

**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 23, 2018**

Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

— Luke 1:42

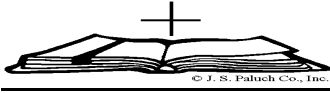
**MEMORIES AND DREAMS**

Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin. Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns. This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go.

Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected.

Today we remember Mary, a small figure travelling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord's words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.

**Mass Intentions**



**Sat., Dec. 22, 4:30 p.m.** Henry McNamara, Dennis McCloskey, Sidney Huval and Family, Thomas Pitre, Karge Family (L), Ruth Olson (L), Ricky Sterner, Linda Chandler (L), Dee Nash (L), Chris Kyle, Bob Kerry

**Sun., Dec. 23, 7:30 a.m.** Parishioners

**Sun., Dec. 23, 9:15 a.m.** Carol Pieri

**Sun., Dec. 23, 11:00 a.m.** Lullabelle Doucet, Brown Family (L), Joseph Chan, Raymond Cucciu Jr., Louella Smith, Joseph Legnon, Nassar Family, Rick Sterner, Bob Kerry, Ruth Christie (L), Ashlie Segura (L), Suzanne Segura Levy (L)

**Mon., Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m.** Jon Craig, Alvin Satches, Margaret Mary Mule', Loretta Stansbury, Dolores Reiser, Freddie Addotto Sr., Carol Pieri, Nick Sita, Rita Addotto, Thomas Pitre, Annie Dussor, Giuseppe Pieri, Luigia and Ugo Pieri, J.C. Cooper Family, Althea Dussor, Mary Constantin, Bill Zimmermann

**Mon., Dec. 24, 9:00 p.m.** Fr. Vincent Phan (L)

**Tues., Dec. 25, 9:00 am** David Tucker

**Wed., Dec. 26, 8:00 a.m.** Page and Jason Brown Family (L)

**Thurs., Dec. 27, 8:00 a.m.** Dolores Reiser

**Fri., Dec. 28, 8:00 a.m.** Nicole and Brad Brown and Family (L)

**Sat., Dec. 29, 4:30 p.m.** Henry McNamara, Dennis McCloskey, Sidney Huval and Family, Thomas Pitre, Karge Family (L), Ruth Olson (L), Ricky Sterner, Robert and Dolores Howell (L), Bob Kerry, Nick Sita

**Sun., Dec. 30, 7:30 a.m.** Carol Pieri, Richard W. Letsch, Jon Craig (L), Robert Carlin (L), Ray Christie, Pieri Family (L), Eric and Jerry Plauche (L), Patricia Syman, Nofie Alfonso, Janice Roussel (L)

**Sun., Dec. 30, 9:15 a.m.** Parishioners

**Sun., Dec. 30, 11:00 a.m.** Joseph Legnon

**PRAYER LIST**

Helen Lafleur  
Ruth Christie  
Max Jones  
Carolyn Pierre  
Sophie LeBlanc  
Joseph LeBlanc  
Freddie Addotto

Rosalind Baham  
Louise Cashmere  
Ethel Istre  
Rhonda Taylor  
Rolland Golden  
Ruthi Olson  
Pam Addotto

Please remember these parishioners and friends in your prayers. May they be touched by the healing hand of the Lord and restored soon to the full active life of our community and their families.

**Weekly Collections**

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Envelopes	\$ 2,561.00
Loose	\$ 1,136.00
Building and Preservation Fund	\$ 225.00

**THE CANDLES BURN IN HONOR OF:**

<i>Sanctuary:</i>	Marino Family
<i>Blessed Mother</i>	Dennis McCloskey
<i>St. Joseph</i>	Thomas Pitre
<i>St. Ann</i>	Carol Pieri

If you would like to honor your intention by burning a 7 day candle please call 796-3806.

**Question of the week!**

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

**Christmas Eve – Monday, Dec. 24**

Vigil of Christmas, 4:30 p.m. in Jonathan Hall  
9:00 p.m. in Church

**Christmas Day – Tuesday, Dec. 25**

Nativity of the Lord  
9:00 a.m.

**Solemnity of Mary Mother of God**  
**Holy Day Of Obligation**

Tuesday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, - 9:00 a.m.

Monday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 4:30 p.m. - Vigil Mass

**Fr. Peter Hammett will celebrate the Holy Day Mass schedule.**

Fr. Vincent will be away from Mon., Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> through Wed, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Deacon Jay will have Communion services for the 8:00 a.m. Masses on those days.

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In ancient pagan Rome, these days in mid-December were a time for general slacking off at work and far too much rejoicing. The period of leisure after the harvest and a whole cluster of pagan festivals were a force for the church to reckon with. The Saturnalia, breaking out on December 17, was a time of high living and loose morals. Christians were advised by their bishops to drop out of the mayhem and do some serious fasting. A famous church council at Saragossa in Spain made a season of fasting mandatory from December 17 to December 23, exactly coinciding with the Saturnalia. The bishops at that time were perhaps less concerned with preparing for Christmas than with resisting the kind of loose living going on.

Modern times have restored a bit of the Saturnalia spirit to our culture, so that a general period of partying with a vague connection to religion is now upon us. How does a Christian keep balance? The practice of charity by remembering the poor in our gift-giving, of hospitality in finding a place at our holiday tables for the poor and lonely, and of daily prayer in the home and at church are great helps. Although Advent is not a penitential season like Lent, it is a time for making room in our lives for what matters most.

Beginning in January, the Parish School of Religion is in need of a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. If you would like to volunteer please call Theresa Wilfert at 778-0548.

If you did not pick up your 2019 Collection Envelopes or if you do not use envelopes, but would like to begin contributing with envelopes, please call the office at 796-3806.

The office will close on Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. We will reopen on Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

On behalf of everyone, thank you to the Knights of Columbus for a delicious Breakfast with Santa. Also, thank you for everything you do through the year for St. John's Church.

From the office of St. John's;

I can't express enough how grateful I am for everyone that has a part in making the behind the scenes run smoothly. The workers that volunteer to keep the grounds, buildings or anything and everything else that St. John's needs to keep it all going. Without the support from you, and you know you are, all of the tasks including MASSES would not be possible. I would be foolish to try to name names because I would hate to forget someone but, THANK YOU. I would like to thank Kathy Craig and Priscilla Stahel who without volunteering their time in the office I could not do it all.

God Bless All of you,

*Joy Guidry*

*Merry Christmas*

## Married Couples Retreat-St. Joseph Abbey Christian Life Center

Registration is still available for January's Married Couples League Retreat at the St. Joseph Abbey Christian Life Center, located at 75376 River Road in Covington. It takes place Friday, January 4 - Sunday, January 6, 2019. It is a silent retreat and open to all. The schedule includes conferences organized by the Abbey monks, common prayer, and Reconciliation. For more information on this Married Couples retreat, contact Karen & Clyde Messenger at 225-661-9933 or Jeanne O'Neil at 225-665-8223 or visit [www.saintjosephabbey.com/league-retreats](http://www.saintjosephabbey.com/league-retreats).

### MASS FOR GOD'S SPECIAL CHILDREN

**When:** Sunday, January 6, 2019 – 2:00 PM

**Where:** St. Francis Xavier Church  
444 Metairie Road

Refreshments served after Mass

**Who:** Special needs individuals, families and friends

**Information:** Contact Joy Zainey at (504) 834-5865 or visit the website [www.godsspecialchildren.org](http://www.godsspecialchildren.org).

### SAVE THE DATE:

Fr. Vincent has scheduled an Appreciation Dinner on January 11<sup>th</sup> for any and all volunteers from St. John's. Please be on the lookout for more information.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETINGS ARE THE SECOND THURSDAY OF MONTH AT 7:30 P.M. IN ODILO HALL

FIRST SATURDAY MASS AT 8:00 A.M. EVERY MONTH

CATCH FIRE YOUTH GROUP MEETS THE FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH FROM 6 – 7:30 P.M. IN ODILO HALL.

MARY, ADULT BIBLE STUDY, THURS. OR FRI. IN LIBRARY AT 9 A.M.

PSR CLASSES, K-8 GRADE, WEDNESDAY, 6:15 – 7:30 P.M.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES EVERY SUNDAY, NOON UNTIL 1:15 IN LIBRARY

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Do I, like Elizabeth and her baby, realize that I am in the presence of the Lord here today? Do I react with joy?