

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 54 – Who is the Antichrist?**

**Answer** – It is not Damian Thorn (the fictional character from the movie *The Omen*, which was about the Antichrist), and he does not have a tattoo of the numbers 666 on his scalp. Only four explicit references to the Antichrist occur in Scripture: 1 John 2:18, 1 John 22, 1 John 4:3, and 2 John 7. The Greek word *antichristos* is not the evil twin of Jesus Christ, nor is he the exact opposite. The Antichrist is the enemy and adversary of Christ, but his power and influence are extremely limited despite what Hollywood portrays in film.

Jesus is definitely the Son of God, and he also reserved to himself the title the Son of Man. This does not mean, however, that the Antichrist must necessarily be the Son of Satan or the son of the devil. The evil one likes to mock God and blaspheme what is sacred and holy by making cheap imitations or parodies (like the inverted crucifix, or the antibeatitudes). So, he could very well try to insult God by having his own offspring of sorts. All we know is that there will be an Antichrist and he will oppose Christ.

The Bible is ambiguous about the identity of the Antichrist. Revelation (Apocalypse) 13:18 tells us, “Let him who has understanding reckon the number of the beast, for it is a human number, its number is six hundred and sixty-six.” Many scholars point out that in Hebrew, every letter (except vowels, which do not exist in the Hebrew alphabet) has a numerical value so that a name written in Hebrew would have a sum total of the letters. This is called *gematria* (Hebrew numerology). Early Christians thought the Roman Emperor Nero was the Antichrist. His name (Nero Caesar) transliterated in Hebrew has the numerical equivalence of 666 (50 + 200 + 6 + 50 + 100 + 60 + 200). Yet the world did not end at that time. Nero, however, did meet his end.

During the Reformation, some Protestant-printed pamphlets (thanks to the printing press) called the pope the Antichrist and called the Roman Catholic Church the Whore of Babylon. This was merely rhetoric meant to stir up the crowd and attack the other side. Today, there are a few who claim the internet is evil because the letters “WWW” used to begin an internet web page (from the “world wide web”) also add up to 666 through *gematria*.

Someone will rise to become a world leader will attempt to lead many souls astray by renouncing Christ (apostasy). That person is the Antichrist. What many spiritual writers remind people, however, is that no one knows the day nor the hour nor even the month, day, year, or century. We do know who the Antichrist will be. What is more important, urgent, and fruitful is to not worry about the Antichrist but to worry more about the Devil who tempts us every day to sin. When and how the world ends does not affect where we spend eternity. How we live today will determine where we spend the ultimate tomorrow.



# 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](http://stjohngrandbay.org)

## August 1, 2021: 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time

**REVEREND Selvam Arputharaj**  
 Pastor – 251-278-4900  
[amsleeli191@gmail.com](mailto: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

**MASSES**

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](mailto:stjohngrandbay@gmail.com)



The Lord gave them bread from heaven

**Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Today's Readings: Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15; Psalm 78:3-4, 23-25, 54; Ephesians 4:17, 20-24; John 6:24-35**

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

The crowd wanted to know, “What can we do to accomplish the works of God?” (John 6:28). They were looking for a way to do miracles, signs, wonders, and they expected Jesus to prove himself by doing this for them, too. They had just witnessed the multiplication of the loaves, yet it seemed not to impress them! They were asking for yet another “sign.” Jesus directed their attention to the meaning of the miracles: God’s loving faithfulness to them in their need. Manna in the desert and loaves in the wilderness were the signs of Jesus’ gift of himself to us in love.

What Jesus was looking for in these people was an attentive heart. He wanted them to see that God was providing for their needs with love and faithfulness and had always done so. But the people didn’t get it. They had just witnessed a miracle, and yet they still were asking for “a sign.” What counts as a sign? Do we need to be hit over the head? Every day we witness miracles, and yet we don’t really see them, or believe that they really come from God. Every day we are bread for each other, or someone is bread for us, and yet we do not make the connection! No doubt the people in the desert failed to connect the quail and the manna with their crying out to God for food. God answers our prayers and knows our needs, and sends people to us and us to others, and yet we look for other explanations of these “miracles” in our lives.





Bill Schaffer, Betty Moseley, Emma Phillips, 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 Kloechener, 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 August 2021**

2 <sup>nd</sup> : Hanna Stanley	18 <sup>th</sup> : Doris Wilson-Davis
7 <sup>th</sup> : Ethan Elliott	19 <sup>th</sup> : Wayne Jackson
9 <sup>th</sup> : Parker Bowden	20 <sup>th</sup> : Meagan Davis
12 <sup>th</sup> : James Baggett	22 <sup>nd</sup> : Anita Wright
13 <sup>th</sup> : Isabel Rel	24 <sup>th</sup> : Thomas Rasmussen
15 <sup>th</sup> : Poullette Cauley	25 <sup>th</sup> : Emilee Sprinkle
15 <sup>th</sup> : Ashley Cauley	27 <sup>th</sup> : Donald Riley
15 <sup>th</sup> : Mattison Cauley	27 <sup>th</sup> : Zora Oliver
16 <sup>th</sup> : Rizza Pagala	27 <sup>th</sup> : Paula Dyess
17 <sup>th</sup> : Stan Heine	28 <sup>th</sup> : Matt Johnson
17 <sup>th</sup> : Gloria Krause	28 <sup>th</sup> : Pat Potter
	30 <sup>th</sup> : Philip Poiroux

**Known Anniversaries for July 2021**

1<sup>st</sup>: Maribeth & Clarence Thompson  
 5<sup>th</sup>: Pat & Neal Fisher  
 6<sup>th</sup>: Paula & David Dyess  
 12<sup>th</sup>: Ann & Joe Gable  
 13<sup>th</sup>: Carol & Mark Voss  
 20<sup>th</sup>: Judy & Philip Poiroux  
 27<sup>th</sup>: Adele & Toby Logan

**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 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 deceased relatives/friends of Doris Sema.

**Week of August 10 thru 13**

August 10, 11, 12 & 13 -- For the eternal repose of the souls of Vicenta Obsenares, Inovino Obsenares, Emily Piangco, Ignacio Obsenares, Maurine Hadley & Nip Hadley by Elsa & John McBride.

**Week of August 17 thru 20**

August 17, 18, 19 & 20 – For the eternal repose of the souls of Domingo Liquiran, Manuela Ballesteres, Faustino Pidlaoan & Elena Liquiran Pidlaoan by Edith Tomas

**Week of August 24 thru 27**

August 24, 25, 26 & 27 – For the eternal repose of the souls of Rhonda Mitchell & Joan Mitchell by Michella M. Cook.

**General Contributions**

July 25, 2021  
 General Fund: \$2,583.00  
 Bldg. Fund: \$355.00  
 July Online: \$135.45

**Lectors for the Masses on the Weekend of July 31 & Aug. 1, 2021**

5:00 pm on Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, Steve Sema, Jr.  
 10:00 am on Sunday Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>, Mark Voss

**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.com.

**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, August 10, 2021. We will be filming Mass for the "The Assumption", and the 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of Ordinary Time.

**NURSING HOME OUTREACH:**

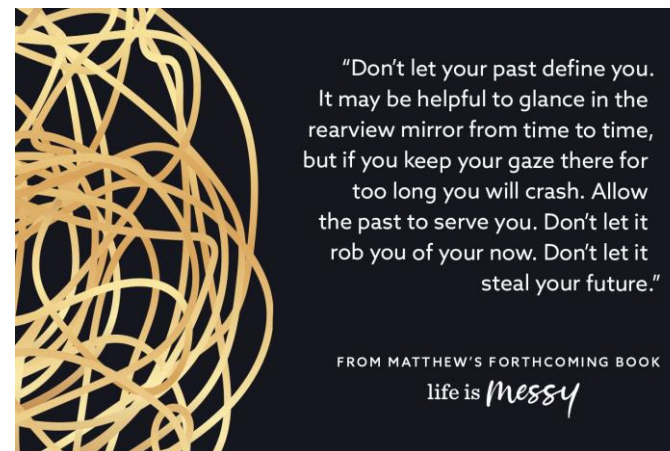
Every First Saturday we pray the rosary before the 5 p.m. Mass starting at 4:30,

**HOUSE BLESSINGS**

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

**BELIEVE!**

God's faithful love is shown all around us, every day. We cry out to God, and yet we often explain away God's answers to our prayers, looking for something more spectacular than merely what we need or even what we have asked for. We have what we need: the Bread of Life.



**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 31, 2021**

- 1) **Catholic Charities** restarted the Utility Bill Program this past Wednesday and it was very successful so they will continue the program until further notice. The help will be offered on the last Wednesday of each month.
- 2) **This is a reminder** that Father Selvam offers the sacrament of Confession every weekend before each Mass. Please take advantage of this opportunity.
- 3) **Father Selvam** request a meeting with the leaders and treasures for all church organizations on August 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. (Lady's Sodality, Knights, and Golden Group).
- 4) **Known Birthdays, 31<sup>st</sup>:** Erica Murray, Tony Consention, **2<sup>nd</sup>:** Hanna Stanley, **Known Anniversaries this week: 31<sup>st</sup>:** Debbie & Perry Lewis, **1<sup>st</sup>:** Maribeth & Clarence Thompson, **5<sup>th</sup>:** Pat & Neal Fisher, **6<sup>th</sup>:** Paula & David Dyess

