

Second Sunday of Advent

MASSES & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, December 3, 2016

8:00 A.M. MASS – Sr. Zélie Thérèse of the Redeemer
4:30 P.M. MASS – Jack Johnson, Evelyn Manuel, Henry L., Lula & Betty Fontenot, Dorothy Montou, Hubert Bertrand, Keith LeJeune

SUNDAY, December 4, 2016

7:30 A.M. MASS – *Pro Populo* (For the People)
10:00 A.M. MASS – Dallas & Billy Bertrand, Sr., James Yeagley, Douglas R. Daigle, Gene & Velma Brakel, D.C. Reed, Jr., Edward Maddox, Douglas Chauvin, Lucille Daigle, Members of St. Martha's Guild, Stacey & Leonard Beaubouef, Tush Strother, Alee & Colonial Gobert, Joseph Gobert, Orville Augustine

MONDAY, December 5, 2016

6:30 A.M. MASS – E.J. & Mary Hance

TUESDAY, December 6, 2016

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, December 7, 2016

6:30 A.M. MASS – Roland and Verlie Chaumont

THURSDAY, December 8, 2016 – Immaculate Conception of the BVM

6:30 A.M. MASS – D.C. Reed, Jr.
12:05 P.M. MASS – *Pro Populo* (For the People)
6:00 P.M. MASS – Monsignor Jules Oscar Daigle

FRIDAY, December 9, 2016

6:30 A.M. MASS – Our Lady of the Rosary Group (living & deceased)

SATURDAY, December 10, 2016

6:00 A.M. MASS – Maxine Krielow
4:30 P.M. MASS – Cecilia Sonnier, Stephun Charles Smith, Keith LeJeune

SUNDAY, December 11, 2016

7:30 A.M. MASS – *Pro Populo* (For the People)
10:00 A.M. MASS – Paul Thomas, Sr. and deceased Fly. members, D.C. Reed, Jr., Edward Maddox, Alee & Colonial Gobert, Joseph Gobert, Stacey & Leonard Beaubouef, Tush Strother

Last Week's Collection **\$3,067.00**
Next Week's 2nd Collection: Retirement Fund for Diocesan Priests
(SJoA Quota is \$1,209.00)

PRAYER LIST FOR OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER

Marvin Banks, Phil Beard, Charles Beaubouef, Gerry Beaubouef, Quintan Bell, Joan Bertrand, Alvin & Sonja Billodeaux, Bruce & Diana Brakel, Corey Briscoe, Douglas Briscoe, Luke Burnham, Bernice Bushnell, Helen Bushnell, Kristin Carlton, Linda Beaubouef Cazes, David & Natalie Carrier, Beatrice Cezar Family, Vivian Cole Family, Florence Comeaux, Richard Cooper, Virginia Cottongin, Aiden Darbonne, Carol Deshotel, Jackie Deville, David Fontenot, Donald Fontenot, Justin Fontenot, Mary Ophelia Fontenot, Paul Fontenot, Rodney Fontenot, Verlis Fontenot, Jeri Garcille, Tim Germany, Adrian, Elaine & Justin Giles, 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, Shenita & Perella Jackson. Joey James, Brayden Johnson, Rudolph & Joyce Johnson, Paul LaFleur, Essie Langley, Grayce LaRacca, Dwan LeBleu, Tina Morgan Lantier, Keith LeJeune, Lou, Joseph, & Adam LeJeune, Mitch LeJeune, Willie Mae LeJeune, Kevin Manuel, LuLu Manuel & Fly., Shirley Manuel, Trista Marler, Bonnie McNabb, Patricia Mikas, Rita & Billy Miller, Charles Mancil, Joy Mancil, Ray Marcantel, Trista Marler, Brandy McCarty, Sam & Rochelle McMahan, Christina McNutt, Fran & Ronnie Meaux, Russell Meaux, Clifford Montou, Kara Montou, Glen Morgan, Carolyn Morgan, 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, Michael Roger, Ann Rooney, Vera Ross, 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, Lucille Strother, Carl Tarver, Celeman Thomas, Maynard Topping, Conrad Trombatore, Matthew Truman, Dollyanna Victorian, Zachary Villereal, Linda Voeller, JoAnn Welch, Robbie Willis, Odelia & Ernest Wilson, Nicole Young

Leading the Rosary before Mass this Weekend

4:30 P.M. – Haddie Goodly 7:30 A.M. – Lucy Brandon
 10:00 A.M. – Deacon Norris Chapman

Vocations Candle – Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Brandon

Vocations Cross – Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Brandon

Vocation Candle Sponsors Needed

Call the rectory if you would like to sponsor the Vocations Candle.

Divine Intimacy Reading Guide

Dec. 04 th – Dec. 11 th	Entry Number
Sunday	8
Monday	10
Tuesday	11
Wednesday	12
Thursday	9
Friday	13
Saturday	14
Sunday	15

15th Anniversary to the Deaconate

Congratulations to Rev. Mr. Dale Deshotel on celebrating 15 years as a permanent deacon. His anniversary was Thursday, December 1st.

Glad Tidings Program

Sunday, December 11, 2016 – **Third Sunday of Advent:** Bishop Glen John Provost reads the Gospel of the day from St. Matthew (11:2-11) and speaks of the importance of the scripture to the faithful.

Lighthouse Kiosk

CD's for Advent and Christmas were added to the Kiosk in the foyer of the church. CD's on the Church's condemnation of Freemasonry were also added. Fr. Conner recently spoke about this topic. CD's are \$3.00 and books are \$4.00.

Poinsettias for Christmastide

Anyone wishing to donate a poinsettia for our Christmastide church décor may do so at a cost of \$25.00. You may put your donation in the collection or bring it to the church office.

Pilgrimage to Venerate the Relic of Saint John Berchmans

Bishop Provost announces that the Sacred Reliquary containing the heart of St. John Berchmans is making a pilgrimage to the United States. The pilgrimage is named "The Heart of Love: The Return of St. John Berchmans" and will take place from December 7 – 19, 2016. The occasion marks the 150th anniversary of his apparition and miracle of Mary Wilson, a young novice of the Society of the Sacred Heart, within the State of Louisiana. The heart will travel to the actual site of the apparition and miracle in Grand Coteau, Louisiana, December 14, 2016, from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Fr. Conner will lead a pilgrimage to Grand Coteau on December 14th, carpooling from SJoA at 10:00 A.M. We will have a dutch treat lunch on our return to SJoA. A Plenary Indulgence has been granted for pilgrims who venerate the heart of St. John Berchmans. Please call the church office if you are interested in making the pilgrimage. For more details see SJBdevotion.org.

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This Week @ SJoA

- ❖ Sunday, December 4th – RCIA at 5:00 P.M.
- ❖ Tuesday, December 6th – Altar Society Meeting at 5:30 P.M.
- ❖ **Wednesday, December 7th ADORATION 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.; CCD and Youth Group beginning at 4:00 P.M.**
- ❖ Thursday, December 8th – Office Closed for the Immaculate Conception of the BVM; See Mass Schedule; No Holy League
- ❖ Saturday, December 10th – Rorate Mass at 6:00 A.M.

FROM FATHER CONNER

Congratulations!

SJoA congratulates the following parishioners on sacraments recently received:

- **Eric & Andrea Reed** ... Holy Matrimony
- **Gabriella Sharp** ... Baptism, Confirmation, & First Holy Communion ... with First Penance forthcoming.
- **Kasi Granger** ... First Penance, Confirmation, & First Holy Communion ... she and **Derek Granger** also entered into the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.
- **Kennedy Rose Romero** ... Baptism.

Advent Mission of Mercy

Don't forget about our Advent Mission this Sunday and Monday with Msgr. Groth! Please invite friends and family to join you for the mission!

Sunday, December 4th ... 6:00 pm

- † Mission Talk on **Admonishing the Sinner**.
- † Admonishing sinners is a **Spiritual Work of Mercy**, but it's not easy helping loved ones turn away from sin to God.
- † Monsignor Groth will help us become more effective agents of the mercy of Jesus Christ on this night.
- † "For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." (John 18:37).

Monday, December 5th ... 6:00 pm

- † Mission Talk on **Bearing Wrongs Patiently & Forgiving Injuries**.
- † Jesus calls us to bear wrongs & forgive injuries with love & patience. These, too, are **Spiritual Works of Mercy**, but, oh, how difficult they are to practice!
- † Monsignor Groth will assist us in becoming more like Christ Who suffered patiently, and with love, *for the salvation of souls*.
- † "If you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:15).

Rorate Mass of Our Lady Next Saturday!

The super-cool, super-Catholic "candle Mass" will be this Saturday (December 10th) at **6:00 am**. This is a truly mystical Mass, one of the most spiritually moving Masses I am so fortunate to offer. Please think about rising a little earlier than normal and joining us for the *Rorate* Mass of Our Lady at 6:00 am this Saturday. Trust me, it's worth the sacrifice!

Holy Day of Obligation Alert

This Thursday (December 8th) is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a holy day of obligation. Our Mass schedule is:

6:30 am Mass

12:05 pm Mass

6:00 pm Mass (EF)

I will hear confessions 30 minutes prior to each Mass. Please do not *deliberately* fail in meeting your obligation to attend holy Mass on December 8th. Such an act would be a *mortal* sin (cf. CCC 2181).

Solemn Holy Hour

Don't forget about the Solemn Holy Hour next Sunday (December 11th) at 6:00 pm. We have a holy hour on the second Sunday of each month. This would be an excellent way to enter into the "logic" of Advent. We hope you join us for this beautiful time with Our Eucharistic Lord!

Why do Christians Pray Toward the East?

Because we see in the physical turning of our bodies toward the east (the place where light originates) an outward reflection of the interior effort that must be made in setting our heart on God. We hear St. John the Baptizer in the Gospel today exhorting us to repentance and conversion: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" With this in mind, consider the words of St. Augustine: "Does not God say, 'Be converted to me'? The scriptures are full of it: 'Be converted to me, be converted to me.' For what does this mean: 'Be converted to me'? It does not just mean that you, who were looking toward the west, should now look toward the east – that is easily done. If only you did it inwardly, because that is not easily done. You turn your body around from one cardinal point to another; turn your heart around from one love to another." (Sermon 19) As we turn to God with our prayers, let us also turn to Him in the affections of our heart.



What is the Holy Eucharist? by Joe Sixpack

One day a messenger came into the court of King St. Louis of France all out of breath from excitement. He exclaimed, "Your Majesty, hurry to the church. A great miracle is taking place!"

"What kind of miracle?" asked the saintly king.

"A great miracle! A priest is saying Holy Mass, and after the Consecration, instead of a host, there is visible on the altar Jesus Christ Himself. Hurry before it disappears!"

The king remained quiet, which greatly surprised the messenger. "Well, isn't Your Majesty coming?" asked the messenger.

"No!" replied the king. "Let them who have any doubt about the real presence of Our Lord in the Eucharist go and see. *As for me, even if I saw Jesus on the altar in His visible form, and touched Him with my hand, and heard His voice, I would not be more convinced than I am now that He is present in the consecrated Host. My faith is sufficient for me! I need no miracle.*"

King St. Louis' faith is the faith that all Catholics should have, but that is not the case in our modern, cynical world. Surveys show that 70% of American Catholics in the pew don't believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. Non-Catholics claim the Church's belief in His Real Presence is merely a "Catholic invention". They say there is no scriptural proof of what the Catholic Church teaches. Guess what? They are again wrong. Jesus did indeed talk about it in the New Testament, and we're going to begin by looking at that.

The 6th chapter of John begins with Jesus feeding 5,000 men with a mere five loaves of bread and two fish. That evening Jesus worked yet two more miracles. He sent his apostles across the sea, while He went into the hills to pray. Late that night, He came to his apostles walking on the water. As soon as He got into the boat, it ceased being where it was in the middle of the sea and was suddenly at their destination.

The next morning (vs. 22-24), the people who had eaten the loaves the previous day arrived, surprised to find Jesus there waiting for them. Of course, they wanted to know how He had arrived ahead of them, since He didn't get into the boat with His apostles. But Jesus cut right to the chase and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves" (v. 26). Jesus went on to tell them to work for the spiritual food that would get them to heaven, instead of temporal food that spoils. He told them to do this by believing in Him (v. 29).

These hard-headed followers from the day before now wanted a sign from Him to prove He was worthy of their belief. They told Jesus that Moses had given their fathers manna from heaven to eat. They wanted to know if He could top that!

“Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst’” (v. 35). He went on to explain through verse 40 that He was the bread sent from heaven by the Father.

Up to that point, Jesus’ followers understood Him to be speaking symbolically. Jesus took this misconception away from them. He went on to tell them that He was the bread they would have to eat to inherit eternal life.

“The Jews disputed among themselves, saying, ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’ So Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so *he who eats me* will live because of me” (vs. 52-57).

The people now understood Him to be speaking literally rather than figuratively. The followers’ literal understanding of what Jesus said repulsed them: “After this many of his disciples drew back and no longer with about with him” (v. 66).

“Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Will you also go away?’ Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the holy one of God’” (vs. 67-69). The apostles had been with Him from the beginning. They also understood what He said to be literal. They didn’t know *how* He would do what He said, but they believed that He would eventually show them.

Jesus finally explained the *how* to them at the Last Supper. In Luke 22:15 Jesus said, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.” Does a man who knows he is about to die *earnestly desire* to eat what he knows will be his last meal? Of course not! But Jesus earnestly desired to give them His Flesh and Blood since He first made the promise. “And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ And likewise the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.’” (vs. 17-20).

There is something else important to note here. The Gospel writers never devoted time and energy to writing about the ordinary. They only focused on the *extraordinary*. John 6:22-71 is an entire wast of time and energy if Jesus is merely speaking symbolically. And His language is far from symbolic. The Last Supper narrative is also a waste of time if what is happening there is just a typical Passover meal. Notice that He never said that the bread and wine was to represent His Body, nor that it was a symbol of His Body; *He said it is His Body*. Definitive. A statement of fact. No analogous phrasing.

Christianity makes absolutely no sense without the Most Holy Eucharist. Without It, Christianity is merely nothing more than just another philosophy, like the Eastern mystical philosophies; it is nothing more than a philosophy about how to live a better life. But that isn’t what Christianity is at all. It is the worship of God Almighty, and our living the Christian life is obedience to that one true and living God.

This is just our first look at the Most Holy Eucharist. We will delve much deeper into It so you can know What We Believe...Why We Believe It.

Got a question? Go to JoeSixpackAnswers.com.