

MASSES & INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2019

4:30 P.M. MASS – Fran Meaux, Benton Smith, Evelyn Sandell, David Dugas, Bruce & Rhonda Granger Fly., Paul LaFleur, Freddy Gorman, Lloyd Taylor, Sonja Billodeaux, Edora Frank, Don Fontenot

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2019

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Carol & Keith Deshotel, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Rodney & Jerry Bushnell, Timothy Childers, Joe & Susana Beaubouef Fly., Todd & Kellie Manuel Fly.

MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2019

6:30 A.M. MASS – D. C. Reed., Jr.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019

6:30 A.M. MASS – Reparation for Abortion

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2019

6:30 A.M. MASS – Frank Mougeot

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2019

6:30 A.M. MASS – Shannon & Kristin Mancil

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2019

6:00 P.M. MASS – Mr. & Mrs. Sullivan Aguillard

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2019

4:30 P.M. MASS – Fran Meaux, Benton Smith, Evelyn Sandell, David Dugas, Paul LaFleur, Freddy Gorman, Lloyd Taylor, Sonja Billodeaux, Rodney & Jerry Bushnell, Martin Goodly, Paul & Rose Frank

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2019

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

10:00 A.M. MASS – Carol & Keith Deshotel, Leonard Beaubouef & Sons, Ryan Rozas Fly.

Last Week's Collection

TBA

Building Fund to Date

TBA

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, 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, Paula Davis Hargrove, Harrison Harmon, Joseph Harmon, Mildred Harmon, Esther Harmon, Jackie Hebert, Dolores Holden, 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, Janice Moreau, 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 Taylor, Diana Tichy, Matthew Truman, Dollyanna Victorian, Kyle Vidrine, Hannah and Linda Voeller, Bruce Walker, Linda Weldon, Nicole Young, Theresa Young

Vocations Candle and Cross – Steven & Caroline Fontenot

Missals Available in the Office

SJoA now has the Extraordinary Form and the Ordinary Form Missals in the church office for \$40.00. The regular price to purchase one elsewhere is at least \$60 or more.

Women's Prayer Luncheon Invitation

Bishop Glen John Provost invites the ladies of the Diocese of Lake Charles to the Women's Prayer Luncheon, Wed, Feb 13, at 11:30 AM at the CHANCERY, 414 Iris Street. The scripture covers 2 Corinthians. Please read 2 Corinthians 1-4. \$15.00 per person. Make checks to Diocese of Lake Charles. Mail to Victoria Walter, Diocese of Lake Charles, 411 Iris Street, LC, La. 70601. Deadline to register Feb 8. Please enclose a self-addressed and stamped envelope for your ticket. The schedule for the series is Feb 13, Mar 13, April 10 and May 1.

This Week @ SJoA

- ❖ Sunday, January 20th – Holy League at 5:00 P.M.; Solemn Holy Hour at 6:00 P.M.
- ❖ Monday, January 21st – Office Closed; SJoA Day of Reflection at the Cursillo Center
- ❖ Tuesday, January 22nd – MASS AT 6:30 A.M.; ADORATION 7:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. for the Protection of the Unborn
- ❖ Wednesday, January 23rd – ADORATION 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.; CCD and Youth Group

FROM FATHER CONNER

TIPS FOR CONFESSION

Say the sin; don't dance around it. Valuable confession time is wasted when a penitent tries to get around naming the sin commissioned by being overly descriptive. The Confessor (that is, the priest) does not need a long description of circumstances and/or motivating influences. In fact, they are *not* helpful at all in most cases. (For example, a penitent might try to explain all the things a spouse did that led to the sin. Apart from being ridiculous, it's simply impossible. No one can cause us to sin. By definition a sin is an act *freely* committed.) While a penitent should never confess in a hasty manner, he should be prompt. Confession time is valuable. It's often the case that there are others waiting in line to make a confession – especially on Sunday. So then, don't waste time in the confessional. Simply identify the sin. Say it by name and move on. **Reminder:** if a sin is *mortal*, it **must** be identified by *kind* and *number*.

DAY OF PRAYER & PENANCE

Tuesday, January 22nd has been designated by the Bishops of these United States as a day of prayer and penance on account of the sin of abortion. Misguided and wicked people try to cloak the nature of abortion with terms and phrases such as, “pro-choice”; “women's rights”; “reproductive health care”; and so on. **Oh yes, abortion is a choice: it's the choice to murder human life at its most innocent stage.** If a person is in favor of abortion, he is not a Catholic ... except in name only. Abortion can never be justified ... neither morally nor medically. Abortion must be ended completely, and you and I must **work** to end it. **Therefore, please be advised that the observance of penance is required by all Catholics in the USA on Tuesday, January 22nd.** At the very least, the day is to be treated as if it were a typical Friday. However, given the heinous nature of abortion (namely, that it's child murder), and given that it is so prevalent (over 60 million children have been murdered in their mothers' wombs in this country alone since Roe vs Wade), we would do well to treat January 22nd as if it were more than a regular Friday. We should treat it, from the perspective of penance, as if it were **Ash Wednesday** or **Good Friday**: that is, by observing **fast** and **abstinence**. SJoA will have a special Mass at 6:30 am, followed by Eucharistic adoration until 1:00 pm. A sign up sheet can be found at the main entrance of the church for the hours of adoration. If you are not available at these times, please remember that the church is always open for prayer.

WHAT WE BELIEVE...WHY WE BELIEVE IT

Good Queen Blanche

King St. Louis IX (1214-1270), for whom our midwestern city in Missouri is named, was one of the most benevolent monarchs in all of history. Louis developed French Royal Justice, making the king the supreme judge to whom anyone could appeal as the final authority when challenging a conviction or civil judgement. He also banned the barbaric practice of trial by ordeal. Guided by the Church's moral and doctrinal teachings, he was the first to institute the legal concept of presumed innocence when someone was brought up on criminal charges. He also did all he could to relieve the suffering of the peasantry. He became the only king in Catholic France's history to become a canonized saint.

Just like every saint, there was an impetus that led to his sanctity. For some saints it was a particular hardship that led them on the road to sanctity. For others it was an event of divine intervention at some point that made them seem chosen in a special way by heaven. But the impetus that led Louis to sainthood was the most common of starting points—his mother, good Queen Blanche.

Blanche began teaching her son to become a Christian leader when he was but five years old. Her greatest desire was for Louis to place Jesus Christ and His Church first in all things. From the time Louis was old enough to understand what she was saying, Blanche would take Louis onto her lap and say to him, "Louis, my precious son, I love you more than anyone in the world. No mother ever loved her son more than I love you. *But I would rather see you dead at my feet a thousand times than to know that you had offended God with one mortal sin.*"

Queen Blanche did indeed love her son with a perfect Christian mother's love. We have seen in a previous article how St. Felicitas had allowed her seven sons to be murdered in front of her, even encouraging them to willingly give their lives, rather than offend God by denying Jesus Christ. This was something Queen Blanche would obviously have been willing to do as well. Teaching children the importance of our faith and loving them enough to realize they belong to God first and foremost is the only true love we can have for our children.

All of us know our parents love us. And we no doubt love our children as well. But in today's culture, I tend to think we don't know how to love our children with a true love. And that's because we focus on the wrong things in our own lives. Rather than the focus in our lives being on God and His commandments as taught consistently for two-thousand years by His Church, we allow ourselves to become focused on the lesser things life offers us. This makes us selfish and messes up our priorities.

The proper priorities in life are God first, our children second, ourselves third, and everything else coming last. But we don't think that way today...we don't think like St Felicitas or Queen Blanche. We put ourselves first, many other things second, our children third, and then God fits in on Sunday. There are all sorts of proofs for what I'm saying.

When God is first, children don't end up living with one parent and only seeing the other on weekends. When God is first, families don't end up with staggering debt because they want all the things the world has to offer, which leads mothers to work outside the home and neglect the proper rearing of their children and the care of their homes and husbands. When God comes first, parents don't use artificial contraception, which is a grave violation of God's law.

Families destroyed by divorce used to be rare in this country. One reason it was rare was because spouses understood before they married that Jesus said the bond of matrimony lasts until the death of a spouse. Another reason why marriages lasted was because people were much more mature and driven more by Christian principle than be the superficial things that lead people to immature commitments. The proof of what I'm saying is in the fact that 50% of all marriages end in divorce, which equates to families being tossed away like a used paper napkin.

Families where mothers work outside the home do so because the mom and dad lie to themselves that it takes two incomes to make it today. That's the lie my parents told themselves a lifetime ago. I was a typical child and wanted my mother at home, because it is natural for a child to want to be with his mother while he grows up. It's very unnatural for a child to be reared only part-time by mom, and they intuitively know that. I remember asking Mom why she had to work, why she couldn't stay at home with me, and why I had to go to be with a babysitter (no daycare centers in my day). Mom told me the lie that it was so she and Dad could provide for me everything they never had. She believed what she was saying, but it was a lie nonetheless.

They were competing with everyone else around, and that was the truth of the matter. They wanted me dressed in better clothes than the other kids. They wanted to live in a nicer house than we really needed. They wanted to buy a new car every few years. They liked our annual vacations across the country to see and do new things. None of those things are essential to the proper rearing of children, though, and their choices made me grow up believing that material things are important enough to sacrifice all else in life that is good to acquire them. And that is how I lived my life. (By the way, my parents ended up divorced when I was a young man and my sister was still living at home.)

Spouses who practice artificial contraception not only deny the importance of God in their lives, but they also send some horrible and hurtful messages to their children, even if the children never consciously recognize those messages. It took me many years to understand the message, but I got the message even as a child because of one accidental event.

When I was about five, my mother was visiting with a group of her friends. I was the only child present, so I was entertaining myself in an adjacent room. I was a precocious child, so I understood most of the adult conversation taking place, but not necessarily paying attention to it. But then I heard my mother jokingly say that I was an accident, that I wasn't planned. To my five year old mind, that equated to not being wanted. That singular overheard conversation altered the next twenty-five years of my life and destined me for a life of abandonment to mortal sin.

My parents practiced artificial contraception. I got the message when I was five, but most kids get it only subliminally. When parents use artificial contraception, they are telling their kids they are not a welcome gift of God, but rather they are only yet another "thing" in their collection of things.

Parents know this too, even if only subconsciously. The evidence is in the way they rear their children. How a child behaves in public is indicative of how the child behaves at home and is taught by the parents. The vast majority of children I see in public today are rowdy, loud, and ill-behaved—indulged with just about anything they want. Parents allow this because they feel guilt for not being there for their children as they should—for not giving them what they truly need because they're too busy working to acquire "things" and paying bills they didn't have any business making in the first place.

Families where God is the first priority are families that stay together, no matter how tough things get in life and between mom and dad. Families who place God first have stay at home moms who give their children the nurturing they truly need—that is, a loving home where children are taught to be good, devout and devoted Catholics. Families devoted to God welcome children as the gifts from Him they truly are and see material things as icing on the cake and not the cake itself. These types of families...families who love God first...practice NFP rather than send their children the message that they aren't nearly as important as things.

SAVE THE DATES

SJoA Confirmation Day of Reflection (Mandatory for all Confirmation Students)

Monday, January 21st (Martin Luther King Holiday) at the Cursillo Center in Prairie Ronde.

SJoA Day of Prayer and Penance for the Protection of the Unborn

Tuesday, January 22nd Adoration from 7:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

SJoA Confirmation

Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at St. Joan of Arc