

# Dear Padre,

**Recently my son made his first reconciliation and was told to say some prayers as his penance. Doesn't this make prayer seem like a punishment for being bad?**

**Y**ou raise a valid concern. In fact the latest rite of reconciliation suggests that, if at all possible, penance must right the wrong and be clear enough that the penitent knows he has fulfilled it. Penance should not just show God we're sorry; it should also put us on the path to a Christian life and correct the harm our sins caused.

For instance, if someone has stolen something and returning it would reveal his sin (this cannot be part of the penance), making a comparable donation might be a fitting penance. When someone confesses gossiping, I challenge him or her to tell someone else something good about the person who was gossiped about. In other words, instead of spreading pain, learn to spread joy. The penance for disobeying parents might be to do something nice for them or do chores without being asked. This type of penance is far more beneficial to the penitent and the community at large.

Using prayer as a penance can send the signal that we pray only when

we've been bad or need something from God, like forgiveness. On the contrary, prayer should be constant. We should pray always and in all ways, if for no other reason than to give glory to God.

*Fr. Rick Potts, CSsR*  
*Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org*



## A WORD FROM Pope Francis

**We must never forget that true power, at any level, is service, whose bright summit is upon the cross....Although man frequently equates authority with control, dominion, success, for God authority is always synonymous with service, humility, love. It means entering the logic of Jesus who kneels to wash the Apostles' feet.**

ADDRESS TO INTERNATIONAL UNION  
 OF SUPERIORS GENERAL, MAY 8, 2013



## Calendar

**Monday**  
 FEBRUARY 1  
 Weekday  
 Heb 11:32-40  
 Mk 5:1-20

**Tuesday**  
 FEBRUARY 2  
 Presentation of the Lord  
 Mal 3:1-4  
 Heb 2:14-18  
 Lk 2:22-40  
 or 2:22-32

**Wednesday**  
 FEBRUARY 3  
 Weekday  
 Heb 12:4-7, 11-15  
 Mk 6:1-6

**Thursday**  
 FEBRUARY 4  
 Weekday  
 Heb 12:18-19, 21-24  
 Mk 6:7-13

**Friday**  
 FEBRUARY 5  
 St. Agatha,  
 Virgin and Martyr  
 Heb 13:1-8  
 Mk 6:14-29

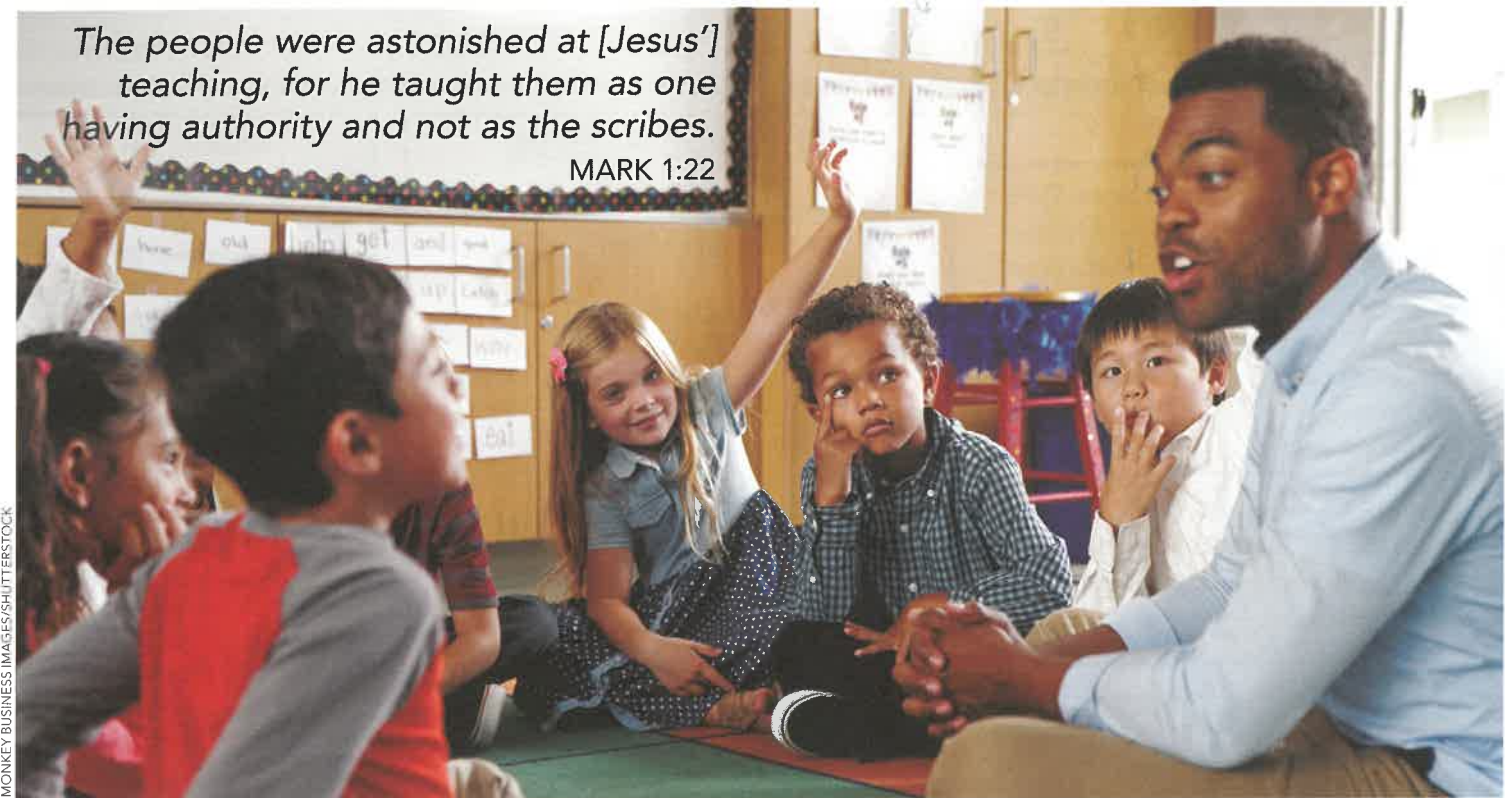
**Saturday**  
 FEBRUARY 6  
 St. Paul Miki and  
 Companions, Martyrs  
 Heb 13:15-17, 20-21  
 Mk 6:30-34

**Sunday**  
 FEBRUARY 7  
 Fifth Sunday  
 in Ordinary Time  
 Jb 7:1-4, 6-7  
 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23  
 Mk 1:29-39

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

**January 31, 2021**  
 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)  
 Dt 18:15-20  
 1 Cor 7:32-35  
 Mk 1:21-28

*The people were astonished at [Jesus'] teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.*  
 MARK 1:22



MONKEY BUSINESS IMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK

## Teaching with Authority

**W**ho teaches with authority? To whose voice should we listen? The first reading provides an answer. Moses had been appointed by God to be God's voice for the Israelites—for that is what a prophet is. Moses assures the people that God will raise up a leader like himself. They are to listen to that voice just as they listened to his voice. The Gospel presents Jesus as the fulfillment of that promise.

The issues of contemporary life are extraordinarily complex. Actually, when one is in the midst of living, it is always complex. It was complex at the time of Moses and at the time of Jesus as well. So, to whose voice should disciples listen? It is easy to answer: "The one with authority." But who has authority? Recognizing genuine authority is not as easy as it sounds. Moses' position of authority was eventually recognized, but that was not the case in the beginning. The expression, "Who died and left you boss?" comes right

out of an earlier story of Moses (Exodus 2:14). As for Jesus, he never held a recognized position of authority in his society, and we know his authority seems eventually to have been rejected by most.

A sign of genuine authority is seen in the integrity of one's life. Moses led the people through the struggles of the wilderness. In this Gospel, Jesus confirms the message of his teaching with his works of healing. Who has authority? "By their fruits you will know them" (Matthew 7:16).

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

## FOR Reflection

- ★ *As a disciple of Jesus, whose voice are you inclined to follow? Why?*
- ★ *What is your attitude toward official authority? Is this a good attitude to hold?*





# 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](http://www.stjohnmany.org)

Email: [office@stjohnmany.org](mailto: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, 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 DeKeyser, Trisha Adams, Sue Ferguson, John Wayne Behan, Timbo Sepulvado, Don Speaks, Marti Vienne, Lexie King, Gary Mitchell, Justin Lincecum, Bailey L Salter, Brooklyn Meshell, Roy Cedars & Betty Procell Skimmer

**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.

## 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:

All weekday Masses cancelled during February

### Saturday January 30th

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

3:30 PM Recitation of Rosary at St John

### Sunday January 31st

7:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St Terence

10:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St John

### Wednesday February 3rd

8:30AM-6:00PM St John: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

5:30 PM CCD

### 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>

### Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples are required to call the church office at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date

## 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.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday January 30th

- 4:00PM 1. +Walter Lee
2. +Edwin Frlot
3. +Mary Jaber Laws
4. +Jenna Lee Williams
5. +Timothy D Rivers
6. Roy Procell (SI)

### Sunday January 31st

- 8:00AM 1. The Parish Family
2. +Christy Wriberg
- 11:00AM 1. +Charlie Brown
2. + Steven Rodrigues
3. + Peter, Maria Hoa & Maria Loan Nguyen
4. + Danny Spohrer
5. + Timothy Rivers
6. Betty Procell Skinner (SI)



## The Sanctuary Candle

Week of Jan 31st—Feb 6th

St John + Earl Ebarb

St Terence + Harold & Tillie Andries

## Mass Notes

There will be no daily Mass during the month of February. Those wishing to attend daily Mass are encouraged to attend at St Joseph's in Zwolle: **Monday and Friday**, noon; **Tuesday and Wednesday**, 7:30AM. Please keep Father Francis in your prayers as he travels to Kenya this week. Please pray for his health and his safety.

## 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>

## 2020 Contribution Statements

Tax verification letters confirming your 2020 church parish donations were recently mailed. If you have not received a letter and would like one, please notify the church office.

## Altar Servers Needed

We are always in need of altar servers. Anyone interested in serving in this ministry, please contact Marion Koss at 663-0941 or Reese Koss at 315-0087.

## Second Collection: Diocesan Catholic Schools

There will be a second collection this weekend for Diocesan Catholic Schools. Schools acknowledges the present and future participation of our children in the Church and society. Thank you for your generosity.

## Society of St Vincent de Paul Meeting

There will be a Society of St Vincent de Paul meeting this **Monday, February 1st** at **6PM**. New members are invited to attend.

## Feast of Saint Blaise

We will celebrate the Feast of St. Blaise at all Masses (Jan. 30-31). Because of the pandemic, we are not able to use candles for the Blessing of the Throats. We will offer the blessing by extending hands over all the people, while saying the Prayer of Blessing.

## Eucharistic Adoration

Come and experience the peace and graces bestowed by praying and meditating in the presence of our Lord in the Eucharist. Adoration is held each Wednesday at Saint John the Baptist from 8:30AM to 6PM

## Sunday Reading Zoom Bible Study

Fr. Pat Madden will soon begin a study of the Sunday scripture readings on Thursday mornings, 9:30-11:30 am. These classes will be available live via Zoom, and the recordings subsequently available through the Diocesan web site. These classes will be designed for lectors and for any Catholics who want a better understanding of the Sunday scriptures before Mass begins. If you wish to have the Zoom link for his live class, please send him an email, [pmadden@dioshpt.org](mailto:pmadden@dioshpt.org).

## Spanish Mass

The Spanish Mass for the month of February has been cancelled. The next Spanish Mass will be held on **Sunday, March 7th** at **5PM**.

## Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

In the Gospel today, we read that because Jesus spoke with authority, His reputation spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee. As His disciples, we can also speak with authority when we put our faith into action by helping the poor and suffering. *Have you considered answering the call to serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?*

## Mass Online

We are live streaming the **Sunday 11AM Mass** on our Facebook page. Those who are ill or who are not comfortable attending Mass are invited to join us on social media and offer an act of Spiritual Communion.

## Marriage Retreats

The following marriage retreats are scheduled for the spring. The retreats are for sacramentally married couples:

~ **Feb 25 - 28:** Maryhill Retreat Center, Pineville, La.

~ **Mar 18-21:** Lumen Christi Retreat Center, Schriever, La.

~ **Mar 25-28:** Camp Baldwin, Ala.

Register for the retreats at <https://www.domesticchurchfamilies.com/events>

## Most Holy Season of Lent Approaching

Our church parish is preparing for the Lenten season. Holy Mass and distribution of ashes will be held on **Ash Wednesday, February 17th** at **8AM** and **6PM** at St John the Baptist, and at **12 noon** at Saint Terence. We will have the traditional Stations of the Cross each Friday of Lent at 6PM.

## 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.

## Parish Support

(Thank you for your generosity!)  
January 23rd—24th, 2021

St John	\$ 4220.40
St Terence	\$ 503.00