

Ministers of the Liturgy January 9 & 10, 2016

Saturday - 4 P.M.

Intention: George Spauding, Marian Quigley, Rita Burch, Augustine Borrás, Flora Maria Be, Merle & Charles Dittmer, Patrick C. McKinney, Karen Hebert (L), Rose Marie Greco Federico, Hubert LaBorde, Marie O'Malley, Wilton Bonamour, Irvin Dares, Joseph Segari
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
K. Hartdegan, D. Martin
Cantor: Trish Foti

Sunday - 9 A.M.

Intention: Parishioners
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
C. Frederick, L. Director, K. Klapatch, R. Theriot
Song Leaders: Traditional Choir

Sunday - 11 A.M.

Intention: Don Rowan, Sr., Irvin Dares, Bosvely Pinzon, Joseph Donald Bernard
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
P. & R. Serio, N. Bostick, L. Frey
Song Leaders: Contemporary Choir

Sunday - 6 P.M.

Intention: Cori Sudderth (L)
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
L. Daigle, B. David
Cantor: Lauren Gisclair
Pianist: Beth Kettenring

Weekday Masses (1/11-15)

Monday	7:00 a.m.	Don Rowan, Sr.
	5:30 p.m.	Gladys Gsell
Tuesday	7:00 a.m.	Bill C. Johnson
Wednesday	7:00 a.m.	Rose Marie Greco Federico
	8:20 a.m.	D.J. (Budd) Olistter, Jr. & Olga Claiborne
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Marian Quigley
	5:30 p.m.	Cori Sudderth (L)
Friday	7:00 a.m.	Paul LaRocca, Sr.



New Year's Blessing

Lord Jesus, prince of peace, bring peace into the world. You died to save us all. Raise us to new life with you, and help us to be peacemakers. Lord Jesus Christ, hear our prayer, for you are Lord forever. Amen.

Christmas Collection

Our Christmas collections totaled \$14,810.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Thanks from Fr. H. L.

Fr. H. L. thanks everyone for their cards, gifts, and best wishes during the Christmas Season.

New Year's Resolution

If one of your resolution for the new year is to spend more time in prayer, please consider becoming a committed adorer in our Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel. We have several open times - one is sure to fit your schedule. For more information, please call Joy at 834-5525.

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

Jan. 16/17

4 p.m.	J. Rodosta, L. Segari
9 a.m.	C. & R. Ayers, D. Childers, B. O'Hara
11 a.m.	J. Hutchinson, R. Oleksik, K. Robertson, R. Meece
6 p.m.	M. Drawe, D. Powers



Adoration Chapel Sanctuary
Light in memory of
Stuart and Gloria Fourroux



Altar
Care

Altar Ladies

Week of January 10
M. Curry, G. Boling

Linens

Large - M. Thibodeaux Small - J. Rojas

Last Week's Collection

Envelopes	\$3,982.00
Loose	4,298.00
Repairs and Maintenance	1,625.00
Msgr. Richaud Endowment Fund	50.00
Totalling	\$9,955.00
Holy Day Collection.....	\$3,099.00

Fr. Cooper's Corner

Baptism of the Lord 2016

Curiously, the prayer at the opening of today's celebration speaks about our renewal through Christ and not so much about the Baptism of the Lord. The first option for the Collect says: "grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit may always be pleasing to you." The second option says: "grant, we pray, that we may be inwardly transformed through him whom we recognize as outwardly like ourselves."

In these prayers, then, we learn both something about Christ and something about ourselves. This amplifies what God said in Isaiah, when speaking about the One who comes: "A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench until he establishes justice on the earth." That refers to the wonderful generosity of God. Our natural inclination is to step back from Jesus' Baptism and let it leave us untouched. But according to Isaiah this was the beginning of the justification of the world. The world that we live in! And Jesus Christ is the one who (following Isaiah again) is the "light for the nations."

Now, we could just stop right here – because so few of us actually believe this. Are there *any* nations following this teaching? What has long been forgotten in the United States and has been discarded in so many countries is that Christ came to show us what humanity can really be: not lying and deceptive, which we do outstandingly well without His help, but open to and capable of the greatest good with His help. This is the justice of the Lord spoken of by God in Isaiah.

The two possible Collects for the Feast speak in different ways about our transformation. Not the kind envisaged by our government because they want to allow people more latitude to sin. (As a sideline, they are doing this on the assumption that the government knows best and is fully entitled to do social engineering; an idea of government never envisioned by our forefathers!) On this Feast, we hear of our being transformed to choose the good and avoid evil, not merely being transformed to find more evils to do. Yes, choosing the good makes for better human beings. The transformation that the prayers speak of is spiritual and temporal. It does not start from me deciding to change as in the "American self-help movement." Rather, it starts from Christ showing us the One who is loved by God. He is the Beloved One of God and so He lives out for us the human life that is the life of someone beloved of God.

The poignant thing about Christ is that in His life He constantly had to deal with evil. In becoming a Christian, there is no saccharine living happily ever after until the Kingdom comes. The resignation to daily dealing with evil is totally counter to the progressivism around us. Progressivism says "apply the will," following current cultural trends and you will progress into a utopian future. This is a voluntarism that would have made Hitler proud.

But we are coming to the end of the voluntaristic age. It started with the worst excesses of the Enlightenment and

has simply gone downhill from there, turning more and more bloody ever since.

We are at the end of an age. What will replace it of course is not at all clear. Love should be the answer but what does "end" even mean? The historian Jacques Barzun says: "it is a very active time, full of deep concerns, but peculiarly restless, for it sees no clear lines of advance. The loss it faces is that of possibility. The forms of art as of life seem exhausted; the stages of development have been run through. Institutions function painfully. Repetition and frustration are the intolerable result."

He has captured the problem – at the end of an age there is the loss of possibility. In a Christian understanding, it is the widespread denial of the possibility of life in Christ in all of its unimaginable richness. A life of consumption, for example, is so shabby measured against life in Christ. This is where God's "this is my beloved Son, listen to him," comes in. God is offering the real possibilities of life!

Church Cleaning Crew

Please consider joining one of our cleaning crews to help vacuum the church. It is only a 30-35 minute obligation once a month. For more information, please call Anita at 504-874-1210.

Upcoming Retreats

The Archdiocese of New Orleans Retreat Center, 5500 St. Mary St., Metairie has several retreats planned for January. **January 12:** Day of Prayer – Finding Peace Through Forgiveness, Fr. Tony Rigoli, O.M.I.; **January 19:** Day of Prayer – Thomas Merton: Discovering God Within, Rev. Msgr. Doug Doussan; **January 22-24:** Practicing Mercy: Kissed by Mercy, Embraced by Love, Rev. Philip Chircop; **January 29-31:** Family Patterns: Blessings, Burdens and Bedlam, Jan Tate & Fr. Joe Krafft. Call 504-267-9604 for more information.

Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner

St. Benilde Boy Scout Troop 227 will hold its annual Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner on Sunday, Jan. 24. Dinner will be available for eat-in or take-out from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the cafeteria. **Pre-sale tickets will be sold at all of the Masses next weekend. The cost will \$6 for adults and \$5 for children.** Tickets at the door will be \$7 for adults and \$6 for children. Subs will also be on the menu. This fundraiser helps defray the cost of summer camp. Hope to see you there!

Is Mary Call You to Her Legion?

The Legion of Mary is the right arm of the pastor. We assist in many other Spiritual Works of Mercy needed to help our pastor. We meet most Saturdays at 2:05 p.m. in the Parish Office. We need your help. Will you answer Our Lady's call? For more information, please call Diane Schexnayder at 504-577-4190.