

## LENT I SUNDAY

# Sunday bulletin- March 4, 2017

### Office bearers of St. John the Baptist Church

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church	Phone: 251-865-6902
P. O. Box 417, Grand Bay, AL 3641	Fax: 251-865-1412
Email: <a href="mailto:StJohnGrandBay@gmail.com">StJohnGrandBay@gmail.com</a>	Parish website: <a href="http://www.StJohnGrandBay.org">www.StJohnGrandBay.org</a>
<b>Pastor:</b>	
<a href="mailto:akadavil@gmail.com">Fr. Anthony Kadavil (akadavil@gmail.com)</a>	
<b>Secretary:</b>	
<a href="#">Rev. Deacon Billy Graham</a>	
<b>Parish Council Chair Person:</b>	
<a href="#">Mr. Bill Schaffer</a>	
<b>Finance Council President:</b>	
<a href="#">Mrs. Paula Dyess</a>	
<b>Sunday School Coordinator:</b> <a href="#">Mrs. Tiffany Teofilo</a>	
<b>Youth Director:</b> <a href="#">Mrs. Karen Day</a>	



**Special thanks from Louis Poiroux family:** The members of Mr. Louis Poiroux's family thank all our parishioners who visited Louis in the hospital, and who participated in the wake service and funeral Mass for Louis and who sent their condolence messages and assurance of prayers and those who helped the Ladies Sodality to provide delicious food for the family members and friends, after the funeral services.

**Special invitation from Fr. Tony for Jubilee Mass & Reception next Sunday:** All our parishioners are cordially invited to join me, in expressing my great gratitude to God by offering a concelebrated Golden Jubilee Holy Mass, for the most precious gift of my Priestly vocation and the greater gift of providing for me and supporting me in my priestly ministry in two countries all these fifty years: 35 years in India and 15 years in the U. S. The Jubilee Mass will be concelebrated at 10 am on March 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 2017, in our church with archbishop Most Rev. Thomas Rodi, archbishop emeritus Most Rev. Oscar Lipscomb, Msgr. Wall, Msgr. Cunningham, Fr. Bevin and a few of my priest friends who are free on the 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Reception following the Jubilee Mass will be held and meals will be served at the Senior Community Center, 11610, Highway 90, Grand Bay, Alabama from 11 am to 4 pm. Fr. Tony.

**Special Parish Council meeting:** The Parish Council will meet on Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. This meeting is to finalize all aspects of the Golden Jubilee Celebration which will be next Sunday. It is important that all organizations involved with the celebration have a representative at the meeting.

**Second Collection** this week is for the "Building Fund."

**Invitation for our Lenten programs: Way of the Cross & Confession:**

Every Friday of the Lent we have the "Way of the Cross" devotion at 5-30 pm . Since St. John's participate in the *Light of Christ* program, Fr. Tony will be available for administering the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) every Friday from 5 pm to 6-30 pm.

**Fish Fry by Knight of Columbus:** The Knight of Columbus is serving fish fry dinner every Friday of the Lent from 5- 7 pm. Please participate in it.

**Prayer for speedy healing requested:** Your fervent prayers are requested for the healing of, Micky Porier, Joe Penton, Tiffany Fonteot, Terry Roberts, Gennie Garrett, Bill Dixon, Tom Thornton, Ron Cauley, Mark Voss, Willie Thompson, Virginia Gable, Joe Gable, and Richard Boswell.

**Don't give up chocolate for Lent:** Join Dynamic Catholic for your "Best Lent" ever. A free email program designed to help you have a life-changing Lent. Sign up at [BestLentEver.com](http://BestLentEver.com) and experience something life changing.



**March 4- 10th**

4<sup>th</sup>: ----- For the eternal repose of the souls of deceased members of the parish

5<sup>th</sup>: ----- For the intentions of all members of the parish

6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>: ----- For the eternal repose of the souls of Emily Voss & Robert Vick by Carol & Mark Voss

9<sup>th</sup>: ----- For the eternal repose of the souls of deceased relatives/friends of Caroline Moser

10<sup>th</sup>: ----- For the eternal repose of the souls of deceased relatives/friends of Peggy & Dave Delmas



**Birthdays this week:** March 5<sup>th</sup>: Tammy Fonteot, 6<sup>th</sup>: John Murray, 7<sup>th</sup>: Ron Cauley, 8<sup>th</sup>: Becky Thompson: **Known Wedding Anniversaries this week:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Tiffany & Greg Teofilo

## **Volunteers**

**ALTAR CARE- MARCH**

**Lynda & Louis Jones**

**CHURCH CLEANING - MARCH 11**

**Heather Grubbs & Kim Campbell**

## Videos of the week:

### **Bishop Barron's Sunday homily for Lent I Sunday**

<https://www.wordonfire.org/resources/homily/three-shortcuts-from-the-cross/5400/>

### **Fr. William Grimm's homily:** <https://youtu.be/CjaVHiMcqjU>

**Inspirational: Never say "I Cant"** <https://youtu.be/QA8zBhT8AFU>

**Melodious duet by children:** <https://youtu.be/HeUJ4Y-XOeY>



Please take your responsibility seriously. If you are interested in serving as an Altar Server, Eucharistic Minister, and Lector or as an Usher, please let Fr. Tony or the Office know of your willingness to serve. We especially need Usher/Greeters for the Saturday Mass.

<b><u>Extraordinary Minister Schedule for March 4 &amp; 5, 2017</u></b>				
<b><u>Mass</u></b>	<b><u>Altar Servers</u></b> <b><u>(Green Cincture)</u></b>	<b><u>EMCH</u></b>	<b><u>Lectors</u></b>	<b><u>Ushers</u></b>
Saturday	James Graham	Kathy Sema	Andrea	Steve Cauley, Kevin Cauley

Mar. 4, 2017  5:00 pm	Loren Price	Steve Sema, Jr.	Graham  Jay Graham	Chuck Pierce, Al Hurd
Sunday Mar. 5, 2017  10:00 am	Rebecca Oliver  Hayden Teofilo  Jay Ramsay	Jason Poiroux  Maria Switzer	Aaron Poiroux  Michelle Cook	Mike Marchand, Avis Garrett  Mike Courtney, Reggie Stewart



**Remember the sick brothers and sisters in**

**your prayers:** Mickey Poirier, Ethel Graham, Phillip Scott, James Albritton, Ray Thornton, Alice Skutack, Joe Whitson, Joe Penton, Terry Roberts, Cory Moncrief, Carolyn Collier, Bruce Dyess, Joe Gable, Sarah Thornton, Vicenta Obsenares, Rachel Vallas, Rick Joseph, Ernest Johnson, Virginia Gable, Harrand Broussard, Robert Broussard, Edgar Gunter, Isabel Rel, Victoria Porter, James Cauley, Betty Cauley, Jonathan Cruz, Richard Boswell, Gennie Garret, Becky Thompson, Bob Echement, Pat Bourne, Lilly Breaux, John Stein, James Wink, , Mike Wilson, Johnnie Tate, Carol Tate, Roger Young, Leyah White, Joe Smith

**Pray for the deceased dear ones of the parish:** **Pray for the eternal**

**repose of the deceased members of the parish:** Louise Marchand, Carolyn Biddlingmaer, Kenny Kirchoff, Voncille Hulcher, Mary Nicholas Rambo, Paul Delmas, Cody Driskell, Evelyn Robison, Jean Mitchell, Veretta Tulos, Jim Kimble, Lynn Poirier, Phillip Marchand, Sue Kirchoff, Mary Sanders, Margaret Jackson, Catherine

Schnadelbach, Darlene Alexander, Patrick Marchand, Steve Sema, Sr., Mary Marchand and Sis Marchand. **Close relatives of our parishioners**: Judy Courtney, Regina La Force, Ronnie Moran. Russell Gray, Gerald John Brannan, Emilee Voss, **Former pastors**: Rev. Monsignor Hugh Maguire and Fr. Strejeski. **Other priests and deacons and Sisters**: Rev. Msg. Joseph Jennings, Rev. Andrew J. Stauter, Rev. Walter Menig, Rev. William Gorman, Deacon John Cretaro, Deacon Holscomb Pryor, Deacon Marvin Johns, Sr. Maria Bernarda Kadavil and other deceased relatives and friends. **Pray for our former parishioners serving in the Armed Forces**: Travis Wilson, SPC Jackson Triston, Jr., Captain Will Hurd, Bryant Bailey & Zachery Bailey, Khaila Graham, and Athena Ladnier who undergoing training in the U. S. Navy.

**Pro-life Mass at St. Mary's Home**: Please join us for Mass at St. Mary's Home, 4350 Moffett Road, Mobile, AL 36618, at 10 am every Friday, beginning Friday, September 25th, to pray for our pro-life activities, to pray for our children at St. Mary's Home, and to pray in thanksgiving for St. Mary's Home in our Mobile Archdiocese. After Mass, approximately at 11am, at the abortion mill, Planned Parenthood, 717 Downtowner Loop West, the Holy Rosary will be prayed together for an end to abortion and for the increased awareness of the dignity of every human life. For more info: Mae and Chris Rehm, 251-554-2032. The Holy Rosary is also prayed together at Planned Parenthood on Saturdays at 9am for an end to abortion and for the increased awareness of the dignity of every human life. Please join us.

**To schedule a meeting or event using parish facilities** you must check the calendar or contact the office to be sure the date and room is



available. You must have approval from the office for any scheduled events.

**Items for Soldiers' needs:** Please don't forget to bring items for soldiers' needs: Shaving cream, disposable razors, solid deodorant, bars of soap/body wash, anti-bacteria cleaner, shampoo, tooth paste, dental floss, personal handy-wipes, personal hygiene items for women, foot powder, insect repellent, flea collars (they put them around their ankles), chopstick, athlete's foot powder/spray, sun block lotion, sun shades, protective safety dust masks, socks, sweat headbands, batteries (AAA, AA, C), DVD movies, cards, writing tablets, paper, pens, envelopes, reading materials, snacks: cookies, gum, crest, life-savers, mints, pudding, crackers, sardines, chicken, tuna, salmon, jerky, peppermints, kool-aid, gatorade, tea/coffee. Put items in the designated box in the Parish Hall



**Help us to keep flowers at the altar:** The slotted wooden box on the glass table in the Parish Hall will receive donations for flowers. If you wish to give flowers for a specific remembrance or thanksgiving, there is a sign-up flower chart on the wall to the left of the front doors.



## **Bishop Barron's Sunday homily for Lent I Sunday**

<https://www.wordonfire.org/resources/homily/three-shortcuts-from-the-cross/5400/>

**Fr. William Grimm's homily:** <https://youtu.be/CjaVHiMcqjU>



## **Synopsis: LENT I [A] Sunday (March 4) Homily on Mt 6: 24-34**

**Introduction:** Lent is primarily the time of intense spiritual preparation for conquering our temptations using the means Jesus used during his forty days of preparation in the desert for his public life. It is also the time for renewing our lives for the celebration of Easter with our Risen Lord who conquered sin and death by his suffering, death and Resurrection. Today's readings teach us that we are always tempted by the devil, by the world and by our own selfish interests. So we need to cooperate actively with God's grace to conquer our temptations.

**Scripture lessons:** The first reading, taken from the book of Genesis describes the "Original Temptation" - "*You will be like gods, knowing what is good and what is evil.*" Adam and Eve were given the possibility

of making a choice to live for God, dependent upon and obedient to His will, or to say no to God. The temptation to evil led Adam and Eve to an act of faithlessness and sin. In contrast, today's Gospel from St. Matthew shows us how Jesus Christ conquered temptation by relying on Faith in God's Word and authority. In the second reading, St. Paul describes how the disobedience of Adam, who fell to Satan's Original Temptation, brought him and us death and a broken relationship with God. Paul explains that Christ regained for us the right relationship with God by his perfect obedience to God his Father. Today's Gospel teaches us how the "desert experience" of fasting, praying, and soul-strengthening enabled Jesus to confront his temptations successfully and then to preach the Good News of salvation. The tempter urges Jesus to turn stones into loaves of bread. But Jesus rejects that temptation to reduce his Divine mission to satisfying his own immediate, temporal needs. The tempter then suggests that Jesus prove that he is really the Son of God by jumping off the parapet of the temple. Jesus rejects the temptation to put God to a test. Finally, Jesus rejects the temptation to idolatry, even if that worship would enrich and empower him with all kingdoms of the world.

**Life messages:** 1) We are to confront and conquer temptations as Jesus did, using the means he employed. Every one of us is tempted to seek sinful pleasures, easy wealth and a position of authority, power and glory, and to use any means, even unjust or sinful ones, to gain these things. Jesus serves as a model for us in conquering temptations by strengthening himself through prayer, penance and the effective use of the Word of God. Hence, during this Lent, let us confront our evil tendencies with prayer (especially by participating in the holy Mass), with penance and with meditative reading of the Bible. 2) We are to grow in holiness by prayer, reconciliation and sharing during Lent: a) by finding time to be with God every day of Lent, speaking to Him in

fervent prayer and listening to Him through the meditative reading of the Bible; b) by being reconciled with God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and reconciled with others by asking their forgiveness for our offenses against them; c) by sharing our love with others through selfless and humble service, almsgiving and helping those in need.

### **SYNOPSIS: ASH WEDNESDAY (March 1) HOMILY ON Mt 6:1-6, 16-18**

**Introduction:** Ash Wednesday (*dies cinerum*), is the Church's *Yom Kippur* or the "Day of Atonement." Its very name comes from the Jewish practice of doing penance wearing "*sackcloth and ashes*." The Old Testament tells us how the people of Nineveh, King Ben Hadad of Syria, and Queen Esther fasted wearing sackcloth and ashes. In the early Church, Christians who had committed serious sins were instructed to do public penance wearing sackcloth and ashes. The Church instructs us to observe Ash Wednesday and Good Friday as days of full fast and abstinence. Fasting is prescribed to reinforce our penitential prayer during the Lenten season. The prophet Joel, in the first reading, insists that we should experience a complete conversion of heart and not simply regret for our sins. Saint Paul, in the second reading, advises us "to become reconciled to God." Today's Gospel instructs us to assimilate the true spirit of fasting and prayer.

**The blessing of the ashes and the significance of the day:** The priest, dipping his thumb into ashes (collected from burnt palms of the previous year's Palm Sunday), marks the forehead of each with the sign of the cross, saying the words, "*Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return*" or "*Repent and believe in the Gospel*." By marking the sign of the cross with ashes on the foreheads of her children, the

Church gives us: 1- a firm conviction that a) we are mortal beings, b) our bodies will become dust when buried and ashes if cremated, and c) our life-span is very brief and unpredictable; 2- a strong warning that we will be eternally punished if we do not repent of our sins, become reconciled with God, asking His pardon and forgiveness, and do penance; and 3- a loving invitation to realize and acknowledge our sinful condition and return to our loving and forgiving God with true repentance and a renewal of our life as the prodigal son did.

**Ash Wednesday messages:** # 1: We need to purify and renew our lives during the period of Lent by repentance, which means expressing sorrow for sins by turning away from occasions of sins and making a right turn to God. We need to express our repentance by becoming reconciled with God daily, by asking for forgiveness from those whom we have offended and by giving unconditional forgiveness to those who have offended us.

# 2: We need to do prayerful fasting and little acts of penance for our sins, following the example of Jesus before his public ministry. Fasting reduces our “spiritual obesity” or the excessive accumulation of “fat” in our soul in the form of evil tendencies, evil habits and evil addictions. It also gives us additional moral and spiritual strength and encourages us to share our blessings with the needy.

**Question of the week: Question of the Week: Why fasting, penance and prayer are recommended during Lent?** 1) Fasting reduces our “spiritual obesity” or the excessive accumulation of fat in our soul in the form of evil tendencies and evil habits. 2) It gives us additional moral and spiritual strength and encourages us to share our blessings with the needy people. 3) Fasting also gives us more time to be with God in prayer. 4) We need to do prayerful fasting and acts of penance for our sins, following the example of Jesus before his public ministry.

5) When we fast, we are imitating the people of Nineveh and the Syrian King, Ben Hadad who fasted pleading for God's mercy and forgiveness, and Queen Esther who fasted for her people. Acts of penance during Lent a) remove the weakness left by sin in our souls and give us more self control, b) pay the temporary debt caused by sin, and c) make our prayers more fruitful. Besides, it is Jesus' teaching: *"If any one wishes to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me."* Prayer is necessary at all times because God has commanded it, and because, without it, we do not receive the graces necessary to persevere to the end. "It is necessary for adults as a means of salvation; that is to say, that a person who does not pray, and neglects to ask of God the help requisite for overcoming temptations, and for preserving grace already received, cannot be saved." (St. Alphonsus - CCC 2744). In essence, prayer is talking to God and listening to Him. Jesus gives us the model of penitential prayer by his forty days in the desert in preparation for his public life. Prayer during the Lent Prayer, 1. Unites us to God; 2. Makes us heavenly minded; 3. Strengthens us against evil; 4. Gives us zeal and energy for good; 5. Comforts us in adversity; and 6. Obtains help for us in time of need, and the grace of perseverance unto death.



**Pope Francis tweets:** "A youthful heart does not tolerate injustice and cannot bow to a "throw-away culture" nor give in to the globalization of indifference. I invite you to join in the fight against poverty, both material and spiritual. Together let's build peace and bridges of friendship. The throwaway culture is not of Jesus. The other is my brother, beyond every barrier of nationality,

social extraction or religion. It is good to know the Lord takes on the burden of our fragilities and patiently gets us back on our feet with the strength to start over. Let us never place conditions on God! Entrusting ourselves to the Lord means entering into his plans without demanding anything. Let us be close to our brothers and sisters who are going through illness and also their families. Hope opens new horizons and enables us to dream of what is not even imaginable. Those who traffic human beings are ultimately accountable to God. Let us pray for the conversion of hearts. Let us hear the cry of the many children who are enslaved. No one must remain indifferent to their sorrow. Being a believer means learning how to see with eyes of faith. Let us never forget to pray for each another. Prayer is our greatest strength. Consecrated life is a great gift of God: a gift of God to the Church, a gift of God to His People. God wants us all to see one another as brothers and to live as such, forming a great human family that is harmonious in its diversity. Let us imitate the attitude of Jesus toward the sick: he takes care of everyone, He shares their suffering and opens their hearts to hope. God wants us all to see one another as brothers and to live as such, forming a great human family that is harmonious in its diversity. Let us imitate the attitude of Jesus toward the sick: he takes care of everyone, He shares their suffering and opens their hearts to hope. Nothing is impossible if we turn to God in prayer. We can all be builders of peace. Today I want to remember in my heart all the victims of the Holocaust. May their sufferings and their tears never be forgotten. Hope lets new life blossom, like a plant that grows from the seed fallen on the earth.

Visit Our  
Website

: <http://stjohngrandbay.org/> for [Sunday Homilies, 187](#) -

[Questions & Answers and 56 - Faith Formation Lessons](#), introduction to all Bible books.



As parishioners at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, we are committed to **know Christ better and make Him better known.**

To k-n-o-w, we are **committed to**

Keep connected to our parish community

Nurture the development of faith and knowledge of Christ

Offer to share the Holy Spirit's gifts of time, talent and treasure

Worship through prayer, Mass and the Sacraments

In carrying out this mission, we will demonstrate the love that we have for God, by the community we create with each other and our response to the needs of our neighbor.

**Parish prayer:** Almighty Father, the Body of Christ, the Church, is made up of people who believe in your Son, Jesus Christ, and saved through His suffering, death and resurrection. Enable us to grow in faith, hope, love and service that we may build a welcoming, friendly faith community. A community that witnesses your Son's life and mission after the life example of Mary, the Mother of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.





*to St. John's with open hearts, open minds and open doors.*

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Grand Bay celebrates God's presence, grows in God's grace, welcomes all people and reaches out with God's love. We try to be to be a vibrant community of faith where all people feel they belong.

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church, No matter what your current family or marital situation, No matter what your past or present religious situation, No matter your personal history, age, background, race, etc., No matter what your own self-image or esteem, you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Grand Bay!

We come together as a parish family to draw our life from the Eucharist and other sacraments.

As believers, we participate fully, consciously and actively in the liturgy of the Church and seek to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and action.

We commit ourselves to worship, education, stewardship and service as we extend our hand to others in need and to those who wish to join the church.

By the grace of God, after the example of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we dedicate ourselves to accomplish our mission within and beyond our community.



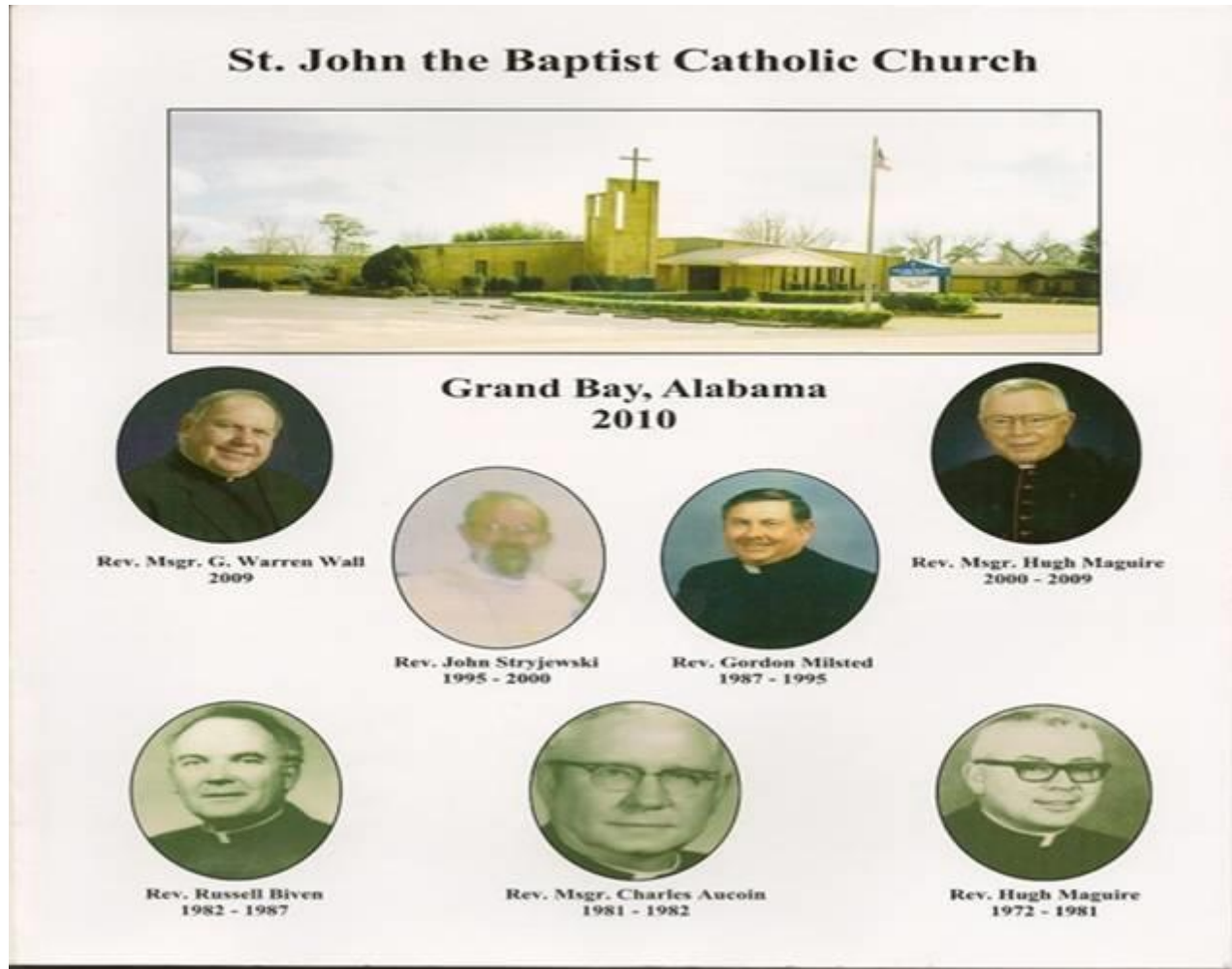
*The New Church blessed and consecrated by Bishop May on June 18, 1972*



**Consecration of the first St. John the Baptist Catholic church in Grand Bay on November 16, 1924**

**By Bishop Allen**

*Photos of the great pastors who guided the destiny of our parish  
are given below*



[Please visit St. John the Baptist Catholic parish website:](#)

<http://stjohngrandbay.org/> for the full text of the

[Sunday homilies](#), [Sunday bulletin](#), [56 Adult Faith Formation Lessons](#) & [introduction to all books of the Bible](#) and [188 Question & Answer of the Week](#).

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