

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent:** "In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar...and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee...and Lysanias was tetrarch of..." Did you need to pinch yourself awake during the first few lines of this Sunday's Gospel? John the Baptist received quite a prelude today as Luke described the religious and political leadership of the time period. Scripture is divinely inspired, and we believe that everything that made it into the Bible is there for a reason. These lines remind us of an important truth. The Christmas story isn't a fairy tale or nursery rhyme. It's not a parable we say to give meaning to the holiday. At Christmas, God's presence is made tangible in a precise moment in time. The birth of Christ is a historical event. As precursor to Jesus' preaching, the ministry of John the Baptist is also a historical event. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John's call to repentance and the forgiveness of sins happened in a particular time and place. But that does not mean it is limited to first century Palestine! God continues to move in our daily lives. What we hear in today's Gospel - and what we anticipate at Christmas - occurs in our daily lives. God works in concrete ways in time and space. He did that 2,000 years ago, and He continues to do so today! This Sunday, examine your own Christmas preparations. Is there anything you need to repent of before the Christmas season? Are there low points in your life, valleys to "be filled" by the love of God? Are their mountainous obstacles in your spiritual life? How can they be "made low"? Are you making decisions that have moved you away from God? This Advent season is the time for them

**Readings for the Week of December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6  
 Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26  
 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14  
 Wednesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47  
 Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15  
 Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19  
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

**Prayers for the Sick:** Merciful Jesus, onto your Compassionate Heart we recommend Laverne St. Julien, Morris St. Julien Sr., Jaiden Gardner, Sylvania Cormier, David Bernard Sr., Mary Jane Jacquet, Shavawna Flugence, Joe Minnix, Mercedes St. Julien, Gustavia Thibeaux, Reginald Brown, Bessie Jones, Florena Landry, Daffoney Anderson, John Albert Ledet, Andre' Serio, Roy Brown, Lisa Trahan, Charles Lee, Wilfred Flugence, Mayola Williams, Lorena & Lester Mouton, Elsie Harris, Mrs. Louvenia L Gibson and those in the following nursing homes:

**Camelot of Broussard:** Joseph S. Alfred  
**Landmark of Acadiana:** Elise Jeanbaptiste  
**Maison de Lafayette:** Dorothy Lavan

Baptismal classes will be held on **Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019** at 7pm in the BPLC. The actual baptismal will be on **Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>** following 5pm vigil mass. Parents are required to bring a copy of the baby's birth certificate and a \$25 registration fee to the church office by noon on Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>



**Mass Intentions**

**Sat. 5:00 p.m.:** Hilda Johnson, Alexson Mathieu, Audrey Mathieu, deceased members of the Mathieu & Mouton families, Christopher J Anderson, Wilbert & Thelma Jeanlouis, Harold Anderson Sr & Ethel Mae Decuir, Mildred Davis (*Heavenly Birthday*), M/M Paul Joe, Gilbert Matthews Sr, I rene Campbell, M/M Elmo Johnson Sr and Beulah Thomas (*2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary*). Special Intentions for all of our church Benefactors and donors and for the wellbeing and intentions of our church members

**Sun. 8:00 a.m.:** Barbara Celestine. Special Intentions for all of our church Benefactors and Donors and for the wellbeing and intentions of our church members

**Sun. 10:00 a.m.:** Joseph Leo Sias III, Christopher J. Anderson, and the deceased members of the Decuir & Anderson families. Special Intentions for all of our church Benefactors and Donors and for the wellbeing and intentions of our church members.

**God's Housekeepers:**

**St. Joseph:** Thanks to all of the ladies in **Group A** that cleaned the church on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The next group is **Group B:** Barbara Thomas, Carolyn Domingue and Laura Williams – December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**St. Anthony—December, 2018: (Group C)** Anne Tate, Theresa Jones, Marie Decuir and Lorita Jeanbatiste.

~ Your hard work and time dedicated is appreciated! ~

**PSR (Parish School of Religion) Corner:**

**Classes are on Saturdays from 9am – 12 Noon**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>
Jan 5, 2019	Dec 15, 2018
Feb 9, 2019	Jan 19, 2019
Mar 9, 2019	Feb 16, 2019
Apr 13, 2019	Mar 16, 2019
	Apr 6, 2019

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Communion Retreat</b>	<b>8am—Noon</b>	<b>Apr 27, 2019</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Communion Confession</b>	<b>9am—10am</b>	<b>May 4, 2019</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Communion Practices</b>	<b>Apr 27<sup>th</sup> &amp; May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019</b>	
<b>Confirmation Retreat</b>		<b>TBA</b>
<b>Confirmation</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>TBA</b>

**UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2018-2019**

**Advent Missions:**

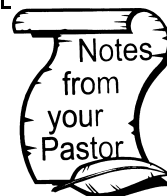
**St. Joseph/St. Anthony Mission:** St. Joseph Catholic Church December 17-18-19, 2018 at 7pm

**Theme:** *Anticipation—Hope—and Purpose*  
**Presenters:** Deacon Michael Morrison & Deacon Roland Jeanlouis  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Conversion Rosary:** Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from Noon—1pm  
 Lead by Mrs. Mary Smith. Everyone is invited to participate.

Mass	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Ushers
<b>Saturday</b> <b>December 15, 2018</b> <b>5:00pm</b>	Melvin Brown Bertha Brown	Dan Foster Diann Foster Linda Alfred Helen Ledet	Javen Harrison	Russell Flugence Harold Johnson Harold Anderson Michael Rabon
<b>Sunday</b> <b>December 16, 2018</b> <b>8:00am</b>	George Hebert, Jr Tonya Hebert	Oliver Brown Rose Brown Marie Decuir Theresa Jones	Jarvis Berard	Loucinda George
<b>Sunday</b> <b>December 16, 2018</b> <b>10:00am</b>	Gaynell Kimble Claudette Nickerson	Brenda Washington Delores Sias Paul Kimble	Jori Jordan Todd Cross, Jr	Alton Bernard George Thomas

**Please Note:** Lectors, Ushers, Altar Servers and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion; by calling for a replacement when you are scheduled but cannot serve, you honor your commitment and help to ensure that there is no interruption for mass. Thanks!!



**PASTORS CORNER**

Today we celebrate the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, an also lite the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Candle. The Candle of Hope. The Chosen People had great Hope, some may wonder whether this was a delusion, but they finally knew and we know, as St. Isaiah informs us, once a people who walked in darkness, now has seen a great light. Today's candle represents this light, the light of Hope. St. Paul reminds us, that Hope does not disappoint because God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit given to us. Hope has dual elements, Material and Spiritual! During, this Advent Season our focus and concentration are on the Spiritual. What do we anticipate changing and hoping to improve by Christmas, hoping this change improve our spiritual life? Simply put, what we anticipate changing, hoping, we will become a better person, removing darkness and removing blind spots, so that we can see the total landscape more clearly, giving us an opportunity to make better decisions, so that we can create and experience a clean heart, and like the Prophet, we can cry out, "**I AM EXPERIENCING** ~ Rev Thomas James ~"

*Inspirations for Your Week*



The Web Site for St. Joseph/St. Anthony is: [stjostant.org](http://stjostant.org)

**Our Giving**

**December 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018**

**St. Joseph:** (124 Envelopes out of 213) **\$2,147.00**  
**St. Anthony:** (29 Envelopes out of 84) **736.00**  
**\$2,883.00**

*"No one shall appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each of you with as much as he can give, in proportion to the blessings which the Lord your God has*



**Holiday Mass Schedule**

Mon, Dec 24<sup>th</sup> XMAS Eve: 5pm St. Joseph  
 Tues, Dec 25<sup>th</sup> XMAS Day: 7am St. Anthony  
 Tues, Dec 25<sup>th</sup> XMAS Day: 10am St. Joseph  
 Mon, Dec 31<sup>st</sup> New Years Eve: 5pm St. Joseph  
 Tues, Jan 1<sup>st</sup> New Years Day: 7am St. Joseph

*There will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for our "Christmas Charities" at all masses*

**Office Hours**  
**Closed:** December 24<sup>th</sup>—Dec 26<sup>th</sup>  
 January 1<sup>st</sup> - January 3<sup>rd</sup>