

# Twenty-seventh Sunday in the Season of the Year

## **MASSES & INTENTIONS**

**SATURDAY, October 1, 2016**

**8:00 A.M. MASS** – Sr. Zélie Thérèse of the Redeemer

**6:00 P.M. MASS** – Claiborne Durio, Henry L., Lula & Betty Fontenot, Roland & Verlie Chaumont, Dorothy Montou

**SUNDAY, October 2, 2016**

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

**10:00 A.M. MASS** – Dallas & Billy Bertrand, Sr., Stacy Beaubouef, Leonard Beaubouef, Tush Strother, Gene & Velma Brakel, Dwight, Dalbus & Gracie Gradney, D.C. Reed, Jr., Edward Maddox, Jeanette Hornsby, Martin Goodly, John Essie Victorian, Dona Davis

**MONDAY, October 3, 2016**

**NO MASS**

**TUESDAY, October 4, 2016**

**5:30 P.M. Mass** – Joseph Lee Gobert (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)

**WEDNESDAY, October 5, 2016**

**6:30 A.M.** – Evelyn Manuel

**THURSDAY, October 6, 2016**

**5:30 P.M. MASS** – Stacey Beaubouef (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)

**FRIDAY, October 7, 2016**

**6:30 A.M.** – Jack Johnson

**SATURDAY, October 8, 2016**

**6:00 P.M. MASS** – Evelyn Manuel, Elie, Theolite & Elmo Smith, Roland & Verlie Chaumont, Tony McIntire, Taylor McMahon, Harrison Harmon, Nakia (Nick) Ware

**SUNDAY, October 9, 2016**

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

**10:00 A.M. MASS** – Stacey Beaubouef, Leonard Beaubouef, Tush Strother, D.C. Reed, Jr., Edward Maddox, Jeanette Hornsby, Cathy Marcantel, Health of Quinten Savoie, Darrell, Eloise & Greg Reed, Deonne Manuel, Diane Strother

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**Last Week's Collection** **\$3,075.00**

**Flood Victims in Louisiana** **\$1,192.00**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection This Weekend – Bishop's Service Appeal**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Next Weekend – World Mission Sunday**

## **PRAYER LIST FOR JULY, AUGUST, & SEPTEMBER**

Marvin Banks, Phil Beard, Charles Beaubouef, Gerry Beaubouef, Quintan Bell, Joan Bertrand, Alvin & Sonja Billodeaux, Bruce & Diana Brakel, Corey Briscoe, Douglas Briscoe, Bernice Bushnell, Helen Bushnell, Linda Beaubouef Cazes, David & Natalie Carrier, Beatrice Cezar Family, Vivian Cole Family, Richard Cooper, Virginia Cottongin, Aiden Darbonne, Carol Deshotel, Jackie Deville, Susan Duplantis, David Fontenot, Donald Fontenot, Justin Fontenot, Mary Ophelia Fontenot, Paul Fontenot, Rodney Fontenot, Steven Fontenot, Verlis Fontenot, Jeri Garcille, Tim Germany, Rita Gordon, Freddy & Becky Gorman, Daniel Goodly & Fly., Keith Granger, Cathy Deshotel Guillory, Victoria Lynn Guillory, Harrison Harmon, Joseph Harmon, Mildred Harmon, Ester Harmon, Shirley Hebert, Jan Horton, Charlene Ireland, John, Sheenita & Perella Jackson, Joey James, Brayden Johnson, Rudolph & Joyce Johnson, Paul LaFleur, Essie Langley, Kevin Manuel, LuLu Manuel, Shirley Manuel, Trista Marler, Bonnie McNabb, Patricia Mikas, Rita & Billy Miller, Grayce LaRacca, Tina Morgan Lantier, Keith LeJeune, Lou, Joseph, & Adam LeJeune, Mitch LeJeune, Willie Mae LeJeune, Charles Mancil, Joy Mancil, Ray Marcantel, Trista Marler, Brandy McCarty, Sam & Rochelle McMahon, Christina McNutt, Fran & Ronnie Meaux, Russell Meaux, Janice Moreau, Glen Morgan, Carolyn Morgan, Nicholas Odum, Gabriella & Martel Papillion, Howard Patin, Devin Pelt, Sally Pitre, Jimmy Prudhomme, Ena Prudhomme Fly., Erin Ramos, Ashton Read, Ann Reed, Cheryl Reed, Sara Reed & Fly., Lynda Reed, Ervin Reed, Leonard Richard, Don Rider, Ann Rooney, Rev. Fred Russi, Evelyn Sandell, Tina Sapienza, Quentin Savoie, Sister Ann Margaret Savant, Tucker Scimemi, Helen Shreeman, Kolton Squier, Leah Squier, Margie Smith, Donald Paul Sonnier, Carl Tarver, Celeman Thomas, Maynard Topping, Matthew Truman, Dollyanna Victorian, Zachary Villereal, JoAnn Welch, Robbie Willis, Odelia & Ernest Wilson, Nicole Young

## **Leading the Rosary before Mass this Weekend**

6:00 P.M. – Haddie Goodly 7:30 A.M. – Lucy Brandon

10:00 A.M. – Royce Scimemi

**Vocations Candle** – Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Brandon

**Vocations Cross** – Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Brandon

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## **BSA Collection**

If every adult parishioner gives \$20 to the BSA, then our goal would be easily reached. BSA donations may also be made any time. Simply put BSA on your check or envelope. You may put these in the collection basket or bring them to the rectory.

## **Prayers & Patches Quilting Group Raffle**

Mrs. Sandra Chapman will be selling \$1 raffle tickets for a handmade quilt after Masses this weekend. Proceeds will be used to purchase materials to continue the group's quilting ministry of making quilts and donating them to those in need of comfort and prayers.

## **Thank You**

We would like to thank the parishioners of St. Joan of Arc for donations of food and drinks as well as their prayers, love and kindness shown to our family during our time of grief.

**The Family of Taylor McMahon**

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## **This Week @ SJoA**

- ❖ Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Maccabee Campaign at St. Joseph Cemetery 4:00 P.M.; R.C.I.A. at 5:00 P.M.
- ❖ Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> – Altar Society Meeting after Mass
- ❖ **Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> – ADORATION 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.; CCD and Youth Group beginning at 4:00 P.M.**
- ❖ Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> – Bazaar Meeting after Mass; Holy League: Men's Prayer Group at 6:30 P.M.

## ***RETURN TO THE LORD***

### **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN INFORMATION**

**How will the *Return to the Lord* Campaign invest in our Cathedral?**

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is a symbol of our unity of faith throughout the wider community. The cathedral is the one parish building that belongs to every member of the diocese. To ensure that our cathedral proudly stands for many generations to come, the diocese intends to address necessary repairs, including:

- Foundation – Drainage, mechanical & electrical issues below floor level;
- Weather-proofing the outside façade;
- Fenestration (window frames/glass/stained leaded glass, doors);
- Refurbishing the interior paneling.

Look for an invitation from the Bishop to participate in this landmark effort in this week's mail. You can also make your gift online at [campaign.lcdioocese.org](http://campaign.lcdioocese.org). SJoA is currently at 50% of our goal of \$246,444 with \$122,246 pledged from 41 families.

## **SAVE THE DATES**

**Beginning the Weekend of October 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>**

Bazaar Meal tickets will be sold after Masses for \$7 per meal

**Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**

Youth Bake Sale after 7:30 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. Masses

**Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**

America Needs Fatima Rosary at SJoA: 11 A.M. – 12 P.M.

**Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**

SJoA "Trunk or Treat": 5 P.M. – 7 P.M. (Parishioners are invited to participate)

## FROM FATHER CONNER

### **Big Communion Mass**

The Big Communion Mass is next Sunday – *Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>*, 10:00 am. Please keep our fifth graders in your prayers. *Parents of fifth graders*, please do what you can to dress them up. It would be most appropriate for the young gentlemen to wear coat and tie and the young ladies to wear a nice dress (similar to First Holy Communion) – the ladies could also wear veils and gloves if possible. We will have a rehearsal with the Big Communion Class immediately before the Mass next Sunday. Parents, please have them here by 9:30 am. We will take a photo before Mass and then have the walk through, so we need you to be punctual. Additionally, I will have to exit the confession somewhat early next Sunday, so please be aware of that. I apologize for any inconvenience, but this is necessary for their preparation. As you know: I hear confessions each day: 30 minutes before daily Mass and 60 minutes before (each) Sunday Mass. In other words, confession is readily available for anyone interested.

### **Bazaar**

The Bazaar will be here before we know it. (It's *Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>* and *Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>* this year.) We need *your* help. Meetings are now each week. Will you please come to help us plan and prepare? Moreover, we need donations. Is there anything you would like to donate ... *cash*, items for the *auction* or *country store*, baked goods, etc? We need your help to make it successful. Please don't wait for someone else to assist. We need *you*. Hope to see you at the next meeting: Tuesday, *Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>*, immediately after the *5:30 pm* Mass.

### **Hymns at Holy Mass**

Hymns are not, properly speaking, part of the Mass itself. They are, however, commonly used in the Roman Rite. There are so many beautiful hymns in our Catholic patrimony. Sadly, we have become unfamiliar with many of the basic hymns joyfully used by our ancestors in their devotional life and happily sung by them during the divine service of God at holy Mass. It's my hope that we can focus a little of our energy on relearning some of the hymns that have been influential in the formation of Catholics over the course of time.

For the last several weeks, we have repeated particular hymns at holy Mass. This was intentional. I hope by this time that we've come close to memorizing their words and melodies. Hymns such as *Faith of Our Fathers*, *O Salutaris*, *Tantum Ergo*, *Holy God*, *We Praise Thy Name* are very standard Catholic hymns. While not technically part of the Mass itself (like the Propers), and while not divinely inspired by God (like the readings), these are beautiful hymns that accurately give expression to the truths of the faith.

It's my hope, then, that by repeating them for a time we will become more familiar with them and that we might spend some time reflecting on their meaning, *and* why these hymns are used at a particular point in Mass. (This, too, is important.) Who knows? Maybe we might even be so moved to sing along one day at holy Mass, if we're not already.

Now, having said that, I certainly do not ever want to be seen as pressuring anyone to sing. At the same time, however, I do hope we realize that singing symbolizes our love for God and the gratitude we must have because He redeemed us and has given us new life in Christ. Commenting on these words of Psalm 149, "*Sing to the Lord a new song; His praise is in the assembly [= church] of the saints*" (verse 1), St. Augustine famously wrote: "We are urged to sing a new song to the Lord, as new men who have learned a new song. *A song is a thing of joy; more profoundly, it is a thing of love. Anyone, therefore, who has learned to love the new life has learned to sing a new song, and the new song reminds us of our new life.* The new man, the new song, the new covenant, all belong to the one kingdom of God, and so the new man will sing a new song and will belong to the new covenant" (Sermon 1). Beautiful, isn't it? ... yes, it is ... and so very *profound!*

Now, it must be stated that the most important activity we undertake at holy Mass is to unite ourselves to the offering of Jesus Christ – which is made by the Priest who operates in the Person of Christ on account of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. To "participate" at Mass means that Christ's offering and mine my own are united. Thus, to participate at Mass means to pray. As we know, prayer is fundamentally *interior*. Pope Benedict XVI used to write very eloquently about this. At the same time, the Church teaches us that our participation, if it is to become full, should eventually become manifested *externally*. This can happen in a number of ways, for example, when we make the responses at holy Mass, but our participation can and should overflow into song. So then, please take these hymns to heart. Soon enough we will move on to other hymns. But before we do, I hope we can become so familiar with these that we would be able sing them from memory, and maybe even when we're not at Mass, just as we are going about our daily tasks. Wouldn't *that* be something?

### **St. Martha's Guild**

We have a few ladies signed up for St. Martha's Guild and we're ready to initiate this new apostolate. (A reminder: St. Martha's Guild is a group of ladies who will care for the rectory and office, ensuring that they are clean and in good order, and at times offering hospitality to our guests.) I wish to extend the invitation to any of the ladies of the parish to join St. Martha's Guild. The work will not be extensive or burdensome, but it will be a valuable service to SJoA. As an expression of my personal gratitude to the members of St. Martha's Guild, I will offer one Mass per month for the intentions of the members of St. Martha's Guild. Anyone interested in joining the St. Martha's Guild should call the rectory.

### **Blessing of Cemeteries**

Don't forget about the blessing of the cemeteries. This year I will bless the cemeteries on Saturday, *Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>* and Sunday, *Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>*. I hope to have the full schedule in the bulletin next weekend.

### **A STATEMENT ON VOTING FROM BISHOP PROVOST**

Among candidates for elected office, the choices for voters can be perplexing. In any election, a Catholic is obligated to vote according to the judgment of correct conscience. This requires the Catholic voter to be informed about Church teaching found in definitive sources, such as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Sacred Scripture, and Sacred Tradition, as well as the positions held by candidates and their party platforms.

The more fundamental the issue, like human life, marriage or religious freedom, the greater priority the issue possesses in the judgment of correct conscience. The exercise of a correct conscience requires that a Catholic vote for the candidate whose positions best correspond to the Church's moral teaching on such fundamental issues.

The authentic teachings of the Catholic Church are timeless realities that defy being categorized as fossilized relics of a remote past. They are the legitimate expression of the teachings of Jesus Christ, and when lived out, they define us as Christians. These teachings exist because God cares about how we live and what happens to us.

The question to ask is fundamental. In voting for a candidate, to what end am I contributing? What goal am I seeking to accomplish? Simply stated, voting both endorses a candidate's goals and contributes to accomplishing them.

This statement is made without prejudice to any candidate or political party. It is intended rather to remind the Catholics of this Diocese that voting is a serious matter and can have immediate as well as eternal consequences, for we will ultimately stand before God for the decisions we make and the actions we take (cf. Romans 14:12).



## Sunshine the Eskimo by Joe Sixpack

A bishop of Alaska told of an Eskimo boy, John. He was called Sunshine before he had a Christian name, as his parents were pagan. Once when he was two years old Sunshine had convulsions; he couldn't breathe and seemed to be dying. Holding the babe in her arms, the mother looked at the father. She told him she would take the child outside and leave him to die, because no one must be allowed to die inside an Eskimo igloo.

The bishop was present and decided to baptize the boy secretly. The mother stepped past the bishop to carry the child outside. He stopped her and asked for some water. He dipped his handkerchief into a sealskin bucket and, whispering the words of Baptism, squeezed the water over the child's forehead. Almost before he had finished, the child sighed deeply, opened his eyes, and asked for a drink. The parents were overjoyed and later became Catholics themselves.

This story vividly demonstrates a point about baptism. Just as God miraculously gave Sunshine physical life during the administration of the sacrament, Baptism does indeed actually give life to the soul. "Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: 'Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word.'"<sup>1</sup>

Jesus made Baptism absolutely obligatory (Mk. 16:15-16), because it is necessary for salvation (Jn. 3:5). The ordinary minister of Baptism is a priest or deacon, but *anybody* can baptize in case of emergency. For emergency baptism to be validly given, the following conditions must be met: (1) the person baptizing must have the Church's intention; that is, that Baptism take away sin; (2) the person baptizing must pour water on the head three times in such a manner that it flows over the skin; and (3) at the same time that the water is being poured, the person baptizing must say: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit". If the person receiving emergency Baptism survives, a "re-baptism" is neither necessary nor is it possible, since Baptism can be received only once. However, the rites surrounding Baptism should be performed by a priest or deacon.

Many people today seem to think infant Baptism isn't necessary, especially non-Catholics. They think this because they claim there is nothing in the Bible showing infants being baptized. However, the early Christian Fathers are unanimous in insisting upon infant Baptism, basing it on the universal command of Christ to baptize all, and on its divine power to cleanse the soul of

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<sup>1</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1213

original sin. Irenaeus (AD 130-205) writes: “He came to save all who through Him are born again unto God; infants, and children, boys and youths, and elders”.<sup>2</sup> Origen (AD 185-254) declared infant Baptism an apostolic institution.<sup>3</sup> St. Cyprian and the bishops of the Third Council of Carthage in AD 253 taught that children should be baptized as soon as possible after birth. Yes, infants should be baptized, as the Church has taught for 2000 years.

But what happens if one dies without Baptism? In the case of an infant, there are two major schools of speculative theology on this topic. The first comes from those who hold that an infant who dies without Baptism goes to Limbo. This school, espoused by St. Thomas Aquinas, teaches that Limbo is a place of perfect natural happiness, but minus the vision of God. This is reasonable, since an unbaptized infant still possesses the stain of original sin.

The second school of thought is much more modern, but equally valid. It holds that the Holy Spirit enlightens the soul—which is capable of instantaneous enlightenment under divine direction (Acts 1:1-16; 2:1-47)—at the moment of death to the totality of Catholic truth. Then the free-will of the soul, which is not influenced by the commission of actual sin, makes the decision to accept that truth, and passes into eternity with perfect contrition; therefore, being saved and made worthy of heaven, but without the seal of Baptism. In either case, the child is left to the infinite mercy of God.

Any adult who dies unbaptized because he doesn’t know about Baptism nor its importance can be saved if he lived his life trying to do good and avoiding evil. This is called *baptism of desire*. Indeed, the Church embraces as her own those who are studying the Faith with the intention of being received into the Church, so that they receive baptism of desire should they die prior to reception into the Church. People who have never heard of Jesus or His Church are saved in this manner...that is, by trying to do good and avoid evil.

There is also *baptism of blood*, which is a non-Catholic who dies for the Church. In the third century, a group of about ten Christians had been rounded up by the Romans. In keeping with Roman law, the centurion gave each of them the opportunity to renounce Jesus and His Church and to make a sacrifice to Caesar, lest they be speared to death by the Roman soldiers. Each one refused to renounce the Faith...until the very last man. The last man caved in and decided being alive was better than dying for Christ and going to heaven. As that man was released, one of the Roman soldiers walked up to the vacant spot and stood in his place. To the centurion he said, “I do not know this Jesus of Nazareth, but any God who inspires such courage in His followers is a God I want to follow.” That said, the centurion ordered his men to throw their spears, and the soldier died with the Christians. That brave man received baptism of blood and instantly became a saint.

Baptism is the sacrament that opens the door to our ability and right to receive the other sacraments. The next sacrament to be discussed will be Confirmation, but to my surprise many Catholics are just as clueless as non-Catholics as to why we receive that sacrament. You will find this extremely interesting in the next installment of What We Believe...Why We Believe It.

Got a question? Go to [JoeSixpackAnswers.com](http://JoeSixpackAnswers.com).

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<sup>2</sup> *Adversus Haereses*

<sup>3</sup> *Commentarii in Romnanos*