

Twenty-sixth Sunday in the Season of the Year

MASSES & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, September 24, 2016

6:00 P.M. MASS – Elmo Smith, Hubert & Doris Ryder, Gene & Velma Brakel, Sox Gordon, Keith LeJeune, Sidney McGee, Lester, Eula & Elmer Chatman, Sr., Dwayne, Adam & Wallace Meaux, Jr.

SUNDAY, September 25, 2016

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Stacey Beaubouef, Leonard Beaubouef, Tush Strother, Angelle L. Durio, Edward Maddox, Jeanette Hornsby, Vivian Henry

MONDAY, September 26, 2016

6:30 A.M. MASS – E.J. & Mary Hance

TUESDAY, September 27, 2016

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, September 28, 2016

6:30 A.M. – Daphne Doucet

THURSDAY, September 29, 2016

6:30 A.M. MASS – Elmo Smith

FRIDAY, September 30, 2016

6:30 A.M. – D.C. Reed, Jr.

SATURDAY, October 1, 2016

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

6:00 P.M. MASS – Claiborne Durio, Henry L. Lula & Betty Fontenot, Roland & Verlie Chaumont, Dorothy Montou

SUNDAY, October 2, 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, Gene & Velma Brakel, Dwight, Dalbus & Gracie Gradney, D.C. Reed, Jr., Edward Maddox, Jeanette Hornsby, Martin Goodly, John Essie Victorian, Dona Davis

Last Week's Collection	\$4,757.61
2 nd Collection Bishop's Service Appeal	\$3,575.00
2 nd Collection This Weekend – Flood Victims in Louisiana	
2 nd Collection Next Weekend – Bishop's Service Appeal	

PRAYER LIST FOR JULY, AUGUST, & SEPTEMBER

Marvin Banks, Phil Beard, Charles Beaubouef, Gerry Beaubouef, Quintan Bell, Joan Bertrand, Alvin & Sonja Billodeaux, Bruce & Diana Brakel, Corey Briscoe, Douglas Briscoe, Bernice Bushnell, Helen Bushnell, Linda Beaubouef Cazes, David & Natalie Carrier, Beatrice Cezar Family, Vivian Cole Family, Richard Cooper, Virginia Cottongin, Aiden Darbonne, Carol Deshotel, Jackie Deville, Susan Duplantis, David Fontenot, Donald Fontenot, Justin Fontenot, Mary Ophelia Fontenot, Paul Fontenot, Rodney Fontenot, Steven Fontenot, Verlis Fontenot, Tim Germany, Rita Gordon, Freddy & Becky Gorman, 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, LuLu Manuel, Shirley Manuel, Trista Marler, Patricia Mikas, Rita & Billy Miller, 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, Sam & Rochelle McMahan, Christina McNutt, Fran & Ronnie Meaux, Russell Meaux, Janice Moreau, Nicholas Odum, Gabriella & 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, Ann Rooney, Rev. Fred Russi, Evelyn Sandell, Tina Sapienza, Quentin Savoie, Sister Ann Margaret Savant, Tucker Scimemi, Helen Shreeman, Kolton Squier, Leah Squier, Margie Smith, Donald Paul Sonnier, Carl Tarver, Celeman Thomas, Maynard Topping, Matthew Truman, Dollyanna Victorian, Zachary Villereal, JoAnn Welch, Robbie Willis, Odelia & Ernest Wilson, 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. Mary Ann Goodly

Vocations Cross – Mrs. Mary Ann Goodly

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Thank You

We would like to personally thank Father Conner, Corinne Granger, The Ladies Altar Society, St. Joan of Arc Choir and the community for the out pouring love and kindness during our loss. We sincerely appreciate all the support that was given to us.

The Dorothy Montou Family

BSA Collection

If every adult parishioner gives \$20 to the BSA, then our goal would be easily reached. BSA donations may also be made any time. Simply put BSA on your check or envelope. You may put these in the collection basket or bring them to the rectory.

Glad Tidings Program

Sunday, October 2, 2016 – **Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time:** Bishop Glen John Provost reads the Gospel of the day from St. Luke (17:5-10) and speaks on the importance of the scripture.

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This Week @ SJoA

- ❖ Sunday, September 25th – R.C.I.A. at 5:00 P.M.
- ❖ Tuesday, September 27th – Bazaar Meeting at 6:00 P.M.
- ❖ **Wednesday, September 28th – ADORATION 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.**
- ❖ **Wednesday, September 28th – CCD and Youth Group**
- ❖ Thursday, September 29th – Holy League: Men's Prayer Group at 6:30 P.M.

RETURN TO THE LORD

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

How will the *Return to the Lord* Campaign invest in our parish?

Our parishes are the cornerstones and gathering places for our faith community. As part of this campaign, 20% of the funds raised by the parish will be returned for specific needs such as reducing parish debt, completing capital improvement projects or growing parish endowments. In our parish, campaign funds will specifically fund:

- St. Joseph Mission Repairs
- SJoA Improvements

Bishop Provost is calling on the entire diocese to make a gift to the *Return to the Lord* Campaign. Your support to this capital campaign will impact the future of the Diocese of Lake Charles for years to come. Look for an invitation from the Bishop to participate in this landmark effort in this week's mail. To date, SJoA has raised \$117,506 or 48% of our goal of \$246,444.

SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, October 15th

America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally: 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. in front of SJoA Marian Statue

Monday, October 31st

SJoA "Trunk or Treat": 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. (Parishioners are invited to participate)

Weekend of November 12th and 13th

SJoA Bazaar

FROM FATHER CONNER

We have a number of projects currently happening, and soon to be happening, at SJoA and St. Joseph. Here is a brief synopsis of them. Please note that this list is not exhaustive on account of bulletin space limitations.

HAPPENING NOW AT SJOA

- ***Replacing two of the three AC units at the Hall.*** They received “last rites” on a number of occasions, but now they must be returned to the Big AC Maker in the sky.
- ***Repairs to the church.*** In the next few days, some repairs to the exterior of the church will be made, such as changing fascia boards and some painting. The gutters will also be changed. They are too small for the church and overflow each time it rains. The gutters will also be drained under the ground.
- ***Beautification of the Marian grotto.*** The grotto will be placed on a pedestal and some latticework will be erected behind it. Lights will be added so that the grotto is illuminated at night.
- ***Sidewalk replacement.*** We thank the town of Oberlin for replacing some of the sidewalk in front of the church. This project will be coordinated with the drainage of the new gutters on the church.

HAPPENING NOW AT ST. JOSEPH

- ***Electrical work:*** Electricians are inspecting the wiring of the mission church to make sure it’s up to code. They are also repairing the lights, only a handful of which presently work. Exterior lights will be added as well.
- ***New AC/Heating Unit:*** The old unit was stolen several years ago. As such, a new unit must be installed.
- ***Repairing pews:*** Deacon Deshotel has been experimenting with how to repair the pews at the mission church. (They are in *bad* shape ... but they’re fixable.) We need your help. Anyone who works with wood, please consider helping us re-glue the pews. After they’re re-glued, then we’ll need to sand and stain them. ***This is a real and present need. Men, please call the rectory or talk to Deacon Deshotel to help us here.***

UPCOMING AT SJOA

- ***Repairs to the rectory:*** the old carpet (which has stains from the “accidents” caused by Father Mike’s cats 20 years ago, and who knows how many allergens) will be removed and new floors installed. The inside of the rectory will be repainted. (The paint is peeling from the walls and ceiling in every room.) Energy efficient windows will be installed to help with utilities. Some of the doors will be sealed off or replaced in order to bring the rectory into conformity with the safety code of a business/office. A wall in the front office, as well as a wall in my office, will be removed to make the spaces more work friendly. The gutters removed from the church will be installed on the rectory.

- **Perimeter fence erected:** it has become necessary, because of the recent “progress” in our neighborhood, to erect a fence along the highway. Unfortunately, we now have reasonable concerns for the safety of the SJoA campus, especially at night. Foot traffic has increased because people use our property as a short cut to their destination. We also have people walking over to use our restrooms. We must take reasonable measures to ensure that our property is not damaged or stolen. The fence will also help create an “enclosure” for prayer. It’s my hope eventually to create a prayer area on the east side of the church. With a little landscaping, some statues and benches, it will be a good place for devotions on a nice day.

UPCOMING AT ST. JOSEPH

- **Interior work:** after the lights and AC work is completed, we’ll have to begin working inside the mission church. Sheetrock will need to be hung. Work in the sacristies is necessary. An altar will have to be installed, as well as a baptismal font. Stations of the Cross must be re-erected. New flooring is required, and we’re exploring stained glass possibilities for the windows of the mission church.
- **Exterior work:** Gutters need to be added. Landscaping needs to be done. And limestone is necessary for parking. We also need to install some fencing along the highway in front of the cemetery.

As you can see, there’s *mucho* happening in terms of the physical plants of SJoA and St. Joseph, and *mas* to come. Much of this has been in the planning phases for a while now. As you can imagine, this work will not be done for free. Over the past few years, SJoA has made strides to achieve a certain level of financial stability. The finance council and I have been considering the initiatives I have laid out above. We believe, given the condition of the buildings, that it would be fiscally irresponsible to delay the work. In other words, these repairs need to be made before significant damage is caused to the church, rectory, hall, and mission church. Thankfully, we have enough in our savings to begin. Along with our **weekly tithes** and the money returned to SJoA from the Return to the Lord Diocesan Capital Campaign we will be able to begin this series of projects. Its completion will take some time, though.

As I write to you of these things, I ask you to carefully inspect the condition of the campus of SJoA and of St. Joseph. We have a wonderful parish here, but it’s old. The three buildings (rectory, church, hall) are 60 years old. The mission church has been neglected. They all need a lot of work. Thankfully we are not experiencing any catastrophic damage, but all these little maintenance projects will have a hefty price tag. And while I am not a professional at construction, it seems to me that we could very easily spend \$200,000 dollars on maintenance work alone. (Note: not on beautifications or restorations, but maintenance work.) Planning and budgeting are essential for success.

I have been at SJoA for slightly more than 3 years now. This is a brief amount of time in the context of a lifetime, but I can honestly say that this place feels like home. I love living here, and I’m proud to be the Parish Priest of SJoA/St. Joseph. Maintaining this

place is important to me, and so is its beautification. I know many of you, if not all, feel the same way. The folks who came before us made tremendous sacrifices to erect these buildings. We will be called to make sacrifices to preserve them. I look forward to giving my time, talent, and (my own personal) treasure for these projects. I hope you are also convinced that these places of faith, where the salvation of God comes to us, are worthy of our efforts and sacrifices. God love you!



Seven Rivers by Joe Sixpack

A certain holy monk was taken in a dream by his guardian angel and shown a vast plain covered with many cities and men. On one side of the plain a rushing spring of water came forth from a hillside, and divided into seven clear streams, which flowed down into the plain. At the other side of the plain another fountain rushed up from a dark cave, and also spread out into seven streams.

He watched the streams that came from the cave and saw many people drinking eagerly from their waters, as the waters were sweet to taste. Soon after drinking the water, though, these people were seized with violent pains and vomiting, and many died.

“That is the plain of Self-Will,” said the angel. “And its seven poisonous streams and the seven deadly sins. Now look across the plain to where the seven rivers of life take their rise from the hill of Calvary.”

The seven rivers of life were not so sweet to the taste, but they had great powers. The sick who drank from them were healed, the old were being made young again, the ugly became beautiful, and in some of the rivers the dead were being brought back to life.

The seven poisonous rivers are the seven capital sins: pride, avarice, lust, envy, gluttony, anger and sloth. The seven rivers coming from Calvary are the sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance (Confession), Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Holy Matrimony. “The sacraments are perceptible signs (words and actions) accessible to our human nature. By the action of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit they make present efficaciously the grace they signify.”¹

All seven sacraments were instituted by Christ, and all can have their basis demonstrated in Sacred Scripture. Over succeeding weeks, we are going to take a look at each sacrament individually. The reason I want to devote the time to this is, most of us take the sacraments for granted because we tend to forget what we were taught about them. As the old adage goes, if you don’t use it you lose it. And the sacraments are the very life giving blood flow of the Church. Without the sacraments we would all be doomed. They are as important to our spiritual life and eternal life as air, food, and water are to physical life. So for this installment of our column we will simply look at an overview of the sacraments and all that they have in common.

All of the sacraments either give or increase sanctifying grace, depending on the sacrament and the state of one’s soul at the time of reception. Sanctifying grace is best described as “God’s life in us”. In other words, one cannot get to heaven without sanctifying grace. If one dies with the absence of sanctifying grace in the soul, one goes to an eternity in hell. Sanctifying grace *cannot* be acquired after death in purgatory, because there are no second chances after death...and death never announces itself before it comes. Being in possession of sanctifying grace is to be in a *state of grace*. Not having sanctifying grace is to be in a *state of mortal sin*. Being in a state of grace is

¹ *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1084.

absolutely necessary in order to receive Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Holy Orders and Matrimony. The state of grace is ordinarily necessary for the Anointing of the Sick, if the recipient is conscious. Not being in a state of grace when receiving these sacraments is a sacrilege, which is a mortal sin that places that person in jeopardy of hell.

The sacraments are grouped into three separate categories: the sacraments of initiation, the sacraments of reconciliation, and the sacraments of vocation. As we look at this, we can easily see the Divine Logic behind the seven sacraments.

The sacraments of initiation are Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist. They are called sacraments of initiation because they are the sacraments through which we begin the Christian life.

The sacraments of reconciliation are Penance and the Anointing of the Sick. They're called sacraments of reconciliation because they reconcile us to God. The primary work of the Anointing of the Sick is to bring spiritual healing to the soul and often also the natural healing of the body.

The sacraments of vocation are Holy Orders and Holy Matrimony. They are vocational sacraments because the priestly state and the married state are life-long vocational commitments. (Isn't it nice to know that being married is the longest job you've ever had?)

Some of the sacraments can only be received once; Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders, because they place an indelible mark (called a *character*) on the soul. This character is visible to God, His angels and saints in heaven, and the demons. Indeed, the mark of Christ mentioned in Revelation is the character on the soul from these sacraments, as opposed to the mark of the beast mentioned in the same book.

There are two elements necessary to constitute a true sacrament: *matter* and *form*. Matter is some sensible, concrete thing or action. Examples would be the water in Baptism or the bread and wine in the Holy Eucharist. Form refers to the essential words used by the minister of the sacrament. Examples here would be "This is my Body" in the Holy Eucharist, or "I absolve you from your sins" in Penance. Both the matter and the form must be used at the same time and by the same minister.

The minister of the sacrament is a person who has received from Jesus the authority to act for Him in giving that particular sacrament. The *ordinary* minister of a sacrament is usually a priest, which includes a bishop. Sometimes the ordinary minister can be a priest or a deacon. In Holy Orders the ordinary minister is always and only a bishop. In the case of Matrimony the ordinary minister is, believe it or not, the couple being married. There can be an *extraordinary* minister in the case of Baptism, but only under...you guessed it, extraordinary circumstances.

The effectiveness of a sacrament *is not* dependent upon the holiness of the minister. This is because the sacraments work *ex opere operato*; that is, by the work performed. The only limiting factor to the measure of grace Jesus imparts through a sacrament is the disposition of the person receiving the sacrament.

I try to keep this column interesting and exciting for those who have an active interest in our holy and ancient faith. I realize this installment fails to meet my goal, but this one is necessary to help the next several articles make more sense. This is done to help you know What We Believe...Why We Believe It.

Got a question? Go to JoeSixpackAnswers.com