



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

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.

September 20, 2020 The Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Catechetical Sunday 2020



Catechesis is not just about sharing knowledge, but also about inspiring hearts.
– Bishop Michael Duca

This was my favorite quote from this year’s annual catechetical convocation. It reminds me that I don’t need to have all the theological answers to pass down the faith. I just have to be open and willing. The theme of this years catechetical Sunday is “I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you.” We may not have all the knowledge, gifts or strengths that we desire or think we need to pass down our faith, but our Lord is faithful and He will provide all we need if we trust and rely on Him. Remember that whether we are in the role of catechist, teacher, parent (the primary catechist) or grandparent, we all have been given the mission of passing on our faith through our Baptism. Let’s start with inspiring hearts by sharing our personal stories of the love and mercy God has shown to each of us. Trust that the Holy Spirit will fill in the gaps if we have the desire.

We are blessed at St Joseph’s to have such a committed group of volunteers willing to share their faith through PSR, Ablaze and Thirst, RCIA, RCIC and Adult Formation, as well as staff and teachers at St Joseph’s school interested in connecting their students with God as well as Math and English.

Please see page 4 as a few of our PSR catechists tell us why they volunteer... They may not have all the answers they want, but they certainly have all the desire they need! We are still in need of K-11 volunteers. Please consider this ministry!
(Continued on page 4)

WHAT'S INSIDE!!!

Consecration to St. Joseph	3	Stewardship.....	6
Catechetical Sunday –Continued from page 1.....	4	A House of Prayer.....	7
When the Crisis Never Ends.....	4	Surrender to God’s Living Word.....	7

Staff

Rev. Paul A. McDuffie, *Pastor*
Larry J. Melancon, *Deacon*
Michael A. Agnello, *Deacon*
Angela Perrin, *Business Manager*
Stacy Randazzo, *Director of Ministries*
Paige Bacile, *PSR Coordinator*
Sarah Stoehr Fox, *Youth Minister*
Rhonda Rossano, *Music Director*

Ramona Folsie, *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: Monday at 6 p.m.—Stephanie Waguespack, 985-981-9859
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: B. J. Nepveux, 985-370-7548.
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: Sarah Stoehr, 504-270-3451.

Organizations

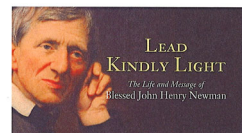
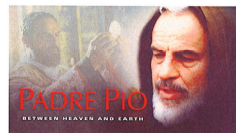
Ancient Order of Hibernians: Ronnie Crimmins 985-773-8965.
Kaycee Auxiliary: Maureen Felder 225-294-3092 or maureenfelder75@gmail.com
Knights of Columbus: Buddy Williams, 504-252-2031 (Application for new members)
Rosary Altar Society: Evelyn Lavigne 985-386-6732
St. Vincent de Paul Society: For membership 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, Mary Threeton, Wayne Vedeckis, Stephanie Waguespack, Tom Waller, Bill Wheat. Ad Hoc Council Members: Fr. McDuffie, Deacon Larry Melancon, Danette Ragusa. Stacy Randazzo.

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.



WHAT TO WATCH THIS MONTH

Visit FORMED.org or search for "Formed: on your favorite app store"

9/23

Saint Padre Pio

Movie: Padre Pio: Miracle Man
Movie: Padre Pio: Between Heaven and Earth
Audio: Holiness Is Always in Season

**An Invitation
To Learn About the Man Who was Married to
Our Holy Mother,
and Who Raised Jesus – *ST. JOSEPH***

*Do you know St. Joseph? Do you feel you understand his greatness and love for you? Well, my friends, get ready! **Consecration to St. Joseph** is going to unveil the wonders of St. Joseph like never before! **Now is the time of St. Joseph!** - Fr. Donald Calloway*



Please join us for a six-week journey to learn more about St. Joseph, our Spiritual Father. We will be using the book **Consecration to St. Joseph** by Fr. Donald Calloway. If you prefer, you can do your own personal consecration in the privacy of your home.

Books are available for purchase at a discounted price of \$13.50 (plus \$8.00 S&H) from Heavenly Gifts in Ponchatoula, or they can be picked up directly from the store.

MEN'S GROUP

Subject to the comfort level of the participants, the group will meet once a week either: in the St. Benedict Room (formerly the chapel) or via Zoom, on **Wednesday evenings at 6:30, beginning on September 23.** (The first gathering will be in the St. Benedict Room.) To submit your meeting location preference, please contact Ron Huguet at 504-232-2484 or ronh1954@hotmail.com.

WOMEN'S GROUP

Subject to the comfort level of the participants, the ladies will meet once a week either: in the school in Ms. Casey's classroom, via Zoom, or maybe outside, on **Sunday mornings at 9:30, beginning September 27.** (The first gathering will be in the school in Ms. Casey's classroom.) To submit your meeting location preference, please contact Terri Huguet at 504-450-5459 or terrisplace@ymail.com.

Catechetical Sunday—Continued from page 1



Lori Kyle – 1st Grade PSR

I love sharing my faith with First Graders because their minds are like blank slates. They are eager to learn about God's love for them and they have the most amazing questions and comments during our lessons. I get to deepen their understanding of living the way God wants us to live and how they can share the love of God. In addition, I get to be a part of the foundation of their faith they are already receiving at home, along with the beginning of their preparation to receive their first Holy Communion.

Matthew 11:25 - At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.



Elaine LeBlanc 3rd grade PSR

Hello, I am Elaine LeBlanc, the kids call me "Miss Elaine." I have recently retired from St. Joseph School and am excited about helping the third graders learn more about what the Catholic church believes and teaches. My family has been members of St. Joseph Church for over 20 years. I am married to Harry and we have one son, Marc. As a former teacher, I strongly believe that the most important thing I can share with my students is how great God's love is for each of them, while growing closer to Him. My desire this year is to help your children grow in their faith and in their relationship with God.



Stacy Ball – 4th grade PSR

Hello. My name is Stacy Ball and I am the fourth grade PSR teacher at St. Joseph's. I have been married to my husband Carl 'Bubba' Ball for 30 years. We have two children, Samantha and Cody, and one (fabulous) granddaughter, Braylee.

Fourth grade can be a very transitional year for some children. My goal in teaching this age group is to help them understand that when you use the words of Christ to guide you through these transitions, you can't go wrong. I hope to help them grow in both their love of and thirst for the Word. I look forward to another great year with another phenomenal group of students. May God's grace bless you all.



Mary Hoover—5th grade PSR

Hi, my name is Mary Hoover. I'm a native of Ponchatoula and a lifelong member of St. Joseph's Parish. Most longtime members also know me as one of the Garaudy twelve. My husband, Tim, and I have two children. Our daughter, Sammie, has cerebral palsy, is non-verbal and mostly nonambulatory. Our son, Ben is a Marine stationed in Hawaii. I've been leading 5th grade PSR at St. Joseph's for the last 14 years. I love sharing my faith with 5th graders because they're at an age transitioning from youngster to teenager. They still have that wonder that makes them eager to learn about their faith. They inspire me to continue learning more about our faith. I look forward to guiding your young one in faith this year. Thank you.

When the Crisis Never Ends

Many people face a tough time every day of their lives. Whether they are caring for a sick family member, going through a long period of unemployment, or experiencing incurable pain, they and their families may benefit from the support and care of a Stephen Minister. Our congregation is committed to providing care to those who need it. If you or someone you know could use a Stephen Minister, please get in touch with Anita Perrin (985) 687-4458 or Ronnie Perrin (985) 507-9765. You are not alone. A Stephen Minister will be with you to hold your hand and walk with you.



Spiritual Direction Training **Introduction Meetings**

Perhaps you desire to be trained in the ministry of spiritual direction! Learn the process, prerequisites, and structure of the two-year Internship offered by the Archdiocesan Spirituality Center of New Orleans. Due to Covid-19 meetings may be held via Zoom or other virtual platform.

Baton Rouge meetings by appointment: Faye Coopender
Faye.coopender@gmail.com

New Orleans meeting: Archdiocesan Spirituality Center
Thursday, Oct. 29, 10am, or 7pm, 2501 Maine Ave. Metairie
Please call 504) 861-3254 to register.

Direction

Isaiah tells us something that we already know, and yet seem to forget every now and then. He tells us, essentially, that God is God and we are not. When we're confused and troubled and can't figure everything out, it might be wise to recall Isaiah speaking on the Lord's behalf and explaining that God—who is on a much more, well, Godly wavelength than we are—moves in ways we can't even imagine.

Saint Paul, by comparison, has everything figured out. Kind of. At least he understands his calling in life—to magnify Christ in everything he does. That should give all of us the direction we need. Jesus gives us direction, too, explaining to us once again in the parable of the workers in the vineyard that the last will be first, and the first, last.

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Today's Readings

First Reading — Turn to the LORD who is generous in forgiving (Isaiah 55:6-9).

Psalm — The Lord is near to all who call upon him (Psalm 145).

Second Reading — Live your lives in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ (Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a).

Gospel — The last will be first, and the first will be last (Matthew 20:1-16a).

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, Ray Aleman, Phyllis Aymond, Oekie Baldassoro, Sr., Patrick Bailey, Mark Bear, Gloria Bennett, Mildred Bittick, Ray Boihem, 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, Andrew Dzuryachko, Pam Guichet Elder, Veronica Fannally, Joey Fortenberry, Marge Frahm, Eva Francois, Geraldine Freeman, Lenny George, Nittie Gilliland, Carolyn Gillingham, Malissa Gonzalez, Joan Gurganus, Brian Guichet, Myrthus “Twinkle” Guichet, Anne Guidry, Sue Quave Guildner, Jean Guitreau, John Gullo, Rami Falgout Harkcom, Katherine Harris, Huey Harrell, Jr., Tommy Hebert, Kalee Henderson, Sherry Hill, Tammy Perrin Horn, Peggy Howes, Jimmy Hubert, Tara Huguet, Ashley Ingolia, Grace Innerarity, Jennifer Jernigan, Lawrence Joiner, Carol Kinchen, Alan Klein, David Kraft, Charles Gregory Kraft, Greg Kraft, Sis Kyzar, Debra Lanius, Norma Larriue, Dwayne Lato, Wayne Laurent, Ruby Drude Lee, Sally LeJeune, Hilton Lloyd, IV, Nathan deLord, Elsie Major, Aliyah Naquin, Mary Twickler Mann, Amber, Fr. Cayet Mangiaracina, O.P., Arthur & Tate Mashburn, Caitlyn Matherne, Max McCray, Ginger McLin, Cole McMillion, Morris Meyer, Barry Mince Sr., Anna Mae Mixon, Patricia Monteleone, Andrew Morales, Ed Murray, CJ Otillio, Carol Ott, Ruth Ourso, Wanda Pandarvis, George Peltier, Wayne Pepitone, Bert Perilloux, Marisa Perrin, Fran Poche, Ann Prine, Mary Prine, Mike Raiford, Bryan Roddick, A. J. Roig, Jr., Linda Ryan, Stacy Sanders, Ernest Schenck, Bob Simoneaux, Bristol Rose Smith, Kayla Smith, Scott Stanga, Wylene Remy Taylor, Madeline Thibodeaux, Tracy Todd, Mike Tournillon, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Tartamelia, Earl Theriot, Sam Vilardo, Sam Viola, Carla Van Vrancken, June Villa, Glen Walker, Adelle Wall, Danny Wall, 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, Master Sergeant Scott Price. *Names submitted will be included for 4 weeks. Please call the Church office to renew.*

Saints and Special Observations

Sunday: Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Matthew
Wednesday: St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)
Saturday: Ss. Cosmas and Damian; Blessed Virgin Mary



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 in the St. Dominic room of St. Joseph's Ministry Building on the corner of 8th and Pine St. every 2nd & 4th Thursday from 6-7:30 pm. *However, during the Pandemic we are hosting ZOOM meetings on those nights instead.*

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

September 21, 2020

Monday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13
 Tuesday: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13; Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44; Lk 8:19-21
 Wednesday: Prv 30:5-9; Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163; Lk 9:1-6
 Thursday: Eccl 1:2-11; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17bc; Lk 9:7-9
 Friday: Eccl 3:1-11; Ps 144:1b, 2abc, 3-4; Lk 9:18-22
 Saturday: Eccl 11:9 — 12:8; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17; Lk 9:43b-45

Next Sunday Readings (September 27, 2020)

First Reading.....Ezekiel 18:25-28
 Second Reading....., Philipians 2:1-11 or 2:1-5
 Gospel.....Matthew 21: 28-32
 Psalm.....25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 21, 2020

8:00 AM Terry Jacob

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

8:00 AM Lelia Pellicchio

Saturday, September 26, 2020

5:00 PM (L) Deacon Mike Agnello
 Dudley & Geraldine Berthelot
 Bonnie Boudreaux
 Ashlyn Bravata
 Edgar & Gladys Charbonnet
 Phillip Connelley
 Lawrence Dominguez
 Guy Erwin
 Clarence Henry Howes
 May Kinler
 Wayne Kraemer
 Virgil McWilliams Krafft
 (L) Jacob La Marca
 Vincent Latino, Sr.
 (L) Fr. Cayet Mangiaracina
 (L) Deacon Larry Melancon
 Bill Perrin
 Leroy Pinion
 Rufus Poche
 Vincent Poche
 Vera Ragan
 Living & Deceased Members of the Reggio & Vuljoin Families
 Dale Earl Roberts
 Keith Robichaux
 Myrtle Robichaux
 (L) Ashley Russell
 Liz Sanderson
 Audrey Scamardo
 (L) Becky Smith
 Glenn Snyder
 Souls in Purgatory
 (L) Rachel Stoehr
 (L) President Donald J. Trump
 Stephen Vuljoin

Sunday, September 27, 2020

8:00 AM Rosemary Addison
 Evelyn & Henry (BB) Bennett and Little Nash
 Living & Deceased Members of the Braun Family
 Phillip Connelley
 Angelina Crawford
 Mary Sue Drude
 Richard & Clotilde Drude
 John Dufreche
 Everage Family
 Ann & Bill Hayles
 Norma Hill
 (L) Mandy Hoffman
 Terry Jacob
 Wayne Kraemer
 Virgil Krafft
 Doris Lavigne
 Milton & Inez Lavigne
 Joseph Ralph LeSaicherre
 (L) Elsie Major
 Karis Paul Motichek
 Lyndsay Muscarello
 Deceased Members of the Ozment Family
 (L) George Peltier
 Michael Perrilloux
 Deceased Members of the Pfister Family
 Vincent Poche
 Living & Deceased Members of the Ragan Family
 Vera Ragan
 Living & Deceased Members of the Reggio & Vuljoin Families
 Lester Richoux, Jr.
 Dale Roberts
 Glenn Snyder
 Snyder Family
 Raphael Vito Sabella
 Liz Sanderson
 Barbara Troxler
 (L) President Trump & Our Country 11:00 AM For the People of the Parish

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

8:00 AM (L) Fr. McDuffie

Thursday, September 24, 2020

8:00 AM Devon Brock Phillips

Stewardship

“You’ve Got to Be Kidding”

“As Moses drew near the camp, he saw the golden calf and the dancing. Then Moses’ anger burned, and he threw the two tablets of the covenant down and broke them on the base of the mountain. Taking the calf they had made, he burned it in the fire and then ground it down to powder, which he scattered on the water and made the Israelites drink. Moses asked Aaron, ‘What did this people do to you that you should lead them into a grave sin?’ Aaron replied, ‘Do not let my lord be angry. You know how the people are prone to evil. They said to me, ‘Make us a god to go before us; as for this man Moses who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him.’ So I told them, ‘Whoever is wearing gold, take it off.’ They gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and this calf came out.’ ”

When God called Moses to the top of a mountain to receive the Ten Commandments, Moses did not immediately return. Distrusting and unruly, the nation waited impatiently for him to descend with some word from the Almighty. Again, it was long in coming. They prevailed on Aaron, Moses’ brother who’d been left in charge, to make a god for them. They couldn’t wait, so they’d just make one. And so, he took their jewelry and fashioned a golden calf. When Moses arrived, he saw the idol and burned it. At that point, he challenged his brother. “What were you thinking?” Aaron said, “You know how they can be. It was hard being in charge of them.” “So, what about the golden calf? You made an idol for them to worship, Aaron.” “But, Moses, I threw a pile of gold into the fire, and that golden calf just popped out of the flames.” Didn’t expect that, did you, Moses

Financial News

YTD	Actual	Budgeted	Difference
9/13/2020	\$ 188,084.90	\$209,000.00	\$ -20,915.10
Church Support	\$ 14,946.00		
St. Joseph School	\$ 771.00		
Hurricane Relief	\$ 656.00		
Misc. Collections	\$ 630.00		
	\$ 17,003.00		

Second Collections

Parish School of Religion September 20th

Ministry Schedule

Saturday, September 26th & Sunday September 27th

	<u>Eucharistic Ministers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
5PM	James Wittenberg 7b Barbara Martino 8b Merle Ozment 9b	Francis Martino Chris Marmillion Durald Pinion Jesse Bergerson
8AM	Melisa Hedrick 7b Katie Holmes 8b Danette Ragusa 9b	Michael Chiasson Jacob Schmaltz Roland Terrebonne
11 AM	Tony Guagliardo, III (7b) Carol Kinchen (8b) Pat Alexander (9b)	Randy Bennett Joseph Ragan Sidney Alexander
	<u>Lectors</u>	
5PM	Blaine Anderson	
8AM	Dennis James	
11 AM	Shirley Adams	

A House of Prayer

Stewardship Today Staff

The kids had finally settled down, and Brian was asleep on the couch. They hadn't meant to argue, but the financial pressures of the last few months were beginning to take their toll on Marie and her husband. She'd loved him since they were kids themselves. Who could have predicted cutbacks at the plant would follow unexpected medical bills? Brian said they'd be fine, and she wanted to believe him. They had survived difficulties before, but she'd been more in tune with her faith then. Marie decided to take a short walk.

She kissed the kids and left Brian a note. They lived a short block and half from their parish church, which she reached in just minutes. One of her best friends attended a church that often locked their doors. Not her Catholic parish. She entered the cool front foyer and sensed the comfort that greeted her each time. Soon kneeling, she began to pray, and the load lightened. God embraced her in a house of prayer.



The Lord long ago established his house as a place of prayer. "All who keep the Sabbath free without profaning it and hold fast to my covenant, then I will bring to my holy mountain and make joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all people" (Isaiah 56:6b-7).

The spiritual component of life is a constant. At times of great need, there is a longing that only connection to God through prayer can adequately address. Marie found comfort in her local parish church, on her knees, in prayer to a listening Lord. Could Marie pray at home? Of course. Yet, there's just something about prayer in your own house of worship. It is a house of prayer.

Surrender to God's Living Word

Everyone has been affected by this COVID pandemic in some way. These difficult and challenging times have not only been unexpected, but have contributed to many illnesses and premature deaths. The suffering and loss we encounter throughout our lives is often too much for humanity to bear. Let us recall that we are not only human but spiritual beings. We are united with Christ through our suffering. We are NEVER alone. Jesus sent His Holy Spirit to be with us and to guide us. Let us stand up, ask Jesus to walk us through our ever changing path; the path that will lead us to Him and to stay Him for eternity. Let's trust in what our Lord has planned for us rather than what we have planned for ourselves. Let us give complete surrender and childlike obedience to His Living Word which is being poured out today. Yes, God's "Living Word", *The Bible*, was Spoken to His Prophets and written thousands of years ago. It was not meant to be just a recording of God's *spoken words* but *life giving words* meant to be lived now in 2020!

Let us hear the call of our shepherd, he is *calling* us each by name, He has *chosen* each and every one of us to care for our fellow sheep. Those who have fallen, who are grieving, broken hearted, battered, bruised, addicted, abandoned, hopeless or lost. When we hear our name, we shall be comforted and gain strength because of our obedience. We will be *equipped* to carry the fallen, hold the broken, and nurse the wounded.

Together,
let us do what we are *called to do*,
to bring God's Living Word to LIFE!!!

-Stacy Randazzo, Director of Ministries

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, September 20th

RCIA- Church—St. Benedict Room – 9:30 am

Sunday, September 20th

Parish School of Religion 9:30 am in the School

Sunday, September 20th

Ablaze—9:30 am

Sunday, September 20th

Sacred Music History—the Music of the Psalms— 9:30 am in the Choir Room

Sunday, September 20th

Typology— 9:30 am in the School Library

Sunday, September 20th

Called & Gifted—9:30am –School Classroom

Tuesday, September 22nd

Youth Choir Practice—3:30 pm in the Church

Tuesday, September 22nd

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting— 6:30pm in the Ministry Building

Tuesday, September 22nd

Word & Worship—Church-7:00 pm

Wednesday, September 23rd

Adoration—Church 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Wednesday, September 23rd

Divine Mercy—Church-3:00 pm

Wednesday, September 23rd

Vespers—Church - 6:00 pm

Wednesday, September 23rd

Consecration to St. Joseph—(Men's Group) 6:30 pm in the St. Benedict Room.

Saturday, September 26th

Confession—4:00 pm

Sunday, September 27th

Consecration to St. Joseph (Women's Group) 9:30 am –Ms. Casey's Classroom.

Sunday, October 11th

Human Trafficking—Hidden in Plain Sight— 9:30am SJS Library

Altar Flowers

If you would like to donate the flowers placed before the altar in Loving Honor of a Special Parishioner deceased or living please call the Church Office (985-386-3749) to notify them of your wish. A check made out to Carolyn Gillingham for \$50 will secure your request. A dedication will be listed in that weekends bulletin. Thank you for your interest.



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