

Dear Padre  
January 14, 2024

If St. Matthew was an apostle, why do we have Gospels from other writers who were not apostles of Jesus? Since he knew Jesus personally, wouldn’t his Gospel be the definitive one?

There are two assumptions that need to be addressed. One is that the Apostle Matthew is the same as the evangelist Matthew. The book’s title, the Gospel According to Matthew, was added to the text in the second century. Whether it was written by the same Matthew or someone else, it still traces back to the experience of the apostles. The Scriptures are the inspired word of God, and Christians can rely on the truth of the Gospel message through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The other assumption is that one Gospel is somehow more “definitive.” All four Gospels are the inspired word of God. A Gospel is not a history of the life of Christ. It is a collection of stories that each evangelist arranged in a specific way so that they would make sense to a particular audience. For the Gospel of Matthew, the audience was predominantly Jewish, but these Jewish Christians were being excluded from mainstream Judaism and perhaps were wondering among themselves if Jesus was really the Messiah for whom they had waited so long. Matthew’s Gospel asserts repeatedly that Jesus is a true Israelite who fulfills Old Testament prophecies, while also reinterpreting the Law of Moses in a new direction that includes all nations.

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OC CORNER

In observance of the Martin Luther King holiday, there will be no school for students and staff on Monday. A “baby supply drive” sponsored by the BETA and NHS clubs begins this week to benefit the Opelousas Pregnancy Center. A Pro-Life Mass will be held on Friday at 9:25 am. It is “Raising Cane’s Night” this Wednesday from 3 pm to 8 pm. Mention Opelousas Catholic, and they will donate a percentage of the purchase to OCS. Congratulations to 17 juniors and seniors in the Dual Enrollment program who completed a total of 81 hours of college credit this fall with Northwestern State University with 26 grades of A and 1 of B! Administration announces that “new” student applications are now open by going to the school website at [www.OCSvikings.com](http://www.OCSvikings.com). Approval of new students must take place before enrollment. OCS hopes to welcome many new students to the school family!

WEEKLY PRAYER FOR PRIESTS EACH DAY

Eternal Father, we lift up to You these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them, heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness of Your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to You in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen. Sunday: Very Rev. William Blanda, VF; Monday: Rev. Howard Blessing; Tuesday: Very Rev. Kevin Bordelon, JCL; Wednesday: Rev. Marshall Boulet; Thursday: Rev. John Joseph Bourque, CSJ; Friday: Rev. Millard Boyer; Saturday: Rev. James Bradley, SJ.

HOLY FATHER’S JANUARY PRAYER INTENTION

For the gift of diversity in the Church. We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

CALLING ALL CATHOLIC MEN

The Knights of Columbus Council 11270 is looking to increase their membership. If you are interested, please contact [kofc.org](http://kofc.org) for information about this wonderful Catholic organization of men of service and fellowship.

LAST PEWS IN CHURCH

Please kindly remember the last pews in the Church on all sides are for the handicapped. Please be considerate and allow those who are handicapped to sit first. Many thanks.

PRO LIFE QUOTE

“The right to life is not a woman’s issue. The Lord is the giver of life and only He can make choices about life. It is always a reward to have life...only the Lord gives and takes life.”  
Margaret Heckler, former Secretary of Health, Welfare and Education

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BAPTISM

Parents of this parish who wish to have their children baptized should contact Deacon Bill Pollingue at the church office at 337-942-5628 to make an appointment.

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Spend a weekend away from the cares and distractions of everyday living. Attend a **Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend**. The weekend is open to any engaged couple wanting to prepare for a deeper more meaningful life together in a marriage recognized by the Catholic Church according to its Church law. Upcoming weekend dates are **Jan. 26-28, 2024; April 26-28, 2024; Sept.13-15, 2024**. For cost of weekend, other dates, and to learn more, visit our website at [www.ceelafayette.org](http://www.ceelafayette.org) or contact **Tom & Geraldine Rizzuto** at (337)984-7954.

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR OUR LOCAL SEMINARIANS

Tré Fontenot - Ville Platte  
Let us also pray for Michael Darbonne (Br. Andre Marie) from Washington who is studying to become a Brother.  
Extra prayer cards are in the back of church  
**St. John Vianney, Patron of Priests, pray for us and all our priests.**

VOCATION CHALICE FAMILIES FOR JANUARY 2024

Jan. 21-27, 2024 — Mia and Rusty Jesclard  
Jan. 28-Feb. 3, 2024 — Cynthia Jordan  
Thank you for your commitment!



OUR STEWARDSHIP TO GOD

Offertory .....\$14,875.00  
BSA .....\$0.00  
Opelousas Catholic .....\$1,167.00  
**Please know the Pastor is most grateful for your stewardship!**  
**“Everything we have and give comes from God.” (1 Corinthians 29:11-17)**

READERS

**Jan. 20 ..... 4:00 p.m.** J.P. Griffin  
**Jan. 21 .....7:00 a.m.** Stephen Woods  
**8:30 a.m.** James Doherty  
**10:30 a.m.** Paula Carriere  
**5:15 p.m.** William Jarrell

ALTAR SOCIETY

**Jan. 20 .....** Peggy Crow  
**Linens .....** Flo Pierrottie

ACTIVITIES

**Mon., Jan 15.....** MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY  
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
**Tues., Jan. 16 ..... 1:00 p.m.** CHURCH OFFICE OPENS  
**5:00 p.m.** OCIA – Conference Room  
**Wed., Jan. 17 ..... 4:30 p.m.** PRO LIFE ROSARY continues

MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY

The Church Office will be closed Monday for the Martin Luther King Holiday. The office will reopen on Tuesday at 1:00PM. We wish you all a safe holiday.

NO CCD CLASSES

There will be no CCD classes until Monday, January 22nd. At that time all Catholic school First Communion students report for class.

OCIA CLASSES

OCIA class will be held on Tuesday at 5:00PM in the Conference Room.

PRO-LIFE ROSARY CONTINUES

The Pro-Life Rosary will be recited on Wednesday at 4:30PM.

ADORATION CHAPEL

The Adoration Chapel is open from 7AM - 6PM Monday through Saturday. If you would like to commit to an hour of adoration, please contact Deacon Jerome Collins @ 337-781-7185 or Claire Robichaux @ 337-305-6118.

CENACLE FOR PRIESTS

Would you like to become a participating member of your Church, but you feel like you just don’t have the time? Please consider joining a “Cenacle for Priests”. The Cenacle group meets to pray for priests. It will take about an hour of your day every 6 weeks (the group can meet at your home or another location). You can join a group or start your own. For more information contact Judi Lucito or any Cenacle member. Contact information can be found at your parish office.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

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942 Creswell Lane  
Opelousas, LA 70570

MASSES

**Sat., Jan. 13..... 4:00 p.m.** Joshua Peck, Jesse & Annie Leger, Jesse, Jr., Harry, Scott & Angela Smith, Lynwood Hidalgo, M/M Felix Hidalgo, Jr., M/M Vincent Guidry Fly., Charles F. & Mercedes Going and family, The William & Dorothy Hatch Family, Fr. Joseph O. Breaux, Fr. Joseph C. Deluca, Georgia McClain, Albert Speyrer & Irma Speyrer, Peyton Cornette, J.C. & Bernice Diesi, Eldon & Sue Cornette, Cyril Diesi, Albert Hollier, Philip & Isaure Boudreaux, Rachel Hollier, Florence Domingue, Angelo & Julia Palazzo, Arthur & Celima Hollier, Raymond Couvillion, Gail Phillips, Ralph Marks, Marie Marks, Lynn Marks, Gregory Speyrer, Rand Speyrer, Merlin Frederick, Jacqueline James, James "Jim" Lastrapes, Norbert J. Auzenne, M/M Felix B. Fontenot, M/M Octave Auzenne, M/M Stanley Abbott, Aubrey Fontenot, Bryant A. Charles, Wilbur & Alice Reed & Wilbur Reed, Jr., Anita Durio & Myrtle Gibson, Raleigh Vige, Jr., Dallas Barron, Jr., M/M George Going, Sr., M/M William Reed, Ed Lastrapes, Lebon Simoneaux  
**Sun., Jan. 14..... 7:00 a.m.** Hilman Theriot, M/M James Hunt & M/M Leopold Thibodeaux Families, Dr. Robert Speyrer, Scotty Speyrer  
**8:30 a.m.** Sarah Jarrell, Raymond Beauxis, Keith V. Gile (Anniversary of Death), J.C. Dupre, Clarence, Mary and Sandra Dupre Families, Leroy, Essie & James Lafleur Families, Ramsey Soileau, Ida Ann Arceneaux, Theresa Irma Gradney

**10:30 a.m.** Morgan Adams, & Neva & Raymond Ryder, Lennie Marks, Desiree Prudhomme Richard Larry Prudhomme, Gerrit Paul Ryder & Ryder & Quebedeaux Families, Wayne Reed, Maggie Halphen, Angela Smith Guidry, Georgia McClain, Janelle Savoie, Lester Lalonde, Mildred & J.D. Dupre, Burnel Manuel, Sr., Leopold A., Patricia C. Castille, Tony Chachere, Sr., Patricia K. Chachere, Tony Chachere, Jr., Myrtle & Lloyd Smith, M/M Charles Castille, Gary G. Castille, Jeffery Spring, M/M E.W. Amy, Entire L.A. Castille Family, James "Jim" Lastrapes  
**5:15 p.m.** John B. Mengarelli, Special Intentions of Lisa Hargroder & Gina Labbe, Elaine Dartez  
**Mon., Jan. 15..... 7:00 a.m.** Parishioners of Queen of Angels  
**Tues., Jan. 16 ..... 7:00 a.m.** Louis H. Higginbotham, Lezime J. Leger and Louise H. Leger  
**Wed., Jan. 17 ..... 7:00 a.m.** Frankie Mouton  
**Thurs., Jan. 18..... 7:00 a.m.** Rene Fontenot, Scotty Artigue, Ricky Artigue (Scotty's Anniversary of Death)  
**Fri., Jan. 19..... 7:00 a.m.** Parishioners of Queen of Angels  
**Sat., Jan. 20..... 4:00 p.m.** James "Jim" Lastrapes, Peyton Cornette, J.C. & Bernice Diesi, Eldon & Sue Cornette, Cyril Diesi, Albert Hollier, Philip & Isaure Boudreaux, Rachel Hollier, Florence Domingue, Merlin Frederick, Jacqueline James, Lebon Simoneaux, Georgia McClain, Arthur & Celima Hollier, Charles F. & Mercedes Going and family, The William & Dorothy Hatch Family, Fr. Joseph O. Breaux, Fr. Joseph C. Deluca, Rene Fontenot, Scotty Artigue, Ricky Artigue, Angelo Julia Palazzo, Ed Lastrapes, Maise Soileau (Anniversary of Death), Terry D. Stelly (Anniversary of Death), Beryl O. Sebastien & family, Gail Phillips, Albert Speyrer & Irma Speyrer, Joshua Peck, Jesse & Annie Leger, Jesse, Jr., Ralph Marks, Marie Marks, Lynn Marks, Paula O. Bienvenu, Ena & Elvin Ortego, Robert, Sr., Madeline & Albert Going, Gregory Speyrer, Rand Speyrer, Norbert J. Auzenne, M/M Felix B. Fontenot, M/M Octave Auzenne, M/M Stanley Abbott, Aubrey Fontenot, Bryant A. Charles, Lenora F. Darbonne  
**Sun., Jan. 21 ..... 7:00 a.m.** Connie Deville, Taylor Deville, Lisa Deville, Dr. Robert Speyrer, Scotty Speyrer, M/M James Hunt &M/M Leopold Thibodeaux Families, Merlin Frederick, Jacqueline James  
**8:30 a.m.** Ramsey Soileau, Ida Ann Arceneaux, Theresa Irma Gradney, Raymond Beauxis, Sarah Jarrell  
**10:30 a.m.** Morgan Adams, Wayne Reed, James "Jim" Lastrapes, Mildred & J.D. Dupre, Burnel Manuel, Sr., Eunice, Hilton, Paul Prejean, Georgia McClain, Janelle Savoie, Desiree Prudhomme Richard, Larry Prudhomme, Lester Lalonde, Lennie Marks, Gerrit Paul Ryder & Ryder & Quebedeaux Families, Angela Smith Guidry, Leopold A., Patricia C. Castille, Tony Chachere, Sr., Patricia K. Chachere, Tony Chachere, Jr., Myrtle & Lloyd Smith, M/M Charles Castille, Gary G. Castille, Jeffery Spring, M/M E.W. Amy, Entire L.A. Castille Family  
**5:15 p.m.** Elaine Dartez, Special Intentions of Lisa Hargroder & Gina Labbe, John B. Mengarelli

NEW TO THE PARISH

If you are new in the parish and are not registered in our parish census, we invite you to do so by providing your:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Or come by the office to get acquainted.