



St. Joseph Bulletin

St. Joseph Catholic Church (Established 1848)
1011 First Street, Patterson, LA 70392

Nineteenth Sunday: Relativism and Reality

A number of years ago, I used to meet with every candidate for confirmation and ask them two simple questions. The first was, "What is Pentecost?" and the second was, "What is confirmation?" I thought the questions would be simple for anyone who had spent two years preparing for confirmation. Particularly because their teachers spent a great deal of time in presenting Pentecost and in explaining what confirmation was. Many of the Teens provided the answers that they were taught, but a significant number of them answered the second question by saying, "Well, to me confirmation is...." My immediate response would be, "I am not asking you what you think confirmation is. I am asking you what it is, period."

I suppose that the "To me it is...." answers reflect the effort of educators to lead children to look into themselves to find a relationship between their lives and the world around them. That is acceptable in the area of psychology. It is not acceptable in considering reality. No math teacher wants to know the child's opinion on what the square root of four is. No history teacher wants to hear the child's opinion on who was the general of the confederacy who surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox, and so forth.

Sadly, it seems that when it comes to religion, many people resort to relativism. They decide that they can determine what is a teaching of the Church, or what they feel is moral or immoral. You see this reflected in today's Gospel. In this the third of five weeks on the Sixth Chapter of John, people who have heard Jesus say that He is the bread that has come down from heaven do not want to listen to his teaching. Now this is after they had witnessed his multiplying the loaves and fish. This is after they heard about his walking on the water. This is after they had learned about the great signs Jesus worked in healing people. He had a wonderful teaching for them. He was offering them the gift of His Body and Blood.

But they did not want to hear it. They had decided for themselves who this Jesus was. "To me, the Jesus is just one of us. He can't be giving us a new teaching," they said using the Ad Hominem argument, the attack on the person instead of considering the statement that person made. And so, they refused to hear Jesus explain that their prophets had predicted that they would be taught by God. They would not consider that Jesus' wonders were signs that He had come from the Father. They were not open to hear that those who believed in Him would have eternal life. They scoffed at His declaration that He is the Bread of Life. They did not want to hear that those who eat this bread will live forever. They had decided for themselves what they would believe. As a result, they rejected Jesus, His Teaching, and His Gift of eternal life.

Many people are held captive to what Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI called the Dictatorship of Relativism. They decide for themselves what the truths of our faith are or what they should or should not do to live the Christian life. They may not say those words, but we witness this in people who treat communion as a sacramental instead of as a sacrament. A sacramental is a devotional object or practice to remind us of some aspect of our faith. Signing ourselves with holy water is a sacramental. It reminds us of our baptism. Receiving ashes at the beginning of Lent is a sacramental. This practice reminds us of our dependence on God. Sacramentals are useful, but are totally optional. The Eucharist is not a sacramental. It is a sacrament. It is the real presence of Jesus Christ uniting His Body and Blood to us and presenting us with Him to the Father. Communion is the Bread of Life that we need to eat to have eternal life. Yet, some people will treat communion as a sacramental, an option that may or may not be received. So they say, "To me communion is something I do when I go to Church, but it is not necessary for me to receive communion; so I do not attend Mass every Sunday." People simply relegate the teaching of Jesus Christ as inferior to their own perception of the truths of the faith. They are bound by the dictatorship of relativism.

This also takes place in the Church's teachings on morality. Some people will say, "To me there is nothing wrong with two people who love each other having marital relations outside of marriage even though they are married to other people." They refuse to accept the Church's teaching on fidelity in marriage because it does not fit their own perception of morality.

The "to me this teaching means.....," or "to me this or that is moral or immoral," are the same faulty ways of understanding and living the faith that are reflected in today's Gospel. Simply put, it is not up to us to decide what faith and morality is or is not. It is our obligation to learn what the Church teaches and to follow these dictates. In doing this we are protecting ourselves from the relativism that renders all teaching superfluous, even that teaching which emanates from Christ Himself.

It takes great leap of faith to believe in the Eucharist. It takes courage to be Catholic. We pray today for faith.

Joseph Pellegrino

Parish Directory

**Mailing Address: 1011 First St.
 Patterson, LA 70392**

Email: stjoeat@cox-internet.com

Office / Rectory: 985-395-3616

**Fr. Herb Bennerfield, Pastor ext. 3 ~
 Bobbie Diaz (Office Manager) ext. 4 ~
 Office Fax: 985-395-9129**

**Education Office: 985-395-3881
 Mamie Perry (DRE) ext. 5 ~
 Education Fax: 985-395-3685
 Email: stjoeat@teche.net**

**Websites:
 St. Joseph Church
 www.stjoeatla.org**

**Diocese of Lafayette
 www.diolaf.org**

Celebration of Holy Mass

Weekday
 Monday thru Thursday 11:00am

Weekend
 Saturday 4:30pm
 Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am

Reconciliation
 20 minutes before Masses or
 anytime by appointment.

Rectory Office Hours
 Mon. thru Thur. 9:am to 3pm
 Fri. 9am to 12 noon

Education Office Hour.
 Mon. thru Thur. 9:am to 3pm
 Fri. 9am to 12 noon

New Parishioners
 We welcome you with great joy and
 invite you to register and worship with
 us regularly. Forms are available in the
 rectory.

SACRAMENT INFORMATION

Baptism - Instructions are offered for both parents and godparents during the months of February, May, August, and November. Plan accordingly when expecting a child or choosing godparents and call 395-3881 to register for the class or to schedule a baptism.

Confirmation - Young people are prepared for Confirmation through the Confirmation Program. Adults are prepared for Confirmation through the R.C.I.A.

Matrimony - Diocesan Policy requires that a couple make arrangements with the pastor at least 6 months prior to desired date.

Sacrament of The Sick - Call the rectory to make arrangements for Communion and Anointing.

Rite of Christian Burial - Arrangements to be made with a priest by the family.

Sacrament of Holy Orders or calling to religious life - please contact the priest in order to discern God's will.

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) - This process is structured to provide information for the formation of those who are seeking a fuller life as Christians in the Catholic Tradition. For information, please call the Office of Religious Education.

Religious Education For Children
 Call the Office of Religious Education for information about registering your child.

Knights of Columbus - Meet the second Thurs. of the month at 7pm.

Come Lord Jesus Groups - Seeking to become closer to God, learning more about scripture and being spiritually prepared for Sunday liturgy....consider joining a CLJ Group
 Call Marguerite Sumrall
 395-5304 for more information.



Please keep Evan Hebert in your prayers as he heads back to Seminary!

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, AUG. 9

11:00 A.M. : Curtis Gautreaux Jr, Suzanne Lipari, Frank Guarisco, Irene Mouton, Marshall Gray, Jackie Couture, Frank Cali Sr., Frank Lipari, Chris Costa, Frank Jones, Louis Stuer, Louise Smoorenburg, Laura Johnson, Pam Faul, Lucille Savoie, Jim Kleles, Fr. Jason Mouton, Tommy McGinnis, Lee Michel, David Hartford, Glynn Jumonville Sr, Marta Bran, Edith Grezaffi, Randy Verret, Chad Felterman, Anthony Morella

TUESDAY, AUG. 10

11:00 A.M.: Loving Memory Tree intentions

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 11

11:00 P.M.:

THURSDAY, AUG. 12

11:00 A.M.: Bonnie Comeaux, Lee Michel

FRIDAY, AUG. 13

NO MASS

SATURDAY, AUG. 14

4:30 P.M.: Wilson & Gertrude Bailey, Luke & Virginia Lipari, Frank Guarisco, Donald & Leona Smith, Max Griffin, Graci Andrews, Hal Thomas, Melba & Murray Trahan, M/M Gulley Taylor, Curtis Gautreaux Jr, Sylvia Felterman, Glenn Jumonville Sr

SUNDAY, AUG 15

8:00 A.M.: Elsa Y. Parchmont, John DiMatteo, Gail Smith, Charpentier & Costa Fly., Smoorenburg & Boumans Fly., Curtis Gautreaux Jr., David Hartford, M/M Jake P. Lipari, Grederian & Barcnas fly, Andrew & Lillie Romero, Irene Mouton, Lee Michel, Ben & Pat Scully, M/M Gus Cremaldi, Elaine Cremaldi, Tommy McGinnis, Randy Verret, Chad Felterman

10:30 A.M. : For the People of our Parish (Living & Deceased)

Sanctuary Light

Note: If a name is not printed above, due to human error, be assured that God has accepted your intention in heaven. Canon Law 94

Sick Relatives & Friends

Please pray for the sick of our parish & their caregivers: Stella Saleme, Wilda Cali, Angelle Hebert, Iris Roy, Celeste Jumonville, Jackie Como, Cursey Gordon, Rachel Caprito, Rose Johnson, Robert Johnson, Daisy LeBlanc, Russel Cardinale, Linda Thomas, Bonnes Guidry, Austin Gabourel, Ruth Blocker, Troy Broussard, Ken & Nadine Montgomery, Barbara Johnson, Agatha Wiggins, Ricky & Brenda Lamartiniere, Bud Lange, Joseph Gomez, , Mary Ann Trosclair, Raymond Verret, Don Cordray, Wilbert Drash, Doug & Mamie Perry, Russel Cremaldi, Josie Moncada, Lee Felterman, Alanna Sloane, Wineva Acosta, Mary Sehon, Kerry Montet Jr, Bryce Solar, Dolores Verret, Barbara Guarisco, Kenny Leger, Joann Landry, Diane Singleton, Garnet Acosta, Geraldine Dilly, Jamie Credeur, Heather Bourque, Samantha McGill, Kirsten McGill, Jessica Fariar, Donald Sloan, Susan Murray, Brooke Rhodes, Melanie Lipari, Ronald Berry, Randy Ledet, Jan Fabre, Ray Rentrop, Randal Hoffman, Jacqueline Hebert, Kim Hanks, Rip & Cheryl Verdin

Stewardship Area

“Give to the Most High as He has given to you, for the Lord is one who always repays, and He will give back to you sevenfold.” Sirach 35:10

Last Weekend Offerings \$3787.00
Building & Maintenance \$935.00

Office of Religious Education & Faith Formation

Mamie Perry 395-3881 stjoe@teche.net

CCD Registration

Family registration forms have been mailed out. We welcome students from Kindergarten to 11th grade. If you are a new family and would like to register your child for the upcoming year, forms can be found in the back of the church or by visiting our website stjosephpatla.org .

Early registration has begun!
June-July 31 \$20 per child August 1- \$25 per child
Scholarships provided for those who need it.
Please follow us on social media for updates. We ask returning families to look for information updates on the GroupMe app.

PARENT ORIENTATION
August 25th 6:00 p.m. K-10th grades

Confirmation Family Orientation
Sept. 1, 2021 6:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m.

WHY IS THAT? A question came up this week in regard to the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick— how often can this sacrament be administered? A second question arose as well, “Is this the same sacrament as the “Last Rites?”



Well, these are very useful questions here, especially now with coronavirus seemingly rampant. Anointing of the Sick is probably the most misunderstood sacrament we have. And when we consider that it used to be known as Extreme Unction, it's no wonder so may remain confused about it. The roots for the Anointing of the Sick come from the epistle of the St. James found near the end of the New Testament, in addition to the anointings performed by the Apostles in Mark 6:13. Thus, the emphasis of the sacrament from the beginning was on healing (spiritual, mental, physical) and remained so until the ninth century. Over time that emphasis changed and by the Council of Trent in the 16th century the sacrament was seen primarily as a preparation for death. Fortunately, Vatican II restored this beautiful sacrament to its original purpose and shed the “Extreme Unction” name. Because its purpose is for those who need healing, the sacrament can be received anytime one has a serious illness or is undergoing surgery or is infirm as a consequence of age or intellect. This, of course, would include those near physical death, but not limit it to them. There are additional prayers after the Anointing of the Sick that are for those near physical death—and those could be termed “Last Rites,” but the majority of anointing do not include them. Because the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation is a part of the Anointing of the Sick rite, this sacrament can be ministered only by priests and bishops. Certainly, every Catholic with a serious illness or condition should avail themselves to this source of grace and healing. Witnessing this particular sacrament being administered was one of the things that inspired me to the priesthood. **Anointing of the Sick is truly a blessing for us all and certainly nothing to be feared or avoided.**

St. Joseph is now accepting Bulletin ads. You may purchase an Ad for your business or in memory of someone. Ads are \$20.00 a month or \$240.00 a yr. If you would like to place an Ad in the Bulletin

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| <p><i>Mausoleum Crypts</i> Are still available here at St. Joseph. If interested please call the rectory. 395-3616</p> | <p>JEFF PRESIDENT CARDINALE CARDINAL LUMBER & SUPPLY, INC. 985-395-9580 800 HWY. 90 WEST PATTERSON, LA</p> | <p>Frank's Agency, Inc. Complete insurance Services 985-395-9351 glynnnguarisco@bellsouth.net</p> | |
| <p>TOWN & COUNTRY FLORIST & GIFTS, Owner: Glynda Lasseigne 3515 Hwy 182, Berwick 985/385-6929 www.tandeflorist.com</p> | <p>MORGAN CITY SUPPLY of Louisiana 985/384-3650 6911 Hwy 182 E Morgan City, LA</p> | <p>Knights of Columbus #1710 Protecting Catholic Families for Generations</p> | |
| <p>Member FDIC PATTERSON STATE BANK</p> | | | <p>TWO GRAVE SITES FOR SALE IF INTERESTED PLEASE CALL 985/498-1912</p> |

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| Aug 14 & 15 | Extra Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: | Lectors: | Altar Servers: |
| Sat. 4:30pm | | Alecia Rabalais | Zachary Landry |
| Sun. 8:00am | | Amy Vaccarella | Luke Vaccarella |
| Sun. 10:30am | | Michael Brocato | Parker Brocato |