



Saint Joseph Catholic Church

P. O. Box 365 117 South Main St.

Loreauville, Louisiana 70552

(337) 229-4254

FAX (337) 229-4255

Rev. Barry F. Crochet, Pastor

Rev. Godwin Nzeh CMF, Associate Pastor

Deacon Christopher Doumit, Pastoral Assistant

pastor@stjosephparishonline.org

stjosephparishonline.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass — 4:00 p.m.

Sunday — 7:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Monday — 6:45 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory

Tuesday — 5:30 p.m. at Saint Joseph

Wednesday — 6:45 a.m. at Saint Joseph

Thursday — 5:30 p.m. at Saint Joseph

Friday — 6:45 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory

First Saturday — 8:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Every Saturday from 3:00 p.m. to 3:40 p.m. and one-half hour before all weekday Masses, or by appointment during office hours.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday — 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

If possible please conduct parish business by phone or email.

RECEPTIONIST/BOOKKEEPER/CEMETERIAN

Mrs. Gail Borel — gail.borel@stjosephparishonline.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Sherry Hebert — sherry.hebert@stjosephparishonline.org

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The Adoration Chapel has reopened. The Main Church is also accessible from this entrance for your convenience.

FUNERALS

Please contact the Church Office to make Funeral Service arrangements prior to your appointment with the Funeral Home.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please contact the Church Office to make arrangements for your child's Baptism.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Please contact the Church Office six months prior to the desired date of marriage. No dates for marriage are reserved until after the first marriage interview with clergy.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the Church Office to set up an appointment.



Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord, Your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ Your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.

Please pray for our parish family members who are sick:

We invite you to submit the names of people who are in need of our prayers.



Stuart Sandoz, Duffy Domingue, Eric Clements, David Louviere, Hayden Ransonet, Trevor Louviere, Austin Willett, Willey Poirrier, Inez Barras, Butch and Debbie White, Lydia May, Louis "CoCo" Landry Jr., Jimmy Clifton, Rowena Borel, Felyn Sonnier, Rickey Sonnier, Caline Provost, Patricia Freyou, Lecia Broussard, Roshondra Nora, Noah Abraham, Jimmy LeBlanc, Chad Borel, Ashley Hebert, Stephen Dugas, Jon-Luke Lancon, Jade Delcambre, Pat Villermin, Ira Bourque, Hailey Thomassee, Lon Prioux, Francis Crochet, Brennan

Wingfield, Lawrence Albert, Betty Suire, Joe Judice, Lisa Adcock, Nola Champagne, Kathleen Heitkamp, Lori Brasseaux, Jamie Brady, Lisa N. Dugas, Nona Bourque, Leroy Begnaud, Betty Champagne, Keri Bonin Boutte, Leroy and Gloria Courville, Robert, Anna Richard, Wayne LeBlanc, Melvin Broussard, Daniel Horton, III, Max Borres, Lisa Hussey, T-Boy and Diane Leger, Vivian LeBlanc, Beckie LeBaron, Patricia Sorrell, Ned Dugas, Ted Habetz, Hazel LeBlanc.

Please note that our office will purge the names on our sick list every quarter. We ask anyone who lists someone's name to please call the parish office to add or remove a name.

December 12, 2021

Regular Sunday Offering Envelopes	\$ 5,663.50
Regular Sunday Offering Loose	\$ 4,225.00
Weekly Budget	\$ 7,385.00
Regular Collection Total	\$ 9,888.50
Difference	+\$ 2,503.50
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception	\$ 1,677.00
Present Loan Balance	\$ 253,027.85
Donation Against Loan Balance	\$.00
Insurance Balance 2020-2021	\$ 19,521.00
Insurance Collection	\$ 203.00

The Sanctuary Lamp is burning for:

Eric Suire, Freddie Suire, Claude and Nola Dugas
Albert, Lydia and Bob Thibodeaux

The Vocation Chalice is in Church

*Please pray for vocations. If you would like to have the vocation chalice
in your home please call the rectory office at 229-4254*

Flowers on the Altar

For the Community

The Bi-Monthly Statue is in the home of

Parishioners

The Weekly Statue is in the home of

Parishioners

Saint Joseph Altar Candles are burning for

Chad Romero, Deyna Champagne and Harold Champagne
Charles and Jackie Poirrier Family, Landry and Champagne Families
Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory
Pope, Priest, Religious, Protection from and end to Corona Virus
Emily Boudreaux, Tornado Victims, Vance Breaux Sr.
Bobby and Joyce Dauterive, Jon-Luke Lancon
Delcambre and Breaux Families
Pliny Walet, Ronald, Louis and Mae Mae Broussard

Mass Intentions — 12/18 — 12/25

Saturday 4:00 p.m. — Dupoy and Lasseigne Families, Landry and Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Protection from and end to Corona Virus, Ronald Albert, Aymar “Poon” and Beulah Dugas, Ide Dugas Family, Alexis Laviolette Family, Wayne LeBlanc, Lily Mae and Alvin LeBlanc, Otto Sr. and Laurence Girouard, Terradot Family, Theresa Girouard Allen, Chad Romero, Deyna Champagne, Harold Champagne, Paul and Audrey Crochet, Jordan Prince and Special Intention, Barry Eldridge and Ned Broussard Families, Melvin Dugas, Roy Sr. and Gladys Berard, Forbus and Myrtle Mestayer Sr., Granger and Mestayer Family, Ronald, Sr. and Mildred Gonsoulin, Leed and Mabel Gondron, Fred Laviolette, Louis and Grace Moran, Gloria and Sam Delcambre and Family, Virginia Frioux, Lennet and Marie Antoinette Crochet, Clenie and Eve Segura and Billie, Sally Domingue, Cabrol and Domingue Family, Martha Escagne Rodriguez, Lloyd and Anne Broussard, Claude and Felicie Granger, Nancy Broussard, Clarence and Hilda Landry, Billie and Armanee Barrilleaux, Kay Dooley and William and Dolores Dooley, Earl Mestayer, Kim Decuir, Ossie Romero, Jr., Ivan Burke, Brooks “Tookey” Hebert, Clara Landry, Theresa Judice Viator, Eric Suire, Freddie Suire, Sharon L. Morgan, John Lacour Family, Rosalie LeJeune Family, Special Intention, Dr. John Rellus Hebert, D.D.S., Vance Breaux, Sr.

Sunday 7:00 a.m. — John Michael Steiner, Jay Gonsoulin Family, Paul Sonnier Family and Clyde Warfel Family, Loto and Leah Louviere, Antoine “Boy” LeBlanc Family, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Albert Sr., Champagne and Landry Families Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Protection from and end to Corona Virus, Maude Granger, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Granger, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Granger, Dr. Raymond Schneider, Elaine Schneider, Skip Schneider, Lolly Harbin, Breaux and Delcambre Families, Lenwood Delcambre, Dugas, Borel and Chataignier Family, Joe and Rita Habetz, Mary Kay Habetz, Tom Voorhies, Oris Cormier, S.J. “Bute” Granger, Junius and Mary Hebert, Lovell Romero, Suzette Judice, Tracey Defelice

MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEK

	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
December 24 4:00 p.m.	Roberta Degeyter	Deacon Chris	Volunteers
6:00 p.m.	Jana Angelle	Sandra Boudreaux	Volunteers
December 25 7:00 a.m.	Kyle Mestayer	Carolyn Roseberry	Volunteers
December 26 7:00 a.m.	Maxine Latolais	Lynn Delcambre	Volunteers
10:30 a.m.	Catherine Lejeune	Deacon Chris	Volunteers

Wednesdays of Advent
December 22
The Light is ON for You. 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.
Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation Saint Joseph Catholic Church



**Please make an appointment for
your Home Exorcism and Blessing
Make it happen! Call 229-4254**

Catholic Daughters Angel Tree

The Catholic Daughters are selling Angel Cards to raise money for our Court. The cards can be in Memory of a loved one or in honor of someone for whom you want extra prayers. The cards will be hung on a Christmas tree in the church vestibule as a reminder to pray for these people. We are accepting any donations. Contact any CDA member or check with the rectory to obtain the cards.



Guilbeaux, Cathy Defelice, Sis and Maurice Provost, Warren and Noelle Solar, Charles Chataignier, John Lacour Family, Rosalie LeJeune Family, Special Intention, Clifton and Shirley Maturin and Family, Virginia Landry.

10:30 a.m. — Alvin and Faye Tauzin, Edmonia Tauzin, Marcel and Nadage Broussard, Jimmy Eldridge, Elaine Plessala and Eldridge Family, Cheryl Segura, Pliny Walet Family, Agnes Breaux, Louis and Elbay Judice, Boots Thomas, Sandra Angelle and Glenn Angelle, Angelle Family, Anne Broussard, Loto Louviere, Jr. and Parents Gilman Gondron Family, Evan and Owen Allen, Jimmie and Glenda Girouard, Kelly Louviere, Cathy Defelice, Tracey Defelice Guilbeau, Gondran Family Ancestors and Descendants and Deville Family Ancestors and Descendants, Anthony Deville (Special Intention), Louis and Corinne Breaux, Agnes Breaux, Mike Judice, Suzette Judice, Antoine Judice Family.

Monday 6:45 a.m. OLV — Landry and Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Protection from and end to Corona Virus.

Tuesday 5:30 p.m. Stjo — Cobey Braquet, LeBlanc and Braquet Family, Florence Louviere, John and Doris Prados, Landry and Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Protection from and end to Corona Virus.

Wednesday 6:45 a.m. Stjo — Andrew “Toupee” Bonin, John Michael Steiner, Landry and Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Protection from and end to Corona Virus.

Thursday 5:30 p.m. Stjo — Landry and Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Protection from and end to Corona Virus.

Friday 6:45 a.m. OLV — Landry and Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Protection from and end to Corona Virus, Judice and Walet Families.

Christmas Eve

Friday 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. — See pages 4 & 5

Christmas Day

Saturday 7:00 a.m. — See pages 4 & 5



Dear Father Crochet -
Mother Teresa said, "There is a deep joy in giving since what we receive is much more than what we give." The Parishioners, at St. Joseph's Church, generosity during the recent Baby Bottle Campaign for the UPE was inspiring & total of

\$5,901⁹⁸ was donated. These funds are critical for the continued operation of the Center as we enter our 5th year of service to moms and babies in the area.

Please thank everyone then for giving so generously. Also, a special thanks to Paul Borel for all of her help! Sincerely,
Doreen Turner
Suzanne Palmer

Please pray for our priests, deacons and religious

Eternal Father, we lift up to You these special sons and daughters. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness of Your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to You. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

December 19	Rev. C. Nicholas Trahan Dcn. Joshua LeBlanc/Sr. Alberta Billeaud OCD
December 20	Rev. Clint Trahan Dcn. Eugene LeBoeuf/Sr. Mary John Billeaud OCD
December 21	Rev. Harold Trahan Dcn. Timothy Ledet/Sr. Pius Blanchard MHS
December 22	Rev. John Lan Tran, SJ Dcn. Carlton Lee/Sr. Aimee Bodin OCD
December 23	Rev. Sai Tran, SVD Dcn. Robert Leger/Sr. Elvira Brown MSC
December 24	Rev. Eugene Tremie Dcn. Barney Lejeune/Sr. Margaret Caire RSCJ
December 25	Rev. Stephen Ugwu Dcn. Leon Lejeune/Sr. Margaret Cano MSC

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, December 22, 2021

The Light Is On For You

Extra Confession Time, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Saint Joseph Church

Friday, December 24, 2021

Christmas Eve [Holy Day of Obligation]

NO Confessions

Christmas Vigil Mass — 4:00 p.m.

Saint Joseph Church and Our Lady of Victory Church

Christmas Mass During the Night

NO Confessions

6:00 p.m., Saint Joseph Church

Saturday, December 25, 2021

Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord

[Holy Day of Obligation]

Christmas Mass at Dawn

NO Confessions

7:00 a.m., Saint Joseph Church

Christmas Day Mass

NO Confessions

9:00 a.m., Our Lady of Victory Church

There is NO Vigil Mass allowed on Saturday afternoon for Sunday because of Christmas Day

Sunday, December 26, 2021

Feast of the Holy Family

Friday, December 31, 2021

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

[NOT a Holy Day of Obligation this year]

Confessions — 3:00 p.m.

Vigil Mass — 4:00 p.m., Saint Joseph Church

Saturday, January 1, 2022

Solemnity of Mary, Mother God

[NOT a Holy Day of Obligation this year]

Confessions — 8:00 a.m.

Mass — 9:00 a.m., Our Lady of Victory Church

Sunday, January 2, 2022

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 9, 2022

Baptism of the Lord

Christmas Mass Intentions

December 24 Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m.

Vance Breaux Sr., Bobby and Joyce Dauterive, Myrtle Girouard, Joan Herring, Royce Gaudin, Anna Mae Judice Family, Vickie Dugas, Special Intention, Jewel Dupont, Sidwin and Kevin Richard, Dupoy and Lasseigne Families, Cobey Braquet, LeBlanc, Sr. and Braquet Family, Heath and Hailey Ransonet, Evan and Owen Allen, David Provost, Mary Provost, Clark Provost, Judy A. Douet, Armand and Eve Lissard,

Rhule, Mabel and Wayne Gondron, Breaux, Neuville and Rebert Families, Ronald, Louis and Mae Mae Broussard, Steven and Donna Berard Family, Special Intention, Kernis and Aimee Peltier and Family, Stanly and Elsie Crochet and Family, Edgar and Emmeritte Peltier and Family, Jack Braquet, Francis Crochet, Don Davis, Yvonne LeBlanc, Linda Derouen, Gregory Mestayer, Deceased Catholic Daughters, Paul Crochet Family, Jordan Prince, Special Intention, Gloria and Sam Delcambre and Family,

Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Breaux and Breaux and Viator Families, Sharon L. Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Broussard, Creig Broussard, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Savoy. Mr. and Mrs. Aldon Broussard, Broussard, Peggy Huval, Joyce Menard, Landry and Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Protection from and end to Corona Virus, Judice and Walet Families, Sue Crochet.

Christmas Mass During the Night 6:00 p.m.

Keri Bonin Boutte, Mayor Al Broussard, Albert and Jeanne Broussard, Wilson and Emily Boudreaux, Nolie Senaca, Lora Bloom.



Christmas Day 7:00 a.m.

Vickie Broussard, Jackie Segura, Bobby Tupper, Lionel Duplechain Sr., Lionel Duplechain Jr., Loto Louviere, Jr. and Parents Gilman Gondron Family, Brooks “Tookey” Hebert, Clara Landry, Deceased Catholic Daughters, Theresa Judice Viator, Guillotte, Bouy, Broussard Family, John Lacour Family, Rosalie LeJeune Family, Special Intention, Ronald and Mildred Gonsoulin, Dr. John Rellus Hebert, D.D.S., Earline

Ruiz, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Ruiz, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Legnon, Jr., Rusty Ruiz, Lloyd Dugas, Bobby and Joyce Dauterive, Myrtle Girouard, Joan Herring, Royce Gaudin, Vance Breaux, Sr., Judice and Walet Families, Jay Gonsoulin Family, Paul Sonnier Family, Clyde Warfel Family, Louto and Anite Gondron and Family, John Michael Steiner, Dr. Harold Heitkamp, Edna and Merlin Walet Sr., Butsy Walet, Walter and Doris M. Judice, Phyllis Crochet LeBlanc, Martha Escagne

Rodriguez, Berard, Bonin, Douet, Morvant Families, Judy A. Douet, Sidney and Mae Provost Lassalle, Claire Landry, Milton Martinez, Bishop Warren Boudreaux, Bishop Joseph Latino, Msgr. John Newfield, Msgr. Francis Amedee, Msgr. Andrew Frey, Rev. Albert Richardson, Msgr. Richard Soseman, Ruben Rogers, Elizabeth Capps Rogers, Wayne Rogers, Alfred Crochet, Claude Hebert, Cecile Hebert, Deacon Jay Bergeron, Archbishop Harry Flynn, Sue Crochet.

Christmas Flower Memorials

Viator and Breaux Families
Faye and Alvin Tauzin Family
Jimmy Eldridge Family
Anna Mae Judice and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Antoine Judice Family
Mr. and Mrs. Jean Laviolette Family
Broussard, Bouy and Guillotte Family

Landry and Champagne Families
Ancestors and Descendants

In Honor of Max Borres and Saint Jude

Breaux Family
Delcambre Family

Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Savoy and Daughters
Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Walet and Butsy

Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Albert, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Begnaud
Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Boatright
Mr. and Mrs. Robin Bonin
Mr. and Mrs. Laurent Braquet
Mr. and Mrs. Clayson Dugas
Mr. and Mrs. Clet Dugas
Mr. and Mrs. John V. Perez
Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Spiess
Mr. and Mrs. Sylvest Thibodeaux

Ronald Albert, Sr.
Lorena Angelle
Bessie Arcement
Euniva Berard
Nick Bienvenu
Gary Blanchard
Patsy Blanchard
Lora Bloom
Elodie Bodin
Beryl K. Bonin
Allen David Borres
Chuck Michael Borres
Bernice Boudreaux
Annie Lee Labiche Bourgeois
Etta Breaux
Mayor Al Broussard
Camille Broussard
Catherine Broussard
Ed Broussard
JoAnn Broussard
John E. Broussard
Lea Broussard
Louis Broussard
Ronald Broussard
Violette C. Broussard

Wolla Mae Broussard
Clarence Champagne
Deyna Champagne
Eric Champagne
Harold Champagne
Roland Champeaux
Audrey Crochet
Earline Crochet
Kenny Crochet
Paul Crochet
Kamryn Elizabeth Dorsey
Vickie Dugas
Jewel Dupont
Bonnie O. Edler
Eugene Falgout
Phyllis Falgout
Jesse Foreman
Virginia Frioux
Patricia Gachassin
Edwin Gary
Evelyn P. Gary
Alton Gondron
Wallace D. Goudeau
Lillian Granatelli
Carol Hansen

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Walet
Mr and Mrs. Merlin Walet, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Walet

Sophie, Fanges, and Lloyd Bonin
David, Mary Ann and Clark Provost
Herman, Pliny and Carolyn Walet

Mary Kathryn and Jimmie McGee
Levie, Gladys and Dickie Ronsonet
Albert, Lydia and Bob Thibodeaux
Whitney, Goldie and Mollie Viator

Evan and Owen Allen
Bert and Stella Amedee
Glen and Sandra Angelle
Margie and Cal Berard
Louise and Willie Bonin
Melvin and Rae Borres
Wilson and Emily Boudreaux
Oxford and Mary Lou Breaux
Albert and Jeanne Broussard
Sam and Glo Delcambre
Lenwood and Mable Delcambre
Claude and Nola Dugas
Eddie and Lavenia Edler
Darrel and Kathy Eldridge
T.J. and Barbara Eldridge
Dorse P. and Marie Foreman

Patrice Hebert
Dr. Harold Heitkamp
Pete Horton
Jeanne Judice
Michael "Mike" Judice
Perry M. Judice
Audrey Kerne
Charlene King
Dolan Kleinpeter
Troy LeBlanc
Isadore "T-Boy" Leger
Loto Louviere, Jr.
Mary Ann C. Louviere
Doris Luke
Darrell P. Judice
Wayne "Butch" Judice
Eve Melancon
Greg Mestayer
Karen Mestayer
Claire Bonin Myers
Karen Renee Percle
Eddie Pierre
Edward Pierre
Lucille Pierre
Margarette Pierre

Gam and Velma Gondron
Wilfred and Bertha Hulin
Edelia and Robert Johnson
Antoine and Marie Judice
Been and Mag Judice
Roland and Hilda Judice
Tot and Gerdie Judice
Walter and Doris M. Judice
Lloyd and Maudrey Landry
Charlie Latiolais
Armand and Eve Lissard
Ben and Valerie Lissard
Loto Sr. and Leah Louviere
Lloyd and Lelia Menard
Elmo and Eldise Mestayer
Bea and Sammy Napoli
William and Lucy Quinlan
Hazel and James Richard
Hubert and Lily Richard
Sidwin and Kevin Richard
Roy and Michael Thibodeaux
Delia and Pliny Walet
Teresa Rita and Lillian Walet

In Honor of Crochet, Prince
and Leger Families

Ozita Pierre
Yola Pierre
Donald Poirier
Magnolia Pratt
Jordan Prince
Clark Provost
David Provost
Mary Ann Provost
Homer Rochon
Chad Romero
Mathilde LaSalle Romero
Allen Rosen
Noelie Solar
Eric Suire
Bruce A. Temple
Hosie Thigpen
David Viator
Michael Vidallier
James Voorhies, Sr.
James Voorhies, Jr.
Butsy Walet
Herman Walet
Myrtle Woodruff



Rejoice in the Lord Always by Gerald E. Murray

The Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent strikes a note of joy amidst this penitential time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. The priest wears a rose-colored chasuble in place of the accustomed violet vestments. The Entrance Antiphon, taken from the fourth chapter of Saint Paul's Letter to the Philippians, proclaims: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near."

In the Collect of the Mass, the Church prays that God, Who sees "how Your people faithfully await the Feast of the Lord's Nativity," would "enable us to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing." This prayer to attain the joys of salvation points us to our heavenly homeland, where there is only "glad rejoicing" as the blessed worship God forever in spirit and in truth. All sorrow is gone; those who see God face to face have the gift of perfect peace.

Yet the faithful here on earth already rejoice, as Saint Paul reminds us, for "the Lord is near." Our rejoicing is an anticipation of Heaven. Our faith in the Lord's nearness teaches us that God does not call us to slog through this life in sorrow, but rather to tread our pilgrim way with a light step, rejoicing

always in our closeness to Him.

One of the pleasures of being a parish priest is celebrating weekday Masses, usually with a small congregation. The "regulars" at these Masses — all of whom are there without having to fulfill an obligation, as is the case on Sundays — are some of the happiest and most devout people you will ever meet. Their daily decision to take time to pray and be close to the Lord transforms their spirits. They truly celebrate, in their own quiet way, the solemn worship of the God they love so much, and draw from Him in abundance the fruits of glad rejoicing.

The search for joy in life is a frustrating experience for those who do not seek that joy in the Lord. Entertainment is a commonly sought substitute for joy. Certainly there is a place for entertainment in our lives. But fleeting diversions and delights are, in the end, merely faint hints or foretastes of the otherworldly happiness found only in that other, invisible world we yearn for, whether we realize it or not. Everyone seeks happiness, yet true happiness is elusive. It requires faith to understand that everything here on earth is provisional and, in greater or smaller measure, unfulfilling, yet indicative of the joys that await us in paradise.

Our secular Christmas season is in full swing, even if it has been renamed "the holiday season." Incessant television ads

exhorting viewers to "buy yourself" this or that expensive item during the "holiday sale of a lifetime" because "you deserve it" confirm the narcissistic stupor of our age. A self-consumed materialistic focus in the weeks leading up to Christmas is the world's poor substitute for the chaste, restrained joy of waiting for the Lord's coming in a penitential Advent spirit. He is the Giver of the true gift that will bring us unsurpassed joy — the Gift of Himself.

Are we worthy of such a great Gift? "Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed" (Matthew 8:8). This avowal of both our unworthiness and our healing by God's Word, Who is the Word made flesh, teaches us that God makes us ready to receive Him when He comes: at Christmas, at Mass, at His second coming, at the moment of our death. Becoming ready to meet the Lord is our task and duty, accomplished in cooperation with His grace. May Gaudete Sunday remind us that the Lord is not far away, and His grace already fills us with a share in the eternal joy we so eagerly seek.

The Rev. Gerald E. Murray, J.C.D. is pastor of Holy Family Church in New York.

Catholic High School Principal Position Is Available

Salary will be based on qualifications and experience. The application deadline is January 18, 2022. Applications can be requested from: stpeter@cox-internet.com. Please submit application, resumé, copies of all college transcripts showing degrees and three letters of recommendation to:

Very Rev. William C. Blanda, V.F.
Chancellor of Catholic High School
P. O. Box 12507
New Iberia, LA 70562

Applicant must be a practicing Catholic who adheres to the Church's magisterial teachings; must possess a Master's Degree and meet the requirements of certification for principals of non-public schools by the State of Louisiana and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; Catholic school administrative experience is preferred; must have at least five years of teaching experience; must have the spiritual well being of students, faculty and parents as a priority as well as possessing good managerial and communication skills; must have a desire to lead the school in continued growth for academic excellence.

Catholic High School is dedicated to the development of 4th-12th grade students through academic excellence and Christ-centered values rooted in caring discipline, compassion, and zeal.

We believe: the Catholic Church provides the foundation of faith and truth; as a child of God, every person is a valued individual; the school must provide a safe, caring, family-oriented environment; all students have the ability and the need to learn; students must be provided with engaging, challenging, and diverse learning opportunities; Common goals and shared values, which honor the traditions of the Christian Brothers and the Sisters of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, are a part of the culture, community, and success of our school; a zealous commitment to continuous improvement is imperative.



St. Edward School - educating students in PK3 - 3rd grades

Founded in 1918 by St. Katharine Drexel

Online Days of Intent to Register:

**Friday, January 28 -
Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 12 noon**

**New families interested in registering for the 2022-2023
school year MUST complete the *Intent to Register Form.**

* Intent to Register does not secure a spot.

It does however, often eliminate the need to have an Open Registration later on, in which students are enrolled on a first come, first served basis.

Online Days of Intent:

Log onto the school's website:
SESPANDAS.com
Complete the Intent to Register Form
located under the Admissions Tab.

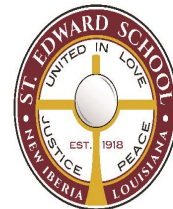
Contact Lisa Dronet, Registrar

at ldronet@sespandas.com or call
the school 337-369-6764 if you have
any questions about the process.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Information Packets may be picked up at St. Edward School,
175 Porter St., from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

SES does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, sex or national origin in its admissions policies or educational programs.



**Yes, Bishop Staglianò,
There Is a Santa Claus**
by Sean Fitzpatrick

"Santa Claus is an imaginary character," said Bishop Antonio Staglianò of Noto, Sicily, on the feast of Saint Nicholas to a church full of families and to audible gasps. "In fact," His Excellency went on, "I would add that the red of the suit he wears was chosen by Coca Cola exclusively for advertising purposes." The buzz began about the bishop's barrage ... and the diocese issued an apology.

While we may reserve the millstones for those who cause greater scandals than this, we should not, at the same time, understate the scandal that this was — and from a bishop too, no less. Granting that Christmas has fallen under heavy secular attack, belief in Santa Claus is a right and proper thing for Catholics. For besides such poetic household praxes enlivening the liturgy of the home, it also prepares children to grow in the strength of wonder and the security that there are benevolent powers at work in the world that affect us and which we cannot see. And if anything can save our children from the untruths of the age, it may be in large part the whimsical truth of Santa Claus.

But for many, the scandal is saying that Santa Claus is real. "We don't 'do' Santa Claus," is a phrase I've had mouthed to me furtively above the heads of kids at Christmas gatherings, and I always have the same response: "Why not?" It seems to me, in an age of toxic falsehoods, we need to teach our children — and perhaps ourselves — how to take and retain a hold of rejuvenating truth, and especially of those truths which are invisible. The presence of Santa Claus at Christmas at Christian hearths is an almost indispensable exercise in building this mystical sensitivity to the most real things in the world, which are the least substantial.

So, why would any parent not "do" Santa Claus with their children? I suppose some would say that it is, at bottom, a lie. No one really believes that a white-bearded gnome in a fur-lined red suit slides down the chimney, leaving his reindeer-drawn sleigh up on the roof, to fill stockings and place presents under the tree. All of that is not literally true — but, taken in the right frame of mind and heart, Santa Claus is symbolic of something absolutely true.

For all you "don't doers," think of it this way for a moment. No father thinks he is lying when, after a prayer to Saint Joseph before a difficult cut with the miter saw, he says to his assisting son, "Saint Joseph really came through for us there." No mother thinks she is lying when, upon missing a child's shoe, she recites the jingling prayer to Saint Anthony as she looks under the sofa and, finding it, says, "Saint Anthony never fails us." No parent thinks they are lying when their child has a near accident and they say, "Your guardian angel was watching out for you today."

If these are not lies, then why is it a lie when we

tell our children that Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of children, played a part in the holy day for children? Especially if the stockings were filled with a simple prayer for blessing from that jolly old saint. These are not lies. They are words of faith for very true things.

It falls to parents to rescue Saint Nicholas out of the mire of commercialism and cute nonsense. As Pope Francis recently encouraged us, "Let us not experience a fake, commercial Christmas." The world is bent on making our lives inextricably tangled in the fake, but nothing keeps Christmas real like Santa Claus. Catholics should, therefore, allow "Saint Nick" to wink and twist his head like the holy old elf he actually is. This is the place of pious and playful lore, creations and cooperations that mingle Heaven with earth.

Man is not a disembodied spirit, and he requires bodily things to draw him to the divine. He needs incarnations just as he needed the Incarnation. And fathers and mothers who pray to Saint Nicholas during Advent all the way up to the night before Christmas, asking the Bishop of Myra, that patron saint of all children, to lay his hands on theirs as they fill stockings and wrap presents, are participating in a great truth. It is no lie, then, to say that Saint Nicholas — that Santa Claus, came in the night and was a sharer in that secret ritual that is between him and parents. Who's to say he didn't? It all depends on what you choose to believe.

And why not believe? Children are already drawn to this holy day of childhood and the family, and the wonderful miracle of Santa Claus only makes it more joyful — even miraculous. And to miss the opportunity to make the universe more wonderful is a mistake. We live in a time of intense falsehood and fabrication, and if children aren't given a strong sense of the sacred in their imaginations, it will not be long, unfortunately, before society and its chimerical sins lures them into thinking that nothing is sacred.

But minds that are alive with wonder will be blessed with a type of resistance against the narrow over-simplifications of secularism and scientism. Wonder can make virtual reality the shallow unfulfilling thing it is. Wonder can resist the beautiful bait of pornography that leads to a prison of desensitization to all beauty. Wonder teaches us to be content with mystery, which can be indispensable in a culture of stripping exposure. As Socrates taught, wonder is the beginning of wisdom, and in an age of aggressive and unmannerly pleasure, a little wonder can go a long way to save a soul.

There is a new and less-bloody slaughter of innocents taking place, and it is being perpetrated by strategies and agendas that actually murder innocence. The falsehood that is rampant in our culture will rob our children of their purity, given half a chance, through the elimination of the motions of the heart. And it will leave them severely impaired in their ability to be awed by truth or to find joy in the beautiful.

The sad result is that jaded spirits are not very

susceptible to formation or inspiration. Cynicism quickly develops as a defense mechanism, leaving young people crusted over and swallowed up by the distractions of addicting entertainment. Boys and girls are often lost to apathy in a world that eventually fails to titillate. The fantasy, or blasphemy, of reality results in a loss of desire for reality, which is the foundation of any sound mind.

Santa Claus is no such fantasy, however. He is a positive principle of Truth. He is a firm figure of faith. He is a solid symbol of spiritual consequence. He is a real occasion for wonder and innocence and Heavenly visitation. As such, the traditions of this Christmastime saint are particularly powerful platforms to raise the young high above the popular, pernicious gutters.

Children tend to be highly sensory, imaginative, and active, and the experience of the world and its mysteries, both the visible and invisible, is the best arena for wonder. Being too heavy-handed with facts and figures, instead of flowing with the spirit of faith, can eradicate mystery unnecessarily — and without mystery, kids will lose their ability to wonder, and in a large part, their ability to grow in wisdom.

There is more to the canon of Christmas than the Gospels. There are symbols and sacramentals that proceed from this source, and Santa Claus is among them. Parents should not cut him out — especially not on the pretense of "Saint Nick" being untrue. There are mysteries that subsist in the Mystery of the Word made Flesh. Keeping Christmas well, therefore, should include things wild and wonderful; things like elves, fairies, ghosts, and, yes, Bishop Staglianò, Santa Claus; things that reflect and recall that time when Heavenly nature took on earthly nature; and "doing" Santa Claus is preeminently one of those things.

So, let us by all means keep the worldly noise out of our children's ears and let them enjoy the fancifulness of our Faith without burden. Telling kids that there is no Santa Claus, and that Christmas is just a tragedy of commercialism, is a kind of millstone that interrupts the innocence of children and puts up an obstacle to wonder. If children are deprived of wonder, their path to cynicism, virtual reality, pornography, and addiction is that much shorter. This Christmas, let us find the beauty in those invisible realities that include Santa Claus so that they can sustain us and our children through the fake world that lurks at our door.





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