



Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2015

Mass Intentions

Sunday

8:00 AM Living & Deceased of St. Joseph Parish
10:30 AM Al & Judy Urbanski / B. & M.L. Partridge

Monday

8:00 AM †Cathy Lourcy / Vera Patterson

Tuesday

8:00 AM Frederick Ozanam intercessors and the sick and troubled

Wednesday

8:00 AM Steve & Peg Misztal (Wedding Anniversary)

Thursday

8:00 AM Liz Pinegar / B. & M. L. Partridge

Friday

8:00 AM Annie Geri / Deacon Gene Geri

Saturday

5:00 PM Annie Geri / Deacon Gene Geri

Sunday

8:00 AM †Ted Geraets
10:30 AM Living & Deceased of St. Joseph Parish

Please contact the secretary for Mass intentions for a deceased loved one or for a special intention.

Office Hours: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Kindly pray for our parish family and all those who are journeying in a special way with Our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Larry Bovat, Paul Bruechner, Patricia Caudill, Deacon Pat Clemens, Ginny Cook, Ed Dubin, Ed & Eleanor Feeney, Harry Fletcher, Jo Flynn, Antonieta Geronilla, June Henderson, Dot Holman, Margie Kings, Joe Lacoy, Cece LaManna, Germaine LaPlante, Mary Link, Monk Manning, Monroe Matheny, Sara Manning, Mary Miller, Bob & Margaret Nail, Vera Patterson, Marvin Peterson, Claire Patton, Marsha Porter, Sr. M. D. Richardson, Babe Rohan, Anita Sanford, Ruth Sas, Margaret Schaff, Kristie Toohey, Rick Van Norden, Bootsie Williams

~ Prayer Requests ~

Terry Danson – (251-961-2165) or tsdanson@gmail.com

If you are ill or know someone who is ill, due to have surgery, or in the hospital and would like a visit from the pastor, please call the rectory.

First Friday Memorial Mass Association

Our Loved Ones – Bob & Margaret Nail

Living & Deceased Kaiser, Klein & Murphy Families

Living & Deceased Scott & Weiss Families

Living & Deceased Bush, Alvarez & McAleer Families

Living & Deceased Mullek & McCandless Families

Living & Deceased Patton & Norton Families

Living & Deceased Shields & Self Families

Living & Deceased Cretaro Family

† James E. Link

† Deacon John

Cartaro

† Anita Warriner

† Joseph LaManna

† Doris Mullek

Mignon Kilday

Living & Deceased Kilday Family

Living & Deceased Chubb & Burns Families

Living & Deceased Fehn Family

Living & Deceased Lacoy & Clancy Families

Living & Deceased Kearns & Paterson Families

Living & Deceased Altar Society Members

For the Baptized Who Do Not Practice Their Faith

The Holy Souls in Purgatory

This Week's Schedule

Monday 8:30 AM Rosary Cenacle – IM Hall
Tuesday 8:30 AM SVdP Meeting – IM Hall
Wednesday 9:00 AM Faith Formation – Bible Study
Wednesday 10:30 AM Adult Choir Practice
For 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Prelude & Mass – Church
Wednesday 4:30 PM Catechism Class – IM Hall
Thursday 5:30 PM RCIA Classes – IM Hall
Friday 9:00 AM Christmas Church Cleaning
Please come and help where you can.

"Many hands make light work"

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEKEND

5 PM = 70 8 AM = 64 10:30 AM = 95 Total = 229

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory gift for December 6 = \$2,895.00

Maintenance = \$524.00

2nd Collection – **TODAY** – Retired Religious

(envelopes are in the pews)

Welcome New Parishioners

Dennis and Anna Hardesty

533 Buena Vista Dr., Lillian, 36549

◆ MARK YOUR Calendar ◆

Dec. 21 – Advent Confession Service – 5:00 PM

Dec. 24 – Christmas Vigil Mass – 6:30 PM

Prelude: 6:00 PM – Children's Program

Christmas Night Mass – 9:00 PM

Prelude: 8:30 PM – Adult Choir

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Mass – 9:00 AM

Prelude: 8:45 AM – Jill Byerly & Miles

Doolittle

Dec. 27 – 50+ Wedding Anniversary Blessing

(see below)

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY – December 27

We would like to congratulate all those who have been married 50 years or more at the 10:30 AM Mass. Please call the office and give us your names before the 20th of December. A reception will follow in Immaculate Mary Hall.

We are also celebrating Fr. Maria's Priestly Ordination. Everyone is invited.

Gospel Reflections

REJOICE!

Today has traditionally been called "Gaudete Sunday." The Latin tag is derived from Paul's appeal in the second reading to "rejoice always in the Lord" and the Latin Mass text based on that reading. The irony and paradox of this Christian joy is underlined by the fact that Paul wrote those words in prison, but from there he could see the progress of God's work.

Is it obvious to us? We feel that this is not the time for joy when there is so much suffering and moral evil. It is interesting, then, that the first reading is from the prophet Zephaniah, who is almost exclusively concerned with gloomy visions of Judgment Day. Today the Church selects the only optimistic text in Zephaniah, in which the prophet has been touched by the spirit of joy.

This, we are assured on all sides, is "the season of joy." Let us recapture that feeling of joy in our lives and reflect it to those who are joyless.

KEEPSAKE PARISH COOKBOOK REMINDER ~ We will be collecting recipes until December 31. Recipe sheets are available on the table in the vestibule. Please fill one out for each recipe and return them in the tray provided. **We need at least 50 participants** to have cookbooks printed. For more information, please call Harriet at 251-961-1611.



SINGERS ARE NEEDED for our **Christmas Eve Prelude** before the 9 PM Mass. Practice time and dates can be set up for the convenience of singers. If you can help, please call the office or Kim Kaminski at 850-458-0304.

THE "BABY BOTTLES" PROJECT was a great success. There are still 32 bottles that have not been returned. It is not too late to return yours even if they are empty as they will be reused. Thank you for your generosity.

FLOOD RELIEF offerings for recent record rain and floods in Fr. Maria's hometown of Chennai (Madras), India can be placed in the ballot boxes at church entrances or given to Bill Patton (251-979-3996), Harriet Shields or Elaine Scott. Contributions will be well used during Fr. Maria's vacation to India in January 2016.

Catholic Social Service Food Pantry

December is our month to provide nonperishable food for the CSS food pantry in Robertsdale. Please place items in the container provided in the vestibule. You may also bring them to the Parish Hall and put them in the blue container in the classroom. Monetary donations are also accepted. Please make checks payable to CSS. For more information, call Sally McKinney at 961-2620.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Pat Chubb and Sal Pinzone on being elected and to Conrad Sutton for being re-elected for another term. **Thanks** to Michael Cote, Michael Handzus, Jr. and Lucille Willis for making themselves available for our election. **Many thanks** to Harriet Shields, Conrad Sutton and Lucio Orfanello, Jr. for their service on their previous terms of office.

A special thank you to Susan Donovan for preparing the ballots. Our new members begin their duties on January 25, 2016.



Christmas Flowers - Please fill out an envelope located in the pews and place it in the offertory collection. Thank you for all you do to help beautify our church.



"Coffee with the Padre" – Our host this month is the Parish Council. If you would like to help any of the host groups, please let us know by signing the schedule on the table in the vestibule or calling the office. All are invited to join us for fellowship every 1st and 3rd Sunday in the Parish Hall.

ADVENT AT SAINT BENEDICT SCHOOL

The primary and intermediate grade classes at Saint Benedict School have been celebrating Advent in their own unique ways. Kindergarteners are celebrating by learning of Christmas traditions around the world. They have visited Italy, Germany and France and will soon be traveling to Denmark, Peru and Hawaii.

First graders have a Nativity station in which they have manipulatives that allow them to use play to recreate the Nativity story. Second graders made an Advent chain. Each link of the chain has a prayer or intention that is to be said each night of Advent and then removed, leading them to Christmas.

Third grade made an Advent bulletin board and an Advent wreath. The wreath was fashioned with cutouts of each child's hand that contain the fruits of the Spirit. Fourth graders have an Advent poster (with chocolates) and celebrate each morning by lighting the Advent wreath. Finally, fifth grade made Advent spinners on which each setting of the spinner contains a different Advent fact. With each week, students' excitement grows in anticipation of Christmas.

The Old Country Philosopher Sez - Bob Nail

Don't cause your brother to falter—

That results in him to stray.

Woe be to him at judgment,

For with his soul he'll pay.

NOTICE: The rooms, auditorium and kitchen in Immaculate Mary Hall are available for rent. For more information, please contact the parish office.