

Dear Padre,

I get a lot of questions from Protestant friends about the Catholic “obsession” (as they put it) with Mary. What should I say to them?



A convert to Catholicism tells the story of a dinner he had with a friend who had a very evangelical outlook. As they talked about the new Catholic’s decision to convert, the friend asked hesitantly, “What do you think about Mary?” The new Catholic smiled and said, “I think she’s wonderful, don’t you?” The friend responded with an embarrassed “Yes, but....”

If Catholics and Protestants can begin with this premise—that Mary is wonderful—it might be possible to step back and consider why. Mary is an extraordinary human being who holds a special place in the Christian faith for two reasons: first, it was through her that God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ; and second, she was the first to believe in Jesus’ mission and ministry.

All Catholic doctrine about Mary refers to two special relationships. She has a special relationship with God because she bore the “God-man” in her womb. She also has a special relationship with us because she was the first Christian.

Fr. Scott Katzenberger, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

A WORD FROM Pope Francis



[The disciples] had abandoned the Lord at his passion and felt guilty. But meeting them, Jesus did not give a long sermon. To them, who were wounded within, he shows his own wounds. Thomas can now touch them and know of Jesus’ love and how much Jesus had suffered for him, even though he had abandoned him.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020

Calendar

Monday
APRIL 12
Easter Weekday
Acts 4:23–31
Jn 3:1–8

Tuesday
APRIL 13
Easter Weekday
Acts 4:32–37
Jn 3:7b–15

Wednesday
APRIL 14
Easter Weekday
Acts 5:17–26
Jn 3:16–21

Thursday
APRIL 15
Easter Weekday
Acts 5:27–33
Jn 3:31–36

Friday
APRIL 16
Easter Weekday
Acts 5:34–42
Jn 6:1–15

Saturday
APRIL 17
Easter Weekday
Acts 6:1–7
Jn 6:16–21

Sunday
APRIL 18
Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 3:13–15, 17–19
1 Jn 2:1–5a
Lk 24:35–48



Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 11, 2021
Second Sunday of Easter
(Sunday of Divine Mercy) (B)
Acts 4:32–35
1 Jn 5:1–6
Jn 20:19–31

I Want Proof

Who doesn’t? It’s not simply that we are children of the scientific age in which proof is essential. Concrete evidence gives us a sense of security; it helps us understand how things work. Even in ordinary human relationships, we want proof. A tune from *My Fair Lady* demands: “Don’t talk of love...show me.” It’s very difficult to live without a certain degree of surety. Consequently, we should not be surprised at Thomas’ insistence: “I want proof.”

Thomas is often described as lacking faith. This isn’t the full story. The reason the other disciples believed was because they had an experience of the risen Lord. Before that experience they were hiding behind locked doors. Thomas was absent; we are not told why. Whatever the reason, he also wanted an experience of the risen Lord. He was not content to base his believing on their word alone. In a sense, more was being asked of Thomas than the others.

Thomas is the patron of all of us whose faith in the risen Lord is based on the word of others rather than on our own unique revelatory experience. Who of us wouldn’t want some mystical experience? We are called to believe without seeing. Yet, this isn’t strictly true—we can see evidence of the resurrection. The best proof is evident in the lives of millions of people who commit themselves to God and who strive to live with integrity.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

For Reflection

- ✦ Who are the people who taught you your faith and who live it themselves? Thank God for them.
- ✦ Who looks to you as an example of one who believes that Christ is alive today?



Jesus said to [Thomas],
“Have you come to believe
because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have
not seen and have believed.”
JOHN 20:29



Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church Saint Terence Mission

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Office Hours: 8AM—4PM (M-F)
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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, 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 Pousseau, 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 Viemie, 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, Clauriste Byles, Sr., Tia Airhart Fontenot, Marty Starks, Trent Chaney, Ginger Mogedan, Cyndle Eyre & Doug Wages

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.



This Week in our Parish

Weekend Masses at St John:

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

Sunday Mass at St Terence: 8:00 AM

Weekday Masses at St. John:

All weekday Masses cancelled this week

Sunday April 11th

7:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St Terence
10:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St John
3:00 PM Divine Mercy Service

Monday, April 12th

2:00 PM Ladies Altar Society Meeting

Tuesday, April 13th

9:30 AM Bible Study
6:00 PM Youth Worship Team Meets
6:00 PM Pastoral Council Meets
7:00 PM KC's Meet

Wednesday, April 14th

8:30AM-6:00PM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
5:00PM CCD

Thursday, April 15th

6:00 PM Choir Practice
6:00 PM Finance Council Meets
6:00 AM Bible Study

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 April 4th—April 10th

St. John + Glenda Rogers
St. Terence + Virginia Gatti

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday April 10th

4:00PM 1. Living & Deceased Members of the Blake, Byrd, Pedersen & Wimer Family
2. + Timothy Rivers
3. + Peter, Maria Hoa & Maria Loan Nguyen
4. +Janice Murphy
5. +Darci Johnson
6. +Ben Partida

Sunday April 11th

8:00AM 1. The Parish Family
2. +Christy Wriborg
3. Tia Airhart Fontenot (SI)
4. Rufus Shuff (SI)
5. Cyndi Rowe Eyre (SI)
6. +Virginia Gatti
11:00AM 1. + Prude & Janie Remides
2. + Margie Remedies
3. +Ann & Phillip Rivers & Kim Bedsole
4. + Janice Murphy
5. + Nancy Rodrigues
6. + Glenda Rogers
7. In Thanksgiving (SI)

Tuesday April 13th

5:00PM 1. + Phillip & Mary Ann Frlot

Wednesday April 14th

8:00AM 1. + Fr. Ken Williams

Thursday April 15th

8:00AM 1. + Joy Fontenot

Thursday April 16th

8:00AM 1. + The Frlot Family

Parish Support

(Thank you for your generosity!)
April 3rd-4th, 2021

St John	\$ 5524.52
St Terence	\$ 2079.00

Meetings This Week

KC's: Tuesday at 7PM
Pastoral Council: Tuesday at 6PM
Finance Council: Thursday at 6PM

Confirmation: April 18th at IIAM

The Rite of Confirmation will be held next **Sunday, April 18th at the IIAM Mass.** Please pray for our confirmands: *Kaley Koss, Andy Nguyen, Adriana Payne, Alexia Roberts, Daylin Roberts, Trenton Springer, Masen Starks and Vivian Sylvia.*

Need Gifts for First Communion? Confirmation? Graduation? Mother's Day? Birthdays? Baptisms?

We encourage everyone to visit our Youth Group's gift shop. Hours are 8AM to 4PM, Monday through Friday at the church office or other times by appointment. For more information, contact Jean Rains. We have a variety of items and great prices!

Honoring our Graduates

Are you graduating from high school or college this year? If so, please contact Mrs. Amy Ebarb or leave your name at the church office. We will have special recognition for graduates at the IIAM Mass on Sunday, May 16th.

Donations Needed

We are still accepting donations to help defray the expense of replacing our ice machine in the cafeteria. All help is appreciated. Contributions may be dropped off at the church office or dropped in the collection basket, clearly marked. We are thankful for everyone's help.

In Appreciation

Special thanks to everyone who made donations for the St John the Baptist Easter Lilies. We would also like to thank all our servers and those who helped decorate and make the church so beautiful this Easter season.

Society of St Vincent de Paul

In the Gospel today, Jesus stands in the midst of us and says: "Peace be with you!" As you put your gift into the collection basket for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, you are saying "Peace be with you!" to those who are poor and hungry.

Father François LeVézouët

Servant of God

(the first priest to serve Saint John the Baptist)

Born in Brévidy, Brittany, France, on August 10, 1833
Ordained in Natchitoches, LA, on May 3, 1856
Ministered in Sabine and Natchitoches Parishes
Died in Shreveport on October 8, 1873

Fr. LeVezouet, pray for us!

Divine Mercy Sunday

This **Sunday, April 11**, Saint John the Baptist will have a Divine Mercy Service beginning at 3:00PM which will include the Chaplet of Divine Mercy in song and veneration of the Divine Mercy Image. Confessions will be heard from 2 to 3PM and after the service. Please join us for this wonderful opportunity to experience God's unfathomable mercy! Jesus told Saint Faustina "It is My desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners." He also promised that everyone who went to Confession and received Holy Communion on the Feast of Mercy would receive complete forgiveness of sin and punishment.

Anniversary T-Shirt Design Contest

Saint John the Baptist is celebrating its 150th Anniversary this year and will have various activities planned during the next few months. To kick off our celebration, we are sponsoring a t-shirt design contest with the winning design printed on t-shirts to commemorate our anniversary. Anyone may enter. Participants are encouraged to create a beautiful design for this important event in the life of our church. Entries may be hand-drawn or computerized and should be dropped off at the church office or emailed to: office@stjohnmany.org. Deadline for all entries is **Wednesday, May 5th.**

Diocesan Stewardship Appeal

Thanks to everyone who has made a pledge or gift to support our 2021 Diocesan Stewardship Appeal. It is still possible to support this cause by filling out a pledge card located in the back of the church. Please support this worthy cause and help our diocese "Return to the Lord" by serving others.

Help Needed

Please help us prepare for our 150th Anniversary celebration by sharing your old pictures, memorabilia and other items that you might have. We can digitally make copies of your pictures in the office or they can be emailed to: office@stjohnmany.org See next week's bulletin for more details and an outline of planned events.

Ladies Altar Society

There will be a Ladies Altar Society meeting on **Monday, April 12 at 2PM.** We are making an effort to expand our membership. The Ladies Altar Society is in desperate need of new members to help take care of tasks that need to be done. Please prayerfully consider joining this important ministry.



2021

ST. John the Baptist **EASTER LILIES**

Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church Parish wishes to thank the generous donors who helped defray some of the costs of this year's Easter flowers:

In Memory of — Nancy Rodrigues; by Rose Sparks

In Memory of — Ben Partida; by Madeline Leslie

In Memory of — Rusty Canton; by Jack and Marie Canton

In Memory of — Red & Syble Boyd; by Mr. and Mrs. Larry Boyd

In Memory of — Henry & Elvie Parrie and Ronald Ray Carter; by Frances Carter

*In Memory of — Dewey Rains, Wesley Eaves, Michelle Burse & Marilyn Osborn
By — Jean Rains*

*In Memory of — Hugh and Odessa Keckler and In Honor of Marie McCurdy
By — Bob & Kristie McCurdy*

In Memory of — Shelley DeLatin Alford; by Terry and Ann DeLatin

In Memory of — Earl & Florence Ebarb; by Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Malmay

In Memory of — Al & Jackie Dahlem & their son Michael; by Junie Dahlem

In Memory of — The Jodie & Louis McCormic Family; by Jody McCormic

In Memory of — Abram, Ethel, Clark & Kenneth Remedies; by Robert & Dickie Remedies

In Memory of — Earl & Mary Malmay; by Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Malmay

In Memory of — The Sullivan & Labat Families; by Deacon Mike & Rosie Sullivan

In Memory of — Walter Lee, Jenna Lee Williams, Sidney Jacobs & Larry & Eleanor Gill; by Mary Ligon

*In Memory of — William "Buddy" Sepulvado, Sr., Clyde, Carrie & Doris Rivers;
Fred and Etna Ramsey;
by William Sepulvado, Jr. & Brenda R. Sepulvado*

In Memory of — Kenneth McCormic; by Shirley Rutherford

In Memory of — T.P & Euphemiae Russell; by Mike & Shirley Rutherford

In Memory of — Howard & Shelby Rutherford; by Mike Ruther-

Special Donation

Special thanks to Mrs. Amy McLendon Ebarb and Mrs. Patsy McLendon for donating and planting the beautiful plants in the flower pots in front of the church in loving memory of Renita Kay Parent. We appreciate their kindness in doing this for our church.



PARISH MINISTRIES

CCD

Our parish offers religious education for children in grades kindergarten through 12, while also providing support for parents to educate their children in the Catholic faith. Our program includes religious instruction, sacramental preparation, learning about the Saints, and strengthening relationships with God. Our classes are on Wednesdays, from 5:30 To 6:30PM during the school year.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We are in the planning stages of this year's Vacation Bible School which we hope to have sometime in July. This year's theme is "Rocky Railway". Registration information will be available soon. If you would like to help, please contact Jean Rains.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Liturgy of the Word for Children is held each Sunday at the 11AM Mass. At this time, young children leave the Sanctuary to hear the scripture readings proclaimed and explained at an age-appropriate level. The children hear the same Mass readings as adults – but in simpler terms that are easier to grasp. If you would like to volunteer to help with this ministry, please contact Heather Nichols.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process for adults who desire to join the Catholic faith and for those seeking more information on the Catholic Church. RCIA can also be a method for Catholics to complete their reception of the initiation sacraments. The RCIA class at St. John the Baptist is usually held on Tuesday evenings at 6 PM from September through May.

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

St. Vincent De Paul Society's purpose is to provide direct aid to those who suffer, and to help individuals reduce and even eliminate the causes of their suffering, themselves. Please contact Rosemary Sullivan or Madeline Leslie for more information.

CHOIR MEMBERS

Consider joining your fellow parishioners by serving as choir members. Our music program offers beautiful works created by the Church throughout the ages for use in the Liturgy. The choir prepares and serves weekly for the Masses. If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact Justin Lincecum.

USHERS

The Ministry of being an Usher is open to all called to welcome visitors and parishioners to the sacred place of worship. Anyone 18 years of age or older and a member of our parish can become an Usher.

LECTORS

Lectors are entrusted with the ministry of proclaiming the Word of God during Liturgy. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Rosemary Sullivan.

ALTAR SERVERS

Servers assist at weekend Masses, weddings, funerals, Stations of the Cross, and other liturgical services. New server orientation and training sessions are held several times a year. Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church needs committed, reverent servers to assist at the altar. If you have made your first Holy Communion and are interested in this ministry, please contact Marion Koss.

EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are appointed by the Bishop to distribute Holy Communion at Mass or to those unable to attend Mass. Any registered Catholic (confirmed & over 18) able to receive Holy Communion is invited to become an Eucharistic Minister.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal organization for Catholic men. Our Council assists our local Parish in providing financial assistance and labor resources for various activities. For more information on how you can become a member of this organization, please contact Jerry Mitchell at 256-5680.

LADIES ALTAR SOCIETY

The Ladies Altar Society provides an important ministry, including maintenance of vestments, candles, altar cloths, and other sacramentals. They also ensure the church is appropriately decorated for liturgical celebrations. The Altar Society meets the first Monday of each month, except for summer months. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the Angelique Mitchell at 256-5680.

HISPANIC MINISTRY

Saint John the Baptist continually strives to accommodate our growing Hispanic population. We offer a Spanish version of many of our printed materials such as Stations of the Cross, Missalettes, Bibles, and prayer books. A Spanish Mass is held on the first Sunday of each month at 5 PM, often with a covered dish meal immediately following. The largest celebration that our parish holds is for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A special Mass is celebrated, followed by a celebration of food and fellowship. Please join us as we further expand this ministry. If you have any questions concerning our Hispanic ministry, please contact Jean Rains or Father Francis.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We need the help of each person and family in order to have a more active church parish. Please prayerfully consider which ministry you would like to join. We all have different gifts to contribute to our parish. No matter what your gifts are, you can find a way to serve God and the Church with them. Not sure which ministry is right for you? Email, office@stjohnmany.org or call 256-5680. We need you and are ready to help you become involved!