

The Pastor's Corner

One of the joys of being a pastor is to see our children formed in the faith, especially in the preparation for and reception of the sacraments. Because not everyone in the parish has a child at the age when sacraments are received, sometimes many in the parish are unaware of the event. Last week approximately 30 of our children made their First Confession in preparation for their First Communion in May, experiencing God's mercy for the first time in sacramental form. It was a special moment for the children, for me as a new pastor, and for us as a parish. Overall, the children did a great job in preparing for and making their First Confessions. Of course, the first place where children learn is in the home, and I want to congratulate the parents of these children for a job well done. It was obvious that the children had plenty of practice outside the classroom in getting ready for their First Confession. In addition, the teachers in the formal classes, Ann Purser and Phyllis Guidry, also did a great job helping the parents and the children in the preparation. Many thanks to them for their dedication and care of our children.

Last weekend, our Confirmation candidates, approximately 20 in number, made their Confirmation retreat, and by all accounts it was fruitful and a good experience for all of them. They will be confirmed in May and their preparation continues over the next several months. They have been an engaging group and are growing in their knowledge of the Catholic faith so that they can make a more mature commitment to our Church as young adults, relying upon the Grace of the sacrament and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We appreciate their effort and the efforts of those teaching them in their weekly classes in their preparation.

Even though not every family at St. Landry has a child in these programs, we should all support them in our individual prayers. Not only is the direct prayer heard by God and answered, but also our solidarity as a Church and parish is strengthened by such prayers. So please be sure to keep them in your prayers.

On another note, next weekend a group from the Holy Land will be in the Church selling hand carved items. The group has been approved by Bishop Jarrell to do so in our diocese with the permission of the individual pastors of each Church parish, and the proceeds are used to support the Church in the land where Jesus himself walked the earth. We cannot imagine the trials Christians in the Holy Land and the Middle East in general endure. We are blessed to live in a place where there is comparatively very little religious strife. Very much a minority to the Jewish and Muslim people, they are often caught in the middle of the conflicts that occur in the Middle East. They have a difficult time obtaining resources to maintain a well functioning Church structure, and are at times the target of violence. They live in a place where their faith is put to the test as they continue to maintain their faith. Many of the items that will be sold are items that the average tourist would purchase while touring the Holy Land and the proceeds will help to support the Church in the Holy Land. If you are interested, please be sure to stop by their tables in the back of the Church next weekend. The group will make a short presentation after Holy Communion at each Mass, and as a gesture of thanks for our support, will present a hand carved Crucifix to our parish.

Fr. James Brady

LENTE 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

REMINDER FROM FR. BRADY

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

READINGS FOR FAITH SHARING

Week of February 20, 2011

Page 74 in Missalette

Reading I Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Psalm 103 "The Lord is kind and merciful."

Reading II 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

God catches the wise in their own ruses.

Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

Love your enemies.

REFLECTION:

If you want to be like God, Jesus says, then love your enemies. Don't expect repayment of loans. Give to every beggar. If someone steals from you, hand the person even more. That is what God does. In showing selfless compassion to others, we are living according to our true nature, created in the likeness of God. As today's Scriptures are proclaimed, let us pray that these difficult words will challenge us to rethink our actions.

Parish Lenten Mission

Our Lenten Parish Mission will take place on March 14, 15, and 16, 2011. The theme of the mission is "The Mystery of Suffering: Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?" The mission will be presented by Fr. Brady and will be introduced at the Sunday Masses on March 12 and 13, 2011. The mission will begin each night at 6:30pm with Mass and the mission talk will take place after Mass beginning at about 7pm. Each talk will last 45 minutes to an hour, so the mission should be concluded by 8pm each evening. The mission will address issues related to the mystery of suffering, beginning with how God created the world "good", the fall of mankind, suffering in the Old Testament, and how Jesus redeemed suffering in his life, death, and resurrection. Some of the topics addressed will be the fallacy of the gospel of prosperity, what does it mean when we say suffering is "redeemed", what does it mean when we "offer up" our sufferings, and what is the meaning of "sacrifice" in our lives. Suffering is something we don't talk about enough, and at times may not be prepared to endure. The mission will try to help us penetrate the mystery of suffering and help us to be more cognizant of God's Love for us and each other in our suffering.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!

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.

Bulletin Bites

"But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you."

We can almost hear St. Peter and the disciples saying, "Ah, Jesus, we are still having trouble with that 'Love your neighbor!' thing. 'Jesus was loving, caring, compassionate and forgiving. He expected the same from all who wanted to be His disciples. He understood the Great Commandment, to 'Love God with your whole heart, soul, mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself' [an abbreviated form of the Ten Commandments]. But Jesus knew that God has written the Great Commandment on the heart of every person and that we can know it through the use of reason. Jesus revealed to us by His life and teaching that we must do more. We must try to be better by loving our enemies. We must seek to be the best by praying for those who persecute us. A good teacher or a good coach challenges us to be the best that we can be - not the best to ever study a subject or play a sport - but the best that we can be. Such teachers and coaches push us to be better than we want to be. Jesus is a Great Teacher and a Great Coach.

ALTAR SOCIETY

Group III Irene Soileau, Week of Feb. 26, 2011

Group IV..... Sarah Wagley, Week of Mar. 5, 2011

MASS INTENTIONS



FOR THE WEEK

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

Monday, Feb. 21. 12:10 p.m. Joseph and Ruby Lalonde
Tuesday, Feb. 22 NO MASS
Wednesday, Feb. 23 12:10 p.m. Jesse J. Pitre Sr., Judy M. LeJeune (DA)

Thursday, Feb. 24 12:10 p.m. Mary C. Cryer
Friday, Feb. 25 12:10 p.m. Lee (BD) Vivian and Kristie Artigue, Linda Artall (BD)

Saturday, Feb. 26 4:00 p.m. Jeanette Lalonde, Una Moreau
Sunday, Feb. 27 8:00 a.m. Carol Pitre and M/M E.J. Leonard, Youle and Theresa Fontenot, Martin J. St. Amand, Brian Dendy (Deployment), Gertrude A. Marks (BD)

10:00 a.m. Wilfred, Annette, Richard, and Marian Smith, Terrell Wayne Fontenot, Frank Miller, Guy (BD) & Hattie Elder and daughters, M/M Ezra Martin and Denise Hull, Irl White, Mary C. Cryer and Russell Carriere, Ernie and Steven McKinney, Lawrence, Lilly, Mickey and Joyce Hollier

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

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 27, 2011

Bishop's Services Appeal

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Your Stewardship To God

Regular Collection\$5,579.91
Maintenance/Repair Fund\$331.00
Bishop's Services Appeal\$606.81
Opelousas Catholic School.....\$11.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Every Gift Comes From Above.



REMINDERS OF THE WEEK

Sunday, Feb. 20 10:55am Choir Practice for 10:00am Mass
6:15pm Confirmation and High School Rel. Ed.
Monday, Feb. 21 5:30pm Choir Practice for 5:00pm Mass
6:15pm Rosary at Monument
Friday, February 25 8:40am All. School Mass
Saturday, February 26 9:00am Retreat sponsored by the St. Landry Altar Society

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.

A Eucharistic Pilgrimage to Alabama

Join us and Spiritual Director, Fr. Jared Suire, for a Eucharistic Pilgrimage to Alabama. Pilgrims will visit EWTN studio, the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of the Angels, St. Bernard Monastery, the Ave Maria Grotto and the new Lourdes Grotto. Don't miss out, space is limited. More info-291-1933!

Prayer Intentions

Betty Jane Andrus, Janet Andrus, Clifford and Jane Ardoin, John 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 Courvelle, 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, Yvonne F. Pellerin, Ruby Pitre, Helen Richard, Joseph James Robin, Jimmy Roy, Novella Sebastian, Vernita Stelly, Patrick Steward Jr., Tommy Strange, James Touchet, Lou Vidrine, Annette Voorhies, Brandy Willingham, Warren Wyle

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

OC Corner

Family and friends are asked to stop by the OC gym for the amazing Educational Extravaganza in progress this week. Students will enjoy exhibits, speakers and hands-on exercises surrounding the theme of "The Human Body" to enhance their learning.

A blood drive will be held at school on Tuesday from 8:00am to 3:00pm. There will be early dismissal at 12:30pm on Wednesday to accommodate a faculty meeting.

Registration for students at all grade levels is still in progress. Contact Barbara Fontenot at 942-5404 ext. 101 as soon as possible.

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.lafayettecee.org OR call 984-7954.

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 Thomassée, 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 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.

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.

Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body

A New Evangelization

The Body Explains God's Mystery

It's for **Everybody** - married, single, religious. Beginning the 1st. week of Lent, Tuesday, March 15, Theology of the Body with Christopher West will be offered at St. Alphonsus Family Center in Maurice. The sessions will continue thru Lent.

Time: 6:00pm to 8:00pm

To Register: Call Michela at 337-289-9366

Must be registered to attend!

Cost: No Charge: Refreshments available

SANCTUARY LIGHT

CHURCHFor the grieving
CHAPELSpecial Intentions

