

The Pastor's Corner

To follow up on the homily of last week, we are approximately four weeks from the beginning of Lent, which commences on March 9, 2011 with Ash Wednesday. This is a good time to begin our remote preparation for this season, in which prayer, almsgiving and fasting is emphasized. It is also a time of penance, when we examine our lives and repent of our sins, and with the help of God's grace, we try to remove sinful habits and inclinations which keep us from having the best relationship with God that we can. Our remote preparation for Lent, that is, an honest examination of our sinfulness and weaknesses, will help us to determine what we need to undertake during the Lenten Season.

Since increased prayer is one of the things we emphasize during Lent, our liturgical schedule will change a bit in order to make both daily Mass and confessions more accessible to more of our parishioners and the greater Opelousas community. We will have daily Mass beginning at 12:05pm each day (Monday through Friday) in Church, which should help those trying to attend daily Mass during their lunch break at work. Our daily Mass usually lasts about 25 minutes, so hopefully more people will be able to attend and be able to get back to work on time. In addition, Confessions will be heard from 11:30am to 12:00pm in the Church each day before the 12:05pm Mass. We will also add a daily Mass on Saturday mornings at 8:00am in the Valentin Hall Chapel so that we will have the opportunity to celebrate all Lenten liturgies over the course of the season.

Our Sunday Mass schedule will remain the same; however we will expand the time for Confessions. Saturday confessions will be heard from 2:30pm to 3:30pm in order to provide more time for Confessions and to allow the priest an appropriate amount of time to prepare for the 4:00pm Vigil Mass. It has been heartening to see so many people coming to Confession over the last few weeks, and the hope is that many more will do so during the Lenten Season.

Our hope is that these changes will better serve your spiritual needs during this Lenten Season. During this time of remote preparation, let our prayer be that God will give us the Grace to honestly see where we need to improve in our lives, and to have the fortitude to persevere in cooperating with His Grace during the Lenten Season, so that we may grow closer to Him and more loving of our neighbors.

Fr. James Brady

LENTEN MASS SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday, March 9

8:40am School Mass
12:05pm and 5:30pm

Thursday, March 10 through Wednesday, April 20

12:05pm Monday through Friday (in Church)

All Saturdays through April 16

8:00am in Valentin Hall Chapel

CONFESSIONS

Monday through Friday: 11:30am -12:00pm
Saturdays 2:30pm - 3:30pm

ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT

The Spring Opelousas Men's Silent Retreat at Our Lady of the Oaks Retreat House in Grand Coteau will be held Thursday, March 3rd thru Sunday, March 6, 2011.

Call Andrew Guidroz II for information or registration at (337) 351-0732, OR you can e-mail him at andrew@thecajun.com A deposit is required to hold your room.

Pope Benedict XVI's Intention for February

General: That the family may be respected by all in its identity and that its irreplaceable contribution to all of society be recognized.
Mission: That in the mission territories where the struggle against disease is most urgent, Christian communities may witness to the presence of Christ to those who suffer.

READINGS FOR FAITH SHARING

Week of February 13, 2011

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Reading I Sirach 15:15-20

There is set before you fire and water, life and death.

Psalm 119 "Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!"

Reading II 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Eye has not seen, ear has not heard what God has prepared for us.

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

So it was said to your ancestors; but I say this to you.

THEME.

We are called to emphasize the Christian way of life all year round. Today we are reminded that following the law is only the beginning of the Christian way of life. Our psalm urges us to look beyond the law to its beating heart. For the followers of Jesus, living according to the full spirit of the law is a matter of life or death.

Bulletin Bites

"I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus was a good Jew. He learned and lived the "Law" [for a good Jew that was the "Law" Moses handed down to the Israelites on two tablets given to him by God - the Ten Commandments]. Jesus came to fulfill that Law by his life and teaching. He did that with exceptional faithfulness. However, unlike the scribes and Pharisees, he was not as scrupulous about the laws of ritual purity. He and his disciples gleaned ears of corn to feed themselves on the Sabbath and he consorted and had meals with many who were considered "unclean." But Jesus calls his disciples - that includes us - to go beyond mere compliance with the Law. He challenges us to go the extra mile, to go beyond good and to seek to be better, to want to be the best in "righteousness" by constantly striving to be all that God created us to be. Jesus did that himself. It was not easy or convenient or without risk for him. It is no different for us. But Jesus tells us the consequence for failing to try - "you will not enter the kingdom of heaven."

ST. LANDRY ALTAR SOCIETY RETREAT

The St. Landry Church Altar Society is sponsoring a morning of reflection on Saturday, February 26 in Valentin Hall. The morning begins at 9:00am with refreshments followed by the presentation at 9:30am.

Wendy Romero, a noted Author and retreat speaker will speak on "Pilgrimage to Self". For more information contact Yvonne L. Normand, 308-3474.

ENGAGED COUPLES

Spend a weekend away from the cares and distractions of everyday living. Attend a **Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend** in preparation for your marriage. Upcoming weekend dates are March 18-20 and April 8-10. For other dates and to learn more, visit our website at www.lafayetteceee.org OR call 984-7954.

FRIENDS DAY

Friends Day is scheduled for Saturday, February 19th at the Community of Jesus Crucified, 421 1/2 Carmel Drive, Lafayette, La. 70501.

The day begins at 9:00am with mid-morning prayer and ends at 12:00noon.

The theme of the day is 'I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU VISITED ME.' Deacon Frank Cormier is the guest speaker.

Registration is necessary. Call Gloria Matte (337)896-0524 to register or for more information.

MASS INTENTIONS



FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, Feb. 12 4:00 p.m. Jeanette Lalonde, Pap Roy (BD)

Sunday, Feb. 13 8:00 a.m. Carol Pitre and M/M E.J. Leonard, Eric Wayne Gautreaux, Youle & Theresa Fontenot, Martin J. St. Amand, Koby Joubert (B), Brian Dendy (Deployment), Casey Olivier, Shirley Wyble, Souls in Purgatory, Willard Andrepont and Gertrude A. & Alvin Marks, Amar, Maryina and A.B. Courville Sr.

10:00 a.m. Wilfred, Annette, Richard and Marian Smith, Lee, Vivian (DA) and Kristie Artigue, Mae H. Moore, Marie Grace Soileau, Frank Miller, Manuel B. Requiso Sr., Dionecio L. Pilongo, M/M Ezra Martin and Denise Hull, Gladys & Edward Valin, Mary C. Cryer and Russell Carriere

5:00 p.m. St. Landry Church Parishioners, M/M Lee Martin, Terrell Wayne Fontenot, Harold Savoy

Monday, Feb. 14 12:10 p.m Sam and Helen Guillory, Chester, Maius and Myra Rozas, Oliver and Dully Fruge, Ernie and Steven (DA) McKinney

Tuesday, Feb. 15 NO MASS

Wednesday, Feb. 16 12:10 p.m. Tracy Batton, Maryina Courville (BD)

Thursday, Feb. 17 12:10 p.m. Allen Hudspeth Sr., Van, Edward, and Allen Jr., Bobbie & Julie Mouton, Ronnie & Steve (BD) Ardoin and the Rider family

Friday, Feb. 18 12:10 p.m. Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, Feb. 19 4:00 p.m. Irene J. Pitre (DA), Jeanette Lalonde, James E. Martin

Sunday, Feb. 20 8:00 a.m. Carol Pitre and M/M E.J. Leonard, Eric Wayne Gautreaux, Youle & Therese Fontenot, Martin J. St. Amand, Dona H. Clary (BD) and Brian Dendy (Deployment)

10:00 a.m. Wilfred, Annette, Richard and Marian Smith, Frank Miller, Bobbie (BD) & Julie Mouton, Steve & Ronnie Ardoin and the Rider family, Mary C. Cryer and Russell Carriere

5:00 p.m. St. Landry Church Parishioners, M/M Lee Martin, Terrell Wayne Fontenot, Harold Savoy

Confessions, Saturdays 3:00-3:45 p.m.
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri.

Second Collection
Week of February 20, 2011
Opelousas Catholic Foundation Fund

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
Your Stewardship To God

Every Gift Comes From Above.

Regular Collection\$7,835.50
Maintenance/Repair Fund\$2,388.46
Bishop's Services Appeal\$30.00



Thank you for your generosity!

REMINDERS OF THE WEEK

Sunday, Feb. 13 10:55am Choir Practice for 10:00am Mass
6:15pm Confirmation and High School Rel. Ed.
Monday, Feb. 14 5:30pm Choir Practice for 5:00pm Mass
6:15pm Rosary at Monument
Tuesday, Feb. 18 8:40am Elem. School Mass

FREE INCOME TAX FILING

Tax-Aide Volunteers will be available to file your income taxes for the year 2010. This service is free.

Opelousas Public Library is the place and the starting date is February 14. Times are Mon. & Wed. from 1:00pm until 4:00pm and again on Saturdays from 9:00am until noon and 1:00pm until 3:00pm

- It is very important that you bring the following:
- 1) Copies of your **2009 Income Tax Filing.**
 - 2) **Social Security Cards** for each member of the family.
 - 3) **All yearly income** including W2s; 1099s (including your Social Security 1099) for year 2010.
 - 4) **Proof of Income from Interest or Dividends**
 - 5) **Gambling Winnings and any other form of income you may have received.**
 - 6) **Homeowner's Policy** (the actual policy **NOT** your monthly payment account sheet.

REMINDER FROM FR. BRADY

Children, don't forget to get your bulletins from Fr. Brady after Mass.

Prayer Intentions

Betty Jane Andrus, Janet Andrus, Clifford and Jane Ardoin, John Aucoin, Thelma Aucoin, Gervis "BB" Babin, Anna Lee Beadle, Steve Bienvenu, Nita Bordelon, Jerry S. Bouchereau, Gerard Boudreaux, Wilbur Briley, Chris Brewster, Dr. Dan Buller, Holly Burleigh, Brandon Castille, Raylyn Chapman, John Clary, Maryina Courville, Lou D'Avy, Robert Danaher, Glenn Derington, Dr. Seldon Deshotels, Harley Doucet, Brad Douget, Vickie Duplechain, Wanda Dupre, Shirley Emonet, Tristen Estes, Linda and Terry Fontenot, Paul Franks, Craig S. Guillory, Ted Guillory Jr., Agnes Kidder, Renella Lavergne, Brittany LeBlanc, Norma Jean Leger, Deacon John & Mrs. Laura Miller, Julie Mouton, Lonnie and Cindy Ortego, Callie Palmer, Yvonne F. Pellerin, Ruby Pitre, Helen Richard, Melanie M. Richard, Rose Mary R. Richard, Joseph James Robin, Jimmy Roy, Novella Sebastien, Vernita Stelly, Patrick Steward Jr., Tommy Strange, James Touchet, Lou Vidrine, Annette Voorhies, Brandy Willingham, Warren Wyble

It is Diocesan policy that to put someone on the Prayer List, you must first have his or her permission.

OC Corner

Opelousas Catholic is dedicated to educating students in the mission of Christ; to know, love, and serve God as disciples in this life in order to be happy with Him in the next.

Registration for new students (preschool --12th grade) in 2011-2012 starts Feb. 14th. Contact Barbara Fontenot at 942-5404 ext. 105 with any questions as soon as possible.

Current parents are reminded that progress reports for the third nine-weeks grading period will be posted to Edline on Thursday.

Military Mass

A Military Mass, sponsored by the North Region of the Diocese of Lafayette, is scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2011, 6:30pm at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, 1432 West Landry St. Opelousas.

The Mass will be a tribute to our military, for families of all who are currently serving our country, especially in Afghanistan and Iraq as well as our veterans, those who have died, and those who are wounded and disabled. All are invited to attend.

For more information, please contact Jackie Griffin at (337) 831-2621.

Pray for our Troops

Jonathan David Ardoin, Christopher Briley, Brandi Darbonne, Jacob DeKerlegand, Brian James Dendy, A.J. Korn, Andre Ledoux, Benjamin Pitre, Danny Pitre, Joshua Thomasse, Julian Wiltz

Please call the office (942-6552) to add names. All Powerful God, we pray for your continued guidance and blessings on all who serve our country in the military.

Annual Day of Recollection at St. Edmund's Catholic Church in Lafayette, La.

St. Edmund Altar Society Day of Recollection at St. Edmund Church, 4131 W. Congress St., Lafayette, La. Will be held on Thursday, March 10.

Sign in and refreshments will begin at 8:00am in the Atrium with the Rosary beginning at 9:00am in Church.

Retreat Master is Fr. Jerry Mesley of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Eunice, La.

In addition to the conference and Mass, there will be a Rosary, Benediction and Way of the Cross.

Tickets are \$9.00 which includes lunch. Tickets must be purchased in advance, in order to make adequate arrangements.

Please mail your check, payable to St. Edmund Altar Society, by March 1, 2011 to:

Ticket Chairperson
RaNelle Simon
116 Delmar Lane
Lafayette, La. 70506

ST. IGNATIUS SCHOOL

St. Ignatius School will hold its 21st Annual Bar-B-Que sale on Sunday, February 20 on the school campus.

Dinners are \$6.00 and include 1/2 chicken or pork steak with rice dressing, cole slaw, yams and a roll.

The lunches may be picked up between 11:00am and 2:00pm. Advanced tickets can be purchased from any student or at the school's administrative office.

Thank You Friends of the Bereaved

Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered with deep appreciation.

Yola Huckaby and family

SANCTUARY LIGHT

CHURCH.....Souls In Purgatory
CHAPEL.....Special Intention

ALTAR SOCIETY

Group II..... Pap Roy, Week of Feb. 19, 2011
Group III..... Irene Soileau, Week of Feb. 26, 2011