

# Third Sunday of Advent

## MASSES & INTENTIONS

**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** – **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

**MONDAY, December 12, 2016**

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – Eve Smith Guilbeau

**TUESDAY, December 13, 2016**

**NO MASS**

**WEDNESDAY, December 14, 2016**

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – D.C. Reed, Jr.

**THURSDAY, December 15, 2016** –

**5:30 P.M. MASS** – E.J. & Mary Hance

**FRIDAY, December 16, 2016**

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – Linda LeJeune

**SATURDAY, December 17, 2016**

**4:30 P.M. MASS** – Claiborne Durio, Hubert & Doris Ryder, Hubert Bertrand, J.C. & Bertha Smith, Emily Adams, Sox Gordon, LeRoy Fontenot, Pereda Fontenot, Enola Bellard, Keith LeJeune

**SUNDAY, December 18, 2016**

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

**10:00 A.M. MASS** – Stacey & Leonard Beaubouef, Tush Strother, D.C. Reed, Jr., Edward Maddox, Alee & Colonial Gobert, Joseph Gobert, Jean manuel, Alexanson Manuel, Lucy Alleman

**Last Week's Collection**

**\$5,380.35**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection this weekend: Retirement Fund for Diocesan Priests (SJoA Quota is \$1,209.00)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection December 25<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Charities**

## 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, 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, 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, Kenneth Taylor, 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** – Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Granger

Vocation Candle Sponsors Needed

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

## Divine Intimacy Reading Guide

Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup> – Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Entry Number
Sunday	15
Monday	16
Tuesday	17
Wednesday	18
Thursday	19
Friday	20
Saturday	21
Sunday	22

## 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.

## 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@lcdioocese.org](mailto:connie.perkins@lcdioocese.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 [ldioocese.org](http://ldioocese.org) or [rachels.vineyard@lcdioocese.org](mailto:rachels.vineyard@lcdioocese.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

- ❖ Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> – RCIA at 5:00 P.M.; Ultreya at 5:00 P.M.; Solemn Holy Hour at 6:00 P.M.
- ❖ Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> – K.C. Meeting at 6:30 P.M.
- ❖ **Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> NO ADORATION; CCD and Youth Group beginning at 4:00 P.M.**
- ❖ Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> – Holy League: Holy Hour at 6:30 P.M.

**Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Finance Council Meeting – 6 P.M.

**Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016**

Pastoral Council Meeting – 6 P.M.

## FROM FATHER CONNER

### **Congratulations!**

SJoA congratulates *Isabelle Foreman*, who received First Holy Communion at last week's First Saturday Mass of Our Lady! All of us share the joy of the Foreman family and thank the Good God for His infinite mercy. What a tremendous grace! Receiving the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus, Who is truly, really and substantially present in the most Holy Eucharist!

### **Pilgrimage to Grand Coteau**

We make a pilgrimage to Grand Coteau this Wednesday (Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>). Anyone interested in supplying or receiving a ride should contact the Rectory Office (by 2:00 pm Tuesday) so that we can make sure seats are available. We will leave SJoA promptly at 10:00 am. The heart of St. John Berchmans will be the object of veneration. As you may know, on December 14, 1866, Mary Wilson, a seriously ill young novice at Grand Coteau prayed to St. John and he appeared to her and healed her. The miracle was authenticated by the Vatican and played a significant role in St. John's canonization. This is the first time St. John's heart has left Belgium in the past 395 years. I hope you take advantage of this extraordinary opportunity. To make it easier for our parishioners to attend the pilgrimage to Grand Coteau, I am suspending adoration of the Blessed Sacrament this Wednesday.

### **CCD MidTerm Alert!**

Speaking of Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, parents should be reminded that all grades have *midterms* at CCD. Absences should be avoided unless something serious arises, such as a significant illness. Please make sure your children come prepared. They should *not* bring any books or folders to class for their midterm, for the test is *not* open book.

### ***Alma Redemptoris Mater***

The pre-recessional hymn we've begun using during Advent is known as the *Alma Redemptoris Mater*. (Hymn #5 in the *Lumen Christi* Hymnal.) This antiphon is used by Catholics from the beginning of Advent until the Purification of Our Lady (February 2<sup>nd</sup>). In other words, the *Alma Redemptoris Mater* replaces the *Salve, Regina* at the conclusion of Mass and at other times when the Offices of the Church are chanted. Here is a translation of the *Alma Redemptoris Mater*:

O loving Mother of our Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea, Hasten to aid thy fallen people who strive to rise once more. Thou who brought forth thy holy Creator, all creation wond'ring, Yet remainest ever Virgin, taking from Gabriel's lips that joyful "Hail!": be merciful to us sinners.

I hope you will follow along as the choir sings, and feel free to join in!

### **Ember Saturday Mass of Advent**

There will be a special Mass for Priestly Vocations for the Diocese of Lake Charles this coming Saturday at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, in Lake Charles. Several members of the clergy of the Diocese will participate,

as will several altar boys from SJoA. The Roman Church customarily ordains men to the priesthood on Ember Saturday in Advent (that is, on Saturday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in Advent). In the absence of an ordination, Father Tolentino (Rector of the Cathedral) has decided to have a special Mass to implore the Lord for many new holy priestly vocations for the D of LC. Perhaps you and your family can join in and pray for your future Priests. I have put more info on [www.sjoaoberlin.com](http://www.sjoaoberlin.com) about ... **1)** the Advent Ember Days ... and **2)** the special Mass for Priestly Vocations on *Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>*. I ask that **1)** you please visit our webpage to learn more about this very Catholic observance and **2)** that you help spread the word about the Mass and encourage others to come pray for priestly vocations. We need Priests, more of them, and especially more holy Priests, saintly Priests. If we pray fervently, the Lord will assuredly grant them to our diocese. If we do not pray, we will likely receive nothing from the Lord along these lines.

### **Life After Delivery**

*(Someone emailed this to me recently. I felt compelled to share it with you.)*

In a mother's womb were two babies. One asked the other: "Do you believe in life after delivery?" The other replied, "why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later."

"Nonsense," said the other. "There is no life after delivery. What would that life be?"

"I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths." The other said, "This is absurd! Walking is impossible. And eat with our mouths? Ridiculous. The umbilical cord supplies nutrition. Life after delivery is to be excluded. The umbilical cord is too short."

"I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here." But the other replied, "No one has ever come back from there. Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery it is nothing but darkness and anxiety and it takes us nowhere."

"Well, I don't know about that," the other said, "but certainly we will see mother and she will take care of us."

"'Mother'??? You believe in mother? Where is she now?"

"She is all around us. It is in her that we live. Without her there would not be this world."

"I don't see her, so it's only logical that she doesn't exist." To which the other replied, "sometimes when you're in silence you can hear her, you can perceive her. I believe there is a reality after delivery and we are here to prepare ourselves for that reality."



## **New Words That Bring Light** **by Joe Sixpack**

A little girl named Ann and her father were non-Catholics who were visiting New York City. Ann was very interested in visiting different kinds of churches, so her father took her into a non-Catholic church where they admired the organ, stained glass windows and the intricately hand-carved pulpit.

Then they went into a Catholic church, and the first thing Ann noticed was the little red sanctuary lamp. She asked, "Daddy, what's the little red light for?" Her father explained that it was a sign that Jesus was present in this church.

"But where is Jesus?" she asked.

"Behind the golden door you see on the altar."

"No wonder it feels so holy in this church. But does He ever come out of the little golden door?"

"Yes, the priest takes Him out every morning when the people come to Mass and receive Him in Holy Communion."

"Can I received Jesus, Daddy?" Ann asked longingly.

"Oh, no! You're not a Catholic. But let's go now; we've seen enough of this church."

When they went to another non-Catholic church, the first thing from Ann was, "Daddy, where's the little red light?" She was disappointed and begged, "Daddy, let's go back to the church where Jesus lives."

Those words from his little daughter kept ringing in the father's ears for a long time, until he finally made up his mind to become Catholic. He, too, wanted to belong to the church where Jesus is really and truly present under the appearances of bread and wine. Ann and her father were baptized, and later her mother also became a Catholic. Years later when Ann was a grown woman, her old father was dying. The last thing he said to his daughter was, "Ann, thank you for leading me to the Church where Jesus lives."

People of all denominations call their places of worship a house of God, but it is only in Catholic churches where God truly lives. Yes, He is present in all places, but Jesus, the second Person of the Blessed Trinity, lives only in Catholic churches. That is why we genuflect when we enter the church, because we are paying homage to King Jesus in the Tabernacle, and we know He's present because the red sanctuary lamp tells us so.

It is in the Holy Eucharist that Jesus gives us Himself, under the appearances of bread and wine, fully and completely. He is truly present in His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, in order to give Himself to the Father for our salvation, and to give Himself to us as divine nourishment for our souls.

But as thinking people, we have to ask ourselves how this can be. After all, what we see is bread and wine, so how can this be Jesus? Well, the answer to that question leads us to what may be a new word for some of you: transubstantiation. Transubstantiation is the change of the entire substance of the bread and the entire substance of the wine into the real body and blood of Jesus Christ. Breaking down the word we see it thusly: trans=to move or change; substanti=from the word substance; ation=a suffix denoting the taking place of an action. Resultantly, transubstantiation is the changing of the substance. The appearances of bread and wine are called *accidentals*, but even though it looks like bread and wine it is really the Body and Blood of Christ.

Non-Catholics falsely charge that transubstantiation is an “invention” of the Catholic Church. The origin of this charge comes from a book by Loraine Boettner called *Roman Catholicism*.<sup>1</sup> This book is often referred to as the anti-Catholic bible.

Boettner charges that transubstantiation was an “invention” by the pope in AD 1215. The fact is, transubstantiation is merely a technical term used to describe what happens at the Consecration during Mass when the bread and wine are turned into the Body and Blood of Christ. As we learned last week, this belief comes from the 6th chapter of John’s Gospel, the 11th chapter of 1 Corinthians, and the accounts of the Last Supper in the Gospels. So the Church has always believed that the bread and wine used at Mass become the Body and Blood of Christ during the Consecration.

As centuries passed, theologians exercised their reason on this issue to understand how such a thing could happen and its implications. Some of them, though, in trying to explain the Real Presence of Christ, developed unsound theories, so it soon became apparent that more precise terminology was necessary to guarantee the integrity of the Sacrament. The word *transubstantiation* was finally chosen for that terminology, and the term was formally imposed at the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215. Therefore, the use of the word was new, but the belief is as old as the Bride of Christ, the Church, herself.

The whole Christ in His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity—true God and true man—is truly present after the transubstantiation. Indeed, the whole Christ is present in each particle of the consecrated bread and each drop of the consecrated wine, which is why it isn’t necessary to receive both a Host and from the chalice. You receive all of Jesus from either species.

The Most Holy Eucharist is what we call a mystery of faith. That doesn’t mean we are empty-headed people who check our brains at the church door. A mystery of faith is a supernatural truth which we cannot completely understand, but we firmly believe because we trust the authority of the one who revealed it, who is God Himself.

God has deigned over the centuries to endorse His own institution of the Eucharist through many wonderful miracles. I urge you to go online and check out some of them: the Eucharistic miracle of Lanciano, Orvieto, and others. There are also several great books and videos on the topic, such as *Eucharistic Miracles* by Joan Carol Cruz and *This is My Body* by Bob and Penny Lord.

As we continue learning about the Holy Eucharist in this series, next week we will begin to focus on the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We will see how it is a sacrifice, the purpose and effects of the Mass, the parts of the Mass, and Holy Communion. We will also focus on the respect we owe Jesus in the Mass and Communion, because this is What We Believe...Why We Believe It.

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

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<sup>1</sup> *Roman Catholicism* (Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1962)