

The answer to the following question comes from the answer in "The Catholicism Answer Book." A book of the 300 most frequently asked questions by Rev. Father John Trigilio, Jr., PH.D., TH.D. and Rev. Father Kenneth Brighenti, PH.D. Authors of the best-selling book, "Catholicism for Dummies."

Question 51 – Who can go to heaven? Who can't?

Answer – No one is owed heaven, and no one earns their way to heaven. Heaven is a purely and totally free gift from God that he lovingly offers to humankind. It is the individual human person who freely and knowingly either accepts the gift or rejects it. While no one deserves heaven, every human being, thanks to Christ's death and resurrection, now has the possibility and the opportunity of going to heaven.

Theologically speaking, since the sin of Adam and Eve (original sin), human nature has been wounded and has fallen. It needs sanctifying grace from God, which is a supernatural divine assistance that justifies and redeems by the merits and sacrifice of Jesus Christ's death on the cross. Only baptism confers this special grace; without this grace, the soul cannot enter heaven. Jesus died for all men and women (sufficient grace, as Saint Augustine would call it), but it only affects those who freely accept and cooperate with it (efficacious grace). Jesus redeemed human nature by making salvation possible, but salvation occurs at the moment the person enters heaven. That is why Catholics do not refer to any of the living as "saved," since only the saints in heaven are actually saved (that is, they are now in heaven and will be there forever). Catholics do say they are "redeemed" since all men and women were redeemed by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Think of it this way. A drowning man is thrown a life preserver on a rope. That is redemption. He is now capable of being saved. Without it, he would be lost. Getting him safely out of the water and onto the ship is salvation. Only those in heaven have been saved and we on Earth, through redeemed, still wait for our salvation – which comes only through Christ at the time of our death.

If baptism is necessary and Christ is the only way to salvation, then does that mean only Christians go to heaven? No. Anyone who through no fault of his own has not consciously or willingly rejected Christ and His church is not culpable (guilty), and God does not punish us for things for which we are not responsible. Besides the baptism of water there are also the baptism of blood and the baptism of desire. If it is not their fault that they do not know and believe that Jesus Christ is the only means of salvation, or that he founded the Catholic Church to accomplish that salvation of souls, then their ignorance of the truth will excuse them from being deprived of the joys of heaven.

They will be judged according to the morality of the life they lived on earth. Whatever faith they had, they will be judged as to what they did or did not do with that faith.

The Catholic Church condemned and excommunicated those who said only formal (baptized and registered in a parish) members of the Catholic Church are saved. The proper understanding of the axiom extra ecclesia nulla salus (outside the church there is no salvation) is explained in Question #243. Since the Church believes in the universal salvific will of God—that He offers everyone sufficient grace to be saved even through it is only efficacious to those who accept and cooperate with it—there is also the teaching that many non-Catholics and non-Christians are saved implicitly. They are considered "anonymous" Catholic Christians, God-fearing Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Taoists, Buddhist, and those of all faiths who do not know that Christ and His

Catholic Church are necessary for salvation, and as a result have not deliberately rejected Christ or His Church are not penalized for what they do not know. So, the Catholic Church does not teach that Protestants and Jews and Muslim and other non-Catholics go to hell simply because they are not Catholic. The reason someone is not Catholic is crucial. Most people are not Catholic because that is not the religion they were born into or because no one taught them properly. Most non-Catholics who choose not to become Catholic base their decisions on what they think, presume, or have been told Catholicism teaches and does. The real doctrines and disciplines have not been fully and adequately explained to them. Some base their decision on emotion or experience. Hence, bad examples of Catholic Christianity from clergy to laity alike—whether a neighbor, relative, classmate, or coworker, or a distorted caricature of what Catholicism is about (like accusations of Catholics worshipping Mary or attempting to buy souls out of purgatory) --all color the perception.

What is perceived is what is rejected, but our salvation depends on believing what is real and true. If our perception is not clear, or if it has been tainted, discolored, or even blinded, then it is not our fault. We cannot be held liable for what is not within our control. Therefore, anyone and everyone has the possibility and potential for heaven as long as they sincerely seek to know and do the will of God. Obviously, part of God's will was to send His Son, Jesus Christ, and His will was to found a Church and institute seven sacraments which would be administered by that Church.



St. John the Baptist Parish

P.O. Box 417/12450, Highway 188, Grand Bay
Telephone Number: 251-865-6902
Fax: 251-865-1412
Website: stjohngrandbay.org

July 11, 2021: 15th: Sunday Ordinary Time

REVEREND Selvam Arputharaj
Pastor – 251-278-4900
amsleeli191@gmail.com
Deacon Billy Graham, Secretary
Judy Poiroux, Bookkeeper
Tiffany Teofilo, CCD Director
Youth Director
Nick Calametti, Musician

Parish Council

Bill Schaffer Jason Poiroux
Jim Jackson Autumn Bowden
Jack Wright Jay Graham

Finance Council

Paula Dyess Paullette Cauley
Carol Voss

MASSSES

Weekdays: Tuesday 5:30 P.M.
Wednesday 8:00 A.M.
Thursday 8:00 A.M.
Friday 8:00 A.M.
Vigil Mass Saturday 5:00 P.M.
SUNDAY MASS 10:00 A.M.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Weekdays by Appointment
Saturday 4:30 P.M.
Sunday 9:30 A.M.

BAPTISM: By Appointment

MATRIMONY: Contact the Office 6 months before the celebration

ANNOINTING OF THE SICK:

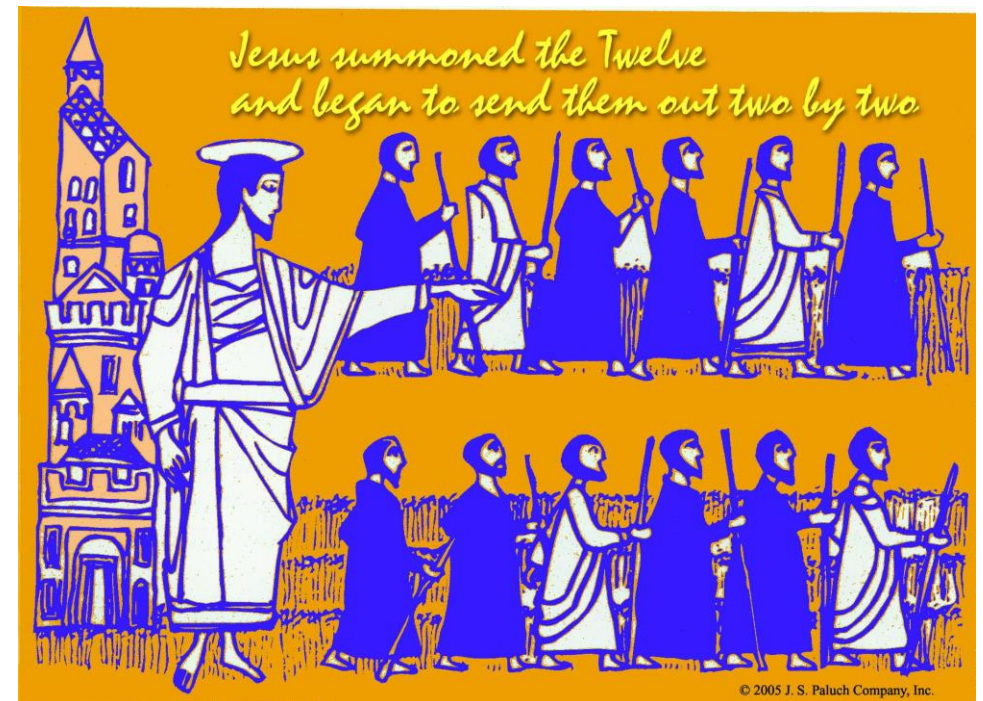
Anytime: Please call the Office

ROSARY & ADORATION: Every Wednesday at 7:30 am before Mass

Funerals

Call the office before making plans with the funeral director.

Email: stjohngrandbay@gmail.com



Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Readings: Amos 7:12–15; Psalm 85:9–14; Ephesians 1:3–14 [3–10]; Mark 6:7–13

LOOKING AHEAD TO LISTEN TODAY

In next week's first reading the prophet Jeremiah will say, on behalf of God, "Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture" (Jeremiah 23:1). Today Amariah, a priest of King Jeroboam, represents the archetype of this kind of shepherd. Against this sort of uncaring shepherd, God calls a real-life vocation shepherd and a true shepherd prophet, Amos. The voice of Amos is one of the harshest in the prophetic literature, but the harshness seems to be necessary to counteract the misleading and scattering of the flock that the God of Israel was observing. Amos left his vocation as a shepherd of sheep and dresser of sycamore trees to become a shepherd of the flock of Israel and a dresser of the wrongs committed by those whose status as priest or prophet of Israel had led them astray from their own vocation. Another prophet, Jeremiah, would tell of the coming shepherd king, anointed from the house of David, who will come to restore justice and righteousness throughout the land.



Lisa Vallas, Scott Beech, Emily Phillips, Robert Gunter, Jesus Malone, Leak Maria Church, Tom Thornton, Dee Irwin, Gary Smith, Liz Walker, Willie Thompson, Tracie Moose, Maddie Blake Rivers, Jimmy Summerlin, Becky Thompson, Betty Cauley, Clara Davis, Anita Wright, Doug Jones, Heather Cotton, Maribeth Thompson, Becky Latner, Laurie Rel, Leigh Taylor, Amy Lacy, Ava Smith, Chip Conklin, Isabel Rel, Pat Potter, Marie Murray, Toby Robison, Linda Graham, Larry Robertson, Margaret Hampton, Frank Pigorsch, Stephanie Ray, Jerry Wigfield, Mike Knowles, Steve Sevier, Sister Luella Dominic Petry O. P., Sister Stephanie Sema-SSMI, Joe Gable, Ann Gable, Ali Stringfellow Ray, Lisa Kloecheener, Valeria Wallace, Donnie Wilson, Patricia Davis, Joe Watts, Sean Guillotte, Michelle Cook, Reggie Stewart, Nonie Reed, Betty Gunter, Tiffany Fontenot, Jimmy Marchand, Frances Walley, Maurine Habley, Ray Thornton, Joe Whitson, Carolyn Collier, Vicenta Obsenares, Edgar Gunter, Victoria Porter, Jonathan Cruz, Gennie Garret, Bob Echement, Lilly Breaux, James Wink, Mike Wilson, Leyah White.

Pray for the eternal repose of the souls of the most recently deceased members of the parish: Ronnie Cauley, John Ramsay, Irene Stone, Bob Heurion

Pray for the Special Intentions of those serving in the Armed Forces: Brent Smith, Travis Wilson, SPC Jackson Triston, Jr., Captain Will Hurd, Bryant Bailey & Zachery Bailey.

Known Birthdays for July 2021

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 6 th : Kerry Ladnier | 25 th : Harold Vaughn |
| 9 th : Steve Cauley | 25 th : Perry Lewis |
| 9 th : Jonathan Oliver | 25 th : Jennifer Schilling |
| 10 th : Kassi Reynolds | 26 th : Debra Johnson |
| 16 th : Ann Jackson | 27 th : Matthew Baker |
| 17 th : Mary Kirchoff | 28 th : Hayden Teofilo |
| 18 th : Adolph Payne | 29 th : Ty Teofilo |
| 19 th : Greg Taylor | 31 st : Erica Murray |
| 25 th : Neal Fisher | 31 st : Tony Consentino |

Known Anniversaries for July 2021

12th: Glenda and Bobby Poiroux
 18th: Anita and Jack Wright
 25th: Shirley and Thomas Rasmussen
 31st: Debbie and Perry Lewis

Capital Campaign as of 4-30-2021:

Total Contributions as of 4-30-2021: \$147,773.42 (69.5% Of Campaign Goal)
 Parish Distributions on 4-30-2021: \$2,971.42 for a total Parish Distribution to date of \$27,105.08

Mass Intentions:

Saturday & Sunday Mass Intentions

Saturday 5:00 pm – For all the sick, infirmed, and homebound of the parish
 Sunday 10:00 am – For all deceased parishioners

Daily Mass intentions

Week of July 13 thru 16

July 13, 14, 15 & 16 – For the eternal repose of the souls of Felipe Mundia, Marcelina Mundia & Benjamin Crisolo by Anita Mundia.

Week of July 20 thru 23

July 20, 21, 22, & 23 – For the eternal repose of the souls of Ruth Naquin, Adrienne Graham, Donald Naquin, James Cauley, Shirley Cauley, Pamela Varos, Randy Naquin by Rhonda & Steve Cauley.

Week of July 27 thru 30

July 27, 28, 29 & 30 – for the eternal repose of the souls of Felipe Mundia, Marcelina Mundia & Benjamin Crisolo by Anita Mundia.

Week of August 3 thru 6

August 3 & 4 – For the eternal repose of the souls of Mrs. Azeline Taylor, Mrs. Bernice Moose, Mr. H. Moose, & Chris Potter by Patricia Potter.

August 5 – For the eternal repose of the souls of Jr. & Ether Graham, Jimmy & Bea Lepre, Hannah Cauley and deceased relatives/ friends of Linda & Deacon Graham

August 6 – For the eternal repose of the soul of Steve Sema, Sr., and dece3ased relatives/friends of Doris Sema.

Week of August 10 thru 13

August 10, 11, 12 & 13 – For the eternal repose of the souls of Domingo Liquiran, Manuela Ballesteres, Faustino Pidlaoan & Elena Liquiran Pidlaoan by Edith Tomas

General Contributions

July 4, 2021
 General Fund: \$4,145.00

Lectors for the Masses on the Weekend of July 17 & 18, 2021

5:00 pm on Saturday, July 17th, Ann Jackson
 10:00 am on Sunday July 18th, Tiffany Teofilo

Note: Please remember that if you cannot lector at the time assigned it is your responsibility to find a replacement. Anyone that is interested in lecturing during Mass at St. John's, please contact Carol Voss at cavoss99@gmail.ocm.

HOMEBOUND MASS FILMING:

The next Homebound Mass Filming will take place at the Chapel of the Archbishop and will be filmed at 9:00 am. on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. We will be filming Mass for the 16th, 17th, 18th & 19th Sundays of Ordinary Time.

NURSING HOME OUTREACH:

Every First Saturday we pray the rosary before the 5 p.m. Mass starting at 4:30,

HOUSE BLESSINGS

We highly encourage **House Blessings**. Please call Father Selvan to schedule the blessing of your home.

A little humor never hurts

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" The mother replied, "Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life." The child thought about this for a moment then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"



Catholic Charities

Family Pledges to date total 32.
 Total amount pledged: \$19,914.00,
 114% of our total goal of \$17,400.00

Announcements for week of July 10, 2021

- 1) **In each pew** there are sheets for you to fill out so the Lady Sodality know the families and numbers that will attend the reception after Father's Installation Mass.
- 2) **Father Selvam** request a meeting with the leaders and treasures for all church organizations on August 5th at 6:30 pm. (Lady's Sodality, Knights, and Golden Group).
- 3) **The Golden Group summer** luncheon meeting will be Wednesday, July 14th at 11:30 in the Church Hall. We look forward to seeing everyone and sharing a delicious lunch, our entrée will be Stuffed Bell Peppers. Please bring your favorite dish and join us for the food, fun and fellowship.
- 4) **Catholic Social Services** will be here at St. Johns' on the last Wednesday of every month, starting on July 28, to help families pay their utility bills, If you know anyone who needs help, please put the word out that the program is starting back up.
- 5) **Known Birthdays, 10th:** Kassi Reynolds, **16th:** Ann Jackson, **Known Anniversaries this week:** **12th:** Glenda and Bobby Poiroux

LOOKING BACK TO LOOK AHEAD

It is important to connect this week's Gospel with last weeks. Jesus had just encountered a severe lack of faith in his family and neighbors, who took offense at him. So severe was their reaction to him that he could not work much in the way of healing or other mighty deeds. Yet immediately upon the heels of that incident, he summons the Twelve and sends them out ("apostle" means "one who is sent"). Jesus remains stalwart in the pursuit of the vocation he was given by God: to recover the lost sheep of the house of Israel. We have to admire the Twelve, who like Amos have left their own livelihoods as they are sent out on a rather intimidating new mission. Our admiration ought to increase when we realize that this takes place immediately after the rather humiliating scene Jesus had just endured. But having witnessed Jesus' face rejection and still persevere in his vocation, they must have been made bold as he told them of the rejection they would face when he sent them out. Christ, through the Spirit and the waters of baptism, still sends us out on mission. This is our first calling. Let us, strengthened by the prophetic witness of Christ and the Twelve, be faithful to that calling.