Saint John The Evangelist Catholic Church
Exaltation of the Holy Cross | September 14, 2025
1008 Fortune Ave, Panama City, FL 32401
The Crucifixion, Fra Angelico, 1420–23

WHO WE ARE

Rev. Thomas Kennell, Pastor

Dcn. Timothy Warner

Dcn. Earl Mirus

Sr. Grace Ford, Er. Dio - Principal

Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil | 4:30pm
Sunday | 8:15am & 10:45am

Daily Mass
Monday, Wednesday, Friday | 8:15am
Tuesday, Thursday | 5:30pm
First Saturdays | 9:00 Latin *Novus Ordo*

Adoration

First Fridays | 9am-5pm

Confession

Tuesdays and Thursdays | 4:30-5:20pm
Saturdays | 3:00-4:15pm
Second Sundays | After Each Mass

To schedule a confession, email confession@saintjohnpc.org. Emails are confidential and go directly to Fr. Kennell

Flocknote

Text STJ to 84576

Receive text messages or emails for announcements & upcoming events

Register as a Member

Visit the parish office

To register as a parishioner, contact the parish office for a registration card

Parish Staff

Parish Office - 850-763-1821
saintjohnpc@saintjohnpc.org
Open Mon-Thurs 9am-3pm

Grace Griffith | Secretary
Lynn Sokoloski | Facilities Manager
Heather Hanna | Event Coordinator
Jera Blanchard-Towns | Family & Children's Catechesis
Dot Wagner | Coordinator of Youth Formation
Nick Labrie | Director of Mission Operations
Me-Gan Vu | Director of Sacred Music

Bulletin Requests: Please email bulletin@saintjohnpc.org. Submissions are due by noon on Mondays
Bulletin Ad Requests: To publish an ad in the back of our bulletin, contact Mary Frericks at 404-771-2564 or MFrericks@Diocesan.com

Finance Council

Chris Brooks | Finance Council Chair

Jackie Fowler	Dcn. Earl Mirus	Sean McNeil
Tim Wheeler	Sr. Grace Ford	Donna Couchigian

SACRAMENTAL QUESTIONS?

Children | Through 5th Grade

Jera Blanchard-Towns | Children's Catechesis
jera.blanchard-towns@saintjohnpc.org

Contact for questions regarding Baptism, First Communion, First Reconciliation, & Living Liturgically (formation program for grades K-5)

Youth | Grades 6-12

Dot Wagner | Youth Formation
youth@saintjohnpc.org

Contact for Confirmation and questions regarding Catholic Student Ministries (CSM)

Adults | 18+

Fr. Thomas Kennell | Pastor
catholicism@saintjohnpc.org

Contact for questions regarding Adult Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion

Visiting the Sick/Homebound - please call the parish office to set up a visit with a priest or lay person to bring communion or check on a homebound person

Anointing of the Sick - call the parish office at any time

Holy Matrimony - contact the parish office six months prior to your anticipated wedding date

*The Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee encourages anyone who may have been abused by any clergy person, employee, or volunteer in ministry with the Church, or who knows of such abuse, to contact local law enforcement or the Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873) and Shannon D. Mullen, Ph.D. CSAT at 229-233-8009. Español - Dcn. Santiago Molina, 850-222-6482

MINISTRIES LAUNCHING NOW!

Living Liturgically
First Gathering | Sept 14th

Living Liturgically is a monthly gathering for all parishoners particularly focused on families with children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. On the second Sunday of the month we gather in the parish hall from 9:30-10:30am for a time of fellowship and catechesis based on the liturgical seasons. While the activities will be focused on K-5, all siblings are welcome to join.

Scan the QR code here to register!

OCIA Kick-Off
Interested in Becoming Catholic?

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic, or learning more about the Catholic Faith? Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) classes will begin on Sunday, September 14th from 9:30-10:30am in the Parish Office. Please contact Deacon Tim Warner at (850) 596-2974 for any questions.

Congratulations, Newly Confirmed!
2025 Confirmation Class

Congratulations to our Confirmation candidates who received the Sacrament of Confirmation this weekend at the Vigil Mass. Your parish family is praying for you as you receive the Holy Spirit! May you always know and seek His love and guidance in your lives! Come, Holy Spirit!

Catholic Student Ministries
Middle & High School

All families of Middle & High School students are invited to register for this year's CSM gatherings. Students can join us for small groups, socials, retreats, service projects, and more.

All 6th-8th graders will also be preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in the fall of 2026. Scan the QR code to register and stay up to date.

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Each year on September 14, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, a day dedicated to honoring the instrument of our salvation. While Good Friday commemorates the Passion and death of Christ, this feast emphasizes the glory and triumph of the Cross, the very means by which our redemption was won. The Cross is not simply a symbol of suffering, but the sign of God's victory over sin and death through Jesus Christ.

Historically, the feast dates back to the early fourth century. After Christianity was legalized by Emperor Constantine, his mother, St. Helena, journeyed to the Holy Land and is said to have discovered the True Cross around the year 326. A basilica was built over Calvary and the tomb of Christ, dedicated on September 14, 335. Each year, the Church celebrated the dedication of this holy site, and over time, the day became a universal feast honoring the victory of Christ through His Cross.

The Cross is often called the "tree of life." In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were barred from the tree of life after their fall (cf. Genesis 3:22–24), a sign that sin had broken communion with God. But in Christ, the new Adam, the Cross becomes the true tree of life, restoring access to eternal life that had been lost. As the Catechism teaches, "The cross is the true tree of life" (CCC 1137). What once brought death, the tree in Eden, has been overcome by the new tree, the Cross of Christ, which brings eternal life.

The Fathers of the Church often marveled at this reversal. Where the first tree was the place of disobedience, the Cross is the place of perfect obedience. Where the fruit of the first tree brought death, the "fruit" of the Cross, Christ's own body, brings salvation. In venerating the Cross, we do not glory in suffering itself, but in the love that transforms suffering into redemption.

This feast also calls each of us to embrace our own daily crosses in union with Christ. As Jesus Himself taught, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23). As we embrace our own crosses we unite them with Christ's and share in the fruit of the tree of life. Each Mass brings us to this tree anew, where heaven and earth meet. May we lift high the Cross not as a sign of shame, but as the throne of Christ's glory and the very source of our life in Him.

UPCOMING & NOTEWORTHY

New Parish Hall Furniture
In Honor of Al Kidd

Thank you to the numerous donors who helped us replace the aging furniture in the Parish Hall. Donations were given in memory of Al Kidd and his dedication to the St. John community and mission.

Write to St. John Seminarian
Joseph appreciates your letters!

Joseph Elmore is a seminarian from St. John the Evangelist. His mailing address is
St. Joseph Seminary
75376 River Road
St. Benedict, LA 70457

CCW Day of Reflection
Seminarian Saturday
Oct 4 | Sts. Peter & Paul

Join the women of the CCW on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi for a day of reflection. The day will include Mass at 11am and two talks by Seminarian Jose Cortez. Light lunch at 12 pm. No cost - bring a friend!

Calling Young Writers!
Knights of Columbus Essay Contest
Entries open from Sept 1 - Oct 24

The goal of this program is to involve young Catholics in grades 8-12 (public, private, parochial or home schools during the current school year) in civic discourse and instill in them religious and life-affirming values. Our local winner will compete at higher levels, up to state and national. scan the QR code to learn more!

Serve Saturdays
Oct 18, Nov 8, & Dec 13

Bring your teen, your kids, or just yourself and come help a neighbor. These Saturday morning events are 8am-11am and local to Bay County. They're opportunities to serve, learn new skills, and love our neighbors.
Got a skill you can share? Email Dot and let her know so we can connect your talents to the needs of others: youth@saintjohnpc.org

Made for Joy: Women's Retreat
November 14-16 | Dogwood Acres

St. Dominic Women's Retreat, ages 18+. Scan the QR code to register. For questions, email info@st.dominicpc.com

Events this Week

Saturday, September 13
4:30pm - Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Wack

Sunday, September 14
Second Chance Sunday - Confessions after Mass
9:30-10:30am - Living Liturgically in parish hall
9:30-10:30am - OCIA Class in parish office
Donuts after Mass in the parish hall

Tuesday, September 16
6:15pm - Catholic in Recovery in the parish office
6:15pm - Young Professional Fellowship Bible Study at Oaks By the Bay Park

Wednesday, September 17
9:30am - Women's Bible Study in parish office

Saturday, September 20
8:30am - Fishers of Men Breakfast at St. Dominic

Sunday, September 21
9:30-10:30am - OCIA Class in parish office
Donuts after Mass in the parish hall

Hiring Preschool & Substitute Teachers
St. John Catholic Academy

To apply to the preschool positions, email your resume to: chelsea.house@sjseagles.org.
To apply to become a substitute teacher, submit your resume and cover letter to employment@sjseagles.org. Applications may also be completed by visiting the school office.

Clergy Appreciation Dinner
Celebrate with Bishop Wack
November 1 | St. Dominic

6pm - Social Begins with hors d'oeuvres
6:30-9pm - Beef Tenderloin Dinner
Tickets: $25 each. Call or text Frank Howard at (850) 774-5446 to reserve your seat!

Men's Fellowship Dinner
September 26 | St. Dominic

Men's Friday Fellowship, dinner, and Adoration from 6:30-9pm. Scan the QR code to register.

Young Professional Fellowship
Upcoming Events

Sept 16 | Bible Study: "I Am" Statements 6:15pm, Oaks by the Bay Park
Sept 25 | Dinner & Discussion: "Courtship, Commitment, & Covenant: God's Plan for Love" 6:00-8:00pm, parish office

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

HELP US KEEP THE CHURCH BEAUTIFUL

St. Johns is seeking those who enjoy the quiet art of cleaning to help with keeping our Church beautiful.

We need help on these days:

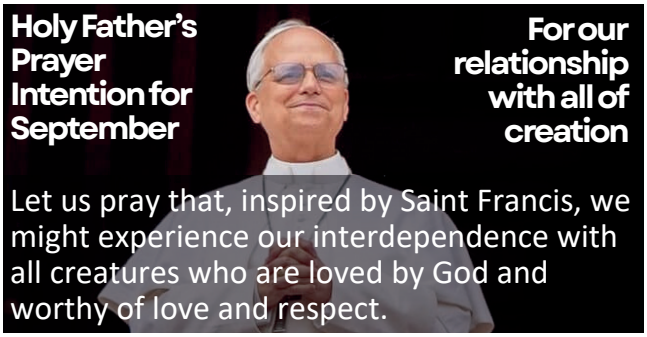
- **Cleaning After the Weekend:**
  Sunday after Mass/Confession
  or Monday after Mass (9:00-10:30)
- **Cleaning after the School Mass:**
  Wednesday after Mass (9:30-11:00)
- **Cleaning Before the Weekend:**
  Friday after Mass (9:00-10:30)
  or Thursday before Confession on First Fridays (3:00-4:30)

We need help with these tasks:

- Vacuum Nave carpet and Narthex rugs
- Sweep Narthex to Family Room
- Clean Glass and Dust

Interested? Call the Church office at 850-763-1821 or contact Lynn Sokoloski, Facilities Manager, at lynn.sokoloski@saintjohnpc.org

Aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands.
1 Thessalonians 4:11



Mass Intentions

To request a Mass for a loved one, please call or visit the parish office

Saturday, September 13, 2025
4:30pm.....People of the Parish
Sunday, September 14, 2025
Exaltation of the Holy Cross
8:15am.....†William & Nelda Moore Kastner by the Kastner Family
10:45am.....Reparations for the sins of the Clergy
Monday, September 15, 2025
8:15am.....John Kantner by the Blomquist Family
Tuesday, September 16, 2025
5:30pm.....†Gilberto Manuel Terravas by James & Laura McManus
Wednesday, September 17, 2025
8:15am.....Bishop Wack
Thursday, September 18, 2025
5:30pm.....Seminarians by the CCW
Friday, September 19, 2025
8:15am.....†George Percy by the Family
Saturday, September 20, 2025
4:30pm.....Kellard & Pamela Jensen Happy Anniversary!
Sunday, September 21, 2025
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:15am.....People of the Parish
10:45am.....†Ellen Bellm by the Family

Join us in Prayer

If you would like to add anyone to the prayer list, please visit saintjohnpc.org/prayer-request. Prayer requests will be in the bulletin for one month unless otherwise requested.

Repose of the Soul
†William Cammack, †Al Kidd, †Thomas Towns, †Elisabeth Ryals, †Jimmie Carroll, †Richard Parker

Healing
Michelle DeAbate, Joseph Cruz

Scripture Readings For the Week of September 14, 2025

Sunday **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**
Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

Monday **Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows**
1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Tuesday **Memorial of Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop and Martyrs**
1 Tm 3:1-13; Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6; Lk 7:11-17

Wed 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 7:31-35

Thursday 1 Tm 4:12-16; Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10; Lk 7:36-50

Friday 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20; Lk 8:1-3

Saturday **Memorial of Saint Andrew Kim Taegon, Priest, & Paul Chong Ha-sang, & Companions, Martyrs**
1 Tm 6:13-16; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Lk 8:4-15

Sunday **Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Am 8:4-7; Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13

View this bulletin online at www.Discov

September 15, 2025

EAGLE NEWS

Florida Purple Star Campus

"St. John Catholic Academy prepares and educates students for academic success and forms disciples of Christ for life."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, September 24th -	Fall Pictures Preschool through 8th Grade (Chapel wear)
Friday, October 10th -	Early Release, End of First 9 weeks - Parent Conferences *No Aftercare Available*
Monday, October 13th -	Columbus Day - Academy and Preschool Closed
Friday, October 17th -	1st Quarter Report Cards Available in PowerSchool
Friday, October 31st -	All Saints Fest (Aftercare will close at 4:30pm)

Save the Date

All Saints Fest

Friday, October 31, 2025

4:30 - 7PM

Join us on the PE Field for a safe and enclosed celebration filled with food, fun, and community spirit.

ST. JOHN CATHOLIC ACADEMY PRESCHOOL

Now Enrolling!

Schedule your preschool tour today!
Spots available in our PK2 and VPK4 preschool classes.
Secure your child's place today.
Scan the QR code to get started.
See you soon!

The virtue of DOCILITY

DEFINITION OF DOCILITY:
Willingness to be taught

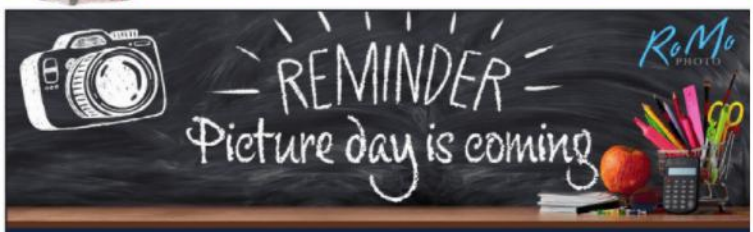
PRAYER FOR DOCILITY: Dear Jesus, You are my teacher in every situation! Before acting on important matters, please give me the humility to seek Your wisdom and the wisdom of others, in order to make the best decision.

DOCILITY LOOKS LIKE: Being taught by someone else

- Listening to another person
- Taking correction peacefully

DOCILITY SOUNDS LIKE: Thank you for teaching me.

- I will listen to you.
- I am sorry. I will try not to do that again.



Don't Miss Out On The Memories!

St. John Academy

WED, SEPT. 24TH

PK3 and PK4 students will wear their school uniform.
K-8 students will wear their chapel uniform.
Infants to 2 year old students will have their photos taken as well.

These photos are also used in our school yearbook

A picture proof will be sent home for your review approximately two weeks after picture day directing you to the online order option at romophoto.com.

Contact Us: 850.763.1775
St. John Catholic Academy
@stjohncatholicacademy
StJohnCatholicAcademy.org
Office@SJSEagles.org

DIRECTORY OF MINISTRIES

Adoration (St. Dominic)
St. Dom Parish Office....850-785-4574
St. Dominic's has a perpetual adoration chapel. Contact their parish office for the door code or to sign-up for a weekly hour

Association of St. Jude
Don Rauscher.....850-271-3365

Carmelites
Angie Cirabisi.....317-526-8614

Catholic in Recovery
Diane.....850-541-3326
Wayne.....850-532-0421
Open for all who are in recovery from any form of unhealthy attachment

Council of Catholic Women
Susie Prather.....281-844-0844

Fishers of Men (St. Dominic)
Stephen Butler.....850-832-6434
*Twice monthly breakfast on the **first and third Saturdays of each month from 8:30-10:30am** at St. Dominic's MC3 building. The next breakfast will be on **August 9th**.*

Knights of Columbus
Mike Tierney.....850-319-1945

Lending Library
Located in the parish office (M-Th 9-3)

Men's Club
Lee Fry.....850-867-3916

Men's Bible Study
Warren Phillips.....850-896-0801
Check back in September for updates!

Ministry to the Sick
Contact the parish office to arrange for the Eucharist to be brought to anyone who is sick or homebound

Mission 850
850mission@gmail.com
Provides disaster relief services and hosts service projects every 2nd Saturday of the month

Morning Rosary
Every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday from 7:30-8am (before Mass)

Music Ministry
Me-Gan Vu.....music@saintjohnpc.org

Scan the code to fill out the interest form for joining the choir/music team. Email Me-Gan directly for minors interested in joining.

Natural Family Planning
Melissa Cornman.....407-415-6575

Rachel's Vineyard
904-221-3232.....rachelsvineyard.org
Retreats for women and men looking to renew hearts broken by abortion

The Third Option
A program for couples & individuals to help their relationships flourish. Fall schedule coming soon.

Women's Morning Bible Study
Kathy Kidd.....850-814-7747
Martha Cordell.....850-814-4619
Starting September 3rd in the parish office conference room every Wednesday from 9:30-10:30am studying "Luke in the Land" by Kristi McLelland

Women's Socials
heather.hanna@saintjohnpc.org
*Typically on the **first Saturday from 10am-noon** in the parish hall - next social will be on **October 4th**.*

Young Professional Fellowship
Scan the QR code to join the GroupMe to stay up-to-date on bible studies & gatherings

ADVERTISE HERE

Promote your Business AND Support your Parish.
Give us a call!
800-292-9111

The Businesses listed above make this bulletin possible.
Please support them when you can.

Sign up to get our bulletin in your email each week. Go to DiscoverMass.com/subscribe

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mark.gusmus@cpagroup.com ▪ www.cpagroup.com

Forest Park Animal Hospital
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Joe Franco

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PANAMA CITY Animal Hospital
850.784.6914
Robyn Y. Focke, D.V.M.
4307 Hwy 231 • Panama City, FL 32404

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Judy Giannetto

Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will
For further information, please call the parish office.

Kent-Forest Lawn Funeral Home
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Greg Brudnicki - Parishioner
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Advance Planning Information
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