

## Fifth Sunday – Season of the Year

### MASSES & INTENTIONS

#### SATURDAY, February 4, 2017

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

**4:30 P.M. MASS** – Frances Meaux, Melca Manuel, Jeremy Rider, Louanna McGee, Keith LeJeune, Living & Dec. family of Helin McCauley, Juan A. Lucero Ruiz, Milagros Castellano Perek, Guillermo Conseugra Garcia, Manuela Travieso Rodriguez, Juan A. Lucero Castellano

#### SUNDAY, February 5, 2017

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

**10:00 A.M. MASS** – Edward Maddox, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Roselyn Victorian, Members of St. Martha Guild, Jeanette Hornsby

#### MONDAY, February 6, 2017

**NO MASS**

#### TUESDAY, February 7, 2017

**5:30 P.M. MASS** – John C. Duiro

#### WEDNESDAY, February 8, 2017

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – Jervy Vizena

#### THURSDAY, February 9, 2017

**5:30 P.M. MASS** – Jack Johnson

#### FRIDAY, February 10, 2017

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – Carl Kibodeaux

#### SATURDAY, February 11, 2017

**4:30 P.M. MASS** – Frances Meaux, George & Clara Schneider, Jeremy Rider, Keith LeJeune, Marvin & Sheryl Banks, Freddie & Becky Gorman, Darrell, Eloise & Greg Reed, John C. Durio, Sonnier Fly.

#### SUNDAY, February 12, 2017

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

**10:00 A.M. MASS** – Edward Maddox, Dreau Granger, Weston Monceaux, Sr., Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Augustine Goodley, Roislyn, Dwight & Gracie Gradney, Arson Victorian, Agnes Victorian

**Collection for 1/22/17**

**\$3,511.00**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for Latin America**

**\$386.13**

**Last Week's Collection**

**\$2,969.80**

### 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 Cottongin, Aiden Darbonne, Carol Deshotel, Jackie Deville, Jabe Doyle, Pochie Duplechain, David Fontenot, Donald Fontenot, Justin Fontenot, Mary Ophelia Fontenot, Paul Fontenot, Rodney 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, Reed McIver, Bonnie McNabb, Patricia Mikas, Rita & Billy Miller, Charles Mancil, Joy Mancil, Ray Marcantel, Trista Marler, Brandy McCarty, Louanna McGee, 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, Ronnie Ramos, Ashton Read, Ann Reed, Cheryl Reed, Sara Reed & Fly., Lynda Reed, Ervin Reed, Leonard Richard, Sharon, Richard, Jonathan, Hayley, Jayden, ryleigh, Skylie, 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, Remy Spring, Kolton Squier, Leah Squier, Margie Smith, Donald Paul Sonnier, Barbara Strickland, Kelly Strother, Lucille Strother, Carl Tarver, Kenneth Taylor, Celeman Thomas, Matthew Truman, Dollyanna Victorian, Zachary Villereal, Linda Voeller, JoAnn Welch, Robbie Willis, Odelia & Ernest Wilson, Nicole Young, Theresa 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** – Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Brandon

**Vocations Cross** – Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Brandon

### Divine Intimacy Reading Guide

Feb. 5 <sup>th</sup> – Feb. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Entry Number
Sunday	70
Monday	71
Tuesday	72
Wednesday	73
Thursday	74
Friday	75
Saturday	76
Sunday	77

### This Week @ SJoA

- ❖ Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> – **R.C.I.A. at 8:45 A.M.**
- ❖ Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> – Ladies Altar Society meeting after 5:30 P.M. Mass
- ❖ **Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> – ADORATION 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.; CCD and Youth Group**

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### FROM FATHER CONNER

#### Work Days at St. Joseph in Lent

I want to invite parishioners to join us for *workdays at St. Joseph* on Saturdays during the Season of Lent. These workdays will be each Saturday during Lent. They will begin at **8:30 am** and conclude at **12:00 pm**. I ask that you mark your calendars and plan on joining us. In the next few bulletins I will list what you will need to bring for the work. These work days will help us get St. Joseph ready once again for use!

#### Update on Return to the Lord

Recently I received an update on our final pledge numbers for the Diocesan Capital Campaign. We have **110 families** who have made a pledge. The total of our pledges from SJoA is **\$241,208.41**. Thus far **\$36,877.09** has been made in payment from the families of SJoA to the diocese. I thank you all sincerely for generously supporting the Diocese of Lake Charles. These funds will be used for many crucial ministries, such as educating future Priests, a youth retreat center, Catholic Charities, and foundational repairs to the Diocesan Cathedral. We are truly preparing for our future with this campaign! And don't forget: **20%** of these funds comes back to SJoA. They will help us to make much needed repairs to SJoA and get St. Joseph up and running again!

#### A New Sacristan!

We joyfully welcome Miss **Erin Manuel** as a new sacristan! Like the new altar boys and young ladies in the choir, Erin is one of the *many* new young parishioners getting more involved in parochial life. Seeing so many active youngsters is a positive sign, a sign of hope! For this we thank the good God!

# **WHAT WE BELIEVE...WHY WE BELIEVE IT**

## **A TRUE AMERICAN HERO**

During a desperate battle on Guadalcanal in World War II, an American soldier threw himself on a Japanese grenade that landed among his mortar crew. The soldier survived the blast, but was horribly wounded and maimed.

The chaplain visited the young man in an army hospital and asked him, "Why did you take that million to one chance and risk your life that way?"

The soldier smiled and replied, "It was like this, Father: I had gone to confession that morning, so I was ready to die, but I didn't know if the other guys were ready."

This great American hero drives home a point about death and our need for confession perfectly. Death is the most rude of all visitors. He never announces himself, and he always comes when we least expect and are least prepared for his visit. Even if we won't go to confession regularly because we are sorry for having offended God, we should at least prepare ourselves for that most dreaded visitor: Death.

"But, Joe," you say, "I'm not a bad person. Why do I need to go to confession regularly?" Obviously I can't be your conscience, but I do have a good understanding of human nature. After all, I'm a human...believe it or not. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to recognize that Catholics aren't utilizing the confessional as they should. We live in a culture where what was once viewed by polite society as wrong is today the norm. We think nothing of dressing immodestly, using artificial contraception, or even fudging on our taxes. Yet virtually everyone goes to Communion at Mass, but hardly anyone shows up for confession.

All of our sins—original and actual, in the case of an adult—were washed away in Baptism, but that sacrament of initiation doesn't protect us from the sins committed afterward. Jesus understands human nature perfectly, because He both created it and lived it, so He established the sacrament of Penance so we could find reconciliation to God from the sins we commit after Baptism.

As we mentioned some weeks ago, all sacraments have both matter and form. The matter of Penance is the penitent and his sins. What sort of matter would be considered worthy of confession? Well, just randomly poking through the written examination of conscience in front of me, I'll ask you a few of those questions and you can decide if you perhaps need to go to confession: "Have you refused to believe anything the Church teaches?" "Have you omitted your daily prayers?" "Have you used God's name carelessly?" "Have you failed to attend Mass on any Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation?" "Have you disobeyed your parents (children) or other lawful authority (adults)?" "Have you allowed anger to turn into resentment?" "Have you been intoxicated?" "Have you willfully entertained impure thoughts?" "Have you kept something you borrowed beyond the agreed upon period, or for an unreasonable time?" "Have you listened with pleasure to the exposure of the faults of others?" "Have you failed to fast or abstain when you were not excused by a sufficient reason?" These are just a few of the things to ask ourselves.

We should never allow shame or fear to prevent us from confessing our sins, especially mortal sins. Speaking from a purely human standpoint, I can understand how tempting it is to withhold a sin in confession. I've been tempted more than a few times myself. However,

our logic and reason tell us such shame and fear are superfluous. The priest who hears our confession is acting *in persona christi*; the person of Christ. In other words, it is actually Christ to whom we are confessing our sins.

Furthermore, the priest is bound by the *seal of confession*. That means he can never tell a soul—including his own confessor—anyone's confession. Indeed, many priests have been jailed, tortured, and murdered rather than divulge the contents of a penitent's confession. The seal of confession even extends to the point that a priest can't use the knowledge gained from a confession for any reason. Let me illustrate that point.

Let's say that Fr. Patrick has appointed Judas Avarice to oversee the parish finances. One day, Judas goes to confession and tells Father that he has embezzled \$250,000 from parish funds. Since Judas must replace the money to satisfy God's justice, Fr. Patrick tells Judas he must replace the money. However, there are two things Father *absolutely cannot* do. He cannot tell the police and have Judas prosecuted, as that would violate the seal of confession.

Furthermore, Father cannot later replace Judas in his position, as this would be acting upon knowledge gained in the confessional. The seal of confession is that strict!

Now let's get back to being tempted to withhold a mortal sin in confession. If a penitent deliberately omits the confession of a mortal sin he commits the additional mortal sin of sacrilege, risking eternal punishment. Furthermore, he leaves the confessional without having *any of his sins forgiven*. In order to be forgiven and reconciled to God, the penitent must confess the sin of sacrilege, any Communions received since the sacrilege (which is itself a sacrilege to be confessed), all the sins of his sacrilegious confession(s), and all the mortal sins committed since. Whew! It's a lot easier to avoid the sacrilegious confession in the first place. (A little tip I learned is, when you're tempted to omit a mortal sin in confession, just tell the priest you're being tempted and the temptation will flee.)

Now, sometimes people simply forget to confess a mortal sin. Don't try to play games with God, as He knows the truth, but if you genuinely forget to confess a mortal sin during confession it's still okay to go to Communion, as God forgave the sin because you made a good confession and didn't deliberately omit the mortal sin. However, know with moral certitude that you are obligated to confess the forgotten mortal sin the next time you go to confession...as soon as possible.

Finally, most Catholics think the priest *must* forgive your sins. No, not necessarily. Jesus gave His priests a decision making power in the confessional, and a priest may withhold absolution if the penitent shows no sign of sorrow for his mortal sins, or if he indicates he won't break with the sin. For example, a man confesses several acts of adultery because he has a mistress. The priest tells the man he must break off the adulterous relationship. The man refuses. The priest would be within his right and doing his duty to refuse absolution.

The sacrament of Penance is also called Reconciliation and Confession. Next week we will take a final look at this wonderfully merciful sacrament so that you can know What We Believe...Why We Believe It. Got a question? Go to [JoeSixpackAnswers.com](http://JoeSixpackAnswers.com).

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