



YEAR FOR PRIESTS

Faithfulness of Christ, faithfulness of priests

Being a pastor is in itself a spiritual act....This means that he himself lives first of all on the Word of God.
Pope Benedict XVI's meeting with clergy of the Diocese of Rome. 22 February 2007.

Making efforts to be better as a child of God
Msgr. Romero

We who are graced with sanctifying grace through the waters of baptism should make efforts to strengthen our life in God, as we are children of God. I point out three virtues that are helpful. These are empathy, compassion, and holding our tongue.

Empathy is seeing the world through other people's eyes. Understanding each other helps us work at common causes. Let us try to engage with people different from ourselves and listen. Whether we are conservative or liberal, white or black, Christian or Muslim, let us try to ask questions and then listen.

Compassion is sympathy for the suffering of others, often including a desire to help. Practicing compassion has an effect of creating happiness in others and self. Behavior begets habit. Habit begets character. Before we know it, we are a compassionate person.

Holding our tongue is a product of self-control. The Letter of St. James says, "Consider how a small fire can set a huge forest ablaze. ... For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison" (James 3:5b, 7-8). Speak no harm. When tempted to do otherwise, count to twenty, or pray the Our Father Prayer or Hail Mary Prayer before speaking. Say good things about one another and others.

These three virtues – empathy, compassion, and holding our tongue – help us as a person to love God and neighbor. They help us live our life as a child of God. If enough people are able to do so, then our city, state, nation, and world will become more human, more respectful, more loving.

[Ideas for "Making efforts to be better as a child of God" came from an article in USA TODAY: Monday, December 28, 2009, 13A. "The Forum: It's time to look inward" by Oliver Thomas].

Congratulations to Mrs. Janis Courvelle

Mrs. Janis Courvelle is St. Landry Church's honoree for the 2010 Martin Luther King, Jr. Award given by the Diocese of Lafayette. These awards will be received at the end of the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration with a mass in the Cathedral of St. John in Lafayette on January 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. We congratulate Mrs. Janis Courvelle on receiving the award and we thank her for all the humanitarian work she does. May God bless her!

READINGS FOR FAITH SHARING
Week of Jan. 10, 2010

Reading I **Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11**
God's glory shall be revealed.

Psalm 104 "O bless the Lord, my soul."

Reading II **Titus 2:11-14, 3: 4-7**
We are saved through the bath of rebirth.

Gospel **Luke 3:15-16, 21-22**
"You are my beloved Son."

THEME:

Baptism gives us new life.

Today's readings bring the Christmas season full circle. The passage from Isaiah is usually heard during Advent. In this reading, we hear words that will later be echoed by John the Baptist, who appears in today's Gospel reading. As we listen to the Scriptures today, let us rejoice in the fact that through our own baptism, we are called God's "beloved".

Questions of the week

Question for Children:
Why does Baptism make you special?

Question for Youth:
You were baptized as a member of the Christian community. What does it mean to you to belong to this community? How is it a support in your life?

Question for Adults:
What meaning does your Baptism have for your everyday life?

Forming Good Stewards

"You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased."
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Those are the words that a voice from heaven spoke after Jesus convinced John to baptize him in the Jordan River.

Imagine how we would feel if a voice from heaven said to us, as we stood among our family and friends, and even our enemies, "You are my beloved child, with you I am well pleased."

We may not be standing in the Jordan River with John the Baptist pouring water over us, but we, who are baptized Catholics, are "children of God". To the extent that we are doing our best to be all that God created us to be, to identify, accept, develop, and use all of the talents, abilities, and gifts that God has given to us for ourselves and for others, we can be sure that God is well pleased with us.

AND, if we are good stewards of our prayer life and truly listen to God's will for us, we may not hear his voice with our ears, but we will know in our hearts that God is saying to us: "You are my beloved child, with you I am well pleased."

RCIA

Tuesday at 6:30 pm, the adult religion class will be discussing the sacrament of Matrimony. We will also be defining sacramentals and how they are used in our prayer life. For more information, contact Deacon John Miller at 942-2911.

Welcome into our Catholic family through the Sacrament of Baptism

Summer Maria Torre
daughter of
Stefano Joseph and Amanda Bailey Helton Torre

MASS INTENTIONS



FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, Jan. 9 **4:00 p.m.** Martin and Angela Cosgrove, Verlie Savoy, Francis J. Bertrand Sr., Jeanette Lalonde, Special Intention, Lee Martin, M/M Robert Going Sr.

Sunday, Jan. 10 **8:00 a.m.** Paul Sylvain Fontenot, Verlie Savoy (BD), Ezra and Velma (DA) Martin and Denise Hull, Youle and Theresa Fontenot, Martin J. St.Amand

10:00 a.m...... Wilfred, Annette, Richard and Marian Smith, Evie B. Soileau, Verlie Savoy (BD), Jerry Chauvin, Raymond J. and Doris H. Philippe

5:00 p.m. St. Landry Church Parishioners, Jackie Benoit, Verlie Savoy (BD)

Monday, Jan. 11.....**12:10 pm** Charlie, Hazel (DA) & Floyd Leger

Tuesday, Jan. 12**NO MASS**

Wednesday, Jan. 13 **12:10 p.m.** Lee, Vivian & Kristie (DA) Artigue

Thursday, Jan. 14 **12:10 p.m.** Una L. Moreau, Theresa D. Speyrer

Friday, Jan. 15 **12:10 p.m.** Allen Hudspeth Sr., Van, Edward, and Allen Jr.

Saturday, Jan. 16 **4:00 p.m.** Frank Greco (BD), Martin & Angela Cosgrove, Francis J. Bertrand, Jeanette Lalonde, Special Intention, Jerry Chauvin (BD), Lee Martin

Sunday, Jan. 17 **8:00 a.m.** Paul Sylvain Fontenot, Angela Aymond, Youle & Theresa Fontenot, Martin J. St.Amand

10:00 a.m...... Wilfred, Annette, Richard and Marian Smith, Evie B. Soileau, Daniel and Louise Lagrange, Jerry Chauvin, Raymond J. and Doris H. Philippe

5:00 p.m. St. Landry Church Parishioners, Jackie Benoit

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

Every Gift Comes From Above.

Regular Offertory Collection\$5,541.77
New Year's Offerings.....\$1,514.06
St. Landry Church Maintenance.....\$1,248.00
Opelousas Catholic Foundation Fund.....\$12.00
Bishop's Services Appeal.....\$5.00



Thank you for your generosity!

Second Collection

Week of January 17, 2010
Opelousas Catholic Foundation

Reminders for the week

Sunday, January 10	10:00am	Rel. Ed. grade
		1-8 Attend Mass as group
Monday, January 11	5:30pm	Choir practice
	6:00pm	Confirmation class for all
Tuesday, January 12	5:30pm	OC OpenHouse for new students
	6:00pm	CDA
	6:30pm	RCIA
Wednesday January 13	5:00pm	Altar Society
Thursday, January 14	7:00pm	KC Meeting
Friday, January 15	8:30am	High School Mass for OC

OC CORNER

Opelousas Catholic invites prospective parents and students to attend OC's annual Open house to learn more about a quality Catholic education. It will be held on Tuesday, January 12th, at 5:30 pm in the school cafeteria.

Congratulations to Opelousas Catholic's "Students of the Year" as selected upon their outstanding academic achievements and leadership qualities: Sarah Joubert, 5th grade, T. J. Venable, 8th grade, and Trey Schwartzenburg, 12th grade.

MOVING? NEW PHONE NUMBER?

Please notify the church office at 942-6552. THANKS!!

Around the Diocese

Theology on Tap

Judge Richard "Dickie" Haik will be speaking on January 20 at 7:30 pm. He will be speaking on "Abortion, Religion, and the Law: at this free, monthly meeting for young adults (18-35) married or single. There is free parking on the corner of Buchanan and Garfield Streets. For more information, call Mary-Rose @ 261-5653.

Jesuit Spirituality Center

An individually directed retreat will be held on Jan. 20-26 (3 or 5 day only). Other dates are Feb. 1-10, Feb. 22-March 3, March 8-17 and Holy Week, March 25-April 3.

Entering into Lent—A day of Prayer will be held on Saturday, February 20 from 9:00am—4:00pm. This will be a day of reflection to help participants enter into the observance of Lent and the Paschal Mystery. There will also be an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

For an application form call 662-5251 between the hours of 8am and 5pm, or go online to www.jesuitspiritualitycenter.org.

Holy Spirit Women's Retreat with Kimberly Hahn

Kimberly Hahn, well-known around the world as a spiritual writer and teacher, will be the featured speaker, at the retreat held at the Hilton Hotel in Lafayette, January 22-24, 2010.

This year's theme is "Daughters of the King: Chosen and Cherished". Fr. Hampton Davis of Lafayette, Sheila Butler, and Patti Mansfield of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans will join Kimberly.

Kimberly is the wife of Dr. Scott Hahn and together they have authored a best-selling book entitled Rome, Sweet Rome that details their conversion to the Catholic faith.

Prices and registration online at www.ccrno.org or call 1-504-828-1368.

23rd Annual Walk for Life

January 22, 2010 marks the 37th year we have allowed God's innocent unborn children to be legally destroyed by abortion in our country.

St. Landry Right to Life invites you to show support and respect for ALL life, born and unborn, elderly, or handicapped.

Come join our **23rd. Annual Walk for Life on Saturday, January 23rd, 2010 @10:00am at Our Lady Queen of Angels Church.**

ALL FAITHS AND GROUPS are invited and encouraged to participate in the Walk for Life.

BRING THE FAMILY AND TAKE A STAND FOR LIFE!!!

For more information, contact John or Jeri Miller @ 948-9559.

FRIENDS DAY

Friends Day is scheduled for Saturday, January 30, 2010 at the Community of Jesus Crucified, 421 ½ Carmel Dr. Lafayette, La. The day begins at 9:00am and ends with celebration of Holy Mass at 12 noon.

The theme of the day is "**Understanding the Unique Thought of Benedict XVI in, Caritas In Veritate.**" his most recent encyclical.

Jim Seghers, Master of Sacred Scripture, Apologetics and Retreats, founder of Totus Tuus Ministries, and an instructor at Our Lady of Guadalupe Bible Institute, will present the topics. He is also heard on Radio Maria.

Everyone is invited to attend and registration is not necessary. For more information, contact Gloria at 896-0524.

OC CORNER

Opelousas Catholic invites **prospective students and parents** to attend its annual Open House on **January 12th at 5:30pm** in the school cafeteria.

Please plan to attend and learn more about a quality Catholic education for your child, **preschool through 12th grade.**

THANK YOU

During a time like this, we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us.....

Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

Ron Speyrer and Rebecca Reed

SANCTUARY LIGHT

CHURCHVerlie Savoy
CHAPEL.....Tyra Newell & Harold Savoy

ALTAR SOCIETY

Group I.....Alverda Deshotels, Week of Jan. 16, 2010
Group II.....Pap Roy, Week of Jan. 23, 2010