

Third Sunday of Lent

MASSES & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, March 18, 2017

5:30 P.M. MASS – Fran Meaux, Sox Gordon, Jeremy Rider, Savannah & Curley Gradney, Sr., Natalie Bertrand, Jack Johnson, Geri Garcille, Seth Chandler, Keith LeJeune, Emmitt Maggio

SUNDAY, March 19, 2017

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Edward Maddox, Angelle L. Durio, Linda LeJeune, Roselyn Victorian, Living & Dec. Fly. of Ken & Wylene Taylor Hosey Joseph & Mildred P. Guillory, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Joyce Fontenot, Charles Mancil

MONDAY, March 20, 2017

6:30 A.M. MASS – Kersler & Grace Granger

TUESDAY, March 21, 2017

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, March 22, 2017

6:30 A.M. MASS – Fr. Frank Krauss

THURSDAY, March 23, 2017

6:30 A.M. MASS – Living & Deceased Fly. of Dickie Davis

FRIDAY, March 24, 2017

5:30 P.M. MASS – Gene & Velma Brakel

SATURDAY, March 25, 2017

7:00 A.M. MASS – Women's Religious Vocations

5:30 P.M. MASS – Fran Meaux, Elmo, Eli, & Theolite Smith, Jeremy Rider, John C. Durio, Victorian Fly., Togeal & Elizabeth Goodly, Seth Chandler, Keith LeJeune, Helen Lofton, Dwayne, Adam Wallace Meaux, Jr., Lester, Eula & Elmer Chatman, Sr.

SUNDAY, March 26, 2017

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Edward Maddox, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Living & Dec. members of Taylor & Remy Family, Roselyn Victorian

Last Week's Collection

\$3,060.75

PRAYER LIST

Bernard Aguillard, Marvin Banks, Phil Beard, Charles Beaubouef, Quintan Bell, Joan Bertrand, Preston 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, Daniel Goodly & Fly., Freddy & Becky Gorman, Jennifer Granger, Rachael Granger, 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, Kristen Labauve, 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, Patricia Mikas, Rita & Billy Miller, Joy Mancil, Ray Marcantel, Trista Marler, Brandy McCarty, Christina McNutt, Ronald Meaux, Russell Meaux, Clifford Montou, Glen Morgan, Carolyn Morgan, Nicholas Odum, Joey Owen, Gabriella & Martel Papillion, 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, C. Sonnier, Remy Spring, Kolton Squier, Leah Squier, Margie Smith, Donald P. Sonnier, Barbara Strickland, Kelly Strother, Lucille Strother, Carl Tarver, Celeman Thomas, Matthew Truman, Dollyanna Victorian, Steve Vidrine, Zachary Villereal, Linda Voeller, JoAnn Welch, Robbie Willis, Odelia & Ernest Wilson, Nicole Young, Theresa Young

Divine Intimacy Reading Guide

Mar. 19 th – Mar. 26 th	Entry Number
Sunday	112
Monday	372 (113)
Tuesday	114
Wednesday	115
Thursday	116
Friday	117
Saturday	374 (118)
Sunday	119

Vocations Candle – Mrs. Phielomone Goodly

Vocations Cross – Mrs. Phielomone Goodly

SJOA YOUTH GROUP LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA FUNDRAISER

Orders are being taken by youth members or at the office until Friday, March 24th.

Thank You

Thank you to Ladies Altar Society members Lynn Chaumont, Pat Cole, Chelsea Foreman, Haddie Goodly, Gleta Granger, Jenny Manuel, Wylene Taylor, Karen Teigen, and Dana Thibodeaux for sewing the new veils for the statues and crucifixes this past Saturday.

This Week @ SJoA

- ❖ Sunday, March 19th – Observe St. Joseph's Altar after 10:00 A.M. Mass; RCIA at 5:00 P.M.
- ❖ Tuesday, March 21st – Lenten Religion Intensive at 6:00 P.M.
- ❖ **Wednesday, March 22nd – ADORATION 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.; MASS at St. Frances Nursing Home at 9:15 A.M.; CCD and Youth Group**
- ❖ Friday, March 24th – Stations after 5:30 P.M. Mass
- ❖ Saturday, March 25th – St. Joseph's Work Day 8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

FROM FATHER CONNER

Parish Lenten Mission

Father Martin Laird, of the Diocese of Alexandria, will offer our parish Lenten mission this year on **Sunday, April 2nd** and **Monday, April 3rd**. The mission will begin at **6:00 pm** each night. Father Laird's mission is entitled "**The Message of Fatima.**" This is a timely topic, given that the 100th anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions at Fatima (May 13th of this year) is so near and Our Lady's summons to penance and conversion. More details on the mission are forthcoming; today, I encourage you to save the dates. Anyone may attend.

First Penance/Communion Retreat

This important retreat is fast approaching. It will be **Saturday, April 8th**, from **10:00 am – 12:00 pm**. Light refreshments (donuts, coffee, juice) will be served. The candidates for these sacraments and (at least one of) their parents must attend the retreat.

Forty Hours Devotions

I sincerely thank all who came to pray during Forty Hours Devotions. The hours were well observed. I look forward to when SJoA has one young man ordained to the priesthood each year. Don't laugh. If we are truly serious about our prayers (and sacrifices) for priestly vocations, such a notion isn't a pipe-dream.

WHAT WE BELIEVE...WHY WE BELIEVE IT

MATRIMONY: THE LONGEST JOB I'VE EVER HAD

A Polish noblewoman, Katherine Jagiellonka, was the wife of Prince John Waza of Sweden. Prince John was imprisoned for life by his brother, King Eric. Katherine hurried to Stockholm immediately upon hearing of her husband's imprisonment.

"Your Highness, put me in prison with my husband," she pleaded.

The king replied, "But don't you know your husband will never see daylight again?"

"I know, Your Highness, but whether he's innocent or guilty, John Waza will forever be by my husband."

The king looked on her with pity. "It seems to me, dear lady, that from the moment your husband began his deserved sentence, your obligations to him ended."

Katherine took the ring from her finger, handing it to the king, "Would Your Highness please read the inscription?"

The king read, "*Mors Sola*" (Death Alone). Katherine spent 17 years in prison with her husband, until the death of King Eric, which is when she and Prince John were set free.

We live in a disposable culture where marriage is considered just as disposable as the wrapper on your fast food burger. Fifty percent of all marriages end in divorce, and there are a number of contributing factors for the failure of these marriages. Not least among those factors is the culture of "ME". We have become a very selfish, self-centered people. Sure, we are all about other people, especially our family...as long as the things they need or want don't conflict with what we want or what we perceive we need. The problem comes when the needs of our spouse conflict with what we want. Princes Katherine obviously had a good and healthy view of the selfless love needed in marriage, and that can come only through the sacramental graces of Holy Matrimony—the sacrament instituted by Christ which unites *for life* a baptized man and a baptized woman for the purposes of fulfilling their lawful responsibilities to God.

God instituted matrimony in the Garden of Eden, when He created Adam and Eve. Before the coming of Christ, matrimony was a *sacred contract*, but not a sacrament. Jesus raised matrimony to the level of a sacrament.

Jesus taught the indissolubility of marriage (Mt 19:6), and this requires supernatural help (grace). (BTW, thanks to the indissoluble marriage bond, being married is the longest job I've ever had!) St. Paul compares Christian marriage to the permanent union between Christ and His Church (cf. Eph 5:22-23) and stresses its importance, reinforcing the sacramental character of matrimony. Also, early Christian writers refer to Christian marriage as something supernatural, which confers grace upon those who receive it. At the marriage feast at Cana, Christ worked His first public miracle on behalf of the married couple, thus manifesting the holiness of the married state. In the marriage covenant, God has made a natural relation a means of grace for Christians.

People lose sight of what marriage is for, what it is all about. True marriage has a two-fold purpose: unity and procreation. By unity we mean that the bond of the sacrament of Matrimony lasts until death and that the man and woman are to live together as one (Mt 19:5-6). By procreation we mean the begetting and rearing of children in the fear and love of God. In short, the two-fold purpose of marriage is the giving of love and the giving of life.

There is yet another dimension to Christian marriage. As a natural extension of the giving of love, God gives spouses all the graces necessary to help one another grow in holiness, thus obeying Christ's command for us to become holy (Mt 5:48). Just as children produced in the matrimonial bond are a manifestation of marital love, so too is the positive response to God's graces by the parents to help their children become holy a manifestation of that love.

Matrimony is the most unique of all the seven sacraments in the sense of administration. In six of the sacraments, the minister is a third party; that is, a bishop, priest or deacon. In Matrimony, however, the ministers of the sacrament are the bride and groom themselves. Each confers the sacrament on the other, in the presence of a priest or deacon, who is there as the Church's witnesses to verify that a permanent bond is made.

The topic of Matrimony can easily fill a book. In fact, there are a number of very good Catholic books available on the theology surrounding marriage (check out Ignatius Press), so there is no way we can even begin to cover anything beyond the bare bones of the sacrament here. There are just two other things I want to touch on here.

It must be understood that one cannot validly enter into marriage with the intention of not having children, because procreation is one of the primary purposes of marriage, as given by God. This doesn't mean Catholic couples are obliged to have as many children as possible, but it does mean they are to act in a responsible manner in bringing children into the world and rearing them well.

Included in this responsibility is the recognition that the procreation of children is one of the fundamental purposes of marriage. This means that abortion and artificial birth control are forbidden by God and the Church.

The use of artificial contraception goes back to the culture of "ME". We will cover this topic extensively in numerous articles in the future, but for now I'd just like to point out that we may never avoid having children for selfish motives. For example, you may have the choice between having a baby or getting a new truck. Guess which one wins. You may have a choice between a new house in a nicer neighborhood and having another baby. Guess which one wins. There are several very sure means of natural family planning that are endorsed by the Church, provided they are used for the right reasons. Yes, we'll be talking about them over time. (NB: I'm of the personal opinion that pro-life Catholics who use contraceptives are living a life of hypocrisy, since all artificial contraceptives are proven to be abortifacients.)

The last thing I want to comment on is something that is very much in the news today. The homosexual lobby has been successfully pushing the false idea that homosexual couples can be married. Is it possible for a dog to become a cat? No, it's simply unnatural. If you saw a dog acting like a cat you would see it as a disordered aberration, and you'd be right. It is likewise a disordered aberration for two people of the same sex to be married, just as it is disordered for two people of the same sex to think it is okay to have a conjugal relationship. I can and do empathize with people who suffer from the disorder of same-sex attraction, as I've worked with several over the years who eventually converted to Catholicism and lived chastely. But the point is, the same-sex marriage movement threatens mankind's very existence on earth today. Read the 19th chapter of Genesis to see why, because that's What We Believe...Why We Believe It. © Sixpack Productions #27