

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 10-16, 2020

- Monday** - 2 COR 9:6-10; JN 12:24-26
St. Lawrence
- Tuesday** - EZ 2:8-3:4; MT 18:1-5, 10, 12-14
St. Clare of Assisi
- Wednesday** - EZ 9:1-7, 10:18-22; MT 18:15-20
St. Jane Frances de Chantal
- Thursday** - EZ 12:1-12; MT 18:21-19:1
St. Philomena
- Friday** - EZ 16:1-15, 60, 63; MT 19:3-12
St. Maximilian Kolbe
- Saturday** - 1 CHR 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; LK 11:27-28
Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sunday** - IS 56:1, 6-7; ROM 11:13-15, 29-32; MT 15: 21-28
Sts. Stephan and Roch
The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



GOSPEL COMMENTARY

"Oh you of little faith, why do you doubt?"

Today's Gospel passage about Jesus approaching the apostles walking on the water in stormy weather follows immediately after last Sunday's Gospel story about thousands of people eating their fill after Jesus takes bread, blesses it, and distributes it to the people. After stepping out of the boat to go to Jesus Peter starts to sink. He pleads to Jesus who lifts him up after chastising him for his lack of faith. It is tempting to be critical of Peter for losing faith in Jesus. But Peter did get out of the boat and step onto the water in violation of all he had experienced during a lifetime of working on the water as a fisherman. That took a great act of faith. But a single act of faith in Jesus is not sufficient for a true disciple. We must constantly renew and demonstrate our faith in Jesus as the Incarnate Word of God and our faith in ourselves as children of God made in his image. As disciples we are stewards of that faith, responsible for making it grow and mature.

AFTERTHOUGHTS

When the winds pick up and the seas surge around us in the storminess of life, we often doubt as Peter did: Am I going to survive? Does God even care? We who receive Jesus into our struggle, "into our boats" are invited to keep rowing as He reaches out and brings His calm to us throughout the adventure of our lives.

PRAY FOR: Ray Duthu, Linda Lee, Shirley Walsh, J.A. Foret, Jason Chaisson, Christina Sparks, Ursula M. Breaux, Barbara Touns Miller, Susan Laperouse, Deacon Lee Crochet, Selma Ferjani, Dee Belanger, Holden Sawyer, Lynn Paul Lirette, Sherman Brown, Mary Lee Boudreaux, Airman Wesley Speyrer, Nancy Rivere, Chelsea Ford, Gary Benoit, Sonny Lovell, Judy Porche, Vincent Trabona, Alicia Headrick, Scott Stoufflet, Curtis Briggs, Patty LeJune, Margaret Gaudet, Tracy LeBlanc, Kristen Watkins, Alex Schexnayder, Robert Cazayoux, Linda Musson, Rosabelle Prosperie, Kayla Dudek Breaux Percy Lee, Linda LeClair, Sadie Talbot, (Open heart surgery), Susie Degeneres, Barbara Gaidry, Wayne Duplantis, Joy Blanchard, Marie Williams, Buddy Marcello, Roy Reeves, Brenner Winston Babin (cancer), Allen Trahan, Judy Melancon, Christian Olden, Melanie Ougel, Monica Guidroz, Howard Buck Oubre, and for all prayer shawl recipients.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all who have died, especially Isabelle Callahan, Judith Melancon, Dr. Ernest Hansen Jr., and Eleanor Williams

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.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT
Sunday – August 2, 2020

Envelopes (149).....	\$10,156.00
Loose	\$ 714.00
Total	\$10,870.00
Online Giving – July - Weekly Giving.....	\$ 5,814.00

SAINTS



- 10-Aug St Lawrence** (archivists, brewers, butchers, chefs, comedians, deacons, librarians, poor, restaurants)
- 11-Aug St Clare of Assisi** (eyes, embroiderers, telephones, television, weather, gilders, goldsmiths, laundry workers)
- 11-Aug St Philomena** (barrenness, infertility, mental illness, infants, desperate causes, impossible causes, poor, priest, prisoners, students, youth)
- 14-Aug St Maximilian Kolbe** (drug addicts, families, prisoners, journalist, pro-life)
- 16-Aug St. Roch (San Roque)** (dogs, falsely accused people, invalids, diseased cattle, epidemics, knee, skin, plague, pestilence)

CATHOLIC KORNER

Last week we learned **The Fifth Precept** is you shall help to provide for the needs of the Church. This week we will discuss **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit**. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord. They are properly termed "gifts of the Holy Spirit" because the Holy Spirit bestows them. Therefore, they are supernatural gifts operating in a supernatural mode or manner. These are not gifts one simply invokes in times of emergency; rather, these gifts are present to the person as long as he remains in a state of sanctifying grace. These gifts help a person attain sanctification and bring to perfection virtues. <https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/gifts-of-the-holy-spirit.html>

Find out more next week when we talk about the **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom**.
Do you have a particular question you want answered? Send in your questions to rvowell@htdiocese.org to have answered here!



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

FINANCE COUNCIL

This board serves as an advisory council to the Pastor/Rector. Members respond to the financial needs of the parish by preparing annual parish budgets, reviewing parish financial reports and advising in other areas as requested by the Rector.

STAY INFORMED

Please visit the Church website for posts, updates, and news. <https://stfrancisdesaleshouma.org/>

Please visit the Church Facebook page for posts, news, and videos. <https://www.facebook.com/Cathedral-of-St-Francis-DeSales-Church-Houma-121704657888318/>

Please visit the Diocese website for the latest news, stories from Bayou Catholic, prayers, videos, etc. <https://htdiocese.org/coronavirus>

Open Wide Our Hearts:
The Enduring Call to Love
....continued

"The Christian community should draw from this central, ongoing encounter with Christ and seek to combat racism with love, recalling the insight of Pope Francis that "if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?" With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, this wellspring of strength and courage must move us to act. Consequently, we all need to take responsibility for correcting the injustices of racism and healing the harms it has caused. To work at ending racism, we need to engage the world and encounter others – to see, maybe for the first time, those who are on the peripheries of our own limited view. Knowing that the Lord has taken the divine initiative by loving us first, we can boldly go forward, reaching out to others. We must invite into dialogue those we ordinarily would not seek out. We must work to form relationships with those we might regularly try to avoid. This demands that we go beyond ourselves, opening our minds and hearts to value and respect the experiences of those who have been harmed by the evil of racism. Love also requires us to invite a change of heart in those who may be dismissive of other's experiences or whose hearts may be hardened by prejudice or racism. Only by forging authentic relationships can we truly see each other as Christ sees us. Love should then move us to take what we learn from our encounters and examine where society continues to fail our brothers and sisters, or where it perpetuates inequity, and seek to address those problems.

Resolving to Work for Justice "To foster, in part, such encounters, and to express our strong and renewed resolve to work for justice, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops formed an Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism. The committee has already begun its work – conducting listening sessions; providing resources about racism; giving tools to dioceses, eparchies, and parishes to begin important conversations about this evil; and exploring needed policy initiatives. We charge this Ad Hoc Committee to implement the vision of this pastoral letter. Furthermore, this committee is to develop ways to help facilitate an ongoing national dialogue, bringing successful models and stories of hope to people at all levels. We also task the leadership of our bishops' conference to seek meaningful opportunities that deepen understanding, foster reconciliation, and publicly witness to the Church's commitment to ending racism. We commit all the offices and committees of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to be ever mindful of this imperative.

Nationally, taking concrete action should include advocating for equality in how laws are implemented and advocating for moral budgets that reduce barriers to economic wellbeing, appropriate healthcare, education, and training. We can also learn from the example of other countries, such as South Africa, Germany, and Rwanda, and from certain institutions that have recognized past wrongs and have come to understand the truth of their history.

Locally, including in our own parishes, practical plans should be made to provide further opportunities for qualified candidates who historically have been excluded, such as through hiring and contracting practices. Likewise, within our dioceses, taking concrete action entails that struggling parishes, schools, and organizations receive resources and 25 training for catechesis, youth ministry, and other pastoral needs. It also means providing necessary support to families, seniors, and ex-offenders. In addition, "To overcome discrimination, a community must interiorize the values that inspire just laws and live out, in day-to-day life, the conviction of the equal dignity of all." Therefore, we affirm that participating in or fostering organizations that are built on racist ideology (for instance, neo-Nazi movements and the Ku Klux Klan) is also sinful – they corrupt individuals and corrode communities. None of these organizations have a place in a just society." ... to be continued.

from *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love* –
"A Pastoral Letter Against Racism" developed by the Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

THE TIE-IN – ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In this Gospel, Jesus immediately stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

Please help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul bring respite and hope to the elderly who are not able to find relief from the summer heat, and you will bring them faith and hope!”

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).

Did you know that you can give online?

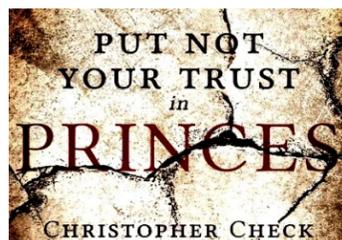
Look for this button on our church website.

St. Francis de sales - ParishSOFT On-Line Giving

<http://www.stfrancisdesaleshouma.org/on-line-giving.html>

PUT NOT YOUR TRUST IN PRINCES

by Christopher Check



Speaking from his perspective as a historian, Christopher Check reminds us that the crisis of our age is cultural and, in the end, spiritual. He explains that a flourishing society is not achieved through legislation or at the ballot box, but instead radiates from the family out. Using examples from the ages, he connects us with our rich patrimony as Catholics and provides practical advice on what we must do to transform our culture for Christ.

FORMED Find this and more on **FORMED**.

To sign up for FREE 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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The Adoration Chapel remains open for adorers. We are still practicing new safety measures, so please wear a mask in the Adoration Chapel.

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



General Information:

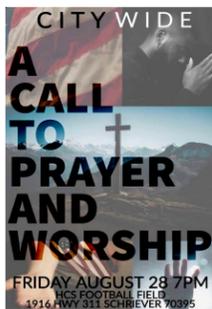
Paul Maclean – Mobile: 985-856-5345 – macleanland@bellsouth.net

COMMUNITY NEWS

**CITYWIDE NIGHT
A CALL TO PRAYER AND WORSHIP
TAKING A STAND ON OUR KNEES
AUGUST 28, 2020 – 7:00 PM**

Come join a Citywide Call to Prayer and Worship on Friday, August 28th at 7:00pm at the HCS Football Field on Hwy 311 in Schriever. This is an outdoor gathering where believers all over our region are invited to come together to “Take A Stand On Our Knees”. Outdoors, there will plenty of room to social distance for those wishing to do so. Believers’ hearts are bursting to unite, take a stand and cry out to God. There will be worship, a choir, special guests and prayer.

Please feel free to call Vicki Cloutier at (985) 804-0182, or email Takingastandonourknees@gmail.com. Visit us on facebook @Takingastandonourknees



**ANNUAL FRENCH MASS ON THE SOLEMNITY OF
THE ASSUMPTION – AUGUST 14, 6:00PM**

Please join us for the annual French Mass on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary which will be celebrated as a Vigil Mass on Friday, August 14, 2020 at 6:00 PM at St. Hilary Church in Mathews. Bishop Shelton Fabre will preside and deliver the homily, and recently ordained Rev. Daniel Duplantis, Associate Pastor at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Thibodaux, will be the principal celebrant at this Mass on the occasion of the patron feast of Catholics of French heritage. The hygienic guidelines related to the pandemic which are currently in place (including wearing face masks) for Sunday Masses in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux will be observed. There will be no supper following the Mass.



**AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE - SHORT COURSES -
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**LOUISIANA BISHOPS SUPPORT
THE LOVE LIFE AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION**



On the Ballot November 3rd

The Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops strongly supports the Love Life Amendment, which would successfully amend the Louisiana constitution and thereby continue to strengthen our commitment to end abortion in our state. Citizens of our state will have the opportunity to affirmatively state that they “Love Life” on November 3—the same day as the United States presidential election—by favoring this amendment.

As Catholics, we are called to ensure that life is indeed valued and that the dignity of all is upheld. This is the foundational principle of our social teaching and must be intentionally considered in all that we do.

Passage of the Love Life Amendment would have a dual effect. Primarily, it will ensure that the state of Louisiana cannot establish a right to abortion at present or if Roe v. Wade is overturned in the future. Secondly, it will prohibit the funding of abortion through taxpayer dollars within our constitution. Without such an amendment, the invalidation of the many antiabortion laws we have all advocated so strongly for in Louisiana remains a possibility.

The Louisiana Conference of Catholic bishops therefore enthusiastically supports the Love Life Amendment, and encourages all to approach this initiative with a formed conscience and a commitment to defend the sanctity of human life and uphold the dignity of all people.

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING:
LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux**

There is a growing awareness of the sublime dignity of human persons, who stand above all things and whose rights and duties are universal and inviolable. They ought, therefore, to have ready access to all that is necessary for living a genuinely human life: for example, food, clothing, housing ... the right to education, and work...—*Vatican II, The Church and the Modern World, #26*

Today’s scriptures are centered on the experience of God and the invitation to believe.

Our experiences of God and of faith (belief) have a social dimension.

Our contemporary social, political and economic situation can challenge our faith. Thoughtful and effective political discourse seems to be missing on many levels. Fear of violence dominates our thinking and planning. Poor folks are struggling. Injustice abounds. World problems, along with local problems and personal problems, can overwhelm us.

For serious Christians, the existence of war and violence, the prevalence of injustice and poverty, a certain widespread apathy about all these things, and the sheer volume of issues and needs, can feel like the storm in the gospel or like the winds, earthquake and fire in the first reading. Demands on our goodness, can rightly make us want to get away from it all, like Jesus who dismisses the crowd and goes off to pray. At the same time, somehow in the midst of all the storms, God can be experienced, we can even grow in our faith, and we can get into action to do something. We might even “walk on water” for a little while with God’s help.

Getting away from it all, can be a good thing. Jesus (in his prayer on the mountain) reminds us of the need we have to get away, connect with God, and take care of our spirits as we struggle to continue in our ministry and deal with the contemporary social situation. Rooted in real experience, reflection and prayer is critical. All men and women, especially those who are poor or struggling for justice, need time and resources to take care of themselves and to nurture their life and solidarity with God and others. Every person is a being worthy of dignity, respect, and even leisure.

Elijah (in his prayer on the mountain) reminds us that our faith is not to be based on religious excitement or fireworks. We don’t need the spectacular to find God. Getting fixated on special external religious phenomena can keep us from finding God. Real faith is a much different thing. Real faith is something more than a “spiritual high.” It is involved with the issues of the world. It involves humble service and solidarity with those in need and even sometimes, as in the second reading, feeling “great sorrow and constant anguish in my heart.” Such solidarity can be empowering for us and for all those we are with. Then, we might experience anew, the God in the “tiny whispering sound.”



HELP NEEDED

FOOD BAGS NEEDED

We are looking for help in providing bag lunches for our homeless that come to the church office seeking food. If you are willing to provide a sack lunch, please make the bags with the following items and drop them off at the Church Office. Suggested items: Vienna sausages or bag or easy open can of tuna or chicken, or canned meal (make sure it does not need a can opener or microwave), pack or bag of crackers, granola bar or breakfast bar or pop-tarts, etc., bottle of water, snack (such as a bag or pack of cookies)



MINISTERS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND OF AUGUST 15-16, 2020

		Commentators	
4:00 PM	Carlise Jukes		
7:00 AM	Denise Dover		
9:00 AM	Tommy Chauvin		
11:00 AM	Ernie Perry		
5:30 PM	Charles Sevin		
		Lectors	
4:00 PM	Lawrence Robinson		
7:00 AM	Jerry Dover		
9:00 AM	Melanie Shipp		
11:00 AM	Earl Eues		
5:30 PM	Christa Duplantis Prather		
			Ministers of the Eucharist
4:00 PM	Robert Strada, Jude Fanguy, Yvonne Fanguy		
7:00 AM	Paul Labat, Richard Guidry, John Breaux		
9:00 AM	Dale Norred, Nellie Chemin, Kathy Lovell		
11:00 AM	Norman Simon, James Goodwin, Mary Ann Goodwin		
5:30 PM	Kelli Cazayoux, Patrica Whipple, Mike Amico		