

Second Sunday of Advent

MASSES & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, December 5, 2015

6:00 A.M. MASS – Sr. Zélie Thérèse of the Redeemer

4:30 P.M. MASS – Martin Goodly, Jeremy Rider, Simon, Leora & Freddie Sonnier, Pereda Fontenot, Michael Granger, Bernadine Cezar Logan, Aaron & Fabian Cezar, Ashley Cezar, P.J. Logan, Samuel Papillion, Bish LeJeune

SUNDAY, December 6, 2015

7:30 A.M. MASS – *Pro Populo* (For the People)

10:00 A.M. MASS – Henry, Lula & Betty Fontenot, Dallas & Billy Bertrand, Sr., James Yeagley, Eve Smith Guilbeau, Deacon Dale & Kathy Deshotel, Stacey Beaubouef, Rayford Papillion, David & Dana Thibodeaux

MONDAY, December 7, 2015

6:30 A.M. MASS – Deceased Fly. Members of Russell & Cecile Meaux

TUESDAY, December 8, 2015 (Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception)

6:30 A.M. MASS – Lucille Matt

12:05 P.M. MASS – *Pro Populo* (For the People)

6:00 P.M. MASS (E.F.) – Elmo Smith

WEDNESDAY, December 9, 2015

6:30 A.M. MASS – Deacon Dale & Kathy Deshotel Fly.

THURSDAY, December 10, 2015

NO MASS

FRIDAY, December 11, 2015

6:30 A.M. MASS – Leonard Beaubouef

SATURDAY, December 12, 2015

4:30 P.M. MASS – Claiborne Durio, Cecilia Sonnier, Jeremy Rider, Eve Smith Guilbeau, Pereda Fontenot, Michael Granger, Raymond Lanthier, Lindsey Guillory, Gladys Papillion, Dwayne, Adam & Wallace Meaux, Jr., Lester, Eula & Elmer Chatman, Sr.

SUNDAY, December 13, 2015

7:30 A.M. MASS – *Pro Populo* (For the People)

10:00 A.M. MASS – Billy F. Bertrand, Sr. (**1st Anniversary**), Dorothy Montou, Jean Manuel, Rayford Manuel, Lucy Alleman, Stacey Beaubouef

Last Week's Collection **\$3,035.50**

Second Collection Next Weekend: Retirement Fund for Diocesan Priests (Quota is \$1,313.00)

PRAYER LIST FOR OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER

Linda Aguilard, Cathy Autin, Phil Beard, Gerry Beaubouef, Jerome, John, & Josie Bergeron, Joann Bertrand, Michael Bertrand, Alvin & Sonja Billodeaux, Renate Bourque, Virginia Bowles, Velma Brakel, Steve Campbell, Kary Cole Briscoe, Leslie Busher, Charles Chaumont, Jerry Chaumont, Florence Comeaux, Pam Dequeant, Carol Deshotel, Jeremiah Deville, Mavy & Emmalyn Ducote, Edward Duhon, Sheryl Duplechain, Cathy Fontenot, David Fontenot, Mary Ophelia Fontenot, Rodney Fontenot, Tanner Fontenot, Elsie Foster, Juanita Francois, Tim Germany, Monsignor Ronald Groth, Cathy Deshotel Guillory, Jim Guillory, Sybil Haas, Harrison Harmon, Mildred Harmon, Esther Harmon, Joseph Harmon, Jennifer C. Hibbs, John Jackson, Perella Jackson, Sheenita Jackson, Brandon Johnson, Pat Klein, Essie Langley, Keith LeJeune, Lou, Joe, Adam and Mary LeJeune, Mitch LeJeune, Willie Mae LeJeune, Joy Mancil, Kevin Manuel, Lula Manuel & Fly., Marlin Manuel, Pat Manuel and Fly., Trista Marler, Fran & Ronnie Meaux, Beau Montou, Kathy Montou, Leroy Moreau, Gloria Morris, Carolyn Morgon, Glenn Morgan, Marvin Morgan, Odrey & Dorothy Montou, Nicholas Odum, Lucas Orsot, Marie Parker, Devin Pelt, Mary Mott Peterson, Sally Pitre, Linda & Don Portie, Ashton Read, Lynda Reed, Ervin Reed, Terry Reeves, Leonard Richard, Johnathan, Christina, Hayley, Jayden, Ryleigh, Skylei, Richard, Sharon, Martha, Rusty, Patsy, Matt, & Josh Rider, Rev. Fred Russi, Evelyn Sandell, Tina Sapienza, Bill Scheffler, Tucker Scimemi, Donald Paul Sonnier, Kermit Sonnier, Koltan Squier, Leah Squier, Suzanne Stringer, Devin Swarhout, Carl Tarver, Maynard Topping, Matthew Truman, Danika Treweek, Ticky Family, Roselyn Victorian, Zachary Villereal, Odelia & Ernest Wilson, Nicole Young, Laura Zaidan

Poinsettias for Christmastide

Anyone wishing to donate a poinsettia for our Christmastide church décor may do so at a cost of \$30.00. You may put your donation in the collection marked flowers or bring it to the church office.

Leading the Rosary before Mass this Weekend

4:30 P.M. – Haddie Goodly 7:30 A.M. – Lucy Brandon
10:00 A.M. – Paul & Patsy Fontenot

Vocations Candle – Mr. & Mrs. Siq Babineaux
(Call the rectory to sponsor the green vocations candle)

Vocations Cross – Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Brandon

Youth Group T-shirt Quilt Raffle

The youth group is selling raffle tickets for a t-shirt quilt made from youth group t-shirts. Tickets are \$1.00 and can be purchased from a youth member or at the rectory. Drawing will be Sunday, December 20th after 10:00 Mass. Proceeds benefit youth group members attending parish, diocesan and national youth events.

March for Life Pilgrimage 2016

The March for Life Pilgrimage is for high school teens, young adults, and adults from the Diocese of Lake Charles. The total cost of the Trip is \$550.00. A deposit of \$150.00 per person is due with the parish registration forms to Mrs. Corinne by **Wednesday, December 16th** with the remaining balance of \$400.00 due Thursday, January 7, 2016. Contact Mrs. Corinne at the rectory to register or for more information. Make checks payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Glad Tidings Program

Sunday, December 13, 2015 – **Third Sunday of Advent**: Reverend Derek Covert, Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Lake Charles, reads Bishop Glen John Provost's Pastoral Letter for the Jubilee Year of Mercy, called for by Pope Francis, which begins on Tuesday, December 8th.

Diocese of Lake Charles Respect Life Banquet

The Diocese of Lake Charles Respect Life Banquet will be held on Tuesday, January 12th at the Lake Charles Civic Center. Doors open at 6 P.M. The guest speaker is Ramona Trevino, Planned Parenthood Manager-turned Pro-Life Activist. Tickets are \$50. Proceeds help fund Rachael's Vineyard, Gabriel's Project, and Youth Pilgrims to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. For more information and to get tickets go to www.lcdiocese.org or call 337-439-7400.

St. Joseph in Vinton Advent Mission

St. Joseph Catholic Church in Vinton will have an Advent Mission Dec. 17 – 19 @ 6:00 P.M. The presenter is Fr. Jack Clark Robinson, C.F.M. Confessions will be heard on Wednesday, Dec. 19th.

Beyond Sex Ed:

Chastity Formation for Toddlers, Tweens and Teens

Practical ideas and age appropriate language for ages 3-18 will be offered explaining the Catholic Church's teaching on chastity and marriage, drawing from "The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality" and St. John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*. If time permits, healthy guidelines for dating will be presented. January 16, 2016 from 8:15am-11:15am at Immaculate Conception in Sulphur. Register online at <http://www.icsulphur.org>.

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This Week @ SJoA

- ❖ Sunday, December 6th – RCIA @ 4:45 P.M.
- ❖ Monday, December 7th – K.C. Meeting @ 6:30 P.M.
- ❖ Tuesday, December 8th – **Office Closed for the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M.**
- ❖ **Adoration: Wednesday's from 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.**

FROM FATHER CONNER

Initial Thoughts on the First *Ad Orientem* Mass

As noted last Sunday, I want to provide a little feedback here and there as we transition into *ad Orientem* worship at the Sunday 10 o'clock Mass. That first Mass was definitely a little different for me. It reminded me of when I had been a Priest for about one month. At that point I had become comfortable with offering holy Mass. What I mean by this is that I no longer had to think through every single action of the Mass. I was, if you will, free to *pray* the Mass. Around that time I was called to fill in for a Priest at another parish, which I happily did. Upon arriving, I began setting up for Mass. I soon discovered that things were not exactly the same as we had them at St. Henry's (where I was assigned at the time). The layout of the sanctuary, the height of the altar, the publisher of the Roman Missal, none of these were what I had become accustomed to. Things such as those really are not that big of a deal, but since they were a departure from what I had become accustomed to, they made it rather difficult to offer Mass in the prayerful way that I had gotten in the habit of doing.

Something along those lines was at work last Sunday for me. At this point in my life as a Priest, I have offered approximately 2,400 Masses. It is a very enjoyable privilege. Rarely is there a time that I have to think and analyze *everything* in Mass. (This is one of the geniuses of the sacred liturgy. The repetition has as one of its aims to make it *easier* for us to pray.) But, since I have rarely offered the *Ordinary* Form Mass *ad Orientem*, I had to exert quite a bit of mental effort during the Mass, so that the ceremonies would be executed according to the expectations of the Church.

If it seemed, then, that you had to do a little extra work last Sunday at Mass, know that you are not alone. Deacon and I and the servers were right there with you! At the same time, however, I will say this: as we began the Preface and then moved into the Canon of the Mass, facing the altar made it noticeably easier for me to remain recollected as I made those prayers. And this is what we all want, I hope: to be drawn more deeply into the mystery of the Mass.

Year of Mercy

The Jubilee Year of Mercy begins Tuesday, December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Pope Francis has called this special year, as he describes in his letter dated September 1, 2015, so that all believers might have an encounter with the mercy of God. There will be many initiatives during the Year of Mercy. Some we will see happening throughout the world, others on the diocesan level, but what will affect us most tangibly are those that happen here at SJoA. Over the coming weeks, I will provide more info about what Pope Francis sees as the purpose of the Year of Mercy. At the outset of the Year of Mercy, it is important for us to be convinced of this: the Year of Mercy is for each of us. We need to encounter the merciful face of God. We need, whether we realize it or not, to immerse ourselves in God's love. A pastoral letter written by Bishop Provost will be read at each Mass next weekend. (This will happen in every parish in the Diocese of Lake Charles.) The Bishop's letter also will be inserted in the bulletin. I ask that you give it careful consideration.

Homily Citations

Last Sunday I shared with you an article by Bishop Conley about why he thought it was appropriate for him and his diocese to "turn

to the Lord" in the Mass at the beginning of Advent. (Do you remember what he said? I hope you do, because I'm sure people will ask you why we do this now at SJoA. Will you be prepared to give them a *correct* answer?) In the homily this weekend, I am going to share with you something truly fascinating about praying toward the East and how this relates to the mercy of God. As we begin the Year of Mercy this Tuesday, I continue to be absolutely convinced that it is God's will that 1) we offer Mass *ad Orientem* here at SJoA and 2) that we begin *ad Orientem at this time*. I hope you are coming to this conclusion as well. It's also my hope that the beauty of looking to the East for God's mercy will help us all to see this! At any rate, please take the time to consider what Origen (one of the greatest biblical theologians of the early Church) has to say about Rite of Atonement (found in Leviticus 16, which you should read). It is truly exhilarating, and it is another little light along this path we're taking, which hopefully will make us profoundly grateful to be able to "turn to the Lord" in some of our Masses now.

Origen's Homily on Leviticus

"There is a deeper meaning in the fact that the high priest sprinkles the blood toward the east. Atonement comes to you from the east. From the east comes the one whose name is Dayspring [*Oriens*], He who is mediator between God and men. You are invited then to look always to the east: it is there that the sun of righteousness rises for you, it is there that the light is always being born for you. You are never to walk in darkness; the great and final day is not to enfold you in darkness. Do not let the night and mists of ignorance steal upon you. So that you may always enjoy the light of knowledge, keep always in the daylight of faith, hold fast always to the light of love and peace."

The Immaculate Conception – A Day of Precept

Tuesday is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is the patronal feast day of the United States of America. It also is a *day of precept*, or a holy day of obligation. Attendance of holy Mass is of necessity. Deliberately missing Mass is a matter of mortal sin. Please make sure to assist at holy Mass on this very joyful and holy day. Mass tickets will be put out for CCD students.

"I don't have time to go to Mass."

Sometimes people tell me they don't have time to go to Mass. I'd like to tell you what I really think of that, but Christian charity requires me to say that that is a very pathetic excuse. Having moved into a new liturgical year last Sunday, I updated my logbook for the Masses I offer. As I closed out last year's logbook, I saw that I offered 475 Masses last year. Most people know that Priests are fairly busy fellows, and yet somehow I managed to find (miracle of miracles, I suppose) time for 475 Masses. When people tell me that they don't have time to go to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation (which is approximately 60 Masses per year), you can imagine that I think they sound pretty ridiculous (because they are). If someone ever tells you they don't have time to go to Mass, maybe you can help bring them back to this planet we call earth by reminding them that Pope Francis goes to at least one Mass per day, and I'm sure they are not as busy as he!