

YEAR OF ST. PAUL



In this Year of St. Paul let us imagine St. Paul is also at the crib with the angels, shepherds, Wise Men, St. Joseph and St. Mary. The whole focus of Christmas is Jesus. St. Paul's focused on Jesus allows him to say, "I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me" (Gal. 2:20). All St. Paul's actions begin from this center. His faith is the experience of being loved by Jesus Christ in a very personal way ... a love that overwhelms him to his depths and transforms him" (Pope Benedict XVI).

As we too face challenges to our faith, we let the experience of God's love for us in Jesus touch us. We say with St. Paul, "Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or attacked" (Rom 8:35). "I have strength for everything through him who empowers me" (Phil 4:13).

**THE ADVENT 2008 PENANCE SERVICES
NORTH REGION, DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE**

Church: St. Anthony of Padua (Eunice) Date: Dec. 15th (Mon.) Time: 6:00 p.m. Tri-Parish Penance Service.

Church: St. Leo the Great (Leonville) Date: Dec. 16th (Tues.) Time: 6:30 p.m.

Church: Holy Family (Lawtell) Date: Dec. 17th (Wed.) Time: 7:00 p.m.
Parish Mission: Holy Family (Lawtell) Dates: Dec. 15th, 16th, & 17th (Mon., Tues., & Wed.) Time: 7:00 p.m.

Church: St. Ann (Mamou) Date: Dec. 17th (Wed.) Time: 6:30 p.m.

Church: St. Bridget Church (Lawtell) Date: Dec. 18th (Thurs.) Time: 6:30 p.m.

Church: Our Lady Queen of Angels Church (Opelousas) Date: Dec. 22nd (Mon.) Time: 6:30 p.m. City-wide Penance Service.

NOTICE

Donations for Poinsettias in Memory of OR in Thanksgiving for will be listed as an insert in the Christmas bulletin, **NOT WEEKLY**. Suggested donation is \$20.00 for 10 inch plants.

THANK YOU FROM THE TRAHAN FAMILY

On behalf of Ryan Trahan and family, I want to thank you for allowing us to sell raffle tickets in your church. My family and I are extremely grateful for the generosity of the parishioners of St. Landry Church...we collected \$1078.00.

God has blessed us through you, Msgr., and your parishioners.

With sincere appreciation, Trenace Trahan Combs

MANY THANKS TO AMERICAN BANK

Special thanks to the American Bank and Trust Company for providing our parish calendars. They have been doing this for many years. Please remember to thank them whenever you meet them.

The calendars are available at all doors of the church.

**WELCOME INTO OUR CATHOLIC FAMILY
BY THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

JORDAN ELYSE WHITE

daughter of Jody & Stephanie Songy White

READINGS FOR FAITH SHARING

Week of Dec. 14, 2008

Reading I Isaiah 61:1-2A, 10-11
Justice will spring up before all the nations.

Canticle of Mary Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54
"My soul rejoices in my God."

Reading II 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 Rejoice always.

Gospel John 1-6-8, 19-28 John is the voice crying in the desert.

THEME

God is doing great things for us

Today's first reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah is a source of inspiration as we continue our Advent journey. The rich imagery summons us to work for justice and peace for all who are deprived of life's necessities. As John the Baptist heralds the coming of the Lord, let God's word encourage us to prepare the way for those who seek the strength, peace, and comfort that come only from God.

Question for Children:

As we get closer to Christmas, what is the one thing you really, really want for your home or the world? Examples are peace, friendship, or food for the poor.

Question for Youth?

John tried to help people prepare their lives for the coming of the Messiah. What do you need to change about your life to be ready for Jesus' coming?

Question for Adults?

What three suggestions would you write for those who follow Jesus, to help keep them strong in their faith?

FORMING GOOD STEWARDS

**"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert,
make straight the way of the Lord"
John 1:6-8, 19-28**

Today we hear the story of the Baptism of Jesus from the beginning of St. John's Gospel. John adds the information that "This happened in Bethany across from the Jordan where John was baptizing." This situates the event on the east side of the Jordan River, not far from Herod's castle/fortress at Machaerus, where John would soon be beheaded. John the Baptist did not urge people to challenge the authority of leaders of the Jews or call for the overthrow of the civil government, or armed revolt. He called upon people to change their own hearts and to live according to God's Commandment to love God and our neighbor as our self. This is how we "make straight the way of the Lord" to enter our hearts. For many, like Herod, this involves radical change. It involves a humble admission that what we are is God's gift to us; what we become is our gift to God. Still struggling with a gift for Jesus. Here it is: "Make straight the way of the Lord" to enter your heart. By a humble admission of who God is in our lives.

STEWARDSHIP EXPRESSIONS

December 20..International Human Solidarity Day:
International solidarity unites the interests, sympathies and purposes of people of all nations toward dignity and respect of all. Consider what you are doing to make a difference.

ALTAR SOCIETY

Group IAlverda Deshotels, Week of Dec. 20, 2008

Group IIPap Roy, Week of Dec. 27, 2008

**MASS
INTENTIONS**



**FOR THE
WEEK**

Saturday, Dec. 13 4:00 p.m. Walfred LeBlanc Sr. & Wally; Glenn & Vickie Vidrine, M/M Clayton Titard, Martin & Angela Cosgrove, M/M St. Ange Fournier, Sr., Anna & St. Ange Fournier, Jr., Cindi Durcho, Jeanette Lalonde, Allen Hudspeth, Sr., Van, Edward & Allen, Jr., Roy (BD) & Harrison Fontenot & James Guillory, Clement & Nazel Vidrine

Sunday, Dec. 14 8:00 a.m. Martin J.St. Amand, Youle & Therese Fontenot, M/M Ezra Martin & Denise Hull, Carol Pitre, Betty "Nan" Valin, Eve Reed, Joey Prather, Eugene Hebert & Jonie, Genie & Troy
10:00 a.m. Wilfred, Annette, Richard & Marian Smith, Quentin Joubert, Dr. Sidney & Alice Rozas & Dr. Dudley & Putsy Bienvenu, Ernie & Steven McKinney, Lawrence, Lilly & Mickey Hollier, Jerry Chauvin, Raymond J. & Doris H. Philippe, Elizabeth Puckett, Marise Martin, Deanna Dohmann Chachere, John Harold Kewley

5:00 p.m. St. Landry Church Parishioners, Lee Martin

Monday, December 1512:10 p.m. Abbie Babineaux (BD), Virlie Savoy, Tina Faul (BD) & Fly.

Tuesday, December 16NO MASS
Wednesday, December 1712:10 p.m. Sol & Katherine Reed, Terry & Eula Lavergne

Thursday, December 1812:10 p.m. Norma Cortez DeBallion & Joseph

Friday, December 1912:10 p.m. John Kewley

Saturday, December 204:00 p.m. Walfred LeBlanc, Sr. & Wally, Glenn & Vickie Vidrine, M/M Clayton Titard, James E. Martin, James Palmer, Martin & Angela Cosgrove, Tom Schexnayder, Jeanette Lalonde, Allen Hudspeth, Sr., Van, Edward & Allen Jr., Clement & Nazel Vidrine

Sunday, December 218:00 a.m. Martin J. St. Amand, Youle & Therese Fontenot, Velma & Patsy Gail Boss, Carol Pitre, Betty "Nan" Valin, Eddie & Dorothy Beaugh (WA), Joey Prather, Eugene, Genie, Jonie & Troy

10:00 a.m. Wilfred, Annette, Richard & Marian Smith, Quinton Joubert, Lee (DA), Vivian & Kristie Artigue, Dr. Sidney & Alice Rozas & Dr. Dudley & Putsy Bienvenu, Jerry Chauvin, Raymond J. & Doris H. Philippe, Deanna Dohmann Chachere, Oscar & Agnes Roy
5:00 p.m. St. Landry Church Parishioners, Lee Martin

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Your Stewardship To God

Total Offertory Collection\$6,791.05
Maintenance Fund & Repair Fund\$1,565.51
BSA.....\$20.00
OCS\$8.00

Thank you for your generosity!

*Every Gift
Comes From
Above.*



**Second Collection for week of Dec. 21
RETIRED RELIGIOUS FUND**

REMINDERS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday, Dec.15 6:00 p.m. Religious Ed.
Tuesday, Dec. 16 6:30 p.m. RCIA
Thursday, Dec. 18 5:30 p.m. Choir Practice
Friday, Dec.19 HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEACON JOHN

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

CHILDREN'S MASS

4:00 p.m. Wednesday Christmas Eve

Instructions for children bringing gifts:

Please process in before Mass with Msgr. Romero. Be at the inside entrance of the church at least 5 minutes before Mass to line up to come into church. Please bring a new, unwrapped gift for a child. As you come into the altar area, bow before the altar and place your gift where you will be shown. Now go to the pew to be with your family.

Christmas Vigil Mass
6:00PM Wednesday,

Christmas Day
9:00AM Thursday,
Only Mass on Christmas Day

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Mason Alsandor, Bonnie Amy, Jack Andrus, Leola Arnaud, Ella Attole, Mary Bertha Attole, Angela Aymond, Dorothy Beaugh, Dusty Bellard, Shirley Bellard, Dougie Bergeron, Katherine Bertrand, Gloria Berzas, M/M Nathan Berzas, Stephen Berzas, Mary Aline Bihm, Lillie Briggs, Jared Broussard, Rick Carter, Estelle Chautin, Peggy Chelette, Logan Comb, Franklin Courville, Ward Courville, Lisa Curley, Shelton Daigle, Robert Danaher, Angela Dautrueil, M/M Billy Dean, Hilda Deballion, Lillian Delafosse, Sue Deville, Sharon Doucet, Carl Dupre, Michael Dupre, Raymond Dupre, Wanda Dupre, Georgia Fiegel, Harold Fontenot, Joseph L. Fontenot, Winston Fontenot, Dempsey Fuselier, Lauren Giminez, George Gremillion, Larry Greer, Ann Guidroz, Elaine L Guillory, Louis Guillory, The T. Guillory Family, Gabrielle Marie Hanson, Brooke Hargroder, Sydney Harmon, Carlos Hebert, Glenn Hebert, Andrea Hernandez, Glenda Hicks, Lauren Maragert Higginbotham, Doris Hudspeth, Annie & Austin Jagneaux, Logan Joubert, Agnes Kidder, Brenda Lafleur, Richard Lafleur, Laura Lanclos, Raymond Lashute, Bradley Lastie, Dotty & Floyd Lavergne, Glenn Lavergne, Renella Lavergne, Dustin Lavoie, Mary Alice LeBlanc, Phyllis Cormier LeBlanc, Therese Leger, Tony Leger, Tonya Londerno, Andre Magallanes, Therese Major, Mary Martin, Mistic & Prudhomme Families, Byron Miller, Jeffery Miller, Shirley Morris, Julie Mouton, James Naquin, Dot Nezat, Craig Ortego, Marty Ortego, Cameron Ozenne, Gene Paillet, Callie Palmer, Louis Paternestro, Johnny Pellerin, Gentry Peltier, Tracie Peltier, Keith Perry, Mary Perry, Irene Pitre, Ruby Pitre, Brandon Prudhomme, Frances Reed, Emery Richard, Ronald Richard, Joseph James Robin, Ruby Romero, Rose Ryder, Marie Saucier, Harold Savoy, Anna Belle Soileau, Elaine Soileau, Aaron Stelly, Annabelle Stelly, Erika Stelly, Melanie Stoute, Adolph Taylor Sr., Russell Thibodeaux, Lena Trahan, Pierre Troclair, James Vidrine, Lou Vidrine, Wayne Wyble and Ivy Zerangue

Please help update our list. If any name is omitted and should be on the list, please call if anyone is well enough to be taken off the list, please call. We appreciate your cooperation.
St. Landry Church Staff

O C CORNER

Opelousas Catholic has its very own author in third grade teacher, Nikki Walton. Her first children's book was recently published, entitled "Reindeer Olympics" about the special reindeer chosen to pull Santa's sleigh. Her book may be purchased at OC or online at www.barnesabdnoble.com or www.amazon.com. Congratulations to Mrs. Walton!

OC is also proud of both its 7th and 8th grade football team and the 5th and 6th grade team for capturing the championship in the Acadiana Christian School Athletic Association. These young Vikings and their coaches led by head coach, Roddy Dye, had a great season!

AROUND THE DIOCESE

WHAT: Advent Concert Series @ Fatima
WHERE: Our Lady of Fatima Church
WHEN: Every Sunday in Advent
CONTACT: Andre Courville @ 232-8945

WHAT: Opelousas Community Choir
Christmas Song Fest
WHEN: Dec. 14 @ 3:00 p.m.
WHERE: La. Methodist Lauman Hall
COST: Free

WHAT: Advent Mission
WHEN: December 14-17 (Sun. -Wed.)
WHERE: St. Leo's Church in Leonville
TIME: 6:30 — 7:30 p.m.
Rev. James W. Sichko

WHAT: Women's Retreat
WHEN: Jan. 23-25, 2009
WHERE: St. Charles Center, Moss Bluff
CONTACT: 369-3819 to register
COST: \$160.00
Fr. Jude Halphen

SANCTUARY LIGHT

ChurchWaiting Patiently for Christ
ChapelWorld Peace

