

MASSES & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2019

4:30 P.M. MASS – Frank Meaux, Evelyn Sandell, Rodney & Jerry Bushnell, Sox Gordon, Ursin & Lillie Carrier, Alice Manuel, Cecilia Sonnier, Berlinger, Horton & Marcantel Fly., Liv. & Dec., Martin Goodly, Helin McCauley Fly., Liv. & Dec., Sonja Billodeaux, Savannah & Curley Gradney Sr., Harrison Harmon, Ricky Gradney Fly., Shirley Thomas Fly., Sarah Sonnier Fly.

SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2019

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Carol & Keith Deshotel, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Rodney & Jerry Bushnell, Joey Fontenot, Mark Foreman Jr. Fly., Fr. Fred Russi

MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019

MASS TBA

TUESDAY JULY 16, 2019

MASS TBA

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2019

MASS TBA

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2019

MASS TBA

FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2019

MASS TBA

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2019

4:30 P.M. MASS – Frank Meaux, Evelyn Sandell, Don Fontenot, Keith LeJeune, Sonja Billodeaux, Harrison Harmon, Ophelia Frank

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2019

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Carol Deshotel, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Remy & Taylor Fly., Liv. & Dec., Mark Foreman, Jr., Clifford “Nookie”, Dorothy & Bryant Montou

Last Weekend Collection

\$4,989.11

Maintenance Fund to Date

\$26,335.95

2nd Collection – Maintenance Fund

Vocations Candle and Cross – Mrs. Clara Smith

PRAYER LIST

Mickey & Monique Abshire, 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, Ambrose Bushnell, Bernice Bushnell, Belle Carrier, David & Natalie Carrier, Linda Beaubouef Cazes, Vivian Cole, Florence Comeaux, JoAnn Cormier, Brittany Courville, Jeane Daigle, Aiden & Renlee’ Darbonne, Louise Guidry Darbonne, Carolyn Denison, Herman Deshotel, Donna Dunnehou, Lonnie Duplechain, Elizabeth Enloe, Lois Evans, Noah Ferry, David Fontenot, Steven Fontenot, Agess Frank, Zaylen Frank, Tim Germany, James & Jill Gilbert & Fly., Elaine Giles, Tim Giles, Mary Ann Goodly, Phielomone Goodly, Becky Gorman, Dixie Granger, Vergie Granger, Juanita Guidry, Bob Haas, Paula Davis Hargrove, Joseph Harmon, Mildred Harmon, Esther Harmon, Jackie Hebert, Dolores Holden, Gwen Holder, Bob & Charlene Ireland, John, Shenita & Perella Jackson, Joey James, LaNan James, Gina Johnson, Kenneth Johnson, Emily Johnson, Agnes Joubert, Debbie Kershner, Essie Langley, Jessica Lindsey, Brian Manuel, Jennifer L. Manuel, Kevin Manuel, Marlin Manuel, Wilson Manuel, Larry Marcantel, Brandy McCarty, Christina McNutt, Edgar Miller, Josh Miller, Patrica Mikas, Marvin Monceaux, Natalie Montou, Janice Moreau, Brad Morgan, Clifton & Carolyn Morgan, Paula Odom, Debbie Owen, Howard Patin, Sonya Pickett, Hannah Popillion, Ena Prudhomme & Fly., Jimmy Prudhomme, Jane Craft Ray, Anne Reed, Brenda Dodd Reed, Dara

Reed, Gary Reed, Linda Reed, Octavia Reeves & Fly., Leah Rexrode, Don & Debra Rider, Eugene Rider, Salis & Janice Rider, Ann Rooney, Fr. Fred Russi, Pat Abshire Savant, Jona Sharp, Lois Singleton, Tommy Smith, Yvonne Smith, David & Delmar Sonnier, Elden Bada Sonnier, Fynlee Squier, Doris Stanley, Donald Taylor, Ken & Wylene Taylor, Diana Tichy, Matthew Truman, Dollyanna Victorian, Kyle Vidrine Family, Gene Vizena, Hannah and Linda Voeller, Bruce Walker, Mary LaFleur Ware, Dwayne Warren, Linda Weldon, Nicole Young, Theresa Young

Safe Environment

All parish personnel, including volunteers, CCD teachers, VBS and youth group volunteers who have on-going, unsupervised contact with minors will need to update their Safe Environment Training began July 1, 2019. It is available on the diocesan safe environment website at safeandsacred-lcdioocese.org.

Vacation Bible School

SJoA Vacation Bible School “Parachute With the Angels”, will be held July 22 – July 25 from 9:30 A.M. to 11:45 A.M. Grades 1 – 6 are welcome to attend. Registration forms are at the entrances of the church. Pre-registration is preferred. Monetary donations as well as donations of the following items are appreciated: Fruit rollups, pudding snack packs, strawberries, watermelon, grapes, cheese cubes, Chex mix, stick pretzels, marshmallows, small round pretzels, Twizzlers. This program is free to attend. Call the rectory for more information.

Cursillo Schedule

Women’s Cursillo: Aug. 8 – 11 Men’s Cursillo: Sept. 12 – 15

Women’s Cursillo: Oct. 10 – 13

Women’s Renewal: Dec. 13 – 15

To make a Cursillo, candidates and sponsors must attend Ultreya on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 5:00 P.M. at SJoA.

Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat

If you are struggling with guilt, depression, regret or other difficult emotions from an abortion, you are not alone. Come experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel’s Vineyard weekend retreat: August 16-18, 2019, at the Saint Charles Retreat Center in Moss Bluff. The weekend retreat is sponsored by the Diocese of Lake Charles and will combine discussions, spiritual exercises, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service and a Mass of Entrustment. Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God’s love, forgiveness, and compassion. The cost is \$225.00 for meals, private room with private bath, and all retreat materials. Financial assistance is available. For more information or to register contact RV of SWLA 337-439-7400 ext. 317 or e-mail rachels.vineyard@lcdioocese.org.

Commissioning a Solemn High Red Vestment Set!

Now that we’ve received the solemn set of black vestments, we need to fill in the next vestment “gap”. SJoA needs a solemn set of red vestments. I have already received a substantial donation toward this. Now I’d like to ask you to consider making a donation for a new solemn set of red vestments. Donations of any size will be accepted. Please be sure to put “Red Vestments” in the memo line of your check. Thank you!

WHAT WE BELIEVE...WHY WE BELIEVE IT

Making the World Right

An overworked and very tired businessman was trying to relax and read the evening paper in peace and quiet. His six year old son, as small children are wont to do, want his father's attention and the boy asked question after question to engage his father for the paternal attention he wanted. The father needed a little relaxation, so he tried to think of a way to get the boy to give him a little peace without hurting his son's feelings, which led to an idea.

The man took an advertising page from the paper that had a picture of a map of the world on one side. He tore the picture into many pieces and told his son to put the picture of the world together like a jigsaw puzzle.

The boy went into another room and began to work on his father's puzzle. In ten minutes the boy was back, with the pieces of the world perfectly matching and in place. Since a six year old boy couldn't possibly have any knowledge of geography, the father couldn't understand how the boy had put the puzzle together so quickly. He asked, "Son, how did you get that map together again in such a short time?"

"That was easy, Dad," said the smiling little boy. "All I did was put the man right. When I did that, the world came out right."

"What man do you mean?"

"There was a picture of a man on the other side of the map. I just put him together."

I remember what my life was like before I became a Catholic, and it wasn't pretty. I often thank God for allowing me to find Him in the Catholic Church and giving me the opportunity to know, love and serve Him in this life so I can be forever happy with Him in the next. I had lived for... well, nothing. I lived in pursuit of happiness, as all men do, but I really didn't know how or where to find it. I thought wealth and the power that goes with it would make me happy. By the time I was twenty-five, I'd acquired more wealth than most of any five people earn in lifetime, and I did it by sheer gut determination and ruthless opportunism.

Every time I'd achieve a financial goal, I'd still find myself not satisfied. Then I'd set a new goal, thinking that if I could get that next goal—whether it be money, position, or a particular "thing"—I'd finally be happy. But I was wrong. I was miserable, and that misery increased, it seemed, daily and exponentially. Finally, thanks to my own greed and self-servitude, I lost everything before I was thirty. I mean EVERYTHING. I went from living in a brick and stone 6,000 square foot home and several luxury vehicles to living in a 12 x 60 mobile home and driving a thirteen year ole car, almost overnight. Things only got worse from there.

Then I met a man who managed to interest me in the Catholic faith. There's no good reason why he was able to interest me, other than the divine attributes of actual grace, because I had left the Protestant faith of my youth and became an agnostic. I had no interest in God or religion whatsoever. But I did eventually embrace the Catholic faith. This man was made right, and the world finally came out right for me. Did I reacquire my wealth? No, not at all. Indeed, life has been a struggle financially for over thirty years now, but I'm finally happy.

I have occasion all the time to see people living the same hell on earth I lived half a lifetime ago. The best example of this came a few years ago. I was passing through Las Vegas on my way to California for a conference, driving through the city in the wee hours of the morning.

I'd always wanted to see Caesar's Palace, so I pulled off the interstate just to take a few moments to look it over.

Frankly, I never really noticed the beauty of Caesar's Palace, because I couldn't divert my attention from the people wandering around the casino. I heard laughing and saw a lot of activity, but the thing I didn't see as I looked into the eyes of the people I passed was life. Their eyes were empty and lifeless. These were people devoid of purpose, joy or happiness. I wanted to embrace some of them and try to tell them I'd been just like them, and that their lives didn't have to be so full of misery and emptiness. It was so terribly painful to me that I left without seeing Caesar's Palace and headed back to the interstate to continue my journey. I recall praying for these haunted souls all the way to California.

Our world is crazy, much like the little boy's puzzle. It's not getting any better, and I seriously doubt it ever will get any better. The individual world of individual people doesn't have to be crazy, though. As the little boy discovered, when you put the man right, then his individual world comes out right.

I made the intellectual decision to become a Catholic when it was proven to me that Jesus Christ founded the Catholic Church, but my emotional decision came when it was proven to me that Jesus Christ, true God and true man, is really and fully present in the Holy Eucharist—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. I'll never forget the day I was baptized, but more importantly I'll never forget my first Holy Communion. I wept that day like a child, but for the very first time in my life my tears were those of immense joy and happiness. I was made right that day, and my world came out right.

Having become a Catholic, though, didn't immediately or magically change me from the man I once was. I continued to struggle with all the evil tendencies I had before becoming a Catholic. I still struggle with some of them today, and probably will for the remainder of my life. Still, I'm so far from being the man I was then that the memory of it all seems more like a bad dream than a memory.

There are four things that have allowed me to change my life, and none of them is possible for anyone outside the Catholic Church. This is true for anyone who wants a life full of joy and happiness. If you want to have such a life, then you must also embrace these four things. First, you must avail yourself of regular and frequent confession. This is how God works to change our attitudes and habits, especially once your confessor gets to know your soul the way you know your best friend so he can guide you.

Next, you must receive frequent Communion. Each time you do, Jesus increases sanctifying grace in your soul. If you can, go to Mass daily and receive Holy Communion.

Third, learn the faith. Knowing all that Christ teaches through His holy Church is like having an instruction manual for living life. You can't apply what you don't know, so learn the faith well!

Finally, make up your mind to obey Christ's command in Matthew 5:38 to "Be perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect." In other words, make up your mind to become a saint. Lest you receive some very special graces from Our Lord, you'll fall every single day. Just get up, go to confession and keep right on going. Jesus doesn't demand success, rather only the best effort we can possibly give...with His help.

SAVE THE DATES

Ultreya Meeting

Sunday, July 14th at 5:00 P.M.

SJoA Vocation Bible School

July 22nd – July 25th; 9:30 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.

Pontifical Mass at the Cathedral

Thursday, August 1st at 5:30 P.M.