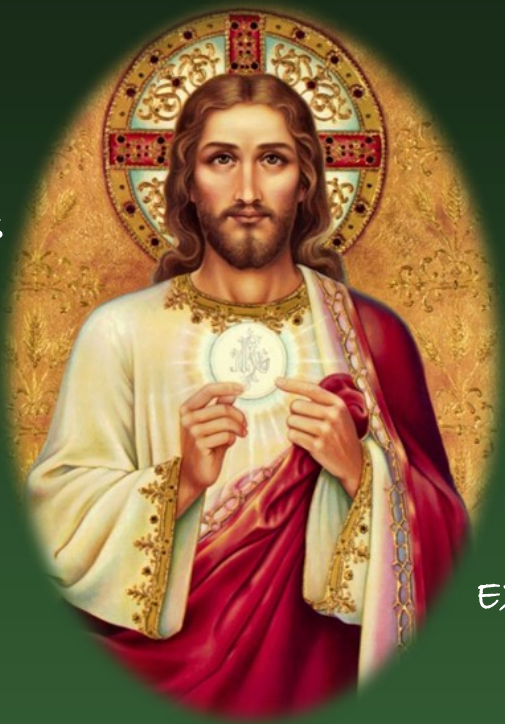


Sunday, December 25, 2016

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

ORDINARY FAMILIES



EXTRAORDINARY FAITH

ST. BENILDE

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

1901 Division Street • Metairie, Louisiana 70001

Church Office: (504) 834-4980 • Church Fax: (504) 834-4997 • Church Email: stbenildechurch@cox.net

www.stbenilde.org

CLERGY

Rev. Robert T. Cooper, *Pastor*
Rev. H.L. Brignac, *Sacramental Asst.*
Deacon Biaggio DiGiovanni
Deacon Stephen Gordon
Deacon Clifford Wright

BAPTISMS

First and Third Sundays of the month
at 12 Noon. Please call the Parish
Office for more information.

MATRIMONY

Please contact a priest/deacon
8 months prior to your wedding.

FUNERALS

Arrangements may be made at the
Parish Office.

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil ... 4 p.m.
Sunday ... 9:00, 11:00 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Monday—Friday ... 7:00 a.m.
Monday and Thursday ... 5:30 p.m.
First Saturday ... 8:45 a.m.

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

See Inside the Bulletin for Schedule

CONFESSION TIMES

Saturday ... 3:00—3:45 p.m.
Sunday ... 5:00—5:45 p.m.
Monday ... 6:00—6:45 p.m.
and by appointment at the Parish Office

DIVINE MERCY ADORATION CHAPEL

Eucharistic Adoration from 7:00 p.m. Sunday
till 4:00 p.m. Saturday

DEVOTIONS

Holy Hour in Church
Monday, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Following 7 a.m. Mass on Tuesday

NEWCOMERS

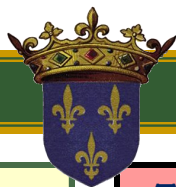
Call the Parish Office to receive a New
Parishioner Registration Packet.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

St. Benilde Conference
(504) 233-3246

ST. BENILDE SCHOOL

Mr. Matt Downey, Principal
1801 Division Street • Metairie, LA
(504) 833-9894



Ministers of the Liturgy

December 24 & 25, 2016

Saturday - 4 P.M.

Intention: Jack Brignac, Don Rowan, Sr.,
Barbara Twickler, Carl A. Guidroz, Jr., Ray Dunn,
Rose Marie Greco Federico, Marian Quigley,
Merle & Charles Dittmer, Patrick C. McKinney,
Sabella Family, Mr. & Mrs. Aime Grunewald,
Flora Maria Be, George Spaulding, Joseph Segari,
Luly Mastio, Mary Cali & Jacob Kerth, Sr.,
Dorothy Van Hoven, Floyd Sutton,
CeCe Morise (L), Nicole Morise (L)

Saturday—6 P.M.

Olga Claiborne, D. J. (Budd) Olistter, Jr.,
Grace Marchadie, Anna Z. Meynier,
Charmaine Icaza (L), Walter (Bubber) Blessing

Midnight

Parishioners

Sunday - 9 A.M.

Intention: Mary, Melvin, & Kelvin Ducote

Sunday - 11 A.M.

Intention: Chris & Marine Peters, Brenda Frey (L),
Marilyn Groetsch (L), Connie Gauchet, Olga Garic
James E. Fitzmorris, Jr. (L), JoAnne Flettrich,
Joseph Donald Bernard, J. B. DeVillenty III,
O'Sullivan & Zito Families, Hilton F. Daigle, Jr.,
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. deVillenty, Sr., Joseph Torres,
Gerry Golemi, Mr. & Mrs. J. B. deVillenty, Jr.
Daigle Family (L), Mr. & Mrs. Hilton Daigle, Sr.,
Jennie Barcia Spitale

Weekday Masses

Monday	7:00 a.m. June & Marvin Ackermann (L) 5:30 p.m. Floyd C. Bangs, Sr.
Tuesday	7:00 a.m. Floyd C. Bangs, Sr.
Wednesday	7:00 a.m. Floyd C. Bangs, Sr.
Thursday	7:00 a.m. Paul Fleming III 5:30 p.m. Floyd C. Bangs, Sr.
Friday	7:00 a.m. Debbie Gill

**The Church Sanctuary Lamp
burns in memory of
The Souls in Purgatory**



**The Blessed Mother
Votive Lamps burn for
the Seminarians at
Notre Dame**

**The St. Joseph Votive Lamps
burn in
Thanksgiving for a Prayer
Answered**



**Adoration Chapel
Sanctuary Lamp burns
in memory of
Stuart and Gloria Fourroux**



**Adoration Chapel Candles
burn in memory of
Russel Joubert/Zanco Family**

Altar Ladies

Week of December 25

M. Seeber, F. Alvarez

Linens

Large - M. Costanza

Small - E. Beyer



**The Altar Candles burn
in memory of
Dianne Harrison**



Stewardship of Treasure

Weekend of December 17 & 18

Envelopes	\$3,317.00
Loose	3,276.00
Electronic Giving	1,010.00
Repairs & Maintenance	305.00
Msgr. Richaud Fund	344.00
Totaling	\$8,252.00

"Let us focus on generosity, or returning God's gifts with increase, through the generous sharing of our time, talent and treasure."



~ Fr. Cooper

New Year's Blessing

Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, bring peace into the world. You died to save us all. Raise us to new life with you, and help us to be peacemakers. Lord Jesus Christ, hear our prayer, for you are Lord forever. Amen.



Out Of Reverence For The Lord Jesus

who so generously shares with us His Body and Blood in the Eucharist, worshipers are earnestly invited to remain with the congregation until Mass is concluded.



January Priest Mass Schedule	4pm	9am	11am	6pm
Jan. 7/8	Fr. Cooper	Fr. Cooper	Fr. H.L.	Fr. H.L.
Jan. 14/15	Fr. H.L.	Fr. H.L.	Fr. Cooper	Fr. Cooper
Jan. 21/22	Fr. Cooper	Fr. Cooper	Fr. H.L.	Fr. H.L.
Jan. 28/29	Fr. H.L.	Fr. H.L.	Fr. Cooper	Fr. Cooper

Safe Environment Training

Safe Environment Training will be held at St. Benilde on **January 19, at 6:30 p.m., in the cafeteria.** All volunteers who have even one unsupervised contact with minors, and all who participate in an overnight event, must attend safe environment training prior to volunteering for the first time and every three years thereafter. Please contact Mary Kelly, 504-834-4980 ext. 113, for further information.



Bible Study

Save the date! ***Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible*** is an engaging journey beginning with Genesis and ending with Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. Uncover the story woven throughout Scripture and get the "big picture" of the Bible. **The journey will begin on January 11 and end on March 15, 2017.** All sessions will be held in the Teen Center on Wednesdays, at 7 p.m. (No class on Feb. 1 or March 1.) There is a \$10 fee for the workbook. If you have questions or would like to pre-register, contact Val Hebert at email valencemet@aol.com or call 504-427-0327.





FR. COOPER'S CORNER

Christmas Message 2016

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

It is with a heart overflowing with joy in the Son of God who has come in the flesh that I address all of you and extend my warmest wishes to you on the radiant and life-bearing feast of the Nativity of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (*Lk 2:14*). In glorifying from year to year the ineffable benevolence shown to us by the Savior, we, as once the shepherds of Bethlehem who heard from the angel the "great joy, which shall be to all people" (*Lk 2:10*), hasten with spiritual eyes to see the Messiah, whose coming was foretold by the glorious prophets and awaited by a great multitude of men and women.

Thus, the desire, as the prophet Haggai puts it, of all nations (*Hag 2:7*) "made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (*Phil 2:7*). The Lord of the universe selects for Himself not an imperial palace, not a dwelling of the rulers of this world, not a mansion of the rich and highly placed. No room is even found for Him at an inn. The Son of God is born in a cave for cattle, while His cradle is a manger for the feeding of animals.

"What, then, is poorer than the cave and humbler than the swaddling clothes in which the richness of the Godhead has shone forth?" Having chosen for the Mystery of our salvation utmost poverty, Christ consciously rejects the values which are considered important in our world: power, wealth, fame, noble birth and social status. He offers to us another law of life, the law of humility and love, which vanquishes pride and enmity. It is by this law that human frailty, united with the grace of God, becomes the force which cannot be countered by those who possess power and might in this world. The power of God manifests itself not in earthly majesty and worldly comfort, but in simplicity and humility of heart.

As St. Seraphim puts it, "the Lord seeks out a heart that is overflowing with love of God and neighbor. This is the altar upon which he loves to ascend..." Son, give me thine heart,' he says, 'and the rest I shall give to you,' for the kingdom of God can be contained within the human heart" (*Conversation on the Goal of the Christian Life*). The Lord is not disdainful of the poor and homeless, he does not despise those who have little money and unglamorous jobs, and even more so He does not hold in contempt those who are physically disabled or seriously ill. None of these things in



themselves put a distance between the human person and God, and therefore should not lead one into being downcast or become a cause for destructive despair. The Savior seeks us out. "My son, my daughter, give me thine heart," He exhorts us (*Prov 23:26*).

The wondrous feast of the Nativity reminds us of the need to follow unceasingly Christ "who has come so that we might have life, and that we might have it more abundantly" (*Jn 10:10*), and who is the one true path and unchanging truth and genuine life (*cf. Jn 14:6*). And may we not be afraid of the difficulties that we inevitably encounter, and may none of us be broken by the trials that befall our lot, for God is with us! God is with us, and from our life fear disappears. God is with us, and we find peace of soul





and joy. God is with us, and with steadfast hope in Him we shall accomplish our earthly journey.

In following Christ, the human person goes against the elements of this world. He does not submit to the temptations he encounters, and he determinedly tramples down the barriers of sin that stand in his way. Indeed, it is sin that draws us away from God and genuinely renders our lives harsh. It is sin that, in eclipsing the light of the Divine love, plunges us into many and varied afflictions and hardens our heart towards other people. Sin, though, is vanquished only by the grace of the Holy Spirit, which is given to us through the Church. The power of God which we receive transforms our inner world and helps us in accordance with the Lord's will to change the outer world. And thus those who have in one way or another fallen away from Church unity lose, like a tree that has dried up, the ability to offer truly good fruits.



I would like today to say a special word to all of us who have suffered from the violence, murder and terror that continues to afflict our streets, neighborhoods, communities, and our nation. These horrors should never divide the Church's children by sowing enmity within peoples' hearts. The true Christian cannot hate his neighbors. "Ye have heard, – the Lord says to those who hear him, – that it hath been said, Thou shall love thy neighbor, and hate thy enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he makes his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Mt 5:43-45). May these words of the Savior become a guiding force in our lives, and may evil and hatred towards others never find a place in our hearts.

On this light-bearing night of the Nativity and the following holy days let us praise and exalt our Savior and Lord who, in His great love for humanity, deigned to come into the world. Like the Magi, let us offer to the divine Infant Christ our gifts: instead of gold – our sincere love; instead of frankincense – our ardent prayer; instead of myrrh – a kind and caring disposition towards our neighbors.

Once more, I extend my warm wishes to you all, my beloved, on the radiant feast of the Nativity, and on the forthcoming New Year I prayerfully wish you the abundant mercies and compassion of the greatly compassionate Lord Jesus.

I avail myself of the opportunity to express my sentiments of profound fatherly affection and with every best wish during the Christmas Season, I remain

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Cooper

Reverend Father Robert T. Cooper
Pastor



THE PRIESTHOOD

To any young man in our parish who is discerning a call to the priesthood or who feels some attraction to priestly life and ministry, I would be happy to hear from you and delighted to talk with you. Know that I pray for you daily and that I am ready to support you in your vocational journey. I invite all members of our parish family to become personally and actively involved in the effort to identify men with apparent qualities for priesthood and encourage them to discern the will of God in their lives. Let us recommit ourselves to fervent prayer that the call of Christ the High Priest will echo in the hearts of the next generation and that it will be nurtured and sustained so as to grow and flourish.

~Fr. Cooper

January Calendar

- January 3 Parish Council – 7 p.m. – Parish Office
- January 5 Pro-Life – 6:15 p.m. – Library
CALM – 7 p.m. – Church
- January 7 Rosary & Altar Society Mass & Meeting
Legion of Mary – 2:05 p.m. – Parish Office
- January 8 Holy Name/Men's Club Mass & Meeting
- January 9 RCIA – 7:30 p.m. – Library
- January 10 Chers Amis – 7 p.m. – Cafeteria
- January 11 Grandparents' Club – 7 p.m. – Cafeteria
Bible Study – 7 p.m. – Teen Center
- January 14 Legion of Mary – 2:05 p.m. – Parish Office
- January 16 Men's Club – 7:30 p.m. – Cafeteria
RCIA – 7:30 p.m. – Library
- January 17 SVDP – 6:30 p.m. – Parish Office
Home & School Meeting – 7 p.m. – Cafeteria
- January 18 Bible Study – 7 p.m. – Teen Center
Block Rosary – 7 p.m. – Home of P & G Cifreo
- January 19 Safe Environment Training – 6:30 p.m. – Cafe
- January 21 First Rite of Reconciliation – 10 a.m.
Legion of Mary – 2:05 p.m. – Parish Office
- January 21/22 Hospitality Weekend – CYO/Boy Scouts
- January 23 RCIA – 7:30 p.m. – Library
- January 24 Advisory Council – 7 p.m. – Faculty Lounge
- January 25 Bible Study – 7 p.m. – Teen Center
- January 28 Legion of Mary – 2:05 p.m. – Parish Office
Night at the Races – 7 p.m. – Cafeteria
- January 30 RCIA – 7:30 p.m. – Library
- January 31 Advisory Council – 7 p.m. – Faculty Lounge



Christmas Memorial Greenery and Flowers

The beautiful poinsettias and greenery that adorn our altar and sanctuary are a special part of the celebration of Christmas at St. Benilde Catholic Church. We invite all parishioners to share in the experience through a memorial or thanksgiving gift by using the **Christmas Flowers Memorial Envelopes** found in the vestibule of Church. Donations toward the cost of Christmas decorations in the Church may be made in memory or honor of your family members and friends. This is a wonderful way to remember loved ones, honor friends, and offer thanksgiving to God for prayers answered and blessings received during this past year. *The suggested donation is \$10 per remembrance.* Please place your envelopes in the collection basket, the Poor Box or bring it to the Parish Office by December 26. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Memorial Envelopes will be placed on the altar throughout the Christmas Season and names will be printed in the bulletin.

Trip to San Antonio

Join the Chers Amis on a fun-filled and exciting trip to beautiful, historical San Antonio, TX. The trip is scheduled for April 24 through 28, 2017.

For more information, please call Virginia at 504-835-9477 or Barra at 504-834-7908.



DECEMBER 25, 2016

ST. BENILDE CATHOLIC CHURCH – ID # 113850
1901 DIVISION ST.
METAIRIE, LA 70001
504-834-4980

NANCY CAROLLO
504-834-4980
MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAYS - 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
FRIDAYS - 9 A.M. TO 12 NOON

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: