

6th Sunday – Season of the Year

MASSES & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2018

4:30 P.M. MASS – Donald Fontenot, Deloise DeVille, Jack Johnson, Helin McCauley Fly., Liv. & Dec., Jeremy Rider, Fran Meaux, Ladies Altar Society, J.C. & Bertha Smith, Hubert Bertrand, Emily Adams, Evelyn Sandell

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2018

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Marvin Banks, Carol Deshotel, Bernard & Felicia Fontenot, Edward Maddox, Augustine Goodley, Payton Rozas, Ryan Rozas & Fly., Leonard Beaubouef & Sons

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018

6:30 A.M. MASS – D.C. Reed, Jr.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2018

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018

6:30 A.M. MASS (OF) – *Pro Populo* (For the People)

6:00 P.M. MASS (EF) – Lucius Cezar, Jr.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018

6:30 A.M. MASS – George, Clara & John Schneider

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018

5:30 P.M. MASS – Agnes Victorian

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2018

4:30 P.M. MASS – Catherine Papillion, Dec. members of the Horton & Berlinger Fly., Don Fontenot, Jeremy Rider, Fran Meaux, Harrison Harmon, LeRoy Fontenot, Rodney & Pereda Fontenot, Wanda Gail Jackson

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2018

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Marvin Banks, Carol Deshotel, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons

Last Week's Collection

\$4,534.01

2nd Collection – Religious Education

PRAYER LIST

Amy Bairnsfather, Phil Beard, Charles Beaubouef, Quintan Bell, Jocie Bergeron, Joan Bertrand, Alvin & Sonja Billodeaux, Pauline Boudreaux, Bruce & Diana Brakel, Brandon Bridgwel, Douglas Briscoe, Lincoln & Louise Briscoe, Margaret Briscoe, Ambrose Bushnell, Bernice Bushnell, Helen Bushnell, Steve & Roxane Campbell, Kristin Carlton, Hunter Carmouche, David & Natalie Carrier, Rosabelle Carrier, Megan Cart, Linda Beaubouef Cazes, Ailene Chapman, Paula Chaumont, Vivian Cole Fly., Florence Comeaux, Richard Cooper, Larry Cormier, Virginia Cottongin, Jay Crittle, Aiden Darbonne, Rynree Darbonne, Shaun Darbonne, Jackie Deville, Cindy Dowies, Jabe Doyle, Donna Dunnahoo, Amy Duplechain, Bryker Fontenot, David Fontenot, Mary O. Fontenot, Paul Fontenot, Steven Fontenot, Verlis Fontenot, Roy Frank, Zaylen Frank, Tim Germany, Daniel Goodley & Fly., Mary Ann Goodley, Phielomone Goodly, Freddy & Becky Gorman, Bruce Granger, Jr., Jennifer Granger, Rachael Granger, Vergie Granger, Linda Green, Victoria Guillory, Bob Haas, Harrison Harmon, Joseph Harmon, Mildred Harmon, Ester Harmon, Sunni Hurst, Charlene Ireland, John, Shenita & Perella Jackson, Grady Johnson, Joey James, Brayden Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Colt Laborde, Paul LaFleur, Kristen Labauve, Charles Lacey, Rene Lambert, Essie Langley, Grayce LaRacca, Dwain LeBleu, Tina Lantier, Lou, Joseph, & Adam LeJeune, Willie Mae LeJeune, Doc Lowe, Benny Manuel, Kevin Manuel, LuLu Manuel & Fly., Pat Manuel & Fly., Louana McGee, Reed McIver, Bonnie McNabb, Patricia Mikas, Rita & Billy Miller, Trista Marler, Brandy McCarty, Christina McNutt, Ronald Meaux, Russell Meaux, Clifford Montou, Glen Morgan, Carolyn Morgan, Frank Mougeot, Andrew Norwood, Nicholas Odum, Debbie & Phil Owen & Fly., Joey Owen, Martel & Gabriella Papillion, Howard Patin, Hannah Popillion, Linda & Don Potier, Jimmy Prudhomme, Ena Prudhomme Fly.,

Erin Ramos, Renaldo & Kathy Ramos, Ashton Read, Reid Redlich, Ann Reed, Cheryl Reed, Dora Reed, Gary Reed, Lynda Reed, Irving Reed, Sandra Reed, Octavia Reeves & Fly., Will Reid, Sharon, Richard, Jonathan, Hayley, Jayden, Ryleigh, Skylic, Jackson, Martha, Rusty, and Patsy Rider, Janice Rider, Salis Rider, Vera Ross, Fr. Fred Russi, Evelyn Sandell, Tina Sapienza, Quentin Savoie, Sister Ann Margaret Savant, Tucker Scimemi, Aerial Storer, Lonnie Stcyr, Celeman Thomas, Matthew Truman, Dollyanna Victorian, Dana Vidrine, Steve Vidrine, Joseph Vizena, Linda Voeller, JoAnn Welch, Odelia & Ernest Wilson, Nicole Young, Theresa Young

Vocations Candle and Cross – Mrs. Phielemone Goodly

50th Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Bill & Sonya Billodeaux who recently celebrated 50 years of Holy Matrimony.

Come, Lord Jesus

Journey with us during the holy season of Lent to study and meditate upon the Sunday Gospels leading to the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Meet weekly in a prayerful, contemplative gathering for a deeper understanding of Jesus' sacrificial life and death and the victory he claimed for each of us. This seven-week program will intensify your faith and lead you to renewed commitment to our glorious Lord and Redeemer. For more information call the rectory. Signup sheets are in the back of the church.

Knights of Columbus Dues

KC dues are \$25 and may be paid at the meetings or by mailing to Craig LeJeune at 9842 Hwy 165, Oberlin, LA.

Six-week Lenten Study

True Reformers: Saints of the Catholic Reformation

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception presents a six-week Lenten study, which explores the lives of Saints Ignatius of Loyola, Thomas More, Francis de Sales, Philip Neri, Charles Borromeo, and Teresa of Avila. As *True Reformers* introduces you to these great saints, you'll want to stay friends with them for life, even unto eternity, as you discover how they spearheaded the Church's rebirth from the ashes of Renaissance decadence and the turbulence and confusion caused by the Protestant Reformation. The saints of the Catholic Reformation show us just how powerful--and beautiful--is the human heart's free response to God's generous grace. It takes place at The Ave Maria Hall (935 Bilbo Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601) every Thursday at 6:00 P.M., February 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22). Please call the Cathedral Office to register for the study (436-7251). See the Flyer in the Church.

Center for Catholic Studies Class Set

Dr. Jennifer Roback Morse will teach a four-session course on "Familiaris Consortio," the apostolic exhortation written by St. John Paul II in 1981 on the role of the Christian Family in the modern world at the Center for Catholic Studies in the Catholic Student Center at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church. The classes are set for the Tuesdays of February 6, 20, 27 and March 6, from 5-7 p.m. The cost is \$50, with registration through the Office of Adult Education at 337-439-7400, Ext. 308 or at marlie.mudd@lcdioocese.org.

This Week @ SJoA

- ❖ Sunday, February 11th – RCIA at 4:30 P.M.; Ultreya at 5:00 P.M.; Solemn Holy Hour at 6:00 P.M.
- ❖ Monday, February 12th – Office Closed; KC Meeting at 6:30 P.M.
- ❖ Tuesday, February 13th – Office Closed
- ❖ Wednesday, February 14th – ASH WEDNESDAY: NO ADORATION, CCD or Youth Group

WHAT WE BELIEVE...WHY WE BELIEVE IT

WHY PRAY?

"Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" (Matthew 7:7-11)

People have asked me many times why they should bother praying when God never answers their prayers. They often cite this promise made by Jesus to imply—and sometimes angrily assert—that the promise is a lie. Grieving parents and others grieving over loved ones are angry because they begged God to save the life of the one for whom they're grieving. A prisoner once asked why he should pray for parole after more than twenty years of praying. (This particular man injured someone in a traffic accident and received a life sentence because the injured woman's husband was the former state attorney general.) Others were facing financial ruin through no fault of their own and begged God for help, only to be ruined anyway. The list of complaints could go on and on, and I'm certain you can think of many who feel the same way. Perhaps even you have wondered why God seemed to ignore your prayers.

No one understands and empathizes more with these people than I. I used to feel the same way. The typical answer given by well meaning Christians when people wonder aloud why bother to pray when the prayers go unanswered is not a bad answer. Indeed, it's a good answer—just not a complete answer.

The typical answer given is this: God always answers prayers; He always either says no, yes or yes but not now. Then they go on to explain that He says no the way your earthly father would do if you asked for something that could harm you. They further explain that he says yes but later so you can gain the greatest spiritual and temporal benefit from His gift to you.

While this explanation is absolutely true, it simply isn't complete. Nor is it fully honest. I'm not saying that folks who give such an answer are intentionally being dishonest. I'm convinced they're being as honest as they can. I tend to think they really don't know the full, honest answer.

It is true that Jesus told us to ask for whatever we want. He told us over and over again to ask for what we want and that the Father would give it to us. Perhaps the strongest promise Jesus made about asking for what we want in prayer is found in Matthew 21:19-22: "And seeing a fig tree by the wayside he went to it, and found nothing on it but leaves only. And he said to it, 'May no fruit ever come from you again!' And the fig tree withered at once. When the disciples saw it they marveled, saying, 'How did the fig tree wither at once?' And Jesus answered them, 'Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and never doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea' it will be done. And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.'"

People love to point to promises such as these and complain about them not being true. Many folks, who try to explain how God answers prayer, when faced with this passage, focus on Jesus' words "and never doubt," implying the person praying did indeed doubt. There could be some truth to that, but I've

personally believed without doubt and still not been given what I asked for.

So what's the answer? Did Jesus lie to us? Did He make a promise He won't keep?

The answer to those questions is an imperative **NO!** He most certainly made a promise, and Jesus always keeps those promises. The unfortunate reality is, people only pay attention to what they like. In other words, we all have selective hearing and use selective reading comprehension.

The passage at the beginning of this issue comes from the Sermon on the Mount narrative. Matthew's version of that sermon takes all of chapters five, six and seven. It's the longest example of Christ's preaching in the Gospels. Everyone isolates the promises, but fail to pay attention to the rest. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells us a lot of other things besides His promises. He gives us the beatitudes, tells us to make our faith shine to others, preaches of the evil of anger, demands we be chaste in mind and body, condemns divorce and remarriage, warns us about the taking of oaths, insists we love our enemies, teaches us how to pray and insists we do so with earnest, tells us to fast and do penance for our sins, tells us to trust in God for even the smallest of things, demands that we not judge others, and tells us to treat everyone else how we want to be treated.

Whew!

Yes, He made a great promise about getting anything we want in prayer, but He also gave us all these conditions that must be met as well. God doesn't run some sort of heavenly lottery. He doesn't just hand out whatever we want the way a parent spoils a child. Would you slap your parent in the face then ask for a favor? Of course not, and if you did you'd be a fool to expect that parent to grant the favor, but that is exactly what we do if we haphazardly live our faith or remain in our vincible ignorance of it. Jesus so hates our complacency in faith that He said, "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot! So because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, *I will spew you out of my mouth*" (Revelation 3:15-16). (Some versions of Scripture replace the word spew with the word vomit.)

He places conditions on getting what we ask for. God demands that we live wholly and unreservedly the faith established by Jesus Christ—which is the faith taught and jealously guarded by His holy Catholic Church—if we are to expect Him to fulfill the promises made to us.

So, if you want Jesus to keep His promises—especially His promises of answered prayers—then you need to learn the Catholic faith as best you can, live the faith as best you can, then do your level best to fulfill another of Jesus' commands from the Sermon on the Mount: "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). In other words, you are commanded by Christ to become a saint. For most of the saints in our 2000 year history—both canonized and uncanonized—that perfection was a lifelong effort that was only finally consummated at death. But the fact is, they obeyed. And that's What We Believe...Why We Believe It.

Got a question? Go to www.JoeSixpackAnswers.com.

ASH WEDNESDAY CONFESSION & MASS SCHEDULE

6:00 am	Confession
6:30 am	Holy Mass (<i>in the Ordinary Form</i>)
5:30 pm	Confession
6:00 pm	Holy Mass (<i>High Mass in the Extraordinary Form</i>)

FRIDAY MASS & STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

- The time of holy Mass on Fridays during Lent *shifts* from 6:30 am to 5:30 pm
 - Additionally, Stations of the Cross immediately follow holy Mass on Fridays of Lent
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FORTY HOURS DEVOTIONS IN MARCH

- ◆ SJoA will host Forty Hours Devotions from **Thursday, March 1st – Sunday, March 4th**
 - ◆ Forty Hours Devotions is forty hours of Eucharistic adoration, observed either continuously (i.e., 40 uninterrupted hours of adoration) or spread out over a few days. Our observance will be spread out over a 4 day period
 - ◆ The intention of Forty Hours Devotions is to pray and beseech Our Heavenly Father to bless our diocese with more priestly vocations
 - ◆ The expectation is that every, single parishioner (including *you*) will sign up for at least one hour. Since all of us need Priests for our sacraments and many other things (including *me & you*), we must all do our part. This means that we *obey* Jesus Christ, Who said: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; **pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.**" (Matthew 9:37-38)
 - ◆ Don't be a "*spiritual free-loader.*" If you don't work (i.e., pray), you will receive very little from God, but the Church has given us Forty Hours precisely so that God can bless our diocese (and *us*) with an abundance of Priests. Don't be the *weak link*. Come and pray!
 - ◆ **Sign up sheets are at the entrance of the church**
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ADULT EDUCATION CLASS / RCIA INSTRUCTION CLASS

- † Begins Sunday, February 11th
- † Any adult (or *potential* adults) may attend
- † Classes are on Sundays at 4:30 pm at the Parish Hall (*Keep an eye on the weekly parish schedule, because there are a couple of times the class has to be shifted to a Saturday morning.*)
- † Using the book *This is the Faith* (by Fr. Francis Ripley; TAN Books) ... which is available for purchase at the Rectory for \$15.00 (this is half of what it retails for)
- † Classes run through the Lenten & Easter Seasons.
- † Hope to see you there ... and your friends are welcome too!

Current Penitential Disciplines of the Church¹

Laws of Days of Abstinence

- Obliges abstention from flesh meat.
- Begins on one's 14th birthday.
- Obligatory on Ash Wednesday & Fridays of Lent.

Laws of Days of Penance

- Entirety of Lent (including the Sundays therein) & every Friday of the year outside of Lent.
- Applies to all the faithful.

Laws of Days of Fast

- One full meal permitted and two other meals *may* be taken, which, when combined, are less than one full meal.
- Applies to everyone aged 18-59, inclusive.
- Obligatory on Ash Wednesday & Good Friday.

The Law of the Eucharistic Fast

- The complete fast from all food and drink (except water and medicine) for at least one hour before the reception of the Holy Eucharist. Those who are able to maintain the previous discipline of the three hour fast are still encouraged to do so.

Previous Penitential Disciplines of the Church¹

Laws of Days of Abstinence

- **Complete abstinence:** every Friday of the entire year, Ash Wednesday, Holy Saturday, & the Vigil of Christmas.
- **Partial abstinence:** meat and soup or gravy made from meat permitted once a day at the principal meal during the Season of Lent (except on Ash Wednesday and each Friday of the entire year); the Ember Days of Wednesday and Saturday; and the Vigils of Pentecost and the Assumption.
- Applies on one's 7th birthday.
- Abstinence from meat is dispensed on Holy Days of Obligation.

Laws of Fast

- One full meal permitted and two other meals *may* be taken, which, when combined, are less than one full meal.
- The Season of Lent (from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday); the Ember Days; the Vigils of Christmas, Pentecost, and the Assumption.
- Applies for those aged 21-59, inclusive.

The Law of the Eucharistic Fast

- The complete fast from all food and drink (except water or medicine) for three hours before the reception of the Holy Eucharist. Those who are able to maintain the midnight fast, which was the previous discipline, are still encouraged to do so.

¹ See the *Code of Canon Law*, 1249-1253; Apostolic Constitution *Paenitemini* of Pope Paul VI, chapter III; *Liturgical Ordo and FSSP Directory*.