



Blessed
are you
among
women

December 23, 2018 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

The meeting of Mary and Elizabeth follows a strong tradition of women in their culture, to come together to support each other during pregnancy. Mary likely carried a shadow of scandal in her pregnancy, since it began before her marriage. Elizabeth, having carried her own burden of social disapproval after many years without children, sees only cause for celebration. Elizabeth sees beyond the social shame of Mary's situation to observe how God is working, and how Mary has accepted joining in this work.

Unlike Elizabeth's husband Zechariah, who thought it unbelievable that God could bring them a son, Mary believed the angel's message. Elizabeth honors Mary, in part, for simply being able to imagine that God could do this extraordinary thing through her. Perhaps God had been preparing Mary's heart throughout her young life, so that she could be fully receptive to God's specific call when the time was right. Mary opened herself to an uncertain future, trusting that God would accompany her in the joys and sorrows of being the mother of Jesus.

PREGNANT WITH GOD

Advent, as a time of preparation for Christmas, echoes the pregnancy of Mary. Something is stirring within us, and we await the coming of Jesus. Although we the Church have observed Advent and Christmas many times, God is always offering something new to us. Like the angel asked Mary, God is always asking us to allow Christ to be born in and through us. Christ wishes to make himself at home within us, and increase his presence in our hearts.

Like pregnancy, at times God's activity within us can be disorienting and confusing. The story of Elizabeth and Mary reminds us that however uncertain we may be about what God is up to in our lives, we have cause to rejoice—because God is indeed good, and will truly bring blessing to us. And through letting Christ be born in us, God will bring blessing to the world.

Today's Readings: Mic 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

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St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

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Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Monday, Tuesday & Fridays 8:00 a.m.,
Thursdays 6pm (Chapel)

Confession:

Saturday 4:15 p.m. or by appointment

Baptism:

First Sunday of the Month. Baptismal seminar is required for first time Parents and Godparents.

Marriage:

Contact Pastor at least eight (8) months before making arrangements.

**Fourth Sunday of
Advent
December 23, 2018**



Mass Intentions

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS VIGIL
4:00 PM Elsie Danos, Arthur Stumpf, Beuvans Savoie, Henry Tausin & Family, Addis Meacham, Jr., Addis Meacham, Sr., Roy, Doris & Dwayne Comardelle, Audrey & Earline King

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS
10:00 AM Evelyn & Norris Boudreaux, Kerry & Huey Rivet, Mary & Dave Duhe, Sr., Mary Allen, Patrick Ford, Sr., Kent J. Matherne, Augusta & Sidney J. LeBouef & Family, Cecile & George Matherne & Family, Murphy Candies, Jr., Murphy & Mittie Cortez, Albert & Malvina Cortez, Carlton Ledet

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26
 No Mass

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27
5:30 PM Rosary (Chapel)
6:00 PM Evelyn & Norris Boudreaux, Judy Guhman (Living)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28
8:00 AM Calvin Picou, Earl & Mirley Lirette

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29
5:00 PM People of St. John

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30
8:00 AM Bobby A. Hogan, Special Intentions

10:00 AM
 Evelyn & Norris Boudreaux, Hector E. Hock, Sr., Becky Flanagan, P. J. Hock, Patricia Hock, Catherine Hock, Kerry & Huey Rivet, Murphy Candies, Jr., Justin Dufrene, Roy Landry, Judy Guhman (Living), Special Intentions



Sanctuary Lamp

Week of: Dec. 23rd-Dec. 29th

In memory of:

***Dorothy & Albert Laque, Earl & Mirley Lirette,
 Addis Meacham, Jr., Addis Meacham, Sr.,
 Roy, Doris & Dwayne Comardelle,
 Felix & Justilia Matherne, Beuvans Savoie***

Pray for the Sick



Ian Alexander, Beverly Boudreaux, Carol Bourgeois, Anna Dufrene, Judy Guhman, Shannon Guidry, Chris Kirkpatrick, Ella Lirette, Garrett Lirette, Gerner Matherne, Merrill Matherne, Albert Melancon, Brenda Naquin, Lisa Richoux, Brenda Savoie, Nicole Veillon, Janet Weber, Grant White

Weekly Offerings

Due to the Christmas Holidays the bulletin was submitted to the printer at an earlier date, the following collections, December 16th, December 23rd, Christmas and December 30th will be posted on the January 6, 2019 bulletin.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve
Monday, December 24th
Vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Day
Tuesday, December 25th
10:00 a.m.



**Scripture Readings
 Summary for December 25th**

First Reading
IS 9:1-6

Isaiah announces news of a wise and just king who frees his people from the dominance of sin.

Second Reading
TI 2:11-14

Paul speaks of Christ's two occurrences: the Incarnation and the Second Coming, using the in-between time to practice living as redeemed disciples and not following in the ways of the flesh.

Gospel
LK 2:1-14

Luke's Gospel highlights two astonishing moments in his Nativity narrative: Jesus descends from the line of Davidic birth, showing his poverty, and as the anointed one taking salvation first to the shepherds and then affirming it all with God's heavenly praise.



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018

Blessed are you among women,
 and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
 -- Luke 1:42



*Please remember
 St. John the Baptist Church
 in your Christmas Giving this year.*

With humble hearts, St. John the Baptist joyfully proclaims the mercy of God.

**December 24th/25th
Second Collection**

Archdiocesan Ministries & Clergy Welfare. A second collection will be taken up at all Christmas masses in aid of the Archdiocesan Ministries & Clergy Welfare. In the spirit of Christmas giving, we ask your generous support.

Office Holidays

Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 24th and Tuesday, December 25th in observance of the Christmas Holidays.

**Ministry Schedule
Christmas Masses**

December 24th

Christmas Eve Vigil—4:00 p.m.

Lector: Brad Landeche

Eucharistic Ministers:

Janice Dufrene, Patsy Doucet

Usher: Trent & Trista Naquin

Altar Servers:

Macy & Avery Oertling, Noah & Madeline Blanchard

December 25th

Christmas Day—10:00 a.m.

Lector: Clarence Savoie

Eucharistic Ministers:

Robin Ledet, Danny Ledet, **Volunteer**
Brenda Naquin

Usher: Cassidy & Jonathan Dunn

Adult Altar Server: Kirk Matherne

2019 Calendars

Today, please pick up one calendar per family, calendars will be available on the table at the entrance of church.

May Christ come to you this Christmas with the gift of Love, the blessing of Hope and the promise of Peace.



*Merry Christmas
From the Clergy and Staff of
St. John the Baptist Church*

**Ministry Schedule
January 1, 2019**

Mary, Holy Mother of God

December 31st—Vigil-5:00 PM

Lector: Julia DuRousseau

Eucharistic Ministers:

Janice Dufrene, Betty Meacham

Usher: Eric Matherne, Volunteer

Altar Servers: Noah & Madeline Blanchard

January 1st—9:00 AM

Lector: Carolyn Carte

Eucharistic Ministers:

Audrey Matherne, Mary Picou

Usher: Luke Richard, Trent

Balafantz

Adult Altar Server: Volunteer

School of Religion

Mrs. Danielle Babin 504-442-2717
stjohnccd@nocoxmail.com
www.stjohnparadis.org

Class Times

Elementary—5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
High School—6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

CCD Schedule

December 24th—Christmas Play at
Christmas Eve Mass 4pm
December 31st—No Class—Holiday



**Scripture Readings
Summary for December 30th**

First Reading
SIR 3:2-6, 12-14

Sirach speaks of respect for parents in ageless words. The rewards for this reverence are blessings in this lifetime.

Second Reading
COL 3:12-17

Paul lists the qualities that show love within the Christian community and also in the family.

Gospel
LK 2:41-52

Luke lists important family values, such as Joseph's care and concern, honoring and respecting family traditions, and Jesus' submission to his parents.

Ministry Schedule—December 29th & 30th 2018

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Ushers	Altar Servers
Saturday 5:00 PM	Darlene Landeche	Carol White, Donnie White	Tammy Chiasson Volunteer	Lysin Gourgues
Sunday 10:00 AM	Nicky Bourgeois	CELESTE CHIASSON, Darrell Chiasson, Volunteer	Student/ Adult Volunteer	Macy Oertling Avery Oertling

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