

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2016

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Unreasonable Demands

There is a time in all our lives when we face something unthinkable and overwhelming. Instinctively we cry at the heavens, "It is not fair! How can you make such unreasonable demands?" Ah, but think for a minute. Remember Sarah over 90 and pregnant, Noah's ark in the desert, David facing a giant with a slingshot? What about Mary, a virgin and pregnant at the same time? Or God becoming human to die on the cross? Time and again we are faced with God's willingness to do unexpected, unreasonable things in the lives of His children.



Poor Joseph did not stand a chance either. Faced with marriage to an unfaithful, pregnant woman, he planned a private divorce to avoid scandal. But God's ways are not man's ways. He gave Joseph an "unreasonable" demand: marry her anyway and help her raise the Son of God. Think you could do it? Well, neither did Joseph probably, but he had the same miraculous gift we all do. When we step out in faith to meet God's unreasonable demands, God also provides unending grace and power to see us through.

Christmas Caroling At Vigil Mass

The choir will be singing Christmas carols on Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m. before the 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass in the Church. Come join us as the choir leads us in song.



Christmas Flowers Donation Envelopes

Those who would like to donate funds for flowers and decorations for the altar at Christmas will find envelopes at church entrances. If you wish to make your donation in memory of loved ones, please **PRINT** names **LEGIBLY** on the envelope, as all persons remembered in this way will be listed in a special Christmas insert. Place the envelopes in the collection basket or return them to the Church Office. (Keep in mind available space on the insert when listing names.) **Deadline is Monday, December 19, at 4:00 p.m.**

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention

"That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, truth, and goodness of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life."



Offertory Giving

In today's Gospel we hear of the coming of Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." We celebrate three Advents: the birth of Christ, His Second Coming and His presence in the world today. Our daily lives are attended by God's presence. Indeed, "God is with us." The Good News of Christ's Incarnation is that we are the sign, "sacrament," of Christ's presence in the world. People are supposed to see us, see how we love one another, see how we treat the stranger among us, give comfort to the poor and afflicted, share the Good News with joy. They see how good stewards are the light of Christ. There can be no possible response except to say: "God is here!"

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|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Weekly Budgeted Need | \$7,100.00 |
| Last Sunday Dec.11 | |
| Envelopes (Adult) | \$9,026.00 |
| Loose | 1,140.00 |
| Holy Day | <u>1,107.00</u> |
| Total | \$11,273.00 |
| Progress Report | |
| Cumulative Budget | \$170,400.00 |
| Cumulative Income | <u>162,622.35</u> |
| <Behind> | <\$7,777.65> |
| Second Collection | |
| (Building Fund) | \$1,107.00 |

Christmas Mass & Confession Schedule

Confession

Wednesday, December 21

6:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. before 6:30 p.m. Mass

No confessions will be heard before any of the Christmas Masses on December 24 and 25.

Christmas Vigil Saturday, December 24

5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Caroling begins at 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Sunday, December 25

8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



New Year's Mass Schedule

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, December 31, 2016

5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 1, 2017

7:00, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.



Mass Intentions Requested

Monday, December 19

(Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-15)

No Mass Scheduled

Tuesday, December 20

(Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38)

8:00 a.m. Tom Cuccia

Wednesday, December 21

(Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45)

6:30 p.m. Purgatorial Society

Thursday, December 22

(1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56)

8:00 a.m. Manuel Selva, Sr.

Friday, December 23

(Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66)

8:00 a.m. Debby Goodey

Saturday, December 24

(Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25)

5:00 p.m. Pastor's Intention

8:00 p.m. Pastor's Intention

Sunday, December 25 The Nativity of the Lord

(Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18)

8:30 a.m. Pastor's Intention

10:30 a.m. Parishioners



WEEKLY EVENTS

Legion of Mary—Monday 7:00 p.m. in St. Anthony Hall

Tuesday Morning Rosary—Tuesday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass and the St. Jude Novena in St. Anthony Hall

Patriotic Rosary—Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Church

Holiday Office Schedule

The Church Office will be closed all day **Friday, December 23**. The Office will also close **Wednesday, December 28**, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for the Staff Christmas Luncheon. It will be closed **Friday, December 30**, and **Monday, January 2**. It will reopen on **Tuesday, January 3**, at 1:00 p.m.



New Year's Eve Party

If you are interested in attending a New Year's Eve Party in the Parish Hall on Saturday, December 31, please sign the list at the main entrance to the church. The party would be from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. It will be for adults only with music and dancing. We need 30 people to sign up in order to make the event feasible. If you have questions about the party, contact Deacon Gene Templet at 985-863-2545.



Tabernacle Lamp

This week the Tabernacle lamp in the Sanctuary burns in memory of the **Deceased Members of the Antonians**.



Pray For The Sick



Valdeana Bauer, Diana Bradshaw, JoAnn Brewin, George & Wanda Butko, May Caballero, Patricia Cuccia, Dotsy Chedville, Pat & Cathy Downey, Julia Drake, Steve Dunn, Marcelle Ernewein, Carroll Fourcade, Jeanette Gomez, Deacon John Howard, Virgie Hurstell, Allen & Joan Jagneaux, Maria Kalcic, Gloriette Kiern, Elizabeth Kittel, Catherine Lambert, Pat Langsford, Cheryl Martin, Shirley Matthews, Rose Mire, Bailee Mitchell, Vito Montalbano, Jessie O'Dell, Cheryle Poiroux, Ed Roszczynialski, Cathy Smith

Parish & Memorial Christmas Tree



Families are invited to bring an ornament from home to decorate our parish family Christmas tree at the main church entrance.

If you would like to remember a loved one this Christmas, write the names of your beloved deceased on a tag attached to an angel, and hang on the parish Christmas tree at the main entrance to the Church.

FORMED Has Content For Children

FORMED now has content for children available. Our subscription to the Catholic website FORMED has been renewed and continues to be a **FREE** educational service provided by our Church Parish. New children's content includes Kristoph and the First Christmas Tree as well as Skiff and AJ's Fantastic Voyage.

Go to the website www.formed.org Then enter the Parish Code RXNBGV (case sensitive). Click submit, which takes you to a screen to register and create your profile. Once you have registered, you need only to type in your email address and password to log in. FORMED offers the best Catholic content, teachers and presenters, accessible anywhere at anytime for free.

With Deepest Sympathy



Our heartfelt sympathy on the death of **Wayne Pfeiffer, Sr.**, brother of Gail Garay and uncle of Ramon Garay, Jr., Dana Bunting, Debbie Howard (David), Ellie Ross (John) and Lisa Garay.

Christmas Giving Tree

The Antonians' Christmas Giving Tree is now located in the Parish Hall. This year the recipients of the gifts and donations will be clients of the Pregnancy Help Center in Slidell, the Slidell Battered Women's Shelter and the Danielle Inn, Covington, a home for expectant women with no support systems. Please choose a tag which will identify which organization is requesting the specified donation. Donations need to be brought to the Church Office by **Tuesday, December 20, before 4:00 p.m.** They do not have to be wrapped.



2017 Church Contribution Envelopes

Church contribution envelopes for 2017 will be distributed in the Parish Hall after all Masses this weekend **December 17-18**. By distributing envelopes before the end of the year, parishioners traveling during the holidays can obtain their box before leaving, and have them for the new year. They will be available in the Parish Office after this weekend.



How Do I Get Envelopes? Those who are already using envelopes in 2016 will automatically be assigned a box for 2017. The only way a new box will not be assigned is if you called and notified the office you will be moving out of the parish, if you have called to notify us you no longer wish to use envelopes, or if you have not used the envelopes that were assigned last year.

Are You Registered? If you attend Mass here regularly, but are not registered, we are unable to assign envelopes to you, enter sacramental information, or prepare tax statements for your family. We ask that you complete a Parish Census Form (located in clear plastic holders at church entrances), and submit it to the office. There is a box on the top, right-hand corner that you can check requesting envelopes. This allows us to put your information into our computer and assign envelopes if requested.

Baptized Into Christ

Born of water and the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Baptism during November, was **Henry Charles Bersuder**, son of Mark and Lisa Marie (McCarthy) Bersuder, Jr.; brother of Blaise Domino; grandson of Mark and Barbara Bersuder, Sr., and Wayne and Christine McCarthy; and great-grandson of Lou Bersuder. We welcome **Henry Charles** into God's family.



A Gift Worth Receiving

Signs of love and good cheer are abundantly clear for us throughout this holiday season. But how much are we actually attuned to the signs of love that God, our family and friends are giving us? Although "it is better to give than to receive," it is also good for us to be able to receive what others are giving to us. Even more importantly, do we take time from our busy schedules to ponder what God gave to us this Christmas season? What could be more precious than the gift of His Son? It was a gift of life, not just a one-time gift that is shoved in the closet, but one that can grow and be passed on to others. This Advent, let the gift of God's love multiply in your heart and joyously receive all that He has prepared for you.



St. Teresa Of Avila's The Interior Castle

Join us January 20-22, 2017, at Rosaryville Spirit Life Center, Ponchatoula, for a three-day preached retreat with Kate Theriot. Using the teachings of St. Teresa of Avila's book The Interior Castle, participants will journey through the seven mansions of the souls, finding union with the Creator for which we all yearn. Contact Rosaryville at 225-294-5039 or sdavis@oppeace.org for registration.

Holy Spirit Women's Retreat

Michelle Moran and Fr. Joe Krafft will minister to hundreds of women from the Gulf South at the annual Holy Spirit Women's Retreat sponsored by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of New Orleans. The Retreat will be January 27-29, 2017, at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Lafayette, LA. The theme this year is "Receive the Holy Spirit." Michelle Moran lives in London and is highly acclaimed as an anointed minister of God's power in the charismatic gifts. Fr. Joe Krafft serves on the faculty at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans and is a zealous and gifted priest. Weekend and Saturday commuters are welcome. Register online at www.ccrno.org or call 504-828-1368.

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