

Twenty-second Sunday in the Season of the Year

MASSES & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, August 27, 2016

6:00 P.M. MASS – Jeanette Hornsby, Vernon Coffman, Louise Frank, Enola Bellard

SUNDAY, August 28, 2016

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Angelle L. Durio, Stacey Beaubouef, Leonard Beaubouef, Tush Strother, John Essie Victorian, D.C. Reed, Jr., Curley Victorian, Sr., Edward Maddox, Jennifer Sonnier, Deacon Norris & Sandra Chapman, Kermit Sonnier, Sr., Douglas Briscoe, Sister Ann Margaret Savant, CCVI.

MONDAY, August 29, 2016

NO MASS

TUESDAY, August 30, 2016

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, August 31, 2016

6:30 A.M. MASS – Elmo Smith

THURSDAY, September 1, 2016

5:30 P.M. MASS – Roland & Verlie Chaumont

FRIDAY, September 2, 2016

6:30 A.M. MASS – Claiborne Durio

SATURDAY, September 3, 2016

8:00 A.M. MASS – Sr. Zélie Thérèse of the Redeemer

6:00 P.M. MASS – Simon, Leora & Freddie Sonnier, Henry L., Lula & Betty Fontenot, Gene & Velma Brakel, Jeanette Hornsby, Dallas Courville

SUNDAY, September 4, 2016

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Dallas & Billy Bertrand, Sr., Stacey Beaubouef, Leonard Beaubouef, Tush Strother, Doughty, Margaret & Nancy Broussard, John Essie Victorian, Dwight, Dalbus & Gracie Gradney, D.C. Reed, Jr., Edward Maddox, Jennifer Sonnier

Last Week's Collection

\$3,238.00

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, Sister Ann Margaret Savant, Tucker Scimemi, Helen Shreeman, Kolton Squier, Leah Squier, Margie Smith, Donald Paul Sonnier, Coleman 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 – Gerry Beaubouef

Vocations Cross – Karen Teigen

CCD Registration and Book Pick-up

This Sunday, August 28th, after both Masses, SJoA will have CCD registration. CCD Books will be available for pickup along with your child's first assignment. The fee is \$15.00. CCD begins Wednesday, September 7th. Class times are on the September calendar.

SJoA Pilgrimage to the Sacred Heart Shrine in Duralde

Saturday, September 3rd, SJoA will make a Pilgrimage to the Sacred Heart Shrine in Duralde, LA. The Shrine is designated by Bishop J. Douglas Deshotel as having Holy Doors for the Holy Jubilee Year of Mercy. We will leave from SJoA at 10:00 A.M. We will take an optional trip into Eunice for a Dutch treat lunch after making devotions.

Youth Group Pool Party

All SJoA youth in grades 8th – 12th are invited to an "End of Summer" Pool Party on Saturday, September 10th from 11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. at the home of Daryl & Renee Granger. No two piece bathing suits allowed. Shirts are required by both girls and boys. Please call the office and let Mrs. Corinne know if you plan to attend.

Glad Tidings Program

Sunday, September 4, 2016 – **Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**: Bishop Glen John Provost reads the Gospel of the day from St. Luke (14:25-33) and speaks on the scripture.

Bishop's Golf Classic

The Annual Bishop's Golf Classic will be Friday, October 7, 2016, at The National Golf Course in Westlake. There will be one shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. There will be four persons to a team (\$500/team or \$125/individual), Hole Sponsorships are available for \$150.00 each and Banner sponsorships available for \$1,000 each. Registration forms are available at the entrances of the church.

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This Week @ SJoA

- ❖ **Monday, August 29th – NO MASS**
- ❖ **Tuesday, August 30th – NO MASS**
- ❖ Thursday, September 1st – Rosary for Vocations and Storm Heaven Rosary at 5:00 P.M.; Holy League: Men's Prayer Group
- ❖ **Friday, September 2nd – NO ADORATION (Adoration resumes Wednesday September 21st from 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.)**
- ❖ Saturday, September 3rd – Parish Pilgrimage to the Sacred Heart Shrine in Duralde; Leaving SJoA at 10:00 A.M.
- ❖ Saturday, September 3rd – Maccabee Campaign at Oberlin Cemetery after 6:00 P.M. Mass.

RETURN TO THE LORD

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

How much of the funds donated to the campaign is going to the Diocese?

None of the campaign funds raised are going to the Diocese of Lake Charles for operating expenses. All of the campaign money will be put toward identified needs and priorities in our diocese. If the campaign raises more than our \$16 million goal, those funds will still only be used towards the needs identified in the campaign case statement. If a parish raises more than its goal, funds will be returned to parishes at a greater (80%) share. The remainder will be used to support our priests, invest in our Cathedral, and strengthen our ministries throughout the diocese. Last week, we made it half way through the four marks of the Catholic Church—the marks given to demonstrate her Founder is Jesus Christ, God Himself. Today we will finish with the marks we call catholic and apostolic.

WHAT WE BELIEVE, WHY WE BELIEVE IT

The One True Church, Part V

“Catholic” is a word meaning “universal”. That is, the Church is for all men of all times in all places. Because our Church alone is universal in time, doctrine and extent, she has existed in perfect continuity from the time of Christ and will last until His Second Coming. She teaches all His gospel, and administers all His divine means of salvation. She is not confined to any particular region or nation, but is widespread among all the nations of the world. The word Catholic doesn’t denote a quality. One can’t be Anglo, Eastern or Liberal Catholic; one cannot be more or less Catholic. One is either Catholic or one is not.

Eastern Orthodoxy isn’t Catholic in time, as they have existed only since the 11th century with the Great Schism. The Protestant churches can’t be Catholic in time because they date from the 16th (Lutherans & Anglicans), the 17th (Baptists), the 18th (Methodists) or the 19th centuries (Disciples of Christ; aka Church of Christ). The outside churches aren’t Catholic in faith, because they have broken away from the center of unity, the Holy See, and deny many of Christ’s laws and doctrines. They’re not Catholic in extent, as from the beginning of their secession they have identified themselves with some particular nation—Germany, Scandinavian countries, England, Russia, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Greece, etc.

Mere profession of a Creed doesn’t constitute one a Catholic (many others do indeed use the Apostles’ Creed), because the different separatist churches read their own particular opinions into it. A number of different sects scattered around the world doesn’t constitute a Catholic church; Catholicism implies a divine unity of government, faith and worship.

The early Church Fathers often declare that the Church is Catholic in their extant writings from the first four centuries. They consistently tell us the Church is Catholic because she was spread over the entire known world and teaches everywhere “universally and completely all the doctrines which ought to come to men’s knowledge”. Verify this for yourself by reading what was written by Irenaeus, Origen, Optatus, and Augustine online or at a good library (St. Cyril, *Catechesis*, 18:23).

The Catholic Church is Catholic in time, because while we can accurately fix the date of every heresy and schism, no one can assign any date to her origin except the day of Pentecost. The Catholic Church is Catholic in extent, outnumbering any one sect; in fact, she is greater than all of them put together. Mere numbers, of course, would not constitute catholicity, but the Church’s *de facto* numerical superiority points to her *de jure* catholicity—her universal divine commission to spread the one faith among all nations.

The Catholic Church’s catholicity is demonstrated in that she alone teaches all that Christ taught, and she alone administers the means of salvation (sacraments) established by Jesus. She’s not confined to any region or nation, but is active in every nation on earth. Indeed, until 1517, there was no other Christian religion beside the Catholic Church. All others are merely cheap imitations of the real thing.

For a church to be apostolic, it must be able to trace its roots in unbroken succession back to the original apostles. In fact,

before giving His divine commission to the apostles, Christ insists on *His* divine commission from His Father: “As the Father has sent me, even so I send you” (Jn. 20:21).

The only church that can rightly claim that its origin isn’t due to a break with the past is the Catholic Church. The European Protestants broke with apostolic succession at the time of Luther’s revolt (1517-1520), and the English Protestants (1559) when King Henry VIII made Parker the first Protestant bishop of Canterbury. Since that time we have seen what amounts to religious entropy.

When early Catholics wished to use a most convincing argument to prove the true Church, they always appealed to her apostolic origin. We find them compiling lists of legitimate bishops, especially with regard to the Apostolic See of Rome. As early as the 2nd century we find the Syrian Hegesippus and the Greek Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, maintaining that the source and standard of the faith is the apostolic Tradition, handed down in an unbroken succession of bishops. “But since it would be very long in such a volume as this to count up the successions [i.e., series of bishops] in all the churches [called dioceses in modern terms], we confound those who in any way, whether through self-pleasing or vainglory, or through blindness or evil opinion, gather together otherwise than they ought, by pointing out the tradition arrived from the Apostles of the greatest, most ancient, and universally known Church, founded and established by the two most glorious Apostles, Peter and Paul, and also the faith declared to men which through the succession of bishops comes down to our times” (St. Irenaeus, *Adversus Haereses*, 3:3).

It is true that other churches make a claim to apostolicity, but their claims are always erroneous and sometimes even ridiculous. For example, several members of the Church of Christ, when defending their apostolic origins, have stated to me that their name proves their origin. What? That might work for someone who is incapable of logic and right reason, but most of us find that sort of argument ludicrous.

A book could be written on this topic alone; indeed, many books *have* been written on the topic of apostolicity. I urge you to study this topic, because you will discover that only the Catholic Church can trace her roots back to the apostles and Jesus Christ Himself.

As long as this column exists, you’ll have the opportunity to learn things about the Catholic Church you probably never knew. You’ll read about the sacraments and 10 Commandments, reaching far beyond anything you’ve ever read before. You’ll learn stories from the lives of the saints and other people in the Catholic Church’s glorious and sometimes ugly history.

Why undertake this weekly communication between us? Well, just look at the world around you and I think you’ll be able to answer that for yourselves.

We truly need to know What We Believe...Why We Believe It.



The One True Church (Part V) by Joe Sixpack

Last week, we made it half way through the four marks of the Catholic Church—the marks given to demonstrate her Founder is Jesus Christ, God Himself. Today we will finish with the marks we call catholic and apostolic.

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Got questions? Go to JoeSixpackAnswers.com.

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FROM FATHER CONNER

CCD Registration – This Weekend

We make a *final push* to register students for the 2016-2017 CCD Year this weekend. Parents (or guardians) need to go to the Parish Hall after Mass to register their children and pick up textbooks. If you have registered your children for CCD already, you still need to go to the Parish Hall to retrieve their textbooks. The students have homework to complete before their first class.

CCD classes begin ... Wednesday, September 7th

Grades 1-5 meet ... 4:00-5:20 pm

Grades 6-11 meet ... 6:00-7:30 pm

Lifting the Mass Requirement for the CCD Program

As I will mention in the homily at Mass this Sunday, I have decided to lift the requirement of attending holy Mass each Day of Precept (Sundays and Holy Days) in order to remain in our CCD program. I also will explain what has motivated this decision. As I do this, it is essential that we are not confused about a truth that directly impinges upon the salvation of one's soul, which I put in writing here:

While Mass attendance is not required for Catholics to be in the SJoA CCD program, faithful Mass attendance is necessary in order to get into Heaven.

Let's look at three basic teachings of the Church about this:

1. Catholics are bound to attend Mass each and every Day of Precept (Sundays & Holy Days of Obligation).

"On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass" (CIC, 1247).

2. Deliberately missing Mass on a Day of Precept is a Mortal Sin:

"Those who deliberately fail in this obligation [to attend Mass] commit a grave sin" (CCC, 2181).

3. Dying in a state of mortal sin leads to the eternal damnation of the soul:

"We cannot be united with God unless we freely choose to love Him. But we cannot love God if we sin gravely against Him, against our neighbor or against ourselves: 'He who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him' [1 John 3:14-15]. Our Lord warns us that we shall be separated from Him if we fail to meet the serious needs of the poor and the little ones who are His brethren. To die in mortal sin without repenting and accepting God's merciful love means remaining separated from Him forever by our own free choice. This state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed is called Hell" (CCC 1033).

Something else to consider:

- **Even the doctrine of Hell has its foundation in the love of God.** God creates us to love Him and so that we can participate in His own Divine Life (cf., CCC 1), but He does not force us to love Him. We must choose God. If we choose God, we have life. If we reject Him, we separate ourselves from Him. This results in death. If we deliberately miss

holy Mass – even on a single occasion – we reject God grievously in that act, and God, *because He loves us*, allows us to reject Him. Were we to die in such a condition of soul (that is, having utterly rejected God), that separation would continue forever. It's worth noting that the choice to be separated from God is ours. We are responsible, because we rejected Him (i.e., by skipping holy Mass). He did not reject us. *We*, then, would be choosing Hell, because God will never force anyone to love Him. But it is certainly to our advantage to love God, because loving Him gives us our highest dignity as human beings – but love is a choice.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) begins Sunday, **September 18th** (at 5:00 pm). Please 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". In general, Catholics seem to be unaware that it is *not permissible* to get married by someone other than a Priest or Deacon and still practice *any* of the sacraments. If you were not married before a Priest or Deacon, please make an appointment with me ASAP to line things out.

How are you saving for the Capital Campaign?

Last Sunday I listed some ways I am saving money to make it possible to meet my pledge for the **Return to the Lord** Diocesan Campaign. **First**, please note that the money I am contributing to Return to the Lord is in addition to my regular tithes. (10% comes out of my paycheck each month for SJoA and then I have other things I support as well.) It is very important, then, that your contributions to Return to the Lord do **not** replace your tithe to SJoA or to the Bishop's Services Appeal (BSA). **Secondly**, I am interested in the creative ways you and your family will use to save money for the Return to the Lord Capital Campaign. It strikes me as good to share our ideas with one another. I invite you to share with me what you and/or your family will do. You can email me at fr.jacobsconner@gmail.com. I will put some of your ideas in the bulletin. (If you wish to remain anonymous, make sure to indicate that.) This will help each of us think of creative ways to support Return to the Lord and give ideas for sacrifice.

FIRST BSA COLLECTION AROUND THE CORNER

The first BSA collection will be taken up on the weekend of **September 17th & 18th**. For the past three years, we have met our quota in the first month. I hope we can do the same this year. Please remember: our quota is less this year than last year ... so we should be able to make it soon. Also, some may ask: **Why have the BSA when the Diocesan Capital Campaign is on-going?** That's a good question. Let's recall: The BSA is necessary for the diocese's annual budget. Thus, the BSA meets *present* needs. The Return to the Lord Campaign will meet *future* needs. Both are essential. It is true: We are being asked to sacrifice right now. Love makes sacrifice easier, so let's ask the good God to love Him and seek His kingdom and holiness first. When we do, Our Lord tells us that everything else will be provided (cf. Matthew 6:33).