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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

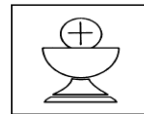
<b>Mon</b>	<b>Feb 17</b>	Jas 1:1-11, Mk 8:11-13
<b>Tues</b>	<b>Feb 18</b>	Jas 1:12-18, Mk 8:14-21
<b>Wed</b>	<b>Feb 19</b>	Jas 1:19-27, Mk 8:22-26
<b>Thu</b>	<b>Feb 20</b>	Jas 2:1-9, Mk 8:27-33
<b>Fri</b>	<b>Feb 21</b>	Jas 2:14-24, 26, Mk 8:34—9:1
<b>Sat</b>	<b>Feb 22</b>	1 P5 5:1-4, Mt 16:13-19
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Feb 23</b>	Lv 19:1-2, 17-18, 1 Cor 3:16-23, Mt 5:38-48



**YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

Regular Collections	\$	9,279.00
Maintenance	\$	864.00
Capital Improvement	\$	1,373.40
Nativity Elem.	\$	846.00
Miscellaneous	\$	573.00
<b>TOTAL COLLECTION</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>12,935.40</b>

**Thank you for your generous contributions!**

**COMMUNION VISITATION**

Jesus says of you and me, "You are the salt of the earth". No one should be deprived of the Most Holy Eucharist because they are homebound, elderly, have no means of getting to Mass and/or sick in their home. Sister Jackie Tarrant, RSM will gladly bring the Eucharist to you in your home. Together we can be "salt of the earth". Sister can be reached at the rectory at 228-374-1717.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

<b>Feb 17</b>	Women of Mary, 5:30 pm
<b>Feb 18</b>	Men of St. Joseph 7:00 a.m. SHC Bingo Mania, 5:30 pm RCIA, SHC, 6:00 pm
<b>Feb 19</b>	Cleaning Team "C" CCD, SHC, 5:30 pm

**A LOOK TOWARD LENT**

After we've enjoyed the merriment and feasting of Mardi Gras, we turn our attention to the ashes and fasting of Lent. This year, Ash Wednesday falls on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. The Mass schedule to get your ashes is 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m. All Masses will be held in the cathedral church.

**NATIVITY BVM WEEKLY LENTEN PRAYER GROUP**

Nativity BVM Cathedral is very pleased to be offering a Weekly Lenten Prayer Group: "Prayer: Finding Intimacy with God". This study, utilizing a program offered through FORMED, captures the secret to opening our hearts and minds to Scripture as the means to hear from God and then respond in conversation, basking in His presence and resolving to live in and through His love. This hour long Prayer Group will meet every Wednesday from March 4-April 1, 2020 at 6pm in the Sacred Heart Center Library. If you would like to join in this beautiful Lenten devotion, please contact Joan Strayham at [mjjoans1@gmail.com](mailto:mjjoans1@gmail.com), telephone 228-861-5269.

**MAGNIFICAT SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL**

If you currently receive your Magnificat through us and want to again in 2020, it is time to get your check in to us. This offer is to all parishioners as well. Please submit your check in the amount of \$36.00 for a one-year subscription, to the church rectory no later than February 24<sup>th</sup>. **If we do not have an order of at least 15, we will not be eligible for this discounted price.**

**THE LENTON SEASON**

**Fasting:** Catholics 18-59 years of age who are in good health are obliged to fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On all the weekdays of Lent the U.S. Bishops strongly encourage the faithful to participate in Mass and to observe a self-imposed fast. The law of fasting allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and evening. Customarily, the two smaller "collations," when considered together, should not equal the main meal—and ideally should be eaten only if needed to maintain one's strength.

**Abstinence:** All Catholics 14 years of age and older are obliged to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent, unless the Friday is a solemnity (there are no Friday solemnities in 2020).

In their Penance and Abstinence pastoral, the U.S. Bishops declared: "the obligation both to fast and to abstain from meat, an obligation observed under a more strict formality by our fathers in the faith, still binds on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. No Catholic Christian will lightly excuse himself from so hallowed an obligation..." They also stated: "we preserve for our dioceses the tradition of abstinence from meat on each of the Fridays of Lent, confident that no Catholic Christian will lightly hold himself excused from this penitential practice."

**Flowers and Music:** During Lent, flowers are not to be used to decorate the altar, with the exceptions of the Fourth Sunday of Lent, and the Solemnity of St. Joseph (March 19<sup>th</sup>), and the Solemnity of the Annunciation (March 25<sup>th</sup>); musical instruments are only to be played in order to support the singing, with the same exceptions.

**Gloria and Creed:** The Gloria and the Creed are sung/said on the Lenten solemnities. Note that when in Creed is said during the Mass on the Annunciation that all genuflect at the words, "and by the Holy Spirit, he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man."

**Covering Crosses and Images:** Crosses and images should not be covered for the whole of Lent. The appropriate time to cover crosses and statues in purple is before the Saturday Vigil Mass of the Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 29, 2020 (after the Saturday morning Mass of that day). Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday; other images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.

**Holy Water:** Removing holy water from the fonts during the season of Lent (and replacing it with sand, etc.) is not permitted; holy water is removed after the evening Mass Holy Thursday and refilled on Holy Saturday with water blessed at the Easter Vigil.

**NATIVITY BVM SCHOOL NEWS!**

Registration for the 20-21 School Year is underway. Please visit our website at <http://www.nativitybvm.org> to register your returning student or to submit an application for a new student. We look forward to having a school full of saints!

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS
<b>Feb 22 4:00 pm</b> 1. Helen Languirand 2. Gayle Mavar 3. Kathleen Coskey 4. Liz Joachim 5. Ann Kavanagh  <b>Feb 23 7:00 am</b> 1. Danny Kavanagh 2. Colleen Kavanagh 3. Joan Strayham  <b>9:00 am</b> 1. Michael Kessler 2. Traci Kessler 3. Gwen Vanderfin 4. Jim Compton 5. Linda Bourgeois  <b>11:00 am</b> 1. Sandy Steckler 2. Judy Steckler 3. Linda Welter 4. Robert Moniot 5. Rhonda Clark  <b>5:30 pm</b> 1. Elizabeth Becker 2. Teresa Ballinger	<b>Feb 22 4:00 pm</b> Michael Br4uffey  <b>Feb 23 7:00 am</b> Jim Shugart  <b>9:00 am</b> Maggie Landry  <b>11:00 am</b> Rosina LePre  <b>5:30 pm</b> Patrick Hall  <b>CANTORS</b>  <b>Feb 22 4:00 pm</b> Phil Frisby  <b>Feb 23 9:00 am</b> Peter Abide CATHEDRAL CHOIR  <b>11:00 am</b> John Welter	<b>Feb 22 4:00 pm</b> Sam Burke  <b>Feb 23 7:00 am</b> Alec Ryan  <b>9:00 am</b> Tristan Davis Kingston Davis Julia Landry  <b>11:00 am</b> Chaz Byers Izabelle Byers McKinzy Mathis  <b>5:30 pm</b> Samantha Sharplin

6:30 AM	8:00 AM
<b>Mon Feb 17</b> Dr. Richard Covington <b>Tue Feb 18</b> Connie Galle <b>Wed Feb 19</b> Thomas E. Connell <b>Thu Feb 20</b> Elie Hebert <b>Fri Feb 21</b> Thu Bui <b>Sat Feb 22</b> 8 Sr. Mary Jo Mike <b>Sun Feb 23</b> 7 Evelyn Havertt (S.I.)	Mary Rosella McAuliffe James Tanner Stanley Dellenger Maurice A. McAuliffe Gaspar/Mary Pisarich Doris/Gabe Kasovich F.T.P <b>11:00</b> – Timothy Michael O’Brien (S.I.) <b>5:30</b> Wayne Leckich

**PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Rocky Long, Harry Kostmayer, Sr., Nolan Broussard, Sr., Peter Skrmetta, Kay Semski, Kevin Kavanagh, Carolyn Urbanoto, Heather Boudreaux, Phil Beining, Mable Viator, Buck O’Gea, Nick Pass, Sue and Gene Daudelin, Lesa Walker-Kirkman, Rose Collins, Lehmon Skrmetti, Annette Luther, Macklyn Holloway, Mary Wimberly, Candy Widener, Tiffany Whitehead, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Mickey Bradley, Gwen Gollott, Greg Hotaling, Jack Joachim, Jr., Michael Zorich and our Homebound Parishioners.

**From the Music & Fine Arts Ministry:**

**Terry Maddox** –Our Minister of Music is away attending a seminar at the Diocese Office on Saturday, February 15th. There will be NO Music for the 4 p.m. Mass for this Saturday.

**CHILDREN’S CHOIR:**

We welcome our Children’s Choir and our NES Children liturgists who will share in our 9:00 am Children’s Mass this Sunday, February 16th.

**ADULT CHORAL MINISTRY:**

“Gloria In Excelsis” – “GIE” – the Cathedral’s Choral Society rehearses on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on the stage of the Academy of the Sacred Heart. Any interested individuals who would like to join us are welcome! We are preparing for our March 28th Concert-Service – “Reflections on Holy Week”.

**“Cathedral Choir”**

The Cathedral Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Any interested individuals who would like to join us are welcome! The Cathedral Choir will share in the 9 a.m. Mass on Sunday, February 23rd and at the 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Mass on Ash Wednesday, February 26th. The Choir will then have an abbreviated choir rehearsal until 8 pm

**ORGAN PROJECT – 2020:**

Beginning with our 11 am Mass on this Sunday, February 16th – we will welcome back our 24-rank pipe organ with a new electrical system and computer brain center. With the resolution of this projects we will gain back several “dead” notes that have not been playing throughout the organ and one “rank” of 4’ pipes that was rendered in operable from last summer’s brown & black outs. We are most grateful to our Organ Service Company/Owners – Susan & David Finch of Finch Organ Services of Alabama for their diligent and fervent efforts to renovate our organ for our worship and use. For more information regarding any of these program/event offerings or any other aspect of our Music & Fine Arts Ministry Program - please contact: Terry D. Maddox, M.M. – terrydalemaddox@gmail.com &/or 251 406-1454.

**MUSIC FOR THIS WEEKEND**

ENTRANCE HYMN	# 558
OFFERTORY	# 525
COMMUNION	# 592
SENDING	# 523

**CCD**

CCD classes will be held February 19th. On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, we will all meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Cathedral for Mass, instead of having our regular classes. CCD classes, for K-5th grades, are held in the Sacred Heart Center, behind the Cathedral, on Wednesday evenings, from 5:30-6:30 pm. If you need to register your child, please come any Wednesday during class time. If you need additional information or have any questions please call, text or email Barbara Ziz, [228-918-9778](tel:228-918-9778), [barbaraziz19@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraziz19@gmail.com).

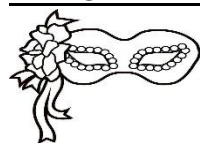
**RCIA**

This week the RCIA class will be learning about the Eighth Commandment with Father Dennis, and Vicki Saucier will be leading our prayer service. Please pray for the Catechumens, Candidates and Sponsors as they study the beliefs and traditions of our faith and continue this journey together. If you would like further information, please contact Greg or Penny Payne 228-365-6348.

**BINGO MANIA:**

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for February 18, 2020: O’Grady (Sean & Katie), Oropesa (John & Sara), Patti (Christopher & Shana), Pisarich (Keith & Dusti), (Pope (Kristi) and Privett (Jason & Kasey). **REMEMBER! If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.**

**NEPTUNE AT NATIVITY**



Mark your calendar for our Sixth Annual Neptune at Nativity Cathedral parish Mardi Gras celebration. Saturday, February 22, 2020, after the 4:00 p.m. Mass, our parish family will gather in front of the Cathedral and rectory to watch the Neptune Parade. There will be an open house in the rectory with bathrooms available. Be sure to bring your chair! Please watch for more information in the upcoming bulletin!!!