JESSE TREE

The Jesse Tree is usually a branch where decorations can be placed on the branch. These decorations are made to represent a human ancestor of Jesus or to represent someone who waited for the coming of the Messiah. The combination of the decorations remind us that many people waited for the Messiah's coming, for Jesus' coming. We too wait for his second coming at the end of time. We also remember his first coming at Bethlehem born of Mary. We also experience his third coming in-between his first coming and his second coming. This third coming occurs when we pray, celebrate the sacraments, and meet each other.

The Religious Education Children and their families are participating in the Jesse Tree. In their own family life they recognize the waiting done by the person they use on the decoration for the Jesse Tree for each week of Advent. As they do so let us too at church recognize how we wait for Jesus. Let us examine how we wait for Jesus when we pray personally and pray during the celebration of the sacraments. Let us examine how we wait for Jesus when we are patient and respectful to each other. Let us examine how we wait for Jesus in the way we witness Jesus to society.

The Jesse Tree helps us see how God used people to wait for Jesus in his first coming. The Jesse Tree helps us see in these people how God can use us to wait for Jesus in his second coming and in his third coming.

Many people through the ages who waited for the first coming had to learn to grow in faith and cooperate with God to make a difference for good in our world. When we see our own sinfulness, we can find a similar sin in these people. In spite of their weakness, God used them. God can also use us. Let us learn from them.

Here are some examples: Noah was a drunk. Abraham was too old. Isaac was a daydreamer. Jacob was a liar. Leah was ugly. Joseph was abused. Moses had a stuttering problem. Gideon was a coward. Samson had long hair and was a womanizer. Rahab was a prostitute. Jeremiah and Timothy were too young. David had an affair and was a murderer. Elijah was suicidal. Isaiah preached naked. Jonah ran from God. Naomi was a widow. Job went bankrupt. John the Baptist ate locusts. Peter denied Christ. The apostles fell asleep while praying. Martha worried about everything. The Samaritan woman was divorced more than once. Zaccheus was too small. Paul was a fanatic. Timothy had an ulcer. Lazarus was dead.

As we join our Religious Education Families in the Jesse Tree, we see that if these people can change and work with God, then we can give God our full potential. When we do so, we help God bring the message of his Son's coming to society. We are the messengers and Jesus is the message. We are the voice and Jesus is the word. We are the candles and Jesus is the light. Come, Lord Jesus! (Rev. 22:20)

The Advent 2007 Penance Services
North Region, Diocese of Lafayette

Church: St. Charles Borromeo Church (Grand Coteau)
Date: Dec. 12th (Wednesday)
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Church: St. Ann (Mallet)
Date: Dec. 12th (Wednesday Time: 7:00 p.m.
Parish Mission: St. Ann (Mallet) Dates: Dec. 10th, 11th, & 12th (Mon., Tues., & Wed.)
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Church: St. Anthony of Padua (Eunice)
Date: Dec. 17th (Monday) Time: 6:00 p.m.
Tri-Parish Penance Service.

Church: Our Lady Queen of Angels Church (Opelousas)
Date: Dec. 17th (Monday) Time: 6:30 p.m.
City-wide Penance Service.

Church: St. Bridget Church (Lawtell)
Date: Dec. 20th (Thursday) Time: 6:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Parishioners are reminded that the area hospitals do not have a Catholic Chaplain. The area priests are called upon to visit the parishioners at the hospital. Sometimes the priests cannot respond immediately to requests for the anointing of the sick, as their schedules are full. If a parishioner is scheduled to have surgery, please contact your parish priest for celebration of the sacrament of the anointing of the sick before going to the hospital. Thank you!

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
WEEK OF DECEMBER 9, 2007
READINGS FOR FAITH SHARING

Reading I Isaiah 1:1-10 The wolf shall be a guest of the lamb.

Reading II Romans 15:4-9
Accept one another as Christ accepted you.

Gospel Matthew 3:1-12
Reform your lives!

THEME:
GOD'S KINGDOM IS AT HAND - IT IS HERE!

The scriptures today summon us to the Lord's holy mountain, where peace and justice flourish. John the Baptist calls us to repentance, "for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Saint Paul describes some of the aspects of that kingdom: harmony, glory, and welcome. As the word of God is proclaimed, let us be drawn into the images that describe God's wonderful kingdom.

Question for children:
Beyond toys and other things, what do you hope will happen in your family this Christmas?

Question for adults:
Name the one thing in your life which you must "move out of the way" in order to make more room for Christ, i.e., a grudge, a possession, a memory, hurt, or feeling.

DECEMBER SPECIAL FEASTS

December 8 The Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Scripture makes it clear that God chooses us from all eternity and prepares us for our mission even from the womb. In Mary's case, she is saved in advance from original sin because of her unique role as Jesus' mother. The unique bond of mother and child is therefore brought out by this Feast, as is the saving power of Christ to deliver us from sin and its effects. All of this has important applications for the fight against abortion.

December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
The patroness of the pro-life movements, Our Lady of Guadalupe, is honored on December 12, and the one to whom her image was revealed—St. Juan Diego—is honored on December 9. Our Lady's image, in which she is pregnant, converted Aztecs and ended human sacrifice. The image today stops many abortions as it is brought to the killing centers worldwide.

SHOPPE D' NOEL

Help the patients living at Senior Village Nursing Home with holiday shopping. They do not get to shop for their family and friends as many are on limited income. This is a great way to make a new friend from a different generation with so much wisdom to share.

DATE: Sunday, Dec. 16, 2007
PLACE: Senior Village Nursing Home
TIME: 1:30pm Set Up
2:00pm Shop Opens (Usually 2 hours)
BRING: Gently used items or gifts you have not used and wish to give to someone else
WHO: All 4-H; Girls Scouts; Church Youth Groups; Boy Scouts; ROTC; FBLA; FFA; FCCLA; Skills USA members and anyone from the community interested in volunteering.
CONTACT: Yvonne Normand 942-8318 or 308-3474

SANCTUARY LIGHT

Church .....Pro-life
Chapel.....Reconciliation

LADIES ALTAR SOCIETY

Group IV.....Sarah Wagley week of December 15, 2007
Group V .....Betty Leleux week of December 22, 2007

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 8 ..... 8:00 a.m. Jerry Chauvin, Raymond J. & Doris H. Philippe, Mr. & Mrs. Hensley Hargroder & Family
4:00 p.m. ..... Tom Hammil, Ernie & Steven McKinney, Dorsey Quebedeaux Sr., Martin & Angela Cosgrove, Florence Fournier, Jeanette Lalonde, Joseph & Ruby Lalonde, M/M Guy Elder & Daughters, Quentin Joubert, Oliver & Dully Fruge, Sterling & Louise Zerangue & Janet Lalonde, Al Mequet, Yves Kidder, Irene Dugal
Sunday, December 9 .....8:00 a.m. Ezra (B) & Velma Martin & Denise Hull (B), Martin J. St. Amand, Youle & Therese Fontenot, Maius, Myra & Chester Rozas
10:00 a.m. ..... Wilfred, Annette, Richard & Marian Smith, Gerry Allen, Allen Hudspeth Sr., Van, Edward & Allen Jr., Mary Manuel, Jack Benson Sr., Quentin R. Joubert, Jerry Chauvin, Raymond J. & Doris H. Philippe
5:00 p.m. ..... St. Landry Church
Parishioners, Lee Martin
Monday, December 10 .....12:10 p.m. Terry & Eula Lavergne
Tuesday, December 11 ..... No Mass
Wednesday, December 12 .....12:10 p.m. Ruth Mouton
Thursday, December 13 .....12:10 p.m. Ollie & Buddy Bordelon, Cynthia Durcho (B) ,Etha & Nestor Joubert
Friday, December 14 .....5:30 p.m. James E. Martin, Martin & Angela Cosgrove (DA), Hank DeMay (B), Eve Reed (B)
Saturday, December 15 .....4:00 p.m. Tom Hammill, Dorsey Quebedeaux Sr., Martin & Angela Cosgrove, Florence Fournier, Abbie Babineaux (B); Jeanette Lalonde; Carl Lanclos; Donald Fontenot; Arcade & Ada Fontenot & Armille & Lucille Fontenot, Daniel LaGrange Sr., Irene Dugal
Sunday, December 16 .....8:00 a.m. M/M Ezra Martin & Denise Hull, Irl White; Martin J. St. Amand, Youle & Therese Fontenot, James P. Dugal, Lou & Joe Arceneaux
10:00 a.m. ..... Wilfred, Annette, Richard & Marian Smith, Dr. Sidney & Alice Rozas & Dr. Dudley & Putsy Bienvenue, Gerry Allen, Jack Benson Sr., Quentin R. Joubert, Jerry Chauvin, Raymond J & Doris H. Philippe, Lawrence, Lilly & Mickey Hollier, Ernie & Steven McKinney, M/M/ Herbert Oge, Charles "Chuck" Fontenot
5:00 p.m. ..... St. Landry Church
Parishioners, Lee Martin

Confessions: Saturdays 3:00-3:45 p.m.
11:50 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Mon., Wed., Thurs. and Fri.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
Your Stewardship To God

Every Gift Comes From Above.

Total Offertory Collection $6,508.55
Maintenance Repair Fund $1,391.25
O.C.S. Foundation Fund $20.00
A/C Repair St. Landry Church 11/25/07.....$1,597.00

Thank you for your generosity!

SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 16

19,521 religious have less than 20% of the amount projected for retirement and health care.
94% of every dollar donated is applied directly to the RFR mission.

REMINDERS FOR THIS WEEK

Sun., Dec. 9	10:00 a.m.	Elementary CCD Attends Mass as a Group
	2:00 p.m.	Special Mass\ for survivors of violence @ Immaculata Chapel
Mon., Dec. 10	6:00 p.m.	Hi School Religion
	7:00 p.m.	Mission @ Holy Ghost
Tues., Dec. 11	6:00 p.m.	CDA Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	R.C.I.A.
Thurs., Dec. 13	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
	7:00 p.m.	KC Meeting
Sat., Dec. 15		General Cleaning of Church Jesus Care Project (distributing gifts) at T.H. Harris. Call Yvonne Normand 948-3657, ext. 242. Volunteers are needed.

2008 CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE

Special thanks to American Bank and Trust Company for providing the calendars for St. Landry Catholic Church parishioners.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please pray for the sick in the **PARISH**: Evelyn Batton, Dorothy Beaugh, Dusty Bellard, Shirley Bellard, Dougie Bergeron, Katherine Bertrand, Gloria Berzas, Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Berzas, Stephen Berzas, Mary Aline Bihm, Clifton Boast, Jared Broussard, Waddad Buttross, Shirley R. Chachere, Lucy Chapman, Leslie Chatham, Estelle Chautin, Dona Clary, Joel & Catherine Comeaux, Shelby Constantine, Kirt Cormier, Norma Cortez, Ruth DaGian, Shelton Daigle, Ferrell Glenn Darbonne, Sr., Angela Dautrueil, Helda Debaillon, Lillian Delafosse, Sal Diesi, Dr. Christopher Doucet, Sharon Doucet, Landon James Duplichan, Norward Duplechain, Carl Dupre, Jane Dupre, Dotsie Edwards, Emma Grace, Georgia Fiegel, Drake Fontenot, Larry J. Fontenot, Shala Fontenot, Cameron Franks, Lauren Giminez, Larry Greer, Ann Guidroz, Caleb Brent Guillory, Elaine Guillory, The T. Guillory Family, Louis Guillory, Gabrielle Marie Hansen, Benny Hargroder, Tommy Hargroder, Mary Hidalgo, David Huckaby, Doris Hudspeth, Agnes Kidder, Nathan Kimble, Austin Jagneaux, Brenda Lafleur, Sister Mary Joseph Lafond, Deionne Lalonde, Louis Lanclos, Harold Lastrapes, Glenn Lavergne, Lillie Mae Lavergne, Ranella Lavergne, Dustin Lavoie, Phyllis Cormier Leblanc, Jackie Leger, Ronald Leger, Tonya Londerno, Thelma Macip, Andre Magallanes, Kelly McCormick, Samuel McCormick, Frank Miller, Jefferey Miller, Theresa Miller, Romaine Miller, Shirley Morris, Julie Mouton, Dot Nezat, Rex Norris, Katherine Olivier, Craig Ortego, Diana Ortego, Julia Ortego, Mary Ortego, Callie Palmer, Linda Pefferkorn, Johnny Pellerin, Yvonne Pellerin, Keith Perry, Mary Perry, Bell Pitre, Irene Pitre, Randy Pitre, Joey Prather, Kathleen Prather, Lisa Ramirez, Burke Reed, Gregory Richard, Jim Richard, Lilly Richard, Melanie Richard, Ronald Richard, Theresa Rideau, Larry Roberie, Joseph James Robin, Edith Roy, Marie Saucier, Jane Smith, Raymond Soileau, Eddie Stanford, Aaron Stelly, Annabelle Stelly, Erika Stelly, Rodney Stelly, Viola Stelly, Melanie Stoute, Adolph Taylor, Sr., Charlene Terracina, Mrs. Titard, Lena Trahan, Ryan Trahan, Pierre Trosclair, Amy Veillon, Cody Vidrine, Lou Vidrine, Charlene R. Whaley, Gene Williams, and Ivan G. Winn.

We are attempting to update our list. If any name is omitted and should be on the list, please call. Also, if you know anyone who is well enough to be taken off, please call. We appreciate your cooperation.

St. Landry Church-Staff

O.C. CORNER

O. C. parents, grandparents, family and friends are invited to the elementary Christmas play on Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. in the school gym. High school and junior high students are participating in "Jesus Cares" through the leadership of Campus Ministry and Junior Beta.

Congratulations to Tyler Woodley, eighth grader, who was the overall winner in the O. C. Social Studies Fair with his project on "The History of Golf Equipment". Other first place winners were Hunter Trouille in the Economics category; and the group of Megan Richard and Celeste Quebedeaux in the History category. Good luck in parish competition!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF

$ 20.00	In Thanksgiving
$ 20.00	Andrepont & Courvelle Families
$ 15.00	Charles "Chuck" Fontenot
$ 15.00	Hank DeMay

DOLL & TOY FUND

As in the past the Catholic Daughters are sponsoring the Doll & Toy Fund for Christmas. New toys are given to needy school children attending school in the City of Opelousas. THE SPIRIT OF LOVE PREVAILS AT CHRISTMAS. Let's support this worthy cause! Anyone wishing to make a monetary donation; Send a check payable to Doll & Toy Fund, c/o Janis Courvelle, 1826 Edwards Street, Opelousas, La. 70570. We welcome donations of NEW toys which can also be brought to Valentin Hall during office hours. Any inquisitions call 942-2959.

VOCATION LIVE-IN EXPERIENCE

Free live in experience, no cost and free room and board. For discernment of being called to be a monk; priest or brother.
Mary Mother of Redeemer Abbey in Plaisance.
December 17—19 and January 8-10.

RETURNED TO CHRIST THROUGH DEATH

The St. Landry Church parishioners offer our prayers and sincere condolences to the family of
TOBIAS COLLIGAN
O Lord, grant those who have died the joy of your presence, and us who are living, the happiness of knowing this.