

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS: December 23-25, 2018

The completion of our **HVAC** (heating and cooling) **System Replacement Project** has been delayed. As of this writing, the last big unit (fresh-air intake) that will be installed at the back of the church (next to the condensers) is expected to be shipped sometime in January 2019. While waiting for this last big item, the workers are doing the finishing touches in the basement, repainting the old vent grills inside the church, and some few electrical works. I am making this last appeal for donations to our project. Please consider helping us with this very important project as you make plans for your **year-end giving**. At the end of this year, I will publish the final result of our appeal for this project. Thanks to all who have already supported this appeal.

I am so grateful to the very quick response to my appeal for donation to purchase new communion cups for our distribution of the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord during mass. The new cups have been donated and ordered. I am expecting them to arrive soon, hopefully before the end of this holy season. Thanks again to all who responded and to our "benefactor" – merci beau coup!

This weekend's bulletin is for the 4th Sunday of Advent and the Solemnity of Christmas.

The theme of the 4th Sunday of Advent is "blessedness." The Lord speaking through the Prophet Micah announces to the Hebrew people how the Lord will bless them by the coming of the ruler of Israel to be born in the simple town of Bethlehem. Elizabeth in the gospel of Luke boldly proclaims how she was blessed by Mary's greeting who was carrying the Son of God in her womb. If the Lord had blessed the ancient people, blessed and raised the "lowly (the BVM)", how much more those that God had consecrated at baptism to be His own? God's actions in our readings today tell us that God blesses all those that belong to Him regardless of our worthiness (our 2nd reading from the Letter to the Hebrews). Our God is a God who loves to bless! And what would be your response to our God?

With so many readings to hear, choose and proclaim at the Solemnity of Christmas (Vigil, Evening Mass, Mass at Midnight and Mass of the Day), one phrase and message stood out for me, the opening line of the word of the Prophet Isaiah in the 1st reading for the Midnight Mass. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." The Birth of the Christ and the Resurrection of Jesus both uses the same image—LIGHT! The birth of the Messiah was heralded by the multitude of angels "bathe in light" and marked by the presence of a star "illuminating the skies." At the resurrection,

our Savior was "bathe in light" and the glory of God shone upon Him. Both of these momentous events God gave us the Light and made us bearers of the His light so that, in the words of the Prophet Isaiah, "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."

The "festival of lights" (i.e. Christmas and Easter) are events that celebrates our coming into the Light of Christ and the light of Christ dwelling in us. This is precisely why Jesus said in the Gospel of Matthew, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under the bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly power." (Mt. 5:14-16).

As we all gather, bask and bathe in the lights of Christmas, surrounded by decorated trees and festive flowers and gifts, let us remember that like that surrounds us, we must also surround each one with the Light that comes from above, bathe each other with same love that gave us the great Light, immerse ourselves with the grace that lightens our lives and faith, and gives us peace. When we become God's lights, we can lead all people to His kingdom. When we enlighten the world with our love, we can let all experience Divine love that gave us Jesus. When we choose to shine before all, we become disciples. This Christmas, God wants us to be His light to all our families, neighbors, friends and to all the world. Will you?

On behalf of our Staff and Ministers, a very
**HAPPY CHRISTMAS to all of you! Joyeux Noël a tous!
Feliz navidad a todos! Maligayang Pasko po sa inyong lahat!**

Father Vic+



Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

- Luke 1:42



Please remember **Mrs. Joel Robichaux** who passed on into the Kingdom of our Father recently. Please pray also that her family may find comfort and consolation through their faith.

Wedding Banns

Bethany Falgoust & James LeBlanc (3)
Jessica St. Pierre & Blake Coleman (2)
Jamie Schutte & Scott Thistlewaite (2)

December 8th/ 9th, 2018

Weekly Offering

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Weekly Collection | \$ 8,877.05 |
| Weekly Loose | 1,947.90 |
| ACH Weekly | 335.00 |
| | \$ 11,159.95 |



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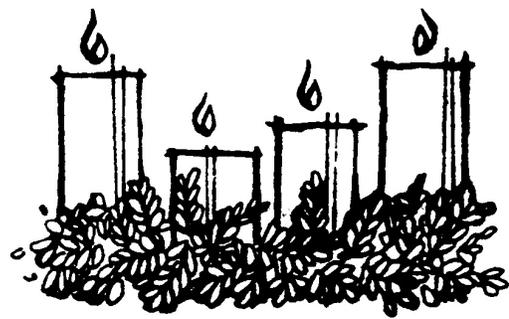
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| Immaculate Conception | \$ 2,556.00 |
| Priest Retirement | \$ 3,199.00 |

Thank you for your generosity!

Our Sunday Bulletin is supported by the advertisers who are listed on our back page. What better way to say THANK YOU than to remember them the next time you go shopping.

The following were Baptized into the family of Christ recently:

Kaylee Addyson
 child of Steve and Teza



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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Christmas Mass Schedule
 Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord



Monday, December 24th

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| First Vigil Mass | 4PM |
| Second Vigil Mass | 6PM |



Tuesday, December 25th

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Solemn Midnight Mass | 12 Midnight |
| First Mass of Christmas Day | 7:30 AM |
| Second Mass of Christmas Day | 9:30 AM |
| Last Mass on Christmas Day | 11:30 AM |

The Co-Cathedral Choir will sing *REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS* at the 6:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve. The choir will begin singing at 5:30 PM.



REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

O COME, LONG FORETOLD

O come, Desired of nations,
 Whom priest and prophet long foretold
 Will break the captive fetters,
 Redeem the long-lost fold.
 Dear Savior, haste; come, come to earth,
 Dispel the night and show your face,
 And bid us hail the dawn of grace.

—Simon J. Pellegrin (1663-1745), Tr. by Mary of St. Philip (1825-1904)

HOUSEHOLD SUPPLY DRIVE...

“Thank you for caring with us...”

The ministry of the Thibodaux Good Samaritan Food Bank is made possible through the generosity of people like you!

Dear Fr. Vic, Parishioners and Volunteers,

We are extremely grateful for your generous donations of **1,351 lbs.** of household supplies in this year’s drive. Your donation to the Good Samaritan Food Bank will help people in need in our community basic household supplies.

On behalf of the many people whose lives have been blessed because of your generosity, **WE THANK YOU!**

Sincerely,
Kristin Helms LaFleur
 Food Bank Manager”