

A WORD FROM FR. BENDEN

In the reading today from Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he says that "eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it dawned upon humans what God has in store for him in heaven." This has always been one of my favorite quotes from Sacred Scripture. Paul is trying to help us understand that God is so much bigger than us that we cannot in any way fathom his greatness. I have thought about this quote a lot over the years. What does it mean to be infinite? It is really beyond our comprehension because everything we see in this life is finite. We see things born that die. We see things new that become old. How can God be always new, never growing old? How can there be a God who has always been, and not had a beginning?

As you know, I have a jar of sand on my desk that represents God to me. I suppose this jar would have to be an infinite jar to really contain God, but this jar is enough for me. When I hear about this quote from St. Paul today I am reminded of the infinite greatness of God. We have no idea of the great things that will be shone to us in heaven because we are not God. What will heaven be like? I have no idea. Really. I have no idea. The jar of sand on my desk represents God to me but it also represents the infinite variety of different days that God might give to us in heaven. In this life, every day is pretty much the same. There are a few different things that might happen, but the same sorts of things happen here every day. Now what if God was to give us a different type of day each day in heaven. I don't mean to say a different day, but a different type of day. What if, instead of collecting money like we do on earth, we collected smiles from other people. And these smiles from others gave us the most intense amount of pleasure, like nothing we have ever experienced before. We might be tempted to say, "My goodness, why didn't I ever have that same feeling of a smile on earth. The answer is because it is earth is not heaven. We are never going to experience the same kind of pleasure on earth that we will in heaven. Those are things that God will provide when the time is right.

Many people fear death, or the loss of something we have on earth, but with FAITH we realize that nothing can compare to the infinite riches that God has prepared for us in the next life. God is infinite, and therefore, can give us an infinite amount of things in the next life that can't compare in the least to anything in this life. If we only had faith the size of a mustard seed, God would supply the rest.

PARISH CALENDAR

Feb. 22nd – Wednesday
Black History Month
Movie Night; 6:30 pm
OMS Parish Hall

Feb. 24th – Friday
KOPC / LA Fish Fry
OMS; 10 am – 2 pm

Feb. 26th – Sunday
Youth Mass & Black History
Program

March 6th – Monday
Eucharistic Adoration; 6 pm
Our Mother of Sorrows

STEWARDSHIP

Last Week's Collection

Collected: \$	1,669
Expenses:	1,820
Shortfall:	151

Year to Date Collection

Collected: \$	47,143
Expenses:	58,240
Shortfall:	11,097

**** Thank you to all who
donated towards the Bishop's
Reception. The contribution
was \$ 163.05**

MASS INTENTIONS
For the week of February 11th

Saturday	†Derrick Rainey
Sunday	†Vanner Bolton
Monday	Lawrence Reese
Tuesday	Greg Hotaling
Wednesday	Our Parish Family
Thursday	Mother's Mass League
Friday	Father's Mass League

**If you would like to have Masses offered for a loved one or friend, living or deceased, please call the office. The stipend is \$10 per Mass intention.

Black History Month

As you know, February is Black History Month. It is important to thank God for all of the brave African Americans that have gone before us and laid a foundation for us to follow. Things have changed some over the years in terms of racial integration, but we still have a long way to go. Let us intensify our prayers for racial equality. I also want to give a big SHOUT OUT to the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary for all they have done over the years. This group is well represented at our parish and they form a group that can be called upon at any time to give witness to the church and society at large. I thank you for your efforts and our prayers go out to you as you continue to be a good Catholic witness to us all.



We pray for all people. That we build a culture of life and bear witness to the inherent dignity of all people created in the image of God.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. Valentine
Feast Day: February 14th

Valentine was a holy priest in Rome, who, with St. Marius and his family, assisted the martyrs in the persecution under Claudius II. He was apprehended, and sent by the emperor to the prefect of Rome, who, on finding all his promises to make him renounce his faith ineffectual, commanded him to be beaten with clubs, and afterwards, to be beheaded, which was executed on February 14, about the year 270.

Pope Julius I is said to have built a church near Ponte Mole to his memory, which for a long time gave name to the gate now called Porta del Popolo, formerly, Porta Valetini. The greatest part of his relics are now in the church of St. Praxedes. His name is celebrated as that of an illustrious martyr in the sacramentary of St. Gregory, the Roman Missal of Thomasius, in the calendar of F. Fronto and that of Allatius, in Bede, Usuard, Ado, Notker and all other martyrologies on this day. To abolish the heathens lewd superstitious custom of boys drawing the names of girls, in honor of their goddess Februata Juno, on the fifteenth of this month, several zealous pastors substituted the names of saints in billets given on this day.

St. Valentine was martyred in 269 at Rome and was buried on the Flaminian Way. He is the Patron Saint of affianced couples, bee keepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travelers, and young people.

YOUTH NEWS

Nativity Elementary School will hold its annual Open House on Sunday, February 12th, from 11:00-2:00 p.m. Come and see what the “Nativity Difference” is all about! Current, former and prospective families are welcome to enjoy the displays, the activities, the prizes, the refreshments and the great company!

*Registration for the 2017-2018 school year will begin on Monday, February 13th for families with children currently enrolled in Nativity School. Registration for new families registered at Blessed Seelos and Our Mother of Sorrows parishes will take place on March 6th through March 8th from 8:30-5:00. Open registration for all other new families begins on Thursday, March 9th until all openings are filled. Nativity School provides a well rounded, Catholic education for children in pre-k 3 through 6th grade. For more information, please call the school at 432-2269 or visit the website: www.nativitybvm.org.



For information about St. Patrick High School, please call the school at 702-0500 or visit the website: www.stpatrickhighschool.net

****Our Parish requirements for subsidy (financial assistance) to attend Nativity Elementary or St. Patrick High School are:**

1. You must be a registered member of our parish.
2. You must attend Mass regularly with the child and use your offertory envelopes.
3. The children (of age) are required to be altar servers and parents must participate in church activities.

ADULT EDUCATION / SPIRITUALITY

Adult Bible Study classes are held every Tuesday at 11 am and 6 pm at Our Mother of Sorrows Parish Hall. Newcomers are welcome!

YOUTH CALENDAR

Feb. 12th – Sunday
CCD – NO CLASS

Feb. 19th – Sunday
CCD Class

Feb. 25th – Saturday
Fundraiser with Nativity Youth; 8 am – 4 pm at Nativity Sacred Heart Ctr.

Feb. 26th – Sunday
Youth Mass and Black History Program



Philippians 2:3-4

“When you do things, don’t let selfishness or pride be your guide. Be humble and give more honor to other people than to yourselves. Don’t be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of other people, too.”

**LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULE
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

Saturday, February 11 th	Linda Carney	
Sunday, February 12 th	Linda Staten	Franklin Parker

Saturday, February 18 th	Linda Carney	
Sunday, February 19 th	Judy Polk	Mamie Hardy

LECTORS

Saturday, February 11 th	Elvira Mitchell
Sunday, February 12 th	Alfonso Staten

Saturday, February 18 th	Janice Lee
Sunday, February 19 th	Kathleen Burton

ALTAR SERVERS

Sunday, February 12 th	Micah Walton	Jada Staten
Sunday, February 19 th	Treasure Duffy	D'Kaylah Jones

USHERS

Sunday, February 12 th	Fred Burney and Gerald Duffy
Sunday, February 19 th	Michael Griffin and Herbert Hardy

COMMENTATOR

Choir
Choir

CHURCH CLEANING

Saturday, February 11 th	Orelia Nunley and Family
Saturday, February 18 th	Janice Lee and Karen Parker

BISHOP-ELECT KIHNEMAN

The Ordination and Installation of the Fourth Bishop of Biloxi has been postponed due to health issues. The Diocese will issue a statement on when it will be rescheduled. Please keep Bishop-Elect Kihneman in your prayers.

AN EVENING AT THE MOVIES

The ASBS will be showing the movie “War Room” at Our Mother of Sorrows Parish Hall on Wednesday, February 22nd at 6:30 pm. We are asking everyone to bring a covered dish or your favorite snack to share!

“War Room” – An inspiring movie – Full of Faith, Hope and Love!

DRAWDOWN TICKETS -- ON SALE NOW!

Our Mother of Sorrows Drawdown will be held August 12th. Drawdown tickets are now available to buy and / or sell. Please see either Mamie Hardy or Sheila Harris for tickets. This Drawdown will be our largest fund raiser and is vital to the financial well-being of the parish. We can make this drawdown a success with everyone’s hard work and participation! ****Please note that you must be 21 or older to attend the drawdown****

YEARLY CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS: The contribution statements for 2016 are now available. You must call the office to request your statement.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Sister Thea Bowman was born in Yazoo, Mississippi and grew up to be a renowned Roman Catholic nun, teacher and scholar. Born Methodist, she became Catholic when she was nine years old. She became the first African American to join the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Wisconsin. After 16 years of teaching, she was invited to be a special consultant for the Catholic church. She gave presentations around the country aimed at bridging racial and cultural divisions. She combined her gifts of singing and gospel preaching, with prayers and storytelling. Sr. Thea was diagnosed with bone cancer in 1984. Yet, she continued her fight against the evils that drive people apart, until her death at age 53 in 1990. Sr. Thea Bowman said she prayed “to live until I die – to live fully.” And that she did.

Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church
803 Division Street, Biloxi, MS 39530
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 347, Biloxi, MS 39533
228-435-0007

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Benden, CSsR
Pastoral Associate: Deacon Richard Smith
Social Outreach / DRE: Cheryl "Bunny" Thompson
Parish Secretary: Mary Beth Broussard

In Residence

Rev. Gilbert Enderle, CSsR

Schedule of Masses

Saturday (Vigil) Mass – 5:30pm
Sunday Mass – 10:30am
Daily Mass (Monday – Friday) – 8:30am
Perpetual Help Devotions – Tuesday 9:00am

Sacraments

Sacrament of Reconciliation: by appointment

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and / or emergency: Please call Fr. Steve Benden at 228-424-0485 or Fr. Gil Enderle at 228-326-0022.

Sacrament of Marriage: Engaged couples should call the parish office at least six (6) months prior to the anticipated date of the marriage. At least one member of the couple should be a registered and practicing member of the parish for at least six (6) months.

Sacrament of Baptism: Infant baptism requires that at least one parent is a registered and practicing member of the parish for at least six (6) months. It must be the intent of the parent to actively raise the child in the Catholic faith. Please call the parish office.

Funerals: Contact Cheryl Thompson at the parish office or 228-233-5400 as soon as possible to make arrangements.