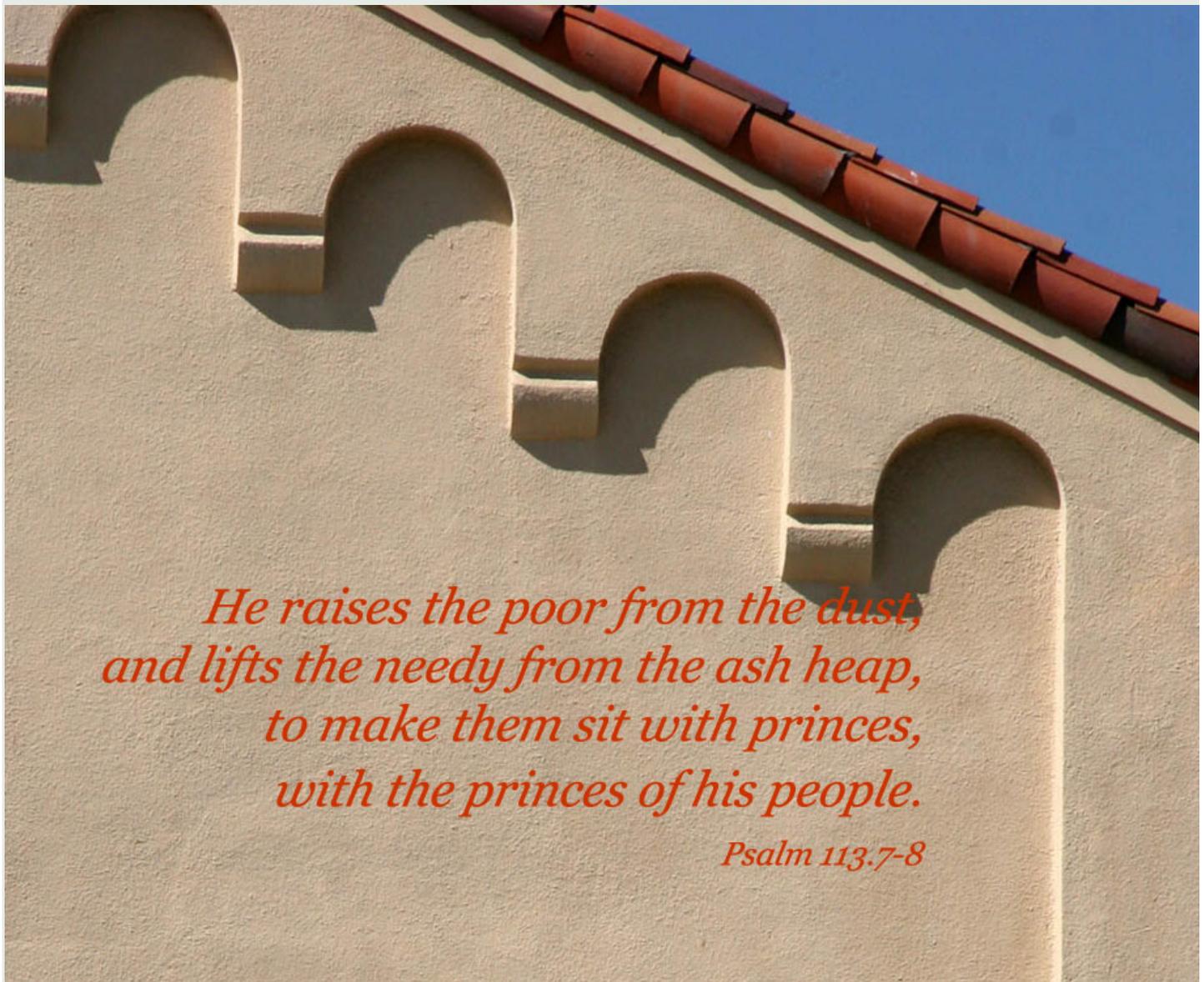




THE BAYOU
Messenger



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



*He raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.*

Psalm 113:7-8

The Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, September 22, 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 SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

Monday: Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-6; Lk 8:16-18
 Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 8:19-21
 Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9; Tb:13:2, 3-4abefghn, 7-8; Lk 9:1-6
 Thursday: Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 9:7-9
 Friday: Hg 2:1-9; Ps 43:1-4; Lk 9:18-22
 Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jer 31:10-12ab, 13; Lk 9:43b-45
 Sunday: Am 6:1a, 4-7; Ps 146:7-10; 1 Tm 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31

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	

Mark your calendar for the following dates for the Holy Mass at **St. Catherine**. Please note that rosary will be at 5:30pm and Holy Mass to follow at 6:00pm. Dates are: Tuesday, October 29th, Tuesday, November 26th, and Tuesday, December 10th.

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns for These Intentions the Week of September 22, 2019

Immaculate Heart of Mary: in loving memory of Matherne & Guerin Families by Brenda Matherne
St. Joseph: in loving memory of Charles & Rita Angeloz by Mary Frances Jarreau
St. Frances: in loving memory of Bernice Sanders
St. Catherine: in loving memory of Brian Gueho

A VOCATION VIEW

We cannot serve two masters. Which one are you willing to follow? Could it be you are being called to serve the Master as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? If God is calling you, call or email Father Andrew Merrick at 225.336.8778, framerrick@gmail.com, or visit www.diobr.org/vocations.

YOUR STEWARDSHIP TO OUR PARISHES FOR SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Offertory Collection \$1,227.00

St. Joseph

Offertory Collection \$1,925.00

St. Frances

Offertory Collection \$2,386.00

THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY

FR. CHRISTOPHER DECKER

Greetings:

It's not uncommon to view the Catholic Church through the lens of a kind of business, especially when it comes to the roles and offices within Her. After all, we see things through the lens of the culture in which we are immersed most repeatedly. For example, the pope takes on the role of the company owner, the bishop the regional director (or franchise owner) and the priests are the upper management team of the franchise. If this is the case, then the priests must be looking to become directors and eventually the owners of the company. The stock boy should aspire to the boardroom, right? This thinking has always made me chuckle a bit; I recall going through a random TSA screening when I was a seminarian traveling through Washington DC. The security agent was quizzing me with questions they were being taught to engage to determine my "motives for travel". Anyone vaguely religious right after September 11, 2001 was pulled aside. I was enjoying the line of questioning because it was a near-perfect reflection of how the popular culture sees the Church. The agent said, "So, you going for pope someday?" I responded, "well, it doesn't really work that way." I went on to briefly explain that business and politics shouldn't really enter into things when it comes to how the Holy Spirit works. In fact, in spite of political maneuvering within the Church, the Holy Spirit won't be outdone in bringing about His Will and reform of the Church and her ministers in every age. As I was holding up the line, she eventually cut the "conversation" short and returned my rosary and Breviary (the prayer book that clergy pray) and sent me to my gate.

Years later, when I became a pastor of a parish, I remembered that conversation as the bishop gave me the letter of appointment. One of the most sobering and humbling parts of being named a pastor, which is a role that a priest may be called to exercise, is what is called the care of souls. Pastors are given a territory, their parish (or parishes) and they are given the care of each soul in it, whether they are Catholic or not. Parishioners may not realize it, but that's what the pastor is being given to shepherd. More than just guiding the body through the Sacramental life, you're entrusting your very soul to me. While each Catholic is responsible for making decisions for the good of their soul, it is the pastor of their parish who provides guidance in word and deed, so that those decisions are clear and not murky. This is why the priest is called to be a prudent and honest steward, as he will have to give an account to God not only for the state of his own soul, but also all of those souls that he is called to guide. As you can imagine, this is tough work, especially since some souls don't want to be guided! And yet, as Jesus said of those who were either resistant or not of His fold, "these also I must lead". (cf. John 10:16). This is all the more reason that priestly offices in The Church aren't a kind of business ladder!

In his letter to bishops "On Priests and the Care of Souls" Pope Blessed Pius IX reminds them of the kind of stewards their priests should be:

"Since brothers, you yourselves know full well the holy sacrifice of the Mass, venerable contains a great source of instruction for the faithful, never cease to exhort pastors especially and other preachers of the divine word and those to whom the task of educating the Christian people is delegated to explain to the faithful the necessity, excellence, greatness, purpose and fruits of so holy and admirable a sacrifice. Likewise inflame the faithful themselves to frequently attend this sacrifice with the faith, religion, and piety it deserves, that they may be able to obtain the divine mercy and all kinds of benefits they need.

(continue)

Nor should you cease encouraging the priests of your dioceses to be outstanding in moral integrity, dignity, innocence of life, and sanctity. Those who alone are given the privilege of consecrating the divine host and accomplishing so holy and awesome a sacrifice should display these qualities. Therefore, frequently exhort all who are initiated into the most holy priesthood to give serious consideration to the ministry which they have received in the Lord. They should fulfill their ministry, being always mindful of the dignity and heavenly power with which they are endowed; they should shine forth with the splendor of all kinds of virtue; they should occupy themselves with divine worship, divine things, and the salvation of souls. Then, offering themselves as a living and holy host to the Lord, and always carrying about in their bodies the mortification of Jesus, they may duly offer with pure minds and clean heart to God the propitiatory host for their own salvation and that of all the world."

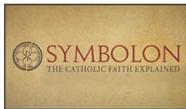
Please pray for me and for Fr. Amrit, who as parochial vicar acts in my name and shares the burden of caring for your souls, that we may be wise and honest stewards. At the end of my life, it's my hope that I will have guided the souls in my care well so that we all meet in heaven and share the completion of life's journey with Jesus.

Pax,



Symbolon: Knowing the Faith

Episode 3: The Bible



"I finally realized that the most important book to learn is the Bible."

—Loida T., Sugarland, TX

[WATCH ON FORMED.ORG](http://WATCHONFORMED.ORG)

Be Set on Fire to Read God's Word

Is the Bible more than just a collection of ancient writings? If God reveals his truth to us through Sacred Scripture, what does that really mean for our faith?



CLERGY, STAFF, & SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Rev. Christopher J. Decker
Pastor
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Rev. Amrit Raj, I.M.S.
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Margie Spina
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Peggy Champagne
Director of Religious Education & Youth Ministry
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Made for Greatness! Youth and Young Adults in our TriParishes

TRI-PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION SCHEDULE

ST. FRANCES

Jr/Sr High on Monday, **September 30th**, from 6:00pm—7:15pm in St. Frances Parish Hall.

Elementary on Tuesday, **October 1**, from 5:00pm—6:30pm in St. Frances Parish Hall.

ST. JOSEPH/IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY K-10TH GRADES

Sunday, **September 29th**, starting with 9:00am Mass & ending at 11:30am

TRIPARISH CONFIRMATION ANGOLA TRIP

Please note new date **September 28, 2019** from 7:00am to 4:30pm. This is mandatory for all Confirmation candidates.

TriParish Jr/Sr Youth Gathering

September 27th and December 20th from 6:00pm—9:00pm at St. Frances Parish Hall for Youth in grades 6th—12th.

Service Projects

October 19th—clean St. Frances cemetery from 8:00am—Noon

Week of Thanksgiving we will clean the 3 churches. Dates to be announced later.



March for Life

Washington D.C.

Any youth in grades 9th—12th who would be interested in attending March for Life contact Peggy at the Parish Office for more information. Registration begins October 10th.

SATURDAY NIGHT CATECHISM

A Journey to the Heart of the Faith

Video series by Bishop Robert Barron

Facilitator: Fr. Chris Decker

At Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Hall at 5:15 pm following the 4:00pm Mass.

Sessions are 28, October 5, 12, 26. Suggested donation \$25 for discussion materials. Come as you are! All are invited!

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.