

Dear Padre,

Was Lent always associated with sacrifice, sin, and penance? Did Lent have some other purpose in Church history?

A set period of Lent was not observed during the first centuries of Christianity. Rather, Christians prepared for the Easter celebration with an all-night vigil and a fast. This vigil concluded with a morning Eucharist. Gradually, Christians extended this celebration to include Jesus' own Passover (the supper on Holy Thursday and the death of Jesus on Friday). By the end of the second century, baptism became linked to the Easter Vigil, and the time leading to Easter became a period of intense preparation for baptism. At first, this preparation period lasted only three weeks. This baptismal preparation program eventually extended to forty days. The idea of forty days came out of Mark's Gospel (1:13), where we read about Jesus going into the desert for forty days to prepare for his ministry.



JESUS CERNANTES/SHUTTERSTOCK

Today the Lenten period serves a double purpose. It is still a time of intense preparation for the catechumens, as they anticipate celebrating the sacrament of baptism at the Easter Vigil. But Lent also has become a time for baptized Christians to reflect on their own baptism. During Lent, the baptized are challenged to turn away from sin and choose again the deepest meaning of their baptism: the fact that they have died and risen with Christ and are now alive anew in Jesus. This renewal is done through the traditional penitential practices of fasting, prayer, and works of charity.

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Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

We learn from Abraham to pray with faith, to dialogue, to argue, but always ready to receive the word of God and to put it into practice. We learn to talk with God as a child with his father: to listen to him, respond, argue, but transparent, as a child with his father.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, JUNE 3, 2020



Calendar

Monday

MARCH 1

Lenten Weekday

Dn 9:4b-10

Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday

MARCH 2

Lenten Weekday

Is 1:10, 16-20

Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday

MARCH 3

Lenten Weekday

Jer 18:18-20

Mt 20:17-28

Thursday

MARCH 4

Lenten Weekday

Jer 17:5-10

Lk 16:19-31

Friday

MARCH 5

Lenten Weekday

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a,

17b-28a

Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday

MARCH 6

Lenten Weekday

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20

Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday

MARCH 7

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 20:1-17 or

20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17

1 Cor 1:22-25

Jn 2:13-25

Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 28, 2021

Second Sunday of Lent (B)

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Rom 8:31b-34

Mk 9:2-10

Future Gazing

Some spiritual writers and psychologists tell us how important it is to live in the present. Still, many of our decisions are made with an eye toward the future. Life commitments are always future oriented. Each newborn child carries promises for the future. Because we are part of the emerging universe, we are always called into the future. Today's readings also carry implications for the future.

Isaac was not only Abraham's beloved son; he was Abraham's legacy and future dynasty. Isaac's death would have put an end to Abraham's memory in the future. Consequently, this was more than a test of obedience. Abraham was presented with a choice: Choose Isaac and all that the future might bring to your family and memory through him. Or, trust that the promise God made—that your descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky—would be fulfilled even if Isaac dies. God asked Abraham to place his future in God's hands.

Some scholars believe that the real meaning of Jesus' transfiguration lies in its effects on the disciples who witnessed it. In this experience they came to see Jesus in a significantly new way. They saw that he has somehow associated with Moses, an agent of the law, and Elijah, a great prophet. In other words, Jesus was somehow associated with the very core of Jewish religion. The disciples did not understand how, nor did they grasp what "rising from the dead meant." Still they placed their future in his hands.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ Have you ever felt like your whole world has collapsed? How did you get through it?
- ★ True disciples must place their lives in God's hands. Pray for this grace.



I will bless you and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore.

GENESIS 22:17

PIYAWATI NANIENSON/SHUTTERSTOCK



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, Bessie Mowad, Vicki Martin, Eddie Richard, Janice Murphy, Randy Richter, Jiles Bowling, Tom Hambleton, Ace Bowling, Bennett King, 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, Sue Ferguson, John Wayne Behan, Timbo Sepulvado, Don Speaks, Marti Vienne, Lexie King, Gary Mitchell, Justin Lincecum, Brooklyn Meshell, Roy Cedars, Betty Procell Skinner, Gerry Bourgeois, Mary Jane Olsen, Caitlin Pine, Beth Prejean & Beckie Bayer

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.

Parish Support (Thank you for your generosity!)

Because of the office closure and inclement weather conditions last week, recent contribution totals will be published in next weekend's bulletin.

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 February 27th

By appointment Reconciliation at St. John

3:30 PM Recitation of Rosary at St John

Sunday February 28th

7:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St Terence

10:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St John

Wednesday, March 3rd

8:00AM-5:00PM 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



The Sanctuary Candle

Week of Feb 28th—March 6th

St. John + Henry & Elvie Parrie

St. Terence +Charles & Sue Warrick

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle burns night and day near the tabernacle to 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 February 27th

- 4:00PM 1. +Walter Lee
- 2. +Fr. Kenneth Williams
- 3. +Wanda Rivers
- 4. Betty Procell Skinner (SI)
- 5. +Mikey Mancil

Sunday February 28th

- 8:00AM 1. The Parish Family
- 2. +Christy Wriborg
- 3. +Richard Dartez
- 4. Harold & Norma Bergeron (SI)
- 5. +Charles & Sue Warrick
- 11:00AM 1. + Timothy Rivers
- 2. + Wanda Rivers
- 3. + Peter, Maria Hoa & Maria Loan Nguyen
- 4. + Steven Rodrigues

Tuesday March 2nd

- 5:00PM 1. Living & Deceased Members of the Blake, Byrd, Pedersen & Wilmer Fly.

Wednesday March 3rd

- 8:00AM 1. +Fr. Kenneth Williams

Thursday March 4th

- 8:00AM 1. +Jack R Jordan

Friday March 5th

- 8:00AM 1. +Fr Kenneth Williams

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> Although the pandemic has minimized many of our church activities, our financial obligations continue. Thank you for your donations.

Monthly Spanish Mass

The monthly Spanish Mass will be held next **Sunday, March 7th at 5PM.** Everyone is invited.

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross are held **each Friday of Lent at 6PM** at St John.

Stations of the Cross Servers

Friday, March 5th Lector: J J Blake
Servers: Adrianna & Allie Payne, Allie Tarver
Friday, March 12th Lector: Marion Koss
Servers: Kaley, Braxton & Reese Koss

Society of St Vincent de Paul

Lent is a call not just to "give up something" but more importantly, to "give something for the poor." No matter where you live, there are families in need near you. The recent ice storm has created difficult situations for many of our brothers and sisters. Your gift for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will help us to help those in need. Thank you for your contributions.

Men's Conference

St. Joseph Catholic Church in Shreveport is hosting a "Men's Day Conference," on March 27. All men of the diocese are invited to attend. For more information and to register, visit this link:<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/>

Altar Servers

Anyone who has received their First Holy Communion and is interested in becoming an altar server should contact Marion Koss.

Attention Ministry Leaders

As our activities resume, we ask that all ministry leaders contact the office so that we may place meetings, classes, activities and other dates on the Master Calendar. This is important so that we may avoid scheduling conflicts. We appreciate everyone's help.

Youth Worship Team Practice

The youth worship team will meet this Tuesday in the church at 6PM. Be sure to bring your instruments.

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.

The Five Priests of the 1873 Yellow Fever Epidemic



Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church is honored to have been served by one of the priests who gave his life in service to the sick during the 1873 Yellow Fever Epidemic in Shreveport. **Father François LeVezouët**, the first priest to say Mass in Many before the church building was constructed, ministered throughout Sabine and Natchitoches parishes.

On December 8, 2020, the Diocese of Shreveport received news from the Vatican that the five priests of the 1873 Yellow Fever epidemic have now been recognized as Servants of God, the first of four steps in the saintly canonization process! This means that the first priest to serve Saint John the Baptist Parish, Father LeVezouet, is on his way to sainthood! For more information, go to the website <https://shreveportmartyrs.org/>

Diocesan Stewardship Appeal

This week we all have the special opportunity to offer a gift to our Annual Diocesan Stewardship Appeal. Please support the programs and ministries of our Annual Appeal. Thank you for your generosity.

Saint John the Baptist Celebrates 150th Anniversary

This year, Saint John the Baptist celebrates its **150th Anniversary**. We are beginning to plan our celebration which will be held in June. If you are interested in serving on the anniversary planning committee, please leave your name at the church office. Please prayerfully consider helping us as we celebrate this milestone in our church's history.

CRS Rice Bowl

The 202` CRS Rice Bowl Program has begun and will continue until Easter Sunday. Please pick up a Rice Bowl from the back of the church.

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.

LENT

Pray + Fast + Give

Ways to Enrich your Lenten Experience

Practice Lenten disciplines: Pray, Fast, Give alms
+
Attend daily Mass: Tuesdays, 5PM; Mon - Fri, 8AM
+
Attend Adoration: Wednesdays, 8:30AM - 6:00PM
+
Pray the Stations of the Cross: Fridays, 6PM
+
Go to confession: Before Mass or by appointment
+
Participate in CRS Rice Bowl
+
Pray the Rosary with us 30 minutes before each weekend Mass



Keeping a Holy Lent

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fast and Abstinence from meat. All the Fridays of Lent

are days of Abstinence from meat.

Fasting – There is a limit of one full meal on these days for all between the ages of 18 and 59.

Abstinence—All who have reached their 14th year are bound to abstain totally from meat.

Lenten Regulations

LENTEN PRACTICES

- The faithful are encouraged during Lent to attend daily Mass, receive Holy Communion, participate in penance services, and receive sacramental absolution; to take part in public and private exercises of piety, give generously to works of religion and charity, perform acts of kindness toward the sick, aged, and the poor; to practice voluntary self-denial, especially regarding food, drink, and worldly amusements; and to pray more fervently, particularly for the intentions of the Holy Father.
- Funeral Masses may not be celebrated on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, or Holy Saturday, nor on the Sundays of Lent. When pastoral reasons require that a funeral be celebrated on these days, only a Funeral Outside of Mass may be held.

Lent: Time for a Spiritual checkup

Lent is a good time for a spiritual checkup to help deepen our relationship with God.

The Season of Lent



Prayer: Prayer is so important in our lives.

It is our communication with God. In Lent, we are given the opportunity to examine our prayer life. We might discover that we do not really communicate with God or our prayer consists of memorized prayer. This is a good time to look at our prayer life and find ways that will help us get closer to God. It might be as simple as setting a daily time for prayer, even 15 minutes, and sticking to it, not just during Lent, but after the season is over. Those who already pray regularly might look for new ways to enhance their prayer life like going to Mass an extra day a week or reading some Scripture each day to learn more about Jesus. It may be to make a retreat or day of reflection.

Fasting: The second discipline of Lent is fasting. We can fast from food or meat, but there are other ways to fast that might benefit our spiritual lives even more. For example, we could fast from judging others, fast from complaining; fast from self-concern; or fast from discontent and negativity.

Almsgiving: Finally, Lent is a time to focus on almsgiving. Almsgiving traditionally means to give food or money to those less fortunate than us. Some of us do not have money or food to share. Another and sometimes more meaningful way to give alms is to give of our time and love to the poor and needy. Perhaps we can visit or call someone who is lonely, join the Society of St Vincent de Paul, offer to take someone to the grocery store, etc.

HUNGERING FOR THE JOURNEY CRS RICE BOWL



Join our parish community—and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's rice bowl from the back of the church and don't forget to download the CRS Rice Bowl app! Remember, what you give up for Lent changes lives.

EASTER DUTY

All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year. This precept is to be fulfilled during the Easter Season unless it is fulfilled, for a just cause, at some other time during the year. This period is extended to include all the weeks of Lent and the Easter Season up to Trinity Sunday (May 30, 2021).

Financials for July 1 - December 31, 2020

As we approach the holy season of Lent, traditionally this is a time for us to examine our spiritual life. We prayerfully consider what spiritual contributions or positive changes we can make during Lent.

This is also a good time to examine our stewardship in an effort to give back to the Lord. Below are the mid-year financial reports for July 1 - December 31. Both 2020 and 2019 amounts are shown so that you may compare our current condition to last year's amounts, prior to the pandemic.

Your donations to the Stewardship Appeal are not included here, as they are used to support the Diocese of Shreveport. Donations to your local church may be made on the website, put in the collection basket, or mailed. Please feel free to contact the church office with questions or concerns. May God bless each of you for your support during this pandemic. We pray for you and your families during these difficult times and we ask that you pray for us.

St. John the Baptist		
	2020	2019
Income:		
Collections, memorials, misc.	148,868.48	181,029.13
Cemetery	9,275.00	5,435.00
Second collections (remitted to diocese)	4,053.03	4,444.14
Other misc. (reimbursements, bank transfers, etc)	27,673.28	11,838.33
Total	189,869.79	202,746.60
Expense:		
Administration (payroll, benefits, taxes, publications, etc.)	115,455.09	110,893.09
Maintenance (utilities, supplies, repairs, other misc.)	37,566.70	32,722.82
Diocesan assessments (remitted to diocese)	26,984.74	26,327.58
Second collections (remitted to diocese)	2,283.83	2,434.00
Other misc. (Reimbursements, transfers, etc)	14,961.79	13.21
Total	197,252.15	172,390.70
Profit or loss	(7,382.36)	30,355.90

St. Terence		
	2020	2019
Income:		
Collections, memorials, misc.	26,917.27	42,090.59
Second collections (remitted to diocese)	936.00	2,480.00
Other misc. (reimbursements, bank transfers, etc)	-	485.00
Total	27,853.27	45,055.59
Expense:		
Administration (payroll, benefits, taxes, publications, etc.)	2,719.87	2,750.36
Maintenance (utilities, supplies, repairs, other misc.)	7,071.55	8,435.44
Diocesan assessments (remitted to diocese)	6,265.54	6,370.11
Second collections (remitted to diocese)	598.00	1,400.00
Other misc. (Reimbursements, transfers, etc)	11,278.59	10,602.33
Total	27,933.55	29,558.24
Profit or loss	(80.28)	15,497.35