

MASSES & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2019

4:30 P.M. MASS – Fran Meaux, Elmo Smith, Rodney & Jerry Bushnell, Don Fontenot, Ursin & Lillie Carrier, Alice Manuel, Cecilia Sonnier, Jack & Ellen Johnson, Sonja Billodeaux, Jennifer L. Manuel, Catherine Papillion, Harrison Harmon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2019

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

10:30 A.M. MASS – Carol & Keith Deshotel, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Joseph & Mildred Guillory, Florence Guillory, Francis Guillory, Hosey Guillory, Toevic & Joyce Fontenot, Mary Ophelia Fontenot, Ryan Rozas Fly., Lindsey Guillory

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2019

NO MASS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2019

9:00 A.M. MASS – Remy & Taylor Fly., Liv. & Dec.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2019

12:00 A.M. MASS

7:00 A.M. MASS – *Pro Populo* (For the People)

9:00 A.M. MASS – Ella Mae & Andrus Joseph Friolot

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2019

12:05 P.M. MASS – Dorothy Tucker

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2019

12:05 P.M. MASS – Frank Mougeot

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2019

4:30 P.M. MASS – Fran Meaux, George, Pat & Penny Schneider, Rodney & Jerry Bushnell, Sonja Billodeaux, Catherine Papillion, Curley Victorian, Sr., Harrison Harmon, Lindsey Guillory, Paul Collin, Roselyn Victorian, Arsan & Agnes Victorian, Dalbus Gradney, Dwight Gradney, Gracie Gradney, Berlinger, Horton & Marcantel Fly., Liv. & Dec.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2019

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

10:30 A.M. MASS – Carol & Keith Deshotel, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Foster & Allie Manuel, Ryan Rozas Fly.

Last Weekend Collection	\$3,249.00
Maintenance Fund to Date	\$33,830.50
BSA to Date (Quota is \$10,399.00)	\$7,600.55
2nd Collection December 24th & 25th – Christmas Charities	

Vocations Candle and Cross – Karen Teigen

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 Dunnehoo, 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.**

Thursday Adoration

Thank you to all who signed up for Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays. In January, a signup sheet will be placed in the church for a new cycle of Adoration.

Ladies Altar Society

The winner of "A Sweet Year" is St. Frances Nursing Home. The next LAS meeting will be held on January 7th at 5:30 P.M. in the church hall. Elections of officers will take place at the meeting. We will also begin accepting dues of \$20 for the 2020 year.

SJoA Youth Group Envelope Fundraiser

The youth group envelope fundraiser to raise money to attend the Diocesan Youth Conference will continue until December 31st. Thank you for your continued support.

Poinsettias for Christmastide

Anyone wishing to donate a poinsettia for our Christmastide church décor may do so at a cost of \$30.00.

In Memory of the Boggs & Persac Families.

In Memory of the LeRoy and Rodney Fontenot Families, Liv. & Dec.

Catholic Mission Trip

The Abrazando Cristo Mission Trip for 2020 will be July 10 – 19 to Puerto Rico. Cost of the trip is \$2,200 (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 email felicia.borel@lcdioocese.org. A \$300 non-refundable deposit with the registration form is due by Jan. 12th to secure a seat. Only 25 seats are available. First come first serve.

SJOA CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

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

This Week @ SJoA

- **Sunday, December 22nd** – No CCD Grades 1-8; Holy Hour from 9:15 A.M. to 10:15 A.M.
- **Wednesday, December 25th** – No Youth Group or High School CCD
- **Thursday, December 26th** – No Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 3 – 7 P.M.

WHAT WE BELIEVE...WHY WE BELIEVE IT

All We Own

I must admit, like most Americans I've been living most of my life on the materialistic side. There's nothing wrong with possessing "things" or having lots of money. In fact, I've been rich and now I'm poor, but I know which one I prefer. (HINT: It ain't the latter.) After all, if we didn't have fruits from our labors, there would be no way the Church could acquire what she needs to fulfill the mission given her by her Founder. Somebody has to pay the electric bill, among other things.

But materialism is sort of like emotions; both will lie to you every time. When we rely on and trust in our emotions more than relying on and trusting objective realities (and God is the Great Reality), we end up devastatingly disappointed, and often times we get ourselves into trouble. Likewise, when we place trust, dependence and pride in the material things our labors have provided, we end up buying into a great big lie that causes us to fail to put God first—and rest assured that God must be first in our lives, or we'll pay for it in the next life.

Chances are that I don't know you, but that doesn't mean I can't tell you a little bit about yourself. What I can tell you about yourself is, after all, just human nature, and I understand human nature. Contrary to the opinion of some, I *am* a human, so I can relate to human nature. What I can tell you about yourself—whether you're a top 2% earner or living in abject poverty—is that you possess something material you wouldn't dream of departing with. Maybe it's a book, or a family heirloom, or a certain car, or a piece of jewelry, or a... You get the picture. You probably also dream of owning a certain thing(s) or having a set sum of money. There's nothing wrong with that under normal circumstances. It just means you're human. And you've been given that ability to enjoy your possessions or dream about having other things from God. It's His way of "wiring" us to think about the great things in store for us that Jesus promised us in the next life.

But where we go awry is when "things" or money begin to be valued by us more than a relationship to our Creator. I'm merely speculating, mind you, as I can't read what's in anyone's heart, but I suspect a relationship to God is way down the list of priorities for many more people than we care to admit. While I can't read hearts, actions and words and attitudes are pretty good yardsticks to measure where hearts are at.

Are you one of those folks who receive Communion then dart out the door before Father even finishes putting the sacred vessels away? Maybe you grumble about having to get ready for Sunday Mass. How many times have you skipped out on Mass altogether to do something else or go somewhere? Do you attend Mass when you're traveling? Of the 128 hours in your week, how many of them do you spend keeping Jesus company in the tabernacle? Hmm.

Lots of interesting yardsticks and these are just a few of the thousands we could use. A meager perusal of the Church's teachings on the Ten Commandments provides *lots* of yardsticks!

"*You're being judgmental again, Joe!*" No, I'm not. Jesus said not to judge others (Matthew 7:1), true enough. But He also said we'll know where hearts are by people's fruits (Matthew 7:20). I'm just being a fruit inspector.

You know, it's been said God is a jealous God, and I believe it's true. After all, the Church very plainly teaches the reason God created us is to know, love and serve Him in this life so we can be happy with Him in the next. Not only is He jealous, but He's also a perfect parent. If your child is not focusing on the priorities you've set for him/her because there are huge distractions in the child's life (and this is especially true of teenagers), what good parent among you wouldn't remove that distraction for the benefit of the child you love? You get that sense of parenting as a reflection of the Perfect Parent. And rest assured, He will remove the distraction that keeps you from focusing on Him as your end-all-be-all of human existence one way or another—whether it be through loss of money or possession or... death and subsequent judgment. I know; the former happened to me.

At the end of the day, you don't possess nearly what you think you do. When it comes down to the finish line in the race of life, you really only own your soul and the virtues & vices you've acquired along the way. Actually, your soul isn't a possession, but rather who you are. Virtues and vices? We're quick to admit ownership of our virtues, but vices not so much. But believe you me, God will see to it that we all admit ownership of our vices when He calls us for our particular judgment. I don't know about you, but that scares the daylights out of me! So it behooves us all to focus on acquiring more virtues and doing away with our vices. Believe it; individual judgment comes much quicker than we'd like to believe.

I've got good news, though. This little story called *Salvation History* is told in a bestselling book. I've read it all the way through and know how it ends. Guess what? If we persevere in making Him the focus of our lives, we win in the end. Then we can have all we desire. There'll be no more fears, no more worries, no more tears, no more pain or suffering. Even if you live in a mansion now, it will seem like a shack compared to what Jesus has prepared for those who love Him above all else. So renounce your "things" and money as your priorities and focus on ridding yourself of your vices—even the little bitty ones—and let's all work toward living in eternity together.

SAVE THE DATES

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

HIGH SCHOOL CCD DAY OF REFLECTION

Monday, January 20th (More information to come)