

# Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

## MASSES & INTENTIONS

**SATURDAY, December 31, 2016**

**4:30 P.M. MASS** – George, Pat & Penny Schneider, Frances Meaux, Keith LeJeune

**SUNDAY, January 1, 2017**

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

**10:00 A.M. MASS** – D.C. Reed, Jr., Members of St. Martha's Guild, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Edward Maddox

**MONDAY, January 2, 2017**

**NO MASS**

**TUESDAY, January 3, 2017**

**5:30 P.M. MASS** – Virginia Diane Bass (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)

**WEDNESDAY, January 4, 2017**

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – Elmo Smith

**THURSDAY, January 5, 2017**

**6:15 P.M. MASS** – Jack Johnson

**FRIDAY, January 6, 2017**

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – E.J. & Mary Hance

**SATURDAY, January 7, 2017**

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

**4:30 P.M. MASS** – Dorothy Montou, Frances Meaux

**SUNDAY, January 8, 2017**

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

**10:00 A.M. MASS** – Edward Maddox, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons

**Last Week's Collection**

**\$4,447.50**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Christmas Charities**

**\$719.62**

## PRAYER LIST

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 Fly., Vivian Cole Family, Florence Comeaux, Richard Cooper, Virginia Cottongin, Aiden Darbonne, Carol Deshotel, Jackie Deville, Jabe Doyle, David Fontenot, Donald Fontenot, Justin Fontenot, Mary Ophelia Fontenot, Paul Fontenot, Rodney Fontenot, Verlis Fontenot, Jeri Garcille, Tim Germany, , Elaine & Justin Giles, Freddy & Becky Gorman, Daniel Goodly & Fly., 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, Dwain 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 McMahon, Christina McNutt, Ronald 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, Michael Roger, Beverly Romero and Fly., 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, Kenneth Taylor, Carl Thibodeaux, Celeman Thomas, Maynard Topping, 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** – Mrs. Clara Smith

**Vocations Cross** – Mrs. Philemone Goodly

### Divine Intimacy Reading Guide

Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup> – Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Entry Number
Sunday	36
Monday	37
Tuesday	38
Wednesday	39
Thursday	40
Friday	41
Saturday	43
Sunday	42

### **Poinsettias for Christmastide**

In Memory of Harvey Broussard and Sr. Zélie Thérèse of the Redeemer  
 In Memory of Sonny Berlinger & C.C. Horton  
 In Memory of Douglas R. Daigle and in honor of Jeane Daigle  
 In Memory of Nakia (Nick) Ware & Joseph Carrier  
 In Memory of Elmo Smith  
 In Memory of Stacey & Leonard Beaubouef and Tush Strother  
 In Memory of Fran Meaux  
 In Memory of Jerome & Blanche Haas

### **Thank You**

Prayers & Patches group appreciate your prayers and kindness during our recent quilt raffle fundraiser. The winner of the raffle was Lou Anna McGee.

### **Catholic Mission Trip**

The Abrazando Cristo Mission Trip for 2017 will be June 30-July 9 to Nicaragua. Cost of the trip is \$2,150.00. For an information packet/registration form please contact Monsignor Daniel Torres at 337-439-7400 or contact by e-mail [connie.perkins@lodiocese.org](mailto:connie.perkins@lodiocese.org). **A \$300.00 non-refundable deposit with the registration form is due by Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> to secure a seat.** Only 25 seats are available.

### **Diocese of Lake Charles Respect Life Banquet**

The Respect Life Banquet will be held at the Lake Charles Civic Center January 17, 2017. Doors open at 6 P.M. with a Silent Auction. Tickets are \$50. For more information contact [lodiocese.org](http://lodiocese.org) or [rachels.vineyard@lodiocese.org](mailto:rachels.vineyard@lodiocese.org). You may also call 337-439-7400 EXT: 317. Proceeds benefit youth Pilgrims for March for Life and the Grief to Grace at Rachel's Vineyard.

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### **This Week @ SJoA**

- ❖ Monday, Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> – OFFICE CLOSED; we will reopen Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- ❖ Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> – Altar Society Meeting after 5:30 P.M. Mass
- ❖ **Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> – ADORATION 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.; CCD and Youth Group**
- ❖ Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup> – Rosary for Vocations at 5:00 P.M.; Epiphany blessing of water, chalk and salt at 5:30 P.M. followed by Mass at 6:15 P.M.; NO HOLY LEAGUE

## WHAT WE BELIEVE...WHY WE BELIEVE IT HOLY COMMUNION

I'd like to begin this column with a personal note to you all.

*The Holy Eucharist is the very heart of our holy and ancient Faith. Christianity makes absolutely no sense without this most precious of the divinely instituted sacraments. Indeed, it is beyond the imagination of this writer, who is a convert from agnosticism, what attraction exists in non-Catholic Christianity for those who don't accept the fulness of Christ's teaching on the Holy Eucharist. It is the singular truth of the Most Holy Eucharist that has made this convert (and countless others) fall helplessly, hopelessly, passionately in love with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. My most sincere prayer is that the Holy Spirit will reach into the depths of your heart with these and other previously stated Eucharistic truths and that you will respond with a life-long embrace of the One who gives you perfect love through this most adorable sacrament. J.S.*

Holy Communion is the nourishment for our souls by receiving the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist (Jn. 6:53). Christ mandated that we receive Him in the Eucharist for the life of our soul.

There are numerous fruits of Holy Communion. The chief fruit, of course, is an intimate, interior union with Christ. Just as Matrimony is the sacrament that weds a man and woman for life, the Eucharist is the sacrament that weds us to Christ.

I can only speak as a man, obviously, but I suspect what I'm about to write applies equally to women. If you have ever been in love you have probably felt an attachment so strongly that you have wanted to become physically one with the person you love; to crawl inside the other person, as it were. Jesus understands this emotion. After all, He not only created us and our human nature, He took on that same human nature for Himself. That being true, in His human nature He feels the same emotions we feel, but He has made it so He can fulfill that emotional desire for physical oneness.

When a married man and woman are in love, they express that love in a physical way. God made us that way. He did this so that we can fulfill the need to become one with the person we love, within the bonds of Matrimony. The need isn't perfectly fulfilled, but met nonetheless. The fruit of that union is often a child—a child given to the couple to nurture for God's greater glory, and as a living expression of the love they have for one another.

Holy Communion is very similar. The marital act meets the need of two married people in love trying to become one, but imperfectly. Communion allows Jesus and us to meet that same need, but perfectly. He completely abides in us, and we in Him. The fruit of this union is always the growth of our soul for God's greater glory. Furthermore, Holy Communion produces a filial unity between Christ and all the members of His Mystical Body.

Holy Communion produces other fruits as well. It produces an increase of sanctifying grace, and increases the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity. It also remits venial sin. Holy Communion weakens our concupiscence, the propensity to sin that comes from our fallen human nature. Holy Communion adds strength to the force of our will, preserve us from falling into mortal sin, and helps us to joyfully accept the duties and sacrifices that our Catholic life demand.

Jesus pledged to us in John 6:54 that by receiving Holy Communion worthily we can be assured of the resurrection and heavenly bliss. Communion of the Most Holy Eucharist is the single greatest love affair in the history of man, and that love affair is between God and us.

Two conditions are necessary to receive Holy Communion worthily: to be in a state of grace, and to have the right intention. Being in a state of grace means being in a state of friendship with God; that is, to be free of all mortal sin. Anyone who knowingly receives Jesus in Communion in a state of mortal sin—drunkenness, contraception, adultery, etc.—commits the additional mortal sin of sacrilege, and risks eternity in hell. To rectify this, the communicant must make a good confession of all mortal sins since the last good confession, including the sin of sacrilege.

If a person *forgets* to confess a mortal sin (and this has happened to me) and remembers after receiving Communion the communicant should not feel guilty, as there has been no sin of sacrilege. However, the communicant has a grave obligation to go to confession as soon as possible.

Having the right intention means receiving Communion to show God we love Him. We must avoid other intentions, such as fear of what others may think if we don't go to Communion, or to make ourselves appear devout. By the mere fact that we are all sinners, none of us is worthy to receive Jesus in Communion. However, Jesus deems us all worthy if we are free of mortal sin, so we should receive Him with only the intention of showing God our love for Him.

We should also be free, as far as possible, of fully deliberate venial sins, and make acts of faith, hope, charity, sorrow for our sins, and an act of desire to receive Him.

The Church requires a fast of one hour before receiving Holy Communion. We may not eat or drink anything, except water and prescription medication. The elderly, those with serious illnesses, and those who care for them are exempt from this Eucharistic fast.

After Communion we should always make an act of thanksgiving. This means adoring Christ present in us, thank Him for coming, express our love and the desire to do His will, and ask for His blessings. Because the graces we receive from Communion are in direct proportion to the dispositions we maintain, the greatest spiritual benefits are derived from a good preparation and thanksgiving.

The Church commands that we must receive Holy Communion at least once a year, during the Easter time. This is defined as being from the first Sunday of Lent (after Ash Wednesday) until Trinity Sunday. This is called our Easter Duty. For some grave—**repeat, grave**—reason this duty may be fulfilled at another time during the year. Since this period is over three months, I frankly can't think of a reason to fail to fulfill the Easter Duty...unless you're in a coma or stranded on an island somewhere. Failure to fulfill our Easter Duty is a mortal sin.