

Third Sunday of Advent

MASSES & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2017

4:30 P.M. MASS – Elmo Smith, Jeremy Rider, David Dugas, Dec. Members of Horton & Berlinger Fly., Fran Meaux, Bernard Aguiard, Keith LeJeune, Lindsey Guillory, Richard Young, Liv. & Dec. members of Mougeot & Aguiard Fly., Helin & JoAnn Guillory, Semonia Harmon & Fly., Evelyn Sandell, Jean Manuel, Lucy Allemand

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Angelle L. Durio, Linda LeJeune, Dreau Granger, Weston Monceaux, Sr., Lucas Orsot, Marvin Banks, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Carol Deshotel, M/M Clegg Chaumont, Charles, Thad & Matt Mancil, Errol Deshotels, Bernard Fontenot, Cathy Briscoe Marcantel, Fr. Jacob S. Conner

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017

6:30 A.M. MASS – D.C. Reed, Jr.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2017

6:30 A.M. MASS – Dr. Peggy Allemand

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2017

6:30 A.M. MASS – Carol Deshotel

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2017

6:30 A.M. MASS – Dorothy Tucker

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2017

4:30 P.M. MASS – Jeremy Rider, John C. Durio, Catherine Papillion, Fran Meaux, Bernard Aguiard, Keith LeJeune, Liv. & Dec. Etienne Bergeron Fly., Elias & Berlis Thibodeaux Liv. & Dec. Orlene & Wilton Richard, Charles & Elizabeth Klein Liv. & Dec., Casper & Techla Berken Liv. & Dec., Richard Young, Rudolph Johnson, Evelyn Sandell

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Gene & Velma Brakel, Joe, Mildred, Hosey, Florence & Francis Guillory, Andrus J. & Ella Mae Frilot, Marvin Banks, Sox Gordon, M/M Neville Vizena, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, M/M Clegg Chaumont, Taylor & Remy Fly, Liv. & Dec., Carol Deshotel

Last Week's Collection

\$3,907.70

Retirement Fund for Diocesan Priests (Quota - \$1,208.00)

\$676.92

2nd Collection Next Weekend – Christmas Charities

PRAYER LIST

Phil Beard, Charles Beaubouef, Quintan Bell, Joan Bertrand, Alvin & Sonja Billodeaux, Pauline Boudreaux, Bruce & Diana Brakel, Brandon Bridgwel, Douglas Briscoe, Lincoln & Louise Briscoe, Margaret Briscoe, Ambrose Bushnell, Bernice Bushnell, Helen Bushnell, Steve & Roxane Campbell, Kristin Carlton, David & Natalie Carrier, Rosabelle Carrier, Megan Cart, Linda Beaubouef Cazes, Ailene Chapman, Vivian Cole Fly., Florence Comeaux, Richard Cooper, Virginia Cottongin, Jay Crittle, Aiden Darbonne, Rynree Darbonne, Shaun Darbonne, Jackie Deville, Cindy Dowies, Jabe Doyle, Amy Duplechain, Bryker Fontenot, David Fontenot, Mary O. Fontenot, Paul Fontenot, Steven Fontenot, Verlis Fontenot, Zaylen Frank, Tim Germany, Daniel Goodley & Fly., Mary Ann Goodley, Phielomone Goodly, Freddy & Becky Gorman, Bruce Granger, Jr., Jennifer Granger, Linda Green, Victoria Guillory, Bob Haas, Harrison Harmon, Joseph Harmon, Mildred Harmon, Ester Harmon, Sunni Hurst, Charlene Ireland, John, Shenita & Perella Jackson, Grady Johnson, Joey James, Brayden Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Paul LaFleur, Kristen Labauve, Charles Lacey, Essie Langley, Grayce LaRacca, Dwain LeBleu, Tina Lantier, Lou, Joseph, & Adam LeJeune, Willie Mae LeJeune, Doc Lowe, Benny Manuel, Kevin Manuel, LuLu Manuel & Fly., Pat Manuel & Fly., Reed McIver, Bonnie McNabb, Patricia Mikas, Rita & Billy Miller, Ray Marcantel, Trista Marler, Brandy McCarty, Christina McNutt, Ronald Meaux, Russell Meaux, Clifford Montou, Glen Morgan, Carolyn Morgan, Frank Mougeot, Andrew Norwood, Nicholas Odum, Debbie & Phil Owen & Fly., Joey Owen, Martel & Gabriella Papillion, Howard Patin, Hannah Popillion, Linda & Don Potier, Jimmy Prudhomme, Ena Prudhomme Fly., Erin Ramos, Renaldo & Kathy Ramos, Ashton Read, Reid Redlich, Ann Reed, Cheryl Reed, Dora Reed, Gary Reed, Lynda Reed, Irving Reed, Sandra Reed, Octavia Reeves & Fly., Will Reid, Sharon, Richard, Jonathan, Hayley, Jayden, Ryleigh, Skylie, Jackson, Martha, Rusty, and Patsy Rider, Janice Rider, Salis Rider, Vera Ross, Fr. Fred Russi, Evelyn Sandell, Tina Sapienza, Quentin Savoie, Sister Ann

Margaret Savant, Tucker Scimemi, Celeman Thomas, Dollyanna Victorian, Dana Vidrine, Steve Vidrine, Joseph Vizena, Linda Voeller, JoAnn Welch, Odelia & Ernest Wilson, Nicole Young, Theresa Young

Vocations Candle and Cross – Mrs. Phielimone Goodley

SJoA Christmas Mass Schedule ...

Monday, December 25th

12:00 am	Midnight Mass (confessions 1 hour prior)
7:30 am	Mass (confessions 1 hour prior)
10:00 am	Mass (confessions 1 hour prior)

“A Sweet Year” Winner

Congratulations to Mrs. Gerry Beaubouef who won the Sweet Year Raffle put on by the Ladies Altar Society.

Poinsettias for Christmastide

Poinsettia donations of \$30 are being accepted in memory of or in honor of a loved one in the collection or bring it to the church office.

Youth Evening of Fun

SJoA will have a Bonfire/Cookout and Game night for Grades 6 – 12 on Thursday, December 21st from 6 – 9 P.M. Donations of items for Smores, hotdogs and hot dog buns are being accepted in the rectory.

This Week @ SJoA

- ❖ Tuesday, December 19th – Choir Practice at 5:30 P.M
- ❖ **Wednesday, December 20th – ADORATION; CCD and Youth Group**

FROM FATHER CONNER

New Prayer Sheets in Pews

Revised prayer sheets are now in the pews. Some of the prayers remain unchanged, but you'll find a few new ones have been inserted in place of others. I would note two prayers in particular: the *Archbishop Binz's Prayer for Vocations* and *Bishop Provost's Prayer for Priestly Vocations*. Starting next weekend, we will begin praying these two prayers before each weekend Mass for the foreseeable future. I will say more about this during holy Mass today.

Hand Missal Recommendations

I recently made the recommendation that you give serious consideration to purchasing a “hand missal.” Today I'd like to share with you the two publishers I think you should consider. For Mass in the Ordinary Form, I recommend the edition from *Midwest Theological Form*. For the Extraordinary Form, I recommend *Baronius Press*. There are many merits for owning a hand missal: they have all the prayers of the Mass, many devotional prayers, and aids for the spiritual and moral life. SJoA is interesting in helping you obtain a hand missal in the most economical way possible. We've worked out special pricing for the books and are happy to help you save money. For the OF hand missal, the price is \$35.00. It is \$40.00 for the EF. This is roughly half of the cost you will pay in the store. Please call the rectory if you are interested.

Small Detail for Mass this Week

For those who attend daily Mass, please know that the EF Mass this Wednesday (Dec. 20th) will be moved up to this Monday (Dec. 18th). This is a one-time “Mass swap”. Thanks for understanding.

WHAT WE BELIEVE...WHY WE BELIEVE IT

UNTAMED TONGUES

One of Farmer Jones' neighbors came to him one day and said, "Johnny Little took a wagon load of apples from your orchard."

"Did you see it?" asked the farmer.

"No, but Joe Williams told me about it."

Farmer Jones when to Joe Williams and asked him, "Did you see Johnny Little take a wagon of apples from my orchard?"

"Heavens, no! What I heard was that he took a wheelbarrow full of apples. It was Henry Anderson who told me that."

When Farmer Jones asked Henry about it, he replied, "All I said was he took a pocketful of apples. Nancy Adams told me that."

Farmer Jones asked Nancy Adams, who said, "Johnny Little was talking to me the other day and said your apples were ripe and that it was about time somebody picked them."

This is typical of how bad things get started. Because people like to embellish what they hear, by the time a simple comment made it to Farmer Jones it had become a major theft. This sort of thing tempts Farmer Jones to anger and possible rash judgment, and the growing stories could do nothing good for Johnny Little's reputation.

This falls under the 8th Commandment—"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor"—and it is certainly sinful.

Before we begin to examine the 8th Commandment, I have a couple of confessions to make.

First, this is the commandment I have the most trouble with in being obedient. The 8th Commandment covers a lot of different things—as you'll soon see—much more than just lying. Although tempted like everyone else, I have no trouble with telling the truth. It's just several of the other things covered by this commandment.

Second, the 8th Commandment is the hardest commandment of them all to understand in all its implications...and most certainly the hardest to obey. I spend more time trying to get this one right than any of the others. This concerted effort makes it easy to understand why we say we are "practicing" Catholics.

The 8th Commandment is probably the most commonly violated of all the commandments, so there is no way we're going to get it all covered this week. Most people think it only covers honesty, but that isn't nearly all it covers. The 8th Commandment forbids false witnessing, lying, rash judging, rash suspicions, flattery, tale bearing, detractions, calumny, contumely, libel, and the telling of secrets we are obliged to keep. It obliges us to always be truthful, especially when it concerns someone's good name and reputation. It also obliges us to interpret the actions of our neighbor in the best possible way.

Let's begin by defining a lie. A lie is anything we know or suspect to be untrue, usually for the purpose of deceiving others. And there's no such thing as a "white lie". "Man tends by nature toward the truth."(*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2467) It's a perversion of man's nature to tell a lie, because God

made man to know and tell the truth. Therefore, no excuse can make the telling of a lie good, since lying in itself is sinful. A basic principle of moral theology is, *we may never commit an evil that good may come from it*. That includes the so-called "white lie". It doesn't matter what anyone or anything else says about lying (specifically, the shameful ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court that police officers can lie to a suspect or one being questioned to get a confession or otherwise get at the truth), we must obey God rather than man.

Moral theology also gives us something called a jocose lie. A jocose lie isn't really a lie at all. It's a story made up in order to amuse or instruct others—such as Jesus' parables or a joke. A jocose lie only becomes sinful if the story-teller fails to make it clear in some way that the story isn't to be taken literally.

There is also such a thing as a lie in action. Lying in action is called hypocrisy. A good example is when a parent tells a child to "do as I say, not as I do."

The next one on our list is rash judging. This is believing something harmful about someone's character without a sufficient reason. For example, you may have a convicted felon attending your parish, and you automatically think he should be shunned and otherwise made to feel uncomfortable enough to go elsewhere. You would be rashly judging his character without sufficient reason. Do you know for a fact he was guilty of the crime? Even if he was, what is his behavior like now? Can people change? Of course they can. Don't forget, St. Paul was guilty of murdering Christians prior to his conversion. So the best rule of thumb is, take each person where he's at and determine his character by how he deals with you personally and how you observe him with others. Rash judging is wrong because such disrespect of someone's reputation equates to disrespect of the person being rashly judged, and *everyone* deserves our respect.

There are also sins that can be committed by telling the truth. What!? Did I just say that? Really? Yup. Those sins are called tale bearing and detraction.

Tale bearing is telling someone the unkind things others have said about him or her. This is sinful because it provokes a person to anger, hatred, revenge, and other sins.

Detraction is acting without an objectively valid reason to tell "another's faults and failings to persons who did not know them."(Ibid, 2477) Now, we may tell the faults of another to the proper authority —teachers, parents, police, etc.—if we believe the wrongdoer can be helped or stopped from further wrong doing, or to keep the wrongs from becoming worse. It's important to stress, though, we should be more concerned with seeing a sinner break with sin than to see the sinner punished.

Next week, we'll continue our examination of the 8th Commandment. Just know and understand now that all of this only scratches the surface of this demanding commandment of God.

This is What We Believe...Why We Believe It.