

# First Sunday of Lent

## MASSES & INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, March 4, 2017

**7:00 A.M. MASS** – Sr. Zélie Thérèse of the Redeemer  
**4:30 P.M. MASS** – Fran Meaux, Jeremy Rider, Mr. & Mrs. Harris Ceaser, Living & Dec. Fly. of Helin McCauley, John C. Durio, Savannah & Curley Gradney, Sr., Bruce & Mary Esther Courville

### SUNDAY, March 5, 2017

**7:30 A.M. MASS** – *Pro Populo* (For the People)  
**10:00 A.M. MASS** – Edward Maddox, Members of St. Martha's Guild, James Yeagley, Jeanette Hornsby, Susana Beaubouef, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Juan A. Lucero Castellano, Juan A. Lucero Ruiz, Milagros Castellano Perez, Guillermo Consuegra Garcia, Manuela Travieso Rodriguez

### MONDAY, March 6, 2017

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – Dorick Durio & Kersler Granger

### TUESDAY, March 7, 2017

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – James "Jimmy" Sharp (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)

### WEDNESDAY, March 8, 2017

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – Robin Cormier

### THURSDAY, March 9, 2017

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – Roselyn Victorian

### FRIDAY, March 10, 2017

**5:30 P.M. MASS** – Bertha Andrepont

### SATURDAY, March 11, 2017

**5:30 P.M. MASS** – Fran Meaux, Jeremy Rider, George & Clara Schneider, Martin Goodly, John C. Durio, Gradney Fly., J.C. & Bertha Smith, Hubert Bertrand, Emily Adams, Savannah & Curley Gradney, Sr., Nakia (Nick) Ware

### SUNDAY, March 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, Joyce Fontenot, Roselyn Victorian

**Last Week's Collection**

**\$3,671.06**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection This Weekend - Black & Indian Missions**

## PRAYER LIST

Bernard Aguillard, Marvin Banks, Phil Beard, Charles 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, Ailene Chapman, Vivian Cole Fly., Florence Comeaux, Richard Cooper, Virginia Cottogin, Aiden Darbonne, Rynree Darbonne, Carol Deshotel, Jackie Deville, Cindy Doise, Jabe Doyle, Poochie Duplechain, David Fontenot, Donald Fontenot, Justin Fontenot, Mary Ophelia Fontenot, Steven Fontenot, Verlis Fontenot, Tim Germany, Elaine 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, Brian Manuel, Chip Manuel, Kevin Manuel, LuLu Manuel & Fly., Shirley Manuel, Trista Marler, Reed McIver, Bonnie McNabb, Patsy Meaux, Patricia Mikas, Rita & Billy Miller, Charles & Joy Mancil, Ray Marcantel, Trista Marler, Brandy McCarty, Christina McNutt, Ronald Meaux, Russell Meaux, Clifford Montou, Glen Morgan, Carolyn Morgan, Nicholas Odum, Howard Patin, Devin Pelt, Sally Pitre, Linda & Don Potier, Jimmy Prudhomme, Ena Prudhomme Fly., Erin Ramos, Ronnie Ramos, Ashton Read, Reid Redlich, Ann Reed, Cheryl Reed, Sarah Reed & Fly., Lynda Reed, Ervin Reed, Will Reid, Leonard Richard, Donald Rider, Sharon, Richard, Jonathan, Hayley, Jayden, Ryleigh, Skylie, Jackson, Martha, Rusty, and Patsy Rider, Salis Rider, Michael Roger, 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

## Divine Intimacy Reading Guide

Mar. 5 <sup>th</sup> – Mar. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Entry Number
Sunday	98
Monday	99
Tuesday	100
Wednesday	101
Thursday	102
Friday	103
Saturday	104
Sunday	105

## This Week @ SJoA

- ❖ Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> – Ladies Altar Society Catfish Dinner Fundraiser from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- ❖ Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Religion Intensive at 6:00 P.M.
- ❖ Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> – Ladies Altar Society at 5:30 P.M.
- ❖ **Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> – ADORATION 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.; CCD and Youth Group**
- ❖ Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – Latin Class at 6:00 P.M.
- ❖ Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> – Stations after 5:30 P.M. Mass
- ❖ Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> – St. Joseph's Work Day 8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.; **MASS MOVES TO 5:30 P.M.**

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## FROM FATHER CONNER

### Forty Hours Devotions for Vocations to the Sacred Priesthood

“The worthy Priest is an angel of purity in mind and body, a cherub of light and knowledge, a seraph of love and Charity, an apostle of zeal in work and sanctity, a little god on earth in power and authority, in patience and benignity. He is the living image of Christ in this world, of Christ watching, praying, preaching, catechizing, working, weeping, going from town to town, from village to village, suffering, agonizing, sacrificing Himself and dying for the souls created to His image and likeness ... He is the light of those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. He is the destroyer of error, schisms and heresies, the converter of sinners, the sanctifier of the just, the strength of the weak, the consolation of the afflicted, the treasure of the poor. He is the confusion of hell, the glory of heaven, the terror of demons, the joy of angels, the ruin of Satan's kingdom, the establishment of Christ's empire, the ornament of the Church.”

St. John Eudes provides us here with a startling reflection about what the Sacred Priesthood is (as a sacrament) and what each Priest should be (as a man). We note that St. John Eudes employed the qualifier “worthy” in his description, which we could use “holy” as a good equivalent. We certainly know from recent bad and sinful examples that a Priest can also be “unworthy.” Priests can, and do, sin. The frailty, imprudence, or even iniquitous examples of some (in reality, a very small number compared to the generous fidelity of so many good Priests) is regrettable, but this shouldn't cause us to lose sight of the tremendous gift God has bestowed on the Church in the Sacrament of Holy Orders. I continue to ask each and every one of you to sign up for an hour of prayer during **FORTY HOURS DEVOTIONS**, which begin next Sunday for our parish. Sign up sheets are at the main entrance of the church. As a Priest myself, I readily affirm that we Priests need your prayers. The devil really doesn't like folks like us Priests, and he spends a good deal of effort trying to trip us up.) Moreover, as we have seen here in our Diocese, Forty Hours Devotions is a *very* effective means of increasing vocations to the priesthood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, will *you* commit to an hour? Parents please take your whole family and pray. Console the Lord's Heart (there on the altar in the Sacred Host) by letting Him see you and your children together, earnestly and trustfully, praying the Lord to send workers – *worthy* Priests for our diocese – into His vineyard. God bless you all!

## WHAT WE BELIEVE...WHY WE BELIEVE IT REAL MEN

As a former Protestant and the son of a real “man’s man”, I grew up with a view of manhood that is, thankfully, very manly. I grew up hunting, fishing, spending a lot of time in the forests where I grew up. The old man taught me to stand up for myself at an early age, but not to be a bully. Indeed, he taught me to have pity for and to defend the “underdog”, as he would call boys he considered weaklings. Consequently, nobody messed with me more than once.

Anti-Catholic that my father was, he believed priests simply weren’t “real men”. He believed any man who didn’t marry was...well, you know the kind. An unfortunate reality over the past decade is, it turned out that some of our priests were exactly what Dad thought all of them were. I won’t bother to get into the reasons why we ended up with priests who possess the disorder of homosexuality, but there’s no denying the fact that we had some who were. Thanks be to God, the Holy Spirit finally cleansed the priesthood of this scourge, because it truly gave the priesthood a bad reputation; one that our priests will have to try to live down for decades.

Let me tell you, though, devoted priests who take their priesthood seriously are indeed “real men”. You see, a real man isn’t the modern concept of machismo. A real man isn’t one who can make babies or force someone to act according to the man’s will by the threat of violence. Neither is a man a real man just because he hunts, fishes or can fight. A real man is the sort of man who is compassionate without being maudlin. A real man loves other people just for the sake of love, without being mushy. A real man isn’t self-serving, but rather is at the service of other people just because it’s the right thing to do. A real man is comfortable in his own flesh; he knows who and what he is in the sight of God and men. A real man never lies, never cheats, never takes advantage of other people...no matter the circumstances.

Looking over what I just wrote in the previous paragraph, it occurs to me that I just described the priesthood. The priest in my parish, as well as a number of priests I’ve known in my life, fit this description perfectly. I’d like to spend the next couple of articles explaining Holy Orders and the priesthood to you, as the Church teaches it and as I personally view it.

As you may have noticed, I have and know a lot of stories that relate well to the subject matter about which I am writing. Sometimes, though, I can’t recall necessary details. Such is the case in what I’m going to relate now. I simply cannot recall the name of the saint for this story, and can’t seem to locate him in any of my resources, but there was once a priest saint who could see his guardian angel. While attending seminary, the saint would walk everywhere with his angel while they talked. When they came to a door or gate, the saint would always open the way for the angel to enter first.

On the saint’s ordination day, the day he received Holy Orders, the new priest and his angel came upon a gated fence. When they began to walk through the gate, the angel opened it for the saint. Puzzled, the saint asked why he should allow the angel to open the gate for him. The guardian angel replied, “Today you

are a priest of the living God. You possess something greater than all my gifts. You deserve this honor.”

That is how we should all view our priests. A priest is a man who possesses powers and a certain dignity that you and I will never possess. It is through his intentions and actions alone that God removes the stain of sin from our souls in the confessional. It is he alone who commands the God of the universe to come down from heaven into his hands...and God obeys. It is from the actions and intentions of the priest that we maintain life in our souls, just as food and water maintain physical life for our bodies. For this reason, it is proper to bow when a priest walks by, or to kiss his hand when he offers it in friendship. This sometimes embarrasses a priest, but not one who understands his own priesthood.

Some priests actually become angry when you show these signs of respect, signs that were common among the laity a couple of generations ago. These priests simply need to be reminded of what they are. I recall one jerking his hand back when I tried to kiss it, then loudly chastising me for doing so. As others looked on, I took his hand and drew him close so I could speak into his ear. I reminded him of the dignity and privilege of his priesthood, much like the way I described it above. I ended my soliloquy with, “You are a priest of the living God; *act like it.*” Then he allowed me to kiss his hand without protest. Yes, sometimes priests, just like the rest of us, need to be reminded of who and what they are. They are, after all, mere men, but they are mere men who God has called to be His representatives among us all.

“Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time: thus it is the sacrament of apostolic ministry. It includes three degrees: episcopate [bishop], presbyterate [priest], and diaconate [deacon].” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1536)

“Only a baptized man (*vir*) validly receives sacred ordination. The Lord Jesus chose men (*veri*) to form the college of the twelve apostles, and the apostles did the same when they chose collaborators to succeed them in their ministry... The Church recognizes herself to be bound by this choice made by the Lord himself. For this reason the ordination of women is not possible.” (*Ibid.* 1577-1578)

The male candidate for the priesthood must be a good Catholic, prepare himself by the necessary studies, have the intention of giving his life to God’s service, and be accepted by his bishop or a religious superior for ordination.

Next week, we will look at the sacrament of Holy Orders more completely, including the diaconate...a level of Holy Orders that has become trivialized by too many Catholics in modern times. This is What We Believe...Why We Believe It.

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