



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

2400 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach, Florida 32233
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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Rev. Rafael Lavilla,
Pastor

(paengosj@gmail.com)
(904-496-2539)

Parish Office

Samantha Matthews

Secretary and DRE
(SAMatthews.StJohn@outlook.com)

Kathryn LaPointe

Bookkeeper, Records
(sjccbookkeeper@gmail.com)

Monica Trinidad

Administrative Assistant
Bulletin & Outreach
(mtrinidad.stjohn@outlook.com)

Mass Schedule

Saturday 5pm
Sunday 7am, 9am & 11am

Communion Service

Sunday 12:30PM

Facebook Online Mass

Sunday: 10:00AM
Tue-Fri: 6:00PM

Parish Webpage

<https://saintjohnsatlanticbeach.org>

Parish Email

StJohntheBaptistAB@gmail.com

Confession

30 Minutes prior to each Mass or by appointment



Facebook
@ stJohn.atlanticbeach



Instagram
@StJohns_atlanticbeach



FEBRUARY 28, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

*Jesus was transfigured before them,
and his clothes became dazzling white.*

Mark 9:2-3

This is a Test

I used to wonder how God could lie to Abraham about sacrificing his son Isaac. But the story begins by telling us God put Abraham to the test. Abraham himself seems to know it's a test--in verses left out of our reading, he tells the servants that he and Isaac will return after the sacrifice; he also tells Isaac that God will provide the offering. Apparently, I'm the only one fooled by God. I don't know if I would have passed the test. I would have at least argued with God about it, begging him to spare my son. Yet in our second reading, St. Paul reminds us that God did not spare his own son. (Rom 8:32) He passed his own test. Jesus was sacrificed so that God could show us how much he loved us: By dying, Jesus showed us the promise of resurrection, which shows us that we can also have new life by the forgiveness of our sins. If God loves us so much that he gives his Son to die for us, why would he not forgive us? Or as Paul says, if He is on our side, who can hurt us?

What does that tell us about life? You may have noticed that things don't always go your way. We sometimes suffer for no apparent reason. We may lose someone we love through death. We may be tempted to lose faith when we see wars, killer tornados, terrorist attacks--if "God is for us," why does he allow these things? Because he is still testing us. And not necessarily testing the victims of these troubles. If I get angry at God because I hear about someone's death, I haven't passed the test.

Does that mean those tragedies are our fault? No, God gives everyone free will and some people choose to do wrong. And some accidents are just accidental; no one is necessarily at fault. God intervenes sometimes and lives are saved. Other times, God intervenes by saving us after death with our resurrection. But as long as people doubt God's love, there will be tests. That's why it is so important to proclaim the Kingdom: so that someday all people will know God's love and not need to be tested.

Today's Readings

First Reading Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18- The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

Psalms 116- I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

Second Reading Ro 8:31b-34 - If God is for us, who can be against us?

Gospel Mk 9:2-10 - Jesus was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12

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

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

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

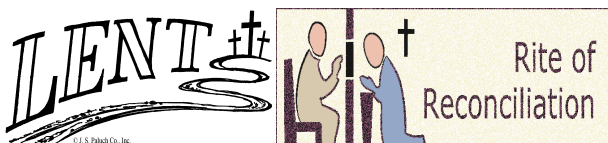
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]; Ps 19:8-11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

HOW COULD GOD ASK ABRAHAM TO DO THAT?

Through the centuries, Christians and Jews alike have found the Binding of Isaac one of the most difficult passages in the Bible. Even though God intervenes to save Isaac, the whole episode strikes some readers as cruel. However, Abraham, the ultimate man of faith, raises no objection, offers no resistance as he simply goes about preparing for the trip and the sacrifice.

Today's other readings might help us see that text differently. In Mark's description of the Transfiguration, Jesus' clothes become white and shining, and Moses and Elijah appear with him. Moses was the great liberator and law-giver who led the Jews out of bondage in Egypt and into the wilderness, forming them into the people of Israel by giving them the Law he received from God. Elijah was among Israel's greatest prophets, so close to God that, at the end of his life, he was taken up into heaven by a fiery chariot. Together, Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, the ultimate authority for the Jews in the conduct of their daily lives.



FEAST OF FAITH

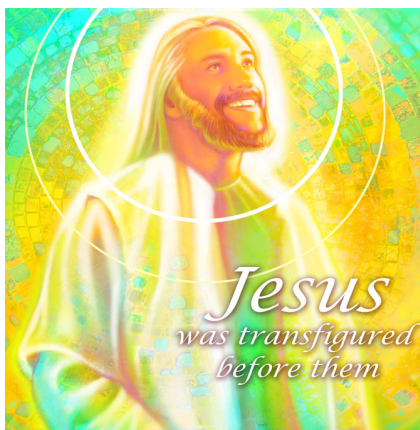
The Opening Prayer

At the conclusion of the Introductory Rites of the Mass, the presider says or chants the words "Let us pray," followed by the Opening Prayer. This prayer is also called a "collect" because it gathers or "collects" the prayers of the entire assembly into one. The Roman collects that we pray in our liturgy—noted for the brevity, clarity, and conciseness of the Latin originals—date from a variety of periods. Some are quite new; others reach back more than a thousand years. They are truly treasures of our tradition.

The Opening Prayer can be divided into four main parts: 1) the invitation, or "Let us pray"; 2) the silence that follows, during which each member of the assembly lifts up before God his or her own prayers; 3) the collect itself, spoken or sung by the priest; 4) and finally the Amen, by which the assembly says, "yes," "may it be so," making the prayer their own.

The collect itself almost always follows the same pattern. It begins with an invocation to God. A petition follows, usually very general. We ask for health, strength, wisdom, grace, forgiveness, faith, awareness. Every collect concludes by offering the prayer to God through Jesus Christ. With the Amen of the assembly, the Introductory Rites of the Mass come to an end.

IF GOD IS
FOR US,
WHO
CAN BE
AGAINST
US?
Romans



HISTORY OF SALVATION

The first reading today continues the "history of salvation" narrative that we hear throughout Lent this year.

Today's story was among the best-loved in the Jewish tradition (surely Joseph told the story to young Jesus as he formed him in the ways of their faith); the early fathers of the Church were very fond of it as a means of explaining the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. The overall tone of the first reading, psalm, and second reading seems a little incongruous with the dazzling Gospel, until we remember that the Transfiguration was placed as the Gospel for this Sunday precisely to remind us of the glory that awaits those who live faithfully and obediently to the will of God. In the life of Jesus, it is a preview of the glory of his resurrection; for us it is a glimpse of the destiny of those who continue, as we heard in last week's Gospel, to repent and believe in the Good News.



**MINISTERS
SCHEDULE
March 6 & 7**

EUCCHARISTIC

5PM
David Costa*
Valerie Matta
Larry McKay
9AM
Amy Crane*
Kathy Pundt
Maura Wilburn
11AM
James Ezelle*
Josie Ezelle
Dee Fox

LECTORS

5PM
1 Art Corsano
2 Debbie Corsano
7AM
1 Tony Searl
2 Marilyn Ormond
9AM
1 Scott Imray
2 Rose Imray
11AM
1 Jane Hart
2 Estela Geronimo

HOSPITALITY


5PM
Reggie & Cindy Dubay
Corinne Hundley
John Riendeau
9AM
Jim & Bonnie Feazel
Mike & Barbara Schuman
11AM
Yolanda Ebuon
Dina walker
Aletta Santos
Cristina Suyat

ALTAR SERVER

5PM
Brynn Von Seggern
7am
Kayla Nellum
9AM
Julian Mendoza
Miranda Sanchez
11AM
Christie Cabrera
Talia Samoeun

Altar Flowers:
If you would like to offer Altar Flowers for a special occasion or in memory of a loved one, please call the office. Donation is \$40.00

MASS SCHEDULE SAINTS & SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

<p>Sat Feb 27 Mary Ann Carroll By Jerry & Terry Carroll</p>	<p>Sun Feb 28 7am: † Colin Quigley & Elizabeth Hecker By Ann Linn 9am Parishioners of St John 11am † Prudence N. Antonio By Ezelle Family</p>	<p>Tues Mar 2 † Bob Dietrich By Barbara Knauss</p>	<p>Wed Mar 3 † Aurelia Mallari By Mallari Family</p>  <p>Katharine Drexel</p>
<p>Thu Mar 4 † Jimmy Hundley, SR By Jimmy & Corinne Hundley <i>St. Casimir</i></p>	<p>Fri Mar 5 Dommer & Pearla Bayot 59th Wedding Anniversary By Manny & Sony Silverio <i>7pm Stations of the Cross</i> <i>7:30pm Rice Bowl Supper</i> <i>Day of Abstinence</i></p>	<p>Sat Mar 6 In Thanksgiving for Darren & Maritis S. Halker By Manny & Sony Silverio</p>	<p>Sun Mar 7 7am: † Margaret Murphy By Mary Stutts 9am In Thankgiving By Gasper & Vicky Quedado 11am Parishioners of St John</p>

† *Prayers of the Faithful* †

March 3rd

† Don Reynolds 1Yr Ann.
† Salvacion Sy



Offering: 11,238.21
BF: 235.00
Others: 1,254.00
EAM: + 554.86
Total: **13,047.07**

Matthew 25:35-40

LOVE AND GENEROSITY

The Law, the Prophets—and Jesus. For Paul, Jesus is someone quite different from the other two. The reading from his letter to the Romans is short, but rich in meaning. When Paul declares that God “did not spare his own Son,” and when God praises Abraham “who did not withhold from me your own beloved son,” it is the same Greek word for “spare” and “withhold.” God’s voice at the Transfiguration identifies Jesus as his “beloved Son”—the same way God refers to Isaac as Abraham’s beloved son. Ultimately, God spares Isaac but not his own Son, whom he “handed over for us.” Even if we are disturbed that God tested Abraham like this, Paul says we should be overwhelmingly grateful that God did for us what, in the end, he did not require of Abraham. Jesus, God’s Son “handed over to us” in love and generosity, is already a sacrificial gift, signifying that God wants to give us “everything else along with him.”



Donna Cappock
Novalee Sanchez
Lily Rodriguez
Delores Fox
Albert Wagner
Loretta Wagner
John Weitort
Nanette Franzuela
Bob Pote

Amor Guzman
Rina Hopkins
Glenn Young
Jim Driscoll
Carol O'Neil
Ron Keese
Mario Amayo
Don Cozine
Ernesto Budang

Aurea Silang
Bernadette Maron
Denise Jones
Daniel Lerin
Christie Lerin

*Flowers are in
Thanksgiving for
Darren & Maritis
S. Halker
By Manny & Sony
Silverio*



What's Going on at St John's



Religious Education

Wednesday Kinder-5th 6:15-7:30pm

March classes 3, 17, 24

Sunday 6th-Confirmation 6:15-7:30pm

Feb classes 28
March classes 14, 21

Sunday Sacramental prep 10-11am

Feb 28
March 14 & 21

Retreat April 10 10am-2pm w/parents

We offer classes for Kinder- High School. If you would like to sponsor a child or family donations are always welcome.

Religious Education Director:

Samantha Matthews 246-6014

THE LADIES' GUILD:

Members meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. New members are always welcome! Ladies president is Barb Knauss, please call Parish office for more info.

**Ladies meetings Tuesdays
@6:30PM
March 2nd**

THE MEN'S CLUB:

The Men's Club meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at 7PM in the Parish Hall. New members are always welcome! Men's Club president is Jeff Marquardt, please call the Parish office for more info.

**Men's Club meetings
@ 7PM
March 18th**

Knights of Columbus #14866

**KofC Meetings Tuesdays
@7PM
March 9 & 23**



Mary, Queen of the Knights

Our Lady Queen of the Knights, bless all the activities of our order keep us true to the pledge, to extend the Kingship of your Divine Son on earth; through your intercession win for us your grace even to exemplify in our public and private lives, the virtues which should characterize those, specially dedicated to the service of the heavenly court. Make us always aware, that as your Knights we are constantly observed, our faith judged, and our order appreciated. Accept O Mary, this renewed pledge of fealty and devotion, of your servants the Knights of Columbus.

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THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

San Lorenzo Ruiz Council #14866 welcomes all Catholic men over 18 years of age to join our Brotherhood team. For further information about us, please call Grand Knight Jimmy Hundley at (904) 246-6014. Council Officers meet on the second Tuesday of each month. All members meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Both meetings are held at the Parish Hall Library at 7:00 PM.

St John's Young Church

Membership is open to high school-aged youth, and new members are always welcome.

The St. John's Young Church is dedicated to exploring their Christianity through service in their community.

Contact **Paul Trinidad**

(904) 923-8250 or call the parish office at (904) 246-6014.

WEEKLY ROSARY:

A weekly rosary is held each Wednesday night at 6:00pm in the Marian Chapel (If we need to spread out more we move to the main Sanctuary).

This is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

CHOIRS:

There is no practice as of now due to Covid restrictions

There will be no Penance Service this year. For confession please call the Parish office to make an appointment or Confession is 30 mins. prior to each Mass as well as 1 hour prior to each Stations of the Cross

RCIA

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Tuesdays 6:30-8:30pm

March 2

The Creed

Dennis stone

March 6

First Scrutiny

@ St John's arrive by 4:45pm

March 9

The Mass/Bishop Barron Pt 2

Greg Streeter

If you are a parishioner interested in attending a RCIA meeting to refresh your faith please call the office for more information.

James Ezelle (904) 412-6548

Parish office (904) 246-6014.

RESPECT LIFE

respect · love · protect

The Respect life Committee is looking for donations of **diapers**, sizes newborn-size 5 as well as **baby wipes**. We will be passing them out to families in need of baby items that come on Tuesdays for the food distributions, sponsored by the EAM. Please put any donations in the Respect for Life basket located in the Narthex.

Thank you for your Support,
The Respect for Life Committee

FIRST FRIDAY ROSARY—RESPECT LIFE:

Join us each First Friday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass for the recitation of the Holy Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Please help us pray for the protection and safety of the unborn.

TO REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE

The Diocese of St. Augustine treats all allegations of sexual misconduct seriously and deals with all allegations in a prompt, confidential and thorough manner. To report abuse call: Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at (904) 262-3200 extension 129 or the Department of Children and Families at 1-800-96ABUSE.

St John's EAM

is collecting **UNEXPIRED** canned vegetables & fruit for our food Pantry. Please bring any items to the Parish, during office hours 9am-4pm Mon- Fri. Any Monetary Donations are greatly appreciated as well.

St John's EAM:

Are dedicated to helping the poor of Atlantic Beach & surrounding area. New members are always needed and welcomed, call office for more info.

Food distributions:

Every Tue. 3-4pm (setup starts about 2pm in Parish Hall)

1st Sat. of the month 8-10am

3rd Sat. of the month 6-about 9am
This is our big outside drive-thru distribution. Please call the parish office to sign up to volunteer.

Fasting & Abstinence During Lent
The Church's laws for fasting and abstinence during Lent:

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting.

Catholics between the ages between 18-59 are permitted one full meal and two lesser meals (which together should not equal one full meal) per day, with no eating between meals.

Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence. Catholics who are 14 years or older should abstain from meat entirely. Soups and gravies made from meat are permitted.

Caring and confidential Catholic support is available

The Catholic Therapist Network is a listing of counselors who are Catholics in good standing and loyal to the theology, traditions, and values of the Catholic faith. Though not affiliates or employees of the diocese, all participating mental health professionals are independent practitioners, currently licensed and insured. They are committed to extending their expertise and offering full discretion in meeting with clients. Contact information for network participants is available at <https://family.dosafl.com/therapists/>

Visit the diocesan web calendar at www.dosafl.com/calendar for a listing of Parish Lenten Missions.

Continued - What's Going on at St John's

HALL RENTAL:

The Parish Hall is available for rent to St. John's parishioners for their own use, such as wedding receptions, anniversaries or birthdays. It may not be rented by a parishioner for someone else. If strangers are found to be holding an event in the hall, they'll be asked to leave as they are not covered by our insurance, voiding the contract. Since the hall is used on Sunday mornings, our custodian must be hired to do the clean-up to the standard we require.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS MINISTRY:

New members always welcome. You don't have to be a medical professional to join. Meetings correspond to the monthly Memory Café dates. (See announcement in bulletin.)

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bulletin announcements must be received a week prior to the bulletin date.

You may call **Monica** at 246-6014 with your announcement, or email to mtrinidad.stjohn@outlook.com

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION:

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: Interested in exploring ways to get closer to the Lord through prayer, scripture and contemplation? Contact Dennis Stone (dennisistone@comcast.net) or Kathleen Patneau (kpatneau@comcast.net) both are certified by Our Lady of Divine Providence School of Spiritual Direction in Clearwater, Florida. During the pandemic, sessions are conducted in person or virtually.

Hallow

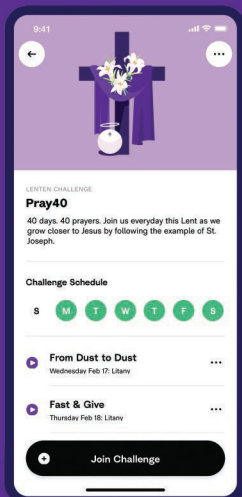
Join the #Pray40 Challenge

Pray every day this Lent with Hallow Meditations.



Download Hallow from the App Store on your phone.

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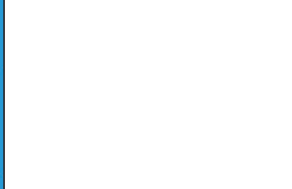
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