

WE HAVE A NEW PASTOR!



Archbishop Aymond has appointed Very Rev. Peter O. Akpoghiran, J.C.D. to be the pastor of St. Mark Parish effective December 7, 2020.

The "J.C.D." behind Fr. Peter's name indicates his doctorate in Canon Law. He will be our pastor and live in the rectory, but he will also continue his work for the Archdiocese as Chancellor and

Judicial Vicar. He is the author of many books on both Canon (Church) Law and on a variety of spiritual topics.

Until December 8, a Communion Service will replace the 8:00 am Masses.

MASS INTENTIONS

**December 5
SATURDAY 5:30 PM:**

Henry & Aline Robert
by Ernest & Shirley Webre

Rose Picou
by Keller Family

Jesse Louviere
by Randy & Leslie Petit Family

Sheldon & Herman Haydel
Rena Gassen

by Marjory Robert

Clarence "Lefty" Wegmann
by Lillian Wegmann

**December 6
SUNDAY 9:30 AM:**

Parishioners of St. Mark

Fr. Ed

Vernon Keller
by Dudley & Brenda Webre

Forgotten Souls in Purgatory
by Patsye Lunk

Peggy Martin
by Lloyd & Curtis Alexander

Beatrice Z. Brown
by Elsie Petit

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Dutch Kappel, Dolena Robert, Carol Jones, Sam Granier, Monica Schexnaydre, Audrey Zeringue, Dana Jones, Gay-Lynn Folse, Morris Zeringue, Gaye Webre, Lynell Wipple, Sandra Cortez, Ernest Webre, Diane Triche, Joyce King, Easton Owen, Glenna Smith, Vanessa Johnson, Juli Zeringue, Elsie Sandolph, Larry Landry, Troy Pintado, Kerri Breaux, Hilton Landry, Linda Caminata, Mende Ford, Babette Robert, Haley Dufrene, Ken Oberle, Mabry Laviolette, Daryl Riddle

PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL THE PARISH OFFICE TO ADD A NAME TO THE PRAYER REQUEST LIST.

ALSO, PLEASE CALL TO REMOVE NAMES FROM THE LIST.



SANCTUARY LAMP IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

LUCIEN & EDITH ROBERT

(Nov. 29-Dec. 5)

by Marjory Robert



SANCTUARY LAMP IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

JESSE LOUVIERE

(Dec. 6-12)

by Randy & Leslie Petit Family



First Sunday of ADVENT

Nov. 29, 2020

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS:

The first reading, **Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7**, is part of a long prayer of lament. In the opening

verses, the people appear to blame God for "allowing" them to sin, but as evidenced later in the reading, they know that they are guilty. Their accusation against God for "letting them wander" and "hardening their hearts" is a cry of frustration that exclaims: "How did we get ourselves into this mess!" They are unhappy because life is difficult and God seems to be far away. Although they live several generations after the Exiles who returned from Babylon, they are still hard at work rebuilding the Jerusalem and the Temple. The restoration is being hindered by contentious nations along their borders and by internal conflicts. They want God to come to their aid. They want God to physically manifest His presence to them as He once revealed Himself to Moses and led their ancestors out of Egypt.

Although the restoration is slow and difficult, the Jews still maintain their faith in God. He is their Father, he is merciful and faithful; therefore, they will wait for Him to act on their behalf (of course, the sooner He acts, the better!) They admit their guilt: they didn't do right; they ignored God and did not follow His ways. They acknowledge that without God, they can do nothing good. They need God to save them from themselves. so they use the connection between potter and clay, between an artist and his art, to persuade God to forgive them and return to them. Just as potters, through their creativity, put a part of themselves into the clay they form, God puts Himself into His people. They are God's creation, and they know that if they surrender themselves to His will, He will re-create them into something good--into a work He will be pleased to call His own.

Today we begin Advent, a season that recalls the anticipation preceding Christ's birth. The Gospel, **Mark 13:33-37**, teaches us to live in anticipation of Christ's Second Coming. In this Gospel, Jesus concludes his discourse about future events with a stern warning to his disciples. He says they must be watchful and alert so that they will be prepared for his return. Jesus reinforces his point with a parable about a man who leaves his servants in charge of his affairs while he goes on a journey. He assigns jobs to each of them and orders them to stay on watch for his return. Like the man going on a journey, Jesus is going to return to his Father; however, also like the man in parable, Jesus will eventually come back. When he does, he expects to find his followers working diligently at their assigned tasks.

Not knowing when Jesus will return is not an excuse for being caught off-guard. Life can be difficult and Jesus can seem far away, but we have been given an assignment to love God and to show

CONTINUED ON BACK



ATTENTION: CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

The Sacrament of Confirmation is January 23, 2021.

All Confirmation Candidates are **REQUIRED** to attend the following preparatory events:

1. Sunday, Dec. 13, 2020 -- 9:30 am- Mass & Meeting

Parents, Sponsors & Students are to attend Mass followed by a meeting that will last about an hour.

2. Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021 -- 9:30 am- Mass & Meeting

Parents & Students are to attend Mass followed by a meeting that will last about an hour. Sponsors are invited, but not required to attend.

3. Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021-CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Student Retreat begins at 2:30 pm and ends with the 5:30 pm Mass. Confessions will start at 5:00 pm. Parents & Sponsors are required to attend Mass with the students and to stay for the Confirmation Mass rehearsal after Mass.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred by Archbishop Aymond at the 5:30 pm Mass on January 23, 2021. Students, Parents & Sponsors must arrive by 5:10 pm so that the Archbishop can speak to the students before the Mass.

**STUDENTS, THESE ARE REQUIREMENTS.
YOU MUST MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO ATTEND ALL THREE EVENTS.**

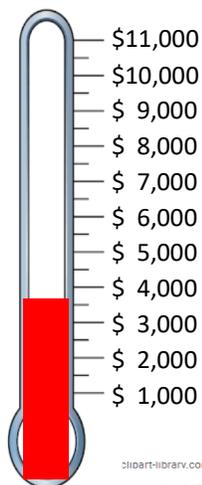
The capital campaign to repair and update the rectory in memory of Fr. Ed will end on Dec. 31st.

DONATED ITEMS, DONATED LABOR, AND AMAZING VOLUNTEERS HAVE KEPT COSTS TO A MINIMUM WITH MAXIMUM RESULTS. IF YOU HAVE ALREADY MADE A CONTRIBUTION, THANK YOU; IF NOT, PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO HELP US REACH OUR GOAL. ANY AMOUNT—LARGE OR SMALL—IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. MANY PEOPLE ARE NOT COMING TO CHURCH DURING COVID, SO PLEASE HELP TO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THIS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IN MEMORY OF FR. ED.

To date we have: \$3,731.00

Place donations: 1) in the box in church; 2) in the parish office letter slot; 3) in the mail (10773 River Rd., Ama, LA 70031).

GOAL!



clipart-library.com
www.stvincentdepaul.com
Copyright © 2013 Saint Vincent de Paul Society, U.S.A.

Packing Thanksgiving Baskets



The members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to express their gratitude to the parishioners of St. Mark for their gifts of food and financial donations. Because of your generosity, Thanksgiving/Christmas Baskets of food, fresh fruit, and a generous gift card were given to six families in need in our community. Thank you!



Reflection continued . . .

God's love to others--and we must stay on task. If we do, we will have nothing to fear when Christ returns. If we spend our lives seeing Christ in others and being Christ to others, we will immediately know and welcome Jesus whenever he returns, and --best of all-- Jesus will know and wel-

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS BULLETIN MEMORIAL: Make donations by using the "Christmas Flower" envelope in your offering box (or label a regular envelope).

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND THE NAMES OF THOSE TO BE REMEMBERED IN THE MEMORIAL. Put the envelope in the same basket as the regular collection.



needpix.com