



Dear sisters and brothers,

We get this comforting idea that if we follow the Messiah, life will somehow be smoother, or at least it will all fit together in some "good" way. Then we run smack into the reality that the only guarantee Jesus made to us is that his followers would most likely have a harder time getting through this life than those who walked away. But we still have these expectations of a "Savior" and when Jesus doesn't meet them, we begin to wonder if he is really who we thought he was.

There are thousands of empty church pews that used to be full of people who believed in Jesus Christ. But then he didn't live up to their expectations and they went home. Their families still fought, they still had some frightening decisions to make, and they still couldn't make ends meet on a budget. They still had their health issues to deal with and tragedies to handle. They began to wonder if they had made a mistake with Jesus.

Maybe that's what happened to John. John said that he had come to baptize with water, and that the one following him would baptize with "fire from heaven."

So where was the fire?

So far there wasn't even smoke.

So far, the Pharisees and Sadducees were still in charge of the faith, and Rome was still in charge of the government. In fact, instead of bringing in the kingdom, Jesus had kept pretty quiet up north while John got himself into hot water with the King then ended up getting arrested and thrown into one of Herod's dungeons on a mountaintop down by the Dead Sea. That might make a person ask some questions. Is this any way for a Messiah to behave?

At least I hope that's what happened with John. If John the Baptist, as high up as he ranked, still had some questions, maybe there is room for me and mine. Maybe there's room for you as well. We ask many times, "Are you the one? Where are you?" But do we dare to hear and see His response? It might now be your time or mine right now but look around you, look and see that the blind see and the lame walk and the deaf hear, the dead have been raised and the poor have the good news preached to them!"

It may not be my time or yours yet, but because of what you see and hear, trust that He is the One for you!

In the Divine Word, I am

*Fr. Rick Andrus, SVD*

**Altar Servers**

- 7:30 a.m. Chelsea Buckley, Garrick Camel, Jr.  
Da'Marquis London
- 10:30 a.m. Angelle Camberos, Jose Camberos,  
Andrea Camberos

**Eucharistic Ministers**

- 7:30 a.m. Audrene LeBlanc, Monique Spaulding,  
Alice Zacharie, Paulette Robertson,  
Joanette Dunn, Perry Chenevert
- 10:30 a.m. Justin Kennedy, Anna Perry,  
Christy Hall, Martha Davis,  
Velita Benjamin, Nancy Ball,  
Barbara Cornell, Paul Stewart


**Readers**

- 7:30 a.m. Felix Ezejiofo & Mary Davis
- 10:30 a.m. Tasha Anthony & Barbara Cornell

**Mass Intentions**

- 7:30 a.m. Mr. Dwight LeBlanc
- 10:30 a.m. Parishioners of St. Paul the Apostle

***Week 3 of Advent - Joy:*** Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.



**Readings for the Week**

- Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9;  
Mt 21:23-27
- Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17;  
Mt 1:1-17
- Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19;  
Mt 1:18-25
- Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a;  
Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
- Friday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
- Saturday: **Memorial of St. Peter Canisius;**  
Winter begins  
Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a;  
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
- Sunday: **Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7;  
Mt 1:18-24



**Parish Schedule for the Week**

Sunday: 7:30 a.m. Mass  
 9:00 a.m. Religious Education Classes  
 10:30 a.m. Mass  
 Giving Tree Gifts Due

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday: 8:00 a.m. Mass  
 6:00 p.m. RCIA  
 6:00 p.m. St. Paul's Conference of  
 St. Vincent de Paul Meeting

Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. Mass  
 4:30 p.m. Rehearsal for 7:30 Choir  
 6:00 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday: 8 a.m. Pantry Open  
 7:00 p.m. Rehearsal for 10:30 Choir

Friday: 8:00 a.m. Mass  
 6:00 p.m. Liturgical Dance Practice

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. Mime Group Practice  
 11:00 a.m. Liturgical Dance Practice  
 12 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal

**TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY**  
**Drivers for Sunday, December 22, 2019**  
**Myrtis Rogers & Wanda Davis**

**Attention Ministries & Organizations:** If your organization plans to use the Center or sponsor fundraising events at St. Paul between January - December 2020, please submit your request to the parish office by Thursday, December 19, 2019. All events must be approved by Fr. Richard Andrus.

**Each year during Advent**, we have provided parishioners with "**Advent Coin Folders**" for you to make a sacrificial offering for our outreach program to neighbors and parishioners in need. Those folders have ranged in offerings from a quarter a day to a dollar a day – or what people could afford. This year, we provided Advent Envelopes that have been in the back of the church along with a letter. If you have not yet done so, we need you to pick up your envelope today and fill it out, make your offering and return this week so we are able to extend Christmas blessings to some of the poorest students around us and some of our parishioners also in need of a Christmas blessing.

**Each one bring one** - The Feast of Christmas is a great time for **you** to invite a family member, friend or neighbor whom **you** know has not been to church in a while to come to Christmas Mass with you. Reach out– bring someone.



**Christmas Eve:** 7:00 p.m. Caroling  
 7:45 p.m. Children's Presentation  
 8:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass

**Christmas Day:** 9:30 a.m. Christmas Mass



**May she rest in peace...**

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the Curette and Davis family at the passing of Mrs. Lelia Curette, sister of Mrs. Martha Davis. Please pray for her peaceful eternal rest, and for the comfort and consolation of her family. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

**Silver and Gold Anniversaries** - We would like to recognize all married couples of St. Paul who celebrated or will be celebrating 25 or 50 years of marriage this year. Our silver and golden anniversary celebration will be held on Sunday, December 29th at 10:30 Mass. Please be sure to place your names on the sign-up sheet in the foyer of the church and indicate the number of years! For more information, contact Mr. Justin Kennedy at 225-754-2609.

**Happy Birthday**

Nicole George 12/16	Shelbi White
Albert Hebert, Jr. 12/16	Patricia Auzenne 12/19
Joseph Mathis 12/16	Donald Ray Walker 12/19
Merritt Andrews 12/17	Debra Dudley 12/20
Chance Stribling 12/17	Sonja Bowers 12/21
Kamille Watson 12/17	Nakia Hawkins 12/21



**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND**

*Audrey Christopher, Edna Davis James, Mary Smart, Carolyn Christophe, Dorothy Bazile, Myrtis Coleman, Robert Seals, Mona Seals, Sylvia Collier, Lena Batiste, Marie Myles, George Bell, Mary Lena Price, Willis Reed, Jr., Annie Joseph, Rosa Johnson, Harry Sills, Denovas Crockett, Jasman Benjamin, James Hayward, Gussie Trahan, Cheryl Crockett, Brenda D. Hickman, Quincy Hamilton, Charles Davis, Jr., Jessie Joseph, Rose Crockett Carter, Dianna Franklin, Meredith Jones, Gregory Cornell, Joseph Broussard,, Mr. George Cornell, and Mable King*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK FAMILY MEMBERS & FRIENDS**

*Ronnie Gauthier, Helen Celestine, Florence Jackson, Geraldine Floyd, Betty Hammond, Frank Ross, Mona Bossier Bailey, Walker Williams, Barbara Brennan, Richard Dillon, Calvin Thomas, III, Joel Rivera, Dorie Martin, Alberta Conner, Martha Reinhart, Dana Simoneaux, Nichelle Hollins, Jessica Hughes, Ernie Butitta, Edna Dixon, Gene Decuir, Charles Bethley, and Janet Bossier*





**Website for Online Giving:**  
[www.osvonlinegiving.com/4266](http://www.osvonlinegiving.com/4266)

December 8, 2019

Offertory Collection	\$ 5,494.11
Online Giving	\$ 2,915.00
Children's Offering	\$ 9.00
Building Fund	\$ 476.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 201.00
Catholic Life Center	\$ 10.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 548.73
Immaculate Conception	\$ 241.00
Christmas	\$ 1 0.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 10.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 170.00
Advent Offering	\$ 200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,284.84</b>

*Remember this: whoever sows sparingly, reap sparingly; and whoever sows generously, reap generously.*

2 Corinthians 9:6

<p><b>In Loving Memory of:</b></p> <p>Opston, Dorcenia, Wilbert, Philip, Opston, Jr., Albert &amp; Jerome Guillory, CB, Ruth &amp; Tia Davis, Catherine Williams, Yvonne Warren and Marcus Montigue</p> 	<p><b>In Loving Memory of:</b></p> <p>George Coleman, Jr Geneva Coleman George Coleman, Sr. Carrie Coleman M.H. Weathersby Odelia Weathersby Donald Coleman</p> 	<p><b>Space Available</b></p>	<p><b>Space Available</b></p>	<p><b>State Farm Insurance</b></p> <p><b>Leonard Benjamin</b> 775-2494</p>
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**In Loving Memory of:**

Geneva Battley Spooner  
Della Battley Rodney




**"Rest in Peace"**


**St. Paul the Apostle Quick Reference**

Altar Servers - 7:30 - Shirley Dawson.....	802-6128
Altar Servers - 10:30 - Christy Hall.....	223-7851
Infant Baptism - Deacon Benjamin Dunbar, Jr.....	324-5808
Bible Study - Barbara Haynes.....	665-2630
Bookkeeper - Debra Dudley.....	383-2537
Center (Use of Center) - Mary Martin.....	383-2537
Center Rental & Repast - Velita Benjamin.....	654-6705
Child Protection Coordinator - Vera Dunbar.....	324-2939
Eucharistic Ministers - Nancy Ball.....	397-4309
Liturgy Committee - Gigi Matthis.....	278-0071
Nurse - Maxine Watts.....	278-6732
Parish Office - Secretary - Mary Martin.....	383-2537
Pastor - Fr. Richard Andrus.....	383-2537
Readers - Fr. Richard Andrus.....	383-2537
Religious Education Director - Martha Davis.....	357-4108
RCIA Coordinator - Fr. Richard Andrus.....	383-2537
Ushers - Edmonia Joseph.....	772-2090
Youth Ministry - Justin Kennedy.....	754-2609

**In Loving Memory of Our Loved Ones:**




Roosevelt Bowers  
Joseph "Buddy" Walker  
Oscar LeDuff, Jr.  
Elizabeth & Frank P. Bowers  
Carrie & Douglas Rodney, Sr.  
Clara & Willis Walker  
Sarah Rodney Domino & Wilbert Domino, Sr.  
Freddie Bowers  
Ora Bowers Ward  
Sybil Thomas Johnson  
Maureen Bowers Johnson



**In Loving Memory of:**

Famye Reed  
and the  
Reed, Stewart, Davis, and  
Grainger Families



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**In Loving Memory of:**


Lionel Bazile, Sr.  
James Bazile  
Sheila Bazile



**"Rest in Peace"**

**In Loving Memory of:**


Aaron Bradley Joseph  
H.P. Martin



**"Rest in Peace"**

**In Loving Memory of:**

Milton, Rachel, Lillie,  
Lillian, Kirby, James  
"Pookie" Verdell,  
Corinne & Michael  
Joseph, Lawrence, Sr. &  
Shedrick Ashford,  
Ellis Myles, Sr., Rose &  
Albert Hebert, Eula  
White



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