



Weekend Schedule

Saturday: 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday: 9:00 am Mass

Weekday Schedule

Monday 12:05 pm

Wednesday 12:05pm

Thursday (Vespers after) 5:15 pm

Friday (at Maison Teche) 9:30am

1st Friday (at Church) 12:05 pm

Saturday after 1st Friday 8:30 am

Confessions

30 minutes before weekend Masses

15 minutes before weekday Masses

Or by appointment

Fr. Alexander Albert - Pastor

Ursula Gouner - Secretary

**Becki Landry - Director of
Discipleship and Evangelization**

Office Hours*

Mon, Tues, Thurs: 8:00 am-Noon

Wed: 8:00 am-Noon, 1:00-5:00 pm

*Fr. Albert takes appointments outside
office hours. Please call to schedule.

1510 Church St.

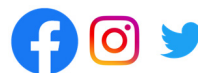
Jeanerette, LA 70544

Phone: 337-276-4576

Press 1 for emergencies

stjohnnev@stjohnjeanerette.org

www.stjohnjeanerette.org



@stjohnjtown

Spiritual Life & Worship

Sanctuary Lights: December 18th

Church - Marvin "Ga"/Perry Hebert, M/M Arthur Hebert, M/
M Whitney Hebert
Chapel - Larry/Zack Freeman, Mathilde Martin



Please Pray For Our Beloved Dead

Wednesday Adoration & Benediction



Join us for adoration in the Church every Wednesday.
Exposition starts at 12:30 and goes to 6:30pm. Benediction
at 6:20.

Pray for our Military

Brett Amedee, Barry Clements, Matthew Gottschalk,
Kenneth Lancon, Bernard LeBlanc, Jacob LeJeune,
Lieutenant Colonel James S. Long, II, Ross Mata, Andrew
Meyer, Alden Milar, Fernand Paul Muffoletto, Blake
Prados, Michael Prados, Sherel Sinitiere, II, Travis
Theriot; Jennifer Thibodeaux

Men's Rosary

A group of men pray the rosary together in the chapel
every Saturday at 6am. All men are encouraged to attend!

Christmas Mass Schedule Sat 4pm - Midnight - Sunday 9am

Sacraments

- **Baptisms** are celebrated as needed. Registration and
class attendance are required; please call the parish
office.

- **Weddings**, please contact us at least 7 months
before your desired date. Visit the website
www.stjohnjeanerette.org/getting-married-at-st-john
to see the process.

- **Anointing of the Sick** is given by request to those
who are "in danger of death." This can be from age,
injury, or illness. Please don't wait until the last
minute! Call as soon as you receive a serious diagnosis.
For emergencies, call the office and press '1' when
prompted.

Mass Intentions

Mon, Dec. 19th 12:05pm *Keith Sonnier (6th Ann.)*

Also remember in Prayer:

Wed, Dec. 21 12:05pm *Special Intention (CKF)*

Also remembered in prayer:

Thu, Dec. 22 5:15 pm *Judy Lapeyrouse*

Also remembered in prayer:

Fri, Dec. 23 9:30am (Maison Teche) *Simon Becnel (1st Ann)*

Also remembered in prayer:

Sat, Dec. 24 4:00pm *Deacon Douglas/Dolores Hebert*

Also remember in prayer: Junius/Lauriel Legnon; Spencer/
Louise Gee; Dave/Irene/Richard Landry; Stephen/Chris
Gauthier; Mary/Ciro/Pete/Stephen Ardizzone, Fabian Sr./
Stella/Ronald/James/Billie/Elizabeth Lemaire, Laura Moresi,
Sandra Ousley, Beverly/Marie Causey, Louis/Christine Habert,
Eddie Boudreaux, Phil/Joann Thompson, Rita Wormser, Ruby
Rinker, Mike/Lou Mannina, Joy Hoover, Eunice/Pat Granger,
Elaine Foco, James Brewer, Allen/Becky Gary, Lee McGee,
Frank Rogers, Dalton Sonnier, Allen Boutte, Lena/Walter, Sr./
Walter, Jr Fitch; Rolondo V/Blanca/Roe Bastanzuri; Joyce
Boudreaux; Joyce Boudreaux; Lejeune/Cassara/Kauffman/
Boudreaux Fly; Sonny/Sylvia/Clarence Guardia, Sr., Joseph/
Jules Songne, Della/Lloyd Amy, Guardia/Songne Fly; Alice
Muffoletto, HF/Todd Beslin; Bodin/Bouy/Chastant/King Fly;
Aline/Isadore Sr/Isadore Jr. Leger, Elodie Leger Bodin; Ida/
Nelson Sr./Nelson Jr. Hebert; Stephanie Cormier; Linda
Varnado Legnon, John/Lurline/Jerry Broussard; Betty V
Woodcock; Clifford/Ada Mae Bodin; Whitey/Mildred B.
Hebert, Arleen H. Guillot, Ray B. Fletcher Sr.; Ellis/Eunice
Barrilleaux, Ralph Childers; Ezilda D. Bodin (Ann); Diane/Kery
Landry, Dean Derouen, Angeline "Jo" Simoneaux, M/M
Bourque; Daniel Bourque, Curless Tabb, Nelson Guillotte,
Richard/Laura Verret, Myrtle L. Prince; Fr. Peter Rogers; Joe
E Harris, Eugenie/Antoine Miguez, Freddie Miguez, Mercedes
M. Concienne, Leonard/Mary M Verret, Adeline/Edward
Guillotte, Blanch/Arthur Miguez; Betty C/Eddie C/Rona Kern;
Gerard Eldridge; Louis Hoover (23rs Ann.) Beatrice Hayes

Please See Sheet Insert for Mass Intention December 25th
Midnight Mass and December 25th 9am Mass.

Formation & Education

Pastor's Column

Thoughts and updates from Fr. Albert

The Real Date of Christmas

Note: This is not the homily. That can be found on our website.



Every year around this time, you'll find dozens of articles and blog posts talking about the "real date" of Christmas. There are a variety of approaches to this, but almost all of them have in common the claim that December 25 is not the real day of Christmas. To be fair, the exact *date* of Christmas is not some all-important dogma. It should not shake our faith if it turns out Jesus was born in the middle of June or whenever else. On the other hand, it could *strengthen* our faith to find out that maybe, just maybe we can trust the Church's tradition after all. The Church celebrates Christmas on December 25 because that is the tradition, it's what She has done as long as anyone can remember and she does so because ancient generations before us told us that when it was done. Unlike a child's game of telephone, the Church's tradition is not hearsay and mere human rumors. It is an important point of contact with Jesus who was, after all, really born into this world all those centuries ago.

So, what makes me say Jesus' *actual birthday* is December 25? In part, because the arguments against it are *so bad*. One common argument is this claim that "The Church often takes pagan feasts and Christianizes them. That's what she did with the pagan holiday *Saturnalia* and the other pagan holiday *Sol Invictus*." First, it is true that the Church sometimes "baptizes" pagan practices and festivals to make them Christian. That doesn't prove that she did that for Christmas. There are three main problems with this. First, *most cultures* have some kind of winter festival near the time of the equinox. The fact that there is an overlap doesn't prove one stole from the other, just that human beings across cultures have some common inclinations regarding the seasons. Having an ancient winter feast also doesn't prove that Jesus *wasn't* born then. It just proves that there was an ancient festival. Secondly, Saturnalia was celebrated from December 17-23, *not December 25*. It makes no sense to say we chose that date to "steal" Saturnalia when that's not even when it happens. Thirdly, Sol Invictus was usually celebrated in August, not December. The earliest record of it being on December 25 is in 274 AD. We have records of Christmas being celebrated on December 25 in 204 AD, *70 years before Sol Invictus*. Another argument against December 25 is that the gospel mentions shepherds being in the field and it would have been too cold in December for shepherds and sheep to be outside. Bethlehem, for reference, is on nearly the same latitude as Alexandria, LA. Like us, winter in the Holy Land is very mild, and snow is very rare. It is less humid than here, so even colder temperatures do not feel as harsh there as they do here. I've been in the Holy Land in the winter. It does not stop people from being outside at night. And sheep are covered in wool – cold is not a problem for them.

Well, what are the arguments *in favor* of December 25? Zechariah and the Apostles. We know from Luke that, when Mary was pregnant, Elizabeth her cousin got pregnant 6 months earlier. An angel appeared to Zechariah while he was serving in the temple to tell him he would have a son. We know to which division of priests Zechariah belonged. Some evidence shows that that division served in the temple around September. Jesus is born 6 months after John the Baptist and John the Baptist was born about 9 months after Zechariah served in the Temple. That brings us to December. The other important point is that, after Jesus' Ascension, Mary lived with the Apostles for over a decade at least. She would know the date and tell the Apostles. Something like the birthday of your savior and leader is easily remembered and handed on. It is unlikely that, even in persecution and hiding, we would forget a single important date like that.

As a bonus, there's also recent evidence that tradition even had the year right. 1 AD is the traditional year. The problem is that another historical record said Herod (who died after Jesus was born, according to the Gospel) died near a lunar eclipse. A historian in the 1800s thought it was the lunar eclipse in 4 BC, which would mean Jesus's birth had to be before that (5-6 BC). More recent astronomical research shows that the eclipse in 4 BC wouldn't have been visible in Jerusalem, but that one did happen around the year 2-3 AD, meaning Jesus birth in 1 AD fits perfectly in time for Jesus to be born and then brought to Egypt before Herod dies.

Again, if Jesus was born on some other day, it wouldn't change the truth about salvation. But what these things do show, however, is that we shouldn't be so quick to jump on the latest "new evidence" that claims to discredit the Church's tradition. Though many of her members are unreliable, the Church as a whole is our trusted source for the truth about Christ. Let's try to keep that trust.



Weekly Bible Study

We have three options for bible study every week in the Parish Hall: 6pm Monday, 6pm Tuesday or 9:30am Thursday. Feel free to drop in on any of them.

Free Online Faith Formation

You can study the faith on your own at home using [Formed.org](https://formed.org). Just click "I belong to a parish or organization" and use our zip code to register for free.



Check out the free advent resources on the site to help make the most of this beautiful season!

Upcoming Catechism Events

- * Whole Family Catechesis (including 1st Communion and Confirmation students) meets next on January 8 4 after the 9am Mass
- * Confirmation and 1st Communion classes meet on Dec 11 and Dec 18 after the 9am Mass
- * Family night is Dec 21 at 6pm starting in the Church. Food, games, and hot cocoa in the hall after adoration



Community Life

Catholic Daughters

If you would like to join the Catholic Daughters, please call the office.



Join the Knights!

If you would like to join the KC's please call the office.



"180" - Youth Group

Our next Youth Group meeting is Wednesday, Jan 4. It starts in the Church with adoration and continues in the hall. All children 8th grade and up are encouraged to attend



St. John's Patronal Feast, Potluck, and Blessing of Wine!

Tuesday, December 27th is the feast of St. John the Evangelist. It is also a traditional day for offering a special blessing of wine. Join us at 5:30pm for a Mass followed by a potluck supper in the parish hall. Please bring a dish to share. You can drop it off in the parish hall kitchen before Mass. Wine will be provided, but you can bring your own if you want it blessed.



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

YEAR OF DIOCESAN REVIVAL

June 19, 2022 – June 11, 2023

YEAR OF PARISH REVIVAL

June 11, 2023 – July 17, 2024



NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

July 17 – 21, 2024

YEAR OF GOING OUT ON MISSION

July 21, 2024 – Pentecost 2025

Support our Lighting Upgrade

We're still raising funds to upgrade and improve the lighting in the Church. Please use the iGiveCatholic envelopes to support the campaign.

Outreach & Evangelization

Christmas Dinner



Please contact the Sisters of the Heart of Jesus if you're able and willing to help with our annual Christmas Dinner giveaway. Pray for those who we'll be serving, too!

Aftercare Program

Please continue to support our aftercare program with snacks and drinks. Volunteers are to help chaperone are also appreciated. Please call the office to see how you can help.



Poor Box



Poor box funds are used primarily to help elderly residents in the Jeanerette area. Thank you for your generosity!

Door to Door Evangelization

Door to door ministry will continue this month. Each Saturday at 9am, parishioners will meet at the parish hall to begin with prayer and go out into the neighborhood. Please join us!



Stewardship: *Managing God's Gifts to Us*

If you give WEEKLY to the church

| Income Level | | | Percentage of giving for each income level | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|--|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| Weekly Income | Monthly Income | Annual Income | 1% | 2% | 3% | 4% | 5% | 6% | 7% | 8% | 9% | 10% | 12% | 15% | |
| \$200 | \$867 | \$10,400 | \$2 | \$4 | \$6 | \$8 | \$10 | \$12 | \$14 | \$16 | \$18 | \$20 | \$24 | \$30 | |
| \$300 | \$1,300 | \$15,600 | \$3 | \$6 | \$9 | \$12 | \$15 | \$18 | \$21 | \$24 | \$27 | \$30 | \$36 | \$45 | |
| \$400 | \$1,733 | \$20,800 | \$4 | \$8 | \$12 | \$16 | \$20 | \$24 | \$28 | \$32 | \$36 | \$40 | \$48 | \$60 | |
| \$500 | \$2,167 | \$26,000 | \$5 | \$10 | \$15 | \$20 | \$25 | \$30 | \$35 | \$40 | \$45 | \$50 | \$60 | \$75 | |
| \$600 | \$2,600 | \$31,200 | \$6 | \$12 | \$18 | \$24 | \$30 | \$36 | \$42 | \$48 | \$54 | \$60 | \$72 | \$90 | |
| \$700 | \$3,033 | \$36,400 | \$7 | \$14 | \$21 | \$28 | \$35 | \$42 | \$49 | \$56 | \$63 | \$70 | \$84 | \$105 | |
| \$800 | \$3,467 | \$41,600 | \$8 | \$16 | \$24 | \$32 | \$40 | \$48 | \$56 | \$64 | \$72 | \$80 | \$96 | \$120 | |
| \$1,000 | \$4,333 | \$52,000 | \$10 | \$20 | \$30 | \$40 | \$50 | \$60 | \$70 | \$80 | \$90 | \$100 | \$120 | \$150 | |
| \$1,200 | \$5,200 | \$62,400 | \$12 | \$24 | \$36 | \$48 | \$60 | \$72 | \$84 | \$96 | \$108 | \$120 | \$144 | \$180 | |
| \$1,400 | \$6,067 | \$72,800 | \$14 | \$28 | \$42 | \$56 | \$70 | \$84 | \$98 | \$112 | \$126 | \$140 | \$168 | \$210 | |
| \$1,600 | \$6,933 | \$83,200 | \$16 | \$32 | \$48 | \$64 | \$80 | \$96 | \$112 | \$128 | \$144 | \$160 | \$192 | \$240 | |
| \$1,800 | \$7,800 | \$93,600 | \$18 | \$36 | \$54 | \$72 | \$90 | \$108 | \$126 | \$144 | \$162 | \$180 | \$216 | \$270 | |
| \$2,000 | \$8,667 | \$104,000 | \$20 | \$40 | \$60 | \$80 | \$100 | \$120 | \$140 | \$160 | \$180 | \$200 | \$240 | \$300 | |

Collections:

December 7th/8th & 10th/11th
 Immaculate Conception: 969.00
 Regular Collection 10/11: \$1951.00
 Retirement Fund For Religious: \$1732.00
 Tithe.ly: \$187.44

Second Collections

December 18th: Bishop Services Appeal
 December 25th: Christmas Charities

You can give online!

Visit stjohnjeanerette.org/online-giving to sign up. You can also find information on the website about using an app to give via your smart phone.



For Sale in Parish Office

Case of Candles—————42.00
 Individual Candles—————4.00
 Holy Water Bottles—————1.00
 Christmas Cards—————\$1.50ea./10 for \$12
 Personal Hearing Assistance Device —120.00
 (connects directly to our sound system)

Job Openings:

Maintenance: part time care of grounds and facilities
Cantor/Musician: Sat 4pm; Occasional sub for Sun 9am
 Call the office for more information.

