

Dear Padre,

Does God call me, like God called Mary? Can the angel Gabriel speak to me as he did to Mary?

Perhaps God has already spoken to you! In the great calls in Scripture, God doesn't seem to care about age. God doesn't care about gender, race, talents, poverty or wealth, strengths or weaknesses. God calls each of us because we are God's daughters and sons. God's call is personal (to you and no other!), and this call is to always be Christian and serve the Lord. Most often



the call won't be dramatic, like it was for Moses. More likely, your call will be quiet and personal. Remember what God said: "Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:11).

In these hectic days before Christmas, find a peaceful place and quiet time. Be still and say to God, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9). In this place, God will reveal your call to you, a call that was present long before your birth.

God has already spoken to us in our life's vocation. We are planted in friendships, relationships, marriages, jobs, families, a community, and a nation. In each place, we listen to hear what God is calling forth from us.

Then, like Mary, we say yes! We reach into our most generous spirit and proclaim "yes" to even the most difficult, mundane, or boring aspects of our vocation.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

The angel Gabriel calls Mary "full of grace": in her there is no room for sin, because God chose her from eternity to be the mother of Jesus and preserved her from original sin....We too are asked to listen to God who speaks to us, and to accept his will....The Lord is always speaking to us!

—SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, DECEMBER 8, 2014

Calendar

Monday
DECEMBER 21
Advent Weekday
Sg 2:8–14 or
Zep 3:14–18a
Lk 1:39–45

Tuesday
DECEMBER 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24–28
Lk 1:46–56

Wednesday
DECEMBER 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24
Lk 1:57–66

Thursday
DECEMBER 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1–5,
8b–12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67–79

Friday
DECEMBER 25
Christmas
Is 52:7–10
Heb 1:1–6
Jn 1:1–18 or
Jn 1:1–5, 9–14

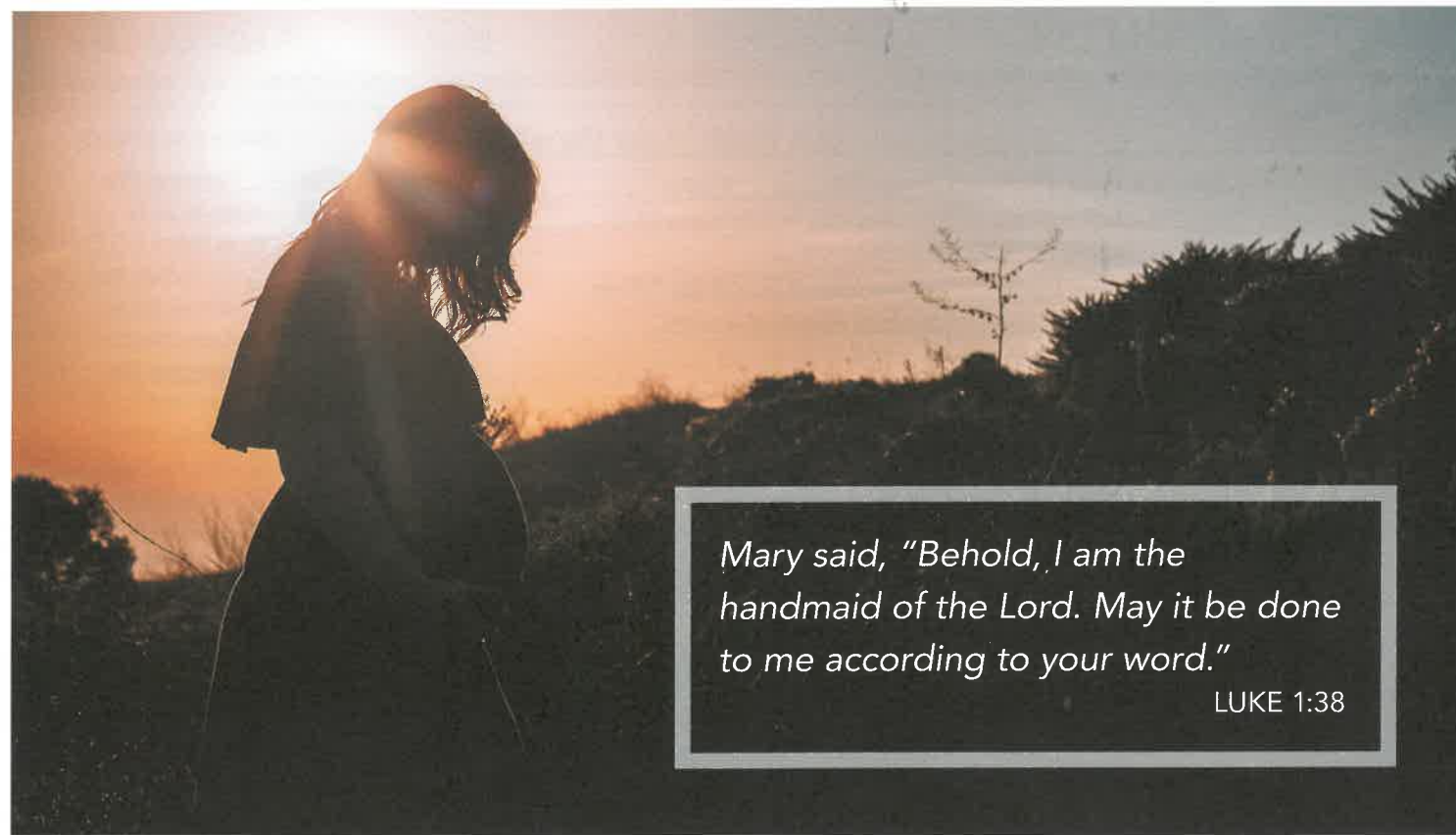
Saturday
DECEMBER 26
St. Stephen, First Martyr
Acts 6:8–10, 7:54–59
Mt 10:17–22

Sunday
DECEMBER 27
The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or
Gn 15:1–6; 21:1–3
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17
or Heb 11:8, 11–12,
17–19
Lk 2:22–40 or
2:22, 39–40

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)
2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16
Rom 16:25–27
Lk 1:26–38



Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

LUKE 1:38

How Can This Be?

The reading from Samuel assures us that the leader we are awaiting will be of the royal house of David. We presume this means personal power and political leadership, and recognition of this from others.

The Gospel turns us in a different direction. In it Mary asks, "How can this be?" (Luke 1:34) This question can be understood in two different ways. One means: How is it going to happen? The other suggests: You've got to be kidding! When told she will bear a child, this virgin asks: How is this going to happen? Her visitor

explains the unfolding of an unbelievable event. While stories in pagan religions described how gods took on human form, such wondrous events supposedly happened in royal families—not in the life of an unassuming girl promised to a modest carpenter. In the Incarnation, a singular historic event, Mary did not say: "You've got to be kidding!" She replied: "If that's what you want, I'm willing."

Advent readings have traced God leading the people to salvation and a new way of living, to an outline of an individual chosen by God to lead them, to the realization that this leader will be a descendant of David. However, none of this happens as we might expect. Rather, it unfolds in such an unpretentious way that many people did not even realize it was happening. Who could blame anyone for saying: You've got to be kidding! But God was not kidding. Now we are ready for Christmas.

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ Advent readings show God working in mysterious ways. Where is God working in your life?
- ★ How prepared are you for the deeper meaning of Christmas?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA





Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church Saint Terence Mission

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Office Hours: 8AM—4PM (M-F)
Website: www.stjohnmany.org
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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, Timothy D. Rivers, Bessie Mowad, Vicki Martin, Eddie Richard, Janice Murphy, Randy Richter, Jiles Bowling, Tom Hambleton, Ace Bowling, Bennett King, Wanda J Rivers, Norma Bergeron, Clifford Shuff, Roy & Pam Beasley, Ezra Thibodeaux, Bill & Mary Hurd, Donald Behan, Joanna Presseau, Lisa Brown, Bobby Bowen, Piper Rae Pate, Cameron Johnson, Jake & Mary Ann Rivers, Allen Nichols, James Edwards, Addie Procell, Richard DeKeyzer, Trisha Adams, Carla Kowarch, Sue Ferguson, John Wayne Behan, Timbo Sepulvado, Don Speaks & Marti Vienne

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.

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle burns night and day near the tabernacle to indicate and honor the presence of Christ. You may arrange to have the Sanctuary Candle at St. John's or St. Terence burn in memory of a loved one for a week of your choice by contacting the church office. The candle will be booked on a first-come, first-serve basis. Donations of any amount are accepted.

This Week in our Parish

Weekend Masses at St John:

Sat, 4:00 PM Anticipated Mass
Sun, 11:00 AM

Sunday Mass at St Terence: 8:00 AM

Weekday Masses at St. John:

Wed, 8:00 AM
Tues, 5PM

Thursday, December 24

4:00 PM Christmas Vigil Mass

Friday, December 25

12:00 AM Christmas Midnight Mass

8:00 AM Christmas Mass, St. Terence

11:00 AM Christmas Mass, St. John

Saturday, December 26

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

3:30 PM Recitation of Rosary at St John

Sunday, December 27

9:00-9:30 AM Reconciliation at St Terence

7:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St Terence

10:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St John

12:00-12:30 PM Reconciliation at St John

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

Parish calendar online:

<http://www.stjohnmany.org/calendar>



The Sanctuary Candle
Week of December 20—26, 2020

St John + Harold & Tillie Andries
St Terence *Special Intention*

Church Donations

Contributions may be placed in the basket in the back of the church, or mailed to the office. Online giving may be accessed by going to <http://www.stjohnmany.org/donations>

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 19th

- 4:00PM 1. +Livy Lewis
2. +Bobbie & Billy Ezernack
3. +Fr. Kenneth Williams
4. +Sidney Jacobs
5. +Dello Couvillion

Sunday, December 20th

- 8:00AM 1. The Parish Family
2. +Christy Wriborg
3. +Sherman Salter
4. +Loyce & Marguerite Little
5. +Jim Moran
6. *Frank & Pam Little (SI)*
11:00AM 1. *Marti Vienne (SI)*
2. + Steven Rodrigues
3. + Peter, Maria Hoa & Maria Loan Nguyen
4. + Mike Rivers
5. + Ben Partida

Tuesday, December 22th

- 8:00AM 1. + Living & Deceased
Members of the Blake, Byrd,
Pedersen & Wimer Families

Wednesday, December 23rd

- 8:00AM 1. + Jessie Miller Blake
2. +Mirian Landry

Thursday, December 24th

- 4:00PM 1. +Shirley, Ernest & Steven
Rodrigues
2. +Sherman Slakter
3. + Kathryn & Kenny D
McCormick
Midnight 1. +Bobbie & Billie Ezernack
2. +Henry & Elvie Parrie
3. +Fr. Ken Williams
4. +Charles Ezernack
5. +Elzado Rivers

Friday, December 25th

- 8:00AM 1. The Parish Family
2. +Jeff Reeves & Terry Arnold
11:00AM 1. Bobbie & Billy Ezernack
2. +Renita Kay Parent
3. +Mike Rivers
4. +Ben Partida
5. +Elzado Rivers



Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24th, Vigil Mass, 4PM

December 25th, Midnight Mass, 12AM
St Terence, 8AM
St John, 11AM

*At the 4PM Vigil Mass, the children will present the "Living Nativity."

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

On January 1st each year, the church celebrates *Mary, Mother of God*, and her motherhood of Jesus Christ. The Mass schedule is:

December 31st, Vigil Mass, 4PM

January 1st, St Terence, 8AM
St John, 11AM

St John Christmas Flower Donations

The Ladies Altar Society is accepting donations for Poinsettias for the Christmas altar. These may be made in honor of or in memory of a loved one and are \$20 each. If you are interested, please pick up a flower offering envelope from the back of the church or mail your request in.

Schedule Changes

There will be no CCD nor Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament this week.

Catholic Calendars Available

The 2021 Catholic Calendars are located in the back of the church. If you are able to, we are asking for a \$2.00 donation to help defray the printing cost.

Second Collection

There will be a second collection December 24th-25th for the Diocesan Infirm Priests Fund. Please be generous.

Remember in Prayer

Please pray for the repose of the soul of *Audley Gaynor Soileau*, father of Chuck Soileau. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

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.



From Father Francis

My prayer for all of you is that God's blessings be bestowed upon you, your families and loved ones this Christmas Season and always. May the Joy and Peace of this beautiful season remain with you.

Sincerely, *Father Francis*

Christmas Ornaments

The Christmas ornaments for the children were graciously donated by *Mary Beth and Rick Tarver* in loving memory of Harold and Tillie Andries. We appreciate their generosity.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

As 2020 draws to a close, our Society of St Vincent de Paul wishes to express sincere thanks for the generosity of our donors and supporters. Your donations allow us to continue the works we are called to do in assisting those in need.

Bulletin Announcement Deadline

The deadline for bulletin announcements is Wednesdays at noon. You may email or call the church office with your submission.

Saint Terence Flower Donations

St Terence Mission is accepting donations for Christmas flowers. Contributions of any amount are appreciated. If interested in donating, please contact Chris Moran or Glenda Shuff.

Contribution Envelopes

Please call the church office if you would like to pick up contribution envelopes for 2021. Otherwise, they will be placed in the back of the church the weekend of Dec. 19-20. If you are currently not receiving contribution envelopes and would like to, please contact us. If you would like a statement for income tax purposes, please use the church envelopes. There is no charge for these.