Saint Martin de Tours Catholic Church
133 South Main Street, LA 70582-0010 + Mailing Address: P.O. Box 10
Website: www.saintmartindetours.org Phone: (337)394-6021 Fax: 337-654-6020
E-Mail: saintmartin1765@gmail.com

Mass Times:
Tuesday 5:30 P.M.
Wednesday 6:30 A.M.
Thursday 6:30 A.M.
Friday 6:30 A.M.
First Saturday 8:00 A.M.

Saturday 4:00 P.M.
Sunday 8:00 A.M.
10:00 A.M.
5:00 P.M.

Confession Times:
Saturday 3:00 P.M.

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
8:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M.

Parish Staff:
Rev. Jason Mouton, Pastor
Tammy LeBlanc, Parish Secretary
tamlebsmdt@gmail.com
Dianne Champagne
Parish Bookkeeper
saintmartin1765@gmail.com
Patrick Melancon
Parish Musician
melanpat12@gmail.com

Sacraments
Baptism
Parents should contact the Parish Office regarding Baptism prior to the birth of the child.

Matrimony
Engaged couples should contact the Parish Office at least six months prior to the anticipated wedding date.

Penance (Confession)
3:00-3:45pm every Saturday and 30 minutes before all weekday masses or by appointment.

Anointing of the Sick
Those who are seriously ill or in danger of death should contact the Parish Office to request the Sacrament of the Sick
Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Through this mode of communication you are aware that I am away this weekend in Washington, D.C. attending the annual March-For-Life.
Please pray that this horrendous decision will be soon overturned. I will remember you and all of your intentions at the tomb of St. Mother Elizabeth Seton in Emmitsburg, Maryland where she is interred. Again, I will be spearheading a delegation next year (God willing), but it will be for our own St. Martin de Tours parishioners and other interested individuals.
On Tuesday, January 7, 2020 I attended Vesper services and a meal at the Community of Jesus Christ Crucified well known to this community for their works of charity and was very impressed to see several of our parishioners engaged with heeding our Lord’s plea to help the poor, downtrodden and needy. In the name of the Lord, I “thank you”. Let us continue the work of our baptismal call to all in a small corner of this vast world of ours. And, your witness is edifying. Our efforts to assist both locally and universally will increase in the foreseeable future and the Lord will bless our endeavors abundantly with Mary, Mother of Charity, leading and guiding us.

St. Martin de Tours, Pray for Us!

NOTE:
Traditionally in our Catholic Faith the month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family. February comes from the Latin, *Februca*, and is attributed to the Roman festival of expiation celebrated on the fifteenth of the month; hence, the month of expiation. Also note that February is dedicated to Black History Month a few articles will follow in the pastor’s segment.

Feb. 1: 8:00a.m., First Saturday Mass.
Feb. 2: Diocesan Marriage Anniversary Mass, St. Peter’s Catholic Church, Carencro, 2p.m.
Feb. 2: Groundhog Day/Super bowl Sunday (Miami, Florida).

Feb. 11: WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, Mass at 11:00a.m., NO 5:30p.m. Mass.
Feb. 14: Valentine’s Day
Feb. 15: 11a.m., Carencro Mardi Gras Parade
Feb. 16: 1:00p.m., Scott Mardi Gras Parade
Feb. 22: 11a.m., Youngsville Mardi Gras Parade

Feb. 25: MARDI GRAS – PARISH AND DIOCESAN OFFICES CLOSED!
Feb. 26: ASH WEDNESDAY.
Services are as follows:
6:30a.m. Mass with distribution of ashes
12:10p.m. Word Service with distribution of ashes (for workers who use their lunch time).
6:00p.m. Mass with distribution of ashes
Collection taken at all masses and Word service will be for Catholic Charities of Acadiana (Diocese) and the Community of Christ Jesus Crucified to assist the poor/needy in our community of St. Martinville. Please be generous for it is a corporal work of mercy.
NOTE: Traditionally in our Catholic Faith the month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph. March is derived from Mars, the God of War.

Mar. 1: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
Mar 2, 3, 4: LENTEN MISSION CONDUCTED BY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR JOAN BROUSSARD ON PRAYER; 6:15 - 7:30P.M. EACH EVENING.
Mar. 7: 8:00a.m., First Saturday Mass.
Mar. 8: Daylight Saving Time – Spring Forward/SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT.
Mar. 15: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
Mar. 17: St. Patrick’s Day
Mar. 19: Feast of St. Joseph/1st Day of Spring
Mar. 22: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Mar. 25: Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord.
Mar. 29: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

The month of April is traditionally, in our Catholic Faith, dedicated to the Holy Spirit and the Holy Eucharist.
April comes from the Latin, aperier, to open.
In the midst of spring, the buds open. Another suggestion is the Greek word Aphro, short for Aphrodite, the goddess of love, because in spring human fancy turns to love.

April 4: 8:00a.m., First Saturday Mass
April 4/5: Palm Sunday/Passion of the Lord
April 8: Parish Offices CLOSE AT NOON
April 9: Parish Office Closed
7:00p.m. Mass of the Lord’s Supper
April 10: Good Friday, 3:00p.m. Word Service/Veneration of the Cross.
April 11: Holy Saturday, 8:00p.m. Vigil Mass
April 12: 8 & 10a.m. Masses ONLY/EASTER SUNDAY.
April 13-17: Fr. Mouton – Time Off after Easter
April 17: Scott Boudin Festival & Parks Cracklin Festival Weekend
April 19-26: Volunteer Appreciation Week
April 22: Administrative Professionals Day
April 22-26: Festival International De Lousiane Begins.
April 30 – May 3: New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival.
May 16: Armed Forces Day
May 25: Memorial Day
Pope’s February Intention

Listen to the Migrants’ Cry
We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FOR THE XXVIII WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 2020
11 February 2020
"Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest” (Mt 11:28)

Dear brothers and sisters,

1. Jesus’ words, “Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest” (Mt 11:28) point to the mysterious path of grace that is revealed to the simple and gives new strength to those who are weary and tired. These words of Christ express the solidarity of the Son of Man with all those who are hurt and afflicted. How many people suffer in both body and soul! Jesus urges everyone to draw near to him – “Come to me!” – and he promises them comfort and repose. “When Jesus says this, he has before him the people he meets every day on the streets of Galilee: very many simple people, the poor, the sick, sinners, those who are marginalized by the burden of the law and the oppressive social system... These people always followed him to hear his word, a word that gave hope! Jesus’ words always give hope!” (Angelus, 6 July 2014).

On this XXVIII World Day of the Sick, Jesus repeats these words to the sick, the oppressed, and the poor. For they realize that they depend entirely on God and, beneath the burden of their trials, stand in need of his healing.

2. Why does Jesus have these feelings? Because he himself became frail, endured human suffering and received comfort from his Father. Indeed, only those who personally experience suffering are then able to comfort others. There are so many kinds of grave suffering: incurable and chronic diseases, psychological diseases, situations calling for rehabilitation or palliative care, numerous forms of disability, children’s or geriatric diseases... At times human warmth is lacking in our approach to these. What is needed is a personalized approach to the sick, not just of curing but also of caring, in view of an integral human healing. In experiencing illness, individuals not only feel threatened in their physical integrity, but also in the relational, intellectual, affective and spiritual dimensions of their lives. For this reason, in addition to therapy and support, they expect care and attention. In a word, love. At the side of every sick person, there is also a family, which itself suffers and is in need of support and comfort.

3. Dear brothers and sisters who are ill, your sickness makes you in a particular way one of those “who labour and are burdened”, and thus attract the eyes and heart of Jesus. In him, you will find light to brighten your darkest moments and hope to soothe your distress. He urges you: “Come to me”. In him, you will find strength to face all the worries and questions.
that assail you during this “dark night” of body and soul. Christ did not give us prescriptions, but through his passion, death and resurrection he frees us from the grip of evil.

In your experience of illness, you certainly need a place to find rest. The Church desires to become more and more the “inn” of the Good Samaritan who is Christ (cf. Lk 10:34), that is, a home where you can encounter his grace, which finds expression in closeness, acceptance and relief. In this home, you can meet people who, healed in their frailty by God’s mercy, will help you bear your cross and enable your suffering to give you a new perspective. You will be able to look beyond your illness to a greater horizon of new light and fresh strength for your lives.

A key role in this effort to offer rest and renewal to our sick brothers and sisters is played by healthcare workers: physicians, nurses, medical and administrative professionals, assistants and volunteers. Thanks to their expertise, they can make patients feel the presence of Christ who consoles and cares for the sick, and heals every hurt. Yet they too are men and women with their own frailties and even illnesses. They show how true it is that “once Christ’s comfort and rest is received, we are called in turn to become rest and comfort for our brothers and sisters, with a docile and humble attitude in imitation of the Teacher” (Angelus, 6 July 2014).

4. Dear healthcare professionals, let us always remember that diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic treatments, research, care and rehabilitation are always in the service of the sick person; indeed the noun “person” takes priority over the adjective “sick”. In your work, may you always strive to promote the dignity and life of each person, and reject any compromise in the direction of euthanasia, assisted suicide or suppression of life, even in the case of terminal illness. When confronted with the limitations and even failures of medical science before increasingly problematic clinical cases and bleak diagnoses, you are called to be open to the transcendent dimension of your profession that reveals its ultimate meaning.

Let us remember that life is sacred and belongs to God; hence it is inviolable and no one can claim the right to dispose of it freely (cf. Donum Vitæ, 5; Evangelium Vitæ, 29-53). Life must be welcomed, protected, respected and served from its beginning to its end: both human reason and faith in God, the author of life, require this. In some cases, conscientious objection becomes a necessary decision if you are to be consistent with your “yes” to life and to the human person. Your professionalism, sustained by Christian charity, will be the best service you can offer for the safeguarding of the truest human right, the right to life. When you can no longer provide a cure, you will still be able to provide care and healing, through gestures and procedures that give comfort and relief to the sick.

Tragically, in some contexts of war and violent conflict, healthcare professionals and the facilities that receive and assist the sick are attacked. In some areas, too, political authorities attempt to manipulate medical care for their own advantage, thus restricting the medical profession’s legitimate autonomy. Yet attacking those who devote themselves to the service of the suffering members of society does not serve the interests of anyone.

5. On this XXVIII World Day of the Sick, I think of our many brothers and sisters throughout the world who have no access to medical care because they live in poverty. For this reason, I urge healthcare institutions and government leaders throughout the world not to neglect social justice out of a preoccupation for financial concerns. It is my hope that, by joining the principles of solidarity and subsidiarity, efforts will be made to cooperate in ensuring that everyone has access to suitable treatments for preserving and restoring their health. I offer heartfelt thanks.
to all those volunteers who serve the sick, often compensating for structural shortcomings, while reflecting the image of Christ, the Good Samaritan, by their acts of tender love and closeness.

To the Blessed Virgin Mary, Health of the Sick, I entrust all those who bear the burden of illness, along with their families and all healthcare workers. With the assurance of a remembrance in my prayers, I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.

From the Vatican, 3 January 2020
Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

Pro-Life Corner!
May all who suffer from participating in abortion turn to God’s loving forgiveness: We pray to the Lord...Lord, hear our prayer!

Marriage Tips!
Even if it’s not your cup of tea, sometimes it’s worth doing something with your spouse, just because it pleases the other person. For example, watch her favorite movie or his favorite sport, try dancing together, take a lesson...

Church Humor!

Anointing of the Sick Mass
St. Martin de Tours will hold a Mass for the anointing of the sick on Tuesday, February 11 at 11:00 a.m. which coincides with the annual World Day of the Sick; a lite reception will follow. There will be three (3) priests administering the Sacrament: myself, Fr. Michael Sucharski, SVD, and Fr. Michael Champagne, CJC.

In the Church’s Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, through the ministry of the priest, it is Jesus who touches the sick to heal them from sin – and sometimes even from physical ailment. His cures were signs of the arrival of the Kingdom of God. The core message of his healing tells us of his plan to conquer sin and death by his dying and rising.
The Rite of Anointing tells us there is no need to wait until a person is at the point of death to receive the Sacrament. A careful judgment about the serious nature of the illness is sufficient.

When the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is given, the hoped-for effect is that, if it be God’s will, the person be physically healed of illness. But even if there is no physical healing, the primary effect of the Sacrament is a spiritual healing by which the sick person receives the Holy Spirit’s gift of peace and courage to deal with the difficulties that accompany serious illness or the frailty of old age.

The requirements to be anointed are:
- Those whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age
- Those who are about to undergo surgery because of a serious illness
- Those who are elderly and weakened by age, even if there is no serious illness
- Sick children who are mature enough to be comforted by it

The effects of the Anointing of the Sick (See James 5:14 and the Catechism of the Catholic Church # 1532):
- Joins the sick person to the passion of Christ
- Gives power, peace, and the courage to endure suffering
- Forgives sins
- Restores health (if conducive to the soul's salvation)
- Prepares for the passage to eternal life

The Elements of the Anointing of the Sick:
- The priest of the Church
- The laying on of hands in silence
- The prayer in faith of the Church
- The anointing with oil (blessed by the bishop)

Note: Please call the parish office NOW so that we can prepare accordingly for an approximate number of individuals attending. Merci’!

Food for Thought!

“Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.”
St. Mother Teresa.

“None of us can know the future. It’s one of the reasons why Jesus tells us not to have anxiety about the future. It’s futile, because we can’t ever know it.” Fr. Mike Schmitz – How to Make Great Decisions

“If you cannot find God’s will in this moment, you will never be able to find God’s will, because God’s will is only in this moment. He doesn’t have a will for your past. He only has a will for you right now.”

Fr. Mike Schmitz

Black History Month

Since 1926, black history has been annually recognized, first as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month.”

The celebration of Black History Month and the study of black history can be traced back to Dr. Carter G. Woodson who took on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation’s history. Born to parents who were former slaves, he spent his childhood in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, and a year later founded the widely respected Journal of Negro History. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history.
First Negro History Week Chosen:
Dr. Carter G. Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

Other Significant February Dates:
Feb. 23, 1868: W.E.B. Du Bois, important civil rights leader and co-founder of the NAACP, was born.
Feb. 3, 1870: The 15 Amendment was passed, granting blacks the right to vote.
Feb. 25, 1870: The first black U.S. senator, Hiram R. Revels (1822-1901), took his oath of office.
Feb. 12, 1909: The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded by a group of concerned black and white citizen in New York City.
Feb. 1, 1960: In what would become a civil-rights movement milestone, a group of black Greensboro, N.C., college students began a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter.
Feb. 21, 1965: Malcolm X, the militant leader who promoted Black Nationalism, was shot to death by three Black Muslims.

Important Cities in Black History

Atlanta
Martin Luther King, Jr. National Site, King Center for Social Justice, his birthplace, and Ebenezer Baptist Church which he pastured.

Birmingham
In 1963 Birmingham became a tragic chapter in the civil rights movement when four young black girls attending Sunday school were killed when a bomb exploded at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, a popular location for civil rights meetings. Riots erupted. It was here that Martin Luther King, Jr., was arrested and jailed during anti-segregation protests, and where he wrote his famous Letter From Birmingham City Jail, arguing that individuals have the moral duty to disobey unjust laws. Birmingham's first black mayor, Richard Arrington, elected in 1979, helped create a historic district devoted to the civil rights movement. The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, a museum and research center, opened in 1992.

Boston
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts abolished slavery in 1783, and by the 1830's Boston had become the center of American abolitionist sentiment. The 54th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, a black unit from Boston, fought in the Civil War.

Chicago
Known for its sizzling Jazz and Blues, Chicago's black population skyrocketed in the early 1900's. In 1966 Martin Luther King, Jr., began the Chicago Freedom Movement to push for integrated housing, while Jesse Jackson launched Operation Breadbasket to increase black employment. Serious riots rocked Chicago in 1966 and 1968, following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Detroit
During the Great Migration of the early 1900's Detroit's black population increased significantly. W.D. Fard founded the Nation of Islam in Detroit in 1930. In the 1960's the black-owned Motown Record Corporation propelled many leading black performers, including Dianna Ross and the Jackson Five, to stardom. Serious race riots rocked the city in 1943 and 1967, sending thousands of whites into the suburbs. In 1973 Coleman Young was elected the first black mayor. Today the city is more than 75% black.

Harlem, New York
Located north of Central Park in Manhattan, blacks began moving into Harlem in the early 1900's with the completion of the Lenox Avenue subway station. Led by intellectuals such as W.E.B. Du Bois and Marcus Garvey, black culture soon flourished, culminating in the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s and 1930s.

Memphis
Stretching along the Mississippi River, Beale St. was a center of the blues in its heyday in the first half of the 20th century. During the Jim Crow laws, blacks flocked to Beale St., which was a thriving oasis of black businesses. Memphis is home of the excellent Stax Museum of American Soul Music. The National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel, where Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated is also in Memphis.

Montgomery
The capitol of Alabama. In 1955 a black seamstress, Rosa Parks, was arrested for refusing to relinquish her seat to a white man. The subsequent boycott led by Dr. King received nationwide publicity and helped to launch the civil rights movement. The 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery March helped to create the momentum that passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

New Orleans
A major port, New Orleans has been affected by diverse cultural influences. By the Civil War, a class of light-skinned blacks called Creoles, descended from French and Spanish settlers and African slaves had created a vibrant middle-class community.
Fr. Mouton will be out of the Parish for the annual “March for Life” in Washington, DC.

There will be NO daily masses held on:
- Monday, Jan. 26
- Tuesday, Jan. 28
- Wednesday, Jan. 29
- Thursday, Jan. 30
- Friday, Jan. 31

If you wish to celebrate mass, Notre Dame daily masses are held on: Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri at 6:30pm & Tuesday at 6:00pm

St. Martin de Tours, Lent Mission – 2020
“Growing with Christ”

“Growing in Christ” will be held on Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday, March 2-3-4, from 6:15 – 7:30 pm in the cafeteria. Mission is offered by Spiritual Director, Joan Broussard, parishioner of St. Anne parish in Youngsville and native of St. Martinville.

Mission will invite us to discern what God is calling us to during Lent and how we are answering that call. Come, learn, pray and let’s continue the work God has begun in each of us and continue to grow our Catholic faith together!!!
2020-2021 Pre K Registration St. Martin Parish Schools

Will your child be turning 4 by September 30, 2020 and is ready to be a part of a positive learning environment? If so, then you will need to attend our Open Enrollment to register your child for the 2020-2021 school year.

Please bring the following documents with you: Child’s social security card, Birth certificate, Immunization record, Photo ID of parent, 2 proofs of residency (mortgage statement, property tax bill, deed, or notarized lease agreement AND a cable, electric or water bill); Income verification (2 consecutive check stubs for each working adult in household, SNAP verification letter which includes child’s name and effective date, SSI benefit letter)

Early Learning Center Pre K Registration Event will be held on Thursday, March 12th @ ELC (1004 S. Martin Luther King Dr.) 8:30 AM-2:30 PM.

If you have any questions, please contact the early childhood staff: Nicole Angelle, Early Childhood Supervisor 332-2105 Ext. 2841 Brooke Richard, Early Childhood Facilitator, 332-2105 Ext. 2815 *Please stop at the office first so you can be directed to location of registration

Sacrament of Matrimony
January 17, 2020
Zack Galatas & MartiJo Freyou
January 18, 2020
Hayden Marz & Ashlyn Breaux

The annual national Collection for the Church in Latin America (CLA) will be the THIS weekend of January 25-26. The 2020 campaign highlights the faith of Latin America and the many opportunities we have to share faith with them. We also recognize the tremendous benefit of having our Latin American brothers and sisters in the Church and the revitalization their fervor brings to the faith. In addition to offering our help and support to the Catholics of Latin America, we have much to learn from them. Please use the envelopes provided in the one and only passing of the basket.

CANDLES
Large candles are $5.00 dollars Small candles are .50 cents.
Sanctuary Candle: Troy James LeBlanc (BD 1/25)
Consecration Candles: Georgean A. Bahin; Lawrence J. “Pee Wee” & Lillie Mae “Dottie” Barras & Andrew; Wade & Kathryn “Kat” Watkins (Wade DA 1/28); Jean Keddy (DA 2/1)

RUMMAGE SALE
Saturday, February 22, 2020
7:00 am-12:00 noon
Rummage sale will benefit St. Theresa Center for the Works of Mercy
Old Wal-Mart Building on North Main St. St. Martinville
Contact: Liz Dugas for more information at 257-2081

Catholic Daughters of America
The annual membership dues can be forwarded to:
Margaret DeBlanc
2202 Mary Margret Drive
St. Martinville, La. 70582.
For more information call 394-5331.
New members are welcomed.
Dues are $30 per year.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK
St. Martinville Physical Therapy
400 S. Main Street, Ste. D 394-3757
Please support our advertisers who make our bulletin possible. We appreciate their continued support. Please call 1-800-438-8931
Bulletin number: 525184
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<td>Daily Mass</td>
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<td>Fr. Mouton will be out of the Parish attending the March for Life in Washington, DC. Masses scheduled for January 28, 29, 30 &amp; 31, 2020 have been moved to Tuesday, February 4th, 2020 at 5:30pm. If you have any questions please call the Parish Office at 394-6021.</td>
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<td>Dianne Champagne; Tammy LeBlanc</td>
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<td>Lillian &amp; Maria Latiolais</td>
<td>4:00pm Clara Trahan Dwyer &amp; JD Dwyer; Dennis, Lucette &amp; Walter Hulin; Beranger D. Theriot; M/M Louis Solari &amp; Grandchildren; Michael Anthony Mire &amp; Clifton Mire, Sr. (Michael DA); Elizabeth A., Toby &amp; Todd Bertrand; Ethel &amp; Linda La Marque; Shirley Hulin Delcambre; Ida &amp; Roland Robichaux; Therese G. Delcambre; Georgean A. Babin; M/M Anisette A. Babin; Ethel G. Oubre, Mark</td>
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<td>Abbey, Bailey &amp; Billy Poirier</td>
<td>Mazel &amp; Randall Breaux, Sr.; Theophile, Maude &amp; MaryAnn Marks; Donald &amp; Tony Thomas; Pat &amp; Marie Myers: A.J. “Poon” &amp; Beulah Dugas &amp; Vickie; Bryan James Poirier; Marguerite &amp; Anthony Randazzo; A.J. “Bon” &amp; Leona Champagne; Rita Hernandez; Myrtle Girouard &amp; Roy Breaux; Alicia Anne Gauthier (her BD 2/6); Nathan Broussard; Willard Daspit; Priscilla Hulin; Hubert &amp; Lorena Hulin (Lorena BD)</td>
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<td>Lydia Guidry</td>
<td>Conner Durand; Ali &amp; Drew Theriot</td>
<td>Mark F. Beslin &amp; Family; Clarence P. Girouard &amp; Family; Garrett Matthew Tabor, Lilly Belle &amp; DeBlanc; M/M Albert Landry; M/M Alfred Landry; Genevieve “Jenny” Theriot &amp; Ben; Ruth Kimsey Zumwalt; Special Intention; Russell &amp; Jeanette Landry; Harvey Pelafigue; M/M Cecil B. Gremillion; Shawn Theriot; Cliff Durand; Donna &amp; Gerald Hulin; Stanley &amp; Delta Melancon; Yvette Romero Cartwright; Harold G. Bienvenu; Kenneth Capritto; M/M Desire Delahoussaye &amp; Betty</td>
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<td>Cala Hadley</td>
<td>Colin &amp; Britten Guidry</td>
<td>Leonce “Cas” Jr. &amp; Cory “Cas” Boudreaux; John Sonnier, Sr.; Howard, Irene &amp; Raymond Duplantis</td>
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If a name is not printed above due to human error, be assured God has received the intention in heaven. - Canon law 945. If a daily Mass is cancelled or substituted with a Word Service, Mass intentions MAY be transferred to another Mass.

January 26, 2020

Today the poetry of Isaiah washes over us with stunning beauty:

Anguish has taken wing, dispelled is darkness:
for there is no gloom where but now there was distress.

Isaiah’s lines enchant us with their music as well as with their meaning. Haven’t we all felt burdened by gloom and distress? Don’t we all long for an end to darkness? Isaiah promises that God’s majestic strength crushes our anguish, blowing away our troubles on a breeze. These words are lovely, but what do they mean for us really, when our day-to-day struggles are so real? How can it be true that darkness is dispelled, when so many of us suffer terribly?

DAILY DOSES OF LIGHT

Jesus assures us: “God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5b). But how, exactly, does God’s light overcome the darkness that we still experience? Saint Paul shows us how: through the cross. Today’s reading from Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians implores Jesus’ followers to get along with one another, to “be united in the same mind and in the same purpose.” We believe that two thousand years ago, Jesus saved the world and destroyed darkness; but until Jesus comes again, we must unite as the Body of Christ to continue pushing back the gloom of sin and division. As followers of Jesus, we work against these evils in simple ways. We intentionally attempt genuine conversation with a person we find irritating; we ignore gossip and refuse to talk behind someone’s back; we befriend an awkward or needy individual. These daily doses of light bring hope to our world, which is both redeemed and not yet finished. Jesus wants our help. Like Peter, James, and John in today’s Gospel, we are called by Christ to participate in salvation. Jesus chooses us, calls us, and invites us to accompany him—and imitate him—as we live in, and wait for, the Light of the World.

Today’s Readings: Is 8:23 — 9:3; Ps 27:1, 4, 13–14; 1 Cor 1:10–13, 17; Mt 4:12–23 [12–17]

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