

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: 62. Why bother with all the symbolism and ritual?**

Human beings are created with a physical, mortal body and a spiritual, immortal soul. Actual grace comes to us in many ways, one being sacramentals. One of the forms of sacramental is ceremony or ritual. The way the sacramentals are celebrated, their cultural and ritual practices, are of great importance. Time, energy, and care should be executed when sacraments are being administered, since they are encounters with divinity. Sacred ceremonies and rituals, like the holy sacrifice of the Mass, exposition, and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, etc. help believers transcend this earthly existence and contemplate heaven. Devotion and novenas to saints and their corresponding rituals are also important to the Christian on the pilgrimage of faith to heaven.

Rituals and their symbolisms are also important since human beings are tangible people. We are a body and soul composite. The soul needs the body to bring information to the intellect via the five senses. Your mind would not know what hot or cold meant unless you first experienced these sensations in your body. We worship the Almighty God not only with our minds, but also with our bodies. In fact, our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the rituals in the ceremonies convey our deepest sentiments to God through words, actions, and gestures. During religious ceremonies, Catholics make the sign of the cross and bless themselves with holy water; they genuflect before the real presence of Jesus in the Tabernacle; they are inspired by a holy image; they light candles to communicate their prayers. Symbols and rituals are important in Catholic worship, devotion, and spiritual life.

We praise God through the five senses. Sight – a beautiful church with stained glass windows, frescoes, paintings, and statues – tells a story of faith to the person. Touch – the sign of peace, kneeling, genuflecting, the striking of the breast at the Confiteor, and sprinkling of holy water – conveys the sacred actions of prayer. Smell – incense and candles burning – transports the person to another world: the sphere of the divine. Incense has long been associated with our prayers rising to God; the fragrant smell is a pleasing symbol of our offering to God. Through taste, in the reception of the Holy Communion, we have the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that Christ has prepared for us. Finally, there is sound, not only from the preaching of the Word and recitation of prayers, but also in the singing of liturgical music. Good Saint Augustine, a fourth-century bishop and theologian once said, "Singing is praying twice."

Jesus Christ is the Word that existed for all eternity and then took on flesh. His sacred humanity elevated ours. Hence, when we worship God through the senses of our human bodies, we give credence to the Incarnation.



# 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)

## September 19, 2021: 25<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 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)

*Whoever wishes to be first must be the servant to all*



## Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### FIRST IS BEST?

"I'm first!" "No, I'm first!" "Mom, tell Ronnie that I get to be first this time!" From the earliest moments of our lives, there is something ingrained in us that is convinced that first is best. If not chosen first for the sports team, we are immediately deflated. We are coached to be "in first." We spend hours of waiting time in order to be first in line. We are caught in a culture that makes being first the highest priority. Against this backdrop, we come to church and hear a Gospel such as the one proclaimed today from Mark: "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all" (Mark 9:35). This is a passage all about power.

Today's Readings: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20; Psalm 54:3-8; James 3:16 — 4:3; Mark 9:30-37



Lynette Anderson, Ruth Vosahlo, Richard Voss, Lamar Stewart, Bill Schaffer, Betty Moseley, Emma Phillips, Lisa Vallas, Scott Beech, 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 Kloechnere, 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 Heine  
 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 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. 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.19, 20, 21, & 22 – For eternal repose of the souls of Vicenta Obsenares, Inovino Obsenares, Emily Piangco, Ignacio Obsenares, Maurine Hadley & Nip Hadley by Elsa & John Mc Bride

**Week of Oct. 26, thru 29.**

Oct. 26, 27, 28, & 29. – For eternal repose of the souls of relatives/ friends of Caroline & Tim Moser

**Lectors for the Masses on the Weekend of September 25 & 26, 2021**

5:00 pm on Saturday, Sept 25<sup>th</sup>: Jay Graham  
 10:00 am on Sunday Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>: 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.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 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, & 31<sup>st</sup> Sundays of Ordinary Time.

**1<sup>st</sup> 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 (251-278-4900) to schedule the blessing of your home.

**General Contributions**

Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
 General Fund: \$ 3,160.00



**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 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

- 1) **Parish and Finance Councils will meet this Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:30 pm in the church hall.**
- 2) **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.**
- 3) **Electronic Contribution Through OSV- We are asking everyone who contributes electronically through OSV, to please cancel that process.**
- 4) **Get your house blessed: Call Father Selvan to come to your house and bless. 251-278-4900**
- 5) **Weekday Mass schedule: Wed and Fri. Mass at 8am. /Tues. and Thru mass at 5.30pm**
- 6) **Known Birthdays, this week: 18<sup>th</sup> Zachery Davis-Todd and Carol Roberts, 19<sup>th</sup> Tianna McBride and Rhonda Cauley, 20<sup>th</sup> Daniel Bridges and Donald Riley, 23<sup>rd</sup> Hayden Swinney**
- 7) **Known Anniversaries: No!!**

**BEING POWERFUL**

Putting others first is one of the greatest challenges in a world that places so much emphasis on being powerful. Americans, for the most part, pride themselves on being a "super-power." Power, in and of itself, is not the problem. What can become problematic is the way that power is used. Our example of the perfect use of power, of course, is the Lord Jesus himself. Fully human and fully divine, the Lord put all the power that had been given to him at the service of others. Unfortunately, when one hears comments such as "he is a very powerful man" or "it is a very powerful country," one usually thinks of people or countries that use power to place themselves above apparently weaker people or places. The Gospel is a challenge to turn this notion on its head. We have each been given much power—the power flowing from Christ—in our baptism. Today we are called to use this power to place the needs of others before our own.