

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sun. Dec. 3 - Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7 Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 1 Cor 1:3-9 Mk 13:33-37

Mon. Dec. 4 - Is 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd -5, 6-7, 8-9 Mt 8:5-11 or 2 Tm 1:13-14; 2:1-3 Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-23

Tues. Dec. 5 - Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Lk 10:21-24

Wed. Dec. 6 - Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Mt 15:29-37 or Is 6:1-8 Ps 40:2 & 4, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 Lk 10:1-9

Thurs. Dec. 7 - Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1 & 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a Mt 7:21, 24-27 or Eph 3:8-12 Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 21-22, 25 & 27 Jn 10:11-16

Fri. Dec. 8 - Holy Day of Obligation, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Patronal Feastday of the United States of America Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 Eph 1:3-6, 11-16 Lk 1:26-38

Sat. Dec. 9 - Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8 or 1 Cor 1:26-31 Ps 131:1bcde, 2, 3 Mt 11:25-30

December Birthday List
Happy Birthday to::

Draven Platt	1
Eva Platt	3
Sonja Popillion	4
Betty Odom	5
Courtney Chavis	6
Debra Henderson	11
Lawrence DeLarue	12
Jordan Richard	13
Shirley Cezar	14
Ashton Spearman	17
Zederick Cezar	19
Mary Crossley	21
Lucy Jones	22
Rosie Scott	23
Mary Rigsby	27
Brushelle Scott	28
Russell Bottley	29

Happy Anniversary

Andre & Lanier Robertson	8th
Herman & Mona Richard	10th

MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEKEND
HOSPITALITY

Saturday: Shirley Allison, Rose Davis, Walter Davis & Johnny Riggs
Sunday: Fred Green, Rose Bottley, Emmanuel Taylor & Coretta Ambers

ANNOUNCER & LECTORS:

Saturday: **A:** Mona Richard
L: Freda Guillory & Gary Mims
Sunday: **A:** Horace Broussard
L: Lucy Jones & Wayne Sparrow

ALTAR SERVER:

Saturday: Reagan Pitre & William Pitre
Sunday: D'Ana Williams

MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:

Saturday Cecilia Davis & Richard Scott
Sunday: Gloria Richard & Freda Guillory

*****Offering Envelopes*****

Offering Envelopes are at the rear of the Church with their name on their box and envelopes. The ushers will assist with distribution. With so many to hand out if your box is not there please contact the office. Thanks

Bishop Faith Appeal/Fundraiser

Goal : \$25,000.

Pledged: \$ 16,375. Paid: \$ 11,700.

It is the time of year again where we begin the work on our BFA goal.. We ask that everyone make your pledges and payments as soon as you can. Thanks in advance. For any information please contact Robert Gobert at (504) 232-5640 or Shirley Ray (409) 779-9922. We are look forward to the continued growth of our parish

COORNATORS OF MINISTRIES

Bishop Faith Appeal - Robert Gobert
Bereavement Committee- Rose Bottley

Donut Sunday's - Freda Guillory*
Donuts and coffee in the Education Building 1st, 3rd & 4th Sunday of each month.

Extraordinary Minister of Communion - Shirley Ray

Finance - Andre' Robertson * **finance meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of each month.**

Fund Rising - Walter Davis

Hospitality/Ushers - Rose Davis

Lectors - Gary Mims

Life Center - Adam Jacobs

Maint. & Plumbing - Joe Fontenot

Mission & Retreat - Cecilia Davis

Music Director - George Alexander *
choir rehearsal's are every Tuesday at 6:30 pm

Pastoral Council meetings are held every 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Socials - Knights of Peter Clever & Ladies Auxiliary * Parish Luncheon, the second Sunday of each month.

Youth - Felicia Richard

Stewardship-Wayne Sparrow

1st Friday of each month Fr. Donatus has 11 am Mass at Orange Villa located on 3rd Street. There will be NO evening Mass that day, adoration only, everyone is invited to come.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, Dec. 3rd 9:00 a.m. Mass
Jacobs & Monroe families
Requested by Mary J. Jacobs Monroe

Monday, Dec. 04th NO MASS

Tuesday, Dec 5th 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 6th 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 7th 6:00 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 8th 5:00 p.m.
Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, Dec. 9th
3:20 - 3:55 Reconciliation
4:00 p.m. Mass

(N.B. You can request Mass to be offered for you/your love ones, or a deceased person. Please speak with the Pastor or call the office to schedule your mass intention).

St. Therese Catholic Church

Served by The Missionary Society of St. Paul from Nigeria since 2000

1409 6th Street 77630
Email: sttherese1350@yahoo.com

Phone: (409) 883-3783
Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-252-5400

Fax: (409) 883-4918
Website: stthereseorangetx.org



Pastoral Team:

Rev. Donatus Mgbеajuo, MSP

Email: donachrisneo@yahoo.com
Contact information: cell (409) 454-3958
Rectory: (409) 920-4007
Deacon Julian Richard (409) 221-2743
Deacon Hazen Kenney (512) 791-0847

Office Hours: Tuesday thru Thursday
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



1st Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017

“What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch’”



Eucharistic Celebration

Weekends:

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m. & Sunday: 9:00 a.m

Reconciliation

Saturdays: 3:20 p.m. 3:55 p.m.

Infant Baptism:

Please contact the pastor two (2) months in advance

Weekdays:

Tuesday-Friday 6:00 p.m.

Adoration & Benediction

1st Friday each month 5p.m.-6:30p.m.

Marriage:

Please call Rectory six (6) months prior to proposed date

SECRETARY

Cindy Hampton (409) 882-0935

PARISH COUNCIL

Richard Scott, Chairman 779-7587
Rose Davis, Vice Chairman 883-0762
Steven Allison, Secretary 313-0586
Cecilia Davis 920-1136
Rose Bottley 886-1525
Charlis D. Rogers 988-8719
Adam Jacobs 883-9688
Albert Hebert III 746-2627

MAINTENANCE & GROUNDS

Joe Ware 886-5331

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sanja Popillion (409) 670-0808

FINANCE COUNCIL

Andre Robertson 882-0012
Robert Gobert (504) 232-5640
Sheila Arnold 313-2062
Janice Semien 883-7126
Tina Kindle 238-4447

The Season of Advent in the Catholic Church

In the Catholic Church, Advent is a period of preparation, extending over four Sundays, before Christmas. The word Advent comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ. This refers, first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; but second, to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and finally, to His second coming at the end of time. Our preparations, therefore, should have all three comings in mind. We need to prepare our souls to receive Christ worthily.

FIRST WE FAST, THEN WE FEAST

That's why Advent has traditionally been known as a "little Lent." As in Lent, Advent should be marked by increased prayer, fasting, and good works. The Catholic Church continues to observe what is known as Philip's Fast, from November 15 until Christmas. All great feasts have been preceded by a time of fasting, which makes the feast itself more joyful.

THE SYMBOLS OF ADVENT

In its symbolism, the Church continues to stress the penitential and preparatory nature of Advent. As during Lent, priests wear purple vestments, and the Gloria ("Glory to God") is omitted during Mass. The only exception is on the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday when priests can wear rose-colored vestments. As on Laetare Sunday during Lent, this exception is designed to encourage us to continue our prayer and fasting, because we can see that Advent is more than halfway over.

THE ADVENT WREATH

Perhaps the best-known of all Advent symbols is the Advent wreath, a custom which originated among German Lutherans but was soon adopted by Catholics. Consisting of four candles (three purple and one pink) arranged in a circle with evergreen boughs (and often a fifth, white candle in the center), the Advent wreath corresponds to the four Sundays of Advent. The purple candles represent the penitential nature of the season, while the pink candle calls to mind the respite of Gaudete Sunday. (The white candle, when used, represents Christmas.)

CELEBRATING ADVENT

We can better enjoy Christmas—all 12 days of it, from Christmas Day to Epiphany—if we revive Advent as a period of preparation. Abstaining from meat on Fridays, or not eating at all between meals, is a good way to revive the Advent fast. (Not eating Christmas cookies or listening to Christmas music before Christmas is another.) We can incorporate such customs as the Advent wreath, the Saint Andrew Christmas Novena, and the Jesse Tree into our daily ritual, and we can set some time aside for special scripture readings for Advent, which remind us of the threefold coming of Christ.

Holding off on putting up the Christmas tree and other decorations is another way to remind ourselves that the feast is not here yet. Traditionally, such decorations were put up on Christmas Eve, but they would not be taken down until after Epiphany, in order to celebrate the Christmas season to its fullest.

*****Fatima Coming Soon*****

The World Apostolate of Fatima's U.S. Tour for Peace is coming to our Diocese!

We hope everyone will be able to experience the blessing of gathering with others devoted to Our Lady when the statue visits these parishes in our Diocese:

(December 11 – St. James – Port Arthur, TX / December 12– St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica – Beaumont, TX / December 13 – Our Lady of Lourdes- Vidor, TX / December 14 – Infant Jesus – Lumberton, TX)

*****Prayer*****

Bishop Curtis Guillory asks that you join him in prayer for Deacon Harry Davis from Assumption Parish, who was diagnosed with colorectal cancer. Deacon Davis's treatment will begin soon and it involves chemotherapy and surgery. Deacon Harry said the outlook is positive with early detection.

NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. THERESE—THE LITTLE FLOWER

St. Therese, beloved friend, you promised to spend your time in heaven doing good upon the earth. WE come before you in our need. We believe that you listen to us and approach God for and with us. You are love in the heart of the God. Please accept these petitions, hopes, needs and dreams that we have (pause).

Please present them to our loving Father so that God may do what is best for us, for our loved ones, and for the fulfillment of God's Kingdom. Continue your shower of roses in our lives. We ask you, dear friend with the bold confidence and loving care. We make this prayerful petition in the name of Jesus and through the power of his Spirit. **AMEN.**

PRAY FOR THE HOMEBOUND

John Abram
Mary Brown
Mary Crossley
David Jayce Carey
Courtney Chavis
Therese Ferguson
Hollis Fain
Joe B. Forward
Theresa Garrett
Ella Mae Garrett
Anna Garrick
Beatrice Guillory
Mark Mitchell Jr.
James Mims
Westley Popillion
John Richard, Sr.
Alma G Thibodeaux
Alma C Thibodeaux



PRAY FOR THE SICK

James Arceneaux
Mable Durio
Alberta Fontenot
Frances Freeman
Debra Glaude
Margaret Green
Peggy Green
Myrtle Guillory
Marvin Hampton
Rena Mae Jenkins
Celestine Johnson
Calvin Johnson
Stacy Johnson
Rose Lee Johnson
Lakeisha Guidry-Jones
Leothus Jones
John Milton
Ruby Milton
Bettye Odom
Clayona Pilette
Doris Robertson
Brushelle Scott
Robert Simmons
Joe Ware

To all our sick and homebound **THANK YOU** so much for your unwavering commitment and contributions to our parish. To better serve everyone Fr. Donatus is available to visit **ALL** parishioners at the appointed time. However, Fr. Donatus has reserved every other Friday for the homebound.

What Is the Second Coming?

Isaiah's prophecy of the Messiah (Christ) tells of a suffering Servant who was "pierced for our offenses, / crushed for our sins" (Is 53:5; see Is 53: 1-12). Jesus fulfilled this prophecy when he died on the cross for us (see 1 Pt 2:24-25). But there are other prophecies of Christ, still unfulfilled, that point to a different scenario: a glorious King, a powerful Judge, who comes to rule the earth (see RV 19:11-16).

The prophet Daniel, for example, foresaw "One like a son of man coming, / on the clouds of heaven" who receives "dominion, glory, and kingship; / nations and peoples of every language serve him. / His dominion is an everlasting dominion" (Dn 7:13-14).

At Jesus' ascension into heaven, angels confirmed what he had earlier promised: He will return one day to earth (see Acts 1:10-11). Why is it necessary for him to return? Because his mission on earth is not yet complete: He came the first time as our suffering Redeemer, but he must return as our holy Judge (see also "What Does the Church Teach About the Last Judgment?" 1-4).

Christ's life, death, resurrection, and ascension form only part of the gospel, the "good news" of our redemption. The rest of the gospel is the good news that God is not only merciful but also just. One day Christ will come back to set the world aright, and the evil one will at last be rendered utterly powerless to harm those who love God (see RV 20:10, 14). (See also "Do the Devil and Demons Really Exist?" 1-2.)

Even now Jesus reigns as Lord of all at the Father's right hand in heaven (see Eph 1:20). But when Christ returns, God's kingdom will finally come to us in all its fullness, and God's will at last will be done "on earth as in heaven" (Mt 6:10).

Yet another aspect of divine justice will be fulfilled when Christ returns: He will be vindicated and honored in the eyes of all the world. Even those who have spurned and avoided [him]" (Is 53:3) will be compelled to bend their knees before him at last and "confess that / Jesus Christ is Lord, / to the glory of God the Father" (Phil 2:10-11)

***** Luncheon & Christmas Dinner*****

The Ladies Auxiliary is happy to invite everyone and a guest to our annual Christmas Dinner, Sunday, December 10, 2017 after the 9:00 mass. The Christmas dinner will have turkey, dressing and all the fixings., also expect desert, music and a lot more. It will be a festive day filled with joy and fellowship. Come and join the fun there will be plenty to eat.

St. Helen Catholic Church

Advent Mission With Fr. Blaise Czaja, Passionist Father
Sunday, December 10 through Wednesday, December 13, 2017

The Mission will open on Sunday evening, December 10. Each evening service is a major sermon on one of the great themes of Scripture. There will be time for quiet prayer. The evening service is approximately one hour in length. The Mission Mass will be at 9:00am each day. Fr. Blaise will celebrate this Mass and preach an extended homily of about 20 minutes. Note well: the morning sermons are totally different than the evening sermons.

Sunday, December 10
7:00pm – Mission Opens (Church)

Monday, December 11
9:00am – Mission Mass (Chapel)
7:00pm – Mission Talk and Reconciliation Service (Church)

Tuesday, December 12
9:00am – Mission Mass (Chapel)
7:00pm – Mission Talk (Church)

Wednesday, December 13
9:00am – Mission Mass (Chapel)
7:00pm – Mission Talk (Church)