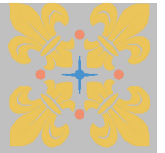


THE BAYOU
Messenger



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



First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 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
Office Hours are Monday—Thursday
8:30am—3:30pm

THE MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 1 2019

Monday: Is4:2-6; Mt8:5-11
 Tuesday: Is11:1-10; Lk10:21-24
 Wednesday: Is25:6-10a; Mt15:29-37
 Thursday: Is26:1-6; Mt7:21, 24-27
 Friday: Is:29:17-24; Mt9:27-31
 Saturday: Is30:19-21,23-26; Mt9:35; Mt10:1, 5a,6-8
 Sunday: Is11:1-10; Ps72:1-2,07-8,12-13,17; Rom15:4-9; Mt3:1-12

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	

Christmas 2019 Holy Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 24 – The Vigil of Christmas

4:00pm – St. Joseph, Grosse Tête
 6:00pm – Immaculate Heart of Mary, Maringouin

Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day

12:00am – St. Frances Cabrini, Livonia
 9:00am – St. Joseph, Grosse Tête
 11:00am – St. Frances Cabrini, Livonia

Confessions will be heard 1 hour before all Masses.

Masses at St. Catherine of Siena

Rosary starting at 5:30pm and Holy Mass at 6:00pm
 Tuesday, December 10, 2019

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns for These Intentions the Week of December 1, 2019

Immaculate Heart of Mary: in loving memory of Joseph Hollins

St. Joseph: in loving memory Cleo Chavin Steib

St. Frances: in loving memory of Lillie Templeton Ardoin by St. Frances Ladies Altar Society

St. Catherine: in loving memory of Rufus Smith by St. Frances Ladies Altar Society

In Memoriam

Rufus Smith, died November 19, 2019 and was interred in St. Frances Cemetery.

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

YOUR STEWARDSHIP TO OUR PARISHES FOR NOVEMBER 24TH AND DECEMBER 1ST WILL BE POSTED IN THE DECEMBER 8TH BULLETIN

THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY

FR. CHRISTOPHER DECKER

Greetings!

I'd like to conclude our journey though the two principal documents governing Divine Worship in the Catholic Church with a few supplemental reflections from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the African American Bishops in the United States. The first is *Sing to the Lord*, released in 2007 as a complementary reflection on the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* and *Sacrosanctum Concilium*.

Most notably, it underscores the role of the choir at Mass extends beyond just leading the congregation in song. "Choir members, like all liturgical ministers, should exercise their ministry with evident faith and should participate in the entire liturgical celebration, recognizing that they are servants of the Liturgy and members of the gathered assembly" (*Sing to the Lord*, 32). Often, because our modern society tends to present song in any venue as a "performance" for others to "enjoy" there can be a temptation to carry this over into divine worship. However, all of the liturgical ministers are rightly understood as servants of the liturgical rites. This means that worship of God by an official act of the Church (like Mass or Vespers) has prescribed requirements and obligations, as we have discussed in previous articles. In this way, neither the choir nor the priest are performing for the enjoyment of the assembly, but rather leading the community in rites laid down by The Church whereby God is worshipped. Worship of God is the primary function of the liturgy. Because the choir does indeed function in an official role within the liturgy, *Sing to the Lord* notes that "choir and ensemble members may dress in albs or choir robes, but always in clean, presentable, and modest clothing" (33).

There is also a concerted effort to recognize the diversity present in parishes and dioceses. "Liturgical leaders and musicians should encourage not only the use of traditional music of other languages and peoples, but also the incorporation of newly composed liturgical music appropriate to various cultural expressions in harmony with the theological meaning of the rites" (60). To that end, especially in the South, the document *Plenty Good Room* issued by The Secretariat for Black Catholics of the USCCB in 1991 offers some reflection on how this harmony might manifest. Pope St. John Paul II said in 1987 in New Orleans, "Dear brothers and sisters, your black cultural heritage enriches the Church and makes her witness of universality more complete. In a real way the Church needs you, just as much as you need the Church, for you are part of the Church and the Church is part of you..." (*Plenty Good Room*, 32). The document suggests that this mutual enrichment does not mean a departure from the liturgy as has been developed in Europe throughout the ages, but rather a dialog must be continued so that the Church may "welcome and strongly encourage the equally rich and diverse traditions of all peoples in every time and in every place." Sister Thea Bowman notes that sacred song for African Americans, which shares deeply in the West African musical aesthetic, is "holistic: challenging the full engagement of mind, imagination, memory, feeling, emotion, voice, and body; participatory: inviting the worshiping community to join in contemplation, in celebration, and in prayer; real: celebrating the immediate concrete reality of the worshiping community—grief or separation, struggle, or oppression, determination, or joy—bringing that reality to prayer within the community of believers; spirit-filled: energetic, engrossing, intense; and life-giving: refreshing, encouraging, consoling, invigorating, sustaining" (PGR, 103.). To realize this in worship in a community of mixed ethnicities is a challenge, but the categories that Sr. Bowman suggests are not foreign to sacred song in any tradition.

(continue)

Much much more can be said than I have room for in my bulletin articles. Suffice it to say, that these many reflections have been an effort to instruct in the proper use of music within the liturgy and that its character in the Mass is markedly different than music sung or heard in a secular environment. Because liturgical music is part of the Catholic Church's official worship, there are outright rules and guidelines, but also room for development of "best practices" in parish life. I do hope it's been helpful for you by way of catechesis as well as an occasion to pray about how we worship God together in our TriParishes. If you'd like to read any of the documents I've referenced, you'll find them at www.triparishes.org/choirs. As always, I'm happy to visit with you to discuss the topic of liturgy and music.

Pax Christi,

Fr. Chad

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK



Lectio: Mary
Episode 1 - The New Eve

WATCH ON
FORMED.ORG

The New Fulfills the Old

The Book of Genesis begins with the story of Adam and Eve, whose sin of disobedience breaks their relationship with God. God does not abandon his people, but gradually prepares them for the coming of his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus, the promised "seed" of Genesis 3:15 is the "New Adam," and his mother, the promised "woman," is the "New Eve."

POWERED BY THE  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

Made for Greatness! Youth and Young Adults in our TriParishes

TriParish 1st Reconciliation

1st Reconciliation Practice will be **December 5th at 6:00pm** at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church for all Catholic, Public and Private Students in 2nd grade.

1st Reconciliation will be **December 12th at 6:00pm** at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church for all Catholic, Private and Public Students in 2nd Grade.

Tri-Parish School of Religion Schedule

St. Joseph/Immaculate Heart of Mary

K—10th Grade on Sunday, **December 15th** starting with 9am Mass at St. Joseph

St. Frances

Confirmation Class on Sunday, **December 1st**, starting with 11:00am Mass.

Jr/Sr High on Monday, **December 2nd**, from 6:00pm—7:15pm at St. Frances Parish Hall.

Elementary on Tuesday, **December 3rd**, from 5:00pm—6:30pm at St. Frances Parish Hall.

Jr/Sr High on Monday, **December 16th**, from 6:00pm—7:15pm at St. Frances Parish Hall.

Elementary on Tuesday, **December 17th**, from 5:00pm—6:30pm at St. Frances Parish Hall.

TriParish Christmas Youth Gatherings

Elementary Youth Gathering Sunday, December 8th, after the 11:00am Mass at St. Frances from Noon—2:00pm.

Jr/Sr Youth Gathering Friday, December 20th, from 6:00pm—9:00pm at St. Frances Parish Hall for Youth in grades 6th—12th.

St. Joseph Upcoming Events in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Sr. Pot Luck Luncheon at 11:30am
Knights of Columbus Meeting at 7:00pm

Wednesday December 11th, 2019

Ladies Altar Society Meeting at 6:30pm

Christmas Décor Memorial Donations

Donations are now being accepted for Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Joseph & St. Frances Parishes. Please include names of those being remembered. Envelopes can be placed in the collection basket or mailed to the TriParish Pastoral Office.

CLERGY, STAFF & SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Rev. Christopher J. Decker
Pastor
cdecker@triparishes.org

Margie Spina
Bookkeeper
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Rev. Amrit Raj, I.M.S.
Parochial Vicar
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Elsie Mae Thompson
Executive Secretary
ethompson@triparishes.org

Peggy Champagne
Director of Religious Education & Youth Ministry
pchampagne@triparishes.org

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.