

Fourth Sunday of Advent

MASSES & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, December 19, 2015

4:30 P.M. MASS – J.C. & Bertha Smith, Hubert Bertrand, Jeremy rider, Mr. & Mrs. Hubert Ryder, Eve Smith Guilbeau, Alee Gobert & Mrs. Colonial Gradney Gobert, Joseph Lee Gobert, Raoul & Julie Frank, Michael Granger, Raymond Lanthier, Shawna Simmons, Keith LeJeune, John Spears, Willie, Allie, Larry, Raymond Lanthier

SUNDAY, December 20, 2015

7:30 A.M. MASS – *Pro Populo* (For the People)

10:00 A.M. MASS – Deceased Family of Pat Degeyter, Margaret Karam, Deacon Dale & Kathy Deshotel, Stacey Beaubouef, Addison B. Pitre

MONDAY, December 21, 2015

6:30 A.M. MASS – Elmo Smith

TUESDAY, December 22, 2015

5:30 P.M. MASS – Jack Johnson

WEDNESDAY, December 23, 2015

6:30 A.M. MASS – Dorothy Tucker

THURSDAY, December 24, 2015

5:00 P.M. MASS – Corey Viator

FRIDAY, December 25, 2015

12:00 A.M. Midnight Mass - *Pro Populo* (For the People)

9:00 A.M. MASS – Gene & Velma Brakel

SATURDAY, December 26, 2015

4:30 P.M. MASS – Angelle L. Durio, Jeremy Rider, Eve Smith Guilbeau, LeRoy J. Fontenot, Pereda Fontenot, Sox Gordon, Mr. & Mrs. Nevelle Vizena, Helin McCauley Family living and deceased, Corey Viator

SUNDAY, December 27, 2015

7:30 A.M. MASS – *Pro Populo* (For the People)

10:00 A.M. MASS – Joseph & Mildred Guillory, Florence S. Guillory, Francis & Hosey Guillory, Andrus & Ella May Filot, Helen Sonnier, Leonard Beaubouef, Stacey Beaubouef, Glenn Sonnier, Mary Lovenia Courville, Jordy B. Pitre

Last Week's Collection **\$2,908.00**

2nd Collection – Retirement Fund for Diocesan Priests **\$1,562.60**

Collections for Christmas Masses:

1st Collection...SJoA

2nd Collection...Diocese of Lake Charles

PRAYER LIST FOR OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER

Linda Aguillard, Cathy Autin, Phil Beard, Gerry Beaubouef, Jerome, John, & Josie Bergeron, Joann Bertrand, Michael Bertrand, Alvin & Sonja Billodeaux, Renate Bourque, Virginia Bowles, Velma Brakel, Steve Campbell, Kary Cole Briscoe, Leslie Busher, Charles Chaumont, Jerry Chaumont, Florence Comeaux, Pam Dequeant, Carol Deshotel, Jeremiah Deville, Mavy & Emmalyn Ducote, Edward Duhon, Sheryl Duplechain, Jaylen Fitzgerald, Cathy Fontenot, David Fontenot, Mary Ophelia Fontenot, Rodney Fontenot, Tanner Fontenot, Elsie Foster, Juanita Francois, Tim Germany, Monsignor Ronald Groth, Cathy Deshotel Guillory, Jim Guillory, Todd Guillory, Sybil Haas, Harrison Harmon, Mildred Harmon, Esther Harmon, Joseph Harmon, Jennifer C. Hibbs, John Jackson, Perella Jackson, Sheenita Jackson, Brandon Johnson, Pat Klein, Essie Langley, Keith LeJeune, Lou, Joe, Adam and Mary LeJeune, Mitch LeJeune, Willie Mae LeJeune, Joy Mancil, Kevin Manuel, Lula Manuel & Fly., Marlin Manuel, Pat Manuel and Fly., Trista Marler, Fran & Ronnie Meaux, Beau Montou, Kathy Montou, Leroy Moreau, Gloria Morris, Carolyn Morgon, Glenn Morgan, Marvin Morgan, Odrey & Dorothy Montou, Nicholas Odum, Lucas Orsot, Marie Parker, Devin Pelt, Mary Mott Peterson, Sally Pitre, Linda & Don Portie, Ashton Read, Lynda Reed, Ervin Reed, Terry Reeves, Leonard Richard, Johnathan, Christina, Hayley, Jayden, Ryleigh, Skylei, Richard, Sharon, Martha, Rusty, Patsy, Matt, & Josh Rider, Rev. Fred Russi, Evelyn Sandell, Tina Sapienza, Bill Scheffler, Tucker Scimemi, Donald Paul Sonnier, Kermit Sonnier, Koltan Squier, Leah Squier, Suzanne Stringer, Devin Swarouth, Carl Tarver, Diane Thomas, Maynard Topping, Matthew Truman, Danika Treweek, Ticky Family, Roselyn Victorian, Zachary Villereal, Odelia & Ernest Wilson, Nicole Young, Laura Zaidan

Call the Rectory with Names for the Prayer List for January, February, & March.

Leading the Rosary before Mass this Weekend

4:30 P.M. – Haddie Goodly 7:30 A.M. – Lucy Brandon

10:00 A.M. – Royce & Sandy Scimemi

Vocations Candle – John S. & Maryland Reed
(Call the rectory to sponsor the green vocations candle)

Vocations Cross – Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Fontenot

+++NO ADORATION DECEMBER 23RD OR DECEMBER 30TH+++

Poinsettias for Christmastide

Anyone wishing to donate a poinsettia for our Christmastide church décor may do so at a cost of \$30.00. You may put your donation in the collection marked flowers or bring it to the church office.

Glad Tidings Program

Sunday, December 27, 2015 – **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph:** Bishop Glen John Provost is joined by Father Matthew Cormier, Parochial Vicar of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, for a dialogue on the Gospel of the day (Luke 2: 41-52). Remember you can also see the program by clicking the Glad Tidings link under the Resources tab at www.live.lcdioocese.org.

Catholic Mission Trip

The Abrazando Cristo Mission Trip for 2016 will be July 1-10 to Nicaragua. The cost of the trip is \$1,950.00 (covers all air and ground transportation, meals, lodging, tips, taxes, retreat, and mission shirts). For an information packet/registration form please contact Monsignor Daniel Torres at 337-439-7400 or contact by e-mail connie.perkins@lccdioocese.org. A \$300.00 non-refundable deposit with the registration form is due by Jan. 11th to secure a seat. Only 25 seats are available. First come first serve.

Diocese of Lake Charles Respect Life Banquet

The Diocese of L.C. Respect Life Banquet will be held on Tuesday, January 12th at the Lake Charles Civic Center. Doors open at 6 P.M. The guest speaker is Ramona Trevino, Planned Parenthood Manager-turned Pro-Life Activist. Tickets are \$50. For more information and to get tickets go to www.lccdioocese.org or call 337-439-7400.

Carmelite Day 2016: Blessed Among Women

A Saturday mini-retreat with the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus from St. Louis, MO, will be held for high school and college age girls on January 16th from 8 am – 3 pm at Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Sulphur, LA 70663. To register or ask questions contact Patsy Herbert @ (337) 527-9964 or olpsprep@studdenlinkmail.com.

Beyond Sex Ed:

Chastity Formation for Toddlers, Tweens and Teens

January 16, 2016, from 8:15 am-11:15 am at Immaculate Conception in Sulphur, practical ideas and age appropriate language for ages 3-18 will be offered explaining the Catholic Church's teaching on chastity and marriage. Register online at <http://www.icsulphur.org>.

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This Week @ SJoA

- ❖ Sunday, December 20th – RCIA @ 5:00 P.M.
- ❖ Tuesday, December 22nd – Holy League: Men's Prayer Group @ 6:30 P.M.
- ❖ Wednesday, December 23rd – Mass at St. Francis Nursing Home @ 9:15 A.M.
- ❖ Wednesday, December 23rd – NO CCD or YOUTH GROUP
- ❖ **Adoration: No Adoration this Wednesday.**
- ❖ Thursday, December 24th – January 1st: Office Closed

FROM FATHER CONNER

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 24th

4:00 pm Confessions
5:00 pm Holy Mass (Anticipated)
11:00 pm Confessions

Friday, December 25th

12:00 am Holy Mass (Midnight) (EF)
8:00 am Confessions
9:00 am Holy Mass (of the Day)

Please remember, Christmas is a *Day of Precept*.

The Season of Christmas – An Overview

At midnight on December 25th we enter into a new liturgical season: Christmas. The world has been observing Christmas (or some deformed notion of it) for some time. Now we, the children of Christ's Church, after embracing the four weeks of anticipation of the Lord's twofold coming – as Just Judge, when He will come in glory at the end of time *and* as Merciful Savior, when He is borne of the Virgin Mary – are more prepared to receive Him. These weeks of quiet, reflective, penitential joy have more suitably prepared us to rejoice in the festive season of Christmas.

As we began the Season of Advent, I included in the bulletin a superb overview of Advent from the website *Fisheaters*. I do the same now with the Season of Christmas. I hope you find it enjoyable and instructive.

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This, not Advent, is the *true* Christmas Season. As most people in secular or protestantized countries are putting away "Christmas-y" things, and as shopping malls stop blaring "Here Comes Santa Claus," **Catholics are just getting started**. The cleaning and baking during penitential Advent pays off now, and the feasting and caroling begin!

The entire Christmas Cycle is a crescendo of Christ's manifesting Himself as God and King – to the shepherds, to the Magi, at His Baptism, to Simeon and the prophetess, Anna (Luke 2). The days from the Feast of the Nativity to the Epiphany are known as "The Twelve Days of Christmas," with Christmas itself being the first day, and Twelfthnight – 5 January – being the last of the twelve days. Christmastide *liturgically* ends on 13 January, the Octave of the Epiphany and the Baptism of Christ (at which time the season of Time After Epiphany begins). But Christmas doesn't end *spiritually* – i.e., the celebration of the events of Christ's life as a child don't end, and the great Christmas Cycle doesn't end – until Candlemas on 2 February and the beginning of the Season of Septuagesima.

In this way, just as from Ash Wednesday on, we commemorate Christ in the desert for forty days, and just as after Easter we celebrate for forty days until the Ascension, after Christmas we celebrate the Child Jesus for forty days – all through the season of Time After Epiphany – until Candlemas.

The schema of those Christ Child celebrations looks like this:

Christmas

(Dec. 25th) . . . Christ is born.

Feast of the Holy Innocents

(Dec. 28th) . . . Herod slaughters the baby boys in order to kill the Christ Child.

Mary, Mother of God [in EF: Circumcision of Jesus]

(Jan. 1st) . . . Mary is celebrated as the Mother of God and Our Lord submits Himself to the Mosaic Law.

Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus

(Jan. 3rd) . . . After He is circumcised, Jesus is named and becomes a part of the Holy Family.

Twelfth Night

(Jan. 5th) . . . the Twelve Days of Christmas as a Feast come to an end.

Feast of the Epiphany

(Jan. 6th) . . . Jesus reveals His divinity to the three Magi, and during His Baptism, and at the wedding at Cana.

Baptism of Our Lord/Octave of the Epiphany

(Jan. 10th . . . in the OF) . . . Christmas *liturgically* ends with the Octave of the Epiphany (or the Baptism of the Lord).

Feast of the Holy Family

[Observed Dec. 27th this year in the OF] . . . Jesus condescends to be subject to His parents.

Feast of the Purification [Candlemas]

(Feb. 2nd) . . . 40 days after giving birth, Mary goes to the Temple to be purified and to "redeem" Jesus per the Old Testament Law of the firstborn. Christmas *truly* ends as a Season with Candlemas and the beginning of Septuagesima.

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As we prepare to enter the Season of Christmas this Friday, I do hope you are not already fatigued of Christmas on account of having already immersed yourself in it. Even if you are, there are still a few days of Advent left. Make them a time of quiet prayer. Prepare for the Lord seriously during the final week of Advent. Reflect on the impending birth of Our Divine Savior. If you are off of work or school, come to holy Mass every day. This will certainly prepare you. And then once Christmas arrives, observe the Season to its fullest, as the Church has in mind. The Church gives us over two full weeks to observe Christmas liturgically (that is, Christmas Masses) and over a month to observe it spiritually. What a shame it would be for us to kick the Christ Child to the curb on the very day of His birth.

Eating Meat on Christmas Day and January 1st

As our awareness of the necessity of doing penance on Fridays increases, someone asked me whether it was permissible to eat meat on Christmas day this year. (Remember, December 25th falls on a *Friday* this year.) The answer is Yes, eating meat is permissible. While every Friday of the entire year is a day of penance, when a Solemnity (for example, Christmas – Dec. 25th or Mary, Mother of God – Jan. 1st) falls on a Friday, that particular Friday is no longer observed as a day of penance. So, I say to one and to all: eat meat on the following two Fridays. Eat meat at each and every meal, and enjoy it. I certainly plan on doing that!