

MASSES & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2019

4:30 P.M. MASS – Fran Meaux, Sonja Billodeaux, Jennifer L. Manuel, Catherine Papillion, Berlinger, Horton & Marcantel Fly., Liv. & Dec., Harrison Harmon, Elmo Smith, Ophelia Frank

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2020

7:30 A.M. MASS – Fr. Conner

10:30 A.M. MASS – Sheryl Banks Fly., Weston & Cecile Granger, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Mark & Chelsea Forman Fly., Peggy Monk, Patricia Mikas

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2020

NO MASS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019

12:05 P.M. MASS – Mr. & Mrs. Tom Germany

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2019

NO MASS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2019

NO MASS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2019

4:30 P.M. MASS – Fran Meaux, Sonja Billodeaux, Ursin & Lillie Carrier & Fly., Alice Manuel, Cecilia Sonnier, Bryant Montou, Jennifer L. Manuel, Catherine Popillion, Harrison Harmon, Elmo Smith, Don Fontenot, Roy Frank, Sox Gordon, Linda LeJeune, Angelle L. Durio

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2019

7:30 A.M. MASS – Elda Courville

10:30 A.M. MASS – Keith Deshotel, Fr. Conner, Sheryl Banks Fly., Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Ed & Ora Peloquin, Doug & Jeane Daigle, Melca Manuel, Peggy Monk, Patricia Mikas

Last Weekend Collection

\$4,466.56

Maintenance Fund to Date

\$34,931.45

2nd Collection – Maintenance Fund

\$851.00

Vocations Candle and Cross – Karen Teigen

Please call the rectory if you would like to sponsor the Vocations Cross and green candle. The cost of the green vocation candle is \$5.

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, George Bihm, Myrtis Bihm, 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, Aiden & Renlee' Darbonne, Louise Guidry Darbonne, Carolyn Denison, Herman Deshotel, Francis Dugas, Donna Dunneho, 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, Rod Landry, Essie Langley, Theresa Langley, Fly.,

Cooper Law, Johnny Lee, Jessica Lindsey, C.J. LeJeune, Brian Manuel, Kermit Manuel, Kevin Manuel, Marlin Manuel, Wilson Manuel, Brandy McCarty, Christina McNutt, Edgar Miller, Josh Miller, Louise Miller, Beckie Moreaux, Carla Deshotel Moreau, Janice Moreau, Brad Morgan, Clifton & Carolyn Morgan, Leah Morgan, Willie Moses, Phylis Deshotel Naquin, Paula Odom, Palmer Ortego, 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, Julia 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, Gene Vizena, 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.**

Day of Prayer and Fasting

SJoA will observe a day of prayer and fasting on Wednesday, January 22nd for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children by praying a holy hour from 6 – 7 P.M. This is the anniversary of Roe VS. Wade.

Candles for Candlemas

Please bring your candles to be blessed on Candlemas before 10:30 A.M. Mass Sunday, January 26th.

Mass for those with Special Needs

The Diocese of Lake Charles invites those with Special Needs and their families to attend Mass at St. Louis High School on January 26, 2020, beginning at 11:00 A.M. For more information please contact the Diocese of Lake Charles, office of Religious Education.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

Retreat for Healing After Abortion

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: February 21-23, 2020 at the Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff. The weekend retreat is sponsored by the Diocese of Lake Charles and will combine discussions, spiritual exercise, 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 registration contact: RV of SWLA 337-439-7400 ext. 317 or email rachels.vineyard@lcdioocese.org.

This Week @ SJoA

- **Sunday, January 19th** – CCD Grades 1-8 at 9:00 A.M.; Holy Hour from 9:15 A.M. to 10:15 A.M.
- **Wednesday, January 22nd** – No Youth Group or High School CCD: Holy Hour for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children from 6 – 7 P.M.
- **Thursday, January 23rd** – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 3 – 7 P.M.

WHAT WE BELIEVE...WHY WE BELIEVE IT

The Sick Lion

A lion had who become too old to obtain food by force wanted to do so by trickery. He lay in this cave and pretended to be very sick, making sure all the other animals knew about his illness. All the animals of the jungle and expressed their sorrow, and came one by one to visit him in his den. As they came to visit, the lion devoured them.

After many of the animals of the jungle had disappeared in this way, the fox figured out the trick. He, too, went to visit the lion, but he waited outside the cave.

"How are you?" asked the fox. "I am very sick. Won't you come in?" answered the lion.

Fox replied, "No, thank you, I noticed that there are many footprints entering your cave, but I see no trace of any coming out."

Our first pope, St. Peter, warned us of the lion in his first epistle. "Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm and your faith, knowing that the same experience of suffering is required of your brotherhood throughout the world." (I Peter 5:8-9)

On its face, this seems quite obvious to us. As Catholics, all of us are vigilant for the frontal attacks of the devil. What we fail to look out for is the trickery of the devil. Because St. Peter describes him as a lion, our natural tendency is to anticipate attacks from an aggressor and in an aggressive manner. Since lions are aggressive and attack in the most vicious way, perhaps St. Peter should have used a different metaphor. While it's true that the devil is on the prowl all the time to find souls, he seldom comes at us with a full frontal attack aggressively. More often than not, he uses trickery and subtlety to get us to offend Almighty God.

Perhaps a young person isn't able to see how the devil tricks us as well as I can, as I'm an old man now, but I have seen more lies from the devil in the last 60 years than he has told to the human race at any point before in history. When I was a child, I recall the adults speaking in whispered tones whenever a teenage girl got pregnant. It was considered a horrible scandal for that happen. Today, no one even pays attention. And it is so common that some high schools even offered day care. Yet fornication is no less an evil today than it was then.

When I was a kid, only "low class" people would consider living together instead of getting married. In modern times, however, if couples are inclined to get married at all, they first want to "try it out" before they tie the knot. They want all the pleasures of marriage without accepting any of the responsibilities. As a result, marriage is on the decline in our society. But this is still an offense to Almighty God.

A mere 60 years ago, it was common to see married people have five, six, or seven children. Today, people are actually

pitted when they have more than two children. This is a result of the contraception mentality; a lie from the devil that has convinced us that being open to the generation of human life is a bad thing.

Sixty years ago, it was inconceivable that anyone would commit the murder of a child in the womb. Today it is considered the law of the land, even among Catholics, with little or no outrage for the murders of millions of pre-born babies.

In the 1950s and 1960s, you could go to prison in most states for homosexual activity. Today it is considered a hate crime to even be critical of homosexual activity. Indeed, just writing these words is considered an illegal act in many jurisdictions. Worse yet is the attitude of acceptance among Catholics for this heinous act of human perversion against Almighty God.

These public attitudes haven't changed because we have evolved. They've changed because we've devolved. And the reason for this is because the devil has used his trickery and lied to us all these years until we finally accepted it.

Just before He ascended into heaven, Jesus commissioned us and gave His Church its walking orders. The nature of that commission morally binds all of us to carry the gospel message to all peoples in all places, and to affect change in this world for the better. Does the evidence of all the change in the last 60 years show us that we have done a good job in fulfilling this commission? No, it doesn't! We Catholics are the ones to blame for these changes, and we will one day have to give an account to Almighty God for allowing it. It's our fault; we are responsible.

What is the remedy for us? Well, the first thing we need to do is pray for ourselves, society, and our culture. The second thing we need to do is learn our holy and ancient faith well so we can share it with the rest of the world. The third thing we need to do is become intimately familiar with God's law and everything it implies so we can make sure our own moral compass is working properly. Finally, we need to live up to our name. We are Catholics living in the Church Militant. So we need to the militantly fight the devil in our society and culture. Our failure to do this will result in our hearing Jesus' words: "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot! *So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth.*" (Revelation 3:15-16)

Time grows short for every one of us. It doesn't matter whether you're young or old; the time to give an account to Almighty God is near. Life ending, whether it happens today or 60 years from now, occurs all too soon and unexpected. Be ready! We may not win the battle, but we will win the war. I've read the book of all the way through, and it ends happily for those of us who do as we're supposed to do.

SAVE THE DATES

DAY OF PENANCE & PRAYER HOLY HOUR

Wednesday, January 22nd

CONFIRMATION MASS

Thursday, March 19th at Sacred Heart of Jesus in Oakdale