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Alfred J. Ricard II	Deacon
Laurie BarbierDirector	of Religious
Education	on
Wanda AshleyPSR	Coordinator

Wanda Ashley......PSR Coordinator Donna Carville.....RCIA

Parish Office Staff

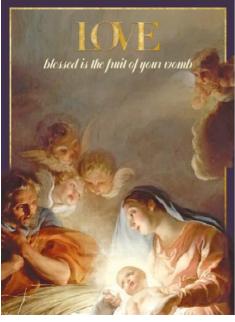
Medric Smith, Jr	Business Manager
Marsha Dupont	Secretary
Susan Landry	Secretary
Lily Skidmore	Secretary
Gary Perrault	Maintenance

Masses

Saturday Vigil	4:00	pm
Sunday7:30 am, 9:00 am,	11:00	am
Tuesday	6:00	pm
Wednesday	7:00	am
Thursday	7:00	am
Friday	7:00	am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday	5:30-5:45	pm
Saturday	3:00-3:30	pm



Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22, 2024

O Little Town of Bethlehem

There is a Christmas song that says of Bethlehem: "Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light." Though today it has many modern homes and buildings, you can still see that it is part of "the hill country...of Judah." (Lk 1:39) It is not too far from En Kerem, where John the Baptist was born, and apparently where today's Gospel takes place.

We see in the Gospel reading today how Elizabeth and her unborn child rejoiced at the news of Jesus' coming birth. The story implies that Mary went to see Elizabeth as soon as the angel told her about Jesus. I would think that talking about it made this miracle more real. Jesus is the "everlasting Light" mentioned in the song. That light shines today, not just in Bethlehem, but everywhere that his followers bring it. When we console someone who is mourning, that light shines. When we forgive someone who hurt us, the light is

burning. When we teach a child how to pray, it shines even brighter.

Our dark streets need the everlasting Light today as much as they did 2000 years ago. Today we remember how Mary and Elizabeth shared their faith in God. They did so much like we do today. Jesus, who seems to be invisible today, is seen in the shared faith of those who bring him into the world by their words and actions.

Tom Schmidt



08 December 2024
The Second Sunday of Advent

To The Priests, Deacons, and Faithful of the Diocese of Baton Rouge:

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Together, we pray as a church this ancient prayer invoking the power of the Holy Spirit. This gift of the Spirit is given to all of us in a special way in the Sacrament of Confirmation that fully initiates us into the Church and fills us with these gifts and the enthusiasm to take on the mission of Christ to renew the world. Many older Catholics remember that the age of Confirmation was younger when we were confirmed. After the Second Vatican Council, in many places, the age was raised to high school since many leaders felt that the sacrament would be better understood at an older age. This practice has worked well, but times have changed.

Our children are experiencing a culture which, at times, is hostile to our faith. Through social media of all forms, young people are confronted at a surprisingly younger age with challenges to their Catholic faith and morals. Given this new reality, I believe it is time to lower the age of Confirmation to give our children the full grace of the Sacrament of Confirmation at an earlier age to meet these challenges. After consultation with our pastors, catechists, and other evangelizers, I have decided to begin a transition plan in our Confirmation programs that will eventually lower the age of Confirmation to the seventh grade. Obviously, before we reach the seventh grade, we must create a formation plan for the present eighth graders – tenth graders in our parishes.

I make this announcement now so that each pastor can begin the plan for transition that best meets the needs of their parish. Support from the Diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis will be offered to assist parish leaders in making this transition, which will be made as a parish with schools of religion and Catholic schools working together, under the leadership of their pastor.

This transition will be challenging but I also believe it will be a catalyst for foundational changes in how our parishes help our parents to form their children into missionary disciples on fire for Christ. There is so much more to be said, and you may have many questions. I simply ask your patience, for now. Early in the New Year, you will learn more of the specifics of how this change will be implemented in your parish. You can find a list of *Frequently Asked Questions* on the diocesan website (diobr.org) or through resources provided by your pastor.

Come Holy Spirit!

Hope in the Lord,

Most Reverend Michael G. Duca

chail S. Duca

Bishop of Baton Rouge



Pastor's Letter

December 22, 2024

Dear Family:

The readings this week provide a reminder that small things often have great consequence in God's eyes, but only those attentive to the will of God notice them. In fact, Christianity is built turn out to be profoundly significant to people doing their best to serve God. This week's

on little moments that turn out to be profoundly significant to people doing their best to serve God. This week's Gospel, for example, narrates little more than a greeting between two close relatives and the words of joy they exchange, but in it, Luke highlights God's Spirit at work.

Luke draws these insights from biblical traditions. In this Sunday's first reading, for example, the prophet Micah reminds Israel that their kings came from the smallest clan in a historically marginal tribe. Micah was also writing when Israel was waiting for a new king to be born. Micah's prophecy may have directly addressed the political situation of his day, but later Israelites saw in his words a prophecy of the coming messiah.

Luke likely had themes like these in mind when he composed the narrative of Mary's visitation to Elizabeth. The Spirit arrived not with flash and fanfare but with Mary's voice. When Elizabeth heard it, her child stirred, and in that sudden motion, she received insight from the Spirit. Her simple words of blessing still resound through our prayer today. "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Elizabeth recognized a small moment of great consequence and knew exactly how to respond.

We may hope that we would be as sensitive to the divine presence. It would be easy to miss the work of the Spirit in the arrival of a relative or the movement of a child in the womb. But as this week's second reading suggests, obedience to God's will makes one's heart sensitive to God's subtle but powerful presence. Like Elizabeth, we too can be surprised by joy wherever this presence makes itself felt.

Some questions for reflection:

Have you ever noticed the divine in a place other people overlook? Has living the Gospel ever sensitized you to God's presence? How do you respond when you notice God's presence?

Many thanks for all who prepared the rectory with savory seasonal culinary specialties as we celebrated our annual Open House. I enjoyed visiting with the many of you who dropped by for some Advent/Christmas Cheer.

Thanks to all who helped prepare and celebrate our GEMs Luncheon. This opportunity for our GEMs (senior parishioners) is always uplifting in joy and fellowship. Many of our Senior Parishioners were also given Poinsettias. Thanks to all who made special deliveries to our Seniors as well.

Thanks to our St. John School Community for a splendid Christmas Concert under the direction of our new Music Teacher, Mr. Jason Mann. Jason has done a wonderful job reigniting our music program.

Let us hasten to the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ with the attitude of the two women in this Sunday's Gospel - surprise and joy.

Peace,

Fr. Greg



Eucharistic Adoration

Come and Adore.
Jesus is Waiting for You!

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For He is our God, and we are the

people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.
—Psalm 95:6-7

The Adoration Chapel is open from 4am-10pm.



Baptisms & Baptism Seminars

Baptism Seminars—7pm
Third Floor Conference Room

Monday, January 13, 2025 Monday, February 3, 2025 Monday, March 10, 2025

Baptisms — Following 4pm Mass

Saturday, December 21, 2024 Saturday, January 18, 2025 Saturday, February 15, 2025

Dates are subject to change. Contact Lily Skidmore at the church office, 225.687.2402, during the early stages of pregnancy to confirm the dates of the seminar.

Monthly Offerings/Contributions/Collections (Weekend, Mail-ins, Online, Other) Repairs and Maintenance Expenses/Other Expenses

October 2024

Stewardship	\$ 60,763.00
Special Donation	25,515.00
Repairs and Maintenance	11,103.00
Cemetery Maintenance	3,839.00
Other Collections/Income	<u>8,316.00</u>

\$109,536.00

Salaries	\$ 27,656.00
Employee Insurance/Benefits	1,319.00
Utilities/Telephone/Internet/Email	9,012.00
Office and Household Expense/Liturgy	3,012.00
Contracted Services	11,080.00
Parish Share	13,242.00
Property Insurance	9,238.00
Repairs/Maintenance Expenses	1,267.00
Pastoral Services	1,525.00
Cemetery/Maintenance Supplies	4,462.00

\$81,813.00

\$27,723.00

November 2024

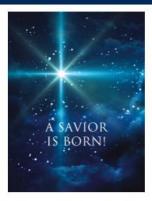
Stewardship	\$ 48,381.00
Repairs and Maintenance	12,812.00
Other Collections/Income	9,502.00

\$70,695.00

Salaries	\$ 28,894.00
Employee Insurance/Benefits	1,319.00
Utilities/Telephone/Internet/Email	5,395.00
Office and Household Expense/Liturgy	5,065.00
Contracted Services	4,978.00
Parish Share	13,242.00
Property Insurance	9,238.00
Repairs/Maintenance Expenses	8,542.00
Pastoral Services	1,544.00
Cemetery/Maintenance Supplies	4,734.00

\$<u>82,951.00</u> <<u>12,256.00</u>>

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve — Tuesday, December 24
4pm Mass
6pm — Children's Mass
12am — Mass at Midnight
Christmas Day — Wednesday, December 25
9am Mass



The Advent Wreath Candle for the 4th Sunday of Advent burns in loving memory of:

Brennan Eugene Bujol,
Pim & NuNu Clebert, Louise & Edmund Bujol,
Clebert & Bujol Families

Johnny Zito, Sr. & Johnny Zito, Jr.

Wendt Family

Shane Smith

Epiphany Concert

St. John the Evangelist Church Sunday, January 12, 2025 4pm-5:15pm

Tickets (\$25) are available for purchase for our Annual Epiphany Concert through St. John School (225.687.3056) and the St. John Church Office (225.687.2402).

Join us for songs for the journey - Sacred, Broadway & Big Band music performed by Father Greg Daigle accompanied by Bill Grimes and the St. John Epiphany orchestra benefitting St. John School.

Ritualsong

Fourth Sunday of Advent #1101

Entrance: Savior of the Nations, Come #498

Preparation: **Instrumental**

Communion: Come, Lord Jesus — Bulletin

Sending Forth: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #492

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Father Greg, Deacon Ricard and the St. John Church Staff!

Our church office will be closed from Monday, December 23, 2024 until Thursday, January 2, 2025.



Sharing Christmas Joy

Nativity Scene in Church

Our beautiful crèche with life-size Fontanini figures will be available for viewing for anyone who would like an opportunity to make a prayerful visit to our Lord and Savior. The church will be open and the lights will be on daily from 7am-3:30pm through Sunday, January 19, 2025.

Knights of Columbus Fireworks Sale

The Knights of Columbus will be selling fireworks at the K.C. Home. 58715 Price Street in Plaquemine.

Fireworks schedule is as follows:

Sunday, December 22 — 2-8:30pm

Monday, December 23 — 5-8:30pm

Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Thursday & Friday, December 26 & 27 — 5-8:30pm

Saturday & Sunday, December 28 & 29 — 2-8:30pm

Monday, December 30 — 5-8:30pm

New Year's Eve, Tuesday December 31 — Noon until fireworks run out.

Please support the Knights of Columbus in all the good works they do for our church and community.

Christmas Flower Envelopes

The envelope for Christmas flowers has been placed in the December packet of envelopes. The names of loved ones remembered with Christmas flowers will be published in future bulletins.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 28-4pm Mass

Msgr. Leonard Robin, Msgr. George Barbier, Fr. Eugene Engels, Fr. Jerome Dugas, Sister Catherine Labouré, Sister Mary Rita McSorley, Sister Cecile Poitras; Tina Rinaudo; Brent Thompson; Josie & Tony Palermo; Josie, Frank, Victor & Anthony Canella; Pim Clebert

Sunday, December 29-7:30am Mass

St. John Parishioners

Sunday, December 29-9am Mass

Msgr. Leonard Robin, Msgr. George Barbier, Fr. Eugene Engels, Fr. Jerome Dugas, Sister Catherine Labouré, Sister Mary Rita McSorley, Sister Cecile Poitras; Tina Rinaudo; Kristina Mellema; Alcee & Pauline Becnel, Evans & Virgie Dugas; John "Sonny" Bunch; Anthony "Tonto" Pizzolato; Benny & Annie Vaughn, Jessel & Eula Ourso; Shane Smith, Sylvia Rivet; Ida Gaudet Family, Ruel Seneca, Sr., Leah Diamond, Linda Seneca Rafflee; Caliste "Joe" Landry, Gloria Orcino Landry, Josh Landry, Kimberly Landry; Denise Miranda

Sunday, December 29-11am Mass

Cindy Dickerson; Arnold Fourroux; Nolan Bueche III; Isaac Vaughn, Jr., Brent Vaughn, Ezora Hedges, Sidney Hedges, Sr.; Leon Graffeo, Sadie & Harry LeBlanc, Beverly Polito; Gladys Denais, Larris Denais

Tuesday, December 31-6pm Mass

Nolan Bueche III; Eddie & Virginia Clebert, Ulgere & Nilda Daigle, Alvin "Pecan" Daigle; Ethel Bueche; Dianne Grace; Sadie Thibodeaux; Jaynell Lopez, Albert Lopez, Johnson & Lopez Families; Bret Thompson

Mary, the Holy Mother of God Wednesday, January 1-7am Mass

Gladys "Butsy" Palermo, Peter A. Palermo, Patrick Burleigh, Douglas Brewer

Thursday, January 2-7am Mass

Ed Bahry

Friday, January 3-7am Mass

Barbara B. Himel



Sanctuary Candle

December 22, 2024

St. John the Evangelist

Brennen Bujol, Derley Barbier, Bujol & Clebert Families

St. Clement of Rome

Joshua "Josh" Landry, Harry & Vivian Banta, Gloria & "Joe" Landry

Children's Liturgy

December 22, 2024 — 9am Mass — Tracy Cox

Coffee & Donuts

December 29, 2024

Guy & Sabrina Ruggiero

(7:30am Mass)

Patrick & Helen Pendley (9am Mass)



Knights of Columbus Raffle Calendars

The Knights of Columbus Council 970 has 2025 Raffle Calendars for sale to support their charity endeavors through the year. The calendars are \$20 each and offer 365 chances to win. Call or text Bart Schlatre @ 385-5712 if interested in purchasing.

Scripture Readings

Week of December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19;

Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Monday Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5b, 8-10, 14;

Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5,

27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday The Nativity of the Lord

Vigil Mass: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, Mt 1:1-25 or

Mt 1:18-25

Mass during the Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13;

Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Mass at Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1-6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7;

Lk 2:15-20

Mass during the Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6;

Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Thursday Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3c-4, 6,

8a,16b-17; Mt 10:17-22

Friday Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12;

Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday 1 Jn 1:5 -2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8;

Mt 2:13-18

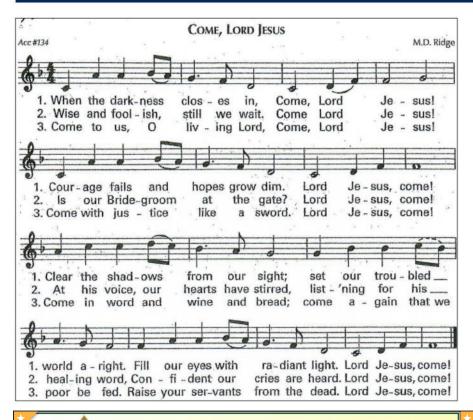
Sunday The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and

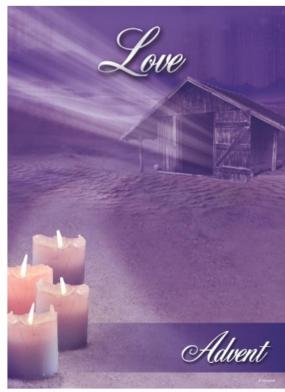
Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent



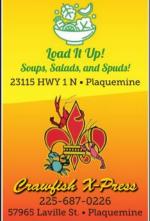




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