



St. Joseph's

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Founded 1875

255 North 8th St. (P. O. Box 368) Ponchatoula, LA 70454

Church Phone Number: (985) 386-3749

Church Web site: www.stjosephsonline.com

Church Office Hours: Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sunday Mass Schedule:

Sat. Vigil 5:00 pm
Sun. 8:00 am & 11:00 am

Week Day Mass Schedule:

M-Th 8:00 am

Confession:

Sat. 4:00 PM
T & Th after Mass

Baptism:

Couples who would like their child baptized need to contact Ramona at the office, 985-386-3749 to register for baptism preparation.

Marriage:

Contact a priest or deacon of the parish at least 6 months before the wedding at 985-386-3749.

Anointing of the Sick:

Please notify the office as soon as a Catholic is seriously ill or is having surgery.


Adoration:

Wed. 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Divine Mercy: 3:00 pm
- Vespers & Benediction: 6:00 pm

Catechetical Programs:

PSR-Gr. K-5; Sun 9:30-10:30 am
Ablaze-Gr. 6-8; Sun 9:30-10:30 am
High School Formation
Gr. 9-12; Sun. 5:00-7:00 pm

SAFETY GUIDELINES



Parishioners are required to bring and wear a mask while in the worship space. The faithful are encouraged to bring small bottles of hand sanitizer for their personal use.

December 20, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass Schedule for The Nativity of the Lord



December 24th: 4 pm & 7 pm

December 25th: 10 am

WE WILL CONTINUE FOLLOWING SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES

Overflow for the Christmas Eve Masses (4pm & 7pm) will be live streamed in the gym. Please note this is a direct feed. Live Streaming can only be accessed in the gym. There will be ushers available to direct you at the church and the gym at those times.



WHAT'S INSIDE!!!

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Staff

Rev. Paul A. McDuffie, *Pastor*
Larry J. Melancon, *Deacon*
Michael A. Agnello, *Deacon*
Angela Perrin, *Business Manager*
Fernando Morales, *Director of Ministries*
Paige Bacile, *PSR Coordinator/Child Protection Site Coordinator*
Kayla Fletcher, *Middle School Youth Minister*
Nicole Richard, *High School & Young Adult Minister*

Rhonda Rossano, *Music Director*
Ramona Folse, *Receptionist/Data Entry*
Kathleen Phillips, *Bookkeeper/Receptionist*
St. Joseph School
Mrs. Danette Ragusa, *Principal*
Phone Number, 985-386-6421
Website: www.sjscrusaders.org

Mission Statement

St. Joseph's Parish is a rapidly growing faith community that serves the spiritual and temporal needs of Southernmost Tangipahoa Parish through its various ministries.

St. Joseph's develops, supports, nurtures and educates Catholic Christians while offering to this entire expanding community a caring environment and a welcoming spirit of Christ present.

Parish Ministries and Contact Persons

Altar Servers: Michele & Glen Ernst, 985-386-6618. sj_altar_server@bellsouth.net
Bible Studies: *Cancelled Until Further Notice.*
Children's Liturgy Ministry: Paige Bacile 985-386-3749.
Cooking Ministry: Cook a plate of food for our Priest one day each month, call Linda Guagliardo 985-345-8409.
Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion: Angela Pevey (Call / text) 985-507-5757.
Readers: Larry Ernst, 985-386-5731. lernst1@bellsouth.net
Marriage Ministry: Ed & Julie Hanks, 985-351-3143.
Mass Greeters: Barbara Martino, 985-386-3622.
Music Ministry: Rhonda Rossano 985-386-3749
Parish School of Religion: Grades K-12; Paige Bacile 985-386-3749
Special Education PSR: 985-386-3749.
RCIA: Ed or Julie Hanks, 985-351-3143.
St. Joseph Bereavement Food Ministry: Cheryl Laiche, 985-386-2033 or Anne Phillips, 985-969-2700
Stephen Ministry: Anita or Ronnie Perrin, 985-687-4458 or 985-386-3016.
Ushers: Contact Joseph Jason, 985-386-8639.
Widowed Friends of St. Joseph: Barbara Guy at 985-507-9966.
Word & Worship Prayer Ministry: Fernando Morales: 985-662-2844.
Women's Ministry: Mary Vedeckis, 225-294-6631.
Youth Ministry: 985-386-3749

Organizations

Ancient Order of Hibernians: Ronnie Crimmins 985-773-8965.
Kaycee Auxiliary: Maureen Felder 225-294-3092 or maureenfelder75@gmail.com
Knights of Columbus: Buddy Williams, 504-252-2031 (Application for new members)
Rosary Altar Society: Evelyn Lavigne 985-386-6732
St. Vincent de Paul Society: For membership contact the church office, 985-386-3749. For assistance call 985-370-5459.
Core Group: Ronnie Perrin (Chairman), Lawton Hotard, Barbara Martino, Larry Melancon, Rebecca Smith, Larry Wilson
Finance Committee: Dennis James (Chairman) Michelle Ernst, Mike Fulmer, Larry Melancon, Brian Steib, Barbara Theriot .
Council of Ministries: Vance Balado, Melissa Henderson, Lisa Kennedy, Harry LeBlanc, Rachael Perrin, Stephanie Reggio, Rodney Schmaltz, Wayne Vedeckis, Stephanie Waguespack, Tom Waller, Bill Wheat. Ad Hoc Council Members: Fr. McDuffie, Deacon Larry Melancon, Fernando Morales, Danette Ragusa.

Download Our New Parish App!

Our new St. Joseph's app is now available to download for iPhone and Android smart phones. Stay connected with our parish throughout the week with instant notifications, an easy-to-access event calendar, and the ability to quickly reply to or share messages via Facebook or Twitter. Also enjoy a bunch of additional features like prayers, daily readings, helpful reminders to silence your phone before Mass or Confession, and much more.

Help foster a stronger parish life at St. Joseph's and better engage the New Evangelization.

Download our app today at myparishapp.com or search your phone's app store for my parish.



FORMED®

PICK OF THE WEEK

December 20, 2020

WATCH

CHRISTMAS IN ROME: A CELEBRATION OF THE NATIVITY
Nowhere celebrates the birth of the Savior like Rome. This Christmas, marvel at the Holy City's festive celebration of the coming of the child Jesus in Bethlehem.



THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY: THE TRUTH OF CHRISTMAS
Christmas is so much more than a humdrum story we've heard since childhood. Join top scholars, speakers, and authors as they explain the gravity of Christ's miraculous birth.

LEARN

LISTEN

THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS BY FULTON SHEEN
This presentation combines recordings of Fulton Sheen's timeless reflections on the meaning of Christmas, mixed with Gregorian chant and seasonal music. It is sure to become a family favorite!



Our parish has a FORMED subscription. To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.



New Class Starting Soon

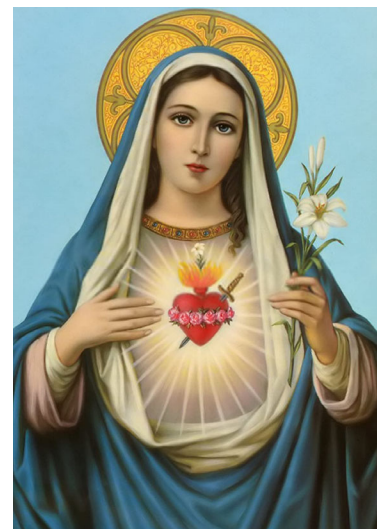
Be Seen With Your Mother

Ever pondered the fact that we share a Mother with the God of the universe? If you think about it, it's truly amazing! Many of us know that the life of Jesus is foreshadowed all throughout the Old Testament, and just how Jesus is the "New Adam," so Mary is the "New Eve" and plays a crucial role in our redemption. Throughout these classes, we will TOGETHER begin to unveil the Marian mystery present throughout sacred scripture while also deepening our love and affection for our Immaculate Mother. She is always there for us, ready to walk with us, willing to be seen with us.

Dates: Jan. 3rd, 10th, 24th, 31st, Feb. 7th

Time: 9:30 am in the School Library

Leader: Savanna Balado



BLUE CHRISTMAS

A Community Worship Service of Loss and Remembrance

Blue Christmas is a gentle, healing service for those who are mourning a loss during this season of celebration.

Monday, December 21, 2020, 6:00 p.m.– 7:00 p.m.

Followed by a light meal and fellowship

Ponchatoula Community Center

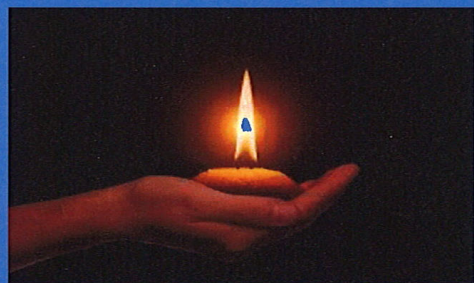
300 N. Fifth St.

Doors open at 5:45 p.m.

SEATING IS LIMITED

For more information or to reserve your seat,
please call 985-687-4458

Sponsored by Stephen Ministers and Ponchatoula Knights of Columbus



Mass Schedule for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Masses : *December 31st:* 6 pm

January 1st: 10 am

It is a holy day of obligation.



Encountering Canticles

Advent Hymn: *Rorate Caeli Desuper*



On this, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Introit is the ancient hymn, *Rorate caeli desuper*, translated to English as “Drop Down Ye Heavens from Above.” The words are poetic and picturesque, drawing us into the imminent Incarnation of our Lord, Jesus Christ:

Drop down dew, you heavens from above, and let the clouds rain down
the Just One. Let the earth be opened and bring forth the Savior.

Can you see the clouds parting and feel the fresh water cleansing earthly souls as the Savior is born into His reign? This canticle is filled with hope for a world that suffers.

Msgr. Charles Pope teaches that this hymn is derived from...a series of Scripture verses, drawn from a desperate period in Jewish history, which summoned a powerful cry for a savior from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah and from Second Kings in passages that describe the destruction of the kingdom of Judah and the Babylonian exile. It was dreadful. Most people had lost a substantial number of family members as well as everything they owned; as they were driven into exile, the last thing they saw was the destroyed city and the smoldering ruin of the Temple.

Hence, perhaps as no other Advent Hymn, *Rorate Caeli Desuper* powerfully illustrates the desperate need that ancient Judah had for a savior to rend the heavens and come down. The plaintive verses...draw us into the desperate situation of God’s people, who have lost everything due to their sin and now seek salvation through repentance.

We are in no less need of this Savior and His graces. We tend to stray and thus are afflicted by the weight and destruction of our sins...Up goes the cry in the third verse:

*Behold, O Lord, the affliction of your people,
and send forth him whom you will send;
send forth the Lamb, the ruler of the earth...*

In the final verse comes the Lord’s merciful answer:

*Comfort ye, comfort ye my people;
For your salvation will suddenly come:
why are you consumed with sadness?
why hath sorrow seized you?
I will save you: do not be afraid.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Redeemer.*

Therefore, let the Advent cry go up:

Drop down dew, you heavens from above, and let the clouds rain down
the Just One. Let the earth be opened and bring forth the Savior.”

<https://youtu.be/4CIyjc6e5Mg>

Do You Hear a Whisper???

Did you feel an ache in your heart when you learned someone was suffering and had no one to trust? Did you feel at a loss on how to help? Did you have trouble finding the words to say? Did you hear the whisper? Is that whisper from God?

Our Stephen Ministry is blessed to have our current Stephen Ministers and look forward to starting a new class soon. As the need for help continues to grow, we need more ministers. If God is whispering to you to help people, we ask that you listen to his calling. For more info contact Anita Perrin (985) 687-4458 or Ronnie Perrin (985) 507-9765.



Serving Our Youngest Parishioners

Here at St. Joseph’s before Covid, we were used to serving the entire family on Sunday mornings. We had Childcare for babies thru age 3, Children’s Liturgy for ages 3-6 and PSR for grades K-8, as well as RCIA and adult formation open to all. Currently, childcare during Mass and Children’s Liturgy are both still suspended.

Our Children’s Liturgy Ministry hopes to be able to resume in person once parents feel comfortable having their children participate again. (Children’s Liturgy is when those age 4-6 gather in a room off the Narthex for the Liturgy of the Word.)

Meanwhile, look for our ministry members in the Narthex handing out the Children’s Bulletins after Mass, and know that we are seeking new ways or modified ways we can serve our very young parishioners and their families. Please take time to stop and visit with us or call the office. We would love to hear your suggestions and learn about your needs.

Peace in Christ,
Paige Bacile
PSR Coordinator



The Eternal God

King David wished that the ark of God might have a more permanent home. David may have envisioned something like the cedar palace where he resided. God had in mind something more: a throne where David's descendants would rule for ever, a kingdom where Jews and Gentiles alike would be welcome.

Mary's prayerful nature led to an even more disturbing message. She would conceive and bear a Son though she was not yet married. "How can this come about?" Mary wondered. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you," she was told (Luke 1:35).

Mary's acceptance of this difficult challenge ushered in this, the final age of God's reign. What was once a secret known only by chosen people like King David and his descendants must now be made clear to all so that, as Saint Paul wrote to the Romans, we can be brought to the "obedience of faith" "according to the command of the eternal God" (Romans 16:26).

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Today's Readings

First Reading — I will fix a place for my people. (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

Psalms — For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 89).

Second Reading — To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever (Romans 16:25-27).

Gospel — Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:26-38).

Monica's Journey

"Monica's Journey" is a ministry of St. Joseph Catholic Church for women who struggle to find answers in the midst of difficult relationships or traumatic experiences in their lives. This ministry gives them a welcoming and non-judgmental place to find the hope and healing they need. Meetings are held in the evening during the week for 90 minutes. Members of other denominations are welcome. **This is a strictly confidential group and a confidentiality statement must be signed by all members.** The place and time of meetings will be disclosed after initial contact is made with the group facilitator. Voicemail: *Please leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible. (985) 467-9520.*

Healing Hearts

Healing Hearts: A Catholic support group for WOMEN, whose relationships have been negatively impacted by the pornography addiction or sexual addiction of a loved one. This may include a spouse, boyfriend, family member or friend. Strict confidentiality is observed by all members. Meetings are held on a weekly basis. Contact 985-401-2010 for more information and respond to the prompting.



Healing from Divorce Group

If you are separated or divorced, the Church cares about you. The loss of a relationship through separation or divorce poses one of the most difficult transitions a person can face. As people journey through a divorce, they face the stress of emotions, life changes, and developing a way to live a new life. As a Church, we are called to imitate Jesus Christ, who always sought to heal the brokenhearted. St. Joseph now has a new ministry for this purpose. For more information please contact Angela Perrin at 985-318-4927.

Please Pray for Sick and Shut-Ins

Jack Addison, Deacon Mike Agnello, Stephanie Alexander, Victoria "Vickie" Alexander, Ray Aleman, Ockie Baldassoro, Sr., Patrick Bailey, Mark Bear, Gloria Bennett, Mildred Bittick, David Blake, Michelle Bossier, Hazel Boudreaux, Larry Boudreaux, Ranice Bourg, Barbara Bourgeois, Angel Braun, Amy Brennan, JoAnne Brisset, Jeanette Brown, Carrie Burch, Jonathan Burch, Baby David Burris, Eric Campos, Christine Castjohn, Carol Castle, Dennis Charbonnet, Rita Charbonnet, Julian Chiro, Gavin Cieutat, PJ Clause, Ken Davidson, Lucille Davidson, Melissa Balado Dean, Kitty Derveloy, Larry Deslatte, Stacey Dolan, Beverly Dominique, Carol Dominguez, Danette Crovetto Drell, Andrew Dzuryachko, Pam Guichet Elder, Nicholas Eirich, Veronica Fannally, Joey Fortenberry, Marge Frahm, Eva Francois, Geraldine Freeman, Timmy Gates, Lenny George, Nittie Gilliland, Carolyn Gillingham, Malissa Gonzalez, Linda Guagliardo, Joan Gurganus, Brian Guichet, Myrthus "Twinkle" Guichet, Anne Guidry, Sue Quave Guildner, John Gullo, Rami Falgout Harkcom, Katherine Harris, Tommy Hebert, Kalee Henderson, Sherry Hill, Tammy Perrin Horn, Peggy Howes, Jimmy Hubert, Tara Huguet, Ashley Ingolia, Betty Ingolia, Grace Innerarity, Jennifer Jernigan, Lawrence Joiner, Alan Klein, David Kraft, Charles Gregory Kraft, Greg Kraft, Sis Kyzar, Debra Lanier, Norma Lariu, Dwayne Lato, Diane Lavigne, Wayne Laurent, Ruby Drude Lee, Sally LeJeune, Liz LeSaicherre, Hilton Lloyd, IV, Nathan deLord, Elsie Major, Fr. Cayet Mangiaracina, O.P., Arthur & Tate Mashburn, Caitlyn Matherne, Melissa McCormick, Max McCray, Ginger McLin, Cole McMillion, Morris Meyer, Barry Mince Sr., Anna Mae Mixon, Patricia Monteleone, Andrew Morales, Ed Murray, Aliyah Naquin, Judy Nicholas, CJ Otilio, Ruth Ourso, Wanda Pandarvis, George Peltier, Wayne Pepitone, Bert Perilloux, Marisa Perrin, Camilla Phillips, Fran Poche, Ann Prine, Mary Prine, Krystal Raulerson, Baby Damon Reggio, Kayla Reggio, Bryan Roddick, A. J. Roig, Jr., Emile Sanchez & Family, Stacy Sanders, Brooklyne Sansone, Ernest Schenck, Bob Simoneaux, Bristol Rose Smith, Kayla Smith, Scott Stanga, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Tartamelia, Wylene Remy Taylor, Earl Theriot, Madeline Thibodeaux, Tracy Todd, Mike Tournillon, Travis Troxler, Sam Vilardo, Sam Viola, Carla Van Vrancken, June Villa, Glen Walker, Adelle Wall, Danny Wall, Danni Waugh, Rodney Wempren, Peggy West, Faith Rose Wiltz. **Names submitted will be included for 4 weeks. Please call the Church office to renew.**

Please pray for members of our parish family serving our country in the armed forces and remember also their families:

CM Sgt Christopher Castle, Col. Brad Duplessis, Col. Brian Duplessis, Col. David, Duplessis- Commander, Mason Joiner Sgt Major in Army, Capt. Kathleen Keller, Jacob Milton, Commander Eric Olsen, US Navy. **Names submitted will be included for 4 weeks. Please call the Church office to renew.**

Saints and Special Observations

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent
Wednesday: St. John of Kanty
Thursday: The Vigil of Christmas
Friday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Saturday: St. Stephen



PAL (Parents of Addicted Loved-ones) is a support group of parents helping parents. PAL is also open to spouses and other family members and friends (18 or older) who have a loved one struggling with addiction.

A local PAL group meets at the St. Joseph's Church every 2nd & 4th Thursday from 6-7:30 pm. **However, during the Pandemic we are hosting ZOOM meetings on those nights instead. Beginning January 14th we will resume in person meetings, every 2nd & 4th Thursday at a new location inside the St. Benedict Room at Church.**

We look forward to sharing this program of hope and support with you. For more information contact Mary Jo B. at 985-320-3010 or Paige B. 985-981-8010 or review the website www.palgroup.org. All inquiries are held in strict confidence. **You are not alone There is HOPE.**

Readings for the Week of

December 21, 2020

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
 Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
 Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
 Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25
 [18-25] Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
 Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
 Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Next Sunday Readings (December 27, 2020)

First Reading.....Sirach 3: 2-7, 12-14
 Second Reading..... Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
 Gospel.....Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
 Psalm.....Luke.....128:1-2, 3, 4-5

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 21, 2020

8:00 AM Lucille Gremillion

Wednesday December 23, 2020

8:00 AM Liz Sanderson

Thursday, December 24, 2020—Christmas Eve

4:00 PM (L) Pamela & Kadence Barnes
 Ashlyn Bravata
 Robert Connelley
 (L) Mr. & Mrs. Derek Genovese
 (L) Mr. & Mrs. Philip Hebert
 Vincent Latino, Sr.
 Joseph A. Pepitone
 Darryl Pinion, Sr.
 Rufus Poche
 (L) Mr. & Mrs. C.A. Reggio
 Dale Roberts
 (L) Claudia & Austin Schillace
 (L) President Donald J. Trump
 (L) David Waguespack
 (L) Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A Waguespack, Sr.
 (L) Mr. & Mrs. Michael T. Waguespack, Sr.
 (L) Mr. & Mrs. Thomas L. Waguespack, Jr.
 Bernard & Rosalie Waller
 Leslie & Ione Watts

Friday, December 25, 2020

10:00 AM Earl Baudin
 Franklin Borgerson
 Phillip Connelley
 Connelley & Rolufus Family
 John Dufreche
 Ollie Joseph French
 Wayne Kraemer
 Virgil McWilliams Krafft
 Carolyn Carr Johnson
 Doris Lavigne
 Joe Liuzza
 Natale Lopiccio
 Ella Mae Melancon

Saturday, December 26, 2020

5:00 PM Philip Alexander
 Earl Baudin
 Dudley & Geraldine Berthelot
 Barry Sr. & Marguerite Bleakley
 Delton Brooks
 Phillip Connelley
 L/D Members of Ethridge & Ernst Family
 Mamie Heiring
 Wayne Kraemer
 (L) Gerline Melancon
 L/D Members of the J.C. Peltier Family

Sunday, December 27, 2020

8:00 AM (L) Dr. Lon F. Alexander
 Earl Baudin
 Bonnie Boudreaux
 Dec. Mem. of L.M. Bourgeois Family
 L/D Members of the Braun Family
 Mary Sue Drude
 Richard & Clotilde Drude
 John Dufreche
 Rudolph Ellenberger, Sr.
 Everage Family
 Edwin Gonzales
 Dorothy Hotard
 L/D Mem. of Jesse R. Hutchinson Family
 Terry Jacob
 Wayne Kraemer
 Virgil Krafft
 Dickie Lamp
 Vincent Latino, Sr.,
 L/D Mem. of Nick Latino Family

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

8:00 AM (L) Brent & Renee Faurie

7:00 PM Earl Baudin
 Delton Brooks
 Frank Brescher, Jr.
 Phillip Wyatt Connelley
 Ted & Nancy Dupont
 Wayne Kraemer
 Virgil Krafft
 Rose Pompeo Phillips Mitchell
 Bill Perrin
 Dale Roberts
 Bill Rowzee
 Liz Sanderson
 (L) Olivia Scalisi
 Glenn Snyder
 Souls in Purgatory
 (L) President Donald J. Trump
 Stephen Vuljoin

Martin Muller
 (L) Reggie Pevey
 Mallory Grace Reggio
 Dale Roberts
 Bill Rowzee
 Raphael Vito Sabella
 Liz Sanderson
 (L) Debbie Sirisophon
 Snyder Family
 Souls in Purgatory
 Don Steadman
 (L) President Donald J. Trumo

Bill Perrin
 Camilla Ann Phillips
 Rufus Poche
 Vincent Poche
 Michael Robert Raiford
 Dale Roberts
 Liz Sanderson
 Frank Schilling, Sr.
 Glenn Snyder
 Souls in Purgatory

Doris Lavigne
 (L) Elsie Major
 Nancy & Kim Penton
 Joseph A. Pepitone
 Michael Perrilloux
 Pfister Family
 Vera Ragan
 Ragan Family
 Lester Richoux, Jr.
 Dale Roberts
 Raphael Vito Sabella
 Audrey Scamardo
 Frank Schilling, Sr.
 (L) Debbie Sirisophon
 Snyder Family
 Souls in Purgatory
 (L) St. Joseph Deacon's Wives
 (L) Baby Dani Waugh
 11:00 AM For the People of the Parish

Stewardship

"John, and His Mom and Dad"

"When the whole assembly of the people was praying outside at the hour of the incense offering, the angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah, standing at the right of the altar of incense. Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord.' "

Words fail us when we confront overwhelming beauty, unsettling news, or any reality beyond our understanding. Those experiences drive us to our knees and deprive us of otherwise predictable responses. Our lips part, but the best we can utter is a gasp. Awe overtakes expression. In God's creation, no matter our age or life experience, we're still graced with the presence of the holy. Near the end of a life of committed service, John the Baptist's father met the angel of the Lord. "Fear came upon him." We say, "No wonder," and though we understand that expression, it seems a poor choice of words. Zechariah's encounter was defined by wonder. God would bless him, his wife, and his son. "He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb." He was amazed. He didn't even know his wife was expecting. No wonder.

Financial News

| YTD | Actual | Budgeted | Difference |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 12/6//2020 | \$415,601.97 | \$437,000.00 | \$ -21,398.03 |
| Church Support | \$ 22,273.00 | | |
| St. Vincent de Paul. | \$ 993.00 | | |
| Misc. Collections | \$ 620.00 | | |
| | \$ 23,886.00 | | |

Second Collections

St. Joseph School: December 20th

Totals for December 13th will be listed in the December 27th bulletin.

Ministry Schedule

Saturday, December 26th Sunday December 27th

| | <u>Eucharistic Ministers</u> | <u>Ushers</u> |
|-------|--|--|
| 5PM | Ronald Perrin 7b Millie Spansel 8b Bill Spansel 9b | Francis Martino Chris Marmillion Durald Pinion Blaine Anderson James Wittenberg Michael Chiasson Jacob Schmaltz Roland Terrebonne Ronnie Reggio Randy Bennett |
| 8AM | Alice James 7b Dennis James 8b Harry LeBlanc 9b | Joseph Ragan Sidney Alexander Barry Blackledge Jeff Ryan |
| 11 AM | Donna Clause (7b) Stacy Randazzo (8b) Carol Kinchen (9b) | |
| | <u>Lectors</u> | |
| 5PM | Tony Guagliardo, Jr. | |
| 8AM | Gabby Reggio | |
| 11 AM | Wayne Vedeckis | |

Christmas Poinsettias

Join in the festive decoration of our church by donating \$15.00 to purchase a Christmas Poinsettia. The donations can be in honor of a living or deceased individual or family. To donate, place Christmas Poinsettia envelopes in the basket marked "Christmas Poinsettia" located on the counter inside the church by December 25th. Or, you can drop your envelope off at the Church Office. Make sure you list the names of the individual or family to be honored and how you want your name listed in the bulletin. Poinsettia's will NOT be available for pickup after Christmas. Any questions call Barbara Martino, 985-386-3622 or Roberta Connelley, 985-386-9711.



LET'S TACO 'BOUT JESUS!

**Jan 10
5-7 PM**

Drop off: St. Joseph's GYM

Pick up: 6-8 Grade St. Joseph's Room

9-11 Grade St. Joseph's GYM

Due to Diocesan Restrictions, we ask that the teens bring their own tacos/ Taco Bell

How are the saints guides for prayer?

CATECHISM IN A YEAR

564. How are the saints guides for prayer?

The saints are our models of prayer. We also ask them to intercede before the Holy Trinity for us and for the whole world. Their intercession is their most exalted service to God's plan. In the communion of saints, throughout the history of the Church, there have developed different types of spiritualities that teach us how to live and to practice the way of prayer.

TOB FOR TEENS TRAINING: NEW ORLEANS

Dates: Jan 13, 14, 15 2021

Where: St. Dominic Catholic Church (Siena Room)
775 Harrison Ave. New Orleans, LA

Presenter: Brian Butler of Dumb Ox Ministries

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY FOR TEENS ANSWERS QUESTIONS SUCH AS:

- Who am I?
- What is the purpose of the Theology of the Body?
- What is the difference between love & lust?
- What if I've already "messed up"?
- How can I discover my vocation?
- How can I remain pure in our oversexed culture?
- Any many more!

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS, PRIESTS, CATECHISTS, YOUTH/CAMPUS MINISTERS, PARENTS, ANYONE WHO WORKS WITH PRETEENS (6TH-8TH GRADERS) & TEENS (9TH-12TH GRADERS.)



Mark Your Calendar

- Monday, December 21st**
Youth Choir Practice—4:00 pm in the Choir Room
- Monday, December 21st**
Blue Christmas—6pm Community Center
- Tuesday, December 22nd**
Word & Worship-Church-7:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 23rd**
Adoration—Church 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 23rd**
Divine Mercy-Church-3:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 23rd**
Vespers—Church - 6:00 pm
- Thursday, December 24th**
Christmas Eve Masses: 4pm & 7pm
- Friday, December 25th**
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Mass: 10 am
- Saturday, December 26th**
Confession—4:00 pm
- Tuesday, December 29th**
St. Vincent de Paul Meeting— 6:30pm in the Ministry Building
- Thursday, December 31st**
Solemnity of Mary—6pm Vigil Mass
- Friday, January 1st**
Solemnity of Mary—10 am Mass
- Sunday, January 3rd**
Parish School of Religion 9:30 am in the School
- Sunday, January 3rd**
Ablaze—9:30 am
- Sunday, January 3rd**
Be Seen With Your Mother—9:30 am in SJS Library
- Sunday, January 3rd**
Called & Gifted—9:30am –School Classroom
- Sunday, January 3rd**
Thirst— 5:00 pm
- Sunday, January 10th**
Youth Night Social—5pm



Your Attention Please
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There will be **NO** Weekday Masses or Communion Services 12/28 - 12/31.

There will be **NO** Adoration on 12/30/2020.


The Church Office will be closed from 12/24/2020 through 1/1/2021





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