

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 2-DECEMBER 8

- Monday** - IS 4:2-6; MT 8:5-11
- **Sts. Bibana, Pimen, and Silverius**
- Tuesday** - IS 11:1-10; LK 10:21-2
- **St. Francis Saverio**
- Wednesday** - IS 25:6-10A; MT 15:29-37
- **Sts. Barbara and John Damasceno**
- Thursday** - IS 26:1-6; MT 7:21, 24-27
- **St. Sabas**
- Friday** - IS 29:17-24; MT 9:27-31
- **St. Nicholas**
- Saturday** - IS 30:19-21, 23-26; MT 9:35-10:1, 5A, 6-8
- **St. Ambrose**
- Sunday** - IS 11:1-10; ROM 15:4-9; MT 3:1-12
- **St. Eutychius**



AFTERTHOUGHTS

How Christ-like am I where I am, in what I do, with the people whose lives I touch?



PRAY FOR: Mona Escobar, Ray Duthu, Linda Lee, J.A. Foret, Jason Chaisson, Christina Sparks, Edrith Boudreaux, Dale Boudreaux, Ursula M. Breaux, Barbara Touts 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.

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.

GOSPEL COMMENTARY

“Therefore, stay awake!”

For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.”

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace we might do well to contemplate that moment when we actually meet Jesus face to face. Imagine that you are told that Jesus will come to meet you. You are taken to a vast open field and told that Jesus will approach from a certain direction. You train your eyes on the horizon and wait. Then, in the far distance, you see a figure moving toward you. As the figure gets closer you begin to make out some features, such as height, gait, clothing, and more. As the person steadily walks closer to you can make out hair color and facial features. Suddenly, you realize that you know this person. It is someone you encountered who was in need of your assistance. There are two possibilities. You did help this person or you did not. Knowing it is Jesus who approaches, what do you hope you did? So we must always be prepared, for at an hour we do not expect, the Son of Man will come to us.

SANCTUARY LIGHTS

Church

In Loving Memory of Ricky Breaux donated by Ursula and Children

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Sunday – November 24

Envelopes (220).....	\$10,187.00
Loose	\$ 1,918.24
Total	\$12,105.24

PARISH NEWS

ADVENT

– 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The first Candle lit on the Advent wreath is referred to as the Prophecy Candle. Its color, purple, which is the liturgical color for the Advent season, reminds us that this season is a special time of prayer, sacrifices, and penance. The lighting of this Candle is a brilliant symbol of our Hope for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ - a symbol of our ultimate hope in the eternal life in the Kingdom of God.



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.



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.

CATHOLIC KORNER

Last week we learned that the **Part of the Mass: Communion** – Holy Communion – is the reception of the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. This week we learn the **Part of the Mass: Concluding Rites. The Concluding Rites** is the shortest and simplest part of the Mass (But it is a most important part of the liturgy). According to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, it consists of brief announcements (if necessary), the priest's greeting and blessing, the dismissal of the people, and the reverencing of the altar by the priest, deacon and other ministers. The Concluding Rites of the Mass, though brief, remind us that we are all expected to do our part in carrying on Christ's mission of proclaiming God's word and serving others.



Find out more next week when we talk about the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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

HELP NEEDED

CATHOLIC CHARITIES is in bad need of volunteers to help with income tax preparation of simple tax returns on easy to operate computer tax preparation software. Training will be provided. Our tax site is located on the second floor of the Terrebonne Main Library in Houma and operates every Tuesday from 9am – 3pm beginning February 4, 2020 and ending April 14, 2020. If you can help, please call Jennifer Gaudet at 985-876-0490.

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 cbutler@htdiocese.org or 985-876-6904 to sign up.

MINISTERS SCHEDULE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 7/8, 2019

- Commentators**
- 4:00 PM** David Haddad
 - 7:00 AM** Rebecca Vowell
 - 9:00 AM** Scott Hebert
 - 11:00 AM** Melanie Shipp
 - 5:30 PM** Ginny Hamilton
- Lectors**
- 4:00 PM** Brenda Tanner
 - 7:00 AM** Tommy Chauvin
 - 9:00 AM** Mona Prejean
 - 11:00 AM** Jenni McNabb
 - 5:30 PM** Charles Sevin



- Ministers of the Eucharist**
- 4:00 PM** Melvia Fournier, Judith Archila, Donna Lapeyre, Carlise Jukes, Jude Fanguy, Yvonne Fanguy
 - 7:00 AM** John Breaux, C.J. Stoufflet, Kay Stoufflet, Gail LeCompte
 - 9:00 AM** Michael Boudreaux, Colleen Lewis, Dale Norred, Holly Champagne, Nellie Chemin
 - 11:00 AM** Michael D'Angelo, Dianna Olivier, Carol Domangue, Gail Guillot, Bill Blanchard, Ellen Blanchard
 - 5:30 PM** Randy Bethancourt, Gia Holekamp, Patricia Whipple, Margaret Monterio, Adam Saal, Mike Amico

- Altar Servers**
- 4:00 PM** Alice Kelley, Scott Kelley, Gracelyn Rameriz
 - 7:00 AM** John Breaux, C.J. Stoufflet
 - 9:00 AM** Grace Magee, Julia Magee, Kate Magee
 - 11:00 AM** Ethan Prejean, Presley Nelleton, Lily Domangue
 - 5:30 PM** Michael Hamilton, Alexander Hernandez, Matthew King

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

ADVENT – SPEND ONE HOUR

“... for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith.”
1 John 5:4

When we exercise our faith we are strengthened and those around us are encouraged. When we have faith in God and are not afraid to ask Him to share our burdens they become lighter and problems are turned into blessings. Don't hesitate to come spend a few minutes or an hour in Eucharistic Adoration during Advent this year!

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.

- 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



SAINTS

3-Dec St Francis Xavier (missionaries, navigators, African, black, parish missions, plague)

He is one of the Church's most well-known missionaries. In 1540 Ignatius chose him as the first missionary to the Portuguese East Indies. He landed at Goa in India and began a vast apostolate lasting over ten years. Here he instructed the adults, gathered the children by ringing a bell in the streets, catechized them, and also visited the hospitals and prisons. He then turned to the native Indians, teaching them by versifying Catholic doctrine and fitting the verses to popular tunes. He then went on began the conversion of the Paravas, some days baptizing so many that at night he could not raise his arm from fatigue. Then to Travancore where he founded forty-five churches in various villages. On his return to Goa he heard of the vast harvest of souls awaiting the laborers in Japan and he set out for this field with several companions, arriving at Kagoshima in 1549. He set himself to learn the language and started to preach and teach with such success that twelve years later his converts were found still retaining their first fervor.

6-Dec St Nicholas (against imprisonment, against robbers, archers, brides, captives, children, fishermen, grooms, judges, merchants, pharmacist, poor)

St. Nicholas was a fourth century saint and Greek bishop of Myra. Nicholas was born as an only child to Christian parents. Both of his parents tragically died during an epidemic when he was a young man, leaving him well off, but to be raised by his uncle - the Bishop of Patara. Nicholas was determined to devote his inheritance to works of charity, and his uncle mentored him as a reader and later ordained him as a priest.

An opportunity soon arose for St. Nicholas and his inheritance. A citizen of Patara had lost all his money, and needed to support his three daughters who could not find husbands because of their poverty. Nicholas heard of this, and thus took a bag of gold and threw it into an open window of the man's house in the night. Here was a dowry for the eldest girl and she was soon duly married. At intervals, Nicholas did the same for the second and the third.

**LEGION PARK CHRISTMAS PROJECT
– DUE DECEMBER 14/15, 2019**

The bags will be due back the weekend of December 14/15 - and can be dropped off in the vestibule of the church at whatever Mass you attend or you can also deliver them to the church office.

**BAPTISM -
THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. FRANCIS WELCOMES
OUR NEWEST MEMBERS - NOVEMBER**
Jolie St. Martin, Grayson Mabile, and Adaline White – Welcome!

**2nd COLLECTION –
DIOCESAN PRIEST RETIREMENT FUND–DECEMBER 7/8, 2019**
This collection is used to directly support retired priests of our diocese.

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.

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
There is an Advent spirit in the heart of every human person. It is one of longing, of yearning for a fulfillment that somehow lies beyond ourselves; for we long for the coming of the Lord.
As you put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, your heart will discover the true meaning of Christmas as you help those who are suffering and poor to long for the coming of the Lord. 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 ADULTS

We are not meant to journey alone. Share the joy of the season with those you love by creating a space for Christ in your day and in your heart. Join us - receive daily meditation, formation, and motivation in preparation for Christ's coming. This Advent season, walk with Dr. Tim Gray on a journey of renewal to ready your heart for the coming of Christ. Each day of Advent, Dr. Gray will unpack the meaning of this season and its rich traditions, as well as offer practical advice for making this Advent your best yet. Visit formed.org/advent to sign up!

FORMED Find this and more 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.

**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. Please schedule online at <https://booknow.lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/b31nllz0/> or contact Cindy Matherne at 852-1334 or cmatherne2@comcast.net



**MASS SCHEDULE
– CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S**

CHRISTMAS EVE
- Tuesday, Dec. 24th, 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.
CHRISTMAS DAY
- Wednesday, Dec. 25th, 12:00 am Midnight, 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
NEW YEAR'S EVE
- Tuesday, December 31st, 4:00 p.m. Vigil,
NEW YEAR'S DAY
- Wednesday, January 1st, 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

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

**MASS, HEALING SERVICE, ANNUAL ANOINTING
OF THE SICK WITH BISHOP FABRE
– DECEMBER 19, 2019 - ST. ANDREW**

6:30pm - Praying of the Holy Rosary; 7:00pm - Holy Mass and Services; Music by Teddy; St. Andrew Catholic Church, 833 Julia Street, Amelia, LA; For more information - 985-631-2333; 985-232-2229

DIOCESAN OUTREACH LINE

In response to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux has made the following provision for anyone who has been hurt or sexually abused by anyone who works for the church. The Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux has set up an Outreach Line for all victims/survivors of sexual abuse.

In continuing our commitment to support and healing, we invite and encourage people who have been hurt or sexually abused recently or in the past by clergy, religious or other employees of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, to call our outreach line. The Outreach Line operates from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily Monday through Friday. A trained mental health professional responds to the line. The Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux Outreach Line telephone numbers are (985) 873-0026.

**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.

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.



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: GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace.

The advent message today is very simple. "Be watchful and alert." God and the goodness of God are available. The call to work together for justice and the common good is all around us. All we have to do is be alert, watch, and not miss it. Unfortunately, sometimes our world is not watchful or alert and we miss God and the goodness of God. Sometimes we miss the call of God to get into action. Sometimes we do not connect with God in the poverty and struggles of the people of the world. As individuals or as a society, we wander away from God and God's values. The question is "why?"

Today might be a good time to reflect on those things in our society and culture that keeps us from being alert and alive to God and God's values. There seem to be so many pressures and values, which indoctrinate us and keep us from being what God wants us to be. So many ways of thinking and seeing are in tension with the values of Catholic Social Teaching. We need to be aware of them so that we can be truly free and alert. If we are alert, we begin to see the needs of our world and its people. We notice injustice and economic inequality. We become sensitive to discrimination and racism. Those who are worried about the poor are hoping for policies that help those who are most in need. As Christians, we know that no political system or leadership will be perfect. We know that we always need as Jesus says today to be "watchful and alert." We are called to open our eyes to the needs of all our brothers and sisters.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION
- NURSING HOME MINISTRY**

This ministry consists of lay people, 18 years of age and older, who either preside or assist at a Communion Service or assist at Mass. A Communion service is offered every Sunday at 10:30AM and a Mass is celebrated on Wednesday at 10:00AM at Heritage Manor Nursing Home. Volunteers are needed to assist with Holy Communion in the dining area as well as to bring Holy Communion to those who are unable to attend the Mass. There is also a Mass celebrated at the Suites at Sugar Mill Point on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 10:00AM. Please contact Murke Trahan at 985-217-0593 to volunteer or for more information.