



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



FIRST SUNDAY OF

Lent

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The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,
and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan.
He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

Mark 1:12-13

FEBRUARY
21
2021

February 21, 2021 First Sunday of Lent

REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL

Lent is the time of year we devote to scrutinizing our lives in the light of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Today's readings are a nice shorthand catechism of what our baptized lives mean. As Noah passed through the waters of the flood to a covenant with God, so did we enter into a covenant, a promised relationship with God through our baptism.

Peter's letter gives an explicit explanation of what our baptism means: it is an appeal we make to God for a clear conscience. How do we obtain this clear conscience? The words proclaimed by Jesus immediately following his temptation show us the way: "Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). It might be a good spiritual exercise to keep these readings before us throughout the entire season of Lent, a means to help us return to a life lived by our baptismal promises.

Today's Readings

First Reading —Gen 9:8-15 I will set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

Psalms 25 - Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant

Second Reading - 1 Pet 3:18-22 The water of the flood prefigured baptism, which saves you now.

Gospel - Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels ministered to him

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

FEAST OF FAITH

Seasonal Changes for the Liturgies of Lent

Today is the First Sunday of Lent. During this season of preparation for Easter, our churches look stark and simple—no flowers at the altar, no festive banners or decorations. And our liturgies feel different, too. The organ is quiet except to accompany the singing of the assembly. The Gloria, our Sunday song of rejoicing, is not heard except on solemnities, and we will not sing the Alleluia, our joyful acclamation of praise, until the Easter Vigil.

“Alleluia cannot always / Be our song while here below,” says an eleventh-century hymn. “Alleluia our transgressions / Make us for a while forego; / For the solemn time is coming / When our tears for sins must flow” (Alleluia dulce carmen, J. M. Neale, trans.).

These changes in the liturgy will catch our attention, and make us eager for the festive outpouring of joy that will return with Easter. This year, may the stripped-away liturgies of Lent remind us to strip away what is not essential in our lives to make space for the crucified and risen One, and thus to be ready to sing “Alleluia” once again when Easter returns.

Clear Conscience

Usually, the first reading has something in common with the gospel. Today's however, has more in common with the second reading from St. Peter. They both talk about Noah and the ark, where the few good people were saved by going through the water. Peter compares that to the waters of Baptism, in which we are saved by God. Just as God washed away the evil of the world in the waters of the flood, so the waters of Baptism made us into a new people who have clear consciences, both because God has forgiven our sins and because we promise to follow only Him.

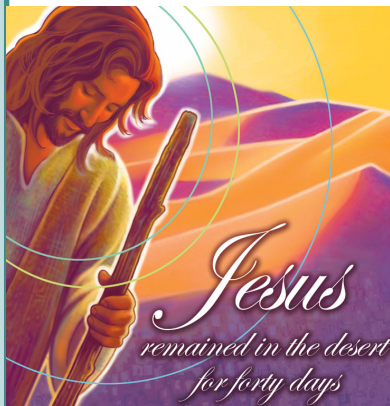
That leads to the Gospel, where Jesus is tempted by Satan. But unlike the people of Noah's time, Jesus does not fall to the temptations. Instead, he comes out of the desert, telling us to repent and believe in the good news.

That means we have a choice to make: Do we accept this kingdom and repent, or do we ignore our baptism and do what we want? Do we still have a clear conscience when we think of how much time we spend getting to know Jesus? Ever pray or read the bible outside of church? Do we spend near as much on the poor, as we do for our entertainment?

Next time you see a rainbow, think about the covenant that God made with Noah. Just as God's promises get better and better till the coming of Jesus, we are challenged to be more and more like Him. Are you satisfied with just a promise that God won't destroy us all in a flood? Or are you ready to live the New Covenant that Jesus promises to those who will follow him?

CHRIST
SUFFERED
FOR SINS
ONCE
THAT HE
MIGHT LEAD
YOU TO GOD
I P E T E R

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DIocese OF
ST AUGUSTINE

Bishop's Annual Stewardship Appeal

2021 Bishop's Annual Stewardship Appeal (BASA)

Last week, we shared a video message from Bishop Estévez at all Masses. This week, we are participating in Follow-Up Weekend for any parishioner who may not have been with us last week. We hope you will make a prayerful decision to pledge a gift to the 2021 Bishop's Annual Stewardship Appeal. If you have not made a pledge to the Appeal, we invite you to participate in this worthy mission by making a gift by mail, online at www.dosafl.com/bishopsappeal, or by texting 21BASA to 904-567-0887. Your participation truly makes a significant difference in the lives of so many in need within our diocese.

MINISTERS

SCHEDULE

February 27 & 28

Eucharistic Minister

5PM
Mike McPherson*

Larry McKay
Karen Rossetti

9AM
Ann Crowder*
Tom Crowder
Linda Trinidad

11AM
Edna Silang*
Dee Fox
Eileen Erikson



Lectors

5PM
1 Stephen Pachuta
2 Tita Agustin

7AM
1 Denny Foster
2 Valencia Kidwell

9AM
1 Patty Pendleton
2 Allyson Lingerfelt

11AM
1 Isabel Masinsin
2 Jon Masinsin



Ministers of Hospitality

5PM
Mary Ann Carroll
Maryann Speckman
Armand & Jan
Riendeau

9AM
Francois & Josiane
Beuse
Mike & Gwen Crowder

11AM
Ramon Reyes
Suzie Reyes
Luz Reyes
Nora Suyat



Altar Server

5PM
Brynn Von Seggern

7am
Kayla Nellum

9AM
Ryan Feazel
James Lingerfelt

11AM
Christie Cabrera
Gian Suyat



Ministries



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

Sat Feb 20 Parishioners of St John	Sun Feb 21 7am: † Margaret Murphy By Mary Stutts 9am † Jim Burns By 9am Choir 11am † Daniel Cartagena By Alday & Cartagena Families	Tues Feb 23 † Edward & Elizabeth Finn By Kathy & Ike Pundt <i>St. Polycarp</i>	Wed Feb 24 Healing Intentions for Lambarto Barranta By Lacanilao Family
Thu Feb 25 † Sophia Vasey By Tom & Ann Crowder	Fri Feb 26 † James R. Bryant Sr Jim & Bonnie Feazel <i>7pm Stations of the Cross</i> <i>7:30pm Rice Bowl Supper</i> <i>Day of Abstinence</i> 	Sat Feb 27 Mary Ann Carroll By Jerry & Terry Carroll	Sun Feb 28 7am: † Colin Quigley & † Elizabeth Hecker By Ann Linn 9am Parishioners of St John 11am † Prudence N. Antonio By Ezelle Family

Prayers of the Faithful

Feb 21st

† Telba Olivares

† Derrick Aguilar

BEAUTY IN FORGIVENESS
 Humanity is never so beautiful as when praying for forgiveness, or else forgiving another.

Jean P. F. Richter



Totals from past 2 weeks

Offering: 26,946.34
BF: 794.00
EAM: + 4,140.25
Total: 31,880.59

Matthew 25:35-40



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

GOOD MORNING! WELCOME TO LENT!

You probably did not get that greeting from your priest today, and you probably did not expect it. Isn't Lent a time of reflection and repentance? Somber purple, no "Alleluias"?

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; attending to one's relationship with God?

True enough; however, there are Lenten practices that have a festive air woven into these penitential elements. One example is in the Church's retrieval of ancient Lenten practices that made up the final preparation of persons elected to receive the Easter sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and eucharist. Jesus' urgent preaching in today's passage from Mark comes soon after his own baptism and reminds us that these sacraments still signal a dramatic change in a person's life: they have responded to Jesus' preaching of the kingdom and are now publicly professing themselves to be disciples of the Lord and fully initiated members of his visible church. The prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent were part of that preparation. Repentance was then, and remains today, important also for those already fully initiated; the work of repentance, of prayerfully examining our lives and making changes in anticipation of God's reign, is an ongoing aspect of our life in Christ.

What's Going on at St John's



Religious Education

Wednesday Kinder-5th
6:15-7:30pm
Feb classes 24

Sunday 6th-Confirmation
6:15-7:30pm
Feb classes 21, 28

Sunday Sacramental prep
10-11am
Feb 21 & 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

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 dedi-
cated to exploring their Christianity
through service in their community.

Contact **Paul Trinidad**

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

RCIA

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

Tuesdays 6:30-8:30pm
Feb. 23

Scrutinies – Looking Within
Ellen Wiley

Feb 27
Rite of Election

@ St Joseph's 10:30am
(arrive by 10am)

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.

TO REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE

The Diocese of St. Augustine treats all alle-
gations of sexual misconduct seriously and
deals with all allegations in a prompt, confi-
dential and thorough manner. To report
abuse call: Diocesan Victim Assistance Coor-
dinator 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 wel-
come! 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 al-
ways welcome!

Men's Club president is Jeff Mar-
quardt, please call the Parish office
for more info.

Men's Club meetings
@ 7PM
March 18th

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 will move to
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 30 mins prior to each
Stations of the Cross**

RESPECT LIFE

respect · love · protect

The Respect life Committee is look-
ing 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 Re-
spect 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.

Knights of Columbus

#14866

KofC Meetings Tuesdays
@7PM
Feb 23
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 King-
ship of your Divine Son on earth;
through your inter-
cession win for us
your grace eve to
exemplify in our
public and private
lives, the virtues

which should characterize those, spe-
cially 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 or-
der appreciated. Accept O Mary, this
renewed pledge of fealty and devotion,
of your servants the Knights of Colum-
bus.

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 infor-
mation 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 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 wel-
comed, 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 distri-
bution. 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 of 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.

A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE A FIRST IMPRESSION

Other changes with baptism are more subtle and personal. When Noah and his family emerged from the ark, they saw that the floodwaters had receded after cleansing the world of human sinfulness. Everything was clean and fresh—a new creation, with a rainbow to guarantee God's promise to never again destroy the world with water. So, too, will the newly baptized emerge from the font and be anointed with chrism. Like the earth after the great flood, they are a new creation. Washed clean of sin and anointed with chrism, they are renewed in the embrace of the God of covenant love. This is why Lent is always a festive anticipation of Easter and always about baptism, just as it is always about the repentance that draws us more deeply into God's kingdom.

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 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

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION:

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: Interested in exploring ways to get closer to the Lord through prayer, scripture and contemplation? Contact Dennis Stone (dennisstone@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 virtually.

Hallow

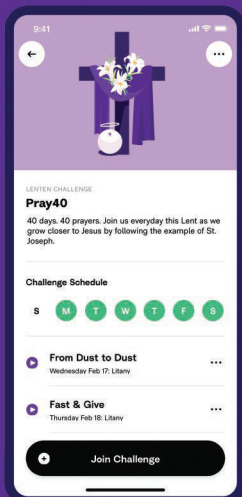
Join the #Pray40 Challenge

Pray every day this Lent with Hallow Meditations.



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Or call Cliff Evans @
 904-262-3200 ext. 139