

2nd Sunday - Season of the Year

MASSES & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2018

4:30 P.M. MASS – Catherine Papillion, Dec. members of Horton & Berlinger Fly., Richard Young, Bernice Vidrine, Samuel Papillion & Fly., Steven Cezar Fly., Donald Fontenot, Deloise DeVille, Gladys Papillion, Jerome & Blanche Haas, Helin McCauley Fly., Liv. & Dec., Jeremy Rider, Fran Meaux, Keith LeJeune

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2018

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Marvin Banks, Carol Deshotel, Errol Deshotels, Nicholas Cezar, Catherine Vick, David Briscoe, Shawna Simmons, Scott & Erin Taylor, Roselyn Victorian, Louis Gradney, Dwight Gradney, Gracy Gradney

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2018

6:30 A.M. MASS – Elmo Smith

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018

6:30 A.M. MASS – Yvonne Aguilard

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2018

5:30 P.M. MASS – Pat L. Conner

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2018

6:30 A.M. MASS – Adalyn Thibodeaux

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2018

4:30 P.M. MASS – David Dugas, Richard Young, Bernice Vidrine, Bernard Fontenot, Donald Fontenot, Deloise DeVille, Adelaide Keamey, Martin, Augustine & Dosey Goodly, Jack Johnson, Jeremy Rider, Brittni Law & Fly., Rhonda Granger & Fly., Fran Meaux, Sox Gordon, Keith LeJeune

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2018

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Marvin Banks, Carol Deshotel, Errol Deshotels, Sally Pitre, Richard Young, Catherine Vick, Todd, Shawana & Landon Fontenot, Dorothy Briscoe Cloud, Joseph & Susana Beaubouef, Larry Cormier, Margaret Briscoe

Last Week's Collection

\$4,832.65

****Contribution Statements** – If you would like a copy of your contribution statement for tax purposes please call Corinne at the office during regular business hours.

PRAYER LIST

Amy Bairnsfather, Phil Beard, Charles Beaubouef, Quintan Bell, Jocie Bergeron, Joan Bertrand, Alvin & Sonja Billodeaux, Pauline Boudreaux, Bruce & Diana Brakel, Brandon Bridgwell, 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, Larry Cormier, Virginia Cottongin, Jay Crittle, Aiden Darbonne, Rynree Darbonne, Shaun Darbonne, Jackie Deville, Cindy Dowies, Jabe Doyle, Donna Dunnahoo, 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, Rene Lambert, 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. Phielemone Goodly

RCIA

RCIA meets next Sunday (January 21st) at 4:00 P.M. in the parish hall. Anyone may attend these classes, even if you haven't had the opportunity to speak with Father Conner yet.

Red EF Booklets/Hymnals

It seems we're a little short on the number of red EF booklets here in the church. If by chance you have one in your possession, please make sure to drop it off next time you're at SJoA. These booklets, like the hymnals, need to remain in the church rather than go home with someone, that way we have enough copies for folks who attend Mass.

Blessed Palms

Lent begins one month from today. We're gearing up for it. If you are ready to return your blessed palms from last year, please notice the repository for that purpose. We use the old palms to make ashes for Ash Wednesday. Do remember that, once blessed, the palm became a sacramental and cannot be thrown in the garbage.

Daily Missals

If you ordered a Daily Missal through the office you may pick it up at the rectory during regular business hours.

Community Prayer for Life

On Sunday, January 21st at 2:00 P.M. a Community Prayer for Life will take place on the Lawn of the Allen Parish Courthouse. All faiths will come together to unite in prayer to commit to respecting and protecting life at every stage. Please pray that this event glorifies God and focuses us as a community on this vital issue.

St. Pius X and St. Theodore Catholic Church Parish Mission

St. Pius X joins St. Theodore to host the 2018 Parish Mission Monday, February 5 – Thursday, February 8, from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at St. Pius X church in Ragley. Fr. Larry Richards, popular and passionate conference television and radio host, will present the Mission. His dynamic talks will bless you and renew your Catholic faith! See flyer in the church for more information.

Rachel's Vineyard

Rachel's Vineyard, A retreat for healing after abortion with Fr. Nathan Long, Margie Long and Diocesan team takes place Friday, February 9th – Sunday, February 11th at Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff. Participation is strictly confidential. The cost is \$215.00 for meals, private room with private bath and all retreat materials. If you have a financial burden, assistance is available. For more information or registration contact: Rachel's Vineyard of SWLA (337) 439-7400 ext. 317 or e-mail rachels.vineyard@lcdiocese.org.

This Week @ SJoA

- ❖ Monday, January 15th – Office Closed for MLK
- ❖ Wednesday, January 17th – Adoration 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.; CCD and Youth Group
- ❖ Sunday, January 21st – RCIA at 4:00 P.M. in the hall; Ultreya at 5:00 P.M.; Solemn Holy Hour at 6:00 P.M.

FROM FATHER CONNER

In today's Second Reading (from 1 Corinthians 6), St. Paul speaks boldly of the *necessity* of living a chaste life. "The body," he writes, "is *not* made for immorality, but for the Lord." Last Sunday I included in the bulletin considerable information regarding the scourge of pornography. (I refer you to www.sjoaoberlin.com if you were not here. I refer you to the confessional if you missed Mass altogether by your own fault.) Today you will find teachings from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* on offenses against the virtue of chastity. Such a consideration flows quite naturally from last Sunday's focus.

The *Catechism* states this about chastity: "Chastity means the successful integration of sexuality within the person and thus the inner unity of man in his bodily and spiritual being. Sexuality, in which man's belonging to the bodily and biological world is expressed, becomes personal and truly human when it is integrated into the relationship of one person to another, in the complete and lifelong mutual gift of a man and a woman." (2337) In other words, the virtue of chastity correctly and properly orders human sexuality.

Since all human beings are created by God as "male" or "female", each person is a *sexual* being. (*Note 1*: there are not other options or combinations. There is only male or female. *Note 2*: God chooses what these days is referred to as a person's "gender identity." We do not choose our own gender. It is given by God and is unchangeable. One's gender, furthermore, corresponds to his physical genitalia. *Isn't it somewhat depressing that many are genuinely confused about something so obvious???*) Anyway, after that little digression, it needs to be stated that everyone – whether married or single, young or old, male or female, consecrated or lay person – is called to chastity. It's important that we do not confuse chastity and celibacy. Celibacy refers to the vow a person makes who freely renounces marriage. Chastity refers to the virtue that properly orders human sexuality. *Few* (people) are called by God to a vocation involving celibacy, but *all* human beings are called to live according to the virtue of chastity.

With the Second Reading of today's Mass in mind, reflecting on the offenses against chastity found below in the *Catechism* can lead you to a better understanding of how this virtue is violated. If you are still wondering why chastity is important, I would conclude by pointing out that our happiness (both temporal and eternal) rests on it. Every human being wants to be happy, to be free, but the "immoral person" enslaves himself to sin by "sinning against his own body." As such, his desire for happiness will be frustrated because he is unchaste. He will find freedom and happiness only once the virtue of chastity is restored.

Offenses against chastity

2351 Lust is disordered desire for or inordinate enjoyment of sexual pleasure. Sexual pleasure is morally disordered when sought for itself, isolated from its procreative and unitive purposes.

2352 By *masturbation* is to be understood the deliberate stimulation of the genital organs in order to derive sexual pleasure. "Both the Magisterium of the Church, in the course of a constant tradition, and the moral sense of the faithful have been in no doubt and have firmly maintained that masturbation is an *intrinsically* and *gravely disordered* action."¹³⁸ The deliberate use of the sexual faculty, for whatever reason, outside of marriage is essentially contrary to its purpose. For here sexual pleasure is sought outside of "the sexual relationship which is demanded by the moral order and in which the total meaning of mutual self-giving and human procreation in the context of true love is achieved."¹³⁹

2353 Fornication is carnal union between an unmarried man and an unmarried woman. It is *gravely contrary* to the dignity of

persons and of human sexuality which is naturally ordered to the good of spouses and the generation and education of children. Moreover, it is a grave scandal when there is corruption of the young.

2354 Pornography consists in removing real or simulated sexual acts from the intimacy of the partners, in order to display them deliberately to third parties. It offends against chastity because it perverts the conjugal act, the intimate giving of spouses to each other. It does grave injury to the dignity of its participants (actors, vendors, the public), since each one becomes an object of base pleasure and illicit profit for others. It immerses all who are involved in the illusion of a fantasy world. It is a grave offense. Civil authorities should prevent the production and distribution of pornographic materials.

2355 Prostitution does injury to the dignity of the person who engages in it, reducing the person to an instrument of sexual pleasure. The one who pays sins gravely against himself: he violates the chastity to which his Baptism pledged him and defiles his body, the temple of the Holy Spirit.¹⁴⁰ Prostitution is a social scourge. It usually involves women, but also men, children, and adolescents (The latter two cases involve the added sin of scandal.). While it is always gravely sinful to engage in prostitution, the imputability of the offense can be attenuated by destitution, blackmail, or social pressure.

2356 Rape is the forcible violation of the sexual intimacy of another person. It does injury to justice and charity. Rape deeply wounds the respect, freedom, and physical and moral integrity to which every person has a right. It causes grave damage that can mark the victim for life. It is always an intrinsically evil act. Graver still is the rape of children committed by parents (incest) or those responsible for the education of the children entrusted to them.

Chastity and homosexuality

2357 Homosexuality refers to relations between men or between women who experience an exclusive or predominant sexual attraction toward persons of the same sex. It has taken a great variety of forms through the centuries and in different cultures. Its psychological genesis remains largely unexplained. Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as *acts of grave depravity*,¹⁴¹ tradition has always declared that "homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered."¹⁴² They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they [i.e., homosexual acts] be approved.

2358 The number of men and women who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies is not negligible. *This inclination*, which *is objectively disordered*, constitutes for most of them a trial. They must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of *unjust* discrimination in their regard should be avoided. These persons are called to fulfill God's will in their lives and, if they are Christians, to unite to the sacrifice of the Lord's Cross the difficulties they may encounter from their condition.

2359 Homosexual persons are called to chastity. By the virtues of self-mastery that teach them inner freedom, at times by the support of disinterested friendship, by prayer and sacramental grace, they can and should gradually and resolutely approach Christian perfection.