

Dear Padre,

A Protestant friend says all the Catholic rituals aren't necessary to get to heaven. What can I say to convince her?

Your friend is correct about heaven: God wishes the salvation of everyone—not just Catholics (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church [*Lumen Gentium*], 13). Even so, Catholics believe—and Christ taught us—that certain rituals are necessary to enter heaven. Baptism is one example.

But being Catholic isn't just about getting to heaven. Earthly benefits abound!



Take the Mass: holy Communion gives us Jesus Christ's very Body and Blood. The sacrament of reconciliation absolves our sins, bringing us peace, comfort, and a closer relationship to God. Our saints and the Blessed Mother inspire us and intercede on our behalf. Our Church leaders—ordained and religious—bring Christ to our lives. Our Catholic hymns and prayer traditions help us offer praise and thanks in a unique way. Your priest and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* can explain in detail the

spiritual and temporal benefits of our rituals and rich traditions.

Once we get to heaven, the need for distinctions among those of different Christian faiths dissolves. But until then, we shouldn't follow the beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church simply because it's the religion of our parents or spouse; we should follow them because we believe they show us how to deepen our relationship with God by living as Jesus wanted us to.

So while "all the Catholic rituals" do prepare us for heaven, they also enrich and inform our earthly lives in ways we can't find anywhere else. I thank God for my Catholicism every day—and you should, too.

—Fr. Scott Katzenberger, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

One of the essential characteristics of this vocation to perfection is the love of our enemies, which protects us from the temptation to seek revenge and from the spiral of endless retaliation....Those who evangelize must therefore be first and foremost practitioners of forgiveness, specialists in reconciliation, experts in mercy.

—HOMILY IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC,
NOVEMBER 29, 2015



Calendar

Monday
FEBRUARY 24
Weekday
Jas 3:13–18
Mk 9:14–29

Tuesday
FEBRUARY 25
Weekday
Jas 4:1–10
Mk 9:30–37

Wednesday
FEBRUARY 26
Ash Wednesday
Jl 2:12–18
2 Cor 5:20—6:2

Thursday
FEBRUARY 27
Thursday after
Ash Wednesday
Dt 30:15–20
Lk 9:22–25

Friday
FEBRUARY 28
Friday after
Ash Wednesday
Is 58:1–9a
Mt 9:14–15

Saturday
FEBRUARY 29
Saturday after
Ash Wednesday
Is 58:9b–14
Lk 5:27–32

Sunday
MARCH 1
First Sunday of Lent
Gn 2:7–9; 3:1–7
Rom 5:12–19 or 5:12,
17–19
Mt 4:1–11

Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 23, 2020

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Lv 19:1–2, 17–18
1 Cor 3:16–23
Mt 5:38–48

Be Perfect

Wow, that's a tall order! But what does *perfect* mean? The Greek word means "full" or "complete." In the first reading, Leviticus calls us to be *holy*, a word with cultic allusions—to be set apart to be used for God. Though not possessing exactly the same sense, there is a connection between *perfect* and *holy*, for to be set apart to be used for God will certainly make us perfect, fulfilled, and complete. So what does Jesus mean when he tells us to be perfect, as God is perfect?

Continuing our reflection on the Sermon on the Mount, we find Jesus telling us how we are to be perfect as God is perfect. He offers two examples of extraordinary behavior. The Mesopotamian code of Hammurabi states "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." The punishment may not exceed the crime.

This was a step forward in ancient justice.

Jesus said that this is not enough. There is to be no vindictiveness, no revenge, regardless of how equivalent it might appear. The reason for this is that God loves and cares for all, even those who do us injustice. God makes the "sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust" (Matthew 5:46). In this way, we must be like God; we must love all, no exceptions. This is what it means to be perfect. It is indeed a tall order. But it is the way to be fulfilled, to be complete.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ Where in your life are you being called to consecrate yourself to God and God's work?
- ★ Where in your life are you being challenged to love more unselfishly?

[Jesus said,] "Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you....Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."
MATTHEW 5:44, 48

TINAKORN JORRUANG / SHUTTERSTOCK



Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church Saint Terence Mission

1130 East San Antonio Ave

Many, LA 71449

Phone: 318-256-5680

FAX: 318-256-9177

Office Hours: 8AM—4PM (M-F)

Website: www.stjohnmany.org

Email: office@stjohnmany.org

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Francis Kamau, FMH
Deacon: Michael Sullivan
Parish Secretary: Sheila Royal
Office Assistant: Shirley Rivers
DRE: Jean Rains
Groundskeeper: Michael Beasley
Housekeeper: Pam Little
Music Director: Justin Lincecum

Prayer List: Vivian Halleck, Pat & Elaine Martinez, Brenda DeVaney, Timothy D. Rivers, Bessie Mowad, Vicki Martin, Eddie Richard, Janice Murphy, Randy Richter, Evelyn Bouillion, Tom Hambleton, Ace Bowling, Bennett King, Wanda J Rivers, Norma Bergeron, Marianna Wilkinson, Clifford Shuff, Roy & Pam Beasley, Beckie Bayer, Staci Anderson, Beth Rains, Ezra Thibodeaux, Margie Remedies, Don Speaks, Bill Andries, Bill & Mary Hurd, Kenny Dale & Kathryn McCormick, Donald Behan & Joanna Pressau

Please note: The names on the prayer list will go through a cycle. As the names are moved to the top, they will be removed as new names are added. Please contact the office to add or remove a name.



The Sanctuary Candle

Feb 23-29, 2020

St John +James Joseph Hillar

St Terence +Harry & Edwina Schexnayder

Parish Support
(Thank you for your generosity!)

February 15-16, 2020

| | | |
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| St John | \$ 3928.00 | Attendance: 208 |
| St Terence | \$ 1012.00 | Attendance: 112 |

This Week in our Parish

Sunday Masses at St John:

Sat, 4:00 PM Anticipated Mass

Sun, 11:00 AM (with Children's Liturgy)

Sunday Mass at St Terence: 8:00 AM

Weekday Masses at St. John:

Tues, 5:00 PM; Wed—Fri, 8:00 AM

First Saturdays: 8:00 AM

Tuesday, February 25

6:00 PM Rite of Christian Initiations of Adults

6:00 PM Pastoral Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 26

8:30AM-5PM St John: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

4:30 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction

Thursday, February 27

10:00 PM Mass @ Sabine Retirement

6:00 AM Choir Practice

Friday, February 28

3:00 PM St Terence: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Divine Mercy Chaplet

Stations of the Cross

6:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 29

3:00-3:45 PM Reconciliation at St. John

3:30 PM Recitation of Rosary at St John

Sunday, March 1

7:15-7:45 AM Reconciliation at St Terence

7:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St Terence

10:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St John

5:00PM Spanish Mass

Anointing of the Sick /Ministry to the Sick

Please call the church office if someone is in a hospital, nursing home, shut-in, and would like to be visited or receive the sacraments.

Sacrament of Baptism

Call the office in advance to register for seminar.

Funerals

Arrangements may be made by calling the church office

Protecting God's Children

There will be a Protecting God's Children workshop on **Monday, Feb 24th** at St Joseph's church hall in Zwolle at 6PM. To register, go to: www.virtusonline.org.

Las Lecturas de Hoy 23 Febrero

Levítico 19: 1-2, 17-18

Salmo 102

1 Corintios 3: 16-23

San Mateo 5: 38-48

Misa en español el primer domingo de cada mes a las 5PM;
Confesiones a las 4PM

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday February 22

- 4:00PM 1. +Wilson Brumley
2. Ace Bowling (SI)
3. Margie Remedies (SI)
4. Special Intention (SI)
5. +James Bell

Sunday February 23

- 8:00AM 1. The Parish Family
2. Ace Bowling (SI)
3. Norma Bergeron (SI)
11:00AM 1. Living & Deceased Members of the Nguyen Family
2. + Henry & Elvie Parrie
3. + Alton Lewing
4. + Chris & Eunice Ebarb
5. + Charlene McCormic
6. + Benny Rivers
7. Special Intention (SI)
8. + Fr. Andre McGrath
9. +Robert Britner
10. +Dello Couvillion

Tuesday February 25

- 5:00PM 1. + Louis Lowrey

Wednesday February 26

- 8:00AM 1. + Dello Couvillion
12:00PM 1. Ace Bowling (SI)
6:00PM 1. +Marilyn Osborn
2. +Benny Rivers

Thursday February 27

- 8:00AM 1. + Louis Lowrey

Friday February 28

- 8:00AM 1. + James Joseph Hillar

| DATE | LECTORS | EUCCHARISTIC | ALTAR SERVERS | USHERS |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| Wed, Feb 26, Ash Wed (St John) | 8AM: Jean Rain 6PM: Matthew Couvillion 12 Noon: Jeanette Polson | 8AM: Pat Gandy, Syble Gandy, Shirley Veuleman 6PM: Angelique Mitchell, Gwen Koss 12 Noon: Pam Little, Jan Collins, Linda Collins | Marion Koss Masen Starks | Marty Starks Jerry Mitchell George Koss Johnny Mowad 12 Noon: Rufus Shuff and Paul Guidry |
| Sat, Feb 29, 4:00PM Vigil (St John) | Rose Gatti | Clauriste Byles Paul McCormic Shirley Veuleman | Juan Plascencia Emelyn Plascencia | Johnny Mowad Paul McCormic Dakota Rivers Terry DeLatin |
| Sun, Mar 1, 8:00AM (St Terence) | Jan Collins | Pam Dartez Frank Little Rufus Shuff | | Jimmy Martin Paul Guidry |
| Sun, Mar 1, 11:00 AM (St John) | Rosie Sullivan | Kayla Hataway Gwen Koss | Emma Dickson Allie K Payne | Thomas Rosales Michael Beasley Jerry Mitchell George Koss |

Burning of Palms for Ash Wednesday

In preparation for our celebration of Ash Wednesday, please bring your old palms from years past to the church by **Tuesday, February 25th** so that we may burn them to make the ashes that will be blessed and distributed on Ash Wednesday. Old palms may be placed in the baskets provided in the back of the church. You may also bring them to the parish office between 8:00AM - 4:30PM Monday or Tuesday.

Lenten Regulations

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence from meat. Every person between the age of 18 and 59 must **fast** on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting: There is a limit of one full meal on these day for those between the ages of 18 and 59.

Abstinence: Every person 14 years or older must **abstain** from meat (and items made with meat) on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of **Lent**.

Scam Alert

Please be cautious of any texts or emails that you receive, supposedly from Fr. Francis or any other priest, asking you to purchase gift cards or requesting money. If a priest texts or emails you asking for money or a gift card, saying it's an emergency, don't give. It's a scam. The scammers are probably using information found on church websites or in church online bulletins to trick church members into parting with their cash. Please be cautious if you receive such a message.

Mission Statement

We, the people of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and St Terence Mission, in union with the Holy Father and our Bishop, being filled with the Holy Spirit, strive to promote and deepen the Catholic faith in the lives of all who share in our life together. As Disciples, we seek to worship God and find His kingdom among us and in the world around us. Our calling is to proclaim the Kingdom of God through the proclamation of the Word, the celebration of the Eucharist, the Sacramental life, community service, evangelization, and Christian education.

Retired Priests Collection

This week will feature a very special collection throughout our diocese to support our retired priests. This is the first year this collection has taken place on Ash Wednesday and we are praying for a generous response from the faithful. Only the retired priests of the Diocese of Shreveport will benefit from any funds raised in this collection.

ASH WEDNESDAY
First Day of Lent



CCD Cancelled

There will be no CCD this Wednesday, February 26th. Families are encouraged to attend Ash Wednesday Mass.

Ash Wednesday Schedule

Wednesday, **February 26th** is Ash Wednesday. Mass and imposition of Ashes will be at 8AM and 6PM at Saint John and 12 noon at Saint Terence. Stations of the Cross will be held on the Fridays of Lent at 6PM at Saint John and at 3PM at Saint Terence.

Adoration Schedule for Ash Wednesday

Adoration on **Ash Wednesday, February 26**, will begin following the 8:00 a.m. Mass. It will close with the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction beginning at 4:30 p.m.

CRS Rice Bowl

The upcoming 2020 CRS Rice Bowl Program begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26.

- Through **prayer**, we encounter Christ, present in the faces of every member of our human family;
 - Through **fasting**, we encounter our own obstacles, those things about ourselves that prevent us from loving God and neighbor.
 - Through **almsgiving**, we encounter our brothers and sisters around the world, asking what we can give up so that others might have life to the fullest.
- Please pick up a Rice Bowl from the back of the church.

Diocesan Stewardship Appeal

Our 2020 Annual Diocesan Stewardship Appeal Campaign is now one week old. Thank you to everyone who has offered a pledge to our Appeal. If you have not yet done so, please take time to fill out a pledge card and return envelope located in the Church pews or in the back of the church.