



# *St. Joseph Co-Cathedral*

*P.O. Box 966 721 Canal Boulevard Thibodaux, LA 70301*

## *Pastoral Staff*

**Very Rev. Vicente N. DeLa Cruz, J.C.L., V.F.**  
Pastor

**Rev. Rholando Grecia**  
Parochial Vicar

Permanent Deacons  
**Deacon Joseph Bourgeois**

**Mrs. Miriam C. Guillot**  
Office Manager

**Ms. Renée E. Guillot**  
Secretary

Adult Formation & Service Ministries Coordinator  
**Ms. Pamela Folse**

Youth Formation Program  
**Mrs. Susan Manning**  
**Ms. Patty McKee**

Maintenance  
**Mr. Carl Waguespack**

## *Contact Information*

Church Office: (985) 446-1387  
Fax Number: (985) 446-6571

Website: [www.stjoseph-cc.org](http://www.stjoseph-cc.org)  
Email Address: [stjosephcc@htdiocese.org](mailto:stjosephcc@htdiocese.org)

Facebook Page:  
St. Joseph-Co-Cathedral – Catholic-Church-  
Thibodaux

## *Mass Schedule*

Weekday	Monday to Friday 6:30 AM and 5:30 PM Saturday at 6:30 AM
Weekend	Saturday Vigil Mass 4:00 PM Sunday 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 AM; 6:00 PM

## *Confession/Reconciliation*

30 minutes before each Weekday and weekend  
Masses and from 3 to 4 PM on Saturday

## *Baptisms*

FIRST Sunday of each month (except during Lent)  
following the 11:30 AM Mass. Baptismal Seminar  
on the last Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM in the  
Life Center Building. Please call the Church Office  
for arrangements.

## *Weddings*

Arrangements should be made six months before  
the wedding. Please call the Church Office to  
schedule.

## *St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School*

501 Cardinal Drive, Thibodaux, LA 70301  
Ms. Jami Chadwick, Principal  
Email Address: [stjoeelm@htdiocese.org](mailto:stjoeelm@htdiocese.org)  
(985) 446-1346

## *Church Office Hours*

Monday to Thursday  
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM  
Friday 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM  
Closed for Lunch 12 noon to 1:00 PM

## *TRMC Hospital Chaplain*

**Rev. Sebastian Stephen**  
985-438-0215

## PASTOR'S THOUGHTS:

### March 9-10, 2024

Instructions are posted at all entrances of our church for the Hearing-Aid Wearers who want to use the Wi-Fi-Assisted Bluetooth feature. If you need assistance to use the Wi-Fi connection and for the separate independent loop (hearing aid telecoils) devices, please contact or see Father Vic+.

The repairs at our Co-Cathedral Church and buildings damaged by Hurricane Ida that hit our area in 2021, are almost done. Once all the repairs are completed, I will start working on the other projects that's been pending due to a series of interruptions that affected all of us (i.e., Pandemic, Hurricane Ida, changes in diocesan leadership). Watch and pray.

Work around the Bishops' Tombs on the Rectory/Life Center side of our Co-Cathedral Church is in progress. By the time it's done, there will be 3 more available spaces for future use. Just like St. Francis de Sales Cathedral, the Co-Cathedral Church now is also a resting place for the future bishops of our diocese. Please do not forget to stop by Bishop Dorsonville's tomb and offer a prayer for the repose of his soul. I can guarantee you that he will return the favor when your time comes.

This 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent is traditionally referred to as "Laetare Dominica" or the Sunday of rejoicing. Taken from the opening lines (Lat., "incipit") of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (66:10) that says, "*Laetare Jerusalem et conventum facite ...*" (Rejoice ye with Jerusalem and be glad for her). What is the reason for this invitation? Because the redemption that we await is almost here! This moment of glad rejoicing during the austere season is to remind us that Lent is not all about pain and suffering, sacrifices and penance, sobriety and detachments. Rather, that we do all those things because we are preparing for the fulfillment of our redemption that will be the cause of our jubilation; though I must warn y'all the readings for this weekend will not sound "too jubilant" to your hearing!

In the 1<sup>st</sup> reading from the Book of Chronicles, the writer will speak of the infidelities of people of old including the leaders, holier ones down to the common people. When God tried to send down messengers to deal with them, these people treated them badly that resulted in their own demise from their enemies. The story that we will hear from the first reading is about what happens when people turn away from God. In the words of the psalmist: "their tongues will be silenced when they forget God!" (Ps. 137)

The forgetfulness of God's chosen people had been the challenge of many a prophet ("Messengers") that God sent through the centuries. God knew that well that when

He gave the commandments to them through Moses, whose opening word to them was "**Hear oh Israel,** ..." (in Hebrew "shema") which could mean to listen and to remember. All of God's children are reminded to "hear, listen and remember!"

This is what Jesus was trying to do in the Gospel of John in His address to Nicodemus, a Pharisee and high-ranking member of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish Council of Elders that has religious and civil influence in Judea during the time of Jesus. Jesus was "reminding" this very educated and influential man about something that he should have known ("remembered") all his life! And what was Jesus reminding him of? **One:** God loves His creation and everything in it. **Two:** that out of this love God gave His only begotten Son NOT to condemn the world but to save it. **Three:** this redemptive act of God was already known to them through Moses who was instrumental in saving God's people during the serpent-plague in the desert. This reality was forgotten by God's chosen ones after they have reached the promised land and established as a nation, a short-term memory they suffer.

St. Paul in his letter to the converts at Ephesus also reminded all his listeners the same reality that he learned from Jesus Christ and the other apostles, viz., the **(1)** God loves them, **(2)** the gift of Christ Jesus **(3)** that saves! (see above parallel). St. Paul encourages the Ephesians NOT to forget these three realities or else they would not be saved.

Just like Nicodemus and the people of old, we have learned many things from our past that affected, influenced, enriched, and formed our faith. Which ones do you remember, and which ones did you forget? If we only remembered those things or aspects that doesn't connect us with God, then we will indeed be sorrowful and miserable. However, if we always remember those that make God present to our lives and faith, we have every reason to rejoice!

To make y'all happy this weekend and to remind you that even in the somber season we have a reason to rejoice, I will wear a "cheerful vestment." Smile and be glad, our redemption is at hand!

*Father Vic+*

**WEEKLY OFFERING**  
**February 17th / 18th 2024**

Weekly Envelopes	\$	10,545.25
Weekly Loose		2,760.11
Online Giving		232.88
Weekly ACH		500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>14,038.24</b>

*Thank you for your generosity !*

Our Sunday Bulletin is supported by the advertisers who are listed on our back page. What better way to say THANK YOU than to remember them the next time you go shopping.

**A LITTLE SERVING FOR YOUR SOUL**

The Lord reaches out to all. Each of us will know God's love and mercy.

**LENTEN ACTION:** Do you forgive and really let go?

**WORKS OF ST. VINCENT**

Since 1911, The Works of St. Vincent ministry has served families in our church boundaries who seek assistance, with Rent, utility bills, medical bills, food, or other financial needs that may arise. Clients must complete an application and attend a verification interview. Once approved the assistance is directed to the entities representing the client's needs such as Entergy, City of Thibodaux, etc. not to the individual themselves. Donations of this ministry may be deposited in the poor boxes located in the entrance of the church or brought to the church office. Thanks for supporting this ministry as it helps those greatest in need in our community.

**Lenten Gumbo!**



That time of year is here again! Our annual Lenten Gumbo will be every Friday during Lent. Once again we will serving take-outs as well as table seating in the Life Center. Hours are 11AM-1PM. Our proceeds go to the Good Samaritan Food Bank. The Meal will be \$12 Thank you for your continued support! Hope to see you there!

Anyone who wishes to donate 10# of boiled potatoes and a dozen boiled eggs, or a dessert. Please call the Life Center at 446-1387 to give your name.

**ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL**  
**ABA—FOLLOW- UP WEEKEND !!**

St. Joseph Co-Cathedral is pleased with the very good early response to our \$90,000 goal of the 2024 Bishop's Appeal, for which we are immensely thankful. We know that there are still many who have yet to make their commitment. Please prayerfully consider making a gift to the Bishop's Appeal by returning your commitment card in the offertory or simply mail it to the diocese in the provided envelope, using the QR code, or you may also visit [www.htdiocese.org/bishopsappeal](http://www.htdiocese.org/bishopsappeal) to make your gift online.



Every gift no matter how big or small makes a difference across our diocese. Your prayers and gifts support our 4 Seminarians, our 16 retired priests, St. Joseph Co-Cathedral's Youth and Adult Formation, Catholic Education through our Catholic Schools Office, and our Diocesan Ethnic Ministries, and Colonel Catholic Ministry.

If you would like more information about the 2024 Appeal, please contact the Bishop's Appeal Office at 985-850-3136 or email [lcrosby@htdiocese.org](mailto:lcrosby@htdiocese.org).

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION**  
**THIS WEEKEND**

This collection provides funding for Catholic Relief Services, the USCCB Offices of International Justice and Peace, Migration and Refugee Services, and Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees, relief work of the Holy Father, and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network. Thank you for your generosity.

Please remember

**Valerie Thibodaux, Elsa Cortez,  
James Callais, & Pamela Fossier**



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



**Breakfast Group**

Join us in the Life Center on  
**Tuesday , March 12th**  
following the 6:30 AM Mass.