

PASTOR'S CORNER

At our last pastoral council meeting two main issues seemed to garner the most attention: the cleanliness of the church and ushers/hospitality.

I said that I would begin to work on reorganizing and reforming the ushers. I will be calling a meeting soon, but I wanted to offer the reflection on hospitality, which is an insert in the bulletin this weekend. I ask that you read and reflect on these words. Please share with me any concerns or affirmations. Please also talk with others about our hopes for our parish community.

In regards to the cleanliness of the church, I have been trying to address the issues, but unfortunately other concerns often delay implementation. We have a high school girl sweeping and removing the trash. I am very grateful to one parishioner who has taken on cleaning the bathrooms from time to time. Charlie Green is trying to make sure that paper products are always in the bathrooms and that they are tidy. Charlie and I have been learning a lot about floor maintenance. We are often learning from our mistakes. If there is anyone willing to help with the stripping, sealing or buffing, please give me a call. I had hired someone to maintain the gardens weekly, but often failed to come. One parishioner took pity on the gardens and weeded them. It would be nice if we had a garden club to go along with the Altar Society. Another solution for these issues is to increase our weekly collection. Then we would have the funds to hire someone else.

Love, Fr. Jimmy

Weekly Collections

Sunday, July 21, 2019
Weekly Collection



Envelopes.....	\$3,643.00
Loose.....	\$ 1,473.00
Total Collection.....	\$ 5,116.00
Black & Indian Mission....	\$1,890.00



Thank you for your generosity.

Two of today's readings focus on hospitality, the way we treat a guest. Abraham receives a visit from three strangers and he treats them extravagantly, only discovering in the end who they really are. Martha and Mary welcome Jesus to their home, each serving him in her own way. In between we hear from Paul, who as a missionary was welcomed by faithful Christians in towns around the eastern Mediterranean. Today we are afforded the opportunity to sit back like Mary did and listen to the Lord speak. We hear the Lord speak to Abraham, assuring him that his wife, Sarah, will finally bear a son. We hear the Lord speak to Martha and Mary, assuring them of the importance of listening and learning. We hear the Lord speak, as we do each Sunday, in the breaking of the bread. Let us listen and hear what the Lord says to us. Through our ears, may we offer the hospitality our Lord desires.



How do we pray? How do we speak to God? We gather each Sunday to pray together. During the week, we may take the opportunity to pray individually. We may wonder if God really hears our prayers, if we are praying effectively. Today's scripture selections give us an excellent opportunity to look for insight on how the Lord expects us to pray and what we can expect from our heavenly Father.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Saturday, July 27th

4:00 p.m.

Richard Romaine, Sr., Emile Hebert, Sr., Ramon Dominguez

Sunday, July 28th

8:00 a. m.

Laurent & Betty Verdin and Miguel "Mike" Lopez.

10:00 a.m. Mass

Eugene Simon Bourgeois, for her 8th anniversary of death, Michael Hinojosa, Jr., Rafael Hinojosa, Jr., Mangano & Ledet Families, Ramon Marse, Kay Melanson, Gladys Campo, Gertrude & EJ Plaisance.

12 Noon Mass

Por Todos Los Feligreses

6:00 p.m.

Miguel "Mike" Lopez

Monday, July 29th

6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 30th

6:00 p.m.

Earl Albarado, Sr.

Wednesday, July 31st

6:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 1st

6:00 p.m.

First Friday August 2nd

8:00 a.m. Mass & Adoration

6:00 p.m.

Gerald & Troy Richeaux

Next weekend (Aug. 3rd & 4th) our second collecton will be for Insurance support, please be generous, thank you.

TREE OF LIFE



We offer parishioners a way to remember a loved one, a special event, special sacrament or just to have a family name listed on one of our leaves on our Tree of Life. This tree is located on the St. Joseph side wall to the rear of our church.

At your convenience check it out and call the parish office if you are interested in having a leaf engraved.



SANCTUARY CLEANING

Aug 3 —Hong Huang, Arvella & Elaine Lesnak, Marlene Saucier, Peggy Simmons

Aug 10—Diane Barrilleaux, Virgie Davis, Doris DiMarco, Margo Eiswirth, Sharon Hymel.

On first Monday of every month, we pray the scriptural rosary for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. We begin the rosary at 5 pm and follow with Mass. We look forward to your attendance and bring a friend.

SCHEDULE: MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

4:00 PM Mass Aug 3 & Aug 10— Donna & William Bentel, Elaine Klibert, Katie Liljeberg, Kim Ranson, Del Woolsey.

8:00 AM Mass Aug 4 & Aug 11- E. Cloutet, C. D'Aquin, R. Lamy, C. Lasserre, D. Modenbach and M. Verdin.

10:00 AM Mass Aug 11— J. Bellanger, C. Blanchard, D. DiMarco, R. Hebert, R. Rawle, F. Stevenson.

10:00 AM Mass Aug 4— P. Camardelle, L. D'Aquin, J. Mailhos, S. Nguyen

6:00 PM Mass Aug 4 & 11— F. Lipovsky, G. Smith, S. Verret, D. Guise.

SCHEDULE: MINISTERS OF THE WORD

4:00 PM Aug 3— L. D'Aquin

Aug 10—G. Richard

8:00 AM Aug 4— D. Rudolph

Aug 11—M. Totten

10:00AM Aug 4— C. Blanchard

Aug 11—K. Moser

6:00 PM Aug 4—A. Gongora

Aug 11—A. Pitre

VIGIL LIGHTS



This week the vigil light at the Blessed Sacrament is in loving memory of Raymon Stauter.



This week the vigil light at the St. Joseph Statue is in loving memory of Raymon Stater.



This week the vigil light at the Blessed Mother Statue is in loving memory of Raymon Stauter.

EL RINCÓN DEL PASTOR

En nuestra última reunión del Consejo Pastoral, dos cuestiones principales parecían atraer la mayor atención: la limpieza de la iglesia, los ujieres y la hospitalidad.

Dije que comenzaría a trabajar en la reorganización y reforma de los ujieres. Llamaré a una reunión pronto, pero quería ofrecer una reflexión sobre la hospitalidad, que es un inserto en el boletín de este fin de semana. Le pido que lea y reflexione sobre estas palabras. Por favor compartan conmigo cualquier inquietud o afirmación. Por favor, también hable con otros acerca de nuestras esperanzas para nuestra comunidad parroquial.

En lo que respecta a la limpieza de la iglesia, he estado tratando de abordar los problemas, pero desafortunadamente, otras preocupaciones a menudo retrasan la implementación. Tenemos a una chica de secundaria barriendo y sacando la basura. Estoy muy agradecido a un feligrés que se ha encargado de limpiar los baños de vez en cuando. Charlie Green está tratando de asegurarse de que los productos de papel estén siempre en los baños y que estén ordenados. Charlie y yo hemos estado aprendiendo mucho sobre el mantenimiento del piso. A menudo estamos aprendiendo de nuestros errores. Si hay alguien que nos ayude con la limpieza, sellado o pulido del piso, por favor llámeme. Había contratado a alguien para mantener los jardines semanalmente, pero a menudo no venía. Un feligrés se apiadó de los jardines y los desyerba. Estaría bien si tuviéramos un club de jardinería que estuviera de acuerdo con la sociedad del Altar. Otra solución para estos problemas es aumentar nuestra colección semanal. Entonces tendríamos los fondos para contratar a alguien más.

Con Amor, Padre Jimmy.

¿Cómo oramos? ¿Cómo hablamos con Dios? Todos los domingos nos reunimos para rezar juntos. Durante la semana puede que aprovechemos las oportunidades para rezar individualmente. Puede que nos preguntemos si Dios de verdad escucha nuestras oraciones si rezamos eficazmente. Las selecciones de las Escrituras de hoy nos dan una oportunidad excelente para tratar de discernir cómo el Señor espera que recemos y qué podemos esperar de nuestro Padre celestial.

En la lectura del Génesis, Abraham se dirige a Dios de una manera bien audaz. Igual hace la persona que despierta al amigo en medio de la noche para pedirle pan. Puede que esa audacia nos haga sentir incómodos a algunos de nosotros, pero fijémonos que existe un factor mitigante en estas historias. En ambos casos, el suplicante no pide para beneficio propio, sino para otra persona. Abraham presenta su súplica en nombre de la gente, posiblemente inocente, de Sodoma. El discípulo suplica por un amigo que le ha llegado inesperadamente. Aunque no tiene nada de malo pedirle a Dios algo para nosotros mismos, tal como un alimento, nuestro pan de cada día o el perdón, los dos ejemplos de persistencia en la oración que están en las lecturas de hoy comportan súplicas desinteresadas. • Cuando Abraham regatea con Dios, el enfoque de la historia cambia. Ya la atención no se pone en el pecado de la gente de Sodoma y Gomorra, sino en la tensión entre la justicia y la misericordia. ¿Cómo puede un Dios amoroso ser fuente de ambas cosas, especialmente en el caso de que sufran los inocentes? Abraham se pasa de la raya al disminuir las expectativas y así pone de manifiesto que Dios siempre está dispuesto a dar su misericordia sin importar que muy pocas personas sean dignas de ella. • Cuando nos desesperamos por conseguir o lograr algo, persistimos en ello. La persistencia en la oración indica la importancia que ponemos en aquello por lo cual rezamos. En el Evangelio de Lucas, Jesús ora persistentemente. Desde el momento en que fue bautizado hasta el momento de su muerte en la cruz Jesús eleva su voz al Padre. En el pasaje de hoy acaba de terminar su oración y es lo que inspira a los discípulos a pedirle que los enseñe a orar. La persistencia de Jesús en la oración, por lo tanto, nos ha dado a nosotros una oración que hoy persistimos en hacer.

¿Por qué cosa he orado persistentemente en el pasado? ¿Reacciono bien cuando se me pide algo persistentemente?

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS:

Abraham addresses God quite boldly in the reading from Genesis. So too does the person who wakes up a friend in the middle of the night to ask for bread. Such boldness may make many of us uncomfortable. But note that there is an ameliorating factor in these stories. In both cases, the petitioner is asking for someone else's benefit, not his own. Abraham makes his plea on behalf of potentially innocent people in Sodom. The disciple asks for a friend who has paid an unexpected visit. Though there is nothing wrong with petitioning God for something for oneself—an egg, our daily bread, forgiveness—both examples of persistence in prayer in today's readings involve selfless petition. • When Abraham bargains with God, it shifts the focus of the story from the sinfulness of the people in Sodom and Gomorrah to the tension between justice and mercy. How can a loving God be the source of both, especially in a case in which innocents may suffer? By going so far, by lowering the bar for mercy six successive times, Abraham reveals that God is always willing to show mercy, no matter how few are worthy. • When we are desperate to obtain or achieve something, we persist. Persistence in prayer indicates the importance we place upon what we pray for. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus prays persistently. From the moment he is baptized to the moment he dies on the cross, Jesus lifts up his voice to his Father. In today's passage, it is the fact that he has just finished praying that leads the disciples to ask him to teach them how to pray. Jesus' persistence in prayer, therefore, has led to a prayer we persist in saying today. QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What have I prayed for persistently in the past?

Am I receptive when I am asked for something persistently?



ICC PARISH & SCHOOL 95th ANNIVERSARY

Immaculate Conception Church & School will be hosting the "Les Bon Vivant" Anniversary Gala on **Friday, Nov. 15, 2019** at the Four Columns. The evening will include a patron party, hors d'oeuvres, buffet dinner, silent auction, raffles and music by Groovy 7. Sponsorships and tables reservations are available now at \$5000 level, \$3000 level, \$2000 level and \$1500 level. Individual general admission tickets will be sold at a later date. **SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED!!** Part of the success of the Gala will be gathering donations of items for the silent auction. Can you, your company, or maybe a friend that has a local business make a donation? All donations are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible. Items needed include: restaurant gift certificates, gift certificates for services (hair, nails, spa), artwork, hotel stays, excursions (swamp tour, movie passes), electronics, wine, designer and gift items. For more information on sponsorships or to make a donation, contact Silvana Collins at 347-4409 ext. 21.

Religious Education

As soon as it is over, it begins again! We are currently accepting registration for the 2019-2020 Parish School of Religion (PSR). To register, you may come to the Church Office and fill out a Registration form. Forms will be available Monday- Friday 10:00a.m -12:00, and 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Weekend dates for registration will be available at the end of summer and will be announced later. If your child will be receiving First Communion next (school) year, you will need to submit a copy of her or his Baptism Certificate. The registration fee is \$25 for the first child and \$15 for each additional child. Please see Rhonda or Father Jimmy if this presents a hardship.

High School Confirmation

In the Archdiocese of New Orleans, young people who have been Baptized and are in the eleventh grade may receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Immaculate Conception Parish will celebrate this Sacrament again on March 12, 2020. Candidates attending Catholic and Public Schools must register for final preparation. Registration forms are available as stated above. We look forward to meeting all of our candidates. Final preparation will begin in October.

Adult Education and Sacramental Preparation

If you or an adult you know is interested in receiving the Sacraments, or if you just want to ask questions about our faith, call Rhonda at the parish office. This preparation is also called RCIA.