

## MASSES & INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018

**4:30 P.M. MASS** – Jack Johnson, Fran Meaux, Cecil Sonnier, Benton Smith, Sonya Billodeaux, Evelyn Sandell, Francis & Beulah Dugas, Elloy & Aza Deshotel, Elaine Dugas, Vernon Dugas, David Dugas, Brent Meaux, Willie Mae LeJeune, John & Virginia Spears Fly., Keith LeJeune, Ophelia Fontenot, Berlinger, Marcantel & Horton Fly., Liv. & Dec., Oliver & Armosa Victorian, Marcalene Ceaser, Paul LaFleur, Freddy Gorman, Jean Manuel

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018

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

**10:00 A.M. MASS** – Lucas Orsot, Carol Deshotel, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Matt Taylor

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2018

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – Fr. Jacob S. Conner

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2018

**NO MASS**

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2018

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – Frank Mougeot Fly., Living & Deceased

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2018

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – Rodney & Jerry Bushnell

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2018

**6:30 A.M. MASS** – Claiborne Durio

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2018 – Ember Day Mass

**9:00 A.M. MASS** – Reparation for Sin; Sanctification of the Clergy

**4:30 P.M. MASS** – Fran Meaux, Sox Gordon, M/M Neville Vizena, Dorothy Tucker, Benton Smith, Evelyn Sandell, Seth & Jackie Chandler, Willie Mae LeJeune, Paul LaFleur, Freddy Gorman, Marcalene Ceaser, Martin Goodly, Charles B. Matthews, Lloyd Taylor, Sonya Billodeaux

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018

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

**10:00 A.M. MASS** – Carol Deshotel, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Angelle L. Durio, Linda LeJeune, Sarah Chapman, Garrett Howard, Taylor & Remy Fly., Liv. & Dec., Gene & Velma Brakel, Roland & Verlie Chaumont, Jerry & Polly Chaumont, Rodney & Jerry Bushnell, Pour Souls in Purgatory, Ophelia Fontenot, Senior Citizens of our Parish

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Last Week's Collection   | \$3,867.00  |
| BSA Total to Date (Quota - \$11,609.00)  | \$7,787.88  |
| Maintenance Fund to Date   | \$12,665.15 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection - Maintenance Fund  | \$947.00    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection this weekend – Priests Retirement Fund (quota \$1,409.00) |             |

## PRAYER LIST

Tyler Alexander, Robert Andrews, Amy Bairnsfather, Phil Beard, Charles Beaubouef, Georgia Bell Baggett, Tyler Bellow, Jocie Bergeron, John O'Neal Bergeron, Alvin Billodeaux, M/M Lincoln Briscoe, Margaret Briscoe, Deanne LeBlanc Broussard, Ambrose Bushnell, Bernice Bushnell, Belle Carrier, David & Natalie Carrier, Linda Beaubouef Cazes, JoAnn Cormier, Gordon Cotton, Brittany Courville, Jeane Daigle, Aiden & Renlee' Darbonne, Louise Guidry Darbonne, Donna Dunneho, Pam McDaniel Elliott, Noah Ferry, David Fontenot, Zaylen Frank, Tim Germany, James & Jill Gilbert & Fly., Elaine Giles, Tim Giles, Phielomone Goodly, Becky Gorman, Dixie Granger, Rachael Granger, Vergie Granger, Charlene Guidry, Juanita Guidry, Harrison Harmon, Joseph Harmon, Mildred Harmon, Esther Harmon, Jackie Hebert, Gwen Holder, Bob & Charlene Ireland, John, Shenita & Perella Jackson, Joey James, Cindy Langley, Essie Langley, Jessica Lindsey, Brian Manuel, Jennifer L. Manuel, Kevin Manuel, Marlin Manuel, Wilson Manuel, Larry Marcantel, Brandy McCarty, Christina McNutt, Josh Miller, Patrica Mikas, Brad Morgan, Clifton & Carolyn Morgan, Howard Patin, Sonya Pickett, Hannah Popillion, Ena Prudhomme & Fly., Jimmy Prudhomme, Ann Reed, Brenda Dodd Reed, Dara Reed, Gary Reed, Linda Reed, Leah Rexrode, Don

& Debra Rider, Salis & Janice Rider, Ann Rooney, Fr. Fred Russi, Pat Abshire Savant, Helen Sheeman, Lois Singleton, Yvonne Smith, Donald Taylor, Ken & Wylene Taylor, Diana Tichy, Matthew Truman, Dollyanna Victorian, Kyle Vidrine, Hannah and Linda Voeller, Linda Weldon, Nicole Young

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

### Creations on Canvas Holiday Painting Night at SJoA

Looking for a fun night out? SJoA youth group is hosting a "Creations on Canvas" painting night **Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 8 P.M.** Bring your favorite beverage, a snack and relax. The talented artist Mary Donaldson will guide you step by step through the night's holiday painting. The class is \$30 per person and is open to ages 14 and older. Tickets are available by contacting Mrs. Corinne at the rectory or calling her cell at 337-523-3336. Proceeds benefit youth attending March for Life in Washington, D.C. January, 2019. Youth group members are asked to help with this event.

### Church Cleaning Day

On Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> we will have a church cleaning day beginning after the 9:00 A.M. Ember Day Mass. Please consider giving your time to help beautify our church.

**Knights of Columbus will have a Corporal Communion on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at the 7:30 A.M. Mass.**

### Poinsettias for Christmastide

Poinsettia donations of \$30 are being accepted in memory of or in honor of a loved one in the collection or bring it to the church office.

### Thank You

We would like to thank Fr. Conner, Deacon Deshotel, the choir, the parishioners of SJoA and the Ladies Altar Society for their prayers and concerns during the loss of our loved one.

- Sonja Billodeaux Family

**Due to slow demand, St. Vincent de Paul will open on an "as needed" basis during regular office hours.**

### This Week @ SJoA

- ❖ Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> – Holy League at 5:00 P.M.; Holy Hour at 6:00 P.M.
- ❖ **Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> – ADORATION 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.; CCD and Youth Group**
- ❖ Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup> – Creations on Canvas Painting Class in the hall from 6 – 8 P.M.
- ❖ Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Ember Day Mass at 9:00 A.M.

### FROM FATHER CONNER

#### First Holy Communion Congratulations

SJoA congratulates **Lillian Foreman**, who recently made her First Penance and received her First Holy Communion on Saturday, December 8th.

#### Manual for Spiritual Warfare

I want to pass along a great reference: some time ago I came across a very usual tool, the *Manual for Spiritual Warfare*. It's authored by Paul Thigpen and published by TAN Books. It retails for around \$30 but SJoA can get it to you for \$15. It contains very useful information and devotions. I highly recommend it. Call the rectory if you are interested in a copy.

#### Donations for the Prison Library

The Catholic Community at Allen Correctional Center is establishing a library. SJoA would like to donate 10 **Ordinary** Form hand missals and 10 **Extraordinary** Form hand missals. Please consider donating toward this cause. I visit the prison every week. The Catholic faith is growing stronger there, but they need resources. **I am donating \$150 toward this project. Anyone care to make me look cheap???** To donate, call the rectory or drop some money in the collection basket. Be sure to identify that the donation is for the "prison library". Thanks!

# **WHAT WE BELIEVE...WHY WE BELIEVE IT**

## **He Practiced What He Preached**

The saintly Archbishop Gaspard Mermillod (1824-1892) of Geneva, Switzerland, had the good and pious custom of paying a last visit to the Blessed Sacrament every evening. He would then lock the doors to the cathedral for the night. Returning to the altar, he would make a deep and respectful genuflection, kiss the floor as a sign of reverence before the Blessed Sacrament and then retire to his home.

One evening, believing himself to be alone in the cathedral, he finished his devotions as usual. When he got up from his knees, he was startled by a noise. Suddenly the door of a confessional opened and a very distinguished looking lady stepped out.

“What are you doing here at this hour, my dear lady?” asked the archbishop.

“I’m a Protestant,” she answered, “and I’ve been present at the sermons you’ve given during Lent on the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. Your arguments have convinced me of the truth of this doctrine. Only one doubt remained, and that was: Does he himself believe what he says? I wanted to see if, when alone, you would conduct yourself before the Holy Eucharist as one who believes in It, and I had firmly resolved to become a convert if you practice what you preach. I’ve seen it for myself, so now I want to become a Catholic.” This lady became one of the most zealous Catholics of Geneva.

There are several wonderful lessons that can be learned from this story. We can easily find lessons on the worship of God, love and respect for the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist, setting a good example by practicing what we believe, and the importance of having zeal for our holy and ancient faith. I’ve always had a certain sort of “holy envy” for priests and bishops who have round the clock access to the Holy Eucharist. Like most people, I can’t get to the parish church during regular hours to pay visits to Our Lord in the Tabernacle as I’d like, but a priest can do so anytime he wants...and I know of many priests who make visits to the Hidden Jesus often each day. Today, rather than give you one of the lessons you’d expect, let me tell you about one such priest I knew who has since gone to his reward. The priest’s name was Fr. Killian Mooney, and he was a member of the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity. Fr. Killian would begin each day visiting the Eucharist. As the sky began to turn pink with the first rays of the sun coming toward the horizon, Father would go into the sanctuary and pull his chair up close to the tabernacle to speak to His Master and Majesty. Then he would return several times throughout the day.

What benefits did Fr. Killian derive from his multiple visits every day? When he died, Fr. Killian was an octogenarian, but his bishop told me he got more done each day than any ten priests half his age. It’s almost as if God altered time for this very holy priest. But that isn’t nearly all these visits to Our Eucharistic Lord did for him. Fr. Killian was so much in love with the Holy Eucharist that, on multiple occasions, those of us attending Mass would watch in awe as he lapsed into a holy ecstasy during the elevation of the Host. His feet were firmly planted at the altar, but it was more than apparent to the rest of us that his soul was in heaven before the throne of our Creator and King.

Father could read souls as well. Twice in the confessional I had forgotten a sin when making my confession. When I’d indicated my confession was finished, Fr. Killian would ask, “What about the sin of \_\_\_\_\_?” I replied, “Yes, Father, and the sin of \_\_\_\_\_. But how did you...” He would cut me off and say, “Now tell God you’re sorry,” which was his way of telling me to make a good act of contrition...and that how he knew wasn’t any of my business. Fr.

Killian could read souls, just as Padre Pio and the Cure of Ars could do.

Fr. Killian tried to make every penitent understand that we are God’s children in a real way. That was why he said, “Now tell God you’re sorry,” instead of telling penitents to make a good act of contrition. It was like telling a child to tell Daddy he was sorry. And when Father gave absolution and made the Sign of the Cross, he would finish by reaching over and giving a fatherly tap on the head of the penitent. He simply wanted penitents to know and understand that God loves us the way a father loves his children. It certainly worked for me.

Fr. Killian’s parish covered two and a half counties in one of the poorest regions of the country. One day each week, people would line up from the rectory door to the street and all the way around the corner to see Fr. Killian. All of them had problems. Some might not be able to pay the power bill, others needed food, and still others might need medicine. I recall one man who had recently got a new job, but the battery on his car died before he got his first paycheck, so he wouldn’t be able to get to work until he got a new battery. He went to Fr. Killian to ask for help. No matter the need these people had, Fr. Killian would pray with them and counsel them on how they got into their dire situation in the first place and how to avoid it. Then he would give them a voucher that could be used anywhere in the area—the grocery store, the electric company, the drug store, the hardware store...anywhere. All the people had to do was present the voucher and say, “Fr. Killian sent me.” The voucher would be honored immediately.

It was estimated that Father’s charity was at least \$250,000 a year, but his was a small rural parish that could in no way support such a ministry. I’m told that when Fr. Killian died and the parish audit was done, no one was able to find the source of all that money. There was no bank account, no records, no benefactor could be identified, and there was certainly no treasure chest or stuffed mattress. It was finally concluded, I’m told, that God simply made the money materialize when it was needed, much as He had done for St. John Bosco or when Jesus fed thousands with the few loaves and fishes.

Fr. Killian Mooney was no doubt a living saint, and his saintly life was attributed to his deep love for the Holy Eucharist and his equally deep and tender devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Fr. Killian had a passion for souls, which was a natural extension of his love for Our Lord and Our Lady. The good news is, Fr. Killian proves to us that we can all achieve that level of holiness. He wasn’t anything or anyone special, and he’d have been the very first person to make that point. All he did was believe, serve and love. He believed everything the Holy Catholic Church teaches without question or reservation. He served God and the men God created for the love of God. And he loved God, Our Lady, and everyone he met.

Everyone can be like Fr. Killian, if only we will use the confessional as a means to root out all the little things that keep us from perfect union with God. We may never be able to experience ecstasy before the Eucharist or make money materialize out of thin air, but those were just signs from God to draw attention to the holiness of a man who loved Him as we all should love Him... God telling us He wants the same level of love from us He received from Fr. Killian. Fr. Killian Mooney was a man who knew What We Believe...Why We Believe It.

Got questions? Ask them now by going to [JoeSixpackAnswers.com](http://JoeSixpackAnswers.com).  
© Sixpack Productions #74

# *Ember Saturday Mass of Advent*



## **SOLEMN MASS IN THE EXTRAORDINARY FORM**

*Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>  
9:00 A.M.*

**St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church  
118 South Seventh Street  
Oberlin, LA 70655**

This Mass is an excellent opportunity to observe the days of prayer and penance, known as Ember Days, that Bishop Provost has recently established by particular law for the Diocese of Lake Charles. In this ancient Mass you will join together with clergy so that, with one heart, we will make reparation for sins and pray for the increased sanctification of the clergy.

## What are Ember Days?

By an ancient and immemorial practice of the Roman Church, each of the seasons in the yearly circle of the Earth around its star is sanctified by the Church on what are known as Ember Days, or in Latin *quatuor tempora*, meaning “the four times”. On the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday of these four weeks, which were spread out roughly at the change of each season, both the clergy and the lay faithful would offer to God the tribute of prayer and fasting for three purposes: **first**, to thank Him for the blessings of the season just past and to ask for blessings on the season to come; **second**, in reparation for sins and asking grace to reform life going forward; and **third**, for the sanctification of the clergy.

The origins of the Ember Days are ancient and venerable. The great liturgical historian Dom Prosper Guéranger notes that the Apostles probably took these times of prayer and fasting over from the Jews (*The Liturgical Year*, vol. 1, 218). The *Didache*, a First Century document attributed to the Twelve Apostles, notes that early Christians fasted each **Wednesday** (the day the Lord was betrayed) and **Friday** (the day He was crucified and died) of the week. In Rome, the observance would later also be extended to **Saturday** (the day Christ “slept” in the tomb). In order to “keep vigil with Peter,” Saturday prayer and penance found its way beyond Rome. Indeed, there is ample historical evidence affirming the observance of the Ember Days in the Roman Rite at least since the 200s.

As noted above, placing special emphasis on prayer for the sanctification of the clergy became an essential part of the Ember observance. Over time, and in Rome, the custom developed of ordaining priests on the Saturdays of Ember Seasons. This was both reasonable and appropriate given that Roman Catholics throughout the world were engaged in prayer and penance for the clergy. And does not the present crisis call out for a similar observance? It was none other than **St. John Vianney**, the patron saint of priests, who once taught: “One ought to pray earnestly, especially at the Ember Seasons, that God will give us good priests. If they are saints, what great good they can do!”

Since the year 1969, regrettably, the observance of the Ember Days in the universal Church is no longer fixed in the calendar. Recently, however, Bishop Provost has made the observance of prayer and penance on Ember Days particular law in the Diocese of Lake Charles. In doing this he has joined a number of other Bishops who have either encouraged or mandated some form of Ember observance in their dioceses. Accordingly, Catholics in the Diocese of Lake Charles will be required to observe prayer and penance on the Ember Days.

## How should I observe the Ember Days?

In general, extra prayer and the observance of penance will be necessary on these days. Speaking more specifically though, and in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Office of Liturgy of the Diocese of Lake Charles, these *recommendations* are made for your consideration:

### Prayer

1. Attend holy Mass on each Ember Day.
2. Make a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament, or at least a brief visit, on each Ember Day.
3. Pray the Rosary, preferably as a family, on each Ember Day.
4. Make prayers of reparation for the sins of the clergy, for the clergy’s sanctification, for the conversion of sinners, for the strengthening of faith for all Christians, and for the healing of victims of abuse on each Ember Day.

### Penance

1. Observe **partial abstinence** each Ember Wednesday and Saturday.
  - a. Partial abstinence: meat and soup or gravy cooked with meat permitted once a day at the principal meal.
2. Observe **complete abstinence** each Ember Friday.
  - a. Complete abstinence: the total abstinence from meat and soup or gravy cooked with meat by those 14 years of age and older. (Until 1966, the requirement to abstain from meat began at 7 years of age.)
3. Fasting from food.
  - a. Those age 18-59 will limit food intake to one full meal and, if needed, two collations (“snacks”), which when combined, do not exceed a full meal on each Ember Day.
4. Fasting from media.
  - a. Other than for work, make a complete and total fast from all electronic media on each Ember Day.

## List of the Ember Days in A.D. 2019

- Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> (**2018**); March 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>; June 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>; Sept, 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>; Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>

# QUICK GUIDE FOR MAKING A GOOD CONFESSION

1. Enter the Confessional. Kneel down, make the Sign of the Cross and say:

**Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been \_\_\_\_\_ days (... or weeks ... or years) since my last confession. These are my sins.**

(Don't wait for the priest to say something. He's waiting on **you** to begin the confession.)

2. Then confess your sins, taking care to confess *every mortal* sin by kind & number.
3. Signify you are finished confessing your sins by saying:

**For these and all my sins, I ask forgiveness of God and absolution from you, Father.**

4. The priest may offer counsel after you finish the confession. He will assign a penance, as well as instruct you to make an Act of Contrition.

(Do **not** say your penance *in* the confessional. Make, rather, an Act of Contrition.)

5. As you begin your Act of Contrition, the priest will pray the prayer of absolution. Make the Sign of the Cross as the priests says:

**And I absolve you from your sins. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

(May also be said by Father in Latin: **Deinde ego te absolvo a peccatis tuis, in nomine Patris, et Filii, ✠ et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.**)

6. The confession ends when the priest says these words:

**Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace.**

7. You should respond, saying:

**Thanks be to God.**

8. Once the confession is over, leave the confessional and fulfill your penance as soon as possible.

## Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

**SAVE THE DATES**

**Pontifical Mass at the Cathedral...**Fri., Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm

**New Year's Eve Holy Hour...**11pm – 12am

**New Year's Food / Fireworks...**Tues., Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:00.01am

**SJoA Confirmation Day of Reflection (Mandatory for all Confirmation Students)...**Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup> (Martin Luther King Holiday) at the Cursillo Center in Prairie Ronde.

**SJoA Confirmation...**Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm