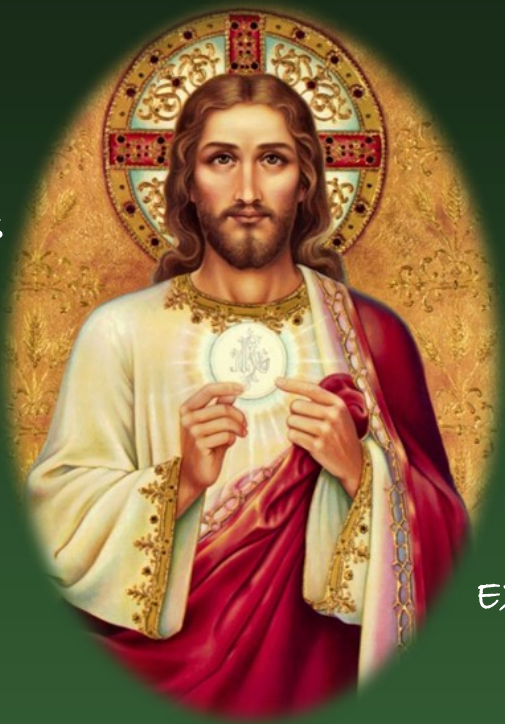


December 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

ORDINARY FAMILIES



EXTRAORDINARY FAITH

ST. BENILDE

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

1901 Division Street • Metairie, Louisiana 70001

Church Office: (504) 834-4980 • Church Fax: (504) 831-5810 • 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. Thomas Huck, Principal
1801 Division Street • Metairie, LA
(504) 833-9894



Ministers of the Liturgy

December 22 & 23, 2018

Saturday - 4 P.M.

Intention: Carl A. Guidroz, Jr., Austin Burroughs, Colgan Family, George Spaulding, Flora Maria Be, Hubert LaBorde, Pete Muscarello, Jr., Emile Fichter, Merle & Charles Dittmer, Patrick C. McKinney, Melissa Mendel Zimmerman, Audrey LeBlanc, Bob Kelly, Edward Van Hoven, Therisa Bacino, Herbert Schmit, Annie Barcia, Joseph Segari
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

J. Rodosta, A. Delaup

Cantor: Kevin Rouchell *Organist:* Jared Croal

Sunday - 9 A.M.

Intention: June & Marvin Ackermann (L)
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
C. & R. Ayers, K. Klapatch, R. Theriot
Song Leaders: Traditional Choir

Sunday - 11 A.M.

Intention: Joseph Donald Bernard, Thomas Prunty, Paul J. Hymel, Jr., Mary & Melvin Ducote, Ronnie & Dianne Harrison, Kelvin Ducote, Brenda Frey (L), Audrey Cusimano, Barbara Duncan, Barbara B. Duncan, Patricia Hartmann, Joy Koch (L)
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
S. Gordon, L. Peters, N. Bostick, L. Frey
Song Leaders: Contemporary Choir

Sunday - 6 P.M.

Intention: Parishioners
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
D. Childers, C. Pitre
Cantor: Lauren Gisclair *Pianist:* Beth Kettenring

Weekday Masses

Monday	7:00 a.m. Patty Curry (L) 4:00 p.m. See Next Page 6:00 p.m. See Next Page
Tuesday	9:00 a.m. See Next Page 11:00 a.m. See Next Page
Wednesday	7:00 a.m. Judith Theisges
Thursday	7:00 a.m. Pierre Thibodeaux 5:30 p.m. Mary Ann Federico
Friday	7:00 a.m. Judith Theisges

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



**The Blessed Mother
Votive Lamps burn
For Reparations for Sins**

**The St. Joseph Votive Lamps
burn for a
Special Intention**



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

**Adoration Chapel Candles
burn in memory of
Ronnie & Dianne Harrison**



**Altar Ladies
Week of December 23**

L. Hart, Y. Morise,
M. Surcouf

Linens

Large - H. Guichard
Small - E. Beyer



**The Altar Flowers are in
memory of
Deceased Parishioners**



Stewardship of Treasure

Weekend of Dec. 15 & 16

Totals unavailable due to early bulletin deadline.

Feast of Immaculate Conception Collection.....\$1,329.00

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Dec. 29/30

4 PM C. Casente, L. Segari

9 AM C. Frederick, L. Director, L. Zeringue, G. Rojas

11 AM A. Duersel, R. Oleksik, J. Hutchison J. Hutchison

6 PM D. Childers, D. Powers

Mass Intentions Continued

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m.

George Spaulding, Don Rowan, Sr., Ray Dunn, Bob Kelly,
Julie Periou, Catherine DiMaggio, Judith Theisges,
Edward Van Hoven, Mr. & Mrs. Aime Grunewald,
Russell Joubert, Jr., Flora Maria Be, Sam Sabella Family,
Charles Mele, Annie & Joe Danna, Theresa Bacino,
Joseph Segari, Emile Fichter

6:00 p.m.

Charles & Theresa Montgomery, Marisa Saborio,
Pershing & Mary Delaup, Sr., Glenn Gennaro,
Joseph Evola, Sr.,

Christmas Day

9:00 a.m.
Geno Soletto

11 a.m.

Chris & Marine Peters, Swan Family, Debbie Gill,
Mary & Melvin Ducote, Kelvin Ducote, Giovingo Family,
Parishioners, Rose Mary Silbernagel, Hubert LaBorde,
Melissa Mendel Zimmerman, Agapita Pena,
Walter (Bubber) Blessing

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

The **Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God** is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. Vigil Mass will be celebrated at 4 PM on Monday, December 31. Masses on Tuesday, January 1 will be at 9 AM and 11 AM **Please note that there will be No 6PM Holy Hour or Confessions on Monday, Dec. 31.**

Adoration Chapel New Year's Schedule

The Adoration Chapel will close at 4 PM on Saturday, December 29, and will reopen at 7:30 AM on Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

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 published.

Parish Office Closed

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 31 and Tuesday, January 1 in observance of the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God and the New Year's Holiday. We will reopen on Wednesday, January 2, at 9 AM.



FR. COOPER'S CORNER

Helping the Survivors of ISIS this Christmas

One of the most rewarding aspects of the Holy See's Mission to the United Nations in New York is the ability to organize conferences at UN headquarters to shine a spotlight on realities that deserve greater attention and to give a voice to those whose cries for help are not adequately heard. In November of last year, the Church sponsored two conferences on what Christians and other religious and ethnic minorities have endured at the merciless hands of ISIS. Since ISIS has been militarily defeated in Iraq and is on the verge of defeat in Syria, there is a serious risk that the attention of the world will move to other crises. But we cannot forget what happened or those who suffered. While we tragically could not prevent the barbarities Christians, Yezidis and others endured, we must act to bring them justice, help them rebuild, and prevent ISIS from achieving one of its main objectives, which is the liquidation of ethnic diversity and religious pluralism from the region.



We heard first-hand from survivors of ISIS atrocities and focused on what was needed to hold accountable the barbarians who carried out their sadistic rampage of murder, kidnapping, hostage-taking, suicide bombings, enslavement, forced marriage, human trafficking, rape, sexual slavery and other forms of sexual violence—in short, what the United States, Iraq, Hungary, Lithuania, Ireland, the United Kingdom, the European Union and others have termed a genocide.

We heard from a courageous Yezidi girl, Ekhlas Khudur Bajoo, who on August 3, 2014, was kidnapped by ISIS as they invaded her city of Sinjar. Her father was brutally executed, as part of a mass murder of males in the village. She, at 14, was sold into sexual slavery with hundreds of other girls and raped and humiliated each day for six months. Her sufferings were so severe she tried, but failed, to take her life. Three times she attempted to escape but was caught by ISIS troops, beaten and tortured. Finally on her fourth attempt, she succeeded. She came to the UN conference to speak on behalf of all those women who have suffered or are still suffering. She begged everyone present to "wipe our tears, heal our wounds, bring back the smiles on our faces, and rescue the girls who remain in captivity." She finished by appealing, "I ask you not to remain silent. Stand with me and with all the survivors. Bring back our smiles."

We heard by video from a Syrian Christian, Gaby, who was kidnapped by ISIS and tortured for three weeks before his family arranged a costly ransom. We also heard from Dr. Nezar Taib, a psychiatrist and regional health director in Dohuk, who catalogued for us the various physical and psychological traumas among the thousands fleeing from ISIS terror and captivity whom he and his team have treated. Everyone present, from Ambassadors, to NGO delegates, to experts on the Middle East were repeatedly moved to tears. One of the UN technicians told a reporter that he has worked for 30 years at the UN—helping to run several conferences a day, five days a week (an estimated 40,000 conferences)—and said that this event was the most compelling he had ever attended.

The second conference focused on the rebuilding necessary to help those who had been driven from the Nineveh Plain by ISIS to return home. We heard from Archbishop Bashar Warda of the Chaldean Catholic Archeparchy of Erbil, where most of the Christian refugees were welcomed, and Fr. Salar Kajo, pastor of three affected parishes in the north of Iraq, where Christians are now returning. We also heard from ambassadors from countries and leaders of three organizations—the Knights of Columbus, Aid to the Church in Need USA, and the Nineveh Reconstruction Committee—that are heavily committed to the rebuilding effort.



ISIS left many of the cities and towns of the region in rubble, destroying homes, Churches, schools, public utilities and infrastructure. What is needed is the equivalent of a “Marshall Plan” that was used to reconstruct bomb damaged Europe after World War II. It begins by clearing rubble, rebuilding or refurbishing houses, reestablishing water and electricity, and reconstructing medical, educational and community infrastructure; next, creating jobs through microfinancing so that a local economy can be established and people can transition from dependency to self-sufficiency; then providing physical and psychological care to those in need, educating the young and training them to help rebuild their societies. This is not just to return to them what ISIS sought to pillage from them. It is also to ensure the true defeat of ISIS.

Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, echoed the fear of the great Lebanese Statesmen, Charles Malik, one of the authors of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights after World War II. “You may win every battle, but if you lose the war of ideas, you will have lost the war. ... My deepest fear—and your greatest problem—is that you may not be winning the war of ideas.” Anderson commented, “While ISIS is now gone as a military force, so too are the victims they forcibly evicted. The philosophy behind their genocide—the idea of cleansing Iraq of religious minority groups like Yezidis and Christians—is on the cusp of success. Quite simply, if the religious minorities displaced by ISIS do not return to their ancestral homes in sizeable numbers, ISIS will have won the battle of ideas. In that case, not just Nineveh, and not just Iraq, but the entire world will be poorer for that outcome—and threatened by it.”

The only way to make sure ISIS cannot claim any victory is to restore Christians, and with them pluralism and diversity, to where ISIS ravaged. The Nineveh Plains had been home to more than 40 percent of the Christian population of Iraq, but in most of the region, only 12 percent of the Christians have been able to return. Archbishop Warda stated, “One positive outcome that has followed the genocide by ISIS has been the denouncing of their tactics by the entire world community—Christians, Muslims and others. Now it is time for action as well as words. Not only the West, but Islamic countries as well, who have been affected by terror of ISIS’ ideology, must commit resources to save pluralism in Iraq as a manifestation of their opposition to this ideology of hatred and genocide.”

Father Kajo spoke on behalf of his parishioners, who “want only to live in peace ... in our historic lands where we have harmed no one.” They are deeply afraid of more violence, he said, and for that reason “sleep with suitcases already packed” and “only buy small amounts of food.” He said that even though “there are many tragedies in this world today, and our story is only a small one now. Please do not forget the persecuted minorities of the Nineveh Plain.”

Pope Francis hasn’t forgotten them and is trying to stir the world to remember them. Last year, when he was given a special edition Lamborghini Huracan, he announced that it would be auctioned off so that the proceeds could be given to the “Return to the Roots” project being coordinated by the Nineveh Reconstruction Committee (a unified effort of the three major Christian churches in the Nineveh Plain) with the help of Aid to the Church in Need and the Knights of Columbus. Cardinal Pietro Parolin, his Secretary of State, called the work of the Nineveh Reconstruction Committee “praiseworthy and greatly needed” and expressed the “deep appreciation and encouragement” of Pope Francis and the Catholic Church “for this noble and difficult effort.”

If you would like to help out in this noble, difficult rebuilding effort, I would urge you to go to www.christiansatrisk.org, the site set up by the Knights of Columbus to channel support directly to the Church’s efforts in the region. The average cost to repair or rebuild a home for a family in the region is \$2,000, and so your contributions will go a long way. As we prepare for Christmas, meditate upon the generosity of the Magi who came from the East, and ponder with horror the slaughter of the Holy Innocents soon after Christ’s birth; we have the opportunity to do something to help those who are striving to keep the memory of the Prince of Peace alive in the region where the Church is not just a branch of Christianity but a root, where the disciples were not converted by St. Paul, but baptized him.

We ♥ having you
as part of our Flock

*Keep in touch with us
via email and text*

Text

✱ **benilde**

to the number

84576

✱ Or sign up online at

flocknote.com/frcooper



Text STOP to 84576 to stop txt notifications at any time. Text HELP for help. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View privacy policy & conditions at www.flocknote.com/txt

DECEMBER 23, 2018

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: