



# St. Thomas Newsletter

## December 15, 2023

Starting from February 17, 2024, our Sunday Bulletin will be published in-house, allowing us to provide you with more up-to-date information. As a result, the last newsletter will be sent on February 9, 2024. If you would like to receive the bulletin via email, please contact [bulletin@saintthomaslb.org](mailto:bulletin@saintthomaslb.org).



### SCRIP GIFT CARDS ARE ON SALE IN THE PARISH OFFICE MONDAY—FRIDAY, 9AM—4PM THESE WILL MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Aeropostale, Amazon, American Eagle, Applebee's, Barnes & Nobles, Bath & Body Works, Bed Bath & Beyond, Buffalo Wild Wings, Burger King, Cabelas, Chili's, Chuck E. Cheese's, Coastal Car Wash, Cracker Barrel, Dairy Queen, Dick's, Dillard's, Domino's, Gymboree, Hallmark, Home Depot, iTunes, JC Penney, Landsend, Little Caesars, Lowe's, Nike, O'Charley's, Office Max, Outback, Papa John's, PetSmart, Pier 1 Imports, Pizza Hut, Rite Aid, Sears-Kmart, Shaggy's, Shoe Carnival, Sonic, Taco Bell, Talbot's, T.J. Maxx, Winn Dixie



## Adult Confirmation Classes are Forming

Contact Dave Gauthier at 228 596 8835 or [RCIA@saintthomaslb.org](mailto:RCIA@saintthomaslb.org)

### LUNCHKINS

Please Join us for Lunch and Fellowship  
Wednesday, December 20, 2023,  
After 11:00am **Healing Mass**  
Bring your favorite dish to share.



### HEALING MASS

Friday, December 22, 2023 at 5:00 PM.  
Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church  
216 Saucier Ave.

Pass Christian, MS. 39571



Please bring your friends and those who needs special prayers in this powerful **Healing Mass**.

### Prison Ministry Donations



Red bins are out for the prison ministry donations! They will remain out throughout Advent, so three full weeks.

- Plain white socks for men
- Stick deodorant for men
- Hard candy

There are over 400 male inmates so we will be collecting the socks and deodorants for men only, We will make a count for the women in a couple of weeks, usually only 8 – 12, and will buy for them with some of the cash donations at that time.

### CATHEDRAL'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral will offer their annual "Christmas Concert" on Sunday afternoon – December 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. presented by the Music Ministry's Community Choral Society – "Gloria In Excelsis" and the "Mobile Vocal Arts"

Choral Society. The program features both sacred and secular popular selections with new and original approaches. Additionally, the audience will be invited to share in the singing of various Christmas Carols/Songs.

The concert is free and open to the public.

"Caroling on Cathedral Square"

On Thursday, December 21st from 7-8 p.m. – the Music & Fine Arts Ministry of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral will offer "Caroling on Cathedral Square." All are invited to come to the front of the Cathedral and Rectory – and we will have this large space to join together in singing Christmas Carols and other Christmas music selections. The Nativity BVM Cathedral Men's Club will have hot chocolate, cookies, and electric candles to offer the carolers for a donation. Come – join in this annual holiday tradition at the Cathedral!

For more information regarding these and any Music/Fine Arts Programs of Nativity BVM Cathedral – contact Terry D. Maddox – Minister of Music ~ Director of Fine Arts at 251 406-1454 or [terrydalemaddox@gmail.com](mailto:terrydalemaddox@gmail.com)



### Make a Gift for the Christ Child

Children are invited to bring gifts to the Christ Child during the 4pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Come early to the community center where children will make and wrap gifts to bring up to the Baby Jesus during the offertory procession. All ages welcome.

This is great way for our children to adore Jesus on His birthday. Children will pick up their gift after Mass in the east foyer to place it at they Nativity Scene in they home.

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 3:00pm (Prior to 4:00pm Mass.)

Parish Community Center

Contact: Dave Gauthier; 228-596-8835

[religiouseducation@saintthomaslb.org](mailto:religiouseducation@saintthomaslb.org)



### JANUARY

12th - Jeep-a-Greet  
Coastal Dalquiri, LB

13th - Jeep-a-Gras parade  
Downtown LB

27th - Drawdown/Silent Auction  
LB Activity and Senior Center

### FEBRUARY

2nd-CALB Royal Coronation Ball

3rd - Long Beach Night Parade



# A Journey with the Holy Family

## A Special Children's Program

at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Long Beach



We will start in Nazareth  
with the Annunciation to Mary.

Then accompany  
Mary to greet Elizabeth  
in the Judean hill country.



We will travel with Mary  
and Joseph from Nazareth  
to Bethlehem.



Then with the Holy Family  
to Egypt and return to  
their home in Nazareth.



**Open to children ages five through eleven.**

Thursday & Friday, Dec 28th & 29th,

8:30 am until 11:30 am

Saturday Dec 30th, 8:30 am until 2pm.

**Pageant recreating the  
Journey of the Holy Family**

**Saturday at 1pm**

**Register before Dec 18th so we can be  
ready to welcome your child!**

No Registration Fee. Please provide  
pre-wrapped snacks and drinks.

*For Further Information contact*

[religiouseducation@saintthomaslb.org](mailto:religiouseducation@saintthomaslb.org)



## **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE**

Wed, Dec 20: 11am Healing Mass – Lunchkins to follow

Wed, Dec 20: 6:30pm Penance Service

Sun, Dec 24: 7:30am, 9am Mass

**Sun, Dec 24: NO 11:30am or 5:30pm Mass**

Sun, Dec 24: 4pm Christmas Vigil Mass

(Children's Bell Choir & Family Choir)

Sun, Dec 24: 7pm Christmas Vigil Mass

Sun, Dec 24: 11:30pm Christmas Carols

With Christmas Midnight Mass to follow

Mon, Dec 25: 7:30am, 9am Mass

Sun, Dec 31: Feast of the Holy Family

Sun, Dec 31: 7:30am, 9am Mass

**Sun, Dec 31: NO 11:30am or 5:30pm Mass**

Sun, Dec 31: 6:30pm Vigil Mass

(Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)

Mon, Jan 1: 9am Mass Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Sunday, Jan 7, Feast of the Epiphany





# THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

## Week of December 17, 2023



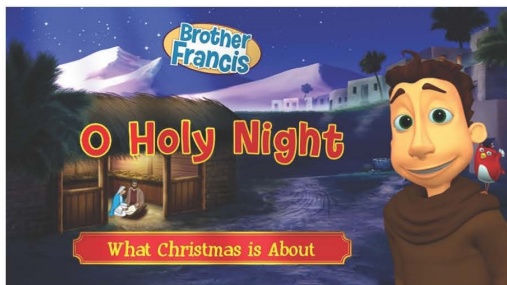
### Agape/Love | Advent: Word Studies | The Bible Project

The word "love" is one of the sloppiest words in our language, as it primarily refers to a feeling that happens to a person. In the New Testament, "love" refers to a way of treating people that was defined by Jesus himself: seeking the well-being of others regardless of their response.



### Mary of Nazareth

What would it have been like to have known the Mother of God? Watch this beautiful film portraying the life of Mary in order to contemplate Mary's profound faith and the mysteries of her life.



### O Holy Night, The King is Born: What Christmas Is About | Brother Francis

Celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming presentation of the birth of God's Son! Witness the moving submission of Mary, Joseph, and others as they make way for our Savior.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.



Can you imagine reciting the Confiteor or praying the Our Father with 80,000 other Catholics at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN, in July 2024? Talk about whenever two or more are gathered in His name!

Can you imagine five days with our brothers and sisters from across the country...encountering Jesus in the celebrations of the Eucharist, discovering the depth of our faith through powerful preaching, receiving the healing Jesus longs to give us, embarking on a new chapter in our faith journey, gathering with our Catholic family from every corner of the nation, being set on fire with the Holy Spirit like never before and being equipped and empowered to bring Christ's love to the world?

All this and more awaits us at the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, IN, July 17 - 21, 2024. You can learn more and purchase your 5-day pass at [www.eucharisticcongress.org](http://www.eucharisticcongress.org). But there are all those other pesky details concerning travel and hotel accommodations to deal with....but have no fear...your Diocese of Biloxi Eucharistic Revival Team has put together a package that includes everything you need...ground or air transportation, airport transfers, a luxury hotel near the stadium and event passes that are just waiting for you!

Take a moment to view this short video from the Eucharistic Congress promotion team regarding the National Eucharistic Congress (you may get an advertisement at first):

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4p1ENUCrrE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4p1ENUCrrE)

Use this link to view the travel packages arranged by Cara Group Travel:

[caragrouptavel.com/nec-2024-tour](http://caragrouptavel.com/nec-2024-tour)

This is an amazing opportunity...a once in a lifetime experience...the first National Eucharistic Congress in 83 years!

Leading up to the Eucharistic Congress...there will be a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage consisting of 4 separate Eucharistic Processions starting at 4 corners of our country and ultimately meeting in Indianapolis.

South Mississippi is blessed to be on the Juan Diego route that begins in Brownsville, TX. Jesus and His 12 member Eucharistic Pilgrimage Team will arrive in Mississippi on Monday, June 10, 2024 and head to Mobile on Friday, June 14, 2024.

Your Diocesan Eucharistic Revival Team is planning 5 days of activities to include Masses, community gatherings and Eucharistic Processions across the Mississippi Gulf Coast. St. Thomas the Apostle is one of the stops. This will be an amazing public display of faith to our community.

Stand-by for more information. You may also visit for more national level information:

[www.eucharisticcongress.org](http://www.eucharisticcongress.org)

## SAVE ON THE FULL CONGRESS EXPERIENCE

Save 10% now through Christmas on the full, five-day Congress experience with code: **EMMANUEL** (restrictions apply)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel!** Advent is a season of anticipation. This year, we look forward to two things: Christ's coming at Christmas *and* what God is going to do in our hearts and in our nation at the 10th National Eucharistic Congress next summer.

When day passes become available in January, the stadium will fill up faster than ever before. If you want to come to the National Eucharistic Congress but plan to wait until the new year to make solid plans, we have news: ***Advent is the best time to reserve your pass!*** Now through Christmas, you can save 10% on the full, five-day Congress experience with code:

### EMMANUEL

Individuals, families, and small groups will save with this code. Not only that, thanks to the generosity of our donors and sponsors, children 12 and under can now attend completely FREE. Here's a breakdown of how much you'll save during this Advent sale:

**Individual Pass:** ~~\$360~~ **\$324**

**Parent Pass:** ~~\$299~~ **\$270**

**Teens (13-18):** ~~\$250~~ **\$225**

**Children (12 & under):** ***Always Free***

**Groups of 2-5 people:** ~~\$349~~ **\$315**

**Groups of 6-10 people:** ~~\$325~~ **\$293**

**Groups of 11-14 people:** ~~\$299~~ **\$270**

*This discount does not apply to bulk pass purchases for groups of 15+.*

Remember to use code **EMMANUEL** when you register!

<https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/register>



# MEN'S EMMAUS RETREAT



Put aside the “hustle and bustle” of daily life and attend the Men's Emmaus Retreat on the weekend of Feb 2-4, 2024. Located in Bay St. Louis, MS, the William J. Kelley Retreat Center offers a peaceful, beautiful setting for the retreat. It is an uplifting experience that profoundly affects men's lives based on the passage “The appearance on the road to Emmaus” (Luke 24: 13-35). The retreat begins at 5:30 PM on Friday and ends at 4:00 PM on Sunday. Please don't ignore this opportunity; pray on it instead. Something extraordinary awaits you in Bay St. Louis!

Please contact for additional information:

Norm Madere at 504-481-0411 or  
Steve Schulkens at 504-401-6990 or  
Colin Taulis at 504-494-4511

Register at <https://stdominicparish.com/emmaus-registration>  
or email us for a registration form at [sdMensEmmaus@gmail.com](mailto:sdMensEmmaus@gmail.com)

Registration Fee: \$200  
checks payable to: **St. Dominic Church Men's Emmaus Retreat.**  
(call about Scholarships)

Mail the payment to:  
**St. Dominic Church Emmaus Retreat Ministry,**  
**775 Harrison Ave,**  
**New Orleans, LA 70124**

or text a picture of your Zelle payment to  
[sdMensEmmaus@gmail.com](mailto:sdMensEmmaus@gmail.com)  
include in Zelle memo: your name and Feb 2024 Retreat







# Cantare Amantis Est

Singing is for the One Who Loves | Sacred Music Workshop

**February 16-17, 2024**

Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church  
Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi



Presenter:  
Dr. Jennifer Donelson-Nowicka  
Catholic Institute of Sacred Music

- + Learn more about the musical shape of the liturgy, chant for the congregation, and the ministry of the choir!
- + Get tips for reading and teaching square notes!
- + Fellowship with area musicians!
- + Participate in sung Liturgy!



registration and more information available at  
**classicalartsfoundation.com**