

**MASSES & INTENTIONS**

**SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2018**

**4:30 P.M. MASS** – Don Fontenot, Fran Meaux, Benton Smith, Frank Mougeot, Paul, Celeman, Norbert, & Lawrence Thomas, Alphonse Ardoin, Lloyd Taylor, Seth Chandler, Evelyn Sandell, Ernest & Bernice Moore, Roselyn Victorian, Dwight Gradney, Arsan & Agnes Victorian, Martin Goodly, Olivier & Armoza Victorian

**SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2018**

**7:30 A.M. MASS** – Fr. Casimir Ho Thien Cung

**10:00 A.M. MASS** – Carol Deshotel, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Matt Taylor, Curley & Jenny Fontenot, Sarah Chapman, Garrett Howard, Julia Frank, Edward Maddox

**MONDAY, JULY 30, 2018**

**NO MASS**

**TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2018**

**NO MASS**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2018**

**NO MASS**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2018**

**NO MASS**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2018**

**NO MASS**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 2018**

**4:30 P.M. MASS** – Don Fontenot, Fran Meaux, Benton Smith, Frank Mougeot, Paul, Celeman, Norbert, & Lawrence Thomas, Alphonse Ardoin, Dec. Fly. of Paul & Celeman Thomas, Lloyd Taylor, Dec. Fly. of Anne Reed, Keith LeJeune, LeRoy Fontenot, Rodney & Pereda Fontenot, J.C. & Bertha Smith, Hubert Bertrand, Emily Adams, Evelyn Sandell

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2018**

**7:30 A.M. MASS** – Bon Manuel

**10:00 A.M. MASS** – Carol Deshotel, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Edward Maddox, St. Martha’s Guild, Helen & Glenn Sonnier, Steve & Maryland Reed & Fly. Juan A. Lucero Castellano, Juan A. Lucero Ruiz, Milagros Castellano Perez, Guillermo Consuegra Garcia, Manuela Travieso Rodriguez

**Last Week’s Collection**

**\$3,645.00**

**PRAYER LIST**

Amy Bairnsfather, Phil Beard, Charles Beaubouef, Tyler Bellow, Jocie Bergeron, John O’Neal Bergeron, Joan Bertrand, Alvin & Sonja Billodeaux, Ambrose Bushnell, Bernice Bushnell, David & Natalie Carrier, Linda Beaubouef Cazes, JoAnn Cormier, Brittany Courville, Jeane Daigle, Louise Guidry Darbonne, Donna Dunnehoo, Noah Ferry, Mary O. Fontenot, Zaylen Frank, Tim Germany, Elaine Giles, Phielomone Goodly, Freddy & Becky Gorman, Daryl Granger, Rachael Granger, Vergie Granger, Alcide Harmon, Harrison Harmon, Joseph Harmon, Mildred Harmon, Esther Harmon, Jackie Hebert, John, Shenita & Perella Jackson, Joey James, Paul LaFleur, Cindy Langley, Essie Langley, Brian Manuel, Jennifer L. Manuel, Kevin Manuel, LuLu Manuel & Fly., Brandy McCarty, Christina McNutt, Leroy Meaux, Patrica Mikas, Howard Patin, Sonya Pickett, Hannah Popillion, Dara Reed, Gary Reed, Linda Green Reed, Don & Debra Rider, Salis & Janice Rider, Ann Rooney, Fr. Fred Russi, Yvonne Smith, Matthew Truman, Dollyanna Victorian, Kyle Vidrine, Hannah Voeller, Linda Voeller, Earnest & Odelia Wilson, Nicole Young

**Vocations Candle and Cross – Mrs. Clara Smith**

**\*\*\*NO FIRST SATURDAY MASS IN AUGUST\*\*\***

**Safe Environment**

All parish personnel, including volunteers, CCD teachers, VBS and youth group volunteers who have on-going, unsupervised contact with minors, will need to update their Safe Environment Training beginning July 1, 2018. It is available on the diocesan safe environment website at safeandsacred-lcdioocese.org. If you have any questions please call the rectory.

**EF Missals Available**

EF Missals are available for purchase in the rectory. The cost is \$40 per missal.

**“Discovery Mission” Vocation Bible School**

SJoA Vocation Bible School was a big success. Thank you to all those that donated to this worthy cause. We had 32 participants and many volunteers. Thanks to those that lead each station.

**A Benefit for Kyle Vidrine**

Saturday, August 11, 2018, a benefit for Kyle Vidrine will take place at the Allen Parish Civic Center beginning at 8:00 A.M. Money raised will help the family with medical bills and expenses. Benefit includes live music, BBQ plates, Jambalaya, T-shirts, Silent & Live Auctions, Sweet Shop, Kona Ice, Fun Jumps and raffle. Donations are welcome. For more information call Krystal Smith at 337-224-7292 or call Corinne at the rectory. It will be a good time for a good cause.

**Happy Anniversary**

On August 5, 2018, SJoA would like to wish a Happy 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding Anniversary to deceased Jerry and Polly Chaumont who were lifelong members of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church.

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**This Week @ SJoA**

- ❖ Sunday, July 29<sup>TH</sup> – **NO SOLEMN HOLY HOUR OR COMPLINE**
- ❖ Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> – Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> **NO DAILY MASS**
- ❖ **Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> – NO ADORATION**

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**★ ★ ★ CCD NEWS ★ ★ ★**

**Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> ... CCD REGISTRATION**

- **6:00 PM ... at the Parish Hall ... for all grades**
- **Students not required to attend registration**
- **Registration & textbook pick up happens this night**
- **Cost of Registration: \$15.00 per child**
- ***No child will be turned away because of money***
- **No charge for Youth Group**

**Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> ... CCD 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF CLASS**

- **4:00 – 5:20 PM ... Grades 1-5**
- **5:00 – 6:00 PM ... Youth Group (Grades 7-12)**
- **6:00 – 7:15 PM ... Grades 6-12**

## **WHAT WE BELIEVE...WHY WE BELIEVE IT** **2700 BC OR AD 2000—WHICH IS THE MORE PAGAN?**

There was a time in America when we called ourselves a Christian nation, and it was largely true. Many of us would like to think it's still true that we are a Christian nation, but Christian commentators have been writing and preaching for decades that we are now living in a post-Christian era. It only takes a cursory look at our society and culture to recognize these commentators are absolutely correct, and an unfortunate reality is that most of the cultural changes have been foisted upon us by government—that is, we the people.

In my lifetime the changes have been dramatic. When I was a child, abortion was codified in criminal law as murder, and to perform or procure an abortion would land you in prison.

Infanticide, which is still codified as murder, is now legal under the guise of partial birth abortion. To be caught engaging in or soliciting homosexual sex would also get you a term in prison, but now homosexuals have a legal right to marry. Good grief! It's a wonder God hasn't treated us as He did Sodom and Gomorrah!

The saddest thing, to my way of thinking, is that we practicing Catholics have not escaped the paganization of our culture unscathed. We stand up for life by protesting against and working for the repeal of abortion, yet many (perhaps most) of those same pro-lifers are just as guilty of infanticide as those procuring and performing abortion. I'm referring to those who use artificial contraception. Why are those people guilty of infanticide? Because infanticide is defined as the unjust taking of the life of a child, and since life begins at conception a child exists at conception. Without exception, every artificial contraceptive has been proven to be an abortifacient, which means anyone who uses artificial contraceptives is guilty of procuring or performing an abortion — infanticide!

Admittedly, many Catholics have never been taught that contraception is immoral, and it's sad that too many priests have told their parishioners who question the practice it's perfectly all right. (May God have mercy on those priests on the day of their judgement.) However, most Catholics know the Church teaches contraception is a mortal sin...a sin worthy of eternal damnation. Still, the vast majority of those Catholics think the Church's ban on contraception began with Pope Paul VI's encyclical in 1968 called *Humanae Vitae*. They believe this because they also think modern chemical contraceptives are new to medical technology, but such thinking only demonstrates an ignorance of history.

Anthropologists have proven that contraception is of much greater antiquity than medical and social historians thought. Extant medical documents from China as far back as 2700 BC and Egypt from around 1850 BC describe contraceptive methods. So from the very first century of the Christian era, Catholics were faced with the option of following the more difficult Church teaching on procreative love or conforming to their pagan environment...much as is the case today. Indeed, a pagan doctor from Ephesus named Soranos (AD 98-138) describes almost twenty medically approved methods of contraception. The premise used in his writings is that it's safer, medically speaking, for the mother to prevent conception from taking place than to destroy the fetus in the womb.

The widespread practice of contraception in the first century of the Christian era was referred to euphemistically as “using magic” and “using drugs”. This is why the New Testament has prohibitions against magic (*mageia*) and drugs (*pharmakeia*) when listing things associated with sexual immorality (cf. Galatians 5:20; Revelation 21:8; 22:15, *et alia*). The *Didache*, meaning “teaching of the twelve”, is a first century document written while St. John the Apostle was still alive, and it's a treatise of Catholic teaching. It condemns both

abortion and contraception. Records from the first century tell us that people would first try “magic” to contracept, and if that was unsuccessful they would resort to Soranos' methods. If his methods failed, women would resort to abortion. If abortion failed, they would use the Roman law that permitted infanticide—today known as partial birth abortion.

So contraception is nothing new under the sun. Before the end of the second century, St. Clement of Alexandria wrote a catechism called *Paidagogos*. It reflects a very balanced treatment of marriage. In it, Clement defended marital intercourse as good and holy. He wrote that marital “love tends toward sexual relations by its very nature,” and “sometimes nature (menstrual cycles) denies them the opportunity to perform the marriage act so that they may be all the more desirable because it is delayed.” However, Clement went on to tell us that “to indulge in intercourse without intending children is to outrage nature, whom we should take as our instructor.” (1 St. Clement of Alexandria, *Paidagogos*, II, 9-10)

Over the next several centuries these teachings were re-emphasized by Church Fathers such as Justin Martyr, Origen, Ambrose, Jerome, John Chrysostom, and Augustine. They taught it was wrong because it imitated the evil maliciousness of the pagans, placed carnal pleasure before the love that wants children, profaned the sacredness of the generative act, denied God's grace to sustain a married couple who practice continence, debauched the human person by making him/her subject to unnatural lust, an injustice against the laws of God (mortal sin), and that it is irrational to have sexual intercourse while excluding the desire to have children.

So none of the Church's teachings on artificial contraception are new. The Church has always taught in perfect continuity what she teaches today, that the two-fold purpose of marriage is unity and procreation—the giving of love and the giving of life. So when Pope Paul VI wrote *Humanae Vitae* in 1968, he was merely restating the Magisterial teaching of the holy Catholic Church.

This teaching on contraception isn't one that may be chosen or rejected like someone picking and choosing what to eat in a cafeteria. Being a Cafeteria Christian is what Protestants did, which is why they broke away from the Church and became protestants...they protested Christ's immutable truths. Any Catholic who rejects any Magisterial teaching of the Catholic Church (and the ban on contraception is just that) is not a Catholic, but rather a protestant. In other words, when one rejects Magisterial Catholic teaching one places oneself outside the communion of the Catholic Church and is living in a state of mortal sin.

This is one of those times when I regret that *What We Believe...Why We Believe It* is only two pages long. Not only could many pages be written on the topic of contraception and chaste married love, but entire books could be written on the subject. Indeed, many books have been written on the topic, and I would recommend readers go to such sources as Natural Family Planning International, the Couple to Couple League and Ignatius Press to learn as much as they can. Failure to learn and practice natural family planning could have eternal consequences—the difference between eternity in heaven and eternity in hell. That's *What We Believe...Why We Believe It*.

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

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#61