

SAINT JOSEPH

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

P.O. Box 299 Milton, LA 70558-0299

RECTORY: 337-856-5997 • FAX: 337-856-5955

LIFE CENTER: 337-856-0800

WEBSITE: <http://www.stjo-milton.org>

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon–Thu: 8:00 AM–12 noon & 1–4 PM; Fri: Office Closed

Offices located at 208 E. Edith • Lafayette, LA 70508

DECEMBER 19, 2021 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PARISH MINISTERS

Rev. William Schambough *Pastor*
Deacon Keith Duhon *Deacon*
Chenell Privat *Secretary to the Pastor*
Sandra Smith *Bookkeeper*
Eva Green *Coordinator of 1st-11th Grade Religion*
Celeste Fortier *Safe Environment Coordinator*
John Buroker *Choir Director*

SACRAMENTS

RECONCILIATION: Saturday from 3:00–3:55 pm, 20 minutes before daily Mass and by appointment, (please call the office).

BAPTISM: Preparation for the sacrament is provided to parents held in the evenings. (See bulletin for time and place.) Parents are encouraged to attend during pregnancy, to avoid undue delays.

ANointING OF THE SICK: For Anointing, death, or in case of an emergency please call the parish office.

MARRIAGE: Couples planning marriage are asked to contact the pastor or deacon at least six months before.

CELEBRATING THE EUCHARIST

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., & 5:00 p.m.

****Weekday Mass Change due to COVID:**

Monday & Friday 6:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 8:30 a.m.
Holy Days: 6:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

WELCOME, VISITORS.

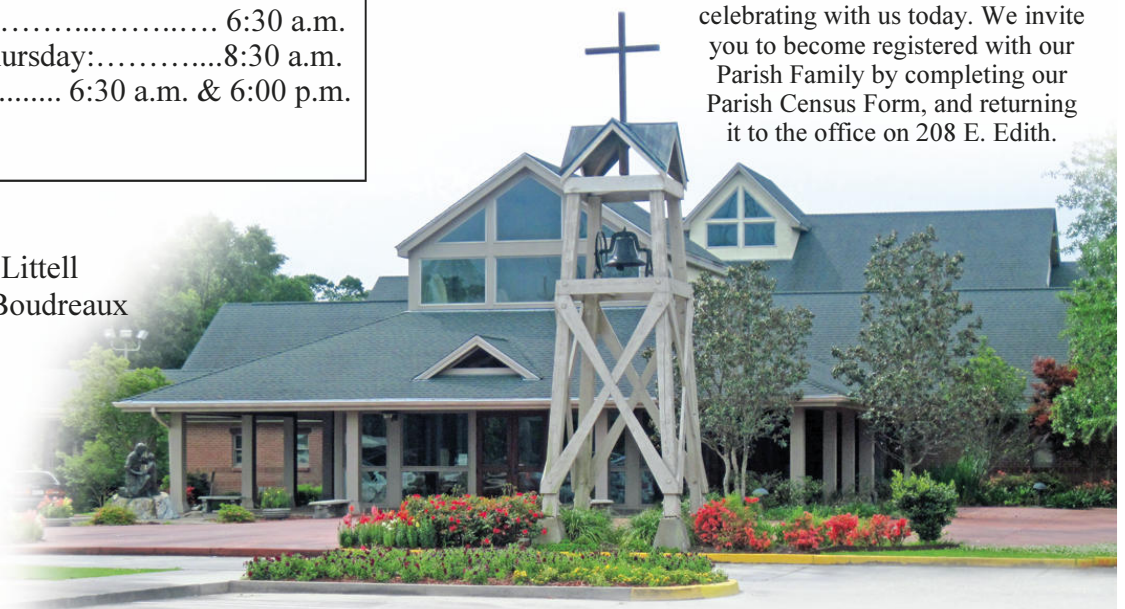
We extend a warm welcome to the individuals and families who are celebrating with us today. We invite you to become registered with our Parish Family by completing our Parish Census Form, and returning it to the office on 208 E. Edith.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Pam Begnaud Trista Littell
Bob Cole Troy Boudreaux
Dan Guidry
Steve LeMaire

PARISH TRUSTEES

Linda Desormeaux
Robert Landry



4th Sunday of Advent

St. Augustine tells us that a “Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps.” As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life’s necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world’s ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn’t God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world’s ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God’s vessel so that God’s greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God’s fix for the world’s difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God’s instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

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Our Gift Back to God

Offertory (*Due to early printing, not available*). . . \$

Thank You!

The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” - Lk 1:41-42

Mass Intention

Weekend of December 18 & 19, 2021

Sat. 4 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. for the intentions listed,
Sun. 10:30 a.m. for our parish (Pro Populo)

Therian LaFleur, Lou Dixon, Mary Frances Cramer (Birthday), Edvard & Lydia Hebert Family, Mena & Murphy Courts, Jacquelyn Albert, Ronald Joseph Romero (Birthday), Geraldine (Gerry) Foreman, Joseph & Vivian Johnson, M/M Pressley Broussard, M/M Wilmer Landry

Weekday Masses

Monday 20	Ron Bourque
Tuesday 21	Gertrude Boudreaux, Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life
Wednesday 22	Ted Simon
Thursday 23	St. Joseph Community
Friday 24	John Joseph Quinn, Cameron Bailey, Zachary Hebert, Gertrude Boudreaux, Francis & Louella Hebert, Roland A. Smith

Sanctuary Candle

Previous Priests

Please Pray For The Sick

Susan Vincent Gunner Breaux Brennen Albert
Joyce Comeaux James Benoit Marla Francois
Dolores Benoit Kathryn Trahan Bobby Trahan
Charlie Harrington Kim Vincent Hunter Henry
Luby Landry Guy McKeon Bethany Touchet
Lilly Mae Romero Enola G. Bernard Gail Anslem
Mary Belle Broussard Mary Trahan Sara LaCroix
Phillip LaCour, Sr. Norval Knapp Heather Herrick
Bernice Blanchard Richard Terry Broussard
Jeff Harrell Mike Blanchard Lynn Broussard
David McKeon Lucille Fabacher
Rita Randazzo Sheryl Palmisano



Joy to the World

Holyday Mass Schedule

The Feast of Christmas

Christmas Eve
Friday, December 24th
4:00 & 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day
Saturday, December 25th
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
(NO 4:00 p.m. Mass Christmas Day)

Merry Christmas!!



The Light Is On For You On Wednesdays, **December 22nd**, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church and all the parishes of the Diocese of Lafayette will be open for individual confession. Please make plans to come on Advent Wednesdays and spread the word of this special outreach of mercy to those you know.

Parish Office Closed In observance of the Christmas Holiday, the parish office will be closed beginning Thursday, **December 23rd through Monday, December 27th**. The office will reopen on Tuesday, **December 28th**. Father Schambough and the parish staff wishes everyone a safe and Merry Christmas!

The Next Baptism Seminar will be held on Thursday, **January 13th**, at 6:30 p.m. in Church. Parents are encouraged to attend during pregnancy in order to avoid any delays.

Events This Week

Mon. (20th): Mass 6:30 a.m.

Tues. (21st): Mass 8:30 a.m.
Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.

Wed. (22nd): Mass 8:30 a.m.
The Light Is On For You 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thurs. (23rd): Mass 8:30 a.m.
Parish Office Closed

Fri. (24th): **Christmas Eve**
Masses 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Parish Office Closed

Sat. (25th): **Christmas Day**
Masses: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
****NOTE: No 4:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day**

Sun. (26th): Masses: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.



St. Joseph Website Please visit our Parish Website at www.stjo-milton.org. You will find lots of great information from calendars of current and upcoming events, religious ed registration forms, census forms, bulletins, and much more. This is a great way to stay informed!



Opportunities for Adoration:

Wednesday 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Friday, 6:50 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Additionally, the Church is unlocked from dawn to dusk for personal prayer. Adorers may pray in our Blessed Sacrament Chapel area behind the altar. Seating is provided there.



Word of Life "Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother." Learn ten tips at respectlife.org/support-her. *For all parents awaiting the birth of their child: May they look to the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph and follow their example of cherishing and protecting human life.*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56
Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
Friday: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
Saturday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Next Sunday's Readings

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
Luke 2:14-52



Knights of Columbus Youth Leadership Award The St. Joseph Knights of Columbus Council 12163 would like to invite high school seniors to compete in the Catholic Youth Leadership Award. There will be two winners (male and female) chosen from our parish who will each receive a \$100 prize. The winners will move onto the Diocesan level and those winners will go onto state. The Diocesan prize is \$1000. The State prizes are \$4,000 for 1st Place, \$3,000 for 2nd Place, and \$2,000 for 3rd Place. There will be a male and female winner awarded at all levels. Applications can be downloaded from the KC website at <https://www.louisianakc.org/programs/cyla/>. They must be printed, signed, and dropped off at church in the KC drop box **located in the gathering area.** Deadline for receiving applications is **January 25, 2022.** For more information please contact Derek Meche at mechetelecom@gmail.com. Additional information is also available at the KC website listed above. Good luck and God Bless!

Thought of the Week *Patience is not the ability to wait, but the ability to keep a good attitude while waiting.*



"A priest is not a priest for himself, he is a priest for you." - Cure' of Ars

Please Pray for Our Priest:

Rev. C. Nicholas Trahan
Rev. Clint Trahan
Rev. Harold Trahan
Rev. John Lan Tran, SJ
Rev. Sai Tran, SVD
Rev. Eugene Tremie
Rev. Stephen Ugwu

Baby Jesus' Wish List

Odds are you've got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your goddaughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?

If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Epiphany

Question: Besides the Wise Men, what is significant about the Epiphany?

Answer: Epiphany means "manifestation," or public display. The feast is usually celebrated January 6. In the US, it is celebrated on the Sunday nearest to January 6. It originates from a story unique to Matthew (2:1-12). Magi from the East come to offer homage to the newborn King, presenting him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

This part of Matthew's infancy narrative differs from Luke's account of the birth of Jesus. In Luke there are no Magi, star, nor gifts. Luke has Jesus being born in a stable after Mary and Joseph's long travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Matthew seems to have the family living in a house in Bethlehem, where the Magi find them.

Why these differences? They stem from the needs and concerns of the audience the authors were addressing, as well as the theological stance of each author. Knowing the original intention helps get at the correct interpretation of the text.

Since Matthew was writing primarily to a Jewish community, his concern was to show that Jesus did not come just for Jews, but for Gentiles as well. From his very birth, Jesus not only manifests himself to Jews, but also to Gentiles, who are prominently included in the manifestation, symbolized by the Magi and their journey. This is the most significant aspect of the feast of Epiphany. How do you manifest Jesus to all with whom you come into contact?

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