

## MASSES & INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2018

**4:30 P.M. MASS** – Fran Meaux, Sox Gordon, M/M Neville Vizena, Dorothy Tucker, Benton Smith, Evelyn Sandell, Seth & Jackie Chandler, Willie Mae LeJeune, Paul LaFleur, Freddy Gorman, Marcalene Ceaser, Martin Goodly, Charles B. Matthews, Lloyd Taylor, Sonja Billodeaux

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018

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

**10:00 A.M. MASS** – Carol Deshotel, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Angelle L. Durio, Linda LeJeune, Sarah Chapman, Garrett Howard, Liv. & Dec. Taylor/Remy Fly., Gene & Velma Brakel, Roland & Verlie Chaumont, Jerry & Polly Chaumont, Rodney & Jerry Bushnell, Ophelia Fontenot, Senior Citizens, Pour Souls in Purgatory

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2018

**9:00 A.M. MASS** – D.C. Reed, Jr.

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2018

**12:00 A.M. MASS** – Michael Pitre

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

**10:00 A.M. MASS** – Phillip Courville

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2018

**6:00 P.M. MASS** – Martel & Gabriella Papillion

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2018

**6:00 P.M. MASS** – Lulu Manuel

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2018

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – Aguilard Family Living & Deceased

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2018

**9:00 A.M. MASS** – Timothy Childers

**4:30 P.M. MASS** – Fran Meaux, George, Pat & Penny Schneider, Joseph & Mildred Guillory, Florence Guillory, Francis Guillory, Hosey Guillory, Andrus & Ella Mae Frlot, Benton Smith, Evelyn Sandell, Galton Boudreaux, Sonja Billodeaux, Berlinger, Marcantel & Horton Fly., Liv. & Dec., Paul LaFleur, Freddy Gorman, Marcalene Ceaser, Lloyd Taylor, Roselyn Victorian, Enola Gradney

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018

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

**10:00 A.M. MASS** – Carol Deshotel, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Matt Taylor, Ophelia Fontenot, Rev. Father Peter Nguyen Phi Vu, Ryan Rozas Family, Curley Victorian, Fr. Jacob Conner

Last Week's Collection	\$3,469.90
BSA Total to Date (Quota - \$11,609.00)	\$7,787.88
Maintenance Fund to Date	\$12,665.15
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection – Priests Retirement Fund (quota \$1,409.00)	\$645.05
Christmas Collection – Christmas Charities	

## PRAYER LIST

Tyler Alexander, Robert Andrews, Amy Bairnsfather, Phil Beard, Charles Beaubouef, Georgia Bell Baggett, Tyler Bellow, Jocie Bergeron, John O'Neal Bergeron, Alvin Billodeaux, M/M Lincoln Briscoe, Margaret Briscoe, Deanne LeBlanc Broussard, Ambrose Bushnell, Bernice Bushnell, Belle Carrier, David & Natalie Carrier, Linda Beaubouef Cazes, JoAnn Cormier, Gordon Cotton, Brittany Courville, Jeane Daigle, Aiden & Renlee' Darbonne, Louise Guidry Darbonne, Donna Dunneho, Noah Ferry, David Fontenot, Zaylen Frank, Tim Germany, James & Jill Gilbert & Fly., Elaine Giles, Tim Giles, Phielomone Goodly, Becky Gorman, Dixie Granger, Rachael Granger, Vergie Granger, Charlene Guidry, Juanita Guidry, Harrison Harmon, Joseph Harmon, Mildred Harmon, Esther Harmon, Jackie Hebert, Dolores Holden, Gwen Holder, Bob & Charlene Ireland, John, Shenita & Perella Jackson, Joey James, Cindy Langley, Essie Langley, Jessica Lindsey, Brian Manuel, Jennifer L. Manuel, Kevin Manuel, Marlin Manuel, Wilson Manuel, Larry Marcantel, Brandy McCarty, Christina McNutt, Josh Miller, Patrica Mikas, Janice Moreau, Brad Morgan, Clifton & Carolyn Morgan, Howard Patin,

Sonya Pickett, Hannah Popillion, Ena Prudhomme & Fly., Jimmy Prudhomme, Ann Reed, Brenda Dodd Reed, Dara Reed, Gary Reed, Linda Reed, Leah Rexrode, Don & Debra Rider, Salis & Janice Rider, Ann Rooney, Fr. Fred Russi, Pat Abshire Savant, Helen Sheeman, Lois Singleton, Yvonne Smith, Donald Taylor, Ken Taylor, Diana Tichy, Matthew Truman, Dollyanna Victorian, Kyle Vidrine, Hannah and Linda Voeller, Bruce Walker, Linda Weldon, Nicole Young

**Vocations Candle and Cross** – Mr. & Mrs. Ken Taylor

**Knights of Columbus Corporal Communion is this Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at the 7:30 A.M. Mass.**

### Sweet Year Raffle Winner

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

### Prayers & Patches Quilt Raffle

Congratulations to Liz LeJeune on winning the Mickey Mouse Quilt and Ronnie Klumpp for winning the LSU Quilt. Thank you to all that purchased tickets.

### Catholic Mission Trip

The Abrazando Cristo Mission Trip for 2019 will be July 5-14 in Puerto Rico. Cost of the trip is \$2,200.00 (covers all air and ground transportation, meals, lodging, tips, taxes, retreat, and mission shirts). For an information packet/registration form please contact Felicia Borel at 337-477-1236 or contact by e-mail [Felicia.borel@lcdioocese.org](mailto:Felicia.borel@lcdioocese.org). A \$300.00 non-refundable deposit with the registration form is due by January 12<sup>th</sup> to secure a seat. Only 25 seats are available. First come first serve.

### Center for Catholic Studies Class Offered

Fr. Nathan Long will offer a class titled: St. Paul, How to listen to and understand the second reading. Class dates are Jan. 29, Feb. 12, 19, and 26 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Class cost is \$50. Register online at <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=58d33f>. For more information call 337-439-7400 or email Marlie Mudd at [Marlie.mudd@lcdioocese.org](mailto:Marlie.mudd@lcdioocese.org). Classes will be held at the McNeese Newman Center at 221 Aqua Dr., Lake Charles, LA.

### Poinsettias for Christmastide

Poinsettia donations of \$30 are being accepted in memory of or in honor of a loved one in the collection or bring it to the church office. In memory of Douglas R. Daigle & in honor of Jeane Daigle. In memory of deceased members of the KC's Oberlin Council 3353. In memory of Roland & Verlie Chaumont. In memory of Gene & Velma Brakel. In memory of Jack Johnson. In memory of deceased members of Steven & Carolyn Fontenot Fly. In memory of Angelle L. Durio & Linda LeJeune. In memory of Anthony, Keith and Carol Deshotel.

**Due to slow demand, St. Vincent de Paul will open on an "as needed" basis during regular office hours.**

### This Week @ SJoA

- ❖ Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> – Holy Hour at 6:00 P.M.
- ❖ **Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> – NO ADORATION, CCD or Youth Group**
- ❖ Saturday, December 29<sup>th</sup> – Mass at 9:00 A.M.

## Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

- Monday, December 24th - 9:00 AM
- Note: this Mass does **NOT** fulfill one's Mass obligation for Christmas.

## FROM FATHER CONNER

### A FEW SCRIPTURE CITATIONS FOR THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST

"Where's that in the Bible???" Ever been asked that by a non-Catholic? Regarding the Holy Eucharist, we could point to *many* places. Here are a few scripture passages every Catholic should be intimately familiar with:

**Matthew 26:17-35; Mark 14:12-25; Luke 22:14-23; John 6 & 13-17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-30**

Non Catholics claim that our belief in the "Real Presence" of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is not biblical. To this challenge I pose the following **question**: If the Eucharist is only a symbol and not truly God, why did St. Paul become so upset at its abuse? (See 1 Cor. 11 above) **Answer**: St. Paul's (righteous) anger flared up because he, like all early Christians, believed that **the Eucharist is God**. A sinful reception does no harm to a symbol, but it does desecrate the actual Body of the Lord! Believing that the Eucharist is the symbolic presence of Jesus, **that** is what's non-biblical! Our Blessed Lord, God in the flesh, is truly present in the Most Holy Eucharist. We Catholics need to re-discover what Pope John Paul II called "Eucharistic amazement". God truly remains with us in the Blessed Sacrament. We should go to Him often, and with fervent love. In order to find true joy and authentic happiness in this life, we must make frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament, for there we find God Himself!

### BOOK RECOMMENDATION FOR THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST

In today's homily, I make note of *Fr. John Hardon's* excellent book on the Holy Eucharist, *With Us Today*. I highly recommend this book to each and all. It's pure gold.

### SLIGHT ADJUSTMENT TO THE DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

I have received several requests to move the Extraordinary Form Mass from Wednesday to Friday. After considering the request for a while, beginning in January, the EF Mass during the week will move to Friday. The Wednesday Mass will be transitioned to the OF, but with a considerable amount in Latin. The readings (of Wednesday's Mass) will be in English.

### TIME TO RE-THINK DECEMBER 24TH

Until 1966, the Vigil of Christmas, like the day before many other grand feasts, was a mandatory day of **fast** and **abstinence**. Since that time, when the discipline was relaxed and became voluntary, the wise observance of preparing for a *feast* by making a good *fast* the day before has been almost universally lost. There is no greater proof of this than by the way many Catholics approach the **Vigil** of Christmas. December 24<sup>th</sup> has become, sadly, the polar opposite of what it once was. For many Christians, if not most, this pre-eminent day of penance is now a time of **carnal indulgence**. Considering how disoriented we Catholics have become since the 1960s, maybe we should reconsider how we treat the Vigil of Christmas. **Albert Einstein** had a great definition of insanity: Doing the same thing repeatedly but expecting a different result. Indulging on December 24<sup>th</sup> is one of the many innovative practices that has contributed to the erosion of Catholic identity. The watering down of days and times of prayer and penance, moreover, neuters us spiritually and morally. Many express a desire for renewal within the Church. Such a hope is good, but are we willing to act as reasonable people? Renewal will result only when we do what is necessary to achieve it. For several decades, I'm speaking generally here, we Catholics have embraced a rather worldly approach to things. Why would we expect anything but a worldly Church when all her families persist in worldliness? **We have to change**. But if we will not change our practices, we shouldn't expect anything other than what we presently have.

Until Bishop Provost's recent Decree, many Catholics of this Diocese had never heard of Ember Days, even though their origin can be traced back to the Apostles. It's probable that something similar could also be said for what I've just written about the historical observance of the Vigil of Christmas. I realize that many of the beautiful and important things of our great Catholic patrimony inexplicably have not been handed down to us. This inexcusable injustice must be remedied. Therefore, when I write, teach, or preach about such things, I do so with the intention of informing and encouraging, not to chastise you. I always presume that the faithful **want** to know as much as they can about our wonderful and holy Catholic customs and practices. If I were in your position (and I once was), I would want to know that keeping the day before Christmas in prayer and penance leads to a more fruitful celebration of the Lord's Nativity. I would want to know that Pope Paul VI, when making the disciplines of a day like December 24<sup>th</sup> volitional, desired that we would continue our penances freely, not abandon them (cf., *Paenitemini*). Today we commemorate the Fourth Sunday of Advent. It is a day of moderate refreshment. Tomorrow we arrive at the final opportunity to prepare for the Savior's Birth. Like you, I hope to welcome the Christ Child with true Christian joy and a soul properly disposed to receive Christmas graces. What will help us achieve our goal? History has a lesson for us, but are we willing to listen? Taking their cue from a wise and loving Mother, the Church, Catholics throughout the centuries have proved the wisdom of making a good fast the day before a significant feast. It worked for them. It will work for us, too.