

4th Sunday of Lent

MASSES & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2018

4:30 P.M. MASS – Fran Meaux, Bernard & Felicia Fontenot, Don Fontenot, Adelaide Keamey, Jack Johnson, Helin McCauley Fly., Liv. & Dec., Jeremy Rider, Ladies Altar Society, Cecilia Sonnier, Ricky Duplechain, Gene & Joetta Vizena Fly., Liv. & Dec., John & Virginia Spears Fly., Nakia (Nick) Ware

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 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, Helen & Glenn Sonnier, Paul LaFleur

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2018

6:30 A.M. MASS – D.C. Reed, Jr.

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2018

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018

6:30 A.M. MASS – Elmo, Elie & Theolite Smith

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018

6:30 A.M. MASS – Claiborne Durio

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2018

6:30 A.M. MASS – Preston Bertrand (1st Anniversary)

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2018

4:30 P.M. MASS – Fran Meaux, Don Fontenot, Jeremy Rider, Catherine Papillion, Dec. members of Horton & Berlinger Fly.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2018

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Marvin Banks, Carol Deshotel, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons

Last Week's Collection

\$5,660.25

2nd Collection– Black & Indian Missions

\$357.00

PRAYER LIST

Amy Bairnsfather, Phil Beard, Charles Beaubouef, Quintan Bell, Jocie Bergeron, Joan Bertrand, Alvin & Sonja Billodeaux, 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, Donna "Blackie" Duplechain, Ken Durio, 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, Benton & Yvonne Smith, Lonnie Stcy, Aerial Storer, Donald Taylor, Erin Taylor, Lory Taylor, Celeman Thomas, Matthew Truman, Dollyanna Victorian, Gene Vizena, Joseph Vizena, Linda Voeller, JoAnn Welch, Odelia & Ernest Wilson, Nicole Young, Theresa Young

Vocations Candle and Cross – Mrs. Phielomone Goodly

MASS TIME

The Anticipated Mass time will remain at 4:30 P.M. year round; with the exception of Saturday, April 7th, the Mass will be at 5:30 P.M. for that one Mass only.

St. Joan of Arc Lenten Mission

St. Joan of Arc will have a Lenten Mission on Friday, March 16th and Friday, March 23rd from 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. with Stations of the Cross being prayed at 6:30 P.M.

St. Joseph's Altar – Next Sunday

We will have the St. Joseph's Altar after 10 o'clock Mass next Sunday. (St. Joseph's feast day is March 19th.) Parishioners are encouraged to come to the Parish Hall after the 10:00 am Mass next Sunday to honor the foster father of the Lord and patron of the Universal Church ... and patron of our mission church in Soileau. The St. Joseph Altar will feature many treats and delectable items. It's worth mentioning: We need parishioners to bring meatless food and drink items for the altar. A list of items is at the entrances of the church.

Wine Tasting Party

SJoA will have a Wine Tasting Party on Saturday, April 14th at 7:00 P.M. in the Parish Hall featuring Matthew Beard: Banquet Chef at Coushatta Casino Resort. Tickets are \$20 per person and may be purchased at the rectory in advance or at the door. You must be at least 21 yrs. old to attend. Proceeds benefit the SJoA Annual Bazaar. Hors D'oeuvres will be served.

Diocesan Penance Night @ SJoA

The Diocese has a "penance night" in each of the four deaneries next week. SJoA is in the East Deanery. Our penance night will be Thursday, March 22nd, from 5:00-7:00 pm. Father Long will be here to help Father Conner hear confessions during this time. Lent is rapidly drawing to a close. Please take care to make your "Easter duties."

Vocation Drawing Contest

A Vocation Drawing Contest will be conducted for our diocese in preparation for the World Day of Pray for Vocations. Every student in grades 2-12 is invited to make a drawing on an 8 ½ X 11 white sheet of poster board or paper depicting awareness of the vocation to the priesthood in southwest Louisiana. **All drawings must be turned into Deacon Deshotel or the church office by Wednesday, March 28th.**

Diocesan Spring Middle School Rally

The Diocese of Lake Charles will have a Spring Middle School Rally for grades 6–8 on Saturday, April 21, 2018, at St. Raphael Catholic Church in Iowa. The rally begins at 10:00 A.M. with doors opening at 9:30 A.M. and concludes at 4:00 P.M. The cost is \$30.00 and includes lunch and a t-shirt. Adult Chaperones are welcome for a cost of \$10.00. To register contact Mrs. Corinne at the rectory by Wednesday, April 11th.

This Week @ SJoA

- ❖ Sunday, March 11th – RCIA at 4:30 P.M.; Ultreya at 5:00 P.M.; Solemn Holy Hour at 6:00 P.M., then Compline.
- ❖ Monday, March 12th – Knights of Columbus 6:30 P.M.
- ❖ Wednesday, March 14th – Adoration 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.; CCD and Youth Group
- ❖ Friday, March 16th – SJoA Mission from 7:00 – 8:00 P.M.

WHAT WE BELIEVE...WHY WE BELIEVE IT

HIS MOST PROFOUND WORDS

Jesus said many wonderful, amazing and profound things during His three year public ministry. He said things no one had ever said before...anytime, anywhere. We 21st Century Christians take the profundity of His words for granted. After all, we grew up hearing them, and they certainly didn't seem all that profound when we were kids.

Think about it, though. Jesus, this Jewish man roaming around Israel, told us that He is God. He told us He would give us His Body and Blood for the nourishment of our souls. This Jesus, who was from all appearances just another man, forgave sins. He told His apostles they could forgive our sins in His name. He told us we could do things greater than He if we acted with faith in Him.

But none of these things were among His most profound words.

He gave us the most profound statement of His ministry during His Sermon on the Mount, which covers a full three chapters in Matthew—chapters five, six and seven. In Matthew 5:48 we find Jesus' most profound statement: "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Think about that statement for a moment. It requires a lot of reflection. Break it down. He said we **must** be perfect. That's not a suggestion or a mere goal to strive for. It's a command! And He doesn't merely tell us to be perfect. He places a stipulation on it. He tells us we must be perfect, but how perfect? As perfect as our Father in heaven! *Wow!* How perfect is the Father? *He's infinitely perfect.*

My first thought when I began to think about this command was: "Hey, let's be reasonable here. How in the world can I become infinitely perfect?" Only a complete moron would believe he could become perfect at all, much less infinitely perfect. Don't we all commonly say nobody's perfect, and that there was only one perfect man in the world? I know I've been guilty of those statements. And I was ignorant, arrogant and a little bit stupid for saying them.

Jesus never gave us any sort of command to obey that cannot be achieved. But how in the world can we obey His command to be as perfect as God the Father? Simply stated, we can't...by our own power. We can obey this command, though, and Jesus has given and gives us all we need to become perfect.

Let's begin by defining perfection. To be perfect is to be a saint. All of the saints were perfect, at least by the moment of their deaths. And they were infinitely perfect. Jesus told us several times in the Gospels that we would be like gods. Telling us that makes no sense at all...unless we consider His command for us to be perfect. To be perfect is to be like God. In other words, to be perfect is to be restored to our original state prior to the fall of man—Original Sin.

Prior to the fall of man we had special qualities as a consequence of man's original perfection, and we'll reacquire all these special qualities after the resurrection at the end of the world...provided we find ourselves saved. Those qualities are called impassibility, brightness, agility and subtility.

Impassibility means that the resurrected body will never know pain nor inconvenience of any kind. Neither cold nor heat nor pain nor sickness will have any effect on the body whatsoever.

Brightness is that property of the glorified body that makes us shine like the sun—just as Jesus did in His Transfiguration.

Agility frees the body from all material burdens. With agility the body can move more freely than anyone can imagine. You may be on one place and, by and act of your will alone, simply cease being in that one place and instantaneously find yourself wherever you will. Agility also covers what is called bilocation—the ability to be in more than one place at the same time.

Subtility is what St. Paul calls the spiritual body. Through subtility the glorified body will be completely under the control of the spirit and will be fully obedient to the soul.

Do any of these special qualities sound familiar to you? They should. Jesus demonstrated all of them Himself during His public ministry. "But He's God," you say. And you're right. However, if you know anything about the lives of the saints, you'll recognize that many of them demonstrated one or more of these same gifts during their lives...and so can you, if God sees a need while you're striving for perfection.

Don't strive for the gifts. That's wrong...just plain wrong. None of the saints strove for these gifts. They strove for sanctity. They were rewarded with gifts by God when they needed them. They first became holy—perfect. And you don't have to be a priest, nun or monastic to achieve this perfection. There are hundreds of canonized saints who were among the laity, and thousands more who were never canonized.

But how does one become holy? Beginning on the road to perfection comes by humble acceptance of the graces God offers us. God offers us grace in two forms: actual and sanctifying. Actual grace is a divine enlightenment of our mind and strengthening of our will to help us choose what is right and avoid evil. Without actual grace it's impossible for us to do anything that's pleasing to God. We're being bombarded by actual graces every moment of every day. The mere fact that you're reading this is a sign that you're accepting actual graces being offered to you to advance in knowledge of our faith.

Sanctifying grace, simply stated, is God's life in us. It's a supernatural quality infused into our soul at Baptism. Sanctifying grace gives us a share in the divine life and allows us to become a temple of the Holy Spirit, God's friend, and an heir of heaven. It also makes possible the ability for us to merit heavenly rewards for our good actions.

Sanctifying grace is absolutely necessary for our salvation, because it makes us pleasing to God, and only this type of grace makes it possible for us to attain heaven. So when we say we're in a state of grace it means we're in a state of friendship with God; that is, we have sanctifying grace in our soul and are worthy of heaven...usually after a period of purification in purgatory—unless we've managed to obey Christ's command to become perfect.

However, sanctifying grace can be lost, and we lose it with the commission of a mortal sin...every mortal sin, even if you don't like what the Church says is sinful. The way we recover our state of grace—to again be filled with sanctifying grace—is by making a good confession and receiving absolution from the priest in confession.

Now here is where striving for perfection comes in. It's not enough to merely be in a state of grace. We must *increase* the sanctifying grace in our soul at every opportunity. Each time we increase sanctifying grace in our soul we become closer to God, closer to perfection. Increasing sanctifying grace is done by performing good works for Jesus' sake, prayer (not just formulated, but also heart-to-heart conversations with God) and devout reception of the sacraments—especially frequent confession and the Holy Eucharist.

There is an alternative to striving to obey Jesus' command for us to become perfect. That alternative, most unfortunately, is the route taken by most Catholics in the world today: being lukewarm. But being lukewarm is quite dangerous. Jesus said, "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).

Lukewarmness versus being on fire for Christ. Hmm. Let me think about that for a moment. Oops! No contest! That's What We Believe...Why We Believe It.