

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Sun. Dec. 31 - Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

New Year's Day - Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God - Nm6:22-27 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21

Tues. Jan. 2, 2018 - 1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 Jn 1:19-28 or Eph 4:1-7, 11-13 Ps 23:1b-3a, 4, 5, 6 Mt 23:8-12

Wed. Jan. 3 - 1 Jn 2:29-3:6 Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 Jn 29-34 or Phil 2:1-11 Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Lk 2:21-24

Thurs. Jan. 4 - 1 Jn 3:7-10 Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 Jn 1:35-42

Fri. Jan. 5 - 1 Jn 3:11-21 Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 Jn 1:43-51

Sat. Jan. 6 - 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Attendance

*Saturday 34 Sunday 52*  
**Christmas Day 43**

Weekend Collection

Mail In	\$ 122.00	
Loose	\$ 102.00	
Missals	\$ 20.00	
AT&T	\$ 150.00	
Christmas		\$ 1,239.00
Saturday	\$ 1,227.00	
Sunday	\$ 575.00	

**Total Deposit \$ 3,435.00**

**Expenses:** city of orange <\$ 307.58>  
Entergy <\$ 1,208.20> direct tv <\$ 73.93>

**\*\*ATTENTION\*\***

If anyone has any announcements or any concerns during Fr. Donatus's absence, please contact the parish office.  
**THANK YOU**

**Bishop Faith Appeal/Fundraiser**

**Goal : \$25,000.**  
**Paid: \$ 18,987.**

**Congratulation's everyone we have met our BFA Goal If you would like to contribute to our fundraising goal, please do so. Thanks in advance. For any information please contact Robert Gobert at (504) 232-5640 or Shirley Ray at (409) 779-9922. We are look forward to the continued growth of our parish**

**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
Richard & Brushelle Scott	8th
Herman & Mona Richard	10th

**MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEKEND**

HOSPITALITY

Saturday: Shirley Allison, Rose Davis  
Richard Scott, Walter Davis  
Sunday: Veronica Bradford, Dorothy  
Jacobs, Elizabeth Mitchell,  
Phyllis Thibodeaux

ANNOUNCER & LECTORS:

Saturday: A: Leo Jackson  
L: Gary Mims & Josie Curtis  
Sunday: A: Dorothy Broussard  
L: Amiyah LeBlanc & Eve Platt

ALTAR SERVER:

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

MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:

Saturday Cecilia Davis &  
Freda Guillory  
Sunday: Cecilia Davis &  
Shirley Ray

**\*\*\*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

**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 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. 31, 9:00 a.m. Mass  
Jacobs & Monroe Families  
Requested by Mary Julia Jacobs Monroe

**Happy New Year's Day**  
**Monday, January 1, 2018**  
**9:00 am Mass**

Tuesday, January 2, 2018 6:00 p.m.  
Communion Service

**Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018**  
**No Service**

Thursday, Dec. 28th 6:00 p.m.  
Communion Service

Friday, Jan. 5, 2018 6:00 pm  
Communion Service

Saturday, Dec.. 30th  
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 any deceased person. 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](mailto:sttherese1350@yahoo.com)

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

Fax: (409) 883-4918  
Website: [stthereseorangetx.org](http://stthereseorangetx.org)



**Pastoral Team:**

**Rev. Donatus Mgbajuo, MSP**

Email: [donachrisneo@yahoo.com](mailto: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.**



**The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary And Joseph**

*December 31, 2017*

**Simeon said, "This child is  
destined for the full and rise of  
many in Israel."**



**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 HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

## Today's Readings

### First Reading

**Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3**

(or the first reading from Cycle A: Sirach 3:2-7,12-14)

God fulfills his promise to Abraham, and Sarah gives birth to a son.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Psalm 105:1-6,8-9** (or the psalm from Cycle A: Psalm 128:1-5)

A prayer of thanksgiving to God for his faithfulness to his covenant.

### Second Reading

**Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19** (or the second reading from Cycle A: Colossians 3:12-21)

Paul examines Abraham's example of faith.

### Gospel Reading

**Luke 2:22-40** (or shorter form: Luke 2:22,39-40)

Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the Temple in accordance with the Law of Moses.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. This celebration is assigned to the Sunday within the octave of Christmas. The Gospel for today is taken from the Gospel according to Luke and is part of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Today's Gospel describes the presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple and shows Joseph and Mary as devout Jews, following the prescriptions of the Law of Moses. The Gospel alludes to several aspects of the Law of Moses: circumcision, the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord, and the purification of a woman after childbirth.

According to the Law of Moses as presented in the Book of Leviticus, a woman was considered ritually unclean during her menstrual period and for a prescribed period of time following the birth of a child. After the birth of a son, a woman was considered ritually unclean for 40 days. After the birth of a daughter, a woman was considered unclean for 80 days. In order to be restored to ritual purity, a Jewish woman performed the appropriate rites of purification and made the prescribed ritual offering.

Today's Gospel notes that Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day after his birth, in accordance with the Mosaic Law. At that time, he was called Jesus, the name he was given by the angel Gabriel. On the 40th day after Jesus' birth, Mary performed the appropriate purification rites and made her offering at the Temple. Although the Law of Moses required an offering of a lamb, those who could not afford a lamb could substitute two turtledoves or two pigeons. In this scene, Luke identifies Joseph and Mary as being poor, and indeed throughout Luke's Gospel, Jesus will show special concern for the poor.

Another Jewish rite referenced in this Gospel is the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord. In remembrance of the feast of Passover, when the firstborn children of the Israelites in Egypt were saved from death, the Law of Moses prescribed that all firstborn males of Israel should be consecrated to the Lord. In this tradition, Mary and Joseph present the infant Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem, Luke reports that Mary and Joseph encounter two devout Jews, Simeon and Anna, who recognize the infant Jesus as the fulfillment of Israel's hope for redemption. In Simeon's words we find a prediction of Mary's witnessing of Jesus' death on the cross. The Canticle of Simeon, also called by its Latin name, *Nunc Dimittis*, is prayed at night prayer, or compline, during the Liturgy of the Hours.

### \*\*\*Prayers\*\*\*

We are praying for Fr. Donatus, that the Lord guides & protects him while he travels abroad, that he may return safely to St. Therese. We pray that while Fr. Donatus will be gone from late December to the second week of February, he has a well-rested and enjoyable vacation. **God Bless!**

### 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

### Family Connection with today's readings

**Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the Temple in accordance with the Law of Moses.**

Today's celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family highlights the importance of family in our religious life. We know that Mary and Joseph's faithfulness to God enabled them to cooperate in God's plan for our salvation by accepting the responsibility to raise God's Son, Jesus. From his parents, Jesus learned how to be a faithful believer in his Jewish tradition. Simeon's prophecy about Mary's sorrow alerts us to the importance of a family's commitment to one another, a commitment that is expressed in both good times and bad.

Gather as a family and recall times when your family showed its commitment to one another in good times and in bad. Recall times when your immediate family was supported by members of your extended family. Note that today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, and we see in the family of Jesus an example for our own family life. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 2:22-40. Joseph and Mary expressed their faithfulness to God through their observance of the Law of Moses. Simeon prophesied the grief that Mary would experience at the foot of Jesus' cross. One of the blessings of family life is our commitment to one another, sharing good times and supporting one another through difficult times. Conclude in prayer together thanking God for the grace expressed in your family's commitment to another. Write a prayer together, thanking God for your family life and asking God to strengthen your family's commitment to one another. Pray this prayer together.

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing VI  
Diocese of Beaumont Annual  
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Birthday Commemoration

Celebration of the Eucharist  
Mass of Anticipation for the  
Feast of the Epiphany  
Saturday, January 6, 2018 @ 4:00 pm

St. James Catholic Church  
3617 Gulfway Drive, Port Arthur, TX 77642

Most Reverend Curtis J. Guillory, S.V.D., D.D. Bishop of Beaumont – Celebrant and Homilist

Concelebrating Priests of the  
Diocese of Beaumont

In the spirit of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
we invite you to celebrate the many cultures of the  
Diocese of Beaumont

Reception immediately  
following in Kirwin Hall

Graciously underwritten by a grant from the Black and  
Indian Mission Office  
and the generosity of the people of  
Southeast Texas through the  
Bishops Faith Appeal

### Start the New Year with a New Vision.

Pope Francis has called us to be Missionary Disciples in his letter "Joy of the Gospel". The Diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis is offering a day to reflect on this call and to give you the tools and ways to live out this invitation. English and Spanish sessions will be offered. Featured speakers include: Aida Hidalgo, Bryan Reising, Jesus Abrego, Linda Duhon-LaCour, Julio Beltran, Melanie Ehrlich, Luisa Negret, and Paul Thomas

**Saturday – January 20  
9:00 am to 4:30 pm  
Our Mother of Mercy, Beaumont**

There is no fee for this event and lunch is provide

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.