

The Epiphany of the Lord

MASSES & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, January 2, 2016

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

4:30 P.M. MASS – Jeremy Rider, Simon, Leora & Freddie Sonnier, Alee Gobert, Mrs. Colonial Gradney Gobert, Joseph Lee Gobert, Bernadine Cezar Logan, Aaron and Fabian Cezar, Ashley Cezar, P.J. Logan, Samuel Papillion, Bish LeJeune, Keith LeJeune, Lucis A. Victorian

SUNDAY, January 3, 2016

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Dallas & Billy Bertrand, Sr., Leonard Beaubouef, Stacey Beaubouef

MONDAY, January 4, 2016

NO MASS

TUESDAY, January 5, 2016

5:30 P.M. MASS – Eve Smith Guilbeau

WEDNESDAY, January 6, 2016

5:30 P.M. MASS – Dorothy Montou

THURSDAY, December 7, 2016

5:30 P.M. MASS – Elmo Smith

FRIDAY, January 8, 2016

6:30 A.M. MASS – Deceased Members of Bushnell Family

SATURDAY, January 9, 2016

4:30 P.M. MASS – Jeremy Rider, Michael Granger, Keith LeJeune, Jerome & Blanche Haas, Jack Johnson

SUNDAY, January 10, 2016

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Leonard Beaubouef, Stacey Beaubouef, Alee Gobert, Mrs. Colonial Gradney Gobert, Joseph Lee Gobert, Louis Karam, Sandra Chapman, Darrell, Eloise & Greg Reed

Last Week's Collection **\$2,447.95**

Collections for Christmas Masses:

1st Collection...SJoA **\$2,955.00**

2nd Collection...Diocese of Lake Charles **\$ 323.00**

PRAYER LIST FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH

Phil Beard, Gerry Beaubouef, Jerome, John & Josie Bergeron, Joann Bertrand, Alvin & Sonja Billodeaux, Renate Bourque, Virginia Bowles, Velma Brakel, Charles Chaumont, Jerry Chaumont, Florence Comeaux, Carol Deshotel, Cathy Fontenot, David Fontenot, Mary Ophelia Fontenot, Cathy Deshotel Guillory, Sybil Haas, Harrison Harmon, Mildred Harmon, Esther Harmon, Joseph Harmon, Essie Langley, Keith LeJeune, Lou, Joe, Adam and Mary LeJeune, Mitch LeJeune, Willie Mae LeJeune, Joy Mancil, Kevin Manuel, Lula Manuel & Fly., Marlin Manuel, Pat Manuel and Fly., Trista Marler, Fran & Ronnie Meaux, Beau Montou, Kathy Montou, Gloria Morris, Carolyn Morgon, Glenn Morgan, Marvin Morgan, Odrey & Dorothy Montou, Marie Parker, Devin Pelt, Mary Mott Peterson, Sally Pitre, Linda & Don Portie, Ashton Read, Lynda Reed, Ervin Reed, Terry Reeves, Leonard Richard, Johnathan, Christina, Hayley, Jayden, Ryleigh, Skylei, Richard, Sharon, Martha, Rusty, Patsy, Matt, & Josh Rider, Rev. Fred Russi, Evelyn Sandell, Tina Sapienza, Bill Scheffler, Tucker Scimemi, Donald Paul Sonnier, Kermit Sonnier, Kolton Squier, Leah Squier, Suzanne Stringer, Devin Swarouth, Carl Tarver, Maynard Topping, Matthew Truman, Danika Treweak, Ticky Family, Zachary Villereal, Odelia & Ernest Wilson, Nicole Young, Laura Zaidan

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY

Bishop Provost

For an end to abortion, that God move the hearts of us all to promote the sanctity of human life.

Pope Francis

Universal: That sincere dialogue among men and women of different faiths may produce the fruits of peace and justice.

Evangelization: That by means of dialogue and fraternal charity and with the grace of the Holy Spirit, Christians may overcome divisions.

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
(Call the rectory to sponsor the green vocations candle)

Vocations Cross – Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Brandon

SJoA Attends the "March for Life" Pilgrimage 2016

Adults and teens from SJoA will join the Diocese of Lake Charles in attending the "March for Life" Pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., January 18 – 23, 2016. This event coincides with the anniversary date of Roe vs. Wade on the decision that legalized abortion in our country in 1973. More than 250,000 people from across the U.S. attend this event. Please pray for the safety of all involved in this pilgrimage and in particular for an end to abortion.

20th Annual Pro-Life Candlelight Memorial Prayer Vigil

On Friday, January 22, 2016, New Life Counseling gathers our area together on the anniversary date of Roe vs. Wade decision that legalized abortion in our country in 1973. We understand the grave importance of this date as we peacefully unite our prayers with the nation to overturn this decision. We will gather to memorialize the more than 55 million babies that have tragically lost their lives by abortion and for the healing of all those that mourn their loss. This year we unite with the national theme "Pro-Life/Pro-Woman GO Hand-in-Hand". Meet at the L.C. Civic Center steps and walk united to the steps of the District Courthouse for a One Hour Candlelight Prayer Service and hear testimonials.

Catholic Mission Trip

The Abrazando Cristo Mission Trip for 2016 will be July 1-10 to Nicaragua. The cost of the trip is \$1,950.00 (covers all air and ground transportation, meals, lodging, tips, taxes, retreat, and mission shirts). For an information packet/registration form please contact Monsignor Daniel Torres at 337-439-7400 or contact by e-mail connie.perkins@lcdioocese.org. **A \$300.00 non-refundable deposit with the registration form is due by Jan. 11th to secure a seat.** Only 25 seats are available. First come first serve.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat: Healing after Abortion

If you are struggling with guilt, depression, regret or other difficult emotions from an abortion, you are not alone. Come experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel's Vineyard Weekend retreat Friday, February 5th – Sunday, February 7th at the Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff. The weekend will combine discussions, spiritual exercises, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service and a Mass of Entrustment. Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion. The cost is \$210.00 for meals, private room with private bath and all retreat materials. If you have a financial burden, assistance is available. For more information or registration contact: Rachel's Vineyard of SWLA @ 337-439-7400 ext. 317 or email rachels.vineyard@lcdioocese.org. Fr. Nathan Long, Margie Long & Diocesan Team.

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This Week @ SJoA

- ❖ Sunday, January 3rd – RCIA @ 5:00 P.M.
- ❖ Monday, January 4th – **NO MASS**
- ❖ Monday, January 4th – K.C. Meeting @ 6:30 P.M.
- ❖ Tuesday, January 5th – Blessing of the Epiphany Water & then Holy Mass @ 5:30 P.M.
- ❖ Tuesday, January 5th – Altar Society Meeting @ 6:30 P.M.
- ❖ Wednesday, January 6th – 5:30 P.M. Mass (Mandatory CCD Mass), No Youth Group or CCD
- ❖ **Adoration: 7:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.**
- ❖ Thursday, January 7th – Mass @ 5:30 P.M. (O.F.)

FROM FATHER CONNER

The Epiphany of Christ, Round One

The Epiphany of the Lord is celebrated on January 6th. In the United States, the present practice in many dioceses is to transfer the feast to the Sunday nearest. That is today. Therefore, we observe this beautiful feast of Our Lord with joy, and, like the Star and the Magi, let us put ourselves obediently under the governance of Our Lord and God. There is no greater dignity, or freedom, than to take the commandments of the Lord close to our heart and observe them with deep and genuine love. Our Lord is not a threat to our dignity or freedom. He is Our Savior. Come, let us adore and love Him.

The Epiphany of Christ, Round Two

The practice of transferring the Epiphany does **not** apply to the Extraordinary Form calendar. Since January 6th falls on a Wednesday this year (Wednesday is the usual day of the week when we have our EF Mass), we have the added joy of observing the feast a second time. (I love extra grace!) Accordingly, we'll have a Mass of the Epiphany on the actual day of the Epiphany. (It's worth noting that Pope Francis, along with nearly the entire Catholic world, will be observing the Epiphany on Wednesday, January 6th. So, we'll be in communion with them!) Our EF Epiphany Mass will be Wednesday, January 6th, at 5:30 pm. Please note that there will **not** be 6:30 am Mass this Wednesday morning.

Wednesday Eucharistic Adoration resumes this Wednesday

Attention all adorers: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament resumes this Wednesday. There will **not** be a 6:30 am Mass, but adoration **will** begin at 7:00 am. Please be sure to observe your hour. Also, if you can't make your hour, please make the effort to find a replacement before you contact the rectory asking us to find a replacement. (I suggest that you ask a relative to cover for you. That's evangelization 101 right there!) Since this Wednesday we'll have a special CCD Epiphany Mass at 5:30 pm, adoration will conclude at 5:00 pm. Also, do make a note that I will **not** be able to hear confessions right before Mass because I will have to assist with benediction and then setting up for the Mass after adoration . . . but, as you know, confessions are heard every day before each and every Mass.

CCD Epiphany Mass and Christmas Party

On Wednesday, January 6th, all CCD students **must** attend the 5:30 pm Epiphany Mass. We will have a very beautiful sung Mass in the Extraordinary Form. Accountability Mass tickets will be placed at the entrance of the church to ensure all CCD students attend. (Students are to have the Mass tickets scanned after Mass.) After the Mass, all students will report to the Parish Hall, where we'll have a lovely CCD Christmas/Epiphany Party. The KC's are cooking gumbo and the Ladies Altar Society is preparing desserts. To kick off the party, I will bless the chalk to be used (by you parents) when blessing your homes on the feast of the Epiphany. (I will have blessed the water the evening before. See just below for more info.) It's going to be a lovely party. The CCD class syllabus indicates that gifts will be exchanged at this party. This means that teachers, students, and pretty much anyone else are free to exchange gifts with anyone

they wish. For many Catholics throughout the world the Epiphany is a time for offering gifts. This is done in imitation of the Magi, who presented their gifts to the Lord on Epiphany day. Therefore, should anyone wish to offer a gift to anyone at the party, please feel free to do so. But, do not feel obliged, however, to present a gift to anyone. Our intention is simply to promote Christian charity and a good Catholic identity by observing the Epiphany in a typically Catholic manner and offering instruction about these practices.

Blessing of the Water on the Vigil of the Epiphany

There's a custom of blessing holy water on the vigil of (i.e., the day before) the Epiphany, that is, on January 5th. This blessing, in addition to being very powerful, has a bit of ceremony to it. Therefore, we're very happy to reintroduce (if you will) the blessing of the Epiphany Water to SJoA. The blessing of the Epiphany Water will take place on Tuesday, January 5th, beginning at 5:30 pm. If you would like to have some Epiphany Water for yourself (which you should, so that you can use it to bless your house on the feast of the Epiphany and yourself throughout the year), please bring a container of water to SJoA by 5:15 pm on Tuesday, January 5th. The container must not leak and must have your name on it . . . so that you can pick it up after the Mass. (*Do not bring more than one gallon of water per family.*) SJoA will provide the salt, so please do **not** bring salt to be blessed. After the blessing of the Epiphany Water, we will have the daily Mass. We expect the Mass to begin at approximately 6:15 pm. But, be forewarned, this is only an "educated guess" . . . it could be a few minutes either before or after. (Just come at 5:30 pm and you'll get in on all of the action.)

Also, we will link the prayers used for the blessing of the Epiphany Water to the homepage of the parish website (sjoaoberlin.com) in case you want to review them and/or print a copy to bring with you to the blessing Tuesday evening. Having the prayers will assist you in singing along with the choir as we chant the Litany of the Saints and the Psalms . . . and, check out the exorcism prayers for the water and the salt. The Church doesn't play around with matters this serious!

Holy League

Men of the Holy League, the blessing of the Epiphany Water and Mass which follows it will take the place of our regularly scheduled activity that night. Consequently, we will **not** have the Holy Hour. The men of the Holy League are also greatly encouraged to attend the CCD Epiphany Mass on Wednesday, January 6th, at 5:30 pm . . . as is everyone else.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!