



St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

Staying Connected During COVID-19

December 13, 2020



Dear sisters and brothers,

Joy! This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent is the day of joy. We used to call it “Gaudete” Sunday as we light the Pink Candle and wear Rose or pink/purple colored vestments. Scripture shouts at us today, “Rejoice always ... again I say rejoice!” But what’s all this rejoicing all about?

The simple answer is that the celebration of the birth of Jesus draws near. The nativity is within sight. Christmas is almost here. Rejoice! We can see it in the stores, in the commercials on TV, hear it in the music, see it in all of the Christmas lights in our homes, on our streets and everywhere we look. Rejoice!

But many of us don’t really feel like rejoicing right now. We have been through a lot this year. We have had to adapt to a new normal way of living. We are isolated. We can’t visit the ones we love. Many have lost jobs. People who have never had to stand in line for food are now standing in line for food. Hours are cut on the job, people have been laid off, work is hard, if not impossible to find. We have to worry about being in contact with anyone who may be infected with Covid 19. We wear masks everywhere. Rejoice? Even for myself, it’s tough. On top of all of the above, I’m being moved at a time that I don’t believe is the right time – and it’s tough. Real tough. Rejoice!

How do we face times like these and be people of joy?

Going through my notes and re-packing for this move, I ran across notes from Graduate School. In the early 1960s, the German theologian Jurgen Moltmann wrote an incredible book called “Theology of Hope”. This work takes as its assumption that true Christian faith can only have its transforming effect on each of us, on society and on the world when it is rooted in a vision of hope. “From first to last, and not merely in the end, Christianity is hope, forward looking and forward moving, and therefore also revolutionizing and transforming the present.”

Found myself realizing again that for us to live in hope does not mean that we live in a state of disconnectedness from the present because of some expectation of a greater although unrealized future; rather, to live with a vision of hope gives a person--and the church--the inspiration and the motivation never to settle for the status quo, but rather to challenge and perhaps even work towards transforming of any dimension of life that is not in line with what we hope for or envision. To live in hope ultimately brings us joy.

Hope – that’s what made a difference for those ancients who looked forward to a Messiah even though they never saw him. Hope – that’s what makes a difference in our lives as we also look forward to God’s great gift of Jesus at Christmas. Hope is what brings us joy even in the midst of situations that catch us off guard and sometimes completely change our lives whether it is a Pandemic, a major illness, the loss of a job, the death of a loved one, or being transferred. Remember, to live with a vision of hope gives each of us the motivation never to settle for the status quo, but rather to challenge and work towards changing any dimension of life that is not in line with what we hope for that brings us ultimate joy. Yes, rejoice always! Again, I say, “Rejoice!”

In the Divine Word, I am

Fr. Rick Andrews SVD

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Memorial of St. John of the Cross Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27	Thursday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23; Mt 21:28-32	Friday:	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Wednesday:	Las Posadas begins Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23	Saturday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
		Sunday:	Fourth Sunday of Advent 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

PARISH SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Sunday:	10:30 a.m. Mass
Monday:	No Mass
Tuesday:	8:00 a.m. Mass
Wednesday:	8:00 a.m. Mass
Thursday:	No Mass
Friday:	8:00 a.m. Mass
Saturday:	No Mass

(All Masses will be Live on Facebook)



Christmas Eve: 6:00 p.m. Caroling
6:30 p.m. Christmas Vigil
Christmas Day: 9:30 a.m. Christmas Mass
(Live Streamed)



MASS INTENTIONS

Mr. Martin Dele Major and
Mr. John Stephen Jackson



May they rest in peace...

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the Credit family at the passing of Mrs. Bridgette Credit Burgess, daughter of Ms. Beulah Credit, and sister of Ms. Jean Credit. Also to the Betz & Price families at the passing of Ms. Inez White, sister of Ms. Delores Price and Mr. Isaac Betz.

May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Support St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

“Celebrating 60 Years of the Family of St. Paul Thriving Because of Our Giving Through Faith, Hope, and Love”



The Coronavirus restrictions have made it impossible to hold our major fish fry, raffle, or church fair fundraisers. So, St. Paul's Fair Committee started a special fundraiser to raise at least \$60,000. We ask that new members and those members and friends who usually sold or donated \$100 or more for raffle tickets or to the church fair to give the same amount to this special fundraiser before or by January 31, 2021. Please continue to support St. Paul's ministries by making your first or usual donation of \$100 or more to: osvolinegiving.com/4266, select "St. Paul's 4-Month Fund-raiser," or use the envelopes mailed to you or pick-up envelopes from the baptismal font or St. Paul's Parish Office.

Farewell Fr. Rick — As most of you are aware, Fr. Rick will be leaving St. Paul and has been reassigned to another parish. We wish him well and would like to send him off responsibly due to the coronavirus by having a farewell celebration at the end of Mass on December 27th. You are invited to join in the farewell celebration and shower him with cards and well wishes. We will also have a drive-by after Mass for those who would like to come, but still do not feel comfortable attending Mass. Cars will line up at the Martin Luther King Community Center and drive to the church when signaled to begin the procession to the front of the church where you will get to bid Fr. Rick farewell. Please come out and make this send off a joyful one. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Rudolph Richard or the parish office.



osvonlinegiving.com/4266

PRAYER FOR RACIAL HARMONY

God our Father, You call us to love one another as You have loved us. We pray for the conversion of hearts in our Diocese of Baton Rouge to bring about racial harmony rooted in Your Son Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, strip us of our pride, mistrust, and prejudices, so that we may be able to dialogue with one another to build communities where justice, peace and love flourish. We ask these blessings trusting in the infinite mercy of Jesus and the intercession of Mary our Mother. Amen.

OFFERTORY

December 6, 2020

Offertory Collection	\$ 4,590.00
Online Giving	\$ 5,315.00
Building Fund	\$ 590.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 147.00
All Saints Day	\$ 30.00
Christmas	\$ 40.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 155.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 30.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$ 30.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 70.00
Catholic Life Center	\$ 15.00
New Years	\$ 30.00
4-Month Fundraiser	\$ 2,925.00
Total	\$13,967.00

CELEBRATING DECEMBER 13th - DECEMBER 19th BIRTHDAYS



Elliott Baham, Jr. 12/13
 Dianne Briley 12/13
 Corey-Michael Free 12/13
 Felicia Hebert 12/13
 Nicole George 12/16
 Albert Hebert, Jr. 12/16



Joseph Mathis 12/16
 Merritt R. Andrews 12/17
 Chance Stribling 12/17
 Kamille Watson 12/17
 Shelbi White 12/17
 Donald Ray Walker 12/19





PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND






Audrey Christopher, Mary Smart, Carolyn Christophe, Myrtis Coleman, Robert Seals, Mona Seals, Sylvia Collier, Lena Batiste, Marie Myles, Mary Lena Price, Willis Reed, Jr., Annie Joseph, Rosa Johnson, Harry Sills, Denovas Crockett, Jasman Benjamin, James Hayward, Cheryl Crockett, Brenda D. Hickman, Charles Davis, Jr., Rose Crockett Carter, Dianna Franklin, Meredith Jones, Gregory Cornell, George Cornell, Mable King, Curtell Thibodeaux, Judge Luke LaVergne, Irene Warner, Louis Simms, Sadie Simms, Patrick Simms, and Yvonne Joseph


PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Ronnie Gauthier, Helen Celestine, Florence Jackson, 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, Charles Bethley, Janet Bossier, Jenna Scott, Anthony Grand, Allen Paschal, James Pace, and Connie St. Romain




<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Opston, Dorcenia, Wilbert, Philip, Opston, Jr., Albert & Jerome Guillory, CB, Ruth & Tia Davis, Catherine Williams, Yvonne Warren and Marcus Montigue</p> 	<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>George Coleman, Jr Geneva Coleman George Coleman, Sr. Carrie Coleman M.H. Weathersby Odelia Weathersby Donald Coleman</p> 	<p>Space Available</p>	<p>Space Available</p>	<p>State Farm Insurance</p> <p>Leonard Benjamin 775-2494</p>
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<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Geneva Battley Spooner Della Battley Rodney</p>  <p><i>"Rest in Peace"</i></p>	<p><u>St. Paul the Apostle Quick Reference</u></p> <p>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 Mathis.....278-0071 Nurse - Maxine Watts278-6732 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 Joseph772-2090 Youth Ministry - Justin Kennedy.....754-2609</p>
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<p><i>In Loving Memory of Our Loved Ones:</i></p>  <p>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</p> 	<p>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 Mathis.....278-0071 Nurse - Maxine Watts278-6732 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 Joseph772-2090 Youth Ministry - Justin Kennedy.....754-2609</p>
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<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Famye Reed and the Reed, Stewart, Davis , and Grainger Families</p>  <p><i>"Rest in Peace"</i></p>	<p>Space Available</p>	<p>Chenevert Construction & Remodeling 344-0183</p>	<p>Space Available</p>
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<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Lionel Bazile, Sr. Dorothy Bazile James Bazile Sheila Bazile</p>  <p><i>"Rest in Peace"</i></p>	<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Jessie Joseph Aaron Bradley Joseph H.P. Martin</p>  <p><i>"Rest in Peace"</i></p>	<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Milton, Rachel, Lillie, Lillian, Kirby, James "Pookie " Verdell, Corinne & Michael Joseph, Lawrence, Sr. & Shedrick Ashford, Ellis Myles, Sr., Rose & Albert Hebert, Eula White</p> 	<p>Space Available</p>
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