

## Fourth Sunday – Season of the Year

### MASSES & INTENTIONS

#### SATURDAY, January 28, 2016

**4:30 P.M. MASS** – Helen Sweeney Kidd (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary), Frances Meaux, George & Clara Schneider, Pearl P. Fontenot, Martin Goodly, Jeremy Rider, Dwayne, Adam, & Wallace Meaux, Jr., Lester, Eula & Elmer Chatman, Sr., Louanna McGee, Keith LeJeune

#### SUNDAY, January 29, 2017

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

**10:00 A.M. MASS** – Edward Maddox, Joseph J.G. Berry, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Roselyn Victorian, Helen Sonnier, Glenn Sonnier, Roy & Elsie Frank

#### MONDAY, January 30, 2017

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – Fr. Jacob S. Conner

#### TUESDAY, January 31, 2017

**NO MASS**

#### WEDNESDAY, February 1, 2017

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – Dennis P. Reed

#### THURSDAY, February 2, 2017

**5:30 P.M. MASS** – Jerry W. Vizena

#### FRIDAY, February 3, 2017

**5:30 P.M. MASS** – Philip Courville

#### 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 & Deceased members of Helin McCauley Fly.

#### 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

**Last Week's Collection will be posted on next week's bulletin.**

### 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, Poochie 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 McMahan, 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, Skylië, 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, Coleman 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** – Semonia Harmon

**Vocations Cross** – Semonia Harmon

### Divine Intimacy Reading Guide

| Jan. 29 <sup>th</sup> – Feb. 5 <sup>th</sup> | Entry Number |
|--|--------------|
| Sunday                                       | 63           |
| Monday                                       | 64           |
| Tuesday                                      | 65           |
| Wednesday                                    | 66           |
| Thursday                                     | 67           |
| Friday                                       | 68           |
| Saturday                                     | 69           |
| Sunday                                       | 70           |

### Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

St. Joan of Arc congratulates Roy & Elsie Frank who celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.

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### This Week @ SJoA

- ❖ Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> – R.C.I.A. at 5:00 P.M.
- ❖ **Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> – ADORATION 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.; CCD and Youth Group**
- ❖ Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Candlemas at 5:30 P.M.; Men's Holy League: Holy Hour at 6:30 P.M.

### FROM FATHER CONNER

#### Welcoming new choir members

Recently we have had an influx of new voices in the choir. I want to thank these new members for their interest in singing at holy Mass and for their willingness to put in the work that is necessary for singing in the choir. All of us at SJoA are truly grateful for their generosity! Our newest choir members are:

1. April Duplechain
2. Jaidyn "J.J." Duplechain
3. Megan Manuel
4. Emma Meaux
5. Jillian Meaux
6. Jolie Pitre
7. Bradyn Runge
8. Gabriella "Gabby" Sharp
9. Sophia Sonsuz
10. Addie Thibodeaux

#### Did you know?

That the Second Vatican Council teaches that the Church's musical tradition forms one of her greatest treasures? Paragraph 112 of the document *Sacrosanctum Concilium* says this: "**The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art.**" That, my friends, is high praise! Rather than scoff at her "traditions," Vatican II exhorted us to have a renewed appreciation of our patrimony. (This is simply one example among many to which I could point in order to demonstrate that Vatican II didn't "change everything," as people so commonly – but mistakenly – say.) This same document of Vatican II, moreover, identified two types of sacred music that are especially appropriate for the Sacred Liturgy (i.e., the Mass): **Gregorian Chant** and **Sacred Polyphony** (cf. SC 116). Both of these, I would note, have a fundamental connection with the **Latin** language.

# ST. JOAN OF ARC FEBRUARY 2017

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue  | Wed  | Thu   | Fri   | Sat   |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|
|   |  |  | 1<br>6:30 A.M. Mass<br><b>7:00 A.M.–8:00 P.M. Adoration</b><br>9:15 A.M. Rosary at St. Frances N. H.<br><b>CCD &amp; Youth Group</b>   | 2<br>5:00 P.M. Rosary for Vocations<br>5:30 P.M. Mass<br><b>(Candlemas) Blessing of Candles followed by Holy Mass</b><br>6:30 P.M. Holy League: Holy Hour | 3<br><b>Day of Penance</b><br>6:30 A.M. Mass followed by blessing of throats (St. Blaise) | 4<br><b>8:00 A.M. Mass</b><br>4:30 P.M. Mass  |
| 5<br>7:30 A.M. Mass<br><b>8:45 A.M. R.C.I.A.</b><br>10:00 A.M. Mass   | 6<br><b>No Mass</b>                          | 7<br>5:30 P.M. Mass<br>Ladies Altar Society after Mass | 8<br>6:30 A.M. Mass<br><b>7:00 A.M.–8:00 P.M. Adoration</b><br>9:15 A.M. Rosary at St. Francis N.H.<br><b>CCD &amp; Youth Group</b>  | 9<br>5:30 P.M. Mass   | 10<br><b>Day of Penance</b><br>6:30 A.M. Mass   | 11<br>9am—12 pm Morning of Reflection for RCIA Catechumens at the Cathedral<br>4:30 P.M. Mass |
| 12<br>7:30 A.M. Mass<br>10:00 A.M. Mass<br>5:00 P.M. R.C.I.A.<br>5:00 P.M. Ultreya<br>6:00 P.M. Solemn Holy Hr. | 13<br>6:30 A.M. Mass<br>6:30 P.M. KC Meeting | 14<br><b>No Mass</b><br>7:00 P.M. Prison Apostolate    | 15<br>6:30 A.M. Mass<br><b>7:00 A.M.–8:00 P.M. Adoration</b><br>9:15 A.M. Mass at St. Francis N. H.<br><b>CCD &amp; Youth Group</b>  | 16<br>5:30 P.M. Mass<br>6:30 P.M. Holy League: Men's Prayer Group   | 17<br><b>Day of Penance</b><br>6:30 A.M. Mass   | 18<br>4:30 P.M. Mass  |
| 19<br>7:30 A.M. Mass<br>10:00 A.M. Mass<br>5:00 P.M. R.C.I.A.   | 20<br>6:30 A.M. Mass                         | 21<br><b>No Mass</b>                                   | 22<br>6:30 A.M. Mass<br><b>7:00 A.M.–8:00 P.M. Adoration</b><br>9:15 A.M. Rosary at St. Francis N.H.<br><b>CCD</b><br><b>NO YOUTH GROUP</b>  | 23<br>5:30 P.M. Mass<br>Latin Class after Mass  | 24<br><b>Day of Penance</b><br>6:30 A.M. Mass   | 25<br>4:30 P.M. Mass  |
| 26<br>7:30 A.M. Mass<br>10:00 A.M. Mass<br>NO R.C.I.A.  | 27<br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b><br><b>No Mass</b> | 28<br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b><br>5:30 P.M. Mass           | <b>MARCH 1</b><br>6:30 A.M. Mass<br><b>NO ADORATION</b><br>9:15 A.M. Rosary at St. Frances N. H.<br><b>12:05 P.M. Mass</b><br><b>6:00 P.M. Mass</b><br><b>NO CCD &amp; Youth Group</b> |   |   |   |



## The Power to Forgive Sins by Joe Sixpack

It was a dramatic event. It was Easter Sunday night, and the apostles were hiding in the upper room where Jesus had given them the Holy Eucharist just a few days earlier. They were hiding for fear of being arrested and murdered as Jesus had. Suddenly, Jesus stood in their midst. He said, “Peace be with you.” After saying this, He showed them the wounds in His hands and His side. “Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.’ And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’”<sup>1</sup>

This is one of the most astonishing events in the Gospel story! Let’s examine it closely.

After greeting the apostles, Jesus gave them a special commission. He said, “As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” Wow! What did the Father send Jesus to do? He sent Jesus to redeem mankind. That redemption was done on the cross, but now it had to be applied, so Jesus was sending the apostles to continue His work of redemption. He emphasized that point with what He did next.

Jesus next breathed on them. There are only two times in all of human history when God breathed on man. The first was when He breathed life into Adam. It was in the upper room when He did it a second time, but this time He breathed a different kind of life into the apostles. Indeed, He actually gave them a life enabling them to give life to us all for the sins we commit after Baptism.

After breathing a new life into the apostles, Jesus said one of the most profound things He’d ever said: “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” Many people claim Jesus was merely repeating His oft stated command that we are to forgive one another. They base it on the fact that He had said it so often that Peter finally asked Him how many times we must forgive. Jesus’ reply was that we must forgive seven times seventy, which means infinitely. But if you’ll read those many passages in the Gospels you’ll find Jesus was talking about sins committed by others *against us*. This is altogether different. Jesus isn’t saying the apostles have to forgive; He’s actually giving them a *choice* whether to forgive or not forgive.

In this passage of John, Jesus is giving the apostles a power never given to man before. He is telling the apostles that they have the *power to forgive sins*, not merely telling people they are forgiven.

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<sup>1</sup> John 20:19-23

Many non-Catholics opposed to the sacrament of Penance claim the Church invented the sacrament at the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215. Even if the Church's opponents were to completely discount the scriptural references to Confession, which they do, we should expect to find no historical evidence of the sacrament's existence prior to 1215. That is not the case.

Apart from further biblical references beyond the Gospels, there are many writings of the early Christians dating hundreds of years prior to 1215. St. Gregory the Great, who reigned from 590-604, writes: "The apostles, therefore, have received the Holy Spirit in order to loose sinners from the bonds of their sins. God has made them partakers of His right of judgment; they are to judge in His name and in His place. The bishops are the successors of the apostles, and, therefore, possess the same right."<sup>2</sup>

St. Caesarius of Arles (470-542) writes: "It is God's will that we confess our sins not only to Him but to men, and since it is impossible for us to be free from sin, we must never fail to have recourse to the remedy of Confession."<sup>3</sup> In a sermon on the last judgment the saint tells us "to escape damnation by making a sincere confession from the bottom of [our] hearts, and to fulfill the penance given by the priest".<sup>4</sup>

We could go on and cite many other early Church Fathers: Leo the Great (370-461), Augustine (354-430), Ambrose (340-397), Paulinus of Milan (395), and Origen (185-254). The point is, the evidence shows Confession has existed from that first Easter night in the upper room.

Because of the power Jesus gave to the priesthood, the priest actually does forgive our sins. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says that "[s]ince Christ entrusted to his apostles the ministry of reconciliation, bishops are their successors, and priests, the bishops' collaborators, continue to exercise this ministry. Indeed *bishops and priests*, by virtue of the sacrament of Holy Orders, *have the power to forgive all sins* 'in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'"<sup>5</sup>

In any sacrament in which a priest or bishop is the minister he acts *in persona christi*; that is, in the person of Christ. For a better understanding, bishops and priests hold a sort of special ambassadorship. If the U.S. Ambassador to Japan works out a certain agreement and signs it, it is the ambassador's negotiations and signature which make the agreement binding. However, the ambassador has acted in the person of the President of the United States.

So, too, does a priest or bishop act in the Sacrament of Penance. He hears the penitent's sins and makes a judgment call regarding those sins—a power granted by Christ in John 20:23—then grants absolution of those sins.

We will examine this sacrament in much greater detail in next week's installment of What We Believe...Why We Believe It.

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

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<sup>2</sup> Gregory the Great, *Homily 26*

<sup>3</sup> Caesarius, *Sermon 253:1*

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. *Sermon 211*

<sup>5</sup> CCC, 1461 (emphasis added)