://stjohngrandbay.org)

## July 4, 2021: 14<sup>th</sup>: Sunday Ordinary Time

**REVEREND Selvam Arputharaj**  
 Pastor – 251-278-4900  
[amsleeli191@gmail.com](mailto:amsleeli191@gmail.com)  
 Deacon Billy Graham, Secretary  
 Judy Poiroux, Bookkeeper  
 Tiffany Teofilo, CCD Director  
 Youth Director  
 Nick Calametti, Musician

**Parish Council**

Bill Schaffer Jason Poiroux  
 Jim Jackson Autumn Bowden  
 Jack Wright Jay Graham

**Finance Council**

Paula Dyess Paullette Cauley  
 Carol Voss

**MASSES**

Weekdays: Tuesday 5:30 P.M.  
 Wednesday 8:00 A.M.  
 Thursday 8:00 A.M.  
 Friday 8:00 A.M.  
 Vigil Mass Saturday 5:00 P.M.  
 SUNDAY MASS 10:00 A.M.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Weekdays by Appointment  
 Saturday 4:30 P.M.  
 Sunday 9:30 A.M.

**BAPTISM:** By Appointment

**MATRIMONY:** Contact the Office 6 months before the celebration

**ANNOINTING OF THE SICK:**

Anytime: Please call the Office

**ROSARY & ADORATION:** Every Wednesday at 7:30 am before Mass

**Funerals**

Call the office before making plans with the funeral director.

**Email:** [stjohngrandbay@gmail.com](mailto:stjohngrandbay@gmail.com)

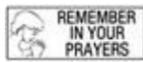


**Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Today's Readings:** Ezekiel 2:2–5; Psalm 123:1–4; 2 Corinthians 12:7–10; Mark 6:1–6

**WHAT THORN . . . ?**

The Holy Spirit from time to time draws the veil of silence across a particular passage of scripture. Paul's "thorn in the flesh" in today's second reading is one of those silent places, for Paul—much to the frustration of centuries of Christians—never tells us precisely what his thorn in the flesh is. His friends in Corinth most likely knew what he was referring to, which was enough for him. People have speculated that the thorn was anything from bad eyesight to rampant lust. But all this speculation misses the point, for in his weakness, Paul comes to know and live the paradox of the cross of Christ: it is in our weakness that God's greatest strength can be made manifest. When we are strong, we imagine the strength is ours; when we are weakest, we know that any strength or power we might have comes from God alone.



Scott Beech, Emily Phillips, Robert Gunter, Jesus Malone, Jackie Alfonso, Leak Maria Church, Tom Thornton, Dee Irwin, Gary Smith, Liz Walker, Willie Thompson, Tracie Moose, Maddie Blake Rivers, Jimmy Summerlin, Becky Thompson, Betty Cauley, Clara Davis, Anita Wright, Doug Jones, Michelle Waite, Heather Cotton, Maribeth Thompson, Becky Latner, Laurie Rel, Leigh Taylor, Amy Lacy, Ava Smith, Chip Conklin, Isabel Rel, Pat Potter, Marie Murray, Toby Robison, Linda Graham, Larry Robertson, Margaret Hampton, Frank Pigorsch, Stephanie Ray, Jerry Wigfield, Mike Knowles, Steve Sevier, Sister Luella Dominic Petry O. P., Sister Stephanie Sema-SSMI, Joe Gable, Ann Gable, Ali Stringfellow Ray, Lisa Kloecheener, Valeria Wallace, Donnie Wilson, Patricia Davis, Joe Watts, Sean Guillotte, Michelle Cook, Reggie Stewart, Nonie Reed, Betty Gunter, Tiffany Fontenot, Jimmy Marchand, Frances Walley, Maurine Habley, Ray Thornton, Joe Whitson, Cory Moncrief, Carolyn Collier, Vicenta Obsenares, Edgar Gunter, Victoria Porter, Jonathan Cruz, Gennie Garret, Bob Echement, Lilly Breaux, James Wink, Mike Wilson, Leyah White.

**Pray for the eternal repose of the souls of the most recently deceased members of the parish:** Ronnie Cauley, John Ramsay, Irene Stone, Bob Heurion

**Pray for the Special Intentions of those serving in the Armed Forces:** Brent Smith, Travis Wilson, SPC Jackson Triston, Jr., Captain Will Hurd, Bryant Bailey & Zachery Bailey.

**Known Birthdays for July 2021**

6 <sup>th</sup> : Kerry Ladnier	25 <sup>th</sup> : Harold Vaughn
9 <sup>th</sup> : Steve Cauley	25 <sup>th</sup> : Perry Lewis
9 <sup>th</sup> : Jonathan Oliver	25 <sup>th</sup> : Jennifer Schilling
10 <sup>th</sup> : Kassi Reynolds	26 <sup>th</sup> : Debra Johnson
16 <sup>th</sup> : Ann Jackson	27 <sup>th</sup> : Matthew Baker
17 <sup>th</sup> : Mary Kirchoff	28 <sup>th</sup> : Hayden Teofilo
18 <sup>th</sup> : Adolph Payne	29 <sup>th</sup> : Ty Teofilo
19 <sup>th</sup> : Greg Taylor	31 <sup>st</sup> : Erica Murray
25 <sup>th</sup> : Neal Fisher	31 <sup>st</sup> : Tony Consentino

**Known Anniversaries for July 2021**

12<sup>th</sup>: Glenda and Bobby Poiroux  
 18<sup>th</sup>: Anita and Jack Wright  
 25<sup>th</sup>: Shirley and Thomas Rasmussen  
 31<sup>st</sup>: Debbie and Perry Lewis

**Capital Campaign as of 4-30-2021:**

Total Contributions as of 4-30-2021: \$147,773.42 (69.5% Of Campaign Goal)  
 Parish Distributions on 4-30-2021: \$2,971.42 for a total Parish Distribution to date of \$27,105.08

**Mass Intentions:**

**Saturday & Sunday Mass Intentions**

Saturday 5:00 pm – For all the sick, infirmed, and homebound of the parish  
 Sunday 10:00 am – For all deceased parishioners

**Daily Mass intentions**

**Week of July 6 thru 9**

July 6, 7, 8 & 9 -- For the eternal repose of the souls of Anna & Stefan Weber, Charles Switzer, Ana & Bill Baker, Weber family & Switzer family by Maria Switzer.

**Week of July 13 thru 16**

July 13, 14, 15 & 16 – For the eternal repose of the souls of Felipe Mundia, Marcelina Mundia & Benjamin Crisolo by Anita Mundia.

**Week of July 20 thru 23**

July 20, 21, 22, & 23 – For the eternal repose of the souls of Ruth Naquin, Adrienne Graham, Donald Naquin, James Cauley, Shirley Cauley, Pamela Varos, Randy Naquin by Rhonda & Steve Cauley.

**Week of July 27 thru 30**

July 27, 28, 29 & 30 – for the eternal repose of the souls of Felipe Mundia, Marcelina Mundia & Benjamin Crisolo by Anita Mundia.

**Week of August 3 thru 6**

August 3 & 4 – For the eternal repose of the souls of Mrs. Azeline Taylor, Mrs. Bernice Moose, Mr. H. Moose, & Chris Potter by Patricia Potter.

August 5 – For the eternal repose of the souls of Jr. & Ether Graham, Jimmy & Bea Lepre, Hannah Cauley and deceased relatives/ friends of Linda & Deacon Graham

August 6 – For the eternal repose of the soul of Steve Sema, Sr., and deceased relatives/friends of Doris Sema.

**Lectors for the Masses on the Weekend of July 10 & 11, 2021**

5:00 pm on Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, Kathie Sema  
 10:00 am on Sunday July 11<sup>th</sup>, Carol Voss

**Note:** Please remember that if you cannot lector at the time assigned it is your responsibility to find a replacement. Anyone that is interested in lecturing during Mass at St. John's, please contact Carol Voss at cavoss99@gmail.com.

**HOMEBOUND MASS FILMING:**

The next Homebound Mass Filming will take place at the Chapel of the Archbishop and will be filmed at 9:00 am. on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. We will be filming Mass for the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Sundays of Ordinary Time.

**NURSING HOME OUTREACH:**

Every First Saturday we pray the rosary before the 5 p.m. Mass starting at 4:30,

**HOUSE BLESSINGS**

We highly encourage **House Blessings**. Please call Father Selvan to schedule the blessing of your home.

**Christian one liners**

Don't let your worries get the best of you; Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

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Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited

Until you try to sit in their pews.

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Many folks want to serve God,

But only as advisers.

**General Contributions**

June 27, 2021  
 General Fund: \$3,129.00  
 Peter's Pence: \$87.00  
 Online Giving  
 June: \$

**Catholic Charities**

Family Pledges to date total 32.  
 Total amount pledged: \$19,914.00,  
 114% of our total goal of \$17,400.00

**Announcements for week of July 4, 2021**

- 1) **Father Selvam** will not be at 10 am Mass next Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, as he will be Montgomery. We will however have 10 am Mass as another priest will be covering for Father Selvam
- 2) **Known Birthdays, 6<sup>th</sup>:** Kerry Ladnier, **9<sup>th</sup>:** Steve Cauley, Jonathan Oliver, **No Known Anniversaries this week:**



**THE THORN OF SELF DOUBT**

The neighbors and family of Jesus in Mark's Gospel passage today think that Jesus has a thorn: his dubious credentials to be a teacher in the synagogue or a worker of mighty deeds. Some of us might think that we have this "thorn" of insufficient qualifications to be witnesses for God's plan of salvation in Christ. Sometimes we use this imaginary "thorn" of ours to excuse ourselves from the challenging work of living "thy kingdom come" or to lead ourselves into a false humility about our inadequacy as disciples. We can learn a lesson from Jesus and Paul today. Each of us, in spite of physical or personal shortcomings or limitations (real or imagined), is called and chosen to be a messenger of the saving grace of God, each in our own way. Whether we are spouse, parent, child, student, worker, employer— whatever role we have in life, God can work in us and through us to be signs of grace for others. When we find ourselves afflicted with the thorn of self-doubt, let us use that weakness to find our strength in God, and through our faith in Christ, continue to proclaim the Good News of salvation.