

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS: June 5-6, 2021

This Saturday, we're celebrating the **44th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux (June 5, 1977 – June 5, 2021)**! St. Francis de Sales and St. Joseph (co-patrons of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux) – pray for us!

Latest on the Updated Phase III Pandemic Restrictions (as of May 17):

- The wearing of face mask in the church is not required anymore but highly encouraged
- Holy Water Fonts at every entrance of the church are now filled
- All Ministers of the Eucharist are still **REQUIRED** to wear Face Masks when distributing Holy Communion
- Observe safety protocol on your own and respecting those who wish to continue observing the previous restrictions
- Short Visitation before the Funeral Mass can now be held inside the church
- Choirs and Cantors will resume previous way of leading the congregational singing
- Missalettes and Hymn Books will return to the pews on the week of June 7
- Offertory Procession of Gifts will resume on the weekend of June 12-13
- A new and improved Children's Liturgy will begin in August (TBD)

Latest on our Priests: Father D is scheduled to depart for the Philippines on June 15th and Father Sovi will stay here till the end of June or until he can safely depart for India. Father D's replacement as my Assistant Priest and Parochial Vicar of the Co-Cathedral would have been announced prior to the printing of this Bulletin (check church announcement or our Social Media accounts).

For weeks now we have been announcing our **"Parish Communication Update Project"** (a.k.a. as **"Census2021"**). Whether you live within our territorial boundaries or are registered parishioners, we ask that you respond to this Project as soon as possible. **If St. Joseph Co-Cathedral IS YOUR CHURCH PARISH, please let us know by completing the Reply Form.** If you haven't sent your Reply Form, you can still drop it in the Collection Basket together with your gift to our church this weekend OR you can drop it off in our Mailbox located in the brick column in front of the Church Office, OR mail it to our office. **EXTRA Reply Form Cards and Envelops** are located at all entrances of our church. Thank you for your participation and cooperation.

This weekend we are celebrating the **Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ** (Corpus et Sanguinis Christi). This great solemnity brings to our attention the practice of making sacrificial offerings before the Lord that has been part of our faith tradition. The Book of Exodus tell us how the Hebrew people led by Moses, established a covenant relationship with God by the blood of the sacrificial offerings they have made. The Letter to the Hebrews paralleled the ancient sacrificial offerings of the Hebrew people with the ultimate Sacrificial Offering made by Jesus Christ. The Sacrificial Offering of Jesus Christ fully expressed in the Institution of the Eucharist (in the Gospel of Mark) once and for all, completed and sealed our covenant relationship with God!

From the readings this weekend, we will hear that from the beginning of the journey of God's people to establish a covenant relationship with God until the moment that Jesus shed His Blood on the Cross, sacrificial offerings were integral in our journeys. While Jesus perfected all the sacrificial offerings, He nonetheless also gave us an example to follow in our everyday lives. We are not asked and expected to do the sacrificial offerings as in ancient days, or to make the same sacrifice as Jesus did on the cross (though some of our brothers and sisters are still being subjected to some forms), out of our desire to follow Christ closely and to live up to our faith we sometimes have to make sacrifices. Sacrifice and discipleship go hand-in-hand. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer once said, "discipleship without sacrifice is cheap grace!"

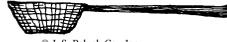
When dealing with difficult and painful experiences when I was young, I used to hear my elders say, "*Offer it up/them to God.*" Sadly, I don't hear that expression said much anymore. When faced with discomfort, inconvenience, or anything that are not to our liking, the common tendency of many nowadays are to complain. Whatever happened to the beliefs that sacrifices brought people closer to God, that patient endurance was the reason St. Paul reached the ends of the earth to preach the Good News, and the witness of those who gave up their lives brought us here? Does no one know or remember what took God to save and give us what we now have and the next? I sometimes wonder. Do people offer anything up to God anymore?

Whenever I am tempted to complain about the sacrifices I have to make daily, regularly or occasionally, I just gaze at the crucified Lord (and I have plenty of Crucifixes around me to look at!) and I'm quickly reminded that whatever sacrifice/s I need to make is **NOTHING** to what He already did.

Father Vic+

May 22nd / 23rd 2021

Weekly Offering



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Weekly Envelopes	\$ 8,713.00
Weekly Loose	1,665.00
Weekly ACH	345.00
	\$ 10,723.00

Thank you for your generosity !

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Wedding Banns

- Hunter Ponville & Courtney Amedee (3)*
- Joshua Arceneaux & Alexa Badgerow (3)*
- Ryan Duplantis & Shelby Simoneaux (3)*
- Jake Murry & Rebecca Papa (2)*
- Bernard Annis & Kelsey Bergeron (1)*



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Please remember

Dorothy Rago & Theresa Fabre

Who passed on into the Kingdom of our Father recently. Please pray also that their families may find comfort and consolation through their faith.

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Today's Gospel gives St. Mark's account of Jesus gathering his disciples for a last supper, revealing to them a new covenant established through his own blood that would be poured out as a sacrifice from them. Every time we participate in the Eucharist, we make a pledge to renew and deepen our participation in Christ's covenant in practical ways. For those who exercise stewardship of Christ's covenant that means making daily, personal sacrifices to strengthen this covenant relationship such as deepening our relationship with the Lord in prayer, supporting our parish, and giving comfort to the poor and those who suffer. As we begin to see our way out of the COVID pandemic, it is a good time to reflect on how we might renew and strengthen our covenant with the Lord and our community in practical ways.

Parish Communication Update Project



Our goal is 100% participation!

Parish Communication Project Update

THANK YOU to all parishioners who have returned their Parish Communication Card to date! If you have not returned your family communication update card, please do as soon as possible by:

- Mailing to the church office or place in our drop box.
- Bring your completed card to Mass and place in the collection basket.
- Visit our website or use the QR code and complete the form electronically.



If you have not received a card to update your family information, please pick one up in the vestibule or contact the church office. Thank you for your response, we are striving for

100% participation.

Thank you & God Bless!

Blessed Mother's Altar Flowers

Donated in Memory of

Rea Gilbert

By: Family

Prayer to St. Joseph during the YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH (08 December 2020-08 December 2021)

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen