

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 16-22, 2019**

- Monday** - NM 24:2-7, 15-17A; MT 21:23-27 – **Sts. David and Adelaide**
- Tuesday** - GN 49:2, 8-10; MT 1:1-17 **St. B. Hyacinthe**
- Wednesday** - JER 23:5-8; MT 1:18-25 6 **St. Malachy and Gatianus**
- Thursday** - JGS 13:2-7, 24-25A; LK 1:5-25 **Sts. B. Urban and Anastasius**
- Friday** - IS 7:10-14; LK 1:26-38 **St. Philogonius**
- Saturday** - SG 2:8-14; LK 1:39-45 **Sts. Peter Canisius and Micah**
- Sunday** - IS 7:10-14; ROM 1:1-7; MT 1:18-24 **St. Francesca Saverio Cabrini**



**AFTERTHOUGHTS**

“Are you the ONE?” John’s puzzlement is a rough lesson for our Advent waiting. **It is not always easy to recognize Christ.**

**PRAY FOR:** Mona Escobar, Ray Duthu, Linda Lee, J.A. Foret, Jason Chaisson, Christina Sparks, Edrith Boudreaux, Dale Boudreaux, Ursula M. Breaux, Barbara Toups Miller, Susan Laperouse, Melinda Fabre, Sheryl Leaber, Evelyn Ruckstuhl, Deacon Lee Crochet, Selma Ferjani, Dee Belanger, Holden Sawyer, Lynn Paul Lirette, Sherman Brown, Mary Lee Boudreaux, Airman Wesley Speyrer, Nancy Rivere, Chelsea Ford, Denna Sanders, Gary Benoit, Sonny Lovell, Judy Porche, Faye Platt, Vincent Trabona, Alicia Headrick, Scott Stoufflet, Curtis Briggs, Sadie Talbot, Patty LeJune, Margaret Gaudet, Tracy LeBlanc, Kristen Watkins, Alex Schexnayder, Robert Cazayoux, Ken Watkins, Linda Musson, Donald Prosperie and Rosabelle Prosperie, Kayla Dudek Breaux Percy Lee, Linda LeClair, Sadie Talbot, (Open heart surgery), and for all prayer shawl recipients.

**Please pray for the repose of the souls of all who have died, especially Bernice Pontiff.**

**Daily Prayers for Priests:**

*Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of the priesthood. We particularly thank you for the priests here in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. We ask that you draw them ever closer to the Sacred Heart of Your Son Jesus. May they experience the depth of communion with you that you long for. Grant them stillness Lord, that they might perceive your presence. Heighten their spiritual senses that they might see and hear you ever more clearly and feel you ever more deeply. Remind them of their call. Remind them of all that you have promised them and they promised you on the sacred day of their ordination. We ask for miracles of renewal in their priestly vocation, Lord. Renew them in your love and strengthen their resolve to love and serve you. Strengthen their priestly fraternity, Lord, and strengthen the bond between the priests and the Laity. That together Lord, we all might be ONE as you are One. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.*

**ALTAR FLOWERS**  
The pink poinsettias in the Sanctuary this weekend are given in memory of Mama and Gra'mommie by Fr. Jay.



**GOSPEL COMMENTARY**  
“What did you go out into the desert to see? To see a prophet?”

**Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.**

John the Baptist challenged people to identify and acknowledge the error and evil in their lives. He baptized them with water as a sign of their decision to repent - to turn away from sin and live a new way. While in prison he sent his followers to Jesus to ask if he was the one they were expecting. Jesus sent back a simple message, “Go tell him what you see.” Jesus then says that no man born of woman is greater than John, but not because of how he dressed or where he lived. No, John was great because he knew the truth, he lived the truth, and he challenged others, and us, to live the truth. John was a prophet, and more. The role of a prophet is to identify the silly, stupid, senseless, and sinful things in our world and to call for change. In doing that John prepared the way for Jesus. At our Baptism we are anointed “priest, prophet and king.” Like John, we must prepare the way for Jesus, for ourselves and for others.

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

**Sunday – December 8**

Envelopes (244).....	\$10,709.00
Loose .....	\$ 2,068.82
Total .....	\$12,777.82

**PARISH NEWS**

**ADVENT – 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the “Shepherd’s Candle,” and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and reminds us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.



**THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU – DECEMBER 19, 2019 6pm**

An evening of Reconciliation and Solemn Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after the 5:30 p.m. Mass at 6pm on Thursday, December 19th. Come and experience Christ’s healing love.



**MASS SCHEDULE – CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S**

<b>CHRISTMAS EVE -</b>	Tuesday, Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup> , 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY -</b>	Wednesday, Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup> , 12:00 am Midnight 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
<b>NEW YEAR'S EVE -</b>	Tuesday, December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 4:00 p.m. Vigil,
<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY -</b>	Wednesday, January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

**HELP NEEDED**

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES – TAX PREPARATION**

Catholic Charities is in bad need of volunteers to help with income tax preparation of simple tax returns on easy to operate computer tax preparation software. Training will be provided. Our tax site is located on the second floor of the Terrebonne Main Library in Houma and operates every Tuesday from 9am – 3pm beginning February 4, 2020 and ending April 14, 2020. If you can help, please call Jennifer Gaudet at 985-876-0490.



**BOX TOPS AND COMMUNITY COFFEE**

St. Francis de Sales School is collecting Box Tops and Community Coffee proof of purchase labels. Please drop them in the box located in the vestibule, by the church office, mail them to the church office, or send them with your child to school. Look for these labels:



**MINISTERS SCHEDULE**  
**Weekend of DECEMBER 21-22, 2019**

- Commentators**
- 4:00 PM Carlise Jukes
  - 7:00 AM Evelyn Ruckstuhl
  - 9:00 AM Ernie Perry
  - 11:00 AM Wendy LeBouef
  - 5:30 PM Anne Bates

- Lectors**
- 4:00 PM Tommy Chauvin
  - 7:00 AM Mindy Scott
  - 9:00 AM Jerome Zeringue
  - 11:00 AM Jenni McNabb
  - 5:30 PM Bubba Watkins

- Ministers of the Eucharist**
- 4:00 PM Melva Fournier, Jude Fanguy, Yvonne Fanguy, Judith Archila, Mary Ann Rodrigue
  - 7:00 AM Paul Labat, Gail LeCompte, Carla Excinius, Mark Spence
  - 9:00 AM Dale Norred, Holly Champagne, Michael Boudreaux, Colleen Lewis, Nellie Chemin
  - 11:00 AM Carol Domangue, Michael D'Angelo, Dianna Olivier, Gail Guilliot, Bill Blanchard, Ellen Blanchard
  - 5:30 PM Mike Amico, Adam Saal, Randy Bethancourt, Patricia Whipple, Margaret Monterio, Gia Holekamp

- Altar Servers**
- 4:00 PM Marley Johnson, Misha Johnson, Elise Ledet
  - 7:00 AM Logan Arnold, Chloe Arnold, Heidi Hayes
  - 9:00 AM Jordan Champagne, Grace Champagne, Madison Henry
  - 11:00 AM Remi LeBouef, Renea LeBouef, Bailey Hebert
  - 5:30 PM Alexander Amico, Isabella Amico, Olivia Amico



Oops – sorry for the delay in getting this out:



**CATHOLIC KORNER**

Last week we learned that the **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.



This week we discuss the Upcoming Feast Days.

**December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord**

The Church celebrates the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the second Person of the Most Holy Trinity made man, Who taking flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit, was born nine months later in a stable in Bethlehem as predicted in the Scriptures: “And Thou, Bethlehem Ephrata, art a little one among the thousands of Juda: out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be the ruler in Israel: and his going forth is from the beginning, from the days of eternity” (Micah, 5:2). The Gospels of St. Luke and St. Mathew cover the marvelous story.

**December 29 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph**  
Pope Saint John Paul II reflects on the Holy Family as follows: “The family of Nazareth, which the Church, especially in today’s liturgy, puts before the eyes of all families, really constitutes that culminating point of reference for the holiness of every human family. The history of this Family is described very concisely in the pages of the Gospel. We get to know only a few events in its life. However what we learn is sufficient to be able to involve the fundamental moments in the life of every family, and to show that dimension, to which all men who live a family life are called: fathers, mothers, parents, children, The Gospel shows us, very clearly, the educative aspect of the family. ‘He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them’ (Lk 2:51).”

Find out more next week when we talk about the Virtues.

Do you have a particular question you want answered? Send in your questions to [rvowell@htdiocese.org](mailto:rvowell@htdiocese.org) to have answered here!

**DECEMBER 2019 MASS INTENTIONS**  
**In Memory/In Honor**

December 14, 2019  
Sat. 4pm  
Robert Acosta



**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA AND DÉCOR**

If you would like to donate. We will publish the names of all our donors in a special bulletin insert after the New Year.

Please make check payable to “St. Francis.”  
You can mail this form with your check to the Cathedral of St. Francis de Sales, P.O. Box 4014, Houma, LA 70361 OR drop it in the collection.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
Donated In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
Enclosed: [ ] Check [ ] Cash TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**LEGION PARK CHRISTMAS PROJECT  
– DUE DECEMBER 14/15, 2019**

Christmas gift bags filled to the brim are rapidly flowing in for the children at Legion Park! If you would like to help organize, we will be gathering in the convent on Thursday, December 12, at 9:00 AM to organize the bags, stuff with tissue, and tie tulle ribbon bows on them! We will also gather on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM to finish with the remainder of the bags. If you can help with the preparation, or delivery, which will be on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM, please call Cathy in the rectory office.

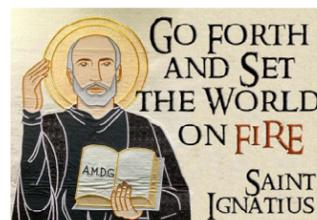
All gift bags are due back the weekend of December 14/15<sup>th</sup> - and can be dropped off in the vestibule of the church at whatever Mass you attend or you can also deliver them to the rectory.

Thank you to all for your quick response in taking these bags! The staff at Legion is beyond grateful for the love and care that our parish sends in these gifts and for all we do for the children!!

**LORD, TEACH ME TO PRAY**

**A Spiritual Journey with St. Ignatius of Loyola**

Lord, Teach Me to Pray is a three-part Ignatian prayer series developed to meet the desire for on-going spiritual growth; for an appropriate response to the call to holiness; and for a deeper commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord. In facilitated faith-sharing prayer communities, the Lord, himself, teaches us to pray.



Here at St. Francis de Sales we have hosted several women's groups thus far and hope to begin a men's group soon.

On Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, St. Pius X Parish will host a Facilitator Training-Retreat for the "Lord Teach Me To Pray" prayer series. There is no charge. It will be conducted in a retreat setting and discernment atmosphere. Come and discern if God is calling you to become a facilitator! For more information or to register contact Cathy in the rectory at 876-6904 or visit their website at [www.lordteachmetoprayer.com](http://www.lordteachmetoprayer.com).

**SAVE THE CONVENT – SHARE THE VISION**

It is not too late to help Save the Convent! So far we have collected a total of \$65,960.80, which leaves us with \$134,039.20 to raise to replace the roof, the downstairs air conditioners, and doors in the convent. Please share the vision and help us get rid of Fr. Mayhem and Save the Convent!

**THE TIE-IN – ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that the good news can be seen, touched felt and heard through the lives of God's people. We are now charged to take up the ministry of Jesus's, but we cannot just ask people to take our word for it; our actions must speak for us.

**Since Christmas is a time of love and gift giving, please share in Jesus ministry by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who are poor can know the good news of Jesus.**

*If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call 985-872-2520. After the beep, clearly state your name, phone number, address, and nature of the request. One of our volunteers will call you back to arrange an appointment interview (caller id will not display the number).*

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY  
OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES  
– BUCKETS**

**The next bucket collection is the weekend of December 28 and 29.** Please be generous so that we can continue to help those in need. For more information about how you may individually assist or if you would like to join the St. Vincent de Paul Society, please contact Murke Trahan at 985.217.0593. Thank you for your generosity in advance. You can also donate online - Choose the St. Vincent de Paul fund.

Look for this button on our church website.

<http://www.stfrancisdesaleshouma.org/on-line-giving.html>



**MOVIE NIGHT - RESTLESS HEART**

Filmed in Europe, this first full-length feature movie on Augustine uses a historic backdrop to tell the true story of one of the Church's most beloved and well-known saints. Its message of sin, conversion, and redemption is as timely today as it was in the fifth century. It is the story of a gifted man who pursues fame and fortune without a moral compass—and the dramatic changes that occur in his soul when challenging events lead him to see the light of truth. It also chronicles the collapse of the Roman world and how Augustine laid the intellectual foundations of what would later become Europe. Alongside Augustine, the stories of two other great saints, Monica and Ambrose, are also portrayed.

This movie is not rated, but was created with an adult audience in mind. It may contain intense scenes indicative of the life and times of the saint or character portrayed. We would recommend Parental Guidance and that parents preview it before watching with children.

**FORMED** Find this and more on FORMED.

To sign up go to: go to our church website, <http://www.stfrancisdesaleshouma.org/>, click on FORMED, click on Register Now, enter the requested information including email and password (that you will create).

FORMED also has an app for Apple or Android mobile devices! Go to the App Store or the Google Play store to download the FORMED App.

**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS – CHRISTMAS SOCIAL  
- DECEMBER 16, 2019**

Catholic Daughters will have their Christmas Social at 6 pm at the Convent. All members are invited to attend.

**ANNA'S ALLIES - DECEMBER 18, 2019**

**"She never left the temple, but worshipped night and day with fasting and prayer." Luke 2:37**

Anna's Allies will meet at 11:00 AM on the third Wednesday of each month; our next rosary will be held on Wednesday, December 18, in the Cathedral. We will be offering the rosary for the sick and dying of the parish and those on the prayer list in our bulletin. This ministry is open to all, men and women! If you are interested in praying with us - simply come and join us in the Cathedral!

**LOUISIANA LIFE MARCH  
BATON ROUGE – JANUARY 25, 2020**

Join Terrebonne-Lafourche Right to Life at the Louisiana Life March in Baton Rouge in January 25, 2020. Buses will be available for \$15.00 (reserved seating required by 12/31/2019). Departure at 7:30am from Vandebilt High School. Bring your bag lunch, water, etc. For more information call Joan Williams@985-804-3390 or Lavern Scott@985-851-baby(2229) or email [rtl6041@yahoo.com](mailto:rtl6041@yahoo.com).

**MASS INTENTIONS – ALTAR FLOWERS  
SANCTUARY/CHAPEL CANDLES - 2020**

New forms for Mass Intentions, Altar Flowers, and Candles are now available online and at the Church exits. These forms allow you to plan for the year. The Mass Intentions Form is on one side and the Altar Flowers and Candles are on the other. Look for the purple forms.

**YOUTH NEWS**

**FIRST RECONCILIATION - FIRST COMMUNION**

Sacramental Information Packets for Sacramental Prep have been mailed out to candidates. If you have not received a packet and you feel your child is eligible, please call Mrs. Jane Lirette 856-5488. Any parishioner that has a child in 2nd grade preparing for First Communion and First Reconciliation must return a completed registration form, copy of baptism certificate, and \$30.00 fee, no later than Sunday, January 12, 2020.

There will be a mandatory meeting Wednesday, January 15, 2020 in the Youth Center at 6:30 p.m. We expect one parent to attend, but sincerely hope that both will attend this meeting.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**LIVE NATIVITY – DECEMBER 17, 2019, 6-8:30PM**

A live Nativity is sponsored by Maria Immacolata Catholic School – located at 324 Estate Drive, Houma - Drive through only – on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 from 6pm until 8:30pm. Event is free. All are welcome!

**MASS, HEALING SERVICE,  
ANNUAL ANOINTING OF THE SICK WITH BISHOP FABRE  
DECEMBER 19, 2019 - ST. ANDREW**

6:30pm - Praying of the Holy Rosary; 7:00pm - Holy Mass and Services; Music by Teddy; St. Andrew Catholic Church, 833 Julia Street, Amelia, LA; For more information - 985-631-2333; 985-232-2229

**PILGRIMAGE TO LEBANON – JUNE 1-10, 2020**

Come to what God calls His Sanctuary – Lebanon - with Father Paul Bergeron and Charbel Achkar. Visit the Cedars of Lebanon and Tyre, Sidon, and Cana, as well as many other places. To register or get more information, call Fr. Paul Bergeron at 985-856-7709 or Yvonne Lottinger at 985-873-8355.

**PILGRIM'S WAY - WALKING IN HIS FOOTSTEPS!**

Looking for a Great Christmas Gift for Family, Friend, or Even Yourself We have Three Pilgrimages Planned with Three Great Priests.

- ★ Walking the Footsteps of Jesus In The Holy Land of Israel With Fr. Sidney Speaks May 26-June 6
- ★ Follow the Path of St. Paul through The Seven Cities of the Book of Revelation and Other Sites in Turkey and Greece With Fr. Beau Charbonnet June 12-25
- ★ Enjoy the Beauty and the People of The Emerald Isle With Msgr. Harry Bugler in His Homeland of Ireland July 6-17

Fr. Harry is Hosting a Meeting for People Interested in the Pilgrimage Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM at St. Philip Neri Parish 6500 Kawanee St., Metairie, LA. Contact Jerry Martinez (504) 559-4495 or [PilgrimsWayUSA@aol.com](mailto:PilgrimsWayUSA@aol.com) if interested.



**The Archdiocese of New Orleans Retreat Center**

(5500 St. Mary St, Metairie, LA) has the following upcoming offerings:

- January 10-12** – Becoming a Disciple of Jesus of Nazareth – Rev. Glenn LeCompte
- January 17-19** – Finding God in the Now! Everyday Experience – Rev. Jim Sichko
- January 24-26** – Living the Virtue of Hope – Rev. Joe Krafft
- January 28** – Day of Prayer: Falling in Love with Prayer – Rev. Ken Smith
- February 5** – Afternoon of Prayer in Baton Rouge – Rev. Simeon Gallagher
- January 28** – Day of Prayer: Hearts Ablaze with the Fire of God's Love – Noel Delery

To Sign up – 504-267-9604 or [neworleansretreats.org](http://neworleansretreats.org)

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING:**

**Life and Dignity of the Human Person**

Every human being is created in the image of God and redeemed by Jesus Christ, and therefore is invaluable and worthy of respect as a member of the human family.

When John the Baptist sent his disciples to Jesus, they may have been experiencing some discouragement since John is in jail. They may have been wondering: Is there any hope? Are God's promises really to be fulfilled? Can we expect something new? Believers in all times and places can be challenged by discouragement. We, too, can be tempted to lose hope. Maybe we are thinking of the persistence of poverty and injustice around our world. Maybe we are thinking of the various people who are denied basic human rights. The transformation and peace that we long for still seem to be missing.

However, Isaiah reminds us that it is precisely the desert that will rejoice and bloom. "Be strong, fear not!" James calls the community to "patience." Don't give up the vision! Jesus reminds the disciples of John not to miss the signs of God's spirit. Signs of power and the outward trappings of success are not what they should look for. They are called to see that "the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." We, too, are called to look for a transformation of values and life. We are called to enter into a new way of looking at things. Our faith calls us into action filled with hope.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**ADORATION CAN BRING PEACE DURING ADVENT**

The Catechism of the Catholic Church notes that the act of adoring God helps people focus on what is important. "To adore God is to praise and exalt him and to humble oneself, as Mary did in the Magnificat, confessing with gratitude that he has done great things and holy is his name," the catechism states. "The worship of the one God sets man free from turning in on himself, from the slavery of sin and the idolatry of the world."

St. Francis' Adoration Chapel current hours are 7am-6pm daily (Key fobs allow 24 hours access). All are welcome to come by and spend a few minutes with our Lord.

- Sunday** – Donna Lapeyre – Home: 225-937-1861 - [donnalapeyre@yahoo.com](mailto:donnalapeyre@yahoo.com)
- Monday** – Candy Archila – Home: 985-868-1792 – [jarchila@bellsouth.net](mailto:jarchila@bellsouth.net)
- Tuesday** – Therese Oubre – Home: 985-226-2252 - Mobile: 225-329-6757 – [tsoubre@att.net](mailto:tsoubre@att.net)
- Wednesday** – Melanie – Mobile: 985-709-3754 - [mbabin1@comcast.net](mailto:mbabin1@comcast.net)
- Thursday** – Melva Fournier – Home: 985-873-7593 – Mobile: 985-226-7800 - [melfour816@gmail.com](mailto:melfour816@gmail.com)
- Friday** – Ana Vice – Mobile: 985-852-8110 – [abvice1@gmail.com](mailto:abvice1@gmail.com)
- Saturday** – Sue LeBlanc – Home: 985-879-2866 – Mobile: 985-688-9044 - [leblancsss@yahoo.com](mailto:leblancsss@yahoo.com)

General Information:  
Paul Maclean – Mobile: 985-856-5345 – [macleanland@bellsouth.net](mailto:macleanland@bellsouth.net)

**MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS**

**MY BROTHER'S KEEPER**

Members of this group put food bags together to serve the homeless at the Bunkhouse and those who come to the Church Office requesting food including items such as, vienna sausages, crackers, water, fruit, granola bar, etc. So far, with the help of the parish, members have provided over 145 bags of food and over 30 Christmas gift bags for those at the Bunkhouse including items such as, gloves, hat, socks, and toiletries. If you are interested in helping or joining please contact the Church Office at 985-876-6904 or [rvowell@hdiocese.org](mailto:rvowell@hdiocese.org)