

MASSES & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019

4:30 P.M. MASS – Fran Meaux, Elmo Smith, Rodney & Jerry Bushnell, Angelle L. Durio, Linda LeJeune, Don Fontenot, John & Virginia Spears Fly., Keith LeJeune, Sonja Billodeaux, Jennifer L. Manuel, Evelyn Sandell, Bernard Fontenot, Catherine Papillion, Freddy Gorman, Harrison Harmon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019

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

10:30 A.M. MASS – Carol & Keith Deshotel, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Mark & Chelsea Forman Fly., Doug & Jeane Daigle, Vicki C. Petitjean

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019

NO MASS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019

12:05 P.M. MASS – Frank Mougeot

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019

NO MASS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019

6:30 A.M. MASS – John C. Durio

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019

6:30 A.M. MASS – Dorothy Montou

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019

6:15 A.M. MASS – Rodney & Jerry Bushnell

4:30 P.M. MASS – Fran Meaux, Sox Gordon, Jack Johnson, Sonja Billodeaux, Ophelia Frank, Jennifer L. Manuel, Helin McCauley Fly., Liv. & Dec., Hubert Bertrand, J C & Bertha Smith, Catherine Papillion, Harrison Harmon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019

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

10:30 A.M. MASS – Carol & Keith Deshotel, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Edward & Ora Peloquin, Dallas, Joan & Billy Bertrand, Mark & Chelsea Foreman Fly.

Last Weekend Collection	\$5,374.00
Maintenance Fund to Date	\$32,666.50
BSA to Date (Quota is \$10,399.00)	\$7,600.55
2nd Collection – BSA	\$552.55
2nd Collection – Retirement Fund for Priests	
2nd Collection Next Weekend – Maintenance Fund	

Vocations Candle and Cross – Marita Cezar

PRAYER LIST

Tyler Alexander, Robert Andrews, Glenn Baggett, Amy Bairnsfather, Phil Beard, Charles Beaubouef, Georgia Baggett, Tyler Bellow, Bob & Jane Bennett, Jocie Bergeron, John O'Neal Bergeron, Michael Bertrand, Alvin Billodeaux, M/M Lincoln Briscoe, Margaret Briscoe, Ann Burgess, Ambrose Bushnell, Bernice Bushnell, Belle Carrier, David & Natalie Carrier, Teresa & Jackie Cary, Linda Beaubouef Cazes, Vivian Cole, Florence Comeaux, Albert Cooley, JoAnn Cormier, Brittany Courville, Jeane Daigle, Aiden & Renlee' Darbonne, Louise Guidry Darbonne, Carolyn Denison, Herman Deshotel, Francis Dugas, 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, Church Glasco, Mary Ann Goodly, Phielomone Goodly, Becky & Tracy Gorman, Dixie Granger, Vergie Granger, Jennifer Guidry, Juanita Guidry, Bob Haas, Paula Davis Hargrove, Joseph Harmon, Mildred Harmon, Esther Harmon, Bridgitte Harper, Jacque Hebert, Collin Henry, Dolores Holden, Gwen Holder, Elle Iguess, Bob & Charlene Ireland, John, Shenita & Perella Jackson, Joey James, LaNan James, Gina Johnson, Kenneth Johnson, Emily Johnson, Agnes Joubert, Debbie Kershner, Barbara Landreneau, Essie Langley,

Theresa Langley, Fly., Cooper Law, Jessica Lindsey, Brian Manuel, Kermit Manuel, Kevin Manuel, Marlin Manuel, Wilson Manuel, Brandy McCarty, Christina McNutt, Edgar Miller, Josh Miller, Louise Miller, Patrica Mikas, Beckie Moreaux, Carla Deshotel Moreau, Janice Moreau, Brad Morgan, Clifton & Carolyn Morgan, Leah Morgan, Phylis Deshotel Naquin, Paula Odom, Debbie Owen, Howard Patin, Sonya Pickett, Hannah Popillion, Dawn Prudhomme, 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, Cathy Rock, Ann Rooney, Pat Abshire Savant, Lois Singleton, Elle Smith, Yvonne Smith, Elden Bada Sonnier, Fynlee Squier, Ken & Wylene Taylor, Patrick Thomas, Diana Tichy, Matthew Truman, Dollyanna Victorian, George Vihm, Myrtis Vihm, Gene Vizona, Hannah and Linda Voeller, Bruce Walker, Mary LaFleur Ware, Dwayne Warren, Linda Weldon, Nicole Young, Theresa Young, and for those in the nursing homes and those confined in their own home. **Please call the rectory to add or remove names as needed.**

Ladies Altar Society Selling Tickets for "A Sweet Year"

The LAS is selling raffle tickets for "A Sweet Year" for \$1 per chance. One winner will be chosen to receive 12 homemade desserts – one per month during the 2020 year. The lucky winner will receive a list of desserts and contact information for pick up arrangements. The drawing will be held on Sunday, December 15, 2019. All LAS members are encouraged to pick up a book of tickets after Mass or at the rectory. Tickets and money are due by Friday, December 13th.

SJoA Youth Group Envelope Fundraiser

The youth group is having an envelope fundraiser to raise money to attend the Diocesan Youth Conference in February. Simply select an envelope from the bulletin board in the entrance of the church and place the money amount written on it inside the envelope. Place the envelope in the collection basket or bring it to the rectory. Thank you for your continued support of the youth of our parish.

SJOA CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

- 12:00 A.M. Mass (EF)
- 7:00 A.M. Mass
- 9:00 A.M. Mass

This Week @ SJoA

- **Sunday, December 8th** – CCD Grades 1-8 at 9:00 A.M.; Holy Hour from 9:15 A.M. to 10:15 A.M.; Ultreya at 5:00 P.M.
- **Monday, December 9th** – Knights of Columbus at 6:00 P.M.
- **Wednesday, December 11th** – Youth Group a 5:00 P.M.; High School CCD at 6:00 P.M.
- **Thursday, December 12th** – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 3 – 7 P.M.
- **Saturday, December 14th** – Advent Rorate Mass of Our Lady at 6:15 A.M.

WHAT WE BELIEVE...WHY WE BELIEVE IT

The Forgotten Person

Everything in Catholicism, as in all Christianity, focuses on Jesus Christ. We focus on Him for a great variety of reasons: His sacrificial death on the cross, our redemption through Him, He's the founder of the faith we profess... The list could go on and on.

The Mass, of course, is the highest form of worship of God. In fact, the Mass is the worship of God the Father with a re-presentation of the sacrifice of the Lamb (the Son) in atonement for the sins of man. So the Mass is, to most Catholics' way of thinking, all about the Father and the Son. But when it comes to the Holy Spirit, most of us sort of neglect Him—He's a dove in most of our minds, a sort of "holy flitterer". Sure, we give Him lip service, because we think we're supposed to. After all, the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Holy Trinity. But most of us don't really know much about Him or how we're supposed to practice devotion to Him.

The Holy Spirit proceeds eternally from the Father and the Son. He is indeed God, completely equal to the Father and the Son. Like the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit is almighty, eternal, and infinite.

Although the Holy Spirit is alluded to all the way back in Genesis (1:2, 26), we learned about Him via divine revelation from Jesus. When Jesus told us about Him, Christ placed Him on an equal level with the Father and the Son.

The Holy Spirit first manifested Himself in a visible way as tongues of fire over Mary and the apostles on the first Christian Pentecost Sunday. So great was this event and revered throughout history that Christian religions have been founded by mere men that are focused entirely on the second chapter of Acts, where the first Pentecost Sunday is recorded for Christian posterity. Through this manifestation of the Holy Spirit the apostles received the light to understand all that Jesus had taught them. This new light, which is the power of the Holy Spirit, gave the apostles the zeal to preach what Jesus taught without fear.

The Catholic Church is a living, breathing organism, not merely an organization or denomination. Jesus Christ is her head, and we all are her members—Jesus and we make up the Mystical Body of Christ. In order for a body to live, it must have a soul. The Soul of the Church, then, is the Holy Spirit, making her holy by the grace of Jesus Christ. He enables the Church to teach all that Jesus taught without the possibility of error. He also transforms the members of the Church into witnesses of Christ, and He was sent by the Father and the Son to live in the Church until the end of time.

But what of our relationship to the Holy Spirit? How are we supposed to relate to Him? Whether we think of it or not, we have a relationship to the Father by the mere fact that we participate in the holy sacrifice of the Mass. Since we are Christian, we develop a relationship that can even be called a friendship with Jesus. But what about the Holy Spirit?

We all actually already have a lot more going on with the Holy Spirit than most of us think. That relationship started at our baptism. Provided we are in a state of grace, the Holy Spirit dwells in our souls to make us holy with sanctifying grace. This Delightful Guest enlightens our minds to know God, strengthens our wills to carry out God the Father's will, and He sets our hearts on fire to love God and neighbor.

Those are the "mechanics" of the Holy Spirit, but what else is there? We are taught throughout our Catholic religious education to develop a personal relationship with the Father and the Son.

But is it possible to develop a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit too?

If you want to have a deep, abiding, and loving relationship with the Father and the Son, it is imperative that you first develop a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit. As Christ described the Holy Spirit, He is pure love. It is only through the Holy Spirit that we can love the Father and the Son... much less anybody else, for that matter. He transforms the heart of man into the heart of God. The human heart longs for a holy, loving soul. That is our new nature after baptism. The human soul that is holy and loves can only do so through a direct movement of the Holy Spirit, if we will let Him move. It's up to us, as we have free will, and God in all three Persons will never force Himself on us. So we have to actively seek the Holy Spirit out to let Him know we want to grow in Him. That's where it all starts.

I decided to write about the Holy Spirit today because of my own personal journey. About thirty years ago, over the course of two succeeding years, I made three consecrations: to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and to the Holy Spirit. I suppose every serious Catholic makes an act of consecration to the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts at some point. At least I hope so. But relative to the number of people who make those acts of consecration, not too many people make an act of consecration to the Holy Spirit. I probably wouldn't have either, except for one thing.

In the early '90s, a book almost quite literally fell into my hands. It was a long out of print book written in the 1950s by Archbishop Luis Martinez (RIP) called *The Sanctifier*. That book about the Holy Spirit was so captivating and exciting; I read all 350+ pages in one sitting. When I finished, I read it all over again, but this time slowly and meditatively. When I finished, I'd made up my mind to do two things.

One thing I decided to do was find a way to bring this highly polished and nearly flawless spiritual diamond back into print. After all, with as much good as I got out of it, Catholics everywhere deserved to learn the benefits the book has to offer. But before I could claim the copyright and republish it, the Daughters of St. Paul at Pauline Books and Media brought it back into print (thanks be to God). And I highly recommend that you purchase and read this book. I've read over one-thousand Catholic books, and it's rare that I go out of my way to recommend any of them, but when I discover a book so life-changing and exciting as this one, I can't help but shout it from the rooftops.

The other thing I decided to do was consecrate myself to the Holy Spirit. Technically, you are already consecrated to the Holy Spirit by virtue of your Confirmation. The sort of consecration I'm referring to is an act of the will—spiritual and physical; the active affirmation that one devotes oneself to living for the one being consecrated to.

Recent events in my life made me realize that all three of my previously made acts of consecration mentioned above had lost some of their fire and zeal. So I decided to renew all three of those acts of consecration, beginning with the Holy Spirit. As a matter of preparation for the act of consecration renewal, I've recently re-read *The Sanctifier*. I've got to tell you, this book is as awesome today as it was for me thirty years ago. Buy it!

The Holy Spirit is our link of divine love to the Father and the Son. Without Him divine love is not possible.

SAVE THE DATES

Knights of Columbus

Monday, December 9th at 6:00 P.M.

Rorate Mass

Saturday, December 14 at 6:15 A.M.

Ember Days

December 18, 20 & 21

SJoA Birthday Party for the Divine Child

Wednesday, December 25th after midnight Mass

New Year's Eve Party

Wednesday, January 1st at 12:00.01 A.M.

NO WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP OR CCD

December 18th, December 25th and January 1st

NO SUNDAY CCD

December 22nd and December 29th