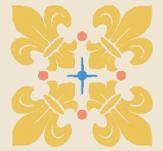




THE BAYOU
Messenger



THE NEWS-BULLETIN FOR THE TRIPARISHES OF ST. JOSEPH, IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI



Fifth Sunday of Lent, April 7, 2019

ST. JOSEPH

76950 Gum Street
 Grosse Tete, LA 70740

HOLY MASS:

Sunday: 9:00am

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

11140 Highway 77
 Maringouin, LA 70757

HOLY MASS:

Saturday: 4:00pm
 Tuesday — Friday: 8:30am

ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI

3523 LA. Highway 78
 Livonia, LA 70755-0128

HOLY MASS:

Sunday: 11:00am

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA MISSION

4324 Railroad Avenue
 Fordoche, LA 70732

THE TRIPARISH PASTORAL CENTER

Located at Immaculate Heart of Mary

225.625.2438 : phone

225.625.3513 : fax

225.308.9726 : emergency

pastoralcenter@triparishes.org : email

www.triparishes.org : web

THE MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 7, 2019

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62];
Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:12-20
Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42
Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59
Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42
Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56
Sunday: Lk 19:28-40 (procession);
Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24;
Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14 — 23:56 [23:1-49]

DEVOTIONAL LIFE IN THE TRIPARISHES

MON	Post-Mass	Prayer for the Gifts of The Holy Spirit	
TUE	Post-Mass	Devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help	
	9:00am	The Holy Rosary	Home of Ruby Hafford
	4:00pm	Charismatic Prayer Group	St. Joseph Parish Hall
WED	Post-Mass	Devotion to St. Joseph	
	6:00pm	The Holy Rosary	St. Catherine of Siena Mission
THU	Post-Mass	Litany of Jesus Christ, Priest and Victim / Vocations	
FRI	Post-Mass	Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	

Taize` Lenten Prayer Service

Thursday, April 11, 2019
at St. Frances Cabrini Church at 6:30pm

Prayer in the style of Taize` is a quiet meditative prayer consisting of scripture readings, chants, periods of silence and coming to the cross with your prayers, sorrows, joys and petitions.

Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday 7:00pm at St. Joseph

Good Friday Station of the Cross at 11:15am followed by Veneration of the Cross at 12 noon at Immaculate Heart of Mary

Easter Vigil at 8:30pm at St. Frances

Easter Morning Masses

7:00am at St. Joseph
9:00am at Immaculate Heart of Mary
11:00am at St. Frances

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns for These Intentions the Week of April 7, 2019

Immaculate Heart of Mary: in loving memory of Effie Vallet
St. Joseph: in loving memory of Larry & Billie David
St. Frances: In loving memory of Arthur & Celestine Thibodeaux by Myrtis & Dickie Leonards
St. Catherine: in loving memory of Edrienne Meche

IN MEMORIAM

Daisy LaGarde Ward died March 26, 2019 and was interred in St. Joseph Cemetery.

*Eternal rest Grant unto her, O Lord,
And Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon her.*

THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY

FR. CHRISTOPHER DECKER

Hello All!

It's often said that in Louisiana eating seafood on Friday isn't much of a penance since many of us are more at home with a catfish filet than we are a steak. I'm inclined to agree, since I like seafood quite a bit. It does seem like an indulgence especially when the catfish is smothered in a crawfish beurre-blanc! That said, it's important to note that the point of abstaining from meat on Friday isn't the same reason as fasting. While we may choose to fast on Fridays in Lent (and other days throughout the year — traditionally Wednesdays) abstaining from meat on Friday is done to do homage to Our Crucified Lord, who willingly gave his body and blood over for our salvation on that day of the week. Similarly, but not the same, the discipline of fasting is going without food for a period — usually a day and eating only one simple main meal with two smaller meals — to remind ourselves of our need for God who provides nourishment for both our souls and our bodies, giving us to eat of the fruits of the earth. When our stomach grumbles, it's a reminder that we don't have the ability to satisfy our hunger without reaching for something beyond ourselves given ultimately by our Creator.

There are days in the Church year where we are mandated to both abstain from meat and fast at the same time. Two of those days are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. These days, we are obliged to observe this discipline of the Church. While we do not like to think that anyone has control over what we do and say in this supposedly-enlightened age, Catholics are still required to follow the precepts of the Church, the fourth of which is "You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church." And the reason given in the Catechism of the Catholic Church for this is to "prepare us for the liturgical feasts and help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart." (CCC, 2043). Willfully breaking these precepts satisfies the condition of grave matter required to place us in mortal sin. To be in a state of mortal sin is when we choose to do something, we know to be wrong which God or His Church tells us is spiritually dangerous for us (grave matter). We choose the separation from God's friendship and wish to dwell apart from him so that we can attempt to find happiness (however fleeting) without Him. Mortal sin can only be forgiven by going to confession in The Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Connected to all of this is the deplorable practice of having a huge crawfish boil or other seafood feast on Good Friday. Rather than a day of prayer, penance, abstinence from meat and fasting (which is required by Church Law on this day) it has become a kind of family reunion in many communities in which I have served. I have even seen large inflatables and fair-like items in front yards. I understand that it is a day in which many schools are out, businesses are closed, and people are free to visit, but have we stopped to consider why this is so? Jesus died for us on this day. He gave His life on The Cross so that you and I might have the opportunity to see our own Easter Sunday after the pattern of His. The first Good Friday was a day of sorrow, of pain, and of mourning. We ought not be afraid of entering into that moment with Jesus, lest we stop caring about His Sacrifice and even dismiss Easter morning.

(continue)

It's so easy to complain about the politics around us, to lament that somebody should do something about the evils in our societies and our world, to opine the decline and loss of family life. Will you be part of the solution? True reform, both political and societal, and the reconstruction of the family is rooted in something much deeper than relying on government or someone else to "fix it". It's rooted in the individual's desire to return to God. Our proper observance of Good Friday, the fasts of the Church are what teach us that we have no lasting city here on Earth; our preparation ground is here, though, and the way we live now is how we will experience eternity. If we willingly follow God's commandments here; If we seek to build holy families here; if we choose leaders who stand up for Gospel values here; then we will be ready for the fulfillment of these hopes in Heaven. If we seek only pleasure here; if we presume that God will not care about how we turned away from Him while we were on earth; if we treat our families and our souls like it's somebody else's problem to fix, then we will be ready for the unsatisfied desire and lack of hope which is Hell.

Please consider as you gather with your families on Good Friday making it a time of true communion with God and one another in prayer. Fellowship is important and family love is important and should involve some form of a shared meal, but the mimicry of an Easter feast on a principal fasting day and a nearly empty church at the Good Friday Commemoration of Our Lord's Passion speaks to a deep spiritual misalignment. I echo once more the cry of John the Baptist: Repent!

It is my hope that all of us renew our walk to Calvary with Jesus, courageously choose to fast, and willingly suffer with Jesus on Good Friday, so that Easter Sunday might be a time of true rejoicing in His Resurrection!

Pax Christi,



Pray today for the courage to seek [God's will for you](#).

A VOCATION VIEW

"Christ Jesus has made me His own." Are you called to belong to Christ alone as a priest, deacon or through the consecrated life? call or email Father Andrew Merrick at 225.336.8778, framerick@gmail.com, or visit www.diobr.org/vocations.

CLERGY, STAFF, & SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Rev. Christopher J. Decker
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YOUR STEWARDSHIP TO OUR PARISHES FOR MARCH 31, 2019	
Immaculate Heart of Mary	
Offertory Collection	\$1,350.00
St. Joseph	
Offertory Collection	\$2,568.00
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini	
Offertory Collection	\$2,798.00
Second Collection April 7, 2019 Maintenance Fund April 19, 2019 Holy Land April 21, 2019 Retirement Fund for Diocesan Priest April 28, 2019 Catholic Home Mission	

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Convinced

Why Would Anyone Become Catholic?

Why would intelligent, successful people give up careers, alienate friends, and cause havoc in their families...to become Catholic? As he was considering his own move into the Church, Donald Johnson traveled around the country to get answers from some of today's most prolific Catholic converts.



"As a cradle Catholic, I deeply appreciate hearing the stories and learning the many ways the Lord draws people from all walks of life to the fullness of faith in the Church that He founded! My own faith has been strengthened through these heartfelt and articulate accounts. Thank you!"

—Alison M.
Our Lady of the Mount, NJ

Watch on formed.org



FORMED THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) is celebrated at Immaculate Heart of Mary on Saturday from 3:00—3:45pm. If you'd like to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation outside the scheduled time, please call the office to arrange a time with the priest.

MARRIAGE Couples are asked to contact the priest at least six months before the desired date.

BAPTISM Celebrated on the 3rd weekend of each month. A Baptismal Seminar is required before a baptism can be properly scheduled. Please contact the parish office during early months of pregnancy.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK Please call the parish office to arrange for Holy Communion or Anointing of the Sick.