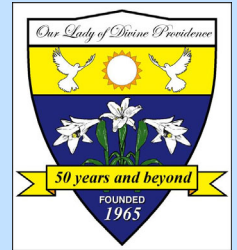




**Our Lady of Divine Providence
Roman Catholic Church**

8617 W. Metairie Ave., Metairie, LA 70003

Church Office: 1000 N. Starrett Road, Metairie, LA 70003





OLDP Update

Christmas has arrived with our celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord marking the beginning of the Christmas Season for the Faithful and the end of Christmas for the secular world. All the more reason for us to continue to hold our world and its people in prayer, that they will recognize that Christmas is not a single day preceded by a shopping season. It is a Season where we start by remembering the birth of Jesus, our savior, and continues until we remember his baptism as an adult by John the Baptist.

This weekend at our Christmas celebrations many people, who are visiting loved ones in our area, will return to be with us, and we need to show them the greatest hospitality and welcome them and make them feel at home, just as Jesus would.

Many others who have not been to Church in a while, or who were away because of Covid, will also be rejoining us, at this time of year, and we need to also do everything possible to make them feel welcome and appreciated too.

While our Church building still looks terrible, thanks to Hurricane Ida and the slow progress of Insurance and Fema, which many of our visitors might be dealing with as well, the Church is more than just a building. We, the people of God, are the Church. It is our responsibility to be the face of Jesus to all who come here and that starts with a smile and a welcoming attitude.

Thanks to Covid and Hurricane Ida, our attendance at Mass is still half of what it was. If we are ever to grow again it will depend on how we treat those who come and whether we are willing to invite others as well. There are many other Churches, in the immediate area, where they could go but the fact that they come here at all says something about us. If we want them to come back we need to show our gratitude that they are here and extend our hospitality to them, just as Jesus would. Frankly, if our Church is to survive the next few years we will need to grow and that starts with making those who visit us at certain times of the year to feel welcome enough to come on a regular basis and to make Our Lady of Divine Providence their home Church Parish.

It would also help our Church Parish to stay open if more of our "Roaming" Catholics, would settle down here. Those who like to attend a different Church each week end up hurting each of those Churches, since they all need a stable base of parishioners to survive, a base that contributes with their time, talent, and treasure on a regular basis.

Hopefully, the new year, 2023, will see our Church begin to be a place that can regain its vitality and start growing again, but that starts with each of us making a commitment to invite someone and then welcoming those who come and sharing the good news that Jesus loves them and so do we.

Merry Christmas everyone!

God bless you,
Fr. Mike



This Week in Our Parish**SUNDAY, December 25**

- Christmas Day
- Masses, 8:00 am., 10:00 am., 12 noon, in Church - NO 6:00pm Mass

MONDAY, December 26

- 9:00 am. Mass, in Church
- **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**
- Come, Lord Jesus 7:00 pm., St. Law. Rm.

TUESDAY, December 27

- 9:00 am. Mass, in Church
- Bread of Life, Come Lord Jesus, Noon, Kitty Klaus, Zoom

WEDNESDAY, December 28

- 10:00 am Clay, Come Lord Jesus in Providence Hall
- Emmaus, Come, Lord Jesus, 10:00 am., Cuccia Center

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 9:00 am. Mass, Church

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

- 9:00 am. Mass, Church

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

- 3:00 pm Reconciliation
- 4:00 pm. Vigil Mass, Church
- 6:00 pm Vigil Mass, (Spanish) Church

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

- NEW YEAR'S DAY
- Masses, 8:00 am, 10:00 am, Noon, 6:00pm, Church

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS**Saturday December 24**

- 4:00 p.m.** Theresa Barnes, Sr. Enda Byrne, Musette Barroquere, Linda Lemoine Peter Garcia, Jr., Mary & Irwin, Eddie Rodriguez
Intentions of Helen Byrne
Intentions of Kathleen Susie Byrne
Intentions of Tanya Thomassie Brett & Hymel Families
- 6:00 p.m.** Tommy Baroni, Mary Callen, Brian Folse, Michael Golden, Kenny Margavio, Ward McClendon Jack & Claire O'Flynn, Eurilda & Edward O'Rourke, Sr. Shirley Gervais Ory
- Midnight** Lynn Harrison, Michelle Mahne Laux Edward L. Mahne, Sr. Jerry McGuinness, Earl Pelitire, Doris & Lee Mills Kevin E. Russell. Michael Pritchett, II Wallace & Belinda Reither

Sunday December 25

- 8:00 a.m.** Marilyn Celeste Ebert Mary Irene Freeman, Marilyn Goretti Guidry, Muriel "Mimi" Habeny Martin Francis, Trini Munguia Murl Cabrini Shields, Int. of Kathleen Susie Byrne
- 10:00 a.m.** Fr. Francis Berner, Felix G. Fischer, Jr. Edward "E.J." Grandeury Anthony J. LaPorte, Paul Melancon Harold & Alice Millet Shirley Gervais Ory The Shannon Family, Int. of Jennifer, Lena & Luke Simon
- 12:00 p.m.** FOR ALL PARISHIONERS



WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS (continued)

Monday December 26
9:00 a.m. FOR ALL PARISHIONERS

Tuesday December 27
9:00 a.m. For the Intentions of Our Pastor

Wednesday December 28
9:00 a.m. Shirley Gervais Ory

Thursday December 29
9:00 a.m. Theresa G. Barnes
 Victor LeMay

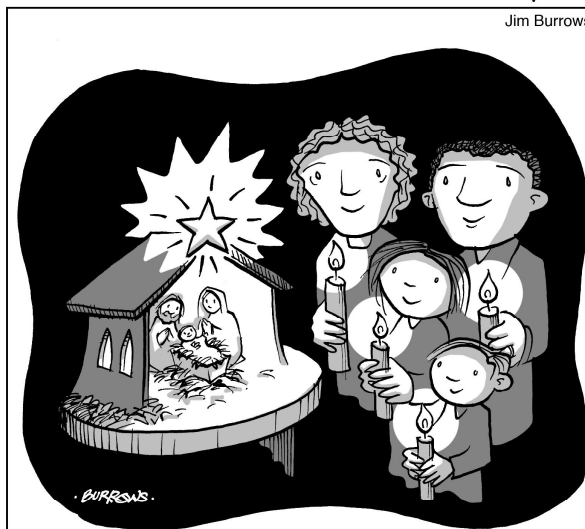
Friday December 30
9:00 a.m. FOR ALL PARISHIONERS



The Little Ones

Los Más Pequeños

Jim Burrows



The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
 upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. Is 9:1

El pueblo que andaba en tinieblas ha visto gran luz;
 a los que habitaban en tierra de sombra de muerte,
 la luz ha resplandecido sobre ellos. Is 9:1

© J. S. Palush Co., Inc.

Scripture from the New American Bible, rev. ed. © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970, C.T.D. Used with permission. Scripture from La Biblia de las Américas © 1986, 1995, 1997, The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

A Christmas Reminder

The Coming of the Light

... Christmas celebrates the dawn of the Light of the World. The powers of darkness are overcome by his coming to share our life. The long reign of sin is ended and grace has been poured out upon the earth. The Sun of Justice has arisen, and evil is vanquished."

Perhaps the hardest thing to remember about Christmas is this. "It celebrates the incarnation, not just the nativity. The incarnation is an on-going process of salvation, while the nativity is the once-for-all-historical event of Bethlehem. We do not really celebrate Christ's 'birthday,' remembering something that happened long ago. We celebrate the stupendous fact of the incarnation, God entering our world so thoroughly that nothing has been the same since. And God continues to take flesh in our midst, in the men and women and children who form his body today. And the birth we celebrate is not just the past historical event but Christ's continuing birth in his members, accomplished by the power of the Spirit through the waters of baptism.

"... What we celebrate is our redemption in Christ and the transformation of all creation by the presence of the divine in our midst."

(taken from www.appleseeds.org)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"He who has not Christmas in his heart
 will never find it under a tree."

— Roy L. Smith



The Sanctuary Candle burns this
 week in memory of
Trini Munguia

The Nativity of the Lord: Christmas

HERALD OF GLAD TIDINGS

To help understand the richness of the Christ-event, the Church looks to the Hebrew scriptures. One of the great passages that Christians turn to for insight about the role of the Messiah is found in Second Isaiah. Chapter 52, written during the Babylonian Exile in the sixth century B.C., tells about a messenger who brings glad tidings. He proclaims peace, brings good news, announces salvation, and says to Zion: "Your God is King" (Isaiah 52:7). For the captives in Babylon this message held out hope for returning to their home country, the land of Judah. That hope was indeed fulfilled just as Isaiah foretold when the Jews were allowed to return. But centuries later, Christians reading the same passage heard in Isaiah's proclamation a description of the role of Jesus. For truly he was a messenger of glad tidings; he brought the good news of the gospel, announcing a day of salvation.

THE LIGHT SHINES IN DARKNESS

To the early Christians Jesus was God's messenger. As the Gospel of John explains, he was God's Word who became flesh and made his dwelling among us. As one living among us he taught us God's way. Indeed he was a light shining in darkness, a herald of whom Christians would say, in the words of Isaiah, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings" (Isaiah 52:7).

Still, some did not accept him. Their hearts were hardened, unwilling to acknowledge that God could act through this humble, unassuming person. For "[h]e came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him" (John 1:11). But "to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God" (John 1:12). In these words from the beginning of John's Gospel echoes one of the early Christians' most profound realizations: God's love for all people is so great that all are intended to be God's children, not servants or slaves, not distant participants in creation, but tied by the closest of bonds—children of a loving God.

Jesus announced the glad tidings of God's love for all, and Jesus taught that there are no obstacles for those who wish to be God's children. No power on earth, not even evil, sin, or death, can separate God's children from their loving Creator. Let us rejoice at the coming of God's messenger. Let us rejoice in the glad tidings he announced. Let us give thanks for the light who came into our world and continues to shine in the darkness.

Copyright © 2006, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

La Natividad del Señor: Navidad

HERALDO DE LA BUENA NUEVA

La Iglesia encuentra en las Escrituras hebreas una ayuda para dar a entender la riqueza de la encarnación de Cristo. Uno de los grandes pasajes a los cuales se dirigen los cristianos para llegar a comprender el papel del Mesías se encuentra en el Segundo Isaías. El capítulo 52, escrito durante el exilio babilónico en el siglo sexto a.C., habla acerca de un mensajero que trae buenas noticias. Este mensajero proclama la paz, trae buenas noticias, anuncia la salvación y le dice a Sión: "¡Tu Dios es rey!" (Isaías 52:7). Para los cautivos en Babilonia este mensaje les traía la esperanza de regresar a su país natal, la tierra de Judá. En efecto, esta esperanza se cumplió, tal como lo había predicho Isaías, cuando se le permitió regresar a los judíos. Pero siglos más tarde, los cristianos que leían este mismo pasaje escucharon en la proclamación de Isaías una descripción del papel de Jesús, ya que éste fue verdaderamente un mensajero de buenas noticias. Trajo la buena noticia del evangelio, anunciando el día de la salvación.

LA LUZ BRILLA EN LAS TINIEBLAS

Para los primeros cristianos, Jesús era el mensajero de Dios. Tal como lo explica el evangelio de san Juan, él era la Palabra de Dios, que vino a este mundo y habitó entre nosotros. Y estando entre nosotros nos enseñó el camino de Dios. Él era, en efecto, una luz que brilla en las tinieblas, un heraldo a quien los cristianos se refieren usando las palabras de Isaías: "Qué hermoso es ver correr sobre los montes . . . al mensajero que trae la buena nueva". (Isaías 52:7).

Aun así, algunos no lo aceptaron. Sus corazones estaban endurecidos, renuentes a reconocer que Dios podía actuar por medio de esta persona humilde y sencilla. Y es que él "[v]ino a los suyos y los suyos no lo recibieron; pero a todos los que lo recibieron les concedió poder llegar a ser hijos de Dios" (Juan 1:11-12). En estas palabras del comienzo del evangelio de Juan encontramos un eco de una de las más profundas convicciones de los primeros cristianos: El amor de Dios es tan grande, que todas las personas pueden ser hijos e hijas de Dios, no sirvientes o esclavos, no participantes lejanos en la creación, sino unidos por el vínculo más estrecho—hijos e hijas de un Dios de ternura.

Jesús anunció la buena nueva del amor de Dios para todos, y Jesús enseñó que no hay obstáculos para quienes desean ser hijos e hijas de Dios. No existe poder en la tierra, ni siquiera el mal, el pecado o la muerte, que pueda separar a los hijos e hijas de Dios de su amado Creador. Alegrémonos con la venida del mensajero de Dios. Regocijémonos con la buena nueva que él anunció. Demos gracias por la luz que vino a este mundo y que continúa brillando en las tinieblas.

Copyright © 2006, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

MASS TIMES

FOR Mary, Mother of God



Vigil:
Saturday
December 31, 2022
4:00 pm,
6:00 pm (Español)

Sunday,
January 1, 2023
8:00 am, 10:00 am,
12 Noon, 6:00 pm



On behalf of Fr. Mike, our OLDP Deacons, and our Office Staff we want to wish for you and yours, all the hope and joy that God sends in this most Holy Season. And may the love of The Child and the Holy Family live forever in your hearts.



With compassion and concern we pray for those in need of our prayers:

Abby, Patricia Albano, Myra Alfano,
Healing of Lori Alfano, John Arnold,
Ellen Aucuoio, Leo Benoit, John Bernard,

Mel Borel, Judy Brien, Carolyn Brandt,
Joelle Canova Brignac, Reid Butler, Fr. Ronnie Calkins,
Nancy Campeaux, Beryl Cavanaugh, Jan Coangelo,
Christine Coons, Glenn Cucinello, Emma Davis, Deb,
Rick Dichiaro, Healing of Mary Delaune, Stephanie Demoll,
Cindy Dichiaro, Charlene DiGerolamo, Dave Doll,
Malissa Donato, Sharon Donato, Lynn Drewes,
Joan Dumser, V. Duvery, Kenny Elmer,
Nancy & Dennis Eschmann, Catherine Federer,
Sue Feliciano, Amy Flynn, Maria G., Sophia G., B. Galland,
M. Galland, Sean Garlick, Lee Gervais, Louis Gentry,
Raymond Giovengo, Lisa Goda Anne Godin, C. Greco,
Barbara Groetsch, Rodney Guggenheim, Juanita Guidry,
Ronald Hall, Alan Harris, Candace Harris, J. Harris,
Rosemarie Harris, Wyatt Hawley, Michelle Hinckley, Trudy
Hodges, Melissa Horn, Mary Horn, Don Hoskins,
Ayden Howard, Marcia Jackson, Maria & Elmer Jacob,
Susan Johnson, Lili Jorns, Angelia Kimball,
John Kovesdi, Sr., John Kovesdi, Jr., Brian Kovesdi,
Mary Kovesdi, Gerald Lagarde, Cindy Lauff, M. Lawler,
G. Lawler, Butch LeBeau, Joe LeBeau, Bonnie LeBeau,
Gus & Jeanette LeBlanc, Claire Lambremont, D.L.,
Steve Lemoine, Haily Margavio, Alvin Martinez,
Danielle Marino, Barbara Marullo, Joseph Massa, Les Mc.,
Isabelle McLeod, L. McShan, Tom McPherson, Max,
Victoria Mendoza, Cindy, Maxine Michel, Lisa Miller,
Brian Mills, Kenny Molony, Wade Mongrew,
Christopher Morel, Melissa Moskau, Paulette Motly,
S. Mulroney, Mussa Family, Surigao del Norte,
Joseph Olivio, Michael Olivio, Larry Oubre, Melissa Oubre,
Paulette Oubre, Gustavo Paez, Bowen Parr,
"Bubby" Pellittere, Carly Pierce, Velda Kimberly Potter,
George Pritchard, Michelle Pritchett, Paul Pritchett,
Joann Rainer, Kathy Ramirez, Doris Rappold,
Golden Reese, Patricia Ricci, Charmaine Robiskie,
Diane Rodriguez, Dolores Rousseve, Santo, C. San Marco,
Luca Scocerri, Jackie Sison, David Slatinsky, Brent Smith,
Leonard Sorapuru, Jr., Eric Steen, Janice Stock,
The Taylor Family, Brandy Harrell Thomas,
Cheryl Toujouse, Bill Toujouse, Krista Thomas,
David Vairin, V. Valjarakis, Harold Veith, Jr.,
Jack Villarrubia, Ginny Virgadamo, Candy Volk,
Melissa Wicker, Foster Wimberly, Edward Ross Woods.

TITHES & OFFERINGS

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Envelopes.....\$ 887.00
2nd Collection.....\$ 488.35

Grand Total.....\$ 1,375.35

December 11, 2022

Envelopes.....\$ 6,510.53
On-Line Offering.....\$ 1,749.50
Building & Maintenance.....\$ 1,498.00
Outreach/Pantry.....\$ 297.00

Grand Total.....\$ 10,055.03



FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

If you would like to make a donation for flowers in memory, or in honor of a loved one, please call the Church Office at (504) 466-4511



Prayer line:

Call Joan
(504) 237-5760

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5 – 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:36-40
Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Ps 128:1-5; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21