

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 59 – What is grace, and why do we need it?**

**Answer** – Grace is a gift from God that does not belong to our nature as human beings and, therefore, is called supernatural, or above our nature. It belongs to the realm of God. Quite simply, grace is God's very life within you. The origin of grace is God – most specifically, the merits of Jesus Christ on the wood of the cross – and grace is absolutely necessary to attain life. Grace helps us to achieve this ultimate goal in our lives. Grace is available to everyone because of the universal salvific will of God: the doctrine that God offers every human being the chance or possibility of being saved. Whether or not any individual goes to heaven or hell depends totally on his personal decisions and actions in life. God offers everyone "sufficient grace" to be saved, but it only becomes "efficacious grace" for those who freely accept and cooperate with that grace. No one is predestined to hell or damnation. God would like everybody to go to heaven, but because we have free will, He respects our decisions even to reject Him, His grace, and heaven, if in our sinfulness we choose to do so.

We depend upon God for everything. Our very next breath is a gift from God. It goes without saying that even the higher faculties, such as knowledge, depend upon God. As children in catechism class, we learned early on that we were created to know, love, and serve God, and to prepare ourselves in this life to be with Him for all eternity. This ability requires the supernatural gift of grace in order for us to grasp eternal truths about God and His plan for our salvation. Because of original sin and our fallen and wounded human nature, we are not as loving as we were created to be, hence, the ability to love God beyond all things is the supernatural gift of grace. Original sin wounded our human nature in that it darkened the intellect, weakened the will, and disordered our passions and emotions. This makes us vulnerable to sin and temptation. Divine Grace compensates for the Fall of Adam and Eve, and it is grace which actually heals our wounded human nature by enlightening our intellect, strengthening our will, and keeping our human emotions and passions under control. In fact, even the ability to do good and works of charity depends upon the gift of divine grace. Finally, the abilities to pick ourselves up from sin, to be forgiven, to follow the commandments and even to avoid sin depend upon grace.

St. Thomas Aquinas, a thirteenth-century Catholic theologian, said that grace builds upon nature and perfects it. To be sustained in the presence of God, to avoid sin, and to persevere requires grace, but because of our free will we can always lose grace. Through grace, we become the adopted children of God, members of His mystical body, the Church, and heirs to the heavenly throne. Grace elevated our nature. It brings us to share intimately in the life of God. Chiefly through the sacrament of baptism we become the temples of the Most Holy Trinity, and our humanity is raised.

Grace is absolutely important at the end of our life. It prepares the soul for God. In order for us to be saved, we must have the grace of final perseverance. Jesus tells us in the Gospels, "Those who persevere to the end shall have eternal life." In Catholic Devotions, St. Joseph is the patron saint of a blessed death because he intercedes with God for us to persevere in the final transition from this life.

**Just a thought about doubts (source unknown)**

We all have doubts. If we didn't have doubts, it would be certain. And if it's certain, it's not faith. And so, faith and doubts go together. And often great faith and great doubts go together. It's not whether or not you have doubts. It's how you deal with your doubts that matters.



# 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 28, 2021: 22<sup>nd</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 5:30 P.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

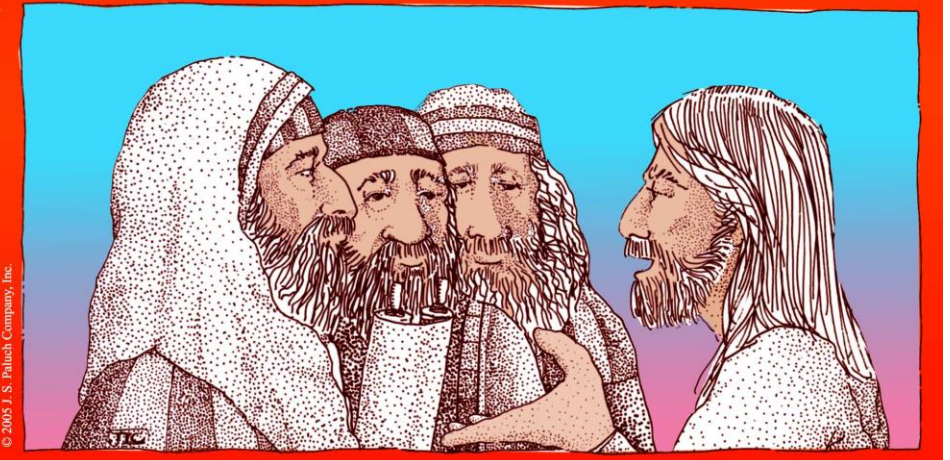
**ROSARY, ADORATION & Healing Mass:** Every Wednesday at 8 am.

**Funerals**

Call the office before making plans with the funeral director.

**Email:** [stjohngrandbay@gmail.com](mailto:stjohngrandbay@gmail.com)

# DO NOT FORGET GOD'S COMMANDMENTS



**Twenty second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Today's Readings: Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–8; Psalm 15:2–5; James 1:17–18, 21b–22, 27; Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23**

**LIP SERVICE**

Of all the human frailties and foibles, faults, and sins, the one that seems to elicit the worst howls is hypocrisy. When we profess to believe and practice one thing, and then are caught behaving in the opposite way, our shame is (or ought to be) profound. Religious hypocrisy is probably the worst. When we hold our actions and beliefs to a higher standard and then fail to live up to them, it's human and sinful and flawed. But when we proclaim that we are holding up that higher standard at the same time that we are knowingly violating it, there is a fundamental dishonesty, a breach of truth that is especially repugnant. It adds sin to sin and dishonors the very idea of virtue. It becomes a scandal.



Richard Voss, 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 September 2021**

3 <sup>rd</sup> : Joseph Schilling	14 <sup>th</sup> : Coby Ray
4 <sup>th</sup> : Bankston McPhillips	18 <sup>th</sup> : Carol Roberts
6 <sup>th</sup> : Kayla Graham	18 <sup>th</sup> : Zachery Davis-Todd
6 <sup>th</sup> : Quenten Smith	19 <sup>th</sup> : Tianna McBride
8 <sup>th</sup> : James Medders	19 <sup>th</sup> : Rhonda Cauley
9 <sup>th</sup> : Autumn Bowden	20 <sup>th</sup> : Daniel Bridges
10 <sup>th</sup> : Theresa DeAngelo	20 <sup>th</sup> : Donald Riley
11 <sup>th</sup> : Linda Graham	23 <sup>rd</sup> : Hayden Swinney
13 <sup>th</sup> : Elsa McBride	27 <sup>th</sup> : Susie Smeriglio
13 <sup>th</sup> : Mollee Stringfellow	28 <sup>th</sup> : Hayden Jackson
14 <sup>th</sup> : Adam Jackson	29 <sup>th</sup> : David Stanley

**Known Anniversaries for September 2021**

6<sup>th</sup>: Willie & Becky Thompson  
 8<sup>th</sup>: Stan & Barbara  
 25<sup>th</sup>: Jay & Andrea Graham  
 26<sup>th</sup>: Fred & Tracy Drago  
 26<sup>th</sup>: David & Sue Spencer

**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 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.

**Week of Sept. 28 thru Oct. 1**

Sept. 28, 29, 30 and Oct. 1 – For the eternal repose of the souls of Crispolo Mardo, Peta Mardo, Artemo Mardo & Efrin Mardo by Lanie Mardo, Belen and Ariel.

**Week of Oct. 5 thru 8**

Oct. 5, 6, 7 & 8 – For the eternal repose of the souls of deceased relatives/friends of Riza & Bobot Jamero

**Week of Oct. of 12 thru 15**

Oct. 12, 13, 14 & 15 – for the eternal repose of the souls of J.P. Paris, Loyce Roberts, Earl Roberts, Carla W. Kelly, Fred Paris, Roberts Family, & Willingham family by Carol & Terry Roberts.

**Lectors for the Masses on the Weekend of Sept. 4 & 5, 2021**

5:00 pm on Saturday, Sept 4<sup>th</sup>: Steve Sema, Jr.  
 10:00 am on Sunday Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>: Autumn Bowden

**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, September 7, 2021. We will be filming Mass for the "The 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</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.

**General Contributions**

Aug. 15, 2021  
 General Fund: \$630.00  
 August 22,2021  
 General Fund: \$ 3,033.00



**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 28, 2021**

- We come together** on Wednesday, September 1st for Adoration, Rosary and Healing Mass at 8:00 am, to receive the Blessing for healing of the body, mind, and spirit. The Golden Group will have Biscuits, Coffee, and juice available after the Mass, please join us on Wednesday morning.
- Registration sheets for CRE** are in the church hall. Please register your children.
- Get your house blessed:** Call Father Selvam to come to your house and bless it. He is available anytime, mornings afternoon and evenings. 251-278-4900
- Remember that** next Saturday is 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday and we will have the rosary before the 5 p.m. Mass.
- Known Birthdays, this week: 28<sup>th</sup>:** Matt Johnson, Pat Potter, **30<sup>th</sup>:** Philip Poiroux, **September 3<sup>rd</sup>,** Joe Schilling
- NO Known Anniversaries:**

**SINCERITY AND TRUTH**

Jesus was constantly trying to get people to see and understand that mere observance of the law was not what pleased God. What is in the heart is what is most important. This does not mean that good intentions justify bad actions! We humans are complicated and wily. We are quite capable of creating huge and complex human structures that are just difficult enough to convince us that we are following some right "way" and that others are not. God's laws are simple: love God, love your neighbor as yourself. There is no need to complicate love.

Jesus points out that real uncleanness comes from within a person. Evil intentions and every kind of bad behavior have their roots in our inner sinfulness, our selfishness. That is what Jesus came to save us from. Of course, we cannot, by our own devices, be better people. We are utterly dependent on God for the necessary change of heart that will result in good and loving actions. God freely offers us this help, if only we would stop hiding behind the screen of self-righteousness. If we are humble enough to recognize our own selfishness and loving enough truly to care for the well-being of others, we will be able to fulfill both the letter and the spirit of the law.