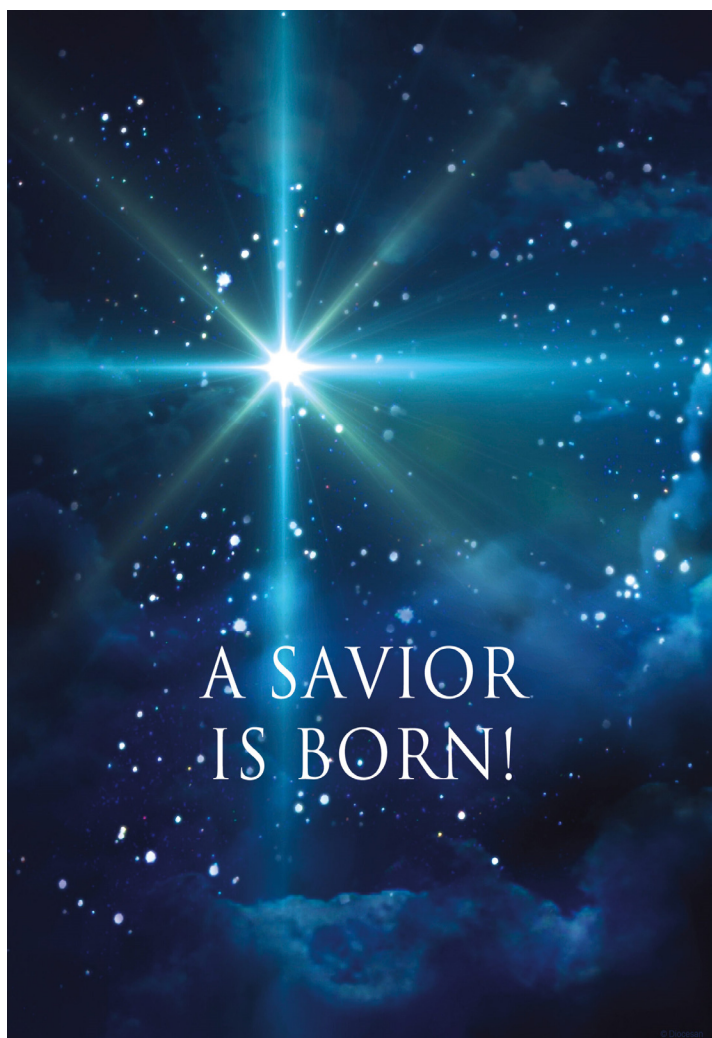




December 24, 2023

4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas



Weekend Schedule

Saturday: 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday: 9:00 am Mass

Weekday Schedule

Monday 12:05 pm

Wednesday 12:05pm

Thursday 7:00 am

Friday (at Maison Teche) 9:30am

1st Friday (at Church) 12:05pm

1st Saturday 8:30am

Confessions

30 minutes before weekend Masses

15 minutes before weekday Masses

Or by appointment

Pastor

Fr. Alexander Albert

Staff

Secretary/Bookkeeper: Ursula Gouner

Director of Discipleship: Becki Landry

Cemetery Records: Lynn Hebert

Maintenance: John Danos

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 24

Church - Johnny/Daisy Leblanc Family
Chapel – Zack/Larry Freeman, Mathilde Martin



Please Pray For Our Beloved Dead

Christmas Mass Obligation

Catholics are expected to attend Mass *twice* when Christmas falls on a Monday: once for the 4th Sunday of Advent and once for Christmas. You can't count one Mass for both. This graphic helps explain.

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Patronal Feast Day of St. John!

Wednesday, Dec 27th at 6pm, we will celebrate the Solemnity of St. John the Evangelist - our patron Saint - with Mass, the Blessing of Wine, and a potluck supper. Bring a dish to share and any wine you want blessed and join us in rejoicing in the patronage of St. John!

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Jan 1)

Normally, January 1 is a Holy Day of Obligation. Unlike Christmas, when this feast falls on a Monday, it is not a day of obligation. So, there will only be one Mass that day.

Sacraments

- **Baptisms** are celebrated as needed. Call the office to schedule a meeting with the pastor before selecting your godparents.
- **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

Christmas Midnight 12:00am: Pro Populo

Also remembered in prayer: Barbara/Steve L. Landry, Dugall Carruthers, Claire B. Myers, Beryl Bonin; Mark/Walter/Linda Robin and Family; Joann LeJeune, Fred Roussel, Craig Myers; Shirley Landry, Irene/Ulysses Landry; Loretta LeJeune; Kathryn/Elizabeth Burke, M/M Donald Burke, Sr., M/M Walter LeJeune, Sr., M/M Eddie Dauterive, M/M Hartman LeJeune, M/M Price LeJeune, GaGa Hartman;

Christmas Morning 9:00am: Bodin/Legnon Families

Also remembered in prayer: Fr. Peter Rogers, 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, Like/Lou Mannina, Joy/Louis Hoover, Eunice/Pat Granger, Elaine Foco, James Brewer, Allen/Becky Gary, Lee McGee, Frank Rogers, Dalton Sonnier, Alle Boutte, Lena/Walter, Sr./Walter, Jr. Fitch, Linda Johnson, Mary Lou Ardizzone Stuart, Jean Dooley; John/Myrtle Grisaffi; Cynthia Schexnayder, Carrie S. Sherville, Calvin Bodin; Marvin "Ga"/Bertha/Perry Hebert; M/M Arthur Hebert, M/M Whitney Hebert; Roy, Sr., Roy, Jr, Bessie Weber, Amy Landry, Emily Anne Landry, Robert Landry, Walter J. Landry; Leroy/Lydia Gary; Elise Aucoin, Lester Aucoin, Charles Pitre Sr., Charles Pitre Jr., Rita Arton, Lawrence Arton, Connie Landry, Audrey Abshire, Judy Arton; Evelyn/Taylor Lancon, Juliet/Joe Pugh Sr., Winnie/Janet Landry, Bulah/Justin Larive/Larive Fly.

Wed, December 27 6:00pm: Evangelization of Jeanerette

Also remembered in prayer: Glen Pirnie, Harvey Blanchard; Sandra Pepper Freeman; Carrie Buteaux

Thur, December 28– 7am: Anna Joyce/Harvey Breaux

Also remembered in prayer:

Fri, December 29 – 9:30am (Maison Teche): Johnnie LeBlanc

Also remembered in prayer: Eugene, Sr. (44th Ann)/Marilyn Dykes

Sat, December 30 4:00 pm:

Also remembered in prayer: Junius/Lauriel Legnon; Joanne LeJeune, Fred Roussel, Craig Myers; Eunice/Ellis Barrilleaux, Ralph Childers; Barbara Brignac, Rosalie LeJeune, Keith; Lorena Clark; Anne Holbrook; Dianna Daigle; Steven Blanchard, M/M Ted Moore, M/M TJ Moore & Cleveland, M/M Ulysse Landry, M/M John A. Switzer; Dianne/Kerry Landry, Dean Derouen, Angeline "Jo" Simoneaux, M/M Bourque, Daniel Bourque, Curless Tabb, Nelson Guillotte, Richard/Laura Verret, Myrtle Prince; Joe Harris, Eugenie/Antoine Migues, Freddie Migues, Mercedes Conciennne

Sun, December 31 9:00 am: Pro Populo

Also remembered in prayer: Brent Breaux, Gordon/Titus Landry, Danny Bayard; Scott Lancon, Joyce May; Neville/Mark/Keith Sonnier; Carol Gravois, Judy Lapeyrouse; Eric (alison)/Loretta Mouret, M/M Charles Mouret, Sr., M/M Erwin Pirnie, Sr., Bub Pirnie; Glenn Pirnie, Leona/Ben/Ory Savoie; Carrie S. Buteaux (1st Ann); Barbara/Steve L. Landry, Dougall Carruthers, Robert Landry; Douglas Robichaux, Sr.; Clement/Toups Family, Loretta LeJeune; Angie/Steve/Chris Gauthier; Robert Landry; Bertha/Marvin "Ga"/Perry Hebert, M/M Arthur Hebert; M/M Whitney Hebert; Dave/Irene/Richard Landry, Oden/Ester/Dora Warf; John/Eddie/Carolyn Bacon, Leslie/Carol Frentz, Bacon/Dow Family; Forest Jack Champagne; Margurite Hebert, Joyce Boudreaux, Patrica Sinitiere Buteaux, Roger Broussard; Leesa Falterman, Faye Buteau; Alice Beslin Muffoletto (7th Ann), HF/Todd Beslin; Earl Weber, Jr.

Formation & Education

Pastor's Column

Thoughts and updates from Fr. Albert

What do you want for Christmas?

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



“What do you want for Christmas?” In some ways, I really don’t like that question. It’s not that giving gifts is a bad thing - it’s certainly not! - but that I never know how to answer it. In part, it’s because I’m pretty well taken care of by the diocese and parish so that I never worry about having a place to live, food to eat, and enough money for all sorts of little necessities, conveniences, and even extra things just for fun. For that I must say, thank you to you, the people of St. John’s and throughout the diocese who so generously provide for the needs of priests. And thank you to the many people who sent me Christmas cards and gifts this year - please don’t mistake this reflection for ingratitude!

So why does that question bother me? It’s partly my fault, I’m sure. I freely admit that I’ve never been good at giving gifts, so that probably has something to do with my disinterest in receiving them. I recognize that gift-giving is an important expression of love, especially when it is genuine and well thought-out, and I admit that I often fail to give gifts when I really should. I recognize that being superfluous - giving unnecessary things - can be a genuine act of love. I especially understand that it can mean a lot to children when someone shows them love by giving them gifts. Sometimes a really insightful gift is deeply moving, even for me. Please don’t think I’m saying that all gift-giving is bad. It’s not.

Still, part of the reason that question bothers me is because I’m a little sensitive to the excessive materialism of our culture and to how artificial gift-giving can get. I often preach about simplicity of life and I really do want to live better in my own life, so I’m hesitant to ask for things I don’t need, especially when they might be a source of distraction or temptation. But when I resist people’s offers to get me something, they sometimes get insulted or at least frustrated with me. They don’t take me seriously when I say things like “I don’t want anything” or “I have everything I want.” When I say things like “pray for me” or “make a donation in my name,” people tend to blow me off as being artificially pious; as if I’m just saying that because I think it’s what I’m supposed to say as a priest. But I really do mean it and I did that before becoming a priest!

I am *continuously grateful* for the many people who so often pray for me in an intentional and significant way. I *love it* when people honor me by helping those less fortunate, *especially* when it means that money which would have been spent on some trinket or other instead went to charity. Some people thinking just giving money as a gift is lazy - it could be an expression of laziness - but I often prefer it. It gives me the chance to be precise in purchasing something I know won’t go to waste. Even better, it allows me to turn that gift towards helping someone in need. If giving money still feels wrong and you’re still looking for a last-minute gift, might I recommend [TisBest.org](https://www.tisbest.org/)? It’s a gift-card for charity, allowing you to give people money, but in a way that says “I want to help you help others.” And don’t forget that many Catholic cultures give gifts on the feast of the Epiphany (when the Magi brought gifts to Jesus) so it might not be too late after all.

So, what do I want for Christmas? Jesus. Holiness. Virtue. The salvation of souls. The flourishing of my parish. A full church (it gives me great joy every year to see how many people turn up!). Some quality time with family and friends. I want more of God’s grace, more of his love, and more of what he wants. That’s not a pious platitude. I mean it.

Why am I writing this? Because I think a lot of people feel the same way. I think a lot of people feel burdened by the expectation of gift-giving, guilty for not giving enough, and annoyed at what gets in the way. I think a lot of people are afraid to do something different. It’s one thing to complain on social media and quite another to let it impact relationships. Of course, Christmas is already here and most of the gift shopping is already done, but I want to tell you something: do not be afraid! Do not be afraid to say and to act like what you want for Christmas is Jesus. Do not be afraid to upset people by choosing to seek out Jesus in Mass or in service to the least among us instead of going to yet another shallow “event.” Do not be afraid to periodically step away from the noise (joyful though it is) to seek out quiet prayer time. Do not be afraid to answer the question “what do you want for Christmas” with the honest truth: Jesus. Thanks be to God, that’s exactly what we get if only we’re willing to let him in. Christmas has only just begun, there’s still a whole season dedicated to receiving what we truly want. Everything else? Lagniappe. We’ll take the stuff too when it helps, but Jesus first. Always.



Weekly Bible Study

We have three options for bible study every week in the Parish Hall: 6pm Monday, 6pm Tuesday or 9:30am & 1:30pm Thursday. Feel free to drop in

Free Online Faith Formation

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



National Eucharistic Revival

Check out EucharisticRevival.org to learn more about the ongoing effort to renew Eucharistic devotion in our country.



Catechism Schedule

Meets after Sunday 9am Mass in the Parish Hall



<u>Dec 27</u>	6pm St. John Mass & Potluck
<u>Jan 7</u>	Whole Family Classes
<u>Jan 14</u>	1st Communion & Confirmation—Discipleship
<u>Jan 17</u>	6pm Adoration & Family Night

stjohnjeanerette.org/religious-education.html

Community Life



Join the Knights!

If you would like to join the KC's please call the office. Next Meeting Jan. 10th



Catholic Daughters

If you would like to join the Catholic Daughters, please call the office. Next Meeting Jan. 8th

Free Christmas Lunch

We're continuing our annual free lunch on Christmas. Volunteers are assembling the food and delivering them to people on Christmas Morning and extra lunches will be given away at the pavilion at Noon on Christmas Day.

Road to Purity

Men who want to have more self-control of their sexual behaviors are invited to join a confidential group called "Road to Purity." By learning about chastity, providing fraternal support, and offering accountability, road to purity has a proven track record of helping men to break bad sexual habits.

If you're interested, you can contact Josh St.Germain at 337-380-7222



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, Reece Vice, Hunter Abbey

Outreach & Evangelization

Poor Box



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



Food Pantry

Donations of Beans

Aftercare Program

Our aftercare program provides a safe, faith-filled, and fun place for children in Pre-K through 6th Grade to be after school. We provide tutoring, faith lessons, a snack, and games to the kids who attend.



We are in need of donations of water and healthy snacks. Please contact the office if you are able and willing to help.

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	

For Sale in Parish Office

Case of Candles—————42.00
 Individual Candles—————4.00
 Holy Water Bottles—————1.00

Collections: December 9/10

General: \$3492.85

Retirement Religious: \$835.61

Immaculate Conception: \$ 727.00

Tithe.ly: \$356.14

Second Collections

Dec. 17th Bishops Services Appeal

Dec. 24th Religious Ed

Dec. 25th Brick Restoration Project

Dec. 31 Insurance Fund



Tithe.ly

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.

Job Openings:

Evangelization Assistant (Part-time): Assists the pastor and director of discipleship in coordinating ways to evangelize non-Catholics and non-practicing Catholics.

