



THE BAYOU
Messenger



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



Epiphany of the Lord - January 5, 2020

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
 Fardoche, 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 JANUARY 5, 2020

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a;
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19 — 5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17;
Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30
Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38;
Mt 3:13-17

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	

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns for These Intentions the Week of January 5, 2020

Immaculate Heart of Mary: in loving memory of Dr. James O'Neal
St. Joseph: in loving memory Ray Badeaux
St. Frances: in loving memory of Ruby Montelaro
St. Catherine: in loving memory of Joseph Bergeron

YOUR STEWARDSHIP TO OUR TRIPARISHES WILL BE POSTED AT A LATER DATE.

“Epiphany” means manifestation. And the “Epiphany of the Lord” is Jesus’ manifestation not only to these three Magi from the East, but it’s also a symbolic but real manifestation of the Christ to the whole world. These Magi, traveling from a foreign and non-Jewish nation, reveal that Jesus came for all people and all are called to adore Him.

These Magi were “wise men” who studied the stars and were aware of the Jewish belief that a Messiah was coming. They would have been versed in much of the wisdom of the day and would have been intrigued by the Jewish belief in the Messiah.

God used what they were familiar with to call them to adore the Christ. He used a star. They understood the stars and when they saw this new and unique star over Bethlehem they realized that something special was happening. So the first lesson we take from this for our own lives is that God will use what is familiar to us to call us to Himself. Look for the “star” that God is using to call you. It’s closer than you may think.

THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY

FR. CHRISTOPHER DECKER

Greetings!

With each new year comes a new resolve to change. When we use the phrase “New Years’ Resolution” to indicate that desire, it’s good to dig into the meaning of what a resolution entails. The word comes from the Latin word *resolvere*, which means “to loosen again”. Over the course of a year, it’s possible for the daily grind of life to tighten things up like a wound up rubber band. We can become twisted up in bad habits or lose our motivation to do things that ought to be done. A resolution is where we seek to dissolve those twisted up situations we’re in and loose them by making a renewed commitment towards activities and habits that can help us to flourish as people and certainly as Christians. More than just “I need to shed a few pounds and get in shape,” a true resolution involves considering what has kept me from flourishing as a person and making small steps to move in a new direction. This doesn’t just begin with a knee-jerk reaction because our trousers don’t fit after the long weeks of holiday feasting. Ideally, our resolutions should have the manger as their birthplace. If Jesus comes to earth and is born into our human family to redeem our bodies, our minds, and our souls — indeed our whole person — then prayer should be the place we begin. Prayer might be the best place to formulate your resolutions for the new year. “Jesus, what is it that keeps me from You and from others?” Honestly posing that question to Our Lord and allowing the Holy Spirit to place the answer on our hearts is a good way to invite God into making plans for our future that will aim us towards Him. That’s ultimately what living virtuously is supposed to do: bring us true flourishing because we are living with purpose for God, and give us a desire for life beyond our earthly existence. From there, we can ask for God’s help to put into practice what we resolve to do and even to send people into our lives to help us along the way. Living out our resolutions is never easy, and certainly involves taking up our crosses daily. But with the help of God and with those who want to see us grow it can become a great adventure to wake up each morning and live resolved -- “loosed again” from what previously bound us up. We can do this by partaking of the Sacraments of the Church, specifically Reconciliation, which looses us from sin and gives us the graces necessary to become Saints! May God bless you as we begin 2020 and be assured of my prayers for a new year of resolve!

Pax Christi,

Fr. Chris



**Made for Greatness!
Youth and Young Adults in our TriParishes**

Tri-Parish School of Religion Schedule

St. Frances

Jr/Sr High on Monday, **January 13th**, from 6:00pm—7:15pm at St. Frances Parish Hall.

Elementary on Tuesday, **January 14th**, from 5:00pm—6:30pm at St. Frances Parish Hall.

Jr/Sr High on Monday, **January 27th**, from 6:00pm—7:15pm at St. Frances Parish Hall.

Elementary on Tuesday, **January 28th**, from 5:00pm—6:30pm at St. Frances Parish Hall.

St. Joseph/Immaculate Heart of Mary

K—10th grade Sunday, **January 5th**, starting with 9:00am Mass

Confirmation Classes

Sunday, **January 5th & 19th**, starting with 11:00am Mass

Dr. Edward Sri

Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at St. Ann's in Morganza starting at 6:30pm. "Who Am I to Judge" & "No Greater Love"

Thursday, January 30, 2020 at the Catholic Life Center starting with Mass (optional) at 8:30am. Talk on "In the Dust of the Rabbi" starts at 9:30am.

Thursday, January 30, 2020 at Christ the King Parish and Student Center. Talk on "Men, Women and the Mystery of Love: Living Theology of the Body" from 7:00pm—9:00pm.

If you plan on attending a lecture, please RSVP using the link:
<https://learn.evangelatbr.org/rsvp/>



**St. Joseph's Ladies Altar Society
Fried Chicken Dinner**

Will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2020 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am—1:00pm. We will also be selling deserts and drinks.



St. Joseph Upcoming Events in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

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

Wednesday January 8, 2020

Ladies Altar Society Meeting at 6:30pm

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

**The Case for Jesus
By Dr. Brant Pitre**



Dr. Pitre exposes the problems with the many false theories that have resulted in widespread skepticism about the reliability of Christianity.

LISTEN ON FORMED.ORG

POWERED BY THE AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

VOCATIONS

"By Baptism, Catholic families are holy families and are the seed beds for the vocations of their children. Pray generously as a family for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life from among your children. If God is calling you, call or email Father Andrew Merrick at 225.336.8778, framerrick@gmail.com, or visit www.diobr.org/vocations.

CLERGY, STAFF & SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

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

Rev. Amrit Raj, I.M.S.
Parochial Vicar
araj@triparishes.org

Margie Spina
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Elsie Mae Thompson
Executive Secretary
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Peggy Champagne
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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.