

Twentieth Sunday in the Season of the Year

MASSES & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, August 13, 2016

6:00 P.M. MASS – Cecile Sonnier, Hubert & Doris Ryder, Sox Gordon, Jeanette Hornsby, Police Officers & Firemen

SUNDAY, August 14, 2016

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Margaret Karam, Stacey Beaubouef, Leonard Beaubouef, Tush Strother, Paul Thomas, Sr. & Deceased Fly. members, John Essie Victorian, Jolyn Tatum Slate, Edward Maddox, Jennifer Sonnier, Deacon Norris & Sandra Chapman, Dallas Courville, Kermit Sonnier, Sr., Arsan & Agnes Victorian, Gracie, Dalmus & Dwight Gradney, Jr.

MONDAY, August 15, 2016

6:30 A.M. MASS – D.C. Reed, Jr.

TUESDAY, August 16, 2016

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, August 17, 2016

6:30 A.M. MASS – Robert James Severinsen (Requiem Mass)

THURSDAY, August 18, 2016

NO MASS

FRIDAY, August 19, 2016

6:30 A.M. MASS – Claiborne Durio

SATURDAY, August 20, 2016

6:00 P.M. MASS – Evelyn Manuel, Hubert Bertrand, J.C. & Bertha Smith, Emily Adams, Eve Smith Guilbeau

SUNDAY, August 21, 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., Msgr. Joseph Bourque, Edward Maddox, Jennifer Sonnier, Jeanette Hornsby, Dallas Courville, Kermit Sonnier, Sr., Police Officers & Firemen, Linda LeJeune

Last Week's Collection

\$4,813.22

2nd Collection: Aid to Church in Central & Eastern Europe

\$314.32

PRAYER LIST FOR JULY, AUGUST, & SEPTEMBER

Enola Ballard, Marvin Banks, Phil Beard, Dianne Beaubouef, Charles Beaubouef, Gerry Beaubouef, Joan Bertrand, Alvin & Sonja Billodeaux, Bruce & Diana Brakel, Douglas Briscoe, 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, Mary Ophelia Fontenot, Paul Fontenot, Rodney Fontenot, Steven Fontenot, Verlis Fontenot, Tim Germany, Rita Gordon, Freddy & Becky Gorman, Rachael Granger, 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, 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, Christina McNutt, Fran & Ronnie Meaux, Russell Meaux, Janice Moreau, Nicholas Odum, 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, Rev. Fred Russi, Evelyn Sandell, Tina Sapienza, 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 – David & Dana Thibodeaux

Vocations Cross – Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Granger

Bazaar Meeting

There will be a bazaar meeting Monday, August 22, 2016, at 6:00 P.M. in the St. Joseph's room in the Parish Hall. Everyone is invited to begin the planning for the bazaar that takes place November 12th & 13th.

St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul has school supplies and school uniforms available. They are open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. or come by the rectory if not open.

Invitation to the Women's Prayer Luncheon

Bishop Glen John Provost invites the ladies of the Diocese of Lake Charles to the Women's Prayer Luncheon, Wednesday, September 7, 2016, at 11:30 A.M. at the Ave Marie Hall across from the Immaculate Conception Cathedral. This year's topic is the Letter to the Romans Chapters 1 - 2. The cost of the luncheon is \$15.00 per person. Checks should be made out to the Diocese of Lake Charles and mailed to Gaynell Carrier, Diocese of Lake Charles, 414 Iris Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601. Please enclose a self-addressed and stamped envelope to be used to send your ticket to you. The deadline for receipt of your paid reservation is Friday, September 2. The remaining luncheons for this series are: October 5, 2016, November 2, 2016, January 4, 2017, February 1, 2017, March 8, 2017, April 5, 2017, and May 3, 2017.

Glad Tidings Program

Sunday, August 21, 2016 – **Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time:** Reverend Edward Richard, M.D., Pastor of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church in Sulphur, reads the Gospel of the day from St. Luke (13:22-30) and preaches on that scripture. The news segment brings you stories of the diocese, the region, the state and the world.

Veritas

Join us at *Veritas* September 10th to learn how to communicate your Catholic Faith. Please register by August 26th. Registration forms are available at the entrance of the church.

This Week @ SJoA

- ❖ Sunday, August 14th – Ultreya at 5:00 P.M.
- ❖ Sunday, August 14th – Solemn Holy Hour at 6:00 P.M.
- ❖ Monday, August 15th – **Office Closed for the Solemnity of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- ❖ Thursday, August 18th – **NO MASS**
- ❖ Thursday, August 18th – Holy League: Men's Prayer Group
- ❖ **Friday, August 19th – ADORATION 7:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

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RETURN TO THE LORD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

How is the Return to the Lord Capital Campaign different from the Bishop's Service Appeal?

The Bishop's Services Appeal will continue during the *Return to the Lord* Capital Campaign to provide annual, operating support to or important ministries, offices and programs. The BSA and parish assessments provide a base level of funding that allows our ministries, offices and programs to do their good work from year to year. The *Return to the Lord* Capital Campaign focuses on long-term, strategic priorities that can only be addressed through an extraordinary effort. Together, the two efforts will strengthen our parishes and ministries this year and for years to come. If you would like more information, please visit the campaign website at campaign.lcdiocese.org
As we reflect upon the *Return to the Lord* Capital Campaign and the future of our Catholic community, may we continue to find the courage to open our hearts to Christ's plan, the grace to work together and the generosity to share our gifts with others.

FROM FATHER CONNER

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

A sign-up sheet for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays is at the main entrance of the church. **WE NEED PARISHIONERS TO COMMIT TO TAKING ONE HOUR EACH WEDNESDAY.** This commitment is for each **Wednesday, beginning September 21st** going through **Wednesday, May 3, 2017.** (*There are, of course, a few Wednesdays during this time when there will be no adoration – e.g. Ash Wednesday, the Wednesday just after Christmas day, the Wednesday just after New Year's day, to name a few.*)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is key to the renewal of our world. (*See Bishop Provost's comments on conversion just below on this page.*) Our world has problems. Our community has problems. Our families have problems. **We** have problems. We need God, and He is here for us, but are we *really* interested in His help? Of course, we all say, yes, but how you answer this invitation to adoration will likely reveal whether or not that's only lip service.

So then, *will you commit to an hour each Wednesday?* If not, why not? The impossibility due to a work schedule is one thing – some things can't be helped. Indifference is quite another – and there's not much God can do for an indifferent person. God *is* here for us, though, but *we* must go to Him. Not occasionally, but daily, and with things such as adoration, regularly. We act "unreasonably," says St. John Vianney, when we care only for temporal matters. This body we have; the world in which we live. They will fade away ... but the soul (yours and mine), lasts forever. How much care do we give to our soul? We only have one, and it is immortal. Do we care for it sufficiently?

Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, waits for your visit. He has not shut Himself up in that golden tabernacle (behind the altar) to be alone in this church. No. He is here for you. St. Therese of Lisieux tells us that Our Lord wants to abide with us and in us. **AS SUCH, I CHALLENGE EACH AND EVERY PARISHIONER TO COMMIT TO AN HOUR OF ADORATION THIS YEAR.** The graces God will bestow on you are immense: *peace* (in your soul, in your home), *conversion* (of yourself and others you love from sin), and *joy*. These are but a few that come to my mind when I think of the graces Jesus regularly grants through adoration. Yes, if we commit to Him, He will help us ... of that, we can be certain.

CCD News

Registration: The first day of catechism is **Wednesday, September 7th**. If you have not registered your children (*\$15 per child*), call the Rectory; please do so ASAP.

Class times: Here are times for CCD this year:

Grades 1-5 ... 4:00 – 5:20 pm

Grades 6-11 ... 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Youth Group: A reminder that SJoA has a Youth Group that meets each Wednesday when there's CCD. Youth group is open to grades 8-12. It meets from 5:00 – 6:00 pm. Mrs. Corinne is an excellent youth group leader and this year we have more substantial and interesting Catholic materials for the youth. I encourage parents of children in grades 8-12 to register them in youth group. Please call the Rectory Office to register. There is no charge.

On the Need for Conversion

By Bishop Glen John Provost, M.A., D.D.

We need a prophetic call to conversion. Horrific acts of violence and terrorist attacks only seem to increase around the world, in our nation, and in our communities. I touched upon this topic and our response to it in my pastoral letter on **Friday abstinence** last year (September 4, 2015). In this letter, I mentioned that many good people request that

we have a "day of prayer and fasting" in response to some tragic event. **For Catholics every Friday should be a day of prayer and fasting.** We should not think of God as we do an insurance policy, only when we pay our premium or collect benefits.

The failures of the human condition are an ever-present reality. We cannot ignore them. God, on the other hand, has given us a remedy and a hope in His Son Jesus Christ. Our Lord called us to repentance, to acknowledge our sins, seek forgiveness, and change our lives. This is the fundamental message of the Gospels; if we forget this, we risk descending even further into this mire of incomprehensible chaos.

The call to conversion is on-going. We cannot relax our efforts, nor can we forget the need for God and His abiding presence in our midst, particularly in His Church and in Her Sacraments. Focus groups, sensitivity workshops and humanistic and secular solutions, as well-intentioned and somewhat effective as they may be, will not solve our problems, for the root of the problem is our alienation from God.

If we continue to ignore God, both His mercy and His justice, refusing to recognize Him as a personal God who abides with us, then I fear we will continue to see, as one commentator recently described it, our country at "half-mast". ***We need to stop thinking of God only when we need Him or in response to some tragedy.*** We cannot allow ourselves to compartmentalize religious faith, thinking of it only on Sundays or at church and then going about business as usual. ***Faith in Jesus Christ is a program for life, guiding our every action, inspiring our thoughts, and moving us to live morally.*** The reminder about Friday Penance in my letter of September 4, 2015, was an attempt to bring to our attention certain truths – that is, we are not perfect, we need to repent, God is always there for us and the day on which Jesus suffered and died is a good day to recall these truths. **If ever there existed an age that needed conversion, it is this one.**

The Assumption of Our Lady

This year the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Monday, Aug. 15th) is **not** a Day of Precept. Attendance at holy Mass is not required by law. Given the significance of the feast, however, (both theologically and historically) I recommend attending Mass if possible. We will have an OF Mass at 6:30 am at the altar of Our Lady.

The Bible and Tithing

What does the Bible teach about tithing? Does it teach anything? We might be surprised what we find if we start looking. This week we turn our attention to 'the beginning.'

Genesis 14:17-20 "After [Abram's] return from the defeat of Chedor-lao'mer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" ***And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.***"

Did You Know?

The Bishop's Services Appeal (BSA) begins in September. Do you know that our BSA goal is \$1,000.00 less this year than it was last year? Some many wonder why the BSA continues during the ***Return to the Lord*** Capital Campaign. This is a fair question. The answer is as simple as how we organize our own lives. A family, for example, has every day expenses (e.g., groceries) **and** future expense (e.g., putting aside money for college tuition). The Diocese of Lake Charles also has present and future responsibilities. The BSA makes it possible for the Diocese to meet its annual budget (*present* expenses), while the Capital Campaign looks ahead to the *future*. In other words, each is necessary.



The One True Church (Part IV) by Joe Sixpack

Last week, we began looking at the four marks of the Church; that is, that she is one. Today we will continue with the second mark, stating that the Church is holy. Before we do, however, we need to define the origin of the Church a little more deeply.

Have you ever wondered why the Catholic Church refers to herself as the Mystical Body of Christ? It comes from Sacred Scripture. St. Paul refers to the Church as the Body of Christ repeatedly (cf. 1 Cor. 12:12), but in order to understand why he does so, as well as its significance, we need to focus on Paul's conversion (Acts 9:1-6).

St. Paul, who prior to his conversion was called Saul, was a Pharisee and persecutor of Christians. At the time of his conversion, Saul was on his way to Damascus to arrest Christians when Jesus appeared to him in his glorified state. "Now as he journeyed he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed about him. And he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' And he said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting'" (Acts 9:3-5).

This encounter with Jesus apparently formed St. Paul's theology on the Church. Paul saw the Church was a divine institution, with Jesus as its head and we as its members. Indeed, Paul saw that Jesus Christ and His Church are one and the same. Notice that Jesus did not ask "Why do you persecute My followers?" or "Why do you persecute My Church?" He asked, "Why do you persecute *Me*?"

Jesus had ascended into heaven a long time before St. Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus, so Paul could not have been persecuting Jesus. The persecution was of His followers. But that isn't what Jesus says. Christ's words are clearly indicative that to persecute His followers is to persecute Him. This is why St. Paul taught that we are members of the Body of Christ—the Church—and He is its head. Paul understood that Jesus and His Church are one.

Since Jesus and His Church are one, and since Jesus is God—the second Person of the Trinity—then the Catholic Church is a living, breathing divine body. For a body to live, it must have a soul. The soul of the Church is the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity. This is why we can say that a true mark of the Catholic Church is that she is holy.

The Church teaches holy doctrine and gives her members the means of living holy lives, thus producing saints in every age (Eph. 5:25-27). The founders of other churches—Luther, Calvin,

Zwingli, Wesley—were but men, and in no way remarkable for heroic virtue. Our Founder is Jesus Christ, God Himself, the author and very definition of virtue.

The Catholic Church is holy, because of her intimate union with Christ as His Bride (Eph. 5:23-32) and His Mystical Body (1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 1:22; 4:12; 5:30). Catholics are a “chosen people” because they are branches of the true Vine, Jesus Christ (Jn. 15:5). Although people outside her fold may, through invincible ignorance, be members of the Church in desire, and thus share in her divine life, their churches are “cast forth as a branch and withers” (Jn. 15:6).

Yes, a mark of the Church is holiness, but does that mean we are all holy, or that the leaders of the Church on the various levels are holy? No, not necessarily. We are certainly all called to holiness, but we are humans who often “fail the test”.

For more than a decade now the Church has been ridden with scandals. Perhaps the biggest one has been the priest child abuse scandal. Many, both in and out of the Catholic Church, have pointed to that scandal and claimed loudly that this is proof that the Church is not holy. That is simply not true, and nobody demonstrates this better than St. Francis of Assisi.

St. Francis once came into a town to preach on its streets. He quickly learned that the people were not attending Holy Mass in the town’s only parish church. When he asked them why, they dragged the parish priest out before him...along with his paramour and three illegitimate children. While they berated the unfaithful priest, St. Francis quietly got down on his knees before the priest. He stayed in that position until the crowd grew silent. Then, barely above a whisper, St. Francis said, “Whether he is good for his own soul I do not know, *but my soul needs him.*”

St. Francis understood that the priest could be steeped in mortal sin, but it was only through him that the saint could receive the sacraments—as Jesus had established. As we will learn in future columns, Jesus established the sacraments so we can become holy, and He gave as the only avenue for administering these sacraments a priesthood. A priest may condemn his own soul to hell, but you and I cannot get to heaven without him, because Jesus gives us the necessary sanctifying grace through the sacraments administered by the priest.

In His sermon on the mount, Jesus gave us all a command: “You, therefore, must be *perfect*, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt. 5:48). Wow!

Notice that Jesus didn’t say we must strive for perfection. He said we *must* become *perfect*—as perfect as God Himself. How perfect is the Father? He is *infinitely perfect*. So how do we obey this command from God? We obey this command by living *all the truths of the Catholic faith*, and by receiving the sacraments often...especially by going to Confession and then to Communion when we know we are free of mortal sin.

Jesus, who understands us better than we understand ourselves because He created us, would never command us to do something impossible. He commanded us to be perfect; that is, holy...a saint. Yes, all of us. And he gave us the Church, her sacraments, and her holy priesthood for that purpose.

Resolve today to make a good examination of conscience and go to confession this week, after having made up your mind to obey Christ’s command to be perfect. You’ll be a lot happier and sleep much better. I promise.

Next week we will continue to look at the marks of the Church so you can know What We Believe...Why We Believe It.

Got questions? Go to JoeSixpackAnswers.com