WEEKEND EUCHARIST
Saturday: 7:30 am Mass
4:00 pm Vigil Mass
Sunday Masses:
8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am and 5:00 pm

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST
Monday - Friday: 6:30 am & 8:45 am
Tuesday: 7:00 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesday: 9:30 am to 6:00 pm
ending with Benediction
First Friday: 9:30 - 10:30 am

RECONCILIATION
Tuesday: 6:00 to 6:45 pm
Saturday: 3:00 to 3:45 pm
5:00 to 5:30 pm
Feast of the Holy Family, Year B

We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family this weekend. It is appropriate to have this celebration so close to Christmas, as we remember that Jesus was born into a family, just like we were.

I think most of us have a very positive view of the Holy Family, and rightly so. Two of the three members of the family were perfectly sinless, namely Jesus and Mary. In this respect I feel sorry for Joseph. If anything went wrong he was the scapegoat, as he is the only one who could have possibly done wrong. But Joseph was a very strong and humble man, so he was the best one for the job given the circumstances.

So because we normally have this high view of the Holy Family, we might overlook their humanity. They were as human as we are. They had hopes and dreams and expectations. Jesus became man and was part of a human family, a real family. They had their chores and daily tasks. Joseph and Mary had their challenges in raising a family, just like families today have their challenges. But no matter what was going on, the Holy Family was completely centered around God. The Holy Family was literally Christ centered, as Jesus was the heart and focus.

But as every family is dysfunctional in some ways, even the family Jesus was born into was. To be sure, I am not referring to Mary or Joseph. I am referring to Jesus family tree, or His genealogy. Both St. Matthew and St. Luke list the genealogy of Jesus. Some of these people did some not so good things, yet Jesus was still related to them, and He chose to come from this family. For instance, David was an adulterer and a murderer, and Solomon had many concubines. Our family has its issues, and the extended family of Jesus had its issues as well.

I guess the point to all this is that no matter how functional or dysfunctional our particular family can be at times, whether it is immediate family, cousins, in-laws, etc., God can still work good through it. Just as there were serious immoral offenses that happened in Jesus’ family, yet good came from it, namely the savior of the world came from their line, God can still produce good in our family. Grace can/is present in our family too. We don’t have to be perfect prior to God bestowing grace and favor upon our family. It is the grace and favor of God that encourages us to become perfect in the first place as we cannot become perfect without the grace and mercy of God.

So on this Feast of the Holy Family, may we give thanks to God for both becoming man for us, and entering into a particular human family. He elevated our humanity in the Incarnation, and He elevated the dignity of the human family by being born into a family. So let not dwell too much on the imperfections that we might have, but focus more on becoming perfect in the eyes of God with the help of His grace. May we have the eyes of faith to see the good that He is working right under our nose.

Reflection by Fr. Braud

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday December 31
4:00 pm Vigil Louis & Ruth Duvic, Robert Kinler, Robert McGinnis, Gardner & McCleland Families, Jeffrey Lambert, Rodney Pete McIntyre, Shayne M. Beier, Shirley McDonnell, Ida Hyver, Ann Stansbury, Frank Mason, Mr. & Mrs. Lionel Orallana (S.I.), Mr. & Mrs. Karim SeBusi (S.I.), Haifa Mosto Hamide (S.I.), Amina Hamida (S.I.), Kathleen Howard Brady (G.I.)

8:00 am Marilyn Garon
9:30 am Viola B. Abadie
11:00 am Charles Kirchem, Salvador D'Amico, Sr., Catherine Linn, Clara Louise Deubler, Dorothy L. Benge (Health), Michelle Buisson and children (S.I.), Mr. & Mrs. G. Cox (S.I.)

5:00 pm Charlie Carriere (S.I.)

Monday January 1
6:30 am Frank Mason
8:45 am Daniel Rotolo

Tuesday January 2
6:30 am Frank Mason
8:45 am Trudeau B. Livaudais
7:00 pm Warren Lemonier

Wednesday January 3
6:30 am Warren Lemonier
8:45 am Carol R. Mayfield

Thursday January 4
6:30 am Warren Lemonier
8:45 am Trudeau B. Livaudais

Friday January 5
6:30 am Warren Lemonier
8:45 am Trudeau B. Livaudais

Saturday January 6
7:30 am Trudeau B. Livaudais

December 31, 2017 & January 6, 2018

“Sanctuary Candle” for Michelle Poole (Health)
**Parish Calendar**

1/1  SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD  
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
1/2  9:15 AM ADORATION IN CHAPEL  
5 PM RCIA/ST. JOHN PAUL II
1/3  1 PM SEWING SEAMS OF FAITH CLASS/ST. RAYMOND  
7 PM YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSAL IN CHURCH
1/4  9:30 AM ADULT CATECHISM/ST. RAYMOND  
7 PM CONFIRMATION SESSION 2 CLASS1/CAF & CLASSROOMS  
7 PM ST. ANN FAITH SHARING/ST. RAYMOND
1/5  9:30 AM ADORATION IN CHURCH
1/6  7:30 AM MEN’S CLUB MASS IN CHURCH
1/7  6 PM KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS (BUSINESS)ST. RAYMOND

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**Pope Francis’ Prayer Intention for The Elderly**

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

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**FEATURED IN JANUARY CONVERSION**

“**I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents**” (Luke 15:10). Conversion is not only a singular decision to follow God, but also a continual return to his mercy when we have sinned. This month, may we bring about the conversion of others in the midst of our own, daily conversions.

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**Read on FORMED.org.**

Staunch atheist Sally Read converted to Catholicism in the space of nine electric months. In 2010, Read was heralded as one of the bright young writers of the British poetry scene. Feminist and deeply anti-Catholic, she was writing a book about female sexuality when, during her research, she spoke with a Catholic priest. The interview led her on a dramatic spiritual quest that ended up at the Vatican itself, where she was received into the Catholic Church.

Unsurprisingly, this story is written in the vivid language of poetry. Read relates her encounters with the Father, the Spirit, and then the Son exactly in the way they were given to her—timely, revelatory, and compelling. These transforming events threw new light onto the experiences of her past—her father’s death, her work as a psychiatric nurse, and her single years in London—while they illumined the challenges of marriage and motherhood in a foreign country. As she developed a close intimacy with the new love that erupted into her life, Christ himself, she found herself coming to embrace a faith she had previously rejected as bigoted and stifling.

To Register for FORMED: Go to Formed.org — Enter ST. ANN’S PARISH CODE XX87MF on the homepage—Create a personal account with your user name/email and password—Start enjoying the best Catholic content all in one place!
St. Ann's CYO program is asking for any parishioner who has any type of gaming equipment that they would like to donate for the youth facility to please contact David Wilson at 455-7071. These could include Play Station, X Box, Nintendo, or other game equipment, accessories and game CD’s. Also, if anyone has a slate pool table that they wish to rid themselves of, just call and we can arrange to have it taken. We are hoping to begin furnishing the new youth facility in the coming weeks and some parishioners would have some great youth stuff that your children may have out-grown or are no longer using. If you have any questions, please forward them to David Wilson at 455-7071, ext. 225.
INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ST. ANN SCHOOL

• St. Ann School is accredited by AdvancEd, the national accreditation signifying our commitment to educational excellence.

• The school also holds state accreditation.

• Our pupil-teacher ratio, when factoring in our administrative support staff, is approximately 12:1. Generally home-room classes in grades K-4 have approximately 25 students or less per class. PK2, PK3 and PK4 class size is even lower.

• The administrative support staff includes the principal, assistant principal, counselor, curriculum coordinator, Student Assistance Director, religion coordinator, technology coordinator, development director and School Program Director.

• This year 65% of our seventh grade students qualified for the Duke Talent Search. This means that 65% of the seventh grade class scored 95% and above on at least one subtest of the Terra Nova Standardized Test. Of the students who participated in the Duke Talent Search during the spring of 2017, 25% received state recognition. One student received the honorable Grand Recognition.

• Our 2017 Terra Nova test percentiles and ACT Aspire percentiles are higher than the National average. We remain above National percentile scores in every grade level and subject.

• An impressive number of our former students have attained the recognition of valedictorian or salutatorian from the area Catholic high schools.

• Approximately 30% of St. Ann faculty members hold advanced university degrees. All faculty members meet Louisiana and Southern Association guidelines for accreditation.

• Each year a number of our 7th grade students receive academic scholarships to local Catholic high schools.

• The school campus facilities include a library, media center, music room, band room, science lab, gymnasium with stage, cafeteria, and computer lab.

• We offer a full lunch program and before and after care and Holiday Care.

• There are telephones and internet access in every classroom.

• The use of technology equipment and software enhances all aspects of the school. All classrooms have a network computer, a plasma monitor for digital media broadcasts, document cameras and iPad centers for student use. Our 5th, 6th, and 7th grades have a 1:1 iPad program to enrich learning, with an Apple TV in each classroom. Apple TV’s are also in the PK2 classrooms. Additionally, classrooms in PreK3-4th have SmartBoards.

• The school uses the services of School Messenger, a telephone broadcast system, to notify households and parents within minutes of an emergency or unplanned event. The service also can be used to communicate general announcements or reminders.

• Parents have access to the Parent Plus Portal, an internet service through which they can access current information about the school, as well as their child’s schedule and academic progress. A parent can view their child’s grade(s) as soon as they are posted by the teacher. The school can electronically communicate with all families through e-mail.

• Registration for returning students is conducted online. Fees and tuition may be paid by debit or credit card, or by bank draft. Additionally, tuition payments are set up as monthly recurring bank drafts when a bank loan is secured. Extended care attendance and payments are also managed online, as well as St. Ann Cafeteria lunch accounts.

• Exterior doors are secured by a magnetic lock system monitored by the security services of Sonitrol of New Orleans, Inc.

• Thirty-three staff members have been at St. Ann School 10 years or more.

• There are fourteen former graduates on St. Ann’s staff.

• All third grade students learn to play a musical instrument.

• There are many extra-curricular school activities offered for the students, including choir, band, Art Club, Chess Club, Student Council, Beta Club, Builders Club, Junior Service Club, St. Joseph’s Club, Mary’s Club, Quiz Bowl, Spanish Club, Technology Club, Science Club, Lego Club and Cheerleading.

• The school participates in all the CSAL sports, including cabbage ball, volleyball, flag football and basketball. We also participate in several Metro Sports, including cross country, bowling, tennis, soft ball, and baseball.  (Rev. 10/2017)
This Week at Home

Monday, January 1
Mary the Holy Mother of God

Today is the octave day of Christmas and the oldest Marian celebration in the Roman Catholic Church. The readings help us reflect on Mary’s role in the Incarnation. Mary teaches us what it means to keep and contemplate the mystery of Christ within our heart. Because of her yes, we are no longer slaves but heirs to the Kingdom. Spend time in active, imaginative prayer today and dialogue with Mary to learn how to contemplate Jesus.


Tuesday, January 2
Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

Do you know when you fell in love with Christ? The First Reading tells us to keep within us what we heard from the beginning. What did you hear and when? Like Basil and Gregory, we rely on God’s grace to help us witness to the truth of Christ and remain faithful. If the Gospel has taken root in our heart, then when it is proclaimed, we are roused to confess that Jesus is Lord.


Wednesday, January 3
Behold

We hear the second line of today’s Gospel just before we process to Communion. The words are a beautiful command to gaze upon Jesus and recognize him. John the Baptist knows that Jesus is the Messiah and wants others to encounter Jesus. Do you “behold” Christ in your daily life? Gather some friends and family to go Christmas caroling tonight to a nursing home or soup kitchen to help others behold the joy of the Incarnation.


Thursday, January 4
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

“Come and see” is the message found in today’s Gospel. Jesus invited Andrew and the other disciple to follow him. Like the two disciples, we too are invited to follow and learn from the Teacher. St. Elizabeth heard this call and responded by opening schools and orphanages to aid her community. Christ has shown us how to live, but do we have the courage to follow him? Consider researching the Sisters of Charity today and preparing gift baskets for the poor in your community.

Today’s Readings: 1 John 3:7–10; Psalm 98:1, 7–8, 9; John 1:35–42.

Friday, January 5
St. John Neumann

The First Letter of John continues to preach about God’s love and the need to love one another. In the Gospel, new disciples continue to respond to the invitation to “come and see.” In Baptism, we made our initial response. This response requires the type of love and action the saint we celebrate today personified. The love of Christ leads us to share the Good News. Reach out to the unloved in your community and see the face of Christ.

Today’s Readings: 1 John 3:11–21; Psalm 100:1b–2, 3, 4, 5; John 1:43–51.

Saturday, January 6
Faith

In the First Reading, John turns his attention from the theme of love to the topic of faith. He tells his listeners that Jesus is truly God’s Son, to which the Spirit, water (Baptism), and blood (Eucharist) continue to testify. When we look at this in light of the entire Epistle, we learn that those who have faith in God’s Son, have eternal life. The Gospel affirms that Jesus is God’s Son and so like Jesus, our Baptism calls us to proclaim God’s Kingdom. Find a hymn in the parish’s hymnal that speaks to the mission of Baptism and faith. Use this for prayer today.

Information Page

St. Ann Church and Shrine

024225

Date: December 31, 2017

Contact: Linda Ehrhardt (504)455-7071 ext. 222

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Special Instructions: