

1st Sunday of Lent

MASSES & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2018

4:30 P.M. MASS – Catherine Papillion, Dec. members of the Horton & Berlinger Fly., Don Fontenot, Jeremy Rider, Fran Meaux, Harrison Harmon, LeRoy Fontenot, Rodney & Pereda Fontenot, Wanda Gail Jackson, Esther Richard, Alphonse Ardoin, Paul Thomas, Sr., Norbert & Lawrence Thomas

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2018

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Marvin Banks, Carol Deshotel, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Hunter Carmouche, Helen & Glenn Sonnier

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2018

6:30 A.M. MASS – Cathy Fontenot

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2018

6:30 A.M. MASS – Ray Marcantel

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2018

6:30 A.M. MASS – Jerome & Blanche Haas

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018

5:30 P.M. MASS – Claiborne Durio

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2018

4:30 P.M. MASS – Don Fontenot, Bruce & Mary Esther Courville, Jeremy Rider, Fran Meaux, Liv. & Dec. Fly. of Eldridge Hance, Hunter Carmouche, Helen & Glenn Sonnier, Cecilia Sonnier

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2018

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Marvin Banks, Carol Deshotel, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Edward Maddox, Henry Heinen, Angelle L. Durio, Linda LeJeune

Last Week's Collection	\$3,035.50
2nd Collection – Religious Education	\$316.00
2nd Collection Next Weekend – Black & Indian Missions	

PRAYER LIST

Amy Bairnsfather, Phil Beard, Charles Beaubouef, Quintan Bell, Jocie Bergeron, Joan Bertrand, Alvin & Sonja Billodeaux, Pauline Boudreaux, Bruce & Diana Brakel, Brandon Bridgwel, Douglas Briscoe, Lincoln & Louise Briscoe, Margaret Briscoe, Ambrose Bushnell, Bernice Bushnell, Steve & Roxane Campbell, Kristin Carlton, Hunter Carmouche, David & Natalie Carrier, Rosabelle Carrier, Megan Cart, Linda Beaubouef Cazes, Ailene Chapman, Paula Chaumont, Vivian Cole Fly., Florence Comeaux, Richard Cooper, Larry Cormier, Virginia Cottongin, Brittany Courville, 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, Roy Frank, Zaylen Frank, Tim Germany, Daniel Goodley & Fly., Mary Ann Goodley, Phielomone Goodly, Freddy & Becky Gorman, Bruce Granger, Jr., Jennifer Granger, Rachael Granger, Vergie 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, Colt Laborde, 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., Louana McGee, Reed McIver, Bonnie McNabb, Patricia Mikas, Rita & Billy Miller, 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, Sonya Pickett, 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, Aerial Storer, Lonnie Stcy, Erin Taylor, Lory Taylor, Celeman Thomas, Matthew Truman, Dollyanna Victorian, Joseph Vizena, Linda Voeller, JoAnn Welch, Odelia & Ernest Wilson, Nicole Young, Theresa Young

Vocations Candle and Cross – Mary Dubriel

Ladies Altar Society News & Dues

Congratulations to the 2018 newly elected Ladies Altar Society Officers: President Lynn Chaumont; Vice President Chelsea Foreman; Secretary Jenny Manuel; and Treasurer Regina Beard. Thank you to the 2017 officers, Karen Teigen, Lynn Chaumont, Pat Klein and Pat Cole for their dedication and service. It is time to pay your \$20 dues for 2018. Note: Ladies over the age of 70 are considered lifetime members and are exempt from paying dues. Mark your calendars for the next Meeting March 6th at 5:30 P.M. in the parish hall. St. Joseph's Altar is scheduled for March 18th and preparations will be discussed. All ladies are invited to attend.

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This Week @ SJoA

- ❖ Sunday, February 18th – NO RCIA; Bazaar Meeting 4:00 P.M.; Solemn Holy Hour at 6:00 P.M.
- ❖ Wednesday, February 21st – Adoration 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.; CCD and Youth Group
- ❖ Friday, February 23rd – Mass at 5:30 P.M. followed by the Stations of the Cross

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FROM FATHER CONNER

Bishop Provost's Lenten Pastoral Letter

Each year Bishop Provost writes a Pastoral Letter for the Season of Lent. It is read at the Masses in every parish in the Diocese of Lake Charles on the First Sunday of Lent. We've linked His Excellency's Lenten Pastoral Letter to SJoA's website in case you're interested in considering it again or if you'd like to send it to someone.

Pope Francis' 2018 Lenten Message

As I noted on Ash Wednesday, the Holy Father's Lenten Message for this year has been linked to SJoA's website. It is brief and very good. I highly encourage you to spend a few minutes reflecting on it.

Expanding on the Kyrie

During Lent we are "expanding" the Kyrie. What I mean by this is that we will include one more Kyrie, one Christe, and one Kyrie to the present chant arrangement. It should be noted that the Ordinary Form allows for this in its directives (cf. GIRM 52). [I would also note, for anyone interested, that GIRM 52 actually seems to *recommend* such an expansion.] As such, there should be no "concern" that this is a liturgical abuse or that it is in some way unforeseen by the guidelines (that is, "rubrics") for the Ordinary Form. I'm sure the question of why we are doing this will naturally arise. In answer, I would mention two things. First, this expansion will manifest greater continuity with our liturgical tradition. While many these days cast "aspersions" on such a notion, for a Catholic, tradition is not insignificant. Our very identity, lest we forget, is bound up with that which has been "handed on". Another reason for this "expansion" is that the *Kyrie, Eleison* chant we sing here on earth in the holy Mass has always been understood as an "echo" of the praises sung by the **9 choirs of angels** in Heaven to the glory of God. We might recall the words of the *Pater Noster* ... "on earth, *as it is in Heaven*." The Mass is a mirror of the worship of God in Heaven. We can't forget that, otherwise we forget what the Mass is. With all this in mind, then, beginning this Sunday (that is, today) we'll give the **nine-fold Kyrie** / Christe a test run throughout the Season of Lent. Afterward, we'll re-evaluate. In the meantime, I'd invite you to visualize yourself singing with the angels themselves as we chant the Kyrie this Lent, and, after you visualize it, be absolutely convicted that that very thing is actually happening while we are singing the Kyrie. For such is the beauty and the miraculous nature of the holy sacrifice of the Mass!

WHAT WE BELIEVE...WHY WE BELIEVE IT

THE ULTIMATE QUESTION & ANSWER

A young student named Francis came to St. Philip Neri one day and told him he was going to study law. "What a happy man I am! I'm going to study and become the best lawyer I can."

"And then what?" asked Fr. Philip. "I'll become a great lawyer and win fame for my ability to argue in court."

"And then what?" "Then I'll become wealthy and build a beautiful mansion for myself."

"And then what?" "Then I'll marry and live a comfortable life to a ripe old age."

"Francis, then what?" the saintly priest asked again. Francis didn't know what else to say. After some thought, he said, "Then I'll die like everybody else."

"And then what, Francis?"

Francis was disturbed; far from the elation he felt when he first approached St. Philip. He couldn't answer the saint's final question. Thinking about this question made Francis change all his life's plans for the future. Thanks to St. Philip Neri's repeated question, Francis later became a priest.

St. Philip's singular question, asked until there were no answers left to give, is a question we should all be asking ourselves. It's a question I've been asking myself a lot lately. At this writing, it's only been two weeks since my eldest son died...quite unexpectedly—the boy was about to celebrate his 38th birthday. He didn't die in a car crash or of cancer or of anything expected by anyone. He simply didn't wake up one morning.

It's not natural for a man to outlive his son. You expect to die with your children...all of them... surrounding your bed to tell you good-bye. That didn't happen for him. But you can be sure that I pray for the state of my son's soul every single day. I've had the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass celebrated for him numerous times. He's always on my mind, and I ache when I think about the state of his soul when he died. As you know, I'm a convert. My son wasn't a Catholic, but he was a Christian nonetheless. Despite that he was a Christian, he made a lot of choices that were bad, and many of them left me little to take pride in. He did, however, give me two wonderful grandchildren, one of whom in turn have made me a great grandfather just weeks before my son's death. Still, I pray for the repose of his soul daily. I suppose I will until the day when I have to be judged myself.

That my son failed to awaken one morning, and my concern over the state of his immortal soul, has made me very much afraid for the state of my own soul. My son's death reminded me of how precarious life is, that it can end without warning. I'm a great grandfather now, and great grandfathers know they're living on the back-side of life. But my son was yet a young man. You are young, are you not? I know I don't feel like an old man, but I am. I doubt you feel old either. Perhaps you think as my son did...as I have...that there is all the time in the world.

What will Jesus say to me when I stand before Him at the close of this life? As man, from the cross He suffered immensely for our sins. As God, He saw all of human history—past, present and future—in a simultaneous mode. Every sin any of us has ever committed made Christ in His humanity suffer even more. Of course, all of our good acts eased His suffering. However, the evil of our lives outweighed the good and were unbearable for Him. After all, he died long before the two who were sentenced to die with Him, so our sins killed Him.

Christ's judgment of us will be very exacting. Each individual soul will be judged on the good and evil we have done—all our thoughts, desires, words, actions and omissions—from the time we were old enough to know right from wrong. All of them. From the beginning.

Once each of us is judged, our soul (which is really who we are, as the body is just the earthly home of our soul) will either be rewarded with eternal life in heaven, punished in purgatory until cleansed perfectly for heaven, or condemned to an eternal damnation in hell. The reward or punishment we deserve will be carried into effect immediately after our particular judgment.

Most of us can honestly say we're not bad people. Most of us can honestly say we have given life for Christ that old college try. Most of us believe we will go straight to heaven when we die. Of course, the "most of us" who believe that are lying to ourselves. It doesn't work that way. *You see, we have to obey Jesus in **all things**, not just what is convenient or what we like.*

In order to go straight to heaven, we have to be perfect. Yes, you can become perfect. Jesus said so: "You must become perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). Only those who are perfect may enter heaven—"Nothing unclean shall enter heaven" (Revelation 21:27). Even our tiniest sins and imperfections keep us out of heaven immediately after death. That's why God gave us purgatory, so we can be perfected after death if we die in a state of grace but have yet to do penance in this life for our imperfections.

But how clean is your conscience? Do you obey all that Jesus commands through the Church He established to be His authority on earth? Or do you pick and choose what to obey, like you're walking through a cafeteria to pick and choose what you want for lunch? Do you dress so as to intentionally attract the attention of the opposite sex? Do you and your spouse participate in artificial contraception? Do you put "things" before God? Do you support the Church from your resources? Are you lax about attending Mass—arriving late, leaving early, or simply not attending when there is something else you prefer to do? Do you use God's name carelessly in any of its forms? Do you obey all just laws? Do you criticize others? This list of questions could go on and on *ad infinitum*.

Purgatory is not a place to strive for...it's a place to be avoided. A wise man once said that it's better to shoot for the moon so you at least hit the top of the telephone pole, because if you aim for the top of the telephone pole you're likely to shoot a hole in your foot. So it's infinitely better to obey Jesus' command to become perfect and fail that test with a very short time in purgatory than to live the very least of what Jesus and His Church asks of us and find ourselves in purgatory until the end of time...or missing the top of the telephone pole altogether and never knowing anything but eternity in hell. Let's not forget that Jesus also told us, "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot! So because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, *I will spew you out of my mouth*" (Revelation 3:15-16). Just a little food for thought, because this is What We Believe...Why We Believe It.

Got a question? Go to JoeSixpackAnswers.com.