

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

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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

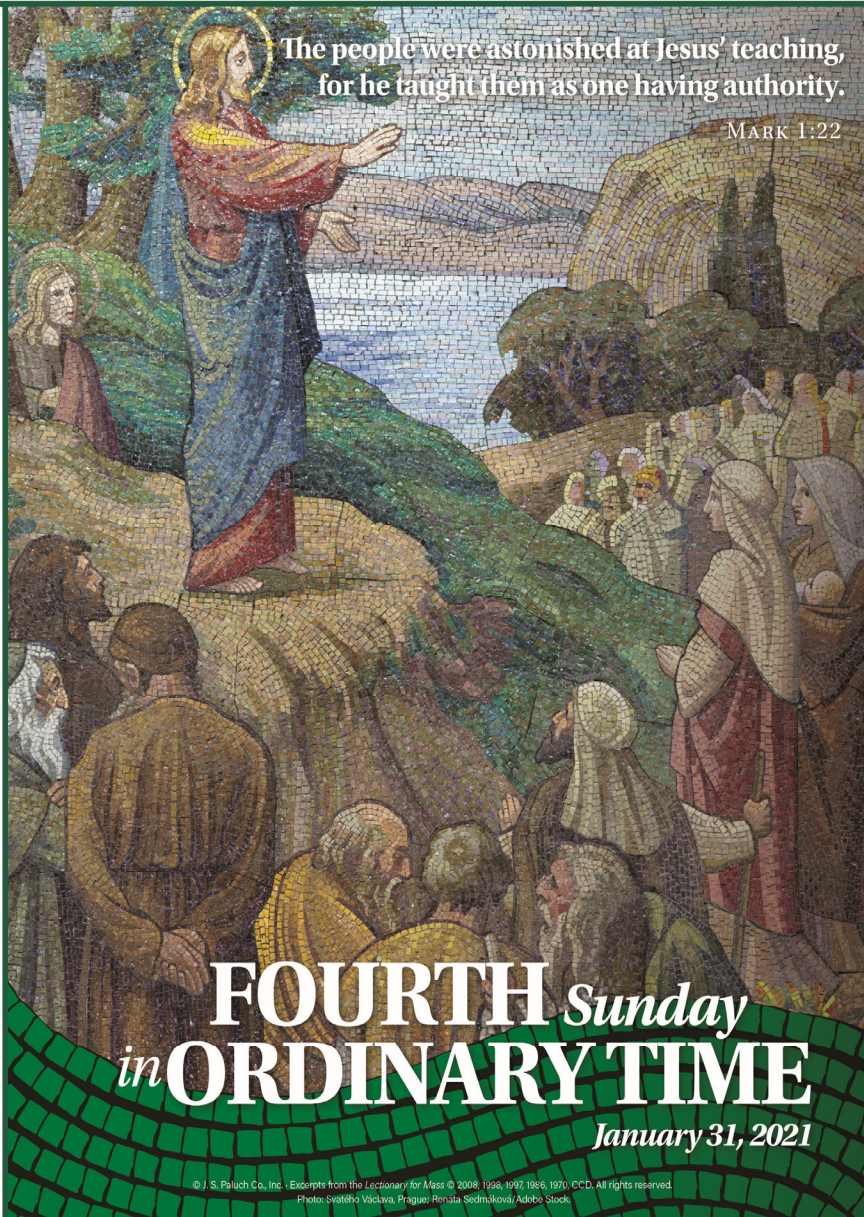


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January 31, 2021 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FALSE PROPHETS, TRUE PROPHETS

In Deuteronomy today we hear that God's very words will fill the mouth of a true prophet, but a false prophet will, in a manner of speaking, put mere mortal words into God's mouth. In Mark's Gospel, we see Jesus teaching and healing as a true prophet, one filled with the authority of God's own voice, the Holy One of God.

The whole history of our church is filled with both true and false prophets. But in today's Gospel we learn that Jesus' fame spread because he taught with authority; he wasn't an authority because he was popular or famous. We also learn from him, in his desert temptation confrontations with Satan, that anyone can quote scripture, even against God's purposes. And today we hear that his authority was not like that of the scribes, who held the official positions of religious authority in his day. Our work is to do our best to discern the true prophets in our midst, and to be true prophets as well. The psalmist tells us how to do this: by not hardening our hearts when God speaks. If we truly listen to God, it will be God's very words filling our mouths.

Today's Readings

First Reading -Moses spoke to all the people, saying: "A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you" (Deuteronomy 18:15-20).

Psalms 95 -If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts

Second Reading -Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties (1 Corinthians 7:32-35).

Gospel - The people were astonished at Jesus' teaching; he taught them as one having authority (Mark 1:21-28).

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Who speaks for God?

How can we determine which are authentic, authoritative expressions of God's intentions, and which are false? Today's readings explore the question of authority in distinct ways. In Deuteronomy, Moses prepares the people of Israel for his coming death, indicating that God will raise up a new prophet to guide them. Mark describes Jesus as God's authentic voice, by the authority of his teaching and the authority he commands over an unclean spirit. In both, authority comes directly from God. Authority comes from an intimate relationship with God and with God's people. God's spokesperson is one who teaches, protects, and heals the people loved by God. As always, there is great need today for leaders in our communities who radically trust God to work through them. Let us pray that each person who performs in a role of leadership may speak for God with an authentic voice.

RESCUE FROM BONDAGE

Uniquely in the Gospel of Mark, Jesus' public ministry begins with a direct confrontation with an unclean spirit. Today's Gospel passage reflects a recurring theme in Mark, that Jesus' coming is part of a cosmic battle between God and evil forces. It was commonly believed that many spirits were present in the world, and some sought to control human beings. Mark asserts that in Jesus, God has come to rescue humanity, to free us from every form of bondage. In today's passage, the unclean spirit does not surrender power quietly. After complaints, convulsions, and screams, the spirit finally departs. As we may witness in our own experience, that which binds us—fear, injustice, resentment—often departs only after a mighty struggle. Confronting anything "unclean" in our hearts, our institutions, or our society often involves a long journey toward freedom. May we sustain our efforts and our trust in God, during these long struggles.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Heb 11:32-40; Ps 31:20-24; Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]

Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a; Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24; Ps 48:2-4, 9-11; Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Heb 13:1-8; Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9; Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Ps 23:1-6; Mk 6:30-34

Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; Ps 147:1-6; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39

Thunderbolts & Lightning

One of the most difficult duties of a disciple is to follow the command of Jesus to spread the gospel to all nations. (Lk 24:47, Mk 116:15, Mt 28:19) I think one reason may be that we don't feel we have the authority to tell someone else what to believe. Most of us don't think we know the gospel well enough to preach it. The gospel this Sunday mentions twice that Jesus taught with more authority than any of religious leaders of Israel. So how can we get such authority?

First, Jesus didn't threaten people with thunderbolts and lightning.

He certainly didn't impress people by saying what they wanted to hear. He spoke the truth that he heard from his Father. His two main actions in his ministry were curing and forgiving people. Since the Jews thought sickness was a punishment for sins, by curing the sick and forgiving sins, Jesus showed that he got authority from his

Father.

How do we get that authority?" We get it from the Holy Spirit, in Baptism and Confirmation. And like an athlete who has to work-out and practice to be any good, we still need to grow in that authority. One way is to read the scriptures and pray with them, so that we get to know God through his Word and begin to listen to him in our prayers. We can consciously decide to see God in other people, not just those we love, but everyone, even the ones who annoy us. And of course, the Eucharist and other sacraments strengthen God's life in us. You'll know you have that authority when you can talk about your faith with confidence instead of hesitation, because you will be speaking from experience, not second hand knowledge.



DIOCESE OF
ST AUGUSTINE

Bishop's Annual Stewardship Appeal

Diocese of St Augustine

Our Bishop's Annual Stewardship Appeal (BASA) is now underway. You may

have already received a mailing from Bishop Estévez, asking for your support and participation. Please prayerfully consider a pledge to the Appeal using the response card mailed to you or by completing a commitment envelope at Mass the weekend of February 13-14. Our annual theme, "One Faith, One Family" reminds us that our faith community is made up of a network of parishes. Bishop Estévez invites each of us to join together in support of the beautiful mission of our Church, as we are all called to be good stewards of what we have been gifted with.

Please prayerfully respond to this year's Annual Appeal with a gift of any amount. The generosity expressed through this critical effort has been so inspiring, especially in a year that has seen so much need.

MINISTERS SCHEDULE February 6 & 7

Eucharistic Minister

5PM
Larry McKay*
Karen Rossetti
David Grimes
9AM
Dwayne Schell*
Tessie Schell
Kelly Ayler



11AM
Grace Dancel*
Alicia Cartagena
Eileen Erikson

Lectors

5PM
1 Debbie Corsano
2 Art Corsano
7AM
1 Jeanne Dias
2 Valencia Kidwell
9AM
1 Rose Imray
2 Scott Imray
11AM
1 Jane Hart
2 Nenita Romero



Ministers of Hospitality

5PM
Reggie & Cindy Dubay
Corinne Hundley
Maryann Speckman
9AM
Fred Hidalgo
John Previti
Jim & Bonnie Feazel




11AM
Luz Reyes Nora Suyat
Nelia Flores Ana Rios

Altar Server

5PM
Brynn Von Seggern
7am
Kayla Nellum
9AM
Ryan Feazel
Miranda Sanchez
11AM
Christie Cabrera
Josh Manuel



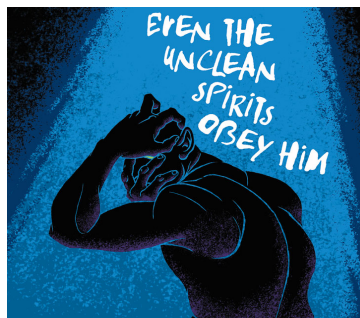
MASS SCHEDULE SAINTS & SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

<p>Sat Jan 30</p> <p>† Anna Faranna By Rose Yeager</p>	<p>Sun Jan 31</p> <p>7am: Parishioners Of St John 9am † Jim Burns By Madelyn & Art Osiecki 11am † Janet Matthew By Rios Family</p>	<p>Tues Feb 2</p> <p>† Bob Knauss By Barbara Knauss</p>  <p>Presentation of the Lord</p>	<p>Wed Feb 3</p> <p>† Gary Loftus By The Dias'</p> <p><i>St. Blaise; St. Ansgar; Blessing of Throats;</i></p>
<p>Thu Feb 4</p> <p>† Patricia Doyle By Claire Gaffney</p>	<p>Fri Feb 5</p> <p>† Howard Miley By The Hundley's</p>	<p>Sat Feb 6</p> <p>† Edward, Florence & William McKay By Larry McKay</p> <p><i>St. Paul Miki and companions</i></p>	<p>Sun Feb 7</p> <p>7am: Parishioners of St John 9am † Robert Kues, Jr By Ladies Guild 11am † Ronaldo N. Antonio By Ezelle Family</p>

Weekly OFFERING

Offering: 10,036.76
BF: 110.00
EAM: + 780.00
Total: 10,926.76

Matthew 25:35-40



FEAST OF FAITH I Confess

One form of the penitential rite at the beginning of Mass is the traditional Confiteor, or "I confess," a prayer that was formerly prayed by the priest alone at the foot of the altar, but which is now prayed by the entire assembly. The Confiteor is at once personal—"I confess"—and communal, prayed aloud, together. We recognize that sin does not just separate us from God; sin comes between us and others, isolating us. We acknowledge that sin has many dimensions, individual and communal: sins of thought, sins of speech, sins of action, sins of omission. Sin is not something that happens to us; sin is something we do. In the Confiteor, we take responsibility for our own actions. The repeated insistence on our "fault," with the ritual gesture of striking the breast, an ancient sign of penitence, is not meant to lower our self-esteem. Rather, it acknowledges our human instinct to transfer the blame whenever we can ("The devil made me do it!"). This prayer stops us short. We take responsibility for ourselves, our actions, our failure to act. Then we cry out to God in those ancient words, Kyrie, eleison—Lord, have mercy. For the sinner who repents, there is mercy. This truth is at the heart of our faith, and it is where the Mass, our feast of faith, begins.

PRAYER REQUEST

Donna Cappock, Karl Klein, Novalee Sanchez, Lily Rodriguez, Delores Fox, Albert Wagner, Loretta Wagner, John Weitort,

Nanette Franzuela, Bob Pote, Amor Guzman, Rina Hopkins, Glenn Young, Jim Driscoll, Ron Keese, Mario Amayo, Richard Oulette, Don Cozine, Debbie Taylor, Aurea Silang, Manny & Sony Silverio

What's Going on at St John's



Religious Education

Wednesday Kinder-5th
Feb classes 3, 10, 24

Sunday 6th-Confirmation
Jan classes 31
Feb classes 7, 21, 28

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

**Tuesdays 6:30-8:30pm**  
**Feb 2**

**The Dignity of Life**  
Ann Crowder

**Feb. 9**

**A Consistent Ethic of life/Social Justice**

Ann Crowder

**Feb. 16**

**Saying Yes to Jesus**  
Ellen Wiley

**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.

**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.

### **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 meetings Tuesdays**  
@6:30PM  
Feb. 2nd

**Guest speaker Linda Trinidad will demonstrate a great way to stretch & relax with a Chair Yoga demo before the Ladies meeting**  
Mar. 2nd

**Ladies Fat Tuesday Pancake Fundraiser will be Feb. 16th.**

### **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.

## RESPECT LIFE

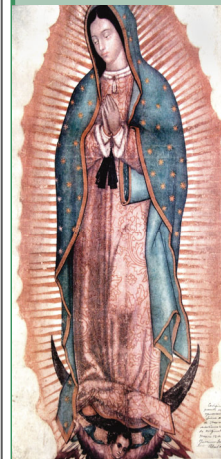
respect · love · protect

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

## Knights of Columbus

#14866

**KofC Meetings Tuesdays**  
@7PM  
Jan 26  
Feb 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 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.

### **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  
Feb 18th

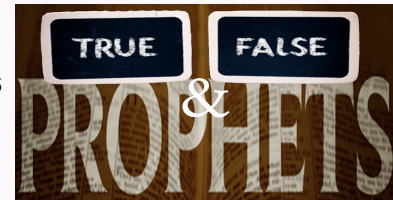
**The Men's Spaghetti Dinner Saturday, February 6th**  
@ 6pm St John's Parish Hall



PROPHETS IN DAILY LIFE

Moses assures Israel of God's continued presence by promising a new prophet. Like Moses, the prophet will be raised up directly by God. But how to distinguish a true prophet from a false one? Many claim to speak for God. The task is complicated by the fact that often, true prophets make waves, cause trouble, and disturb how things are normally done. Many simply don't want to hear what God is saying, because it threatens their privilege, comfort, or sense of identity.

Like the Israelites in today's reading, it can be hard for us to bear the voice of God. For God calls us out of all the ways we avoid opening our hearts to God and to others. And so, God raises up surprise prophets in daily life. These are all the people and events who summon us to fuller maturity in love and in faith. We are called upon to always be ready for the prophetic word that may emerge from God's surprises.



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

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