

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 25-DECEMBER 1

- Monday** - DN 1:1-6, 8-20; DN 3:52-56; LK 21:1-4
 - **St. Catherine**
- Tuesday** - DN 2:31-45; DN 3:57-61; LK 21:5-11
 - **St. Siricius**
- Wednesday** - DN 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; DN 3:62-67; LK 21:12-19
 - **St. Vergilius**
- Thursday** - DN 6:12-28; DN 3:68-74; LK 21:20-28
 - **St. James of the Marches**
- Friday** - DN 7:2-14; DN 3:75-81; LK 21:29-33
 - **St. Saturnin**
- Saturday** - ROM 10:9-18; PS 19:8-11; MT 4:18-22
 - **St. Andrew**
- Sunday** - IS 2:1-5; PS 122:1-9; ROM 13:11-14; MT 24:37-44
 - **St. Eligius**
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



AFTERTHOUGHTS

Our celebration this weekend invites each of us to ask: Is there something I've been putting off doing that could help usher in God's Kingdom here in Houma?

PRAY FOR: Mona Escobar, Ray Duthu, Linda Lee, J.A. Foret, Jason Chaisson, Christina Sparks, Edrith Boudreaux, Dale Boudreaux, Ursula M. Breaux, Barbara Toups Miller, Susan Laperouse, Melinda Fabre, Sheryl Leaber, Evelyn Ruckstuhl, Deacon Lee Crochet, Selma Ferjani, Dee Belanger, Holden Sawyer, Lynn Paul Lirette, Sherman Brown, Mary Lee Boudreaux, Airman Wesley Speyrer, Nancy Rivere, Chelsea Ford, Denna Sanders, Gary Benoit, Sonny Lovell, Judy Porche, Faye Platt, Vincent Trabona, Alicia Headrick, Scott Stoufflet, Curtis Briggs, Sadie Talbot, Patty LeJune, Margaret Gaudet, Tracy LeBlanc, Kristen Watkins, Alex Schexnayder, Robert Cazayoux, Ken Watkins, Linda Musson, Donald Prosperie and Rosabelle Prosperie, Kayla Dudek Breaux Percy Lee, Linda LeClair, Sadie Talbot, (Open heart surgery), and for all prayer shawl recipients.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all who have died, especially Maude Sandoz.

Daily Prayers for Priests:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of the priesthood. We particularly thank you for the priests here in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. We ask that you draw them ever closer to the Sacred Heart of Your Son Jesus. May they experience the depth of communion with you that you long for. Grant them stillness Lord, that they might perceive your presence. Heighten their spiritual senses that they might see and hear you ever more clearly and feel you ever more deeply. Remind them of their call. Remind them of all that you have promised them and they promised you on the sacred day of their ordination. We ask for miracles of renewal in their priestly vocation, Lord. Renew them in your love and strengthen their resolve to love and serve you. Strengthen their priestly fraternity, Lord, and strengthen the bond between the priests and the Laity. That together Lord, we all might be ONE as you are One. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.

SANCTUARY LIGHTS

Church

In Loving Memory of Ray Marcello, Sr. by His Loving Family Chapel

In Loving Memory of Dick and Sue Barker, Jr. by The Family

GOSPEL COMMENTARY

“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

In Mel Brooks' classic movie *History of the World Part I* he portrays several characters including King Louis of France who engages in ridiculous excess and says, "It's good to be the king." The segment of that movie is a parody of the romantic notion about ancient and medieval monarchs who were actually abusive and cruel tyrants. Christ was not such a king. When the Jews were under regular attack by the kings of other nations they asked God for a king to provide protection for them. Saul was the first but he faltered under the weight of the task. David was a king of Judah who, despite his faults, was revered for uniting the Israelites and providing them with equal protection against aggressors and equal access to resources. The role of a true king is not to lord it over people and oppress them, but to be a true steward of all that God has given to us and to provide equal protection and resources to all. In other words, to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. That is why we celebrate Jesus as King.



ALTAR FLOWERS

The beautiful flowers on the altar this weekend were donated in Loving Memory of Deceased Altar Society Members.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Sunday – November 17

Envelopes (220).....	\$7,201.00
Loose	\$2,128.02
Total	\$9,329.02

PARISH NEWS

MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like to have Mass said in honor or in memory of someone please complete the purple form in the vestibule or you can access the form on the Church's website - <https://stfrancisdesaleshouma.org/>. You can drop the completed form in the collection, mail to the Church Office or email to rvowell@htdiocese.org. The usual stipend is \$3.00 per person per Mass. December Mass intentions are due by November 27, 2019.

COME, LORD JESUS! ADVENT PROGRAM: A BIBLE STUDY AND SO MUCH MORE! Prayer + Scripture + Eucharist + Community

Prepare for the holy celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ by participating in the *Come, Lord Jesus!* Advent Program, a four week meditative study on the Sunday Gospels leading to Christmas. Join us as we prepare our hearts for a season of hope which will transform your Christmas into the sacred season of peace and joy that it is intended to be. Meetings will be held on Mondays, beginning November 25, at 1:30pm in the Convent, ending on December 16th. For more information, please contact Cindy Matherne @ 852-1334 or cmatherne2@comcast.net.

OFFICE CLOSED – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS

The Church Office will be closed Wednesday, November 27-Friday, November 29, 2019 for the Thanksgiving Holidays.

Thank you, Father, for having created us and given us to each other in the human family. Thank you for being with us in all our joys and sorrows, for your comfort in our sadness, your companionship in our loneliness. Thank you for yesterday, today, tomorrow and for the whole of our lives. Thank you for family and friends, for health and for grace. May we live this and every day conscious of all that has been given to us. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

ADVENT

How many of us have experienced the Christmas season and wondered what happened and felt like you were missing out? This year when you ask yourself what happened – you can answer yourself and say you spent one hour every week this advent with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration. As we contemplate the Eucharistic mystery we are urged to imitate Christ's self-gift on the cross. Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament radiates peace and calm to our hearts and who doesn't need more peace and calm, especially throughout Advent. Whenever storms arise in our lives, whether exams are stressing us out, or family or relationship problems, or personal difficulties seem to take our peace, Jesus can refill our peace if we but place ourselves in His Presence and open our hearts to Him. Being in the Presence of Jesus also encourages us to reflect on our lives and what things we could change in order to be more faithful to Him. Come – join us for one hour each week for Advent.

St. Francis' Adoration Chapel current hours are 7am-6pm daily (Key fobs allow 24 hours access). All are welcome to come by and spend a few minutes with our Lord.

From Jesus, Present Before Me: Meditations for Eucharistic Adoration
Loving Father, your beloved son has told us, No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. (John 6:44) Thank you for drawing me here to the Eucharistic presence of Christ, your son. Thank you for allowing me to come close to the one who has come close to us in the Eucharist – who has become our companion on the way to you. Accept my sacrifice of prayer and the adoration I offer to your son in the Blessed Sacrament. Unworthy though I am, I come to behold Jesus Christ in this Sacrament of Charity, moved by the certainty that anyone who sees Jesus sees the Father. What impels me to this place is the same hunger that sent the starving prodigal son back to the embrace of his father. I come begging for a new beginning. Like those present at the feeding of the five thousand, I have nothing to offer you except my nothingness. But I look to your son and join him in the thanks he offers to you. I come before the presence of your son filled with an attitude of expectation. All my life, my heart has cried out with the psalmist, Bow your heavens and come down! With unimaginable mercy you have answered that plea. I have been made for this presence. May I never be without wonder before the miracle of Jesus present in the Eucharist. Let me relive the surprise of the attraction of Christ. Give me eyes to see beyond all appearances. Make me attentive to the encounter you offer me in this sacrament. Please help me to offer this time of adoration with all my heart, without become weary or distracted. United with the Mother of God, may I ardently adore the fruit of Mary's womb so that my life may become fruitful in the way that best pleases you and that gives you unending glory. I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

- Sunday** – Donna Lapeyre – Home: 225-937-1861 - donnalapeyre@yahoo.com
 - Monday** – Candy Archila – Home: 985-868-1792 – jarchila@bellsouth.net
 - Tuesday** – Therese Oubre – Home: 985-226-2252 - Mobile: 225-329-6757 – tsoubre@att.net
 - Wednesday** – Melanie – Mobile: 985-709-3754 - mbabin1@comcast.net
 - Thursday** – Melva Fournier – Home: 985-873-7593 – Mobile: 985-226-7800 - melfour816@gmail.com
 - Friday** – Ana Vice – Mobile: 985-852-8110 – abvice1@gmail.com
 - Saturday** – Sue LeBlanc – Home: 985-879-2866 – Mobile: 985-688-9044 - leblancsss@yahoo.com
- General Information:**
 Paul Maclean – Mobile: 985-856-5345 - macleanland@bellsouth.net

HELP NEEDED

MY BROTHERS KEEPER - DONATIONS

My Brothers Keeper will be putting together Christmas bags for the homeless and those at the Bunkhouse. Our goal is 50 bags. Please let the Church Office know if you would like to donate. The suggested items for the bag: hand warmer, chapstick, socks, winter hat, pair of gloves, band aids, comb or small brush, small pack of Kleenex, hand wipes, a note of encouragement and a bag to put it all in. We will also be collecting bags of chocolate bells and candy canes. These can be placed in the boxes at the main entrances to the Church or to the Church Office.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED CHRISTMAS BAGS - LEGION PARK

We will need volunteers to help December 16, 17, and 18th to prepare the Christmas bags and deliver them to Legion Park. Please contact Cathy in the Church Office at cbutter@htdiocese.org or 985-876-6904 to sign up.

MINISTERS SCHEDULE WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 1, 2019

Commentators

- 4:00 PM Becky Boudloche
- 7:00 AM Ida Robichaux
- 9:00 AM James Watkins
- 11:00 AM Melanie Shipp
- 5:30 PM Anne Bates

Lectors

- 4:00 PM Lawrence Robinson
- 7:00 AM Evelyn Ruckstuhl
- 9:00 AM Jerome Zeringue
- 11:00 AM Wendy LeBouef
- 5:30 PM Bubba Watkins

Ministers of the Eucharist

- 4:00 PM Carl Soudelier, Deborah Soudelier, Anita Pearson, Robert Strada, Mary Ann Rodrigue
- 7:00 AM John Breaux, C.J. Stoufflet, Kay Stoufflet, Carla Exnicious
- 9:00 AM Jude Fanguy, Yvonne Fanguy, Jody Duet, Cathy Duet, Murke Trahan, Kathy Lovell
- 11:00 AM Norman Simon, Mary Ann Goodwin, James Goodwin, Rene Rhodes, Julie Rhodes
- 5:30 PM Carla Peeler, Gina Danos, Sallie Preston, Kelli Cazayoux, Jenny Briggs, Curtis Briggs

Altar Servers

- 4:00 PM Elise Ledet, Avene Ryals, Gabrielle Hebert
- 7:00 AM John Breaux, C.J. Stoufflet
- 9:00 AM Alexander Cosky, Miriam Cosky, Emma Bennett
- 11:00 AM Evan Adams, Kade Twiner, Dylan Reed
- 5:30 PM Lucia Pizzolata, Aida Pizzolata, Emerson Paulk



CATHOLIC KORNER

Last week we learned that the This week we learn that the **Part of the Mass: Fraction** is when the Priest breaks the Eucharistic Bread. In the **Part of the Mass: Communion** – Holy Communion – is the reception of the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist.



Find out more next week when we talk about the Part of the Mass: Concluding Rites.

Do you have a particular question you want answered? Send in your questions to rvowell@htdiocese.org to have answered here!

SAINTS

28-Nov St John Berchman (altar servers, eucharistic ministers)
 In 1616, John entered the Jesuit novitiate. In 1618, he was sent to Rome to study philosophy and was an exceptional student. He requested after ordination to become a chaplain in the army, hoping to be martyred on the battlefield. Instead, John Berchmans returned to Rome, where he lived and studied for two years, before he contracted a fever and died of his illness at the age of 22. After his death Rome in 1621, his heart was returned to his beloved province in Belgium, and it is kept in a silver reliquary on a side altar in the church at Louvain.

28-Nov St Catherine Laboure (preachers, philosophers, miraculous medal)

St. Catherine is believed to have been born in Alexandria of a noble family. Converted to Christianity through a vision, she denounced Maxentius for persecuting Christians. Fifty of her converts were then burned to death by Maxentius. Maxentius offered Catherine a royal marriage if she would deny the Faith. Her refusal landed her in prison. While in prison, and while Maxentius was away, Catherine converted Maxentius' wife and two hundred of his soldiers. He had them all put to death. Catherine was likewise condemned to death.

30-Nov St Andrew (anglers, singers, unmarried women, women wanting to become mothers, against sore throats, gout)

Andrew, brother of Simon Peter, was one of the first called by Jesus. In the Gospel of Mark, he was called while fishing with Peter (Mark 1:16).

Tradition tells us that Andrew preached the gospel in Scythia (Central Asia, east of the Caspian Sea), Greece and later in Byzantine. A very old tradition tells that he was crucified on an X-shaped cross in Patras in Achaia (Southern Greece).



THANK YOU – RIGHT TO LIFE

Terrebonne-Lafourche Right to Life would like to thank St. Francis for your generous donations last weekend for the Right to Life calendars. Your gifts are greatly appreciated!

LEGION PARK UPDATE; CHRISTMAS PROJECT – NOV 23-24, 2019

As a Bread or Stones Congregation, the Cathedral of St. Francis de Sales is once again partnering with St. Matthew's Episcopal Church this Christmas to help make the season bright for the children at Legion Park School.

Fr. Craig Dalferes and Cathy Butler met with Ms. Sherri McGuire this week and heard even more stories of the hideous and unbelievable situations some of these children have to endure. And in spite of the poverty, drugs and lack of parental guidance of so many - the school has yet again risen above the odds - and gained another grade increase - bringing them to a "C" rated school. From an "F" to a "C" in two years is quite a feat! And as a result - Ms. Sherri McGuire has been named Principal of the Year!!

Ms. Sherri and the staff are very excited that our parishes continue to support the school. So this year, as last year, we will provide a Christmas bag for you. The bags will be out on November 23rd and will be labeled with a number, the gender, grade and shirt size. We will also provide a flyer with gift ideas for the children. The bags will be due back the weekend of December 14th - and can be dropped off in the vestibule of the church at whatever Mass you attend or you can also deliver them to the rectory.

It is our understanding that there are close to 350 children that attend Legion Park School and 100% of those children are living at the poverty level. With the support we have had over the years for Legion - we have no doubt that - once again - we will accept and meet the challenge to provide every child with a gift!

2nd COLLECTION ~ CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT NOVEMBER 23/24, 2019

More than 38 million people live in poverty in the United States. This collection assists community leaders who work to expand access to affordable housing, health care, and education. The collection also supports the development of worker-owned businesses, and advocates for changes to structures that keep people in poverty. Twenty-five percent of funds collected remain in each diocese to support local anti-poverty projects. Facts about poverty and success stories from groups supported through the annual CCHD collection may be found by visiting: <https://povertyusa.org>.

ADVENT – BEGINS DECEMBER 1

Celebration of the Sacrament of Penance during Advent



Although Advent is not a penitential season in the sense that Lent is, one aspect of our reparation for Christ's return and our celebration of his first coming is repentance. Confession is offered 30 minutes prior to all masses except school masses. St. Francis will also be offering an evening of Reconciliation and Solemn Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – see below:

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU – DECEMBER 19, 2019 6pm

An evening of Reconciliation and Solemn Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after the 5:30 p.m. Mass at 6pm on Thursday, December 19th. Come and experience Christ's healing love.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – DECEMBER 8TH, 2019

The traditional day for the Solemnity is December 8, which coincides with the Second Sunday of Advent. The latter celebration takes precedence; therefore, the Solemnity is transferred to Monday, December 9. The obligation of the faithful to participate in Mass, however, remains on December 8th and is thus fulfilled by participating in Mass on that day.



BAPTISM SEMINAR – DECEMBER 3, 2019

The next Baptism Seminar will be held December 3rd at 6:30pm in the convent. These seminars are held on a monthly basis. First time parents and godparents are required to attend this seminar, which emphasizes the symbols of Baptism, the rite of Baptism, and the importance of faith in the life of both parents and godparents. Contact the rectory office at 876-6904 to sign up for the seminar or schedule a baptism.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES DECEMBER 7-8 & 14-15, 2019

Contribution envelopes will be available for pick up after Masses December 7th and 8th and December 14-15. Volunteers will be available to distribute the envelopes to those who have indicated they would like contribution envelopes. Census will also be taken at this time. Data sheets will be available for parishioners to review and update any changes.

SANTA, SINGING, AND SNACKS – DECEMBER 8, 2019

Come join us in the Youth Center on Sunday, December 8th after the 11 a.m. Mass for Santa, Singing and Snacks! Don't forget to bring your camera!



MINISTRY SOCIAL – APPRECIATION SUPPER – DECEMBER 11, 2019

Please join us as we celebrate all involved in our parish ministries. We will start with 5:30pm mass at St. Francis Cathedral and follow with dinner and music at Woodman of the World, 309 S Hollywood Rd, Houma, LA. See flyer for details.

WINTER CONCERT – DECEMBER 14, 2019

Les Amis de la Chanson will hold its Winter Concert on Saturday, December 14th at 5 p.m. in the Cathedral. Please join us for an evening of entertainment and inspiration to open the Christmas season.

LOUISIANA LIFE MARCH BATON ROUGE – JANUARY 25, 2020

Join Terrebonne-Lafourche Right to Life at the Louisiana Life March in Baton Rouge in January 25, 2020. Buses will be available for \$15.00 (reserved seating required by 12/31/2019). Departure at 7:30am from Vandebilt High School. Bring your bag lunch, water, etc. For more information call Joan Williams@985-804-3390 or Lavern Scott@985-851-baby(2229) or email rtl6041@yahoo.com.

THE TIE-IN – ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today as we celebrate Christ the King, may we open the door of our heart so wide that we may listen to the voice of Jesus calling us to help build his kingdom here on earth.

Through your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you open your heart to the Lord by joyfully sharing your goods with your neighbor who is hungry, hopeless, alone and frightened.

If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call 985-872-2520. After the beep, clearly state your name, phone number, address, and nature of the request. One of our volunteers will call you back to arrange an appointment interview (caller id will not display the number).



THE DAYS OF ADVENT - FOR CHILDREN

Brother Francis leads us on a daily journey in this special seasonal celebration of the coming of the Lord! Featuring meditations, prayers, and suggested activities to keep our focus on Christ this Christmas.

FORMED Find more for any age on FORMED. To sign up go to: go to our church website, <http://www.stfrancisdesaleshouma.org/>, click on FORMED, click on Register Now, enter the requested information including email and password (that you will create).

FORMED also has an app for Apple or Android mobile devices! Go to the App Store or the Google Play store to download the FORMED App.

LECTOR WORKBOOKS 2019-2020

Please note that the workbooks for the lectors are in the sacristy in alphabetical order. Every lector has a book - with his /her name on the label, (couples will only have 1 book with both names on the label). Please be sure to pick up your copy this weekend when you attend Mass. The new workbooks take effect the first week of Advent. If you do not see a book with your name on it, please contact the rectory @ 985-876-6904.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

The new Prayer cards with our 2019-2020 Seminarians are located at the Church exits. Please pick one up and pray for our Seminarians.

CATHEDRAL DIRECTORY PHOTOGRAPHY APPOINTMENTS

Photography dates for our upcoming directory event are fast approaching. We would love for all families to sign up. Our directory will allow us to connect names and faces and stay connected. Photography times are still available for Dec. 10-14 and Dec. 17-21. Weekday times are 2-9 PM, and Saturday times are 10 AM-5 PM.

Every family will receive a free 8X10 portrait and will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits.

A \$10 coupon will be included in your check-in. Parishioners may bring sports equipment, instruments, or other props. Anyone who schedules an appointment before Dec. 1 will be entered in a raffle for a \$100 Lifetouch Gift Certificate. Please schedule online at <https://booknow-lifetouch-appointment-plus.com/b31nllz0/> or contact Cindy Matherne at 852-1334 or cmatherne2@comcast.net

YOUTH NEWS

CONFIRMATION – FIRST YEAR

There will be a mandatory meeting for ALL FIRST-YEAR Confirmation Candidates and Parents on Sunday, December 8, at 4 PM in the cathedral. We would like both parents and the candidates to attend this meeting. Confirmation volunteers are needed for youth formation. If you are interested in volunteering or if you have questions or concerns, please call Mrs. Jane Lirette at 985-856-5488.

FIRST RECONCILIATION - FIRST COMMUNION

Sacramental Information Packets for Sacramental Prep have been mailed out to candidates. If you have not received a packet and you feel your child is eligible, please call Mrs. Jane Lirette 856-5488. Any parishioner that has a child in 2nd grade preparing for First Communion and First Reconciliation must return a completed registration form, copy of baptism certificate, and \$30.00 fee, no later than Sunday, January 12, 2020.

There will be a mandatory meeting Wednesday, January 15, 2020 in the Youth Center at 6:30 p.m. We expect one parent to attend, but sincerely hope that both will attend this meeting.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZEN THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON – NOV 27, 2019

On Wednesday November 27, 2019, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, St. Luke The Evangelist Catholic Church, 300 East 11th Street, Thibodaux, will host its annual Thanksgiving luncheon.

Doors will open at 9:00 am, meal served at 11:00 am, closing at 12:30 pm. This annual Thanksgiving luncheon creates a bond of friendship among the senior adults in the community and provides an opportunity for them to relax, enjoy a great meal, and have a great time. Please call (985)446-0487 to RSVP.

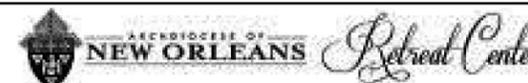
PILGRIMAGE TO LEBANON – JUNE 1-10, 2020

Come to what God calls His Sanctuary – Lebanon - with Father Paul Bergeron and Charbel Achkar. Visit the Cedars of Lebanon and Tyre, Sidon, and Cana, as well as many other places. To register or get more information, call Fr. Paul Bergeron at 985-856-7709 or Yvonne Lottinger at 985-873-8355.

PILGRIM'S WAY - WALKING IN HIS FOOTSTEPS!

Looking for a Great Christmas Gift for Family, Friend, or Even Yourself We have Three Pilgrimages Planned with Three Great Priests.

- ★ Walking the Footsteps of Jesus In The Holy Land of Israel With Fr. Sidney Speaks May 26-June 6
 - ★ Follow the Path of St. Paul through The Seven Cities of the Book of Revelation and Other Sites in Turkey and Greece With Fr. Beau Charbonnet June 12-25
 - ★ Enjoy the Beauty and the People of The Emerald Isle With Msgr. Harry Bugler in His Homeland of Ireland July 6-17
- Fr. Harry is Hosting a Meeting for People Interested in the Pilgrimage Sunday, November 17th at 7:00PM at St. Philip Neri Parish 6500 Kawanee St., Metairie, LA. Contact Jerry Martinez (504) 559-4495 or PilgrimsWayUSA@aol.com if interested.



The Archdiocese of New Orleans Retreat Center

(5500 St. Mary St, Metairie, LA) has the following upcoming offerings:

- December 10 – Becoming a Woman of Faith: A Heart That's Been Purified – *Lorraine Hess*
- December 12 – Day of Prayer: Advent: The Time of Expectation – *Rev. Sergio Serrano, OP*
- January 10-12 – Becoming a Disciple of Jesus of Nazareth – *Rev. Glenn LeCompte*
- January 17-19 – Finding God in the Now! Everyday Experience – *Rev. Jim Sichko*
- January 24-26 – Living the Virtue of Hope – *Rev. Joe Krafft*
- January 28 – Day of Prayer: Falling in Love with Prayer – *Rev. Ken Smith*

To Sign up – 504-267-9604 or neworleansretreats.org

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

In the gospel, many people (and especially the leaders) sneer at Jesus – a king on the cross – a human person with no apparent power – a failure. Their concept of “kingship” is that of power over others or domination and control. However, the “kingship” of Jesus centers on relationship and community – service and solidarity – sacrifice and love. In the gospel dialogue, we are reminded that true “kingship” or true authority is reflected in mercy. Jesus, in the midst of the pain of injustice and violence and criticism, in his time of suffering and death, proclaims mercy to the criminal.

In the second reading, Paul speaks of a peace that comes through the “blood of the cross.” In this time of war and terrorism, it is important for us to hear the call of God to a peace that comes through the Way of Jesus crucified – a peace that comes from a God who shares our struggles and our suffering.

The first reading gives voice to the people's desire for a king – for leadership. Do they know what they are asking for? In the years that follow Israel will experience the good and the not so good in kingly leadership. In the process, Israel will be called again and again to be faithful to values that transcend any trust in earthly political or military power. All the scriptures today invite us to find our power and strength in God – a God who rules over everything in a new way – a way of compassion and mercy – a way of empowerment and liberation – a way of solidarity and love.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION – HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

The members of this group are lay people, 18 years of age or older, who assist in distributing Holy Communion to the homebound parishioners of the Cathedral Parish. If you or a parishioner you know is homebound and would like to be brought Holy Communion contact the church office at 985-876-6904. If you would like to sign up or would like more information about this wonderful ministry – please call the church office.