

2nd Sunday - Season of the Year

MASSES & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, January 14, 2016

4:30 P.M. MASS – Frances Meaux, Jerome & Blanche Haas, Martin Goodly, Lucian Victorian, Jeremy Rider

SUNDAY, January 15, 2017

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Margaret Karam, Edward Maddox, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Roselyn Victorian

MONDAY, January 16, 2017

6:30 A.M. MASS – Oliver Victorian

TUESDAY, January 17, 2017

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, January 18, 2017

6:30 A.M. MASS – D.C. Reed, Jr.

THURSDAY, January 19, 2017

5:30 P.M. MASS – Adrian Giles

FRIDAY, January 20, 2017

6:30 A.M. MASS – David Dugas

SATURDAY, January 21, 2017

4:30 P.M. MASS – Leroy Fontenot, Pereda Fontenot, Enola Bellard, Frances Meaux, Sox Gordon, Jeremy Rider

SUNDAY, January 22, 2017

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Edward Maddox, Angelle L. Durio, Linda LeJeune, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Paul & Rosia Frank, Dreau Granger, Weston Monceaux, Sr., Roselyn Victorian

Last Week's Collection

\$4,602.87

Second Collection Next Weekend: Church in Latin America

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 Cottogin, Aiden Darbonne, Carol Deshotel, Jackie Deville, Jabe Doyle, Poochie Duplechain, David Fontenot, Donald Fontenot, Justin Fontenot, Mary Ophelia Fontenot, Paul Fontenot, Rodney Fontenot, Steven Fontenot, Verlis Fontenot, Jeri Garcille, Tim Germany, Elaine & Justin Giles, Freddy & Becky Gorman, Daniel Goodly & Fly., Cathy Deshotel Guillory, Todd 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, Linda & Don Potier, Jimmy Prudhomme, Ena Prudhomme Fly., Erin Ramos, Ashton Read, Ann Reed, Cheryl Reed, Sara Reed & Fly., Lynda Reed, Ervin Reed, Leonard Richard, Sharon, Richard, Jonathan, Hayley, Jayden, ryleigh, Skylic, Jackson, Martha, Rusty, and Patsy Rider, 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, Barbara Strickland, Kelly Strother, 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

Glad Tidings Program

Sunday, January 22, 2017 – **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time:** Bishop Glen John Provost reads the Gospel of the day from St. Matthew (4:12-23) and speaks on the importance of the scripture.

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. Phielomone Goodly

Vocations Cross – Marita Cezar

Divine Intimacy Reading Guide

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Ladies Altar Society

As we begin a new year the Ladies Altar Society would like to welcome all SJoA ladies to join our organization. Dues are \$20 per year. Checks are payable to the Ladies Altar Society and may be mailed to Sandy Scimemi at P.O. Box 210, Oberlin, LA. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7th at 5:30 P.M.

Rachel's Vineyard

Retreat for Healing After Abortion

The next Rachel's Vineyard retreat is Friday, February 24th – Sunday, February 26th. 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 at the Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff. Brochures are at the entrances of the church. The cost is \$210.00 for meals, private room and all retreat materials. Financial assistance is available. To register contact: Rachel's Vineyard of SWLA 337-439-7400 ext. 317 or e-mail rachels.vineyard@lcdiocese.org

This Week @ SJoA

- ❖ Sunday, January 15 – R.C.I.A. at 8:45 A.M.
- ❖ Monday, January 16, 2016 – Office Closed
- ❖ **Wednesday, January 18th – ADORATION 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.; CCD and Youth Group**
- ❖ Thursday, January 19th – Men's Holy League: Men's Prayer Group at 6:30 P.M.

FROM FATHER CONNER

Hat Racks

SJoA recently came into possession of two lovely hat racks. They are at the main entrance of the church. Assuredly, wearing "head gear" is not as popular as it once was. Personally, I think this is regrettable. Perhaps the presence of hat racks will encourage greater use of hat wearing. To be noted: ladies may wear head covering of any kind (e.g., hats, veils, etc.) inside of the church. They are not obliged, as are gentlemen, to uncover their heads. Gentlemen are, however, to remove their hats upon entering the church (really, to remove their hats once inside *any* building ... but *especially* inside of a church). The lone exception for a man to wear a hat inside of the church is for the clergy, because the biretta (the black hat they wear) is in the form of a cross. One of the purposes of the biretta is to remind the cleric that he is to be conformed to the cross of Our Lord continually, *especially* at holy Mass. With all this said, I sincerely thank the folks who donated the hat racks. SJoA seems more genteel now ... and that is progress!

Mass intentions

Recently I discovered that we have very few Mass intentions for our upcoming Masses. Personally, this makes me feel like I've failed you in some respects. Here's what I mean: I have *[continued top of next page]*

[continued] consistently taught about the infinite merits of the Mass; that each Mass applies the merits of the sacrifice of Christ at Calvary to the intention that is requested. (Usually this is for a person, living or deceased). Yet, somehow, inexplicably, there does not seem to be any real interest in having Masses offered for your family and friends. This simply does not make sense to me ... not because I am a Priest, but because I am a Catholic. Every chance I have to offer holy Mass for my own intentions, I do ... gratefully and with tremendous joy, because I know that God is supplying a superabundance of His grace to my prayers.

Please consider these brief teachings about the holy sacrifice of the Mass:

- "The celebration of Holy Mass is as valuable as the death of Jesus on the cross." (St. Thomas Aquinas)
- "Every Holy Mass, heard with devotion, produces in our souls marvelous effects, abundant spiritual and material graces which we ourselves, do not know." (St. Padre Pio)
- "The heavens open and multitudes of angels come to assist in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass." (Pope St. Gregory the Great)
- "The Holy Mass would be of greater profit if people had it offered in their lifetime, rather than having it celebrated for the relief of their souls after death." (Pope Benedict XV)
- "A single Mass offered for oneself during life may be worth more than a thousand celebrated for the same intention after death." (St. Anselm)

Nothing is as great as the merits of the holy Mass. It should be a standard practice for Catholics (all of us) to request Masses for family, friends, and other intentions. We can have Mass offered for the living and the dead. Want to grow more spiritually? Have Mass offered for yourself. (But let your life become a Mass ... i.e., a sacrifice to God.) I encourage you to consider well the unspeakable gift God has given us in the miracle of the holy Mass. We cannot exist without it, or apart from it. It is the source of our life and enables us to participate *par excellence* in the supernatural life of the Blessed Trinity.

Quote from Pope Pius XI on the Kingship of Christ

"If to Christ Our Lord is given all power in heaven and on earth; if all men, purchased by His Precious Blood, are by a new right subjected to His dominion; if this power embraces all men, it must be clear that not one of our faculties is exempt from His empire. He must reign in our **minds**, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our **will**s, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our **hearts**, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to Him alone. He must reign in our **bodies** and in our **members**, which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls, or to use the words of the Apostle Paul, as instruments of justice unto God. [Rom. 6:13] If all these truths are presented to the faithful for their consideration, they will prove a powerful incentive to perfection." (*Quas Primas*, 33)

Joe Sixpack on Reverence for the Most Holy Eucharist

Referring to last Sunday's bulletin entry, someone remarked: "Joe Sixpack didn't hold back this time!" No, I replied, he sure didn't. This comment wasn't made angrily or in protest. The comment actually was made in appreciation. (Honestly, I think I would "LOL" were any offense taken by a Catholic resulting from an article pointing out that immodesty is sinful.) There is so much uncertainty and confusion in the world today. Stating things directly is becoming more of a necessity. Ours is not the age for subtlety, because subtlety is a mark of civilization, and our times are more barbaric than most of us are willing to admit. In his letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul gives the timeless principle: the truth must be spoken in charity (cf. 4:15). He helps us to remember that the truth is not a weapon meant to injure. It is, rather, a medicine used to heal an infirmity. Speaking directly and clearly does not offend this principle. It needs to be said clearly that immodesty is a sickness, a sin, to which the truth must be applied. Immodesty, whether in dress, speech and/or behavior, manifests a deficient

understanding of the dignity of the human person. In some cases, immodesty can be a very serious sin. As it goes on out in the world, immodesty is regrettable, something each of us should lament, not apologize for or defend. "Oh, if dressing that way makes her happy" ... No! ... Fail! We fail being disciples of Christ and defenders of human dignity when we excuse ourselves from the burden of living the truth in love or defending it, for apart from truth there cannot be love! We Catholics must do better in helping others discover the dignity of the human person. The body is not a piece of meat to lust after and see which one we want, although this is precisely what immodesty leads to! Now, if immodesty is to be lamented out in the world, it must be completely unacceptable, nay, intolerable, inside of one of our Catholic Churches. Dressing immodestly (which is a sin) and entering a church is the double sin of sacrilege, because a sacred place has been profaned because of the immodesty. Who does a person think he or she is? What contempt must a person have for the thrice-holy God to prance right into His presence dressed in such a way that contributes to or causes the sin of lust in some and provokes anger in the hearts of others? What reasonable person would not be offended by immodesty in a church? "Let your *modesty* be known by all. The Lord is near.", St. Paul once wrote (Philippians 4:5). He might have rephrased it this way and meant the same thing: "The justice of God will be applied to the immodest!" Such words trouble our conscience (as they should), but didn't Our Lady of Fatima indicate that the majority of souls in Hell are there because of impurity? We must not be lead into thinking that modesty is unimportant. It ... is ... a ... virtue. I conclude this topic today by drawing your attention to the guidelines for proper attire presently in force in the basilicas in Rome. People dressed in immodest clothing (e.g., shorts, sleeveless shirts, etc. – these are for both men and women) are refused entrance. And get this: Pope Francis is the one who has been enforcing the dress code. The dress code has actually been around for many years now, but it was not strictly enforced until Pope Francis was elected. Can we not see in this that immodesty, especially inside of a church, is seriously sinful?

Considerations for Mardi Gras

Last Sunday I mentioned how some use Mardi Gras as an excuse to give themselves over to the sins of the flesh, most notably, *drunkenness*. Let me restate it again, in writing today, so that there is no confusion: In and of itself, there is nothing immoral about participating in Mardi Gras. But, what is disordered (read: sinful) is the intemperance, let alone, all out drunkenness. These must be avoided for the welfare of the soul. Additionally, keep in mind that if a person intends to commit a sin one day because he knows he can confess it the next, he is committing the sin of sacrilege. Such a person is not truly sorry for the sin and thereby commits the sin of *sacrilege* by making a bad confession.

Along these lines, I recently spoke to a gentleman whose wife is a non-Catholic Christian. He told me: "She doesn't understand Catholics. She's confused about how Catholics act with things like Mardi Gras." (He was referring to the debauchery that's so common.) I answered him: "I don't understand them either!" It is impossible to reconcile acting like a drunken fool and being Catholic. It is a *scandal* when Catholics act like this. These actions mar the Body of Christ and make it very difficult for non-Catholics to recognize the Catholic Church as the Bride of Christ, as established by the Lord Himself as the ordinary means of the salvation for the entire human race. As the time has come for those who participate in Mardi Gras to prepare for its festivities, I leave you with the words of St. Paul:

"Do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do *not* get drunk ... for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit." (Ephesians 5:15-18)

"The works of the flesh are plain: fornication [i.e., premarital sex], impurity, licentiousness [i.e., excessive spending], idolatry, sorcery [i.e., contraception], enmity, strife [i.e., fighting], jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, party spirit, envy, *drunkenness*, carousing [i.e., disorderly conduct], and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." (Galatians 5:19-21)