

# *Fourth Sunday of Advent/ The Nativity of Our Lord*

## **MASSES & INTENTIONS**

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2017**

**4:30 P.M. MASS** – Jeremy Rider, John C. Durio, Catherine Papillion, Fran Meaux, Bernard Aguilard, Keith LeJeune, Etienne & Vergie Bergeron Fly. Liv. & Dec., Elias & Verlis Thibodeaux Fly. Liv. & Dec., Orlene & Wilton Richard, Charles & Elizabeth Klein Fly. Liv. & Dec., Casper & Techla Berken Fly. Liv. & Dec., Richard Young, Rudolph Johnson, Evelyn Sandell

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017**

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

**10:00 A.M. MASS** – Jennifer Sonnier, Marvin Banks, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Carol Deshotel, M/M Clegg Chaumont, Sally Pitre, Aurlene & Lindsey Guillory, Richard Young, Dr. Peggy Allemand, Norris Chapman, Jr. & Fly., Duane Chapman & Fly., Kevin Chapman & Fly.

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2017**

**12:00 A.M. MASS** – *Pro Populo* (For the People)

**7:30 A.M. MASS** – Philip Courville

**10:00 A.M. MASS** – Evelyn Sandell

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2017**

**NO MASS**

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2017**

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – John C. Durio

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2017**

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – Pearl P. Fontenot

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2017**

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – Roselyn Ann Victorian (**1<sup>st</sup> Communion**)

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2017**

**4:30 P.M. MASS** – Katherine V. Reed, Penny Schneider, Jeremy Rider, Fran Meaux, Bernard Aguilard, Keith LeJeune, Etienne & Vergie Bergeron Fly. Liv. & Dec., Elias & Verlis Thibodeaux Fly. Liv. & Dec., Orlene & Wilton Richard, Charles & Elizabeth Klein Fly. Liv. & Dec., Casper & Techla Berken Fly. Liv. & Dec., Richard Young, Rudolph Johnson

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017**

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

**10:00 A.M. MASS** – Taylor & Remy Fly. Liv. & Dec., Marvin Banks, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Carol Deshotel, M/M Tootie Chaumont, Dr. Peggy Allemand, Errol Deshotels, Norris Chapman, Jr., & Fly., Duane Chapman & Fly., Keith Chapman & Fly., Michael LaGrange, Al Lagrange, Velma Richard, Willie & Theresa Cormier

**Last Week's Collection** **\$3,319.51**

**Christmas Collection** (*first*) **SJoA**

**Christmas Collection** (*second*) **Diocese - Christmas Charities**

## **PRAYER LIST**

Amy Bairnsfather, Phil Beard, Charles Beaubouef, Quintan Bell, Joan Bertrand, Alvin & Sonja Billodeaux, Pauline Boudreaux, Bruce & Diana Brakel, Brandon Bridgwel, Douglas Briscoe, Lincoln & Louise Briscoe, Margaret Briscoe, Ambrose Bushnell, Bernice Bushnell, Helen Bushnell, Steve & Roxane Campbell, Kristin Carlton, David & Natalie Carrier, Rosabelle Carrier, Megan Cart, Linda Beaubouef Cazes, Ailene Chapman, Vivian Cole Fly., Florence Comeaux, Richard Cooper, Virginia Cottongin, Jay Crittle, Aiden Darbonne, Rynree Darbonne, Shaun Darbonne, Jackie Deville, Cindy Dowies, Jabe Doyle, Amy Duplechain, Bryker Fontenot, David Fontenot, Mary O. Fontenot, Paul Fontenot, Steven Fontenot, Verlis Fontenot, Zaylen Frank, Tim Germany, Daniel Goodley & Fly., Mary Ann Goodley, Phielomone Goodly, Freddy & Becky Gorman, Bruce Granger, Jr., Jennifer Granger, Linda Green, Victoria Guillory, Bob Haas, Harrison Harmon, Joseph Harmon, Mildred Harmon, Ester Harmon, Sunni Hurst, Charlene Ireland, John, Shenita & Perella Jackson, Grady Johnson, Joey James, Brayden Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Paul LaFleur, Kristen Labauve, Charles Lacey, Essie Langley, Grayce LaRacca, Dwain LeBleu, Tina Lantier, Lou, Joseph, & Adam LeJeune, Willie Mae LeJeune, Doc Lowe, Benny Manuel, Kevin Manuel, LuLu Manuel & Fly., Pat Manuel & Fly., Reed McIver, Bonnie McNabb, Patricia Mikas, Rita & Billy Miller, Ray Marcantel, Trista Marler, Brandy McCarty, Christina McNutt, Ronald Meaux, Russell Meaux, Clifford

Montou, Glen Morgan, Carolyn Morgan, Frank Mougéot, Andrew Norwood, Nicholas Odum, Debbie & Phil Owen & Fly., Joey Owen, Martel & Gabriella Papillion, Howard Patin, Hannah Popillion, Linda & Don Potier, Jimmy Prudhomme, Ena Prudhomme Fly., Erin Ramos, Renaldo & Kathy Ramos, Ashton Read, Reid Redlich, Ann Reed, Cheryl Reed, Dora Reed, Gary Reed, Lynda Reed, Irving Reed, Sandra Reed, Octavia Reeves & Fly., Will Reid, Sharon, Richard, Jonathan, Hayley, Jayden, Ryleigh, Skyline, Jackson, Martha, Rusty, and Patsy Rider, Janice Rider, Salis Rider, Vera Ross, Fr. Fred Russi, Evelyn Sandell, Tina Sapienza, Quentin Savoie, Sister Ann Margaret Savant, Tucker Scimemi, Celeman Thomas, Dollyanna Victorian, Dana Vidrine, Steve Vidrine, Joseph Vizena, Linda Voeller, JoAnn Welch, Odelia & Ernest Wilson, Nicole Young, Theresa Young

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

### **SJoA Christmas Mass Schedule ...**

*Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>*

12:00 am Midnight Mass (confessions 1 hour prior)

7:30 am Mass (confessions 1 hour prior)

10:00 am Mass (confessions 1 hour prior)

### **Ladies Altar Society**

St. Joan of Arc Ladies Altar Society invites all women parishioners 17 and up to join our organization to help in caring for our church and parish. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month in the hall to plan our support for the various parish activities. New members with new ideas are needed if this group is to continue its vital work. Join us January 2, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. in the parish hall.

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Mrs. Gerry Beaubouef on winning the "Sweet Year Raffle" that was sponsored by the Ladies Altar Society.

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### **This Week @ SJoA**

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Confessions at 11:00 P.M.

Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – Confessions at 7:00 and 9:15 A.M.

**Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> –NO ADORATION, CCD or Youth Group**

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### **FROM FATHER CONNER**

**Bishop Provost's Pontifical Mass:** His Excellency will offer a Pontifical Mass in the EF this Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup> (feast of the Holy Innocents) at his cathedral, at 5:30 pm. Please know that you are invited to attend the "most beautiful Mass this side of Heaven."

**Next Sunday** (Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>) is the Feast of the Holy Family. Our Mass schedule will be regular.

**Special Holy Hour to ring in the New Year:** Don't forget about our custom of having a holy hour to usher in the New Year. The holy hour will be Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 11:00 pm. We'll have snacks and there will be fireworks afterward. Two plenary indulgences are able to be obtained during this holy hour.

**The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** (Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>) is not a Day of Precept this year. While Mass attendance is not of obligation this year, I certainly do encourage assistance at the Mass celebrating the Divine Maternity of Our Lady. Confessions will be at 8:30 am. Holy Mass will be at 9:00 am.

## Fourth Sunday of Advent/ The Nativity of Our Lord

### It's not too late to join RCIA

We're still at the point where joining RCIA for this year is possible. *Who can/should join?*

1. Anyone (baptized or no) wishing to be Catholic.
2. Any Catholic above the age of reason (i.e., 8 years and older) who has not received **all** of the Sacraments of Initiation (viz., Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist).
3. Anyone who simply wishes to learn more about the holy Catholic Faith. **(Call Father for more information!)**

### Reconciling Marriages

There's much talk about what is or isn't going to happen with Catholics who are divorced, have attempted re-marriage outside of the Church, and their practicing the sacraments. While I must confess occasional exasperation at the confusion surrounding this discussion, especially when the teaching of the Church is already so clear (and **irreformable**), I also see it as an opportunity to assist folks who have experienced a failure of some kind in their marriage. **As such, I continue appealing to any and all Catholics who are presently not married in the Church to contact me.** If you genuinely search your heart, you know that those (movements) are God guiding you to speak with your Priest about this. The Church is always able to assist us in being reconciled with God. (This is, after all, why Christ established the Catholic Church.) Please contact me, then, and let's get the ball rolling. As the Scripture says, "Come now, let us put things right." Don't delay any longer. Our time here on earth is limited. The manner in which we use this time very much determines how we shall spend eternity.

### ADVENT REFLECTION, by St. Hippolytus

There is only one God, brethren, and we learn about him only from sacred Scripture. It is therefore our duty to become acquainted with what Scripture proclaims and to investigate its teachings thoroughly. We should believe them in the sense that the Father wills, thinking of the Son in the way the Father wills, and accepting the teaching he wills to give us with regard to the Holy Spirit. Sacred Scripture is God's gift to us and it should be understood in the way that he intends: we should not do violence to it by interpreting it according to our own preconceived ideas.

God was all alone and nothing existed but himself when he determined to create the world. He thought of it, willed it, spoke the word and so made it. It came into being instantaneously, exactly as he had willed. It is enough then for us to be aware of a single fact: nothing is coeternal with God. Apart from God there was simply nothing else. Yet although he was alone, he was manifold because he lacked neither reason, wisdom, power, nor counsel. All things were in him and he himself was all. At a moment of his own choosing and in a manner determined by himself, God manifested his Word, and through him he made the whole universe.

When the Word was hidden within God himself he was invisible to the created world, but God made him visible. First God gave utterance to his voice, engendering light from light, and then he sent his own mind into the world as its Lord. Visible before to God alone and not to the world, God made him visible so that the world could be saved by seeing him. This mind that entered our world was made known as the Son of God. All things came into being through him; but he alone is begotten by the Father.

The Son gave us the law and the prophets, and he filled the prophets with the Holy Spirit to compel them to speak out. Inspired by the Father's power, they were to proclaim the Father's purpose and his will.

So the Word was made manifest, as Saint John declares when, summing up all the sayings of the prophets, he announces that this is the Word through whom the whole universe was made. He says: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Through him all things came into being; not one thing was created without him. And further on he adds: The world was made through him, and yet the world did not know him. He entered his own creation, and his own did not receive him.*

### CHRISTMAS REFLECTION, by St. Maximus the Confessor

The Word of God, born once in the flesh (such is his kindness and his goodness), is always willing to be born spiritually in those who desire him. In them he is born as an infant as he fashions himself in them by means of their virtues. He reveals himself to the extent that he knows someone is capable of receiving him. He diminishes the revelation of his glory not out of selfishness but because he recognizes the capacity and resources of those who desire to see him. Yet, in the transcendence of mystery, he always remains invisible to all.

For this reason the apostle Paul, reflecting on the power of the mystery, said: *Jesus Christ, yesterday and today; he remains the same forever.* For he understands the mystery as ever new, never growing old through our understanding of it. Christ is God, for he had given all things their being out of nothing. Yet he is born as man by taking to himself our nature, flesh endowed with intelligent spirit. A star glitters by day in the East and leads the wise men to the place where the incarnate Word lies, to show that the Word, contained in the Law and the Prophets, surpasses in a mystical way knowledge derived from the senses, and to lead the Gentiles to the full light of knowledge.

For surely the word of the Law and the Prophets when it is understood with faith is like a star which leads those who are called by the power of grace in accordance with his decree to recognize the Word incarnate.

Here is the reason why God became a perfect man, changing nothing of human nature, except to take away sin (which was never natural anyway). His flesh was set before that voracious, gaping dragon as bait to provoke him: flesh that would be deadly for the dragon, for it would utterly destroy him by the power of the Godhead hidden within it. For human nature, however, his flesh would restore human nature to its original grace.

Just as the devil had poisoned the tree of knowledge and spoiled our nature by its taste, so too, in presuming to devour the Lord's flesh he himself is corrupted and is completely destroyed by the power of the Godhead hidden within it.

The great mystery of the divine incarnation remains a mystery forever. How can the Word made flesh be essentially the same person that is wholly with the Father? How can he who is by nature God become by nature wholly man without lacking either nature, neither the divine by which he is God nor the human by which he became man? Faith alone grasps these mysteries. Faith alone is truly the substance and foundation of all that exceeds knowledge and understanding.

*Fourth Sunday of Advent/ The Nativity of Our Lord*