

Dear Padre,

I'm a non-Catholic church secretary who receives questions about a Purgatorial Society. What is it?

Those who die in God's grace and friendship imperfectly purified, although they are assured of their eternal salvation, undergo a purification after death, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of God" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1054). This process of purification is known as purgatory. Saint Gregory the Great (540–604) wrote "certain offenses can be forgiven in this age, but certain others in the age to come" (see *Dialogues* 4, 39). This forgiveness of sins granted after death is also suggested in Matthew 12:32 and 2 Timothy 1:18.

Because Catholics believe we're in communion with one another through an active relationship that transcends death, our prayers and sacrifices benefit the deceased (see 2 Maccabees 12:38–46). Thus, a Purgatorial Society is a formal association of Catholics who offer prayers, Masses, and other works of charity to benefit the souls in purgatory. Souls that get to heaven, in turn, offer their prayers to benefit the living. This mutual assistance affirms our belief in an earthly and heavenly Church forming one body in Christ.

Purgatorial societies were especially prevalent from the Middle Ages through the previous century, but they're currently seeing a revival in some church parishes and religious communities. Societies generally maintain a

registry to enroll names of the deceased so that Masses are regularly offered for the holy souls in purgatory—especially during the month of November.

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

By visiting the tombs of our loved ones we remember that we have a multitude of saints who before God intercede for our needs. Let us not forget, however, that so many deceased also await our spiritual support. Let us remember them in our prayers...asking that they be welcomed into the ranks of the elect in heaven.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, OCTOBER 31, 2018



Calendar

Monday
 MARCH 22
Lenten Weekday
 Dn 13:1–9, 15–17,
 19–30, 33–62
 or 13:41c–62
 Jn 8:1–11

Tuesday
 MARCH 23
Lenten Weekday
 Nm 21:4–9
 Jn 8:21–30

Wednesday
 MARCH 24
Lenten Weekday
 Dn 3:14–20, 91–92, 95
 Jn 8:31–42

Thursday
 MARCH 25
*The Annunciation
 of the Lord*
 Is 7:10–14, 8:10
 Heb 10:4–10
 Lk 1:26–38

Friday
 MARCH 26
Lenten Weekday
 Jer 20:10–13
 Jn 10:31–42

Saturday
 MARCH 27
Lenten Weekday
 Ez 37:21–28
 Jn 11:45–56

Sunday
 MARCH 28
*Palm Sunday of the
 Passion of the Lord*
 Mk 11:1–10 or
 Jn 12:12–16
 Is 50:4–7
 Phil 2:6–11
 Mk 14:1–15:47
 or 15:1–39

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 21, 2021
Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)
 Jer 31:31–34
 Heb 5:7–9
 Jn 12:20–33

Do I Have to Die?

Who has not asked this question, at least to oneself? It's a valid question, because at the core of every living being is the drive to live. Jesus also must have asked this question. Today's Gospel account implies this in John 12:27. ("I am troubled now.") Despite his passion for living, Jesus was more passionate about the transformation that would take place later. The example of the grain that must die if a harvest of wheat is to be produced is a perfect metaphor to make this point. Just as the grain is insignificant compared with the possible harvest, so—our faith assures us—there is no comparison between this life and the wondrous transformation that awaits us. And yes, in order to move from this life to that splendid future, we will have to die.

Our Lenten meditations will soon focus on the suffering and death of Jesus. However, to concentrate solely on suffering and death is like examining the

death of the grain without any thought of its transformation and the bountiful harvest that will come. We must not minimize Jesus' suffering. However, it was precisely by means of his having been lifted up on the cross in suffering and death that he was lifted up in glory and exaltation. This is why we claim that death is not the end of life but the gateway to new life. So, as difficult as it might be to leave the life we love, like Jesus we have to die in order to enter that new life.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

For Reflection

- ★ Begin to place yourself in God's hands with little things so that you are better able to do so in bigger things.
- ★ The second reading reminds us that Christ is the source of our eternal salvation. Spend a moment in gratitude for this great gift.



[Jesus asked,] "Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour."

JOHN 12:27



Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church Saint Terence Mission

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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, 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, Alan 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, Leroy Parrie, Scott Gurley, Clauriste Byles, Sr., Tia Airhart Fontenot & Ginger Mogedan

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.

Youth Group

The Youth Group will meet this **Sunday, March 21** for the annual Seder Meal and **Sunday, March 28** for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

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 March 20th

By appointment Reconciliation at St. John

3:30 PM Recitation of Rosary at St John

Sunday March 21st

7:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St Terence

10:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St John

Tuesday, March 23rd

9:30 AM Bible Study

6:00 PM Youth Worship Team Meets

Wednesday, March 24th

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

5:30 PM CCD

Thursday, March 25th

6:00 PM Bible Study

6:00 PM Anniversary Planning Committee meets

Friday, March 26th

6:00 PM Stations of the Cross

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 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 March 21st—March 27th

St. John + Jim & Jewell Phillips

St. Terence +Richard Dartez

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday March 20th

- 4:00PM 1. +Mikey Mancil
2. +Peter, Maria Loan and Maria Hoa Nguyen
3. +Chris & Eunice Ebarb
4. Betty Procell Skinner (SI)
5. +Phillip & Ann Rivers & Kim Bedsole

Sunday March 21st

- 8:00AM 1. The Parish Family
2. +Christy Wriborg
3. Tia Airhart Fontenot (SI)
4. Rufus Shuff (SI)
11:00AM 1. + Taylor Ledoux
2. + Wanda Rivers
3. + Ernest & Shirley Rodrigues
4. + Mikey Mancil
5. +The Edwin Frlot Family

Tuesday March 23rd

- 5:00PM 1. +Fr. Kenneth Williams

Wednesday March 24th

- 8:00AM 1. +Darci Johnson

Thursday March 25th

- 8:00AM 1. +Steven Jenkins

Friday March 26th

- 8:00AM 1. + Benny & Wanda Rivers

Parish Support

(Thank you for your generosity!)

March 13th-14th, 2021

St John	\$ 3335.00
St Terence	\$ 1368.00

Anniversary Committee Meeting

This year, Saint John the Baptist celebrates its 150th Anniversary. There will be a meeting of the Anniversary Planning Committee this **Thursday, March 25th at 6PM**. All persons interested in helping are invited to attend.

Ladies Altar Society Recruiting New Members

The Saint John Ladies Altar Society is currently recruiting new members and need you! This ministry helps maintain the sanctuary, linens, vestments, candles and other sacramentals. They also ensure the church is appropriately decorated for liturgical celebrations. Please prayerfully consider participating in this important ministry. **If you are interested in becoming a member, please attend the next meeting on Monday, April 12th at 2PM.**

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 LeVézouët**, the first priest to say Mass in Many before the church building was constructed, ministered throughout Sabine and Natchitoches parishes. 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/>

Prayer cards for Father LeVezouet and the other priests are located in the back of the church. Feel free to pick up one or more.

Saint Terence Easter Flowers

Saint Terence is currently accepting donations for Easter Flowers. If you are interested in donating, please contact Chris Moran-Blanchard or Mary Beth Tarver. Donations of any amount are appreciated.

Shroud of Turin Collection Holy Week Hours

The Cathedral of St John Berchmans is honored to display items from the collection of The Museum of the Holy Shroud. This is one of the largest collections of Shroud artifacts and artworks known to exist in the world.

The collection includes some beautiful paintings, etchings, engravings, manuscripts, medals, coins, and books – and many sacred relics as well, including pieces of the Holy Shroud.

The special Holy Week hours to view the Shroud of Turin collection in the Parish Hall are: Palm Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.; Tuesday (immediately following the Chrism Mass); Holy Thursday: 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.; Good Friday: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.; and Holy Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

Visit and enrich your Lenten journey!

Holy Week Schedule

PALM SUNDAY, March 28th

Normal weekend schedule of masses

TUESDAY of Holy Week, March 30th

No 5PM Mass

Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of

St. John Berchmans, 6PM

HOLY THURSDAY, April 1st

(No Morning Mass)

Mass of the Lord's Supper – 6:00PM

Eucharistic Adoration – until 9PM

GOOD FRIDAY, April 2nd

(No Morning Mass)

Stations of the Cross, 2:00PM

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, Communion

and Veneration of the Cross, 3PM

HOLY SATURDAY, April 3rd

Solemn Easter Vigil, - 8:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY, April 4th

Mass of the Resurrection, **8AM** at St. Terence

11AM at St. John the Baptist

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 26th, 6PM

Lector: Angelique Mitchell

Servers: Kylie & Kyndl Laroux

and Teegan Rodrigues

Friday, April 2nd, 2PM

Lector: Father Francis Kamau

Easter Lily Donations

Saint John the Baptist is welcoming donations for Easter Lilies. If you would like to contribute in memory of or in honor of a loved one, there are flower envelopes available in the back of the church. Lilies are \$20 each.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

From now until Easter, Fr. Francis will be hearing confessions before and after the weekend Masses and by appointment.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

In the Gospel today, Jesus says "Whoever serves Me must follow Me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves Me." When we help the poor, we are truly followers of Jesus, servant of the poor. As you place your gift in the collection basket for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, know that you are a sign of God's love to those who are suffering, and you give them Easter hope and joy.