

The Pastor's Corner

This Sunday we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday. "Gaudete" is the Latin word for "rejoice." This weekend, we "lighten up" a little bit from our Advent preparation and anticipation to rejoice because of the gift of the Incarnation. The priest is allowed to wear a lighter color than the usual Advent violet, so rose colored vestments may be worn this weekend. Considering this is a time when we should rejoice because of the events that gave rise to our salvation, it is good to make sure that we live our Christian vocation with joy. At times, we might feel like our faith is a burden, but in reality it truly frees us from slavery to sin. We should always appreciate and give thanks to God for the gift of faith that he has given to each of us!

Fr. James Brady

REMINDER FOR CHILDREN

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

Pope Benedict's Intentions for December

GENERAL: That the nations of the earth, through knowledge and mutual respect. May grow in harmony and peace.

MISSION: That children and young people may be messengers of the Gospel and that their dignity may always be respected and preserved from all violence and exploitation.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS WEEKEND

December 24, 2011 Saturday, 8:00 a.m. in Valentin Chapel (Regular Weekday Mass)

Children's Christmas Vigil Mass

4:00pm Saturday, Christmas Eve

Instructions for children bringing gifts:

Please process in with Father Brady, before Mass begins. Meet at the inside entrance of the church at least 5 minutes before Mass to line up and process 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 shown, and then return to the pew with your family.

Christmas Vigil Mass

6:00pm Saturday

Christmas Day

9:00am Sunday

This is the only Mass on Christmas Day

NEW YEAR'S WEEKEND

December 31, 2011

Saturday, 8:00am in Valentin Chapel (reg. weekday mass)

4:00pm Anticipated Mass for the Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Sunday, January 1, 2012

Feast of Mary, Mother of God 8AM; 10AM; 5PM

Evangelization

This coming Saturday, December 17th is Outreach Saturday. Please consider joining us as we go out into our community of St. Landry church parish and greet our brothers and sisters in Christ. As always we begin with Mass @ 8:00 A.M. in Valentin Hall which is optional and then coffee and donuts and a little socializing. At approximately 9:00 A.M. we will have a short meditation and instruction on Outreach and then @ 9:30 we will form groups and hand out packets with handouts and maps. At 10:00 we will head out into the community bringing the light of Christ to all. We will conclude at noon with sharing and a blessing. All are invited to join us including children accompanied with adult. God bless you, Deacon Sammy Diesi

READINGS FOR FAITH SHARING

December 11, 2011

Page 72 in Missalette

Reading I Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

I rejoice heartily in the Lord.

Isaiah 61:10b "My soul rejoices in my God."

Reading II 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

May you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

There is one among you whom you do Not recognize.

The prophet Isaiah echoes today's Collect by calling us to "solemn worship and glad rejoicing." He reminds us that this and every year is "a year of the Lord's favor," of healing, justice, and salvation. In response, Our Lady's Canticle bids our souls rejoice with hers. Paul too calls us to constant rejoicing, unceasing prayer, and integrity of life as we prepare for the Lord's coming. John the Baptist reminds us that the One who's coming we long for is already in our midst—if we have eyes to see.

RCIA

The RCIA class for this week will be held on Tuesday, December 13 at 6:30pm in Valentin Hall.

This week the Mass will be explained, step by step in detail, beginning with the procession. Also, an explanation will be given about where the prayers of the Mass are taken from.

Catholics who have not been confirmed; Catholics wishing to learn more about their Faith and anyone interested in learning more about Catholicism and/or joining the Catholic Church are invited to join these classes.

For more information contact Deacon John Miller at 942-2911.

Advent 2011 Penance Services North Region

"Be watchful! Be Alert! You do not know when the time will come."

Church: Holy Ghost (Opelousas)
Date: Tuesday, Dec. 13 Time: 6:00pm

Church: St. Joseph (Plaisance)
Date: Thursday, Dec. 15 Time: 6:20pm

Church: Our Lady Queen of Angels (City-wide)
Date: Monday, Dec. 19 Time: 6:00pm

Church: St. Thomas More (Eunice) Tri-Parish
Date: Monday, Dec. 19 Time: 6:00pm

DOLL AND TOY FUND

The Catholic Daughters of America are sponsoring the Doll & Toy Fund again this Christmas. New toys are given to needy children in the Opelousas area.

Monetary donations, payable to "Doll & Toy Fund", should be mailed to: Doll & Toy Fund c/o Janis Courville, 1826 Edwards St., Opelousas, LA. 70570.

New, unwrapped toys may be brought to Valentin Hall from 8:45am until 11:50am and 1:15pm until 3:45pm., Monday through Thursday. On Friday only until 11:50am.

THE SPIRIT OF LOVE PREVAILS AT CHRISTMAS

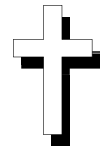
Please support this worthy cause to help children have a MERRY CHRISTMAS morning. Call 789-0971 for info.

NOTE: DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS DEC. 14!!!

Special Thanks

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 can. The calendars are available at all doors of the church.

MASS INTENTIONS AND CELEBRANT



Saturday, Dec 10. 8:00 am Msgr. Melancon

4:00 pm Father Brady
Jeanette Lalonde; Ray Thibodeaux; Marcel LeBlanc; Georgia P. Guidry; Sal Diesi Sr.; Annabel Moran Eckman; Earl Armand; Hal Guillory

Sunday, Dec. 11. 8:00 am Msgr. Melancon
Carol Pitre and M/M E.J. Leonard; Youle & Therese Fontenot; Martin J. St Amand; Eddie DeKerlegand and Olivier & DeKerlegand families; Maryina T. Courville; Arthur Fontenot and Eva F. Johnson; Marcel LeBlanc

10:00 am Father Brady
Wilfred, Annette, Richard and Marion Smith; Vernita Stelly; M/M Lee Martin; Margaret V. Martin; Frank Miller; Jerry Chauvin, Doris and R. J. Philippe; Helen and Priscilla Kleinpeter; Gladys and Curby Hidalgo Jr.; Charles Roy and Geraldine Doucet; M/M Ezra Martin and Denise Hull; Irl White

5:00 p.m. Father Brady
St. Landry Church Parishioners; Harold Savoy; Joseph Lastrapes

Monday, Dec. 12. 12:05 pm Father Brady
Charles Roy Doucet; Roy H. Fontenot (BD)

Tuesday, Dec. 13. 12:05 pm Msgr. Melancon
Sal Diesi Sr.; Juliette LaFond Kaufman

Wednesday, Dec. 14. 12:05 pm Father Brady
Joseph Lastrapes

Thursday, Dec. 15. 12:05 am Msgr. Melancon
Sal Diesi Sr.

Friday, Dec. 16. 12:05 pm Father Brady
Sal Diesi, Sr.

Saturday, Dec. 17. 8:00 am Father Brady
Good Samaritan

4:00 pm Msgr. Melancon
James E. Martin; Jeanette Lalonde; Ray Thibodeaux; Marcel LeBlanc; Larry J. Fournier; Georgia P. Guidry; Annabel Moran Eckman, Hal Guillory

Sunday, Dec. 18. 8:00 am Father Brady
Carol Pitre and M/M E.J. Leonard; Youle and Therese Fontenot; Martin J. St. Amand; A.B. Courville Sr. (DA); Arthur Fontenot and Eva F. Johnson; Marcel LeBlanc

10:00 am Father Brady
Wilfred, Annette, Richard and Marian Smith; M/M Lee Martin; Margaret V. Martin; Frank Miller; Jerry Chauvin, Doris and R.J. Phillips; Helen and Priscilla Kleinpeter; Gladys and Curby Hidalgo Jr.; Thomas Huckaby Sr. (BD); Sal Diesi Sr.; Charles Roy and Geraldine Doucet

5:00 p.m. Msgr. Melancon
St. Landry Church Parishioners; Marie Grace Soileau; Harold Savoy

****Celebrants subject to change**

Confessions, Saturdays 2:30-3:30 p.m.
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Your Stewardship To God

Regular Collection\$7,195.47
Maintenance/Repair.....\$2,515.61
Flowers for Christmas.....\$101.00
Opelousas Catholic Foundation\$4.00
Endowment.....\$400.00
For the Poor.....\$203.00
Catholic Campaign\$3.00
TOTAL\$10,422.08

Every Gift Comes From Above.



Thank you for your generosity!

Second Offertory Collection Today Retired Religious Fund

No Second Offertory Collection Week of December 18, 2011

Flowers for Christmas

Donations for Poinsettias; trees and decorations are currently being accepted in the Church office in Valentin Hall. These monetary donations may be made in memory of someone or in Thanksgiving for answered prayers. The plants are averaging \$25.00 this year, but we will gladly accept however much you are able to give.

Thank you for helping to make your church look more beautiful during this Holy, Christmas season.

THANK YOU!

Dear Fr. Brady and the Friends of the Bereaved,
Thank you for the Mass offering for my brother, Bernard Crofton. Thank you for your sympathy and support.
Sincerely, Irene Soileau

Prayer Intentions

Ashley Allemond, Clifford and Jane Ardoin, John Aucoin, Bobby Aymond, Gervis "BB" Babin, Dennis Bahr, Anna Lee Beadle, Roberta Bernard, Steve Bienvenu, Nita Bordelon, Keith Borne, Gerard Boudreaux, Wilbur Briley, Chris Brewster, Leanna Briley, Dr. Dan Buller, Holly Burleigh, Brandon Castille, Nelson "Shorty" Castille, Raylyn Chapman, John Clary, Shelton Daigle, Thom Daly, Lou D'Avy, Robert Danaher, Glenn Derington, Becky F. Diesi, Harley Doucet, Olivia Doucet, Sophie Doucet, Lane W. Dugas, Helen Duplichain, Vickie Duplechain, Cathy Dupre, Bessie Durio, Roy (Bubba) Elder, Shirley Emonet, Tristen Estes, J. Bernel Fontenot, Linda and Terry Fontenot, George Gremillion, Craig S. Guillory, Ted Guillory Jr., Angela Hargroder, Frances Hargoder, Joy Harms, Margie Hebert, Agnes Kidder, Janet Castille Lanclous, Garrett Lanclous, Olivia Lanclous, George LeBlanc & Family, Norma Jean Leger, J.C. LeJeune, Pat LeBlanc, Jean Leger, Theresa Mallet, Dale Martin, Michael E. McKinney, Gloria Miller, Laura Miller, Brandy Monde, Julie Mouton, Lonnie and Cindy Ortego, Gil Ortego, Joyce Ortego, Marty Ortego, Yvonne F. Pellerin, Carl Pitre, Helen Richard, Leroy Richard, Joseph James Robin, Jimmy Roy, Lauren Sebastian, Novella Sebastian, Patrick Steward Jr., Thomas Stoute, Yola Stoute, James Touchet, Lena Trahan, Paul Vidrine, Lou Vidrine, Annette Voorhies, Brandy Willingham, Warren Wyble, Mike Young

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

OC Corner

The annual OC Elementary Christmas Play (preschool – 5th grade) will be performed on Thursday, Dec. 15th, at 6PM in the school gym. Family and friends are invited to attend!

The Drama Club will present "OCD: Modern TV" on Friday and Saturday (Dec. 16-17) at 7PM and on Sunday (Dec. 18) at 2:00PM in the school gym. Admission is \$5.00 at the door. Please attend and enjoy!

REMINDERS OF THE WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 11	10:55am	Choir Practice for 10am Mass
Mon. Dec. 12	5:30pm	Choir Practice for 5:00pm Mass
	6:15pm	Rosary at Fr. LaFleur Monument
Tuesday, Dec. 13	6:00pm	CDA
	6:30pm	RCIA
Friday, Dec.16	8:40am	Elem School Mass
Saturday, Dec. 17	8:00am	Mass in Valentin Hall

Around the Diocese

Annual Child Smile Project:

Reaching out to children with an incarcerated parent, and to children struggling with special circumstances.

Call 337-261-5545 for more information. Sponsored by the Office of Justice & Peace., Diocese of Lafayette.

Angola Bus trip

Dec. 18, 2011. **MUST MAKE RESERVATION.** This trip is to assist individuals to stay in touch with family members in jail Call 337-261-5545 to reserve your place.

Seminarians vs. Priests:

Slammin' vs. Running Revs: 6th Annual Basketball Game on Wednesday, Dec. 28 at 6:30pm. This year the game is sponsored by KC Council 1173 and hosted by Opelousas Catholic School.

There will be door prizes, an auction and raffles; and the KC's are asking your help by providing items. The funds raised will be used for Religious Vocations in the Diocese.

For more information call Charlie Roy at 337-942-9701. Admission will be \$3.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children (ages 5-18). Children under 5 years are admitted free of charge.

FIRST TIME EVER

Catholic Ads are airing nationally on Prime-time TV, beginning December 16.

Pray and spread the word by sharing the following link with all the Catholics you know:

www.CatholicComeHome.org/Advent

Pray for our Troops

Jonathan David Ardoin; Christopher Briley; Jacob DeKerlegand; Hunter Dubuc; Brian James Dendy; Dakin Doyle; Clint Duhon; Eric Hart; A.J. Korn; Garrett Ryan Lanclous; Andre Ledoux; Benjamin Pitre; Danny Pitre; Trevor Reilly; Zach Reilly; Joshua Thomassee; 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.

SANCTUARY LIGHT

CHURCH.....Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for answered prayers
CHAPEL.....That many will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation this Advent season

ALTAR SOCIETY

Group III..... Becky Reed Week of December 17, 2011

Group IV..... Sarah Wagley Week of December 24, 2011