

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 55 – what is purgatory and where is it in the Bible?

Answer – The word "purgatory" is not in the Bible, but neither is the word "bible." Catholicism is not based on the premise of *sola scriptura* (only the Bible), but it does find seeds of doctrine in many scriptural passages as well as in Sacred Tradition, which is as valid a vehicle for divine revelation as is Sacred Scripture. What is in the book of 2 Maccabees 12:42-46 (one of the Deuterocanonical books which Protestant Bibles often include but list as Apocrypha; are these key passages: "He then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus, he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin."

What is happening here is that Judas Maccabeus (a Jew) had just led a successful revolt against the Syrian King Antiochus IV Epiphanes from 167-160 BC. Some of his soldiers died, though, and it was discovered that a few of them wore amulets around their necks as good luck charms. These were strictly forbidden under Mosaic Law, as the commandments forbade any graven image, and these medallions had an image of a pagan god. Hence, the soldiers were guilty of idolatry. They died in sin even though they died fighting for the freedom of their people and their religion.

Instead of leaving it at that, 2 Maccabees 12:42-46 tells how Judas Maccabeus made supplication (prayer of petition) for the dead soldiers. He also made sure that sacrifices were made to ask God to pardon their sins. Here is an example of a doctrine that centers on the praying for the dead. The only way that prayers for the dead can be of any good or can be praiseworthy is if they actually do some spiritual good. If a person is in hell, no prayers can help; if in heaven, no prayers are needed. If there is a third alternative, a place before heaven where sinners are purged (cleansed) and enter heaven once made clean, then why not call it purgatory from the word for cleaning, purge (*purgare* in Latin)?

Purgatory is not hell with parole or hell with a time limit. It is not a suburb of hell, close enough to smell the stench, hear the screaming, and feel the heat, but far enough away to leave when it is time to go. If anything, the analogy that works better is that purgatory is a suburb of heaven, close enough to hear the beautiful music and singing, feel the warm sun and cool breeze, and smell the sweet flowers, but far enough away to long and yearn for the day when you can actually be there.

Purgatory is not a spiritual prison or torture chamber. The souls in purgatory want to be there just as a surgeon wants to scrub up before surgery and just as the patient wants the surgeon to scrub up. Sometimes, the dirt is under the fingernails and takes a little effort and elbow grease to dislodge. Sometimes an old stain takes longer to remove than a fresh one. Purgatory is the temporal punishment due to sin.

Sin can merit eternal punishment (hell) or temporal punishment (purgatory). Unforgiven venial sins and already forgiven mortal sins may still have some attachments—the sinner's fond memories of those sins. Purgatory is a state of cleansing where the soul is detached from former sins. The belief that purgatory exists is a dogma. That anyone or everyone has to go to purgatory is not a doctrine of the Church. Some may have their temporal punishment here (often people say of another, "He had his purgatory on Earth"); others may have it in the afterlife. The discomfort of purgatory is being so close but not quite there. The hope and joy of those in purgatory is the certain knowledge that one day they will in fact go to heaven. That is guaranteed.



St. John the Baptist Parish

P.O. Box 417/12450, Highway 188, Grand Bay
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Website: stjohngrandbay.org

August 8, 2021: 19th 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

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



Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Readings: 1 Kings 19:4–8; Psalm 34:2–9; Ephesians 4:30 — 5:2; John 6:41–51

WHOSE SON ARE YOU, ANYWAY?

In rhetorical speech, which includes preaching and teaching, three elements are important: the mythos, or the message; the logos, or the words used; and the ethos, or the qualifications of the speaker. The message may be clear, the words may be elegant and persuasive, but if the speaker is not seen as someone who is qualified to speak on the subject, the speech will not be convincing.

In today's Gospel, the people are questioning Jesus' credentials. "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph?" (John 6:42). "He's a local boy, where did he get this knowledge?" Jesus answers them with his teaching about God as true Father. If you know who your teacher is, you know what your message should be. Jesus' important words about the Eucharist are grounded in his self-knowledge as "the one who is from God" (John 6:46). Those who are from God know God and listen to the word of God. They will recognize Jesus as speaking, doing, and being that Word. The ethos of the hearer is on the line as well.



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

Known Anniversaries for July 2021

1st: Maribeth & Clarence Thompson
 5th: Pat & Neal Fisher
 6th: Paula & David Dyess
 12th: Ann & Joe Gable
 13th: Carol & Mark Voss
 20th: Judy & Philip Poiroux
 27th: 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 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.

Week of Aug. 31 thru Sept. 3

Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2, & 3 – For the eternal repose of the souls of relatives/friends of Caroline & Tim Moser.

Week of Sept. 6 thru 9

Sept 6, 7, 8, & 9 – For the eternal repose of the souls of the Alford, Bohl and Church families, Will Irvin and Dorothy Beards Lot by Nine and Chester Bohl

Week of Sept. 14 thru 19

Sept. 14, 15, 16 & 17 – For the eternal repose of the souls of deceased relatives/friends of Lynda and Louis Jones.

Week of Sept. 21 thru 24

Sept 21, 22, 23 & 24 – For the eternal repose of the souls of relatives/ friends of Maribeth and Clarence Thompson.

Lectors for the Masses on the Weekend of Aug. 7 & 8, 2021

5:00 pm on Saturday, Aug. 7th, Kathie Sema
 10:00 am on Sunday Aug. 8th, John McBride

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 21st, 22nd and 23rd 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.

General Contributions

Aug. 1st, 2021
 General Fund: \$4,799.00
 Latin American Church: \$104.00
 July Online: \$135.45



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 August 7, 2021

- 1) **Deacon Graham** will not be at the 5 pm Mass next Saturday, August 14, as he will attend Mass at the Cathedral to renew his vows.
- 2) **The Golden Group "Dog days of Summer" luncheon** meeting will be Wednesday, August 11th at 11:30 in the Church Hall. We look forward to seeing everyone and sharing a delicious lunch, our entrée will be Hot Dogs with all the fixings and an Ice Cream social. Please bring your favorite dish and join us for the food, fun and fellowship.
- 3) **Known Birthdays, 7th:** Ethan Elliott, **9th:** Parker Bowden, **12th:** James Baggett, **13th:** Isabel Rel, **Known Anniversaries this week: 12th:** Ann and Joe Gable, **13th:** Carol and Mark Voss.

TAUGHT BY GOD

The people who know God as "Father," that is, intimately and in deep and loving relationship, will recognize Jesus as the One who reveals God to us, even if the message is challenging. For any speech to be understood and accepted, there has to be an audience, and that audience has to hear, understand, and be able to accept what is being said. Jesus makes the point that if we know God, as he does, we will see and understand that, just as God fed the people in the desert, God feeds us and sustains us with the Bread of Life, the Eucharist, which is Christ the Lord. He is not only the speaker, but the word and the message as well. This Bread is the gift of a loving and faithful God who gave us life and sustains it.

Statement of Account April thru June 2021

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income:	
Mission Offerings:	\$ 0.00
Tithes/Offerings:	<u>44,882.00</u>
Total Income:	\$44,882.00
Expense:	
Archdiocesan Exp:	\$6,018.30
Education Ministry:	762.84
Parish Administration:	4,058.09
Personnel Expenses:	15,850.64
Priest Residence:	<u>3,913.04</u>
Total Expense:	<u>\$40,104.18</u>
Net Income:	\$ 4,778.62