

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: 61: Can I get grace only from the sacrament?

The seven sacraments are the primary vehicle through which God conveys grace. However, being almighty and powerful, He is not limited to the sacraments. For example, those without the of faith receive grace in different ways. This is part of the universal salvific will of Christ-when Christ died for humanity it was not limited to specific time. Rather, He died for all: past, present, and future. God, who exists outside of time, knows all. Therefore, when our Blessed Savior hung upon the cross and shed His precious blood for humanity, He consciously did so for all those in the future as well.

There is a theological concepts known as the "anonymous Christian". This means that if a person through no fault of his own did not consciously and deliberately reject Jesus Christ and His one true Church, and if that same person follows his faith to the best of his ability according to held beliefs, then by the merits of Christ on the cross, he can still be saved. He is only accountable for that which he knows. The old axiom, "The more you know the more you held accountable, "is different from American law in which you are accountable for every law known or unknown to you. God is more merciful. However, once you receive the light of faith in Christianity and do not do anything about it, then all things change. Conversion is absolutely necessary once you receive the grace of enlightenment.

Missionaries are important because the Church is not satisfied with "anonymous Christians" The Church wants everyone to have a conscious relationship with the Lord who saves and continues to bless them through the sacraments. While it is true God comes to us in many ways, inspirations, and kindnesses from people, He primarily comes to us in the sacraments. Jesus Christ and His Church (the Mystical body of Christ) is the primordial sacrament. In other words, He is the way in which grace is conferred. Second, the Church is the sacrament of Jesus Christ, or the continual living vehicle for the transfer of grace. The seven sacraments are the final way that Christ bestows grace upon the Church. While a person can spiritually survive with a minimum of grace, it is like living on life support. Living a full, robust, and healthy spiritual life means accepting and cooperating with as much divine grace as God offers, day in and day out.

Sacramentals bestow actual grace (as opposed to sacraments which confer sanctifying grace), but their effect chiefly depends upon disposition of the recipient (ex opere operantis in Latin). This means a very good or holy person receives more spiritual benefit than someone who is merely just okay. Sacramentals can be objects, such as rosaries, medals, holy water, and scapulars, and they can be actions, like blessings and exorcism. The blessing of a priest, at the end of Mass or over a person, is a prime example of a sacramental. Sacramentals differ from sacraments since they were not instituted by Christ, and they do not confer sanctifying grace.

I hope everyone has a blessed week!!



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

September 12, 2021: 24th 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 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



Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Readings: Isaiah 50:5-9a; Psalm 116:1-6, 8-9; James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35

MESSIAH

Jesus looks to his near and dear friends for a reading of the times. He learns that people who have seen and heard him are abuzz with news that he may be one of the great prophets finally returning to their once proud nation. This is the best people can hope for. It is no surprise that a subjected and humiliated people with a long memory of good times would look for a savior-king. They are vulnerable enough to snatch and make their leader anyone with boldness, arrogance, and power. This is a dangerous temptation, and Jesus knows it.

So, who is he, then? Is he one of those great men of the past sent by God for deliverance? He is more. He is, by his own public admission, the Messiah, God's anointed one. That is the truth of his being. It is a quiet truth to be held by them until it reveals itself in God's own time.



Lynette Anderson, Ruth Vosahlo, 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, 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, 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 September 2021

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

Known Anniversaries for September 2021

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

Capital Campaign as of 7-31-2021:

Gifts received overview for St. John the Baptist Parish as of July 31, 2021:
 Quarter (5/1/2021- 7/31/2021): \$ 8,717.20
 Total thru July 31, 2021: \$ 144,242.62
 % Of Parish Goal Received: 74.0%
 St. John's Quarterly share of \$1,743.44 will be deposited was

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 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.

Week of Oct. 19, thru 22

Oct. 26, 27, 28 & 29 – For eternal repose of the souls of Vicenta Obsenares, Inovino Obsenares, Emily Piangco, Ignacio Obsenares, Maurine Hadley & Nip Hadley by Elsa & John Mc Bride

Lectors for the Masses on the Weekend of September 18th, 2021

5:00 pm on Saturday, Sept 18th: Ann Jackson
 10:00 am on Sunday Sept. 19th: 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, October 5, 2021. We will be filming Mass for the "The 28th, 29th, 30th, & 31st Sundays of Ordinary Time.

1st Saturday Rosary:

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

Sept. 5th, 2021
 General Fund: \$ 2,525.00
 Candles: \$31.00



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 September

- 1) **Conformation Class** will start up again and we will meet on Sunday, September 12th at 6:30 pm in the Education Building.
- 2) **The Golden Group is having a Fall Bake sale** next weekend Sept. 18th/19th, we will have cakes, pies and other delicious bake goods on hand. Please come to our fall bake sale and purchase our bake sale items, all of our funds raised are used in support of our St. John family.
- 3) **The Lady's Sodality**, Will be collecting baby items and diapers for the annual Pro-Life **Sunday Baby Shower. October 3**, all proceeds go to the "Women's Resource center" in Mobile. Thank you for your help.
- 4) **Registration sheets for CRE** are in the church hall. Please register your children.
- 5) **Electronic Contribution Through OSV**- We are asking everyone who contributes electronically through OSV, to please cancel that process.
- 6) **Get your house blessed:** Call Father Selvan to come to your house and bless. 251-278-4900
- 7) **Weekday Mass schedule:** Wed and Fri. Mass at 8am. /Tues. and Thru mass at 5.30pm
- 8) **Known Birthdays, this week:** 11th Linda Graham, 13th Elsa McBride, Mollee Stringfellow, 14th Adam Jackson, Coby Ray
- 9) **Known Anniversaries: No!!**

SERVANT AGAIN

Because we have the whole gospel two millennia later, we know that the Messiah, the Christ, can claim this title. And we know that a price is exacted. We know the price is his death leading to life. He is the suffering servant of whom Isaiah spoke. He is the one who has heard and obeyed God's word and who looks to the Lord God for help.

And we who confess him as Messiah and Lord must imitate him in clear, down-to-earth ways, as James says, "What good is it . . . if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?" (2:14). We must walk the talk. If we are to walk in the presence of the Lord, we must reach out to help our neighbor. If we are to dwell in the land of the living, we must assist others to attain the same goal.