

# 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

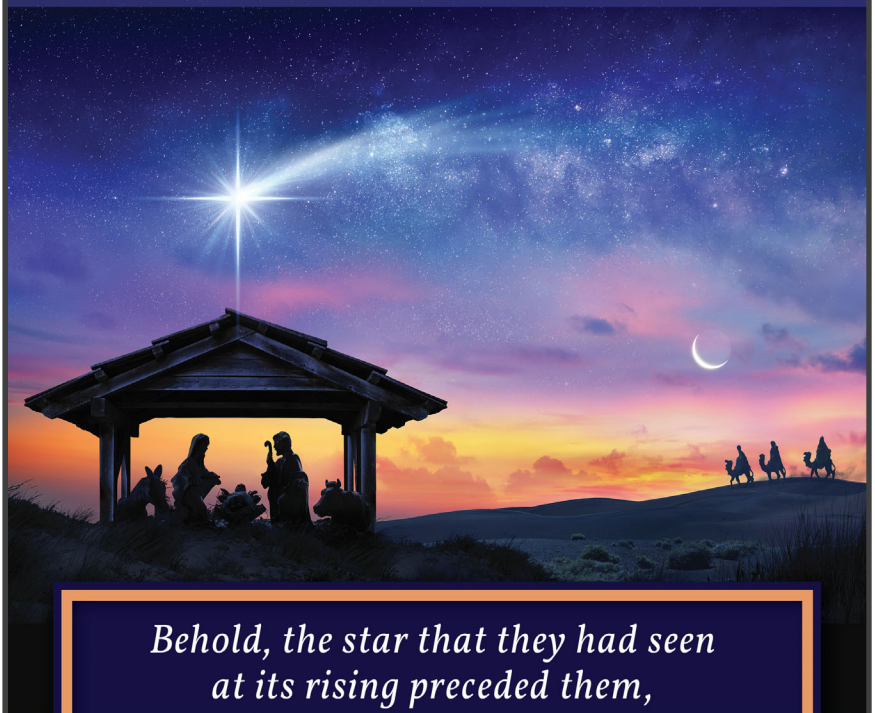
#### **Instagram**

@StJohns\_atlanticbeach



## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 3, 2021



*Behold, the star that they had seen  
at its rising preceded them,  
until it came and stopped over  
the place where the child was.*

*Matthew 2:9*

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### FEAST OF FAITH

#### The Liturgy of Emmanuel

The assembly has gathered from near and far, on foot, by bus, by car, by subway, singly and by twos and threes: single people, couples, families. Now that movement is ritualized and made visible in the liturgy's entrance procession.

We are not alone on this journey; Christ is with us. The procession is led by the cross, with the image of Christ upon it. Candles, signs of a living presence, are carried around the cross. Candles also accompany the Book of the Gospels, another sign of Emmanuel, God-with-us. The priest presider is likewise a sign of Christ's presence in our assembly; he will act in persona Christi, in the person of Christ, who presides at every Eucharist.

As the procession begins, we stand and sing together in our first act as a community. The joining of our voices begins to turn many into one. The songs we sing range from ancient chants to contemporary hymns, but they have the same purpose, to foster our unity and turn our thoughts to the mysteries we gather to celebrate. We may feel that we can't sing well, but "Christ always invites us to enter into song, to rise above our own preoccupations, and to give our entire selves to the hymn of his Paschal Sacrifice" (USCCB, Sing to the Lord, 14).

### Today's Readings

**First Reading-** Isaiah 60:1-6 Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The Lord shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you.

**Psalms-** 72- Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

**Second Reading-** Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 The Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

**Gospel-**Magi from the east arrived, looking for the newborn king of the Jews Matthew 2:1-12.

### Readings for the Week

**Monday:** 1 Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 4:19 — 5:4; Ps 72: 1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a

**Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30

**Sunday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11

*O Father, may that holy star grow every year more bright and send its glorious beams afar to fill the world with light.*

—William Cullen Bryant

#### **PROMISE FULFILLED**

Isaiah reminds the people of God that the land shall be restored to their possession, they shall rejoice to see their people return from the bondage of exile, and they shall be a light to the nations. In other words, through the people of Israel, the Savior shall come to all people who seek God with a sincere heart. This brings joy and the radiance of God's glory to all the world and to all people everywhere. Through the fidelity of the people of God, and through God's fidelity to them, all people shall become God's children and rejoice in the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel.

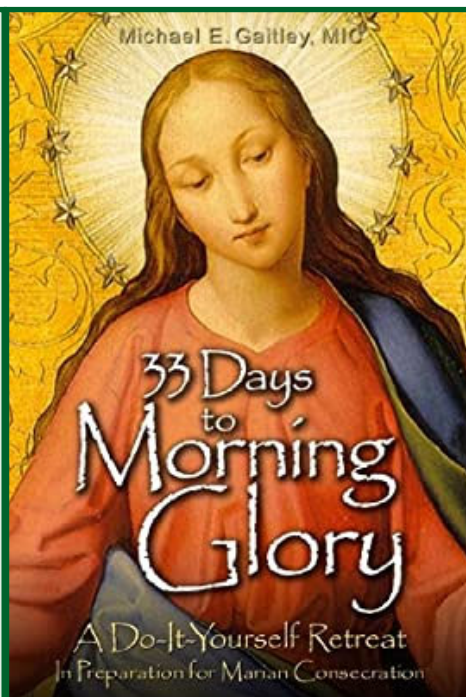
#### **Registration for Ladies Guild's 6 week retreat**

### **33 Days to Morning Glory**

**Sign-ups begin this month!!**

Small groups will meet for an hour each Monday starting Feb. 15th-Mar25th at 10am or 7pm.

Please contact:  
**Barbara Knauss**  
@ (904) 223-1243  
or the Parish office.



The Epiphany of the Lord January 3, 2021

*All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.*

— Psalm 72:11

#### **GIVING HOMAGE**

In our minds, it is easy to mix up bits and pieces from Luke's account of the shepherds coming to see Jesus in the stable and the story of the magi. Clearly, it has taken the magi time to get here, and the reading speaks of them coming to the house where the star led them. Nevertheless, they "prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures . . ."

How do we do this? Do we continue looking for Jesus, even if takes a while and he is not where we expect to see him? Are we paying attention to the signs showing us the way? What gifts do we have with which to pay him homage? After seeing him, the Magi were warned in a dream not to go back the way they came. But if we have seen the Christ child, how can we go back to where we were? We must continue to respond to God's call to move forward and grow in our lives. We must seek the right and just path and turn away from the "Herods" and inherent evils in our life.

Nutshell: Seek God. Pay homage. Amen.



Monday  
Jan 4th

St Elizabeth  
Ann Seton



## The Epiphany of the Lord Little Drummer Boy

Did you know that the only reason we say that there were three wise men is that they brought three gifts? The Bible never says their number or their names. The gifts tell us about the givers. And these special gifts--gold, frankincense, and myrrh--tell us much. When one king visited or sent an ambassador to another, he would give a gift of gold to show that he acknowledged the kingship of the other. So the first gift of the wise men tells us they recognized Jesus as King. The second gift is a type of incense, which was used in Jesus time to worship God. So this gift shows the wise men paying homage to Jesus' divinity. The gift of myrrh is oil used to anoint the dying. It reminds us of Jesus suffering and death on the cross.




So what gifts do we have for Jesus? Maybe we can take a hint from the wise men. If we acknowledge Jesus as king, maybe a better gift than gold would be to pledge our obedience to him. Each day we can promise to live our vocation as best we can, to love those around us, and forgive those who hurt us.

A better way than burning incense to pay homage to Jesus' divinity is to take time to pray throughout the day. Some people are able to attend daily Mass, others spend time in adoration before the Eucharist, or even a few minutes of their lunch break to say the rosary.

As for the gift of myrrh, we can give Jesus the crosses we bear each day. When we accept suffering in our lives, especially that caused by our sins, we give ourselves to Jesus as he gave himself for us on the cross. The song "Little Drummer Boy" reminds us that the best gift is not necessarily the most expensive. Instead, it is the simple gift that only we can give. Let Epiphany remind us to offer our lives to Jesus each day.

## MASS SCHEDULE SAINTS & SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

<p>Sat Jan 2</p> <p>† Janet Dufraine By Mary Ann Carroll</p>	<p>Sun Jan 3</p> <p>7am: Parishioners of St John 9am † Maurice Dietrich By Barb Knauss 11am † Sheerin Buchanan By Claire Gaffney</p>	<p>Tues Jan 5</p> <p>Paul Ngo By Dias Family</p> 	<p>Wed Jan 6</p> <p>† David Toracinta By Dias Family</p> <p>St. André Bessette</p>
<p>Thu Jan 7</p> <p>† Mary Ulrich By Sharon Roettger &amp; Syd Jenkins</p> <p>St. Raymond of Penyafort; Julian Calendar Christmas</p>	<p>Fri Jan 8</p> <p>In Thanksgiving By Manny &amp; Sony Silverio</p>	<p>Sat Jan 9</p> <p>† Steve Hardin By Mary McCoid</p>	<p>Sun Jan 10</p> <p>7am: Parishioners of St John 9am † Maurice Dietrich By Barb Knauss 11am † Sheeran Buchanan By Claire Gaffney</p>



### 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

### The Epiphany of the Lord

When I tell a story, I have a friend who prefers the "nutshell version" first. After that she'll listen to me ramble, but she wants to know the main point right off the bat. When reading and hearing Sunday scriptures one may often find the nutshell by looking at the responsorial psalm or the Gospel acclamation. From Psalm 72 we hear "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you." The verse for the Gospel acclamation is Matthew 2:2 "We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." As a weary world, we need to see the light, to follow with our actions and our words. This is the same hope that is echoed in Isaiah 60:2 "See, darkness covers the earth, / and thick clouds cover the peoples; / but upon you the LORD shines, / and over you appears his glory." Don't give up, friends. You must shine!

### SEARCHING

In Matthew's Gospel today we see two extremely different perspectives, two different reasons for searching for Jesus. In some ways, this resembles the polarization of our nation in today's time. What one group sees as good for the nation, those with opposing views think will wreck the country. The Magi were astrologers who saw a vision in the sky and were trying to find a way to follow it and discover the new king of the Jews. Herod heard about this king, and his reaction was dark and negative. He saw the birth of such a king as a threat to his power as the Roman leader of the country and wanted the Magi to pass on to him what they knew about this Christ child. Similarly, on a more personal level, we can either feel threatened or excited by changes that may come, depending on our perspective.

# What's Going on at St John's



## Religious Education

### Wednesday Kinder-5th

Jan classes 13, 20, 27  
Feb classes 3, 10, 24

### Sunday 6th-Confirmation

Jan classes 10, 17, 24, 31  
Feb classes 7, 21, 28

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

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

**Jan 5**

#### **The People of God**

Greg Streeter

**Jan 12**

#### **The Early Church**

Greg Streeter

**Jan 19**

#### **History of the Church**

Greg Streeter

**Jan 16**

#### **Christian Moral Living**

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.

### **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.

### **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.

**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.

## 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



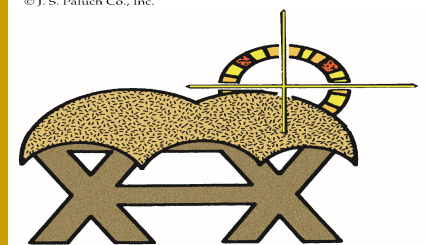
your Knights we are constantly observed, our faith judged, and our order appreciated. Accept O Mary, this renewed pledge of fealty and devotion, of your servants the Knights of Columbus

### **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.



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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,  
 Ron Keese

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.