



# St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

2400 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach, Florida 32233  
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Drawer 330005 Atlantic Beach, Florida 32233  
Office: (904) 246-6014 Hall: (904) 246-8771 Fax: (904) 246-1219  
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



## JOHN THE BAPTIST

At a school open house a woman could be overheard introducing her husband to some of the other parents. "Oh, Bill, I'd like you to meet Johnny's father. And over here, this is Marie's mom; you know, the little girl from our Ellen's soccer team."

With satisfied resignation Bill introduced himself not by name: "I'm Ellen's Dad."

It's good to know who you are. Be it someone's father or mother, son or daughter, husband or wife, it's important to embrace the full meaning of our various roles.

John the Baptist knows who he is. And who he is not. He is not the Christ. Nor Elijah. Nor like any other prophet God's people had ever seen.

John the Baptist knows his mission is divine. He's more than satisfied to be the one to announce the coming of God's reign. The Christ is near. Make straight your paths.



### Today's Readings

**First Reading** -As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

**Psalm** -My soul rejoices in my God

**Second Reading** -Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

**Gospel** -I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

### **WILL THE REAL MESSIAH PLEASE STAND UP?**

The Jewish people were waiting for their messiah, they were waiting for a hero. They prodded John several times trying to figure out what his role actually was, and to see what he knew. It became a guessing game. He tried to say nothing, but finally answered in a humble fashion, "I am not he." He baptized with water as a means of leading people to the coming Christ and helping them to prepare. He somehow avoided the trappings of success that would turn his light on himself. Today he remains a road sign for us, pointing out Christ our Light.

We all want someone to rescue us, and most likely to fix the mistakes and errors that we continue to make as individuals and as nations. Much of that is human nature. Would there be as much fascination with superheroes if this were not the case? How many times do you as an adult turn to your folks for advice, or wish you could talk to a deceased parent? Some need help emotionally, others spiritually, others financially. The reality is that it is tough to get your "ducks in a row" and always has been. Today's encouraging message is for us to always look to the Light for our help. May we always be like John the Baptist and testify how Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, has been our Savior.

### Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23; Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23

**Thursday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

**Friday:** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

**Saturday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

**Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

### **3rd Sunday of Advent: Reasons to Rejoice**

Saint Paul seems to be throwing out a handful of sayings that may sound overly optimistic, but are actually very practical. "Rejoice always? Who can do that?" It sounds absurd, but the next two lines give it context: If we pray constantly and thank God for all that happens to us, we have reason to rejoice. Whatever happens is the will of God for us. Even the bad things, things we don't like, can be allowed by God, so that God can bring good out of them. God allows sin because it leads to forgiveness, an experience of God's love for us. And God allows even death, because God can bring us to eternal life.

The next two sayings may be a little obscure. When Paul tells us not to quench the Spirit, he means we should be open to what the Holy Spirit moves us to do. "Prophetic utterances" refer to things that other people were inspired to proclaim. If we pray constantly (1 Thessalonians 5:17) we won't be so distracted by the things of this world that we cannot hear the promptings of the Holy Spirit in us. We won't be so critical of others that we miss what the Spirit is telling us through them.

How do we know if something really is from the Spirit? The next phrase helps with that: Test everything. Retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Use the scriptures, the teachings of the Church, and your conscience to decide whether the Spirit is moving you, or if advice you hear is worthwhile. And most of all trust God to help with all this because God wants us to be holy. God will make us holy if we only allow it. Then we will be ready for the coming of the Lord, whether through the sacraments, the celebration of Christmas, or God's final coming in glory. I'd say that's a reason to rejoice.

### **The Shape of the Mass**

In the renewal of the liturgy that followed the Second Vatican Council, the full, conscious, and active participation of the assembly was the primary consideration. By participation, the Council Fathers did not mean just joining in the singing and the spoken responses, but active engagement and prayerful understanding of the rites. They envisioned a transparent liturgy, a worship that spoke so directly to the hearts and minds of the faithful that it would require no explanation at all.

The liturgy itself is the best possible catechesis on the liturgy. What does the liturgy teach us? It shows us the ministry of Jesus continuing in the present. He gathers a community. He calls us to prayer and repentance and praise. He teaches us with the very word of God. He does not send us away empty, but sets before us a marvelous banquet, feeding us with his very body and blood. Then he sends us forth to do what he has done to give ourselves for others, not just in words, but in deeds. The Mass is the pattern of our Christian lives.



## MINISTERS

### SCHEDULE

December 19 & 20

#### Eucharistic Minister

**5PM**

Martha\* & Michael Marchetti,  
Karen Rossetti

**9AM**

Tessie\* & Dwayne Schell,  
Gabriel Pastrana

**11AM**

Jane Hart\*

Manny Silverio  
Vicky Mondares



#### Lectors

**5PM**

1 Denny Foster  
2 Bill Corley

**7AM**

1 Valencia Kidwell  
2 Carol Neville

**9AM**

1 Greg Streeter  
2 Barbara Schuman

**11AM**

1 Dan Emnas  
2 Aida Masinsin



#### Ministers of Hospitality

**5PM**

Armand & Jan Riendeau  
Mary Ann Carroll  
Maryann Speckman

**9AM**

Debbie Bunting  
Corinne Hundley  
Jim & Bonnie Feazel

**11AM**

Celina Austin, Dee Fox  
Ana Rios, Dina Walker



#### Altar Server

**5PM**

Brynn Von Seggern

**9AM**

Caleb Pastrana  
Miranda Sanchez

**11AM**


Christie Cabrera  
Gian Suyat



#### 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. Cost is \$40.00

## MASS SCHEDULE SAINTS & SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

<p>Sat Dec 12</p> <p>† <b>Eva &amp; Matt Clemens</b> By Gene &amp; Sally Clemens</p> 	<p>Sun Dec 13</p> <p><b>7am</b> † <b>Michael Hasser</b> By David Rosenblum</p> <p><b>9am</b> † <b>Thomas Gaffney</b> By Claire Gaffney</p> <p><b>11am</b> <b>Parishioners of St John's</b></p>	<p>Tues Dec 15</p> <p><b>In Thanksgiving</b> By Minda Mamansag</p>	<p>Wed Dec 16</p> <p>† <b>James &amp; Elda Pagana</b> By Susan Tomlinson</p> 
<p>Thu Dec 17</p> <p>† <b>Carmelito Quedado</b> By Gasper &amp; Vicky Quedado</p>	<p>Fri Dec 18</p> <p>† <b>Auria Eder</b> By Angelina Knoop</p>	<p>Sat Dec 19</p> <p>† <b>Pat Griffiths</b> Jim Griffiths</p>	<p>Sun Dec 20</p> <p><b>7am</b> † <b>David Benedict</b> By the Family</p> <p><b>9am</b> <b>Parishioners of St John's</b></p> <p><b>11am</b> † <b>Norma Rosete</b> By Patricia Hinds</p>

#### UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE

*Most people are bothered by those passages in Scripture which they can't understand; but . . . I have noticed that the passages in Scripture which trouble me most are those I do understand.* -Mark Twain

## *In Memoriam*



#### **Christmas Mass Schedule**

As per CDC & Diocese guidelines, If the Church Sanctuary is filled to Capacity when you arrive, please come back to St John's for another Mass time.

**Please we ask that you be Patient and kind**

#### **Christmas Eve (12/24)**

2pm Children's Mass  
4pm Children's Mass  
7pm Mass  
10pm Mass

#### **Christmas Day (12/25)**

**Midnight mass**  
7am Mass  
10am Mass  
10am Online Mass  
Via Facebook page  
12pm Communion Distribution  
(No Mass)

**Church office closed Dec. 24th & 25th**



<b>Offering:</b>	11,694.43
<b>BF:</b>	845.00
<b>EAM:</b>	+ 1,193.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>13,732.43</b>

*Matthew 25:35-40*

# What's Going on at St John's



## Religious Education

**Wednesday Kinder-5th**  
 Dec classes 16  
 Jan classes 13, 20, 27  
 Feb Classes 3, 10, 24  
**Sunday 6th-Confirmation**  
 Dec classes 13  
 Jan classes 10, 17, 24, 31  
 Feb classes 7, 21, 28  
 ~~~~~

### **RCIA** **(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)**

**Tuesdays 6:30-8:30pm**  
**Dec 15**

**Sacraments of Initiation**  
 James Ezelle  
**Dec 22**

**Sacraments of Healing**  
 Fr Rafael

**Sacrament of Service**  
 Fr Rafael

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.

### **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.

**The Knights of Columbus will have bread after Sunday 9AM & 11AM Masses. Don't forget to stop by and pick some up!**

### **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.

### **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 Guild meetings**  
 @6:30PM

### **Save the Dates** **Feb 15th-Mar 25th**

Ladies Guild is sponsoring a 6 week retreat for women of our Parish,  
**33 Days to Morning Glory**

Small groups will meet for an hour each Monday at 10am or 7pm.

Registration will be held in January

### **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

Coming Soon



Saturday  
 January 2nd  
 @6-8pm  
 St John's  
 Parish Hall

Donations raised will go to sheltering the homeless.

## **Knights of Columbus** #14866

**KofC Meetings Tuesdays**  
 @7PM

**Fish Fry will be Jan 17th 2021**  
 More info to come!

### **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 eve 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

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 eve 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

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

### **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Because of the coronavirus, many of our Ministers of Hospitality have not been able to attend Mass in person, so we are asking for anyone comfortable to help us out. Please call the Parish at (904) 246-6014 ASAP and we will show you how important Ministry helps support our Masses. This is super important especially right now as the Holiday season is approaching and we have many added Masses coming up!





Donna Cappock,  
 Karl Klein, Novalee Sanchez,  
 Lily Rodriguez, Delores Fox,  
 Albert Wagner, Loretta Wagner,  
 John Weitort, Nanette Franzuela,  
 Bob Pote, Amor Guzman,  
 Glenn Young, Jim Driscoll

If you want to add someone to the Prayer request for the sick please contact Monica @ [mtrinidad.stjohn@outlook.com](mailto:mtrinidad.stjohn@outlook.com) or call the Parish office. I update often so requested names will be posted for about 5-6 weeks. If you want prayer request added again you will need to contact me.  
 Thank you Monica Trinidad

† Respect life †  
 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

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES:**

Kindergarten through High School. If you want to sponsor a child or family donations always welcome.  
 Religious Education Director: **Samantha Matthews** 246-6014

**CHOIRS: There is no practice as of now due to Covid restrictions**

**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.

**ST. JOHN'S EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE MINISTRY:**

Are dedicated to helping the poor of Atlantic Beach. New members are always needed and welcomed. Food is distributed on Tuesdays from 3-4PM and every 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month from 8-10AM . Call the Parish office for more information.

**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 before the bulletin date, at 4:00 p.m. You may call **Monica** at 246-6014 with your announcement, or email to [mtrinidad.stjohn@outlook.com](mailto:mtrinidad.stjohn@outlook.com)

**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.

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION:**

Contact **Dennis Stone** ([dennisstone@comcast.net](mailto:dennisstone@comcast.net)), certified by Our Lady of Divine Providence School of Spiritual Direction in Clearwater, Florida.