

Twenty-first Sunday in the Season of the Year

MASSES & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, August 20, 2016

6:00 P.M. MASS – Evelyn Manuel, Hubert Bertrand, J.C. & Bertha Smith, Emily Adams, Eve Smith Guilbeau

SUNDAY, August 21, 2016

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Stacey Beaubouef, John Essie Victorian, D.C. Reed, Jr., Msgr. Joseph Bourque, Edward Maddox, Jennifer Sonnier, Jeanette Hornsby, Dallas Courville, Kermit Sonnier, Sr., Police Officers & Fireman, Linda LeJeune

MONDAY, August 22, 2016

6:30 A.M. MASS – E.J. & Mary Hance

TUESDAY, August 23, 2016

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, August 24, 2016

6:30 A.M. MASS – Gene & Velma Brakel

THURSDAY, August 25, 2016

6:30 A.M. MASS – Elmo Smith

FRIDAY, August 26, 2016

6:30 A.M. MASS – Deceased Members of the Brakel Family

SATURDAY, August 27, 2016

6:00 P.M. MASS – Evelyn Manuel, Hubert Bertrand, J.C. & Bertha Smith, Emily Adams, Eve Smith Guilbeau

SUNDAY, August 28, 2016

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Jeanette Hornsby, Vernon Coffman, Louise Frank

Last Week's Collection

\$3,084.33

PRAYER LIST FOR JULY, AUGUST, & SEPTEMBER

Enola Bellard, Marvin Banks, Phil Beard, Dianne Beaubouef, Charles Beaubouef, Gerry Beaubouef, Joan Bertrand, Alvin & Sonja Billodeaux, Bruce & Diana Brakel, Douglas Briscoe, Bernice Bushnell, Helen Bushnell, Linda Beaubouef Cazes, David & Natalie Carrier, Vivian Cole Family, Richard Cooper, Virginia Cottogin, Aiden Darbonne, Carol Deshotel, Jackie Deville, Susan Duplantis, David Fontenot, Donald Fontenot, Mary Ophelia Fontenot, Paul Fontenot, Rodney Fontenot, Steven Fontenot, Verlis Fontenot, Tim Germany, Rita Gordon, Freddy & Becky Gorman, Rachael Granger, Daniel Goodly & Fly., Keith Granger, Cathy Deshotel Guillory, Victoria Lynn Guillory, Harrison Harmon, Joseph Harmon, Mildred Harmon, Ester Harmon, Shirley Hebert, Jan Horton, Charlene Ireland, John, Sheenita & Perella Jackson, Joey James, Brayden Johnson, Rudolph & Joyce Johnson, Paul LaFleur, Essie Langley, Kevin Manuel, Shirley Manuel, Trista Marler, Patricia Mikas, Rita & Billy Miller, Dorothy Montou, Grayce LaRacca, Tina Morgan Lantier, Keith LeJeune, Lou, Joseph, and Adam LeJeune, Mitch LeJeune, Willie Mae LeJeune, Charles Mancil, Joy Mancil, Ray Marcantel, Brandy McCarty, Christina McNutt, Fran & Ronnie Meaux, Russell Meaux, Janice Moreau, Nicholas Odum, Gabriella and Martel Papillion, Howard Patin, Devin Pelt, Sally Pitre, Jimmy Prudhomme, Ena Prudhomme Fly., Erin Ramos, Ashton Read, Ann Reed, Cheryl Reed, Sara Reed & Fly., Lynda Reed, Ervin Reed, Leonard Richard, Don Rider, Rev. Fred Russi, Evelyn Sandell, Tina Sapienza, Tucker Scimemi, Helen Shreeman, Kolton Squier, Leah Squier, Margie Smith, Donald Paul Sonnier, Celeman Thomas, Maynard Topping, Matthew Truman, Dollyanna Victorian, Zachary Villereal, JoAnn Welch, Robbie Willis, Odelia & Ernest Wilson, Robert Yeagley, Sr., Nicole Young

Leading the Rosary before Mass this Weekend

6:00 P.M. – Haddie Goodly 7:30 A.M. – Lucy Brandon

10:00 A.M. – Deacon Norris Chapman

Vocations Candle – Mrs. Phielomone Goodly

Vocations Cross – Lou Anna McGee

Bazaar Meeting

There will be a bazaar meeting Monday, August 22, 2016, at 6:00 P.M. in the St. Joseph's room in the Parish Hall. Everyone is invited to begin the planning for the bazaar that takes place November 12th & 13th.

St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul has school supplies and school uniforms available Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Invitation to the Women's Prayer Luncheon

Bishop Glen John Provost invites the ladies of the Diocese of Lake Charles to the Women's Prayer Luncheon, Wednesday, September 7, 2016, at 11:30 A.M. at the Ave Marie Hall across from the Immaculate Conception Cathedral. This year's topic is the Letter to the Romans Chapters 1 - 2. The cost of the luncheon is \$15.00 per person. Checks should be made out to the Diocese of Lake Charles and mailed to Gaynell Carrier, Diocese of Lake Charles, 414 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601. Please enclose a self-addressed and stamped envelope to be used to send your ticket to you. The deadline for receipt of your paid reservation is Friday, September 2.

Glad Tidings Program

Sunday, August 28, 2016 – **Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary**
Time: Deacon George Carr reads the Gospel of the day from St. Luke (14:1, 7-14) and preaches on that scripture.

Veritas

Join us at *Veritas* September 10th to learn how to communicate your Catholic Faith. Please register by August 26th. Registration forms are available at the entrance of the church.

St. Charles Center Accepting Applications

A full-time maintenance/groundskeeper is needed to work both at Saint Charles Center and the property development at Camp Karol. This position offers benefits and the individual needs to be available for immediate employment. Applicant needs to have good knowledge of operating equipment, and previous experience in this field is strongly preferred. Applicant must be flexible and available to work various hours as well as weekends.

A part-time cook is needed in the kitchen at Saint Charles Center. This person needs to be available for immediate employment and previous work experience in the kitchen is a must. Applicant needs to be flexible and available to work various hours as well as some weekends. If interested in either position please contact Michelle Monceaux at 337-855-1232.

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This Week @ SJoA

- ❖ Monday, August 22nd – Bazaar Meeting at 6:00 P.M. in St. Joseph Room in the Parish Hall
- ❖ Wednesday, August 24th – Finance Council Meeting at 6:00 P.M.
- ❖ Thursday, August 25th – No Holy League
- ❖ **Friday, August 26th – ADORATION 7:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

RETURN TO THE LORD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

How is the Return to the Lord Capital Campaign different from the Bishop's Service Appeal?

The Bishop's Services Appeal will continue during the *Return to the Lord* Capital Campaign to provide annual, operating support to or important ministries, offices and programs. The BSA and parish assessments provide a base level of funding that allows our ministries, offices and programs to do their good work from year to year. The *Return to the Lord* Capital Campaign focuses on long-term, strategic priorities that can only be addressed through an extraordinary effort. Together, the two efforts will strengthen our parishes and ministries this year and for years to come. If you would like more information, please visit the campaign website at campaign.lcdioocese.org

FROM FATHER CONNER

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

A sign-up sheet for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays is at the main entrance of the church. We need parishioners to commit to taking one hour each Wednesday. This commitment is for each **Wednesday, beginning September 21st** going through **Wednesday, May 3, 2017.** (There are, of course, a few Wednesdays during this time when there will be no adoration – e.g. Ash Wednesday, the Wednesday just after Christmas day, the Wednesday just after New Year's day, to name a few.) Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is key to the renewal of our world. Our world has problems. Our community has problems. Our families have problems. **We** have problems. We need God, and He is here for us, but are we *really* interested in His help? Of course, we all say, yes, but how you answer this invitation to adoration will likely reveal whether or not that's only lip service. So then, **will you commit to an hour each Wednesday?** If not, why not? The impossibility due to a work schedule is one thing – some things can't be helped. Indifference is quite another – and there's not much God can do for an indifferent person. God *is* here for us, though, but *we* must go to Him. Not occasionally, but daily, and with things such as adoration, regularly. We act "unreasonably," says St. John Vianney, when we care only for temporal matters. This body we have; the world in which we live. They will fade away ... but the soul (yours and mine), lasts forever. How much care do we give to our soul? We only have one, and it is immortal. Do we care for it sufficiently? Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, waits for your visit. He has not shut Himself up in that golden tabernacle (behind the altar) to be alone in this church. No. He is here for you. St. Therese of Lisieux tells us that Our Lord wants to abide with us and in us. As such, I challenge each and every parishioner to commit to an hour of adoration this year. The graces God will bestow on you are immense: *peace* (in your soul, in your home), *conversion* (of yourself and others you love from sin), *joy*. These are but a few that come to my mind when I think of the graces Jesus regularly grants through adoration. Yes, if we commit to Him, He will help us ... of that, we can be certain.

Interested in becoming Catholic or being Confirmed?

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is for you then! RCIA begins Sunday, September 18th. Call the Rectory if you are interested in becoming Catholic or if you are Catholic and need to be prepared for any or all of these Sacraments: Baptism, First Penance (confession); First Holy Communion; Confirmation; or to have your civil marriage "blessed". I find that Catholics are generally unaware that it is *not permissible* to get married by someone other than a Priest or Deacon. If you were not married before a Priest or Deacon, please make an appointment with me ASAP and we'll get you sacramentally fixed up!

CCD News!

Catechism begins Wednesday, September 7th. The time to register is yesterday, so don't delay any longer and please sign up your children ASAP. Cost to register is \$15.00 per child. This is the best deal around, because SJoA is the only parish I know of where the students actually own the catechism books!

Newly appointed member of the Pastoral Council

I thank Mrs. Bernadette Mougeot for her years of dedicated service to SJoA. In particular, I am grateful that she has served on the Pastoral Council for many years. Recently she made a decision to focus more on her responsibilities at home. In order to keep membership consistent, I have appointed Mr. Kenny Berry, Jr. as an interim member of the Pastoral Council. He will fulfill the remainder of Mrs. Mougeot's term, which expires in June 30, 2017. I thank Kenny for his willingness to assist SJoA in this capacity.

Parish Bazaar News!

Our Parish Bazaar will be **Saturday, November 12th** and **Sunday November 13th**. Please save these dates and plan on attending. Last year's bazaar was successful, so we'll keep many of those same elements again this year (for example, the *Gumbo Cookoff* ... please note the Cookoff and plan on participating this year!), but we also want to add new ideas. Accordingly, we have a series of meetings for the bazaar from this point forward. The next meeting will be **Monday, August 22nd at 6:00 pm.** I invite all parishioners to the meeting, and bring your ideas for how to make this year's bazaar more successful than those in years past!

Saving Money for the Diocesan Capital Campaign

Last Sunday I mentioned my surprise upon learning that Bishop Provost asked me to donate \$5,400.00 to the Return to the Lord Campaign. I also mentioned my utter shock when, after taking the matter to prayer, I became convinced that God wanted me to donate even more! As St. Paul has written: *It's a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!* (cf., Hebrews 10:31) At any rate, I am happy to support the Diocese's Campaign, even to the point of having to sacrifice in order to meet the \$9,000.00 I have pledged. Here are a few things I'll be doing without in order to make my pledge:

- † **Cold Cereal:** I love cold cereal and eat it just about every day ... well, I *used* to anyway ... but, man, cereal can get expensive! Oh well, it'll taste that much better in the future.
- † **Reduced Eating at Restaurants:** I try not to eat out too, too much, but admittedly I don't plan my meals very well, so when I'm busy or tired I tend to call in an order because it's quick and easy. This goal will help me to save money and become more disciplined in planning my meals.
- † **Simple Family Vacations:** For the next few years I'm volunteering (publically it seems) my family for taking a less expensive family vacation. (I sure hope they understand!!!)
- † **Reduced Hunting:** Full disclosure: this one is not yet finalized. I enjoy hunting and it's a *great* family activity, but it does have some expense to it. I'm going to be asking God in my prayers to help me see how much to scale down the hunting for the next few years.
- † **Personal Savings:** Like you, it's responsible for me to save for the future. I'll be taking some of my paycheck designated for this and apply it to the Return to the Lord Capital Campaign.
- † **Razor Blades:** This is by far the easiest "sacrifice" I will make for the Return to the Lord Capital Campaign, and it's a great excuse, I mean, *reason*, to grow a beard! So, my fellow men, what an opportunity! ... to grow a beard for the Lord! You can even call it a "Return to the Lord Beard"! I mean, does anyone think Jesus – the Bearded One – would disapprove???

Did You Know?

Did you know that a Priest of the Diocese of Lake Charles has pledged his entire salary for one year to the Return to the Lord Capital Campaign? *WOW!* Now *that's* generous! What an awesome witness. May God reward him!

The Bible and Tithing

Genesis 28:20-22 "Then Jacob made a vow, saying, 'If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house; and of all that thou givest me *I will give the tenth to thee*.'"

Called to Saintly Stewardship
*By Father Nathan Long**

As a young associate pastor, I had the privilege of being able to talk about money without being accused of trying to get into peoples' wallets. Sadly, at the mention of the word "stewardship" from a pastor, many people automatically start to groan.

This is because we often fail to see the profound spiritual purpose behind our charitable giving.

In our first reading from the Book of Kings, we must look at the context to see that this is not merely a story about a generous lady. The context is this: Elijah is one of only a handful of people in Israel who has not sacrificed to Baal. The leadership in the nation suffered a very radical change almost overnight. The evil king Ahab opened the door to pagan idol worship throughout the kingdom. As punishment, God sends a drought, and the resulting economic hardship. Elijah's mission is to call God's people to conversion, to eradicate the moral depravity, and thus end the drought. Into this climate, God calls forth this random poor, starving widow to give aid to the mission of Elijah. Her offering, however small, is in fact her very life. She is expected to die as a result of the gift, but it is absolutely necessary if Elijah is to succeed in bringing God's people back.

Only in this context must we understand stewardship, and not in any other! We do not give just because the Church parish needs more stuff. We give because it is a vital part of the Christ's mission of Salvation. The offertory of the parishioners plays an indispensable role in saving souls!

Look at our nation and culture today. Is it not sliding into paganism and moral depravity? God's true followers are fewer, and we are falling on hard economic times (not likely a coincidence). We have been called to give at an hour that is very demanding—it demands, not just what we can afford from our excess, but our entire livelihood!

The Gospel also has an important context that should not escape our notice. The scene takes place at the Temple. Scripture tells us that the collections taken at the treasury are to be used to repair the Temple of God. As a pastor, I could take the approach of asking for money, citing the different physical plant needs of the parish—the new cry room, or the leaking roof, or new air-conditioning, etc. But there is much more to the "temple" than the building. Jesus, prior to this episode, had made an amazing claim: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The "temple" is his body! The Church—the Body of Christ—is the temple in which our donations are used for building up and "repairing". The Church's true needs are not material. They involve saving souls. Some of the most costly services of the diocese, for instance, are directly related to the New Evangelization. The news and television service, the subsidy for the retreat center, the annual youth conference, the formation of future priests, all of these are just some of the important needs. All are

tied directly to the salvation of souls, all depending on the generosity of parishioners.

It is important to note, however, that what Jesus wants is not merely dollars, but our “whole livelihood.” What follows this scene in Mark is Jesus’ arrest and passion. He is offering himself in sacrifice. He is setting an example before us of the true nature of stewardship giving. He gives his life to the cause, as we must also do. We can cite plenty of other examples from Scripture here: Abraham gives his only son, Abel offers his very life along with the portion of his flock, etc.

“So Father,” you might ask, “Why do I need to give money? Isn’t it enough to be a good Christian?” It is true that you can sacrifice in other ways, besides money, but if we’re honest, we know that the sacrifice of one’s treasures is the clearest evidence of giving one’s “livelihood.” Money goes straight to the heart of the matter. It has great symbolic value which is far greater than any other thing we sacrifice. It represents the ability to survive, the freedom to choose what I want, independence, self-reliance. Therein lies the danger. Love of money is the root of all evil because it makes us less dependent on God. Notice the counter-example of the scribes in the Gospel, who think they have it all figured out.

To save us from idolatry, God asks that we sacrifice our money. In truth, God does not need more money. Mother Teresa would often say to those who worried about the order’s finances: “Don’t worry. God has lots of money!” What is more important to God is his desire to save us from the snares of wealth by having us invest it in something other than ourselves.

Let’s speak frankly for a moment. It is entirely possible that our parish could mispend the hard-earned money of its parishioners who donate it in good faith. There is no guarantee that it will be used to build up the kingdom of God. That is the risk we all take in a Church full of sinners. Nevertheless, be reassured that God will repay you anyhow. It is, after all, his problem if we mispend it.

At the hour when the kingdom of God needs it most, God sends a poor depressed woman to make an offering at great risk to her life. The result is the salvation of an entire nation. Today at this hour, when the Kingdom of God is battling against the culture of death, God sends you, asking you to take a risk. You may not see the results, but I am willing to bet it will prove to be at least as important. And besides, Jesus adds, “your reward will be great in heaven.”

*(Related sections from the **Catechism of the Catholic Church: §1351; 1438; 2043.**)*

* This article was written for *Homiletic and Pastoral Review* and printed in November 2012.