

# Twenty-third Sunday in the Season of the Year

## MASSES & INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, September 3, 2016

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

**6:00 P.M. MASS** – Simon, Leora & Freddie Sonnier, Henry L., Lula & Betty Fontenot, Gene & Velma Brakel, Jeanette Hornsby, Dallas Courville, Keith LeJeune, John & Willie Spears, Willie, Allie, Raymond & Larry Lanthier

### SUNDAY, September 4, 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, Doughty, Margaret & Nancy Broussard, John Essie Victorian, Dwight, Dalbus & Gracie Gradney, D.C. Reed, Jr., Edward Maddox, Jennifer Sonnier

### MONDAY, September 5, 2016

**NO MASS**

### TUESDAY, September 6, 2016

**NO MASS**

### WEDNESDAY, September 7, 2016

**NO MASS**

### THURSDAY, September 8, 2016

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – Roland & Verlie Chaumont

### FRIDAY, September 9, 2016

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – Jack Johnson

### SATURDAY, September 10, 2016

**6:00 P.M. MASS** – Evelyn Manuel, Jeanette Hornsby, Keith LeJeune, Egbert McGee, Preston Manuel

### SUNDAY, September 11, 2016

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

**10:00 A.M. MASS** – Stacey Beaubouef, Leonard Beaubouef, Tush Strother, John Essie Victorian, D.C. Reed, Jr., Helen Sonnier, Glenn Sonnier, Edward Maddox, Jennifer Sonnier, Police Officers & Firemen, Megan Manuel, David Briscoe

Last Week's Collection

\$3,883.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Next Weekend – Catholic University of America

## PRAYER LIST FOR JULY, AUGUST, & SEPTEMBER

Enola Bellard, Marvin Banks, Phil Beard, Dianne Beaubouef, Charles Beaubouef, Gerry Beaubouef, Joan Bertrand, Alvin & Sonja Billodeaux, Bruce & Diana Brakel, Corey Briscoe, Douglas Briscoe, Bernice Bushnell, Helen Bushnell, Linda Beaubouef Cazes, David & Natalie Carrier, 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, Dorothy Montou, 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, Christina McNutt, Fran & Ronnie Meaux, Russell Meaux, Janice Moreau, Nicholas Odum, Gabriella and 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, Sister Ann Margaret Savant, Tucker Scimemi, Helen Shreeman, Kolton Squier, Leah Squier, Margie Smith, Donald Paul Sonnier, Celeman Thomas, Maynard Topping, Matthew Truman, Dollyanna Victorian, Zachary Villereal, JoAnn Welch, Robbie Willis, Odelia & Ernest Wilson, Robert Yeagley, Sr., 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** – Bobby and Lucy Brandon

**Vocations Cross** – Bobby and Lucy Brandon

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## Glad Tidings Program

Sunday, September 11, 2016 – **Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary**

**Time:** Bishop Glen John Provost reads the Gospel of the day from St. Luke (15:1-32) and speaks on the importance of scripture.

## Bishop's Golf Classic

The Annual Bishop's Golf Classic will be Friday, October 7, 2016, at The National Golf Course in Westlake. There will be one shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. There will be four persons to a team (\$500/team or \$125/individual), Hole Sponsorships are available for \$150.00 each and Banner sponsorships available for \$1,000 each. Registration forms are available at the entrances of the church.

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## This Week @ SJoA

❖ **Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> – NO MASS**

❖ **Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – NO MASS**

❖ Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – Ladies Altar Society at 6:00 P.M.

❖ **Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> – NO MASS**

❖ **Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> – CCD Begins**

❖ Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> – Holy League: Men's Prayer Group at 6:30 P.M.

❖ **Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> – NO ADORATION (Adoration resumes Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup> from 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.)**

❖ Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> – Youth Pool Party 11:00 A.M. 2:00 P.M. for Grades 8-12

## RETURN TO THE LORD

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

#### How can I give to the *Return to the Lord Capital Campaign*?

Selecting the best gift plan depends on one's personal financial situation. Gifts made by cash, check, credit card or Electronic Fund Withdrawal (EFT) are the most common and will allow the diocese to address its immediate needs. Checks should be made payable to the *Return to the Lord Capital Campaign*. Gift intentions are made in good faith, but are not legally binding. The Bishop is encouraging all donors to consider stretching your gift over a three-year period to maximize the total amount of your support. Your commitment can be fulfilled through monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual installments. If you wish, you can give to the campaign gifts of stock, real estate, life insurance and other planned gift opportunities. As tax laws are always changing and each individual's situation is unique, donors are encouraged to consult with financial advisors to determine which method is most beneficial to them. As of earlier in the week the total pledges for SJoA is \$24,286. This is 10% of our Campaign Goal of \$246,444. The Parish Share of this amount is \$4,857.

## SAVE THE DATES

**Weekend of September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**

BSA Collection

**Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**

Bazaar Meeting at 6:00 P.M.

**Weekend of November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>**

SJoA Bazaar

## FROM FATHER CONNER

### **CCD Info**

Catechism classes begin this Wednesday! Grades 1-5 meet from 4:00 – 5:20 pm. Grades 6-11 meet from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. Registration continues in case you have not registered your children yet. Call the office ASAP to register and pick up textbooks! Children can also be registered before classes this Wednesday, but it would be best to register them before this Wednesday.

### **Adoration Each Wednesday**

The appeal to your heart and soul continues. Trust God. Commit to an hour of Adoration each Wednesday. A signup sheet is at the main entrance of the church. It will be the best time investment you can possibly make. But don't take my word for it. Take St. Padre Pio's: "*A thousand years of enjoying human glory is not worth even an hour spent sweetly communing with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.*" Okay, if that doesn't move you, I don't know what will. Jesus is lovingly waiting for you to make a weekly visit. Don't leave Him hanging. The favors we receive from Adoration are immense. Please don't deprive yourself or your family of them.

### **Youth Pool Party**

We're closing out the summer by the side of the pool. The Grangers (Daryl & Renee) have graciously opened up their pool and backyard to the eighth graders and high schoolers of SJoA. This coming Saturday (Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>) we'll have a pool party for grades 8-12. All we ask is that you RSVP by calling the Rectory Office if your children plan on joining us. Please make note of the *modesty requirement*: boys will wear shirts and no two-piece suits for the girls, who also will wear shirts over their suits. This will strengthen virtue in them. Consider the importance of chastity and purity in this teaching of *St. John Vianney*: "The pure soul is a beautiful rose, and the Three Divine Persons descend from Heaven to inhale its fragrance." Yes, this is what we want: the beauty of chaste purity: so attractive is it to God that it draws down His grace from Heaven into their souls!

### **RCIA**

RCIA begins soon – Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who needs to receive Baptism, Confirmation, First Holy Communion, First Penance (Confession), or have a civil marriage "blessed," needs this class.

RCIA will meet 3 of the 4 Sundays of each month. Classes begin at 5:00 pm and will last for approximately one hour. The first class will have as its object to orient folks to the aims of the class, to review the schedule, to determine which sacraments each person is in need of, and to hand out text books.

Also, RCIA would make a tremendous *refresher course* for any Catholic. We are going to cover just about every major teaching of the Faith. We're using a fantastic book and the material is super solid! I encourage you to join us.

### **Returning to Usual Observance of the Ceremonies at Holy Mass**

Beginning this Sunday (& Saturday evening), we're returning to the usual observance of the ceremonies at Holy Mass. It's been our custom of the last few years to reduce the ceremonies at weekend Masses during July and August. Since people travel quite a bit during the summer months, the simplification of the ceremonies makes it easier to schedule altar boys for Mass without having to work on constantly finding substitutions. It also allows the members of the choir to enjoy somewhat of a break. While they continue singing during these two months, the repertoire is scaled back so as to enable singing without the need for a pre-Mass rehearsal. (This means they don't have to come as early before Mass to practice.)

At any rate, it will be a welcomed sight, and pleasant to the heart, soul, and ears to hear the Mass sung, smell the incense, and take in the artistry of the ceremonies. Admittedly, the Mass most affected by the reduction of ceremonies is the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass. This Mass is our "principle" or "high" Mass of the weekend. Certainly all Masses are important and equal in merit, but it is customary (from a historical perspective) that parishes have one Mass with more solemnity on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. As noted above, this Mass has usually been referred to as the "principle," or "solemn," or "high" Mass. It should be noted that the ceremony of the "high" Mass is not for entertainment. Rather, the ceremonies of the sacred liturgy instruct and inspire. They instruct us by revealing the true nature of the Mass: that it is the *re*-presentation of Christ's one, saving sacrifice on Calvary, the joining together of heaven and earth, and a prelude to Everlasting Life, in which God in His goodness gives us an actual participation in here and now as we strive for Eternal Life with the Blessed in heaven. The beauty of a solemn Mass also inspires us to greater efforts to love God, to keep the Faith, and to practice charity.

While we, unfortunately, do not hear of too many stories of people being converted by the beauty of the Mass these days (this in itself is a lamentable commentary on our negligence as Catholics – both ordained and lay ... that we do not put enough effort into the proper celebration of Mass so as to make its radiant beauty shine forth), history is littered with stories of how notorious sinners were converted by simply attending Holy Mass and being overwhelmed by the beauty of its ceremonies, the loveliness of the chants, or the splendor of the church's beautiful architecture. Would to God that we might recapture the beauty of the Church's sacred liturgy in our own time. May the Good God inspire us to spend and consume ourselves for His glory – which is supposed to be manifested in each Mass! God love you.



## Why Worship God? by Joe Sixpack

Personally, I think there are two things *all* Christians should be able to prove—especially Protestants. Our separated brethren claim strict adherence to the Bible as the end-all-be-all of divine revelation, believing it to be the “inspired” word of God, yet none of them know how to *prove* the Bible is inspired. Well, I think they should have to prove that. Catholics too, for that matter. That is something we will cover in a future column. There is yet another thing all Christians should be able to prove...*especially us*.

Perhaps one of the most puzzling things for me about most modern Christians is, they worship Someone they cannot prove. Obviously they all believe in God, but they can't *prove* His existence. What kind of sense does that make? Why worship a Being you can't prove exists? It's like believing in the Tooth Fairy.

The question is, can God's existence be proven? Well, not with empirical scientific evidence...yet. However, His existence most certainly can be proven through the use of logic and right reason. So let's delve right into it!

Many people rely on the “Big Bang” theory to pooh-pooh God's existence. They claim that there was just this huge explosion and when it cooled we had the universe. Silly, but true. These scientifically inclined people even deny the principles of the science they worship with such a theory. One of the laws of physics tells us that every movement—an explosion, which leads to the universe, solar system, earth, plant life, animal life, humans—must have a “first mover”. How can a huge explosion from nothing happen without a first mover; that is, a cause? The Big Bang theory can make sense, but only if there is a first mover, and the only possible first mover is God. So in reality, the Big Bang theory actually *proves* the existence of God. This argument (and what follows) is the argument by design.

We can see from creation that all could only exist by the power of an infinitely wise, all-powerful, self-existing Being. He is a logical God who has created a logically functioning universe. Look at the food chain. The smallest microscopic organism is food for the next largest organism, is food for the next largest organism, is food for the next largest organism, and so on. Eventually it becomes food for man, the highest form of natural creation. When we eat a pork chop or chicken leg and digest it, the process begins all over again.

Look at the trees. Trees “inhale” carbon dioxide and “exhale” oxygen. We inhale oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide. The trees can't live without us, and we can't live without the trees. What a logical God!

My favorite argument, though, is more elementary and more satisfying to me Joe Sixpacks. Due to our lack of space, we will simply concede certain things as true here, as they are quickly and easily proven with a few minutes spent on Google.

It is a historical fact that the books of the Old Testament are ancient Hebrew literature. We're not saying they're inspired or even true, for the sake of this argument. We're merely stating they are ancient Hebrew literature.

The second fact is that Jesus of Nazareth is a real, historical person. We're not saying anything about him at this point except that he truly existed in Israel 2,000 years ago. Some scoffers would say the only proof we have of his existence are the four Gospels, but that simply isn't true. There are four secular historians of the time who attest to Jesus' existence: Pliny, Tacitus, Suetonius, and Flavius Josephus. Pliny, Tacitus and Suetonius were pagans and certainly no friends of Christianity, so their written record is reliable. Flavius Josephus was a Jew and Roman Citizen and he was also no friend of Jesus of Nazareth. So we actually have eight sources to prove Jesus was a true historical person: Pliny, Tacitus, Suetonius, Flavius Josephus, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Now for the argument.

The Old Testament, the ancient Hebrew literature, is filled with prophecies about the coming of a messiah, the earliest reference being in Genesis, then Jeremiah, Isaiah, the Psalms, etc. If we were to take all those prophecies and list them on paper, we could then go to our historical sources mentioned above to find that Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled all those prophecies. Does that prove Jesus is the messiah? No, not at all. It only proves that he fulfilled the prophecies, but three types of people could have done that: either a bad man, a mad man, or...the messiah.

Could Jesus have been a bad man? Could he awaken one day and decided that if he convinced the people he was truly the messiah he could gain wealth and power? Yes, but that argument won't float. Why? Because the prophecies also tell us the messiah had to die. What bad man (criminal) is willing to die just to prove a point, especially after gathering his following? None, of course. Therefore, Jesus could not have been a bad man.

Could he have been a mad man, a crazy person? Could a crazy guy wake up one day thinking he was hearing the voice of God telling him he is the messiah and he should begin fulfilling the prophecies? Certainly he could, and a mad man would even be willing to die, but that argument won't pan out either. A mad man simply isn't capable of remaining consistent long enough to pull off such a thing as Jesus did. Psychologists have studied Jesus since the beginning of their science in the 19th century, and they universally agree he was certainly consistent. They may not like what he taught, but they most certainly agree he was consistent. Therefore, Jesus could not have been a mad man.

That only leaves us with the third man, the man who is what he says he is...the messiah. Jesus claims not only to be the messiah, but he actually claims to be God! And He makes this claim repeatedly (cf. Jn. 10:24-31). My personal favorite of his claims to divinity is found in John 8:58 when He said, "Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was, *I am*". This is the same phrase God used to describe Himself in Exodus 3:14, and I urge you to read these two passages and their context. So if Jesus couldn't have been a bad man, and if He couldn't have been a mad man, and He must be who He says He is, and He claims to be God, therefore God must exist!

Now you can defend God's existence to anyone you talk to. Most people say they don't discuss controversial subjects. I agree; neither do I. So I never discuss organized sports and soap operas. Religion, however, deals with matters of *truth*, and truth can never be controversial. And that, my friends, is the reason for this column; so you can know What We Believe...Why We Believe It.

Got a question? Go to [JoeSixpackAnswers.com](http://JoeSixpackAnswers.com).